

# People's 人民中国 China

January 1

## CHINESE WORKERS MARCH FORWARD

Chu Hsueh-fan

## CONTROLLING CHINA'S RIVERS

Fu Tso-yi

## THE INNER MONGOLIAN AUTONOMOUS REGION

Peng Ssu-ke

## "HOW TO BE A GOOD COMMUNIST"

An Introduction to Liu Shao-chi's Book

Michael Shapiro

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1952



# People's China

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## ***Greetings to Our Friends!***

On this first of January 1952, this magazine greets its friends—the friends of the People's Republic of China throughout the world.

We greet first of all those countries, organisations and individuals in all lands who struggle shoulder to shoulder with the Chinese people for the cause we regard as most important and urgent, the cause most intimately bound up with the interests of all men and women of goodwill, the cause of world peace.

We greet our friend and ally, the Soviet Union, the greatest bastion of world peace, advancing with giant steps from Socialism to Communism. The alliance between China and the Soviet Union is the most important guarantee of peace in the Far East. Firm in the people's cause, the foreign policy of the U.S.S.R. confutes every scheme of the warmongers and serves peace and progress throughout the world.

We greet the Korean Democratic People's Republic, whose valiant people have frustrated the American imperialist attempt to rob them of independence and checked the plot of the imperialist war camp to unleash a general war. In Korea, whence the American-British imperialists sought to extend their aggression to our own territory, our Chinese people's volunteers have been fighting, in a noble internationalist spirit, side by side with the Korean People's Army. All honour to the Korean people whose heroic stand, supported by the entire camp of peace and democracy, secures them a brilliant future and gives them a special place in the respect of the peoples forever!

We greet the Viet-Nam Democratic Republic, whose fighting people are making a great contribution to peace by throwing back the forces of decrepit French imperialism, armed and financed by the imperialist rulers of the United States.

We greet the German Democratic Republic, which stands against the war plans of American imperialism in Europe and, by its fight against the remilitarisation of West Germany and for national unification, thwarts the design of the imperialists to use the German people as cannon-fodder.

We greet all the countries of People's Democracy, countries which are building

Socialism and whose growing strength daily increases the forces of peace, countries with which the Chinese people are constantly strengthening friendly ties in every field, diplomatic, economic and cultural.

We greet the world peace movement and all those who work actively with it, in all parts of the earth, the Partisans of Peace, the world federations of trade unions, democratic women and democratic youth, the heroic peace fighters in the capitalist and colonial countries who give expression to the will of the masses in defiance of growing suppression and outright terror. In every country where the warmakers still hold sway the workers, the cultivators of the land, members of minority groups subjected to racist persecution, intellectuals and scientists who refuse to sell their integrity and honest men of religion—all are uniting to fight against the imperialist war programmes of their rulers. Wherever they may be, those who fight for peace can rely on the active friendship and solidarity of the 475 million people of China.

We send greetings to the true patriots of Japan who, defying the cruellest suppression, rally ever greater masses to resist the American-British imperialist plot to turn the Japanese people into cannon-fodder in a war against the Soviet Union, People's China and the peoples of Asia.

The Chinese people, who have driven imperialism out of China and thus been enabled to proceed to great constructive tasks, greet and regard with warm sympathy the peoples throughout Asia and Africa, who are intensifying their just struggles for the freedom and independence long due them, who offer courageous resistance to every imperialist effort to rob them of their resources and turn their territories into bases for a new world war.

The imperialists have created a serious menace of war which hangs over all mankind. But their evil plans can be stopped, peace can be secured, if all the forces of democracy and peace unite their efforts, unite with everyone who has the same aims, regardless of other differences, and stand more firmly and vigilantly on guard. The year 1952 dawns brightly for the camp of peace which is invincible.

Long live the unity of all peoples for peace!

# Chinese Workers March Forward

Chu Hsueh-fan

*Vice-President of the All-China Federation of Labour*

The great victory of the Chinese revolution opened the road to prosperity for the Chinese working class and the Chinese people as a whole. By the victory of the War of Liberation, the working class was freed from its past life of slavery and asserted to the full its role as the leading class in Chinese society. Since that time Chinese workers, under the brilliant leadership of Mao Tse-tung, have approached their every task with the attitude of masters of the country. It is in this spirit that they have overcome all kinds of obstacles and difficulties, restored and increased production and enriched their own lives.

Chinese workers are organised into trade unions under the All-China Federation of Labour. The trade unions play a most important part in the rehabilitation and development of national industry and the consolidation of national defence. They lead and organise the broad masses of the working class in gigantic campaigns of patriotic emulation, democratic reforms in factories and the transformation of old-type industry into industry of a new type. Membership of unions in the All-China Federation of Labour has grown from 2,370,000 two years ago to 6,130,000 today. This strong, organised force ensures the fulfilment of the construction plans of the state.

## Productive Achievements

Great successes have already been achieved by Chinese workers in restoring and expanding our modern economy. During the two years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, more than 90 per cent of our railways, which suffered severe damage during years of war, have once more been opened to traffic. New railway lines are under construction in the southwestern and northwestern provinces. All China's 100,000 kilometres of highway are in full operation. Production of pig iron in the first eight months of 1950 was 11.4 times that of the corresponding period of 1949, while that of steel was 7.8 times greater, and throughout 1951, the increase continued at a rapid rate. Coal output in 1950 was 28 per cent above that of 1949,

and in the first half of 1951, it showed a further 9 per cent increase over the corresponding period of 1950. The output of cotton yarn in January-July 1951 was 30 per cent above that of the same period in 1950, while the amount of cotton cloth produced was 24.5 per cent higher. Both textile figures represent all-time peaks, since cotton yarn and cloth manufactured in 1950 was already 16 per cent above the highest pre-war total recorded in 1936.

None of these achievements would have been possible if the workers did not regard production as their own cause, if they did not carry on an organised struggle, led by their trade unions, to fulfil and overfulfil the targets set by the state in each period. It was as a result of such struggles that Chinese railway workers completed their 1950 quotas 22 days ahead of schedule; that state-operated textile mills exceeded their goals for the first quarter of 1951 by 10 per cent for cotton yarn and 7 per cent for cloth; that coal mines completed their full programme in 1950 and exceeded it by 5.9 per cent in the first quarter of 1951.

## Unions Organise Emulation

Labour emulation movements are an outstanding form of the fight for higher production waged by Chinese workers. Actively promoted by the unions, such movements have spread to all industrial areas of our land as the class consciousness of the worker-masses has risen. They have reached new heights under the patriotic stimulus of the movement to resist American aggression and aid Korea. By July 1951 they embraced 2,233,000 workers, attaining proportions of over 80 per cent of all industrial workers in individual areas. Moreover, no less than 19,354 work teams have participated in the group emulation campaign initiated by Ma Heng-chang, the famous Northeast lathe-turner.

In this vigorous production wave, over 60,644 workers had attained "labour model" status by July 1951, while thousands of work teams earned the title of "model brigades". Model workers and model-brigade leaders include such foremost representatives of the Chinese working class as Li Yun, Chao Kuo-yu,

Ma Heng-chang, Li Feng-lien, Li Yun-lu, Chang Wan-shou, Ho Chien-hsiu and Feng Tsujan. Men and women like these are living illustrations of the boundless wisdom and ability of their class. They are setting new records in their own fields of work, studying the advanced production experience of our Soviet brothers, mastering the most advanced and scientific working methods. Their example has inspired other workers to increase production on a mass scale.

The patriotic production campaign was launched in October 1950 by labour models Li Yun, Chao Kuo-yu and Chang Tse-fu as part of the campaign to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea. Responding to the call of the All-China Federation of Labour and to the impetus given the campaign by trade unions at all levels, Chinese workers have since turned out a continuous stream of new production records which give effect to the slogan, "Every additional product adds to our strength in defending peace." In January 1951, for example, the Taiyuan Iron and Steel Works set eight successive records in the amount of steel smelted. Miners at the Chiawan collieries in Shantung province set a national record of 258.78 tons of coal per man-shift, using pneumatic drills. Engineering plants in Northeast China, after adopting Soviet high-speed metal-cutting methods, increased their efficiency for this operation up to 20 times. Workers of No. 3 Mill of the China Textile Corporation in Shanghai produced 1.25 lbs. of 20's cotton yarn per spindle per 20 hours of work. Ho Chien-hsiu, 17-year-old girl spinner in Tsingtao, devised scientific methods of work which reduced the rate of cotton waste on leather rollers to 0.25 per cent. What this means may be illustrated by the fact that, should this rate be achieved throughout the country, Chinese yarn output would increase by 44,460 bales of cotton yarn without any additional raw materials or machinery.

### Workers Become Managers

During the past two years, many thousands of labour models and outstanding workers have



Today, outstanding workers are honoured by the nation. Seen in this picture with Chairman Mao Tse-tung are famous model workers (l. to r.) Chao Kuei-lan, Kung Chin-mei, Li Feng-lien, Tu Hsien-yang, Li Hsiu-chen, Chao Kuo-yu and Pan Chang-yu

become industrial leaders and administrators. In 1950 alone, more than 7,000 miners were promoted section chiefs, technicians and managers. On the railways, more than 12,400 workers have taken up administrative posts since liberation. The Chinese working class is now learning to administer industry as well as the state, so that it may lead the country to even greater successes.

It is as masters in their own country that Chinese workers are constantly applying their minds to the solution of the most complicated problems concerned with production. No less than 24,875 workers' inventions and rationalisation proposals were adopted by Chinese industry in the course of 1950. By this means, and through workers' initiative in organising economy in materials and the elimination of waste, the restoration and development of our economy has been greatly accelerated. In such ways, the workers have contributed greatly to the accumulation of capital for the large-scale industrialisation of China in the near future.

### Higher Wages; Greater Security

Two brief years of liberation have already yielded great material fruits to the Chinese working class. The entire people has benefitted from the stabilisation of commodity prices and the curbing of the runaway currency inflation that marked the last twelve years of Kuomin-

tang rule. In those days, the prices of articles of daily use sometimes jumped several times a day, causing sharp sufferings to workers and their families. Now all that is over.

At the same time, wages have increased steadily. In Northeast China, for example, wages rose by an average of 27 per cent in 1949, 12.5 per cent in 1950 and 15 per cent in 1951. Throughout the country, the rotten, complicated and unreasonable wage system of the past is being rapidly changed. The new wage system in China is based on two just principles: "pay according to work done", and "equal pay for equal work".

Along with the increase in real wages, the security of workers and their households has been guaranteed by the new *Labour Insurance Regulations* which, since May 1, 1951 have been applied in most industrial, mining and transport enterprises with one hundred or more workers. The entire cost of labour insurance in China is borne by the state or employer. The workers do not have to pay anything for it. Benefits and allowances are determined according to the actual need of the worker and paid throughout the period that the need exists. The insurance is of an over-all nature and provides definite material guarantees in maternity, old age, illness, injury, disability or death. This system, different in principle from any that could possibly exist in a capitalist country and incomparably more advanced, had already been extended to 2,360,000 workers in 2,988 industrial enterprises by August 1951. Counting members of workers' families, the number of persons covered had reached ten million at that time.

Up to August 1951, Chinese trade unions had established 38 workers' sanatoria, numerous vacation homes, 97 rest homes for use after working hours, 300 day nurseries for the children of working mothers and six homes for aged and disabled workers. These institutions are frequently housed in private palaces and villas once owned by members of the former ruling class, in health resorts and scenic spots.

Alongside of these provisions, unprecedented in Chinese history and going far beyond those existing in industrially advanced capitalist countries, great improvements have been brought about in working and health conditions on the job. The imperialists and Chinese bureaucratic capitalists who controlled Chinese industry in the past cared for property, not for people. After liberation, the Ministry

of Labour of the Central People's Government promulgated the *Draft Regulations Governing Safety and Hygiene in Factories* which the workers themselves, through their trade unions, were mobilised to put into effect. In Northeast China alone, a million workers participated in this campaign, and the results were tremendous. In the mining industry, the number of men killed on the job was cut by 83.3 per cent in a single year: while injuries fell by 59.7 per cent. Industrial accidents and injuries were reduced in all other types of production.

While all Chinese workers have benefitted materially from the revolution, the improvement in the position of women workers has been greatest of all. Women's wages in pre-liberation Chinese factories never exceeded two-thirds of those of men for the same job. Women workers had no employment security whatsoever; old age or pregnancy brought automatic discharge. Promotion was so rare as to be almost non-existent; some women toiled for thirty years in the same factory and were still counted as "temporary" on the pay-rolls. Against the personal insults of male owners and superintendents, the women workers had no recourse whatsoever.

Today the law of the People's Republic of China provides that "women shall enjoy equal rights with men" and that "the special interests of women workers shall be protected." The principle of equal pay for equal work has been established and is being given effect. Pregnant workers receive 56 days paid maternity leave. Factories employing women are obliged to maintain day-nurseries for their children. Eighty per cent of all women workers in China have already been organised into trade unions and no job is closed to them.

### Advances in Workers' Culture

Not only has the social and material position of Chinese workers changed completely, but they can now satisfy their hunger for cultural, scientific and higher technical knowledge, formerly monopolised by members of the ruling class. Under the rule of the reactionaries, a large proportion of the workers were kept illiterate. How different conditions are today can be seen from the fact that, according to incomplete statistics, more than 1,718,000 workers in factories and mines are studying cultural or technical subjects in their spare time. More than 20 short-term middle schools all over the country make it possible for workers to make up, in a relatively brief space of

time, the regular education of which they were robbed under the old conditions. Advanced and model workers are being sent, in considerable numbers, to the China People's University, where they pay no tuition or dormitory fees and continue to receive 60 to 75 per cent of their last wage in industry. Workers' schools of different grades are now incorporated in the regular educational system of China. Their graduates enjoy all the rights and opportunities of those who attend other schools and colleges.

Apart from these facilities, Chinese trade unions have erected 34 palaces of culture, 3,395 clubs and 2,366 libraries for the use of the workers. Mobile moving-picture theatres, which tour factories and mines, now number 215. The organisation of amateur dramatic groups, music circles and athletic facilities and teams has become a regular part of the activity of all trade unions.

### Chinese Workers and Peace

During the two years since the liberation, Chinese workers have tasted the fruits of the revolutionary victory and embarked on the road to unlimited prosperity and progress. While they will defend with their lives any attempt to invade their Motherland and rob them of these gains and prospects, they know that peace in Asia and the whole world is what is most urgently needed if they are quickly to build up a better life. That is why the Chinese workers give such strong support to the Chinese people's volunteers who, with the Korean People's Army, are so bravely repelling the attempt of the imperialists to once more fasten their grip on the Asian mainland. That is why they have gone to Korea themselves as transport workers, fighters and why they have donated such large sums for arms to repel aggression. That is why, finally, they have participated so enthusiastically in the signature campaigns for the Stockholm Appeal and the Five-Power Peace Pact and against the remilitarisation of Japan.

In the World Federation of Trade Unions, to which Chinese unions are affiliated, repre-



At a workers' sanatorium in Tsingtao. Altogether 38 such sanatoria have been established by China's trade unions

sentatives of the All-China Federation of Labour enthusiastically backed the resolution to support the decisions of the World Peace Council on the peaceful settlement of the Korean conflict and the safeguarding of international peace. This action of the Chinese working class for peace is no paper gesture. Every victory it has won in the revolution, every advance it has made in production, is a telling blow dealt to the warmongers and a strong reinforcement to the working class and the peace forces of the whole world.

The Chinese working class has been able to give effect to its inexhaustible strength, which cannot be defeated by any enemy, because it has overthrown the reactionary rule of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism and established a people's democratic state power that has been proved by facts to be vastly superior to the political systems of capitalist countries. It has achieved its successes with the friendly assistance of the working people of the whole world, especially those of the Soviet Union with which we stand united in an unbreakable alliance for peace.

In 1952, the Chinese working class will go on to still greater achievements. Building a new China, it is ready to unite with the working classes of all Asian countries in serving peace in the Far East. True to internationalism, it seeks to strengthen its ties with the working class of every country on earth in the sacred cause of world peace.

# Controlling China's Rivers

Fu Tso-yi

*Minister of Water Conservancy*

More has been done in water conservancy work in the past two years of the People's Republic of China than during the 22 years of the Kuomintang regime. The sums expended in this field in 1950 and 1951 respectively were 18 times and 42 times the largest sum ever spent by the Kuomintang in any single year.

During the past two years, in addition to 320,000 men of the People's Liberation Army who rendered assistance during their spare time, a total of over ten million persons have taken part in water conservancy works. Altogether, they put in more than 500 million workdays.

They moved approximately 960 million cubic metres of earthwork, which amount, if built into an embankment one metre wide and one metre high, would encircle the globe 24 times at the equator.

More than 11,200 large and small structures including dams, sluice gates, culverts and flumes have been erected. About 42,000 kilometres of dykes along the main rivers throughout the country have been raised and widened. Some projects have also been undertaken to correct Nature's blunders permanently.

As a result of these Herculean efforts, the flood menace has been greatly lessened. But it should be remembered that floods were a perennial scourge in old China. For example, the Yellow river breached its dykes on an average of once every two and a half years in the past 2,400 years. During the Kuomintang rule, the average annual loss caused by the same treacherous river was estimated at 24 million silver dollars. The Yangtse and Huai rivers as well as a number of other major and minor rivers also flooded regularly.

One of the most disastrous inundations occurred recently in 1931, when approximately 9,860,000 hectares of land in eight provinces were submerged and 52,710,000 people were affected. Another similar big flood took place in North China in 1939. During that flood, boats and sampans were plying on the streets within the municipal limits of Tientsin.

But the situation has greatly changed in the past two years. Where formerly there was no protection against floods at all, reasonable security now exists. Where flood prevention was inadequate, it is now more satisfactory.

For a survey of the work done in the field of flood prevention, let us take a few main rivers as illustration.

The Yellow river, long known as China's Sorrow, is now no longer dreaded by the dwellers in its valley. Before liberation, if the rate of flow at Shenchow, Honan province, was over 10,000 cubic metres per second, the chances of a breach in the dyke occurring was 75 per cent. In 1949, the rate of flow increased to 16,500 cubic metres per second, but because of the flood prevention measures taken by the People's Government, no breaching occurred. The capacity was raised to 17,000 cubic metres per second in 1950 and again to 23,000 cubic metres per second in 1951 as a result of the construction of a flood detention basin in Ping-yuan province. Today, the inhabitants in the Yellow river valley are practically free from the menace of flood.

The Yangtse river inundated approximately six million hectares of land in 1931 and more than 1,300,000 hectares in 1949. The most dangerous spot along the Yangtse river dyke lies in the section between Shasi and Chenglingki, both in Hupeh province. The river channel in this section is so narrow that in the flood season it constitutes a bottleneck, threatening the safety of three million people and 530,000 hectares of land in the area. To avert future catastrophes, construction of temporary flood diversion works began in 1951 in the area east of Hutoho and north of Ngouchikou. This measure will reduce the flood discharge of the Yangtse river by about 13,000 cubic metres per second, and practically remove the threat to the inhabitants along the Shasi-Chenglingki section.

Both the Yi and Shu rivers in the provinces of North Kiangsu and Shantung had been bearers of death and destruction until 1949 when projects of a more or less permanent na-





Flood prevention projects have also been undertaken on other rivers throughout the length and breadth of the country. For instance, the construction of a reservoir, capable of storing 1,050 million cubic metres of water, has been completed on the Liao river which flows through Northeast China. Besides improving the irrigation of farms, the reservoir saved about 210,000 hectares of land from inundation in 1951.

Another reservoir is being built at the headwaters of the Yungting river which flows from Chahar province to Hopei province. When completed, it will ensure the safety of the Peking-Tientsin railway and the city of Tientsin itself, besides providing facilities for irrigation and water power.

As for the Taching river in Hopei province, besides flood diversion works, a floodway is being dug for it to flow direct to the sea.

The energetic measures undertaken by the People's Government have steadily reduced the flood area as the following table shows.

FLOOD AREA IN CHINA

Year	Area (hectares)
1949 . . . . .	6,700,000
1950 . . . . .	4,000,000
1951 . . . . .	1,400,000

From the table we can realise to what extent the liberated people of China have conquered one of the natural calamities that plagued the country. It shows how much they have achieved in the fight for increased agricultural production.

So far I have dealt with one aspect of water conservancy work—flood prevention.

Another is irrigation. Here the work is conducted in the following three ways, all of which have obtained tremendous results.

Large-scale irrigation works are carried out either with government investment or loans. In the past two years, these works succeeded in restoring and increasing the irrigation acreage by more than 530,000 hectares. Small-scale irrigation projects are undertaken by the masses with government guidance. In 1950, these projects supplied enough water to restore to cultivation and to irrigate another 867,000 hectares. The third way to increase the irrigation acreage is through the collective use among the liberated peasants of water supply which was formerly monopolised by the landlords. In this way, more plots of land have

ture commenced. With the completion of a great part of the new Yi river project, there are no more crop failures in the Huaiyin area in North Kiangsu province, as had been the case in the past few years. The happy peasants there harvested four hundred thousand tons of grain in 1950. The yield soared to one million tons in 1951. Had the unusually heavy downpour that year not been checked by the newly-built water conservancy works, this rich harvest would have been completely washed away by the flood waters.

Dykes and embankments along the Pearl river in Kwangtung province and along the Han river, which runs through Shensi and Hupeh provinces, have been greatly strengthened. As a result, there were no breachings along the important portions of the Pearl river dykes in 1950 and 1951, despite the excessive amount of rainfall during the past two years. The case with the Han river was similar. The flood water was specially high in 1951. It even rose above the safety mark at the lower reaches of the river. Yet no breachings were reported.

been watered. In Shensi province alone, some 17,000 hectares were added to farming in 1950; in the Chahayang area in Northeast China, 6,000 hectares.

Special attention has been paid to irrigation work in the dry and arid northwest of China. More than 267,000 hectares of land in that area were brought under irrigation in the past two years, of which amount 100,000 hectares were in the frontier province of Sinkiang.

Another engineering work for irrigation purposes and to divert part of the waters of the Yellow river into the Wei river at the southern tip of Hopei province is now under construction. This construction, when completed, will supply water for 24,000 hectares of land. It will also raise the water level of the Wei river in the dry season, making it navigable between Hsinhsiang and Tientsin.

The Chinese people, however, do not confine their efforts to combatting the menace of floods or to building irrigation works. They have begun to embark on some of the long-term programmes, such as the famous Huai river project.

This project, the scale of which is unprecedented in China's history, commenced in the winter of 1950. Its first stage had already been completed in July 1951, and the second stage began four months later. It is a project with multiple purposes and above all, an engineering feat whereby the Chinese people are attempting to change the face of Nature in the Huai valley.

When the project is completed by 1955, it will put an end to the danger of flood threatening 55 million inhabitants in an area of 210,000 square kilometres. Meanwhile, it will increase irrigated acreage by 2,670,000 hectares of farmland. It will improve 1,000 kilometres of navigation channel. It will also provide facilities for generating water power.

But the Huai project is not only of paramount economic importance. It indicates the direction for China's future water conservancy work — over-all instead of piecemeal planning; the storage of water for the purpose of relieving drought and not merely emptying it into the sea; soil conservation at the headwaters to prevent the silting up of river-beds downstream.

More important still is the fact that the Chinese people have proved themselves capable of handling modern, complicated engineering

constructions without aid from imperialist countries, whether it be in the shape of machinery, industrial materials or scientific know-how.

Why are the Chinese people able to make such tremendous achievements during the short space of two years? This is because of the superiority of the New Democratic system in the people's China. This is because of the land reform which has emancipated the peasant masses from the age-old feudal shackles and enabled them to organise themselves into a huge army of energetic workers to fight for a life free from preventable natural calamities. This is because of the patriotic drive for increased production in support of the Chinese people's volunteers in Korea—a drive which stimulates the mounting enthusiasm of the people for labour. This is because of the firm alliance between the workers and the peasants which solves practically all the technical difficulties which crop up in water conservancy work. This is because of the political education received by the engineers and technicians who are now more than willing to place their knowledge and skill at the disposal of the nation. This is because of the selfless labour of the cadres, first of all the Communists, who are so utterly devoted to the cause of the people. In short, this is because of the leadership of the Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung which provides the impetus for all the good things done in New China.

A still brighter future is before the Chinese people. They are confident that they will be able, to an increasing degree, to bring under control hundreds of billions of cubic metres of water in all major rivers of the country to make them play a useful role in national construction. No more will the flood waters do any harm, but they will flow peacefully, and in times of need, into the cotton fields, paddy fields and wheat fields to feed the growing plants. The Chinese people will dig scores of big canals and let the water flow into them to float the boats that will help the inter-change of goods between the rural and urban areas. They will transform the water into tens of millions of kilowatts of electric power and bring this power to the farms and the factories. They will supply this power to light up every household in every city and village, where behind the shining glass windows all the people, men and women, young and old, are living a happy and prosperous life in the era of Mao Tse-tung.

# "How to be A Good Communist"

## An Introduction to Liu Shao-chi's Book

Michael Shapiro

Liu Shao-chi delivered the series of lectures, now collected in this book, in 1939 at the Institute of Marxism-Leninism in Yen-an. By that time the Communist Party of China had already had eighteen years' experience of legal and illegal struggle and of bitter armed struggle against counter-revolution. It had rich experience of administering its own revolutionary bases. It had successfully overcome various deviations from Marxism-Leninism both in theory and practice. The great revolutionary, Comrade Mao Tse-tung, had emerged from its ranks, and a growing number of highly experienced, tested Communist cadres—Liu Shao-chi among them—were his close comrades-in-arms as the leaders of the Party.

Its veteran cadres had been through the fires of the First Revolutionary Civil War (1924-27). They had learned profound lessons from the struggle both against the Right opportunist line of Chen Tu-hsiu that had resulted in the initial setbacks at the time of Chiang Kai-shek's betrayal of the revolution in 1927 and soon after against "Left" adventurism in the first years of armed struggle against the reactionaries. The Party had successfully led the epic Long March and now from Yen-an was leading the people throughout the country in resolute resistance to the invading forces of Japanese imperialism.

Some of the finest sons and daughters of the Chinese people, drawn to a great extent from the peasantry and urban petty bourgeoisie—for the working class in China was small in numbers—had become steeled proletarian fighters, skilled in the application of the science of Marxism-Leninism to the actual conditions of China. Millions more acknowledged that the Party in fact provided the only genuine, incorruptible leadership capable of leading the Anti-Japanese War and the revolutionary liberation movement. Thousands of eager students and other young patriots, workers who escaped from the slavery of Japanese factories and peasants who had seen their

homes destroyed by the invaders and traitors, were making their way to Yen-an.

Taking the Party as a whole, Comrade Liu was able to say of it:

The Chinese Communist Party is one of the best Communist Parties in the world. It is powerfully armed with Marxist-Leninist theory, and, at the same time, it has inherited the finest traditions of the many progressive thinkers and prominent men who have made great achievements in past generations in China's history. It stands for the most progressive and the brightest side of Chinese society. In its organisation are gathered together the most splendid Chinese men and women.

At the same time, he points out, the Party was not without its defects and mistakes. Not all members measured up to the strict standards by which the fighter for victory in the revolution and for the achievement of Communism is judged. Liu Shao-chi lists and describes the different kinds of erroneous outlook which were to be found among comrades and explains:

Why are there still such bad things in the splendid organisation of our Party? The reason, I think, is very simple. It is that our Party is not a Party that has fallen from the heavens; it is a Party which has grown out of the existing Chinese society. Although in general our Party members are relatively the best Chinese men and women, the vanguard of the Chinese proletariat, they come, however, from every stratum of Chinese society and are still living in this society which is replete with the influences of the exploiters—selfishness, intrigues, bureaucracy and every kind of filthy thing. Most of our best Party members are unlikely to be influenced by such things, but is it so strange that there should still be other Party members who to a greater or lesser extent bring into our Party, or reflect in our Party, some of the filthy things of society? Is it

anything strange that there are muddy stains on a person who crawls out of the mud and who constantly dabbles in the mud? It is not strange at all.

Those who joined the Party came from many different social strata. At first some of them were confused in their aims and motives. "For example," says Comrade Liu Shao-chi, "some peasant comrades regarded as 'Communism' the 'striking down of the local despots and the distribution of the land' which we carried out in the past and they did not understand genuine Communism as meaning anything more when they joined the Party. At the present time quite a few people have joined the Party chiefly because of the Communists' determined resistance to Japan and because of the anti-Japanese united front. . . . Some came because they looked up to the prestige of the Party or because they recognised, though only in a vague way, that the Communist Party can save China. And finally there were even some individuals who came because they counted on the Communists for tax reduction, or because they hoped to become influential in the future, or because their relatives and friends brought them in, etc."

It was natural that such comrades lacked a clear Communist outlook or a definite understanding of what it means to be a Communist in practice. Yet, these comrades were required to help in leading the fiercest struggles which the Party and the people of China yet had to face. It was not just a question of understanding Marxism in general, or tactics and strategy in battle, or being convinced theoretically of the possibilities of Socialism. It was a question of giving concrete Communist leadership to hundreds of millions of people, of being able to win their hearts and minds for the struggle by day to day example.

It was in these circumstances that these lectures were given by Comrade Liu Shao-chi summarizing the rich experiences of the Party on what it means to be a good Communist. They are the application, by a leading Marxist, of the Marxist-Leninist method to the individual Party members. Relative to the materials on other aspects of Communist theory and practice, comparatively little has been put down in writing on the cultivation of Communist personality and the development of what Comrade Liu calls the "Party spirit", on the

overcoming of non-proletarian, anti-revolutionary viewpoints and habits of thought and action.

These lectures emerge directly out of the needs of the Communist Party of China. And they draw on some of the best qualities of earlier Chinese thinkers, with apt quotations from their writings. Yet by their profound insight into the essence of Communist activity in the service of humanity, their conclusions are of universal application.

\* \* \*

"In a class society," says Comrade Liu Shao-chi, "man's class character forms the very nature and substance of man."

Adopting this fundamental approach, he shows both *why* and *how* Communists must consciously examine and mould themselves to be able the better to serve as the vanguard of the proletarian class. As far as joining the Party is concerned, he explains, all that is required are certain minimum qualifications—acceptance of the Party programme and constitution, payment of membership dues and the performance of tasks assigned in one of the Party's organisations. But there is the duty on every Communist not to be satisfied with this minimum, but to set himself maximum standards, "to try to master the essence, spirit and methods which made Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin what they are."

Putting it in the simplest terms, he says, "Revolutionaries exist because counter-revolutionaries still exist" and declares that "we Communist Party members are the most advanced revolutionaries in modern history and are the contemporary fighting and driving force in changing society and the world. . . . It is in the course of this ceaseless struggle against the counter-revolutionaries that Communist Party members change society, change the world and at the same time change themselves." He then defines the basic requirement for the development of a proletarian revolutionary. To progress as a conscious revolutionary requires the combination of two things—experience, tempering, "steeling" in practical struggle, and the "cultivation" of one's ideas, the mastering of Marxism-Leninism.

The Communist must practise "self-cultivation" to develop himself as a revolutionary, and no limit is placed on the possibilities of

such a development. Marxist "self-cultivation", Comrade Liu Shao-chi explains, is far removed from the isolated, idealistic, abstract, inner reflection of ancient Chinese scholars and religious believers. For a Marxist there cannot be any separation of theory from practice and it is false to think that anyone can really master the theory and method of Marxism-Leninism while standing aloof from the practical struggle, or without at the same time taking up fully the proletarian standpoint in practice.

\* \* \*

The lectures deal mainly with "the ideological cultivation of Party members". They define the meaning and purpose of ideological cultivation, explain the aims of Communism, examine the relation between the individual Party member and the Party, give examples of erroneous kinds of ideology among Party members, trace the origins of these and analyse the different kinds of attitudes which Party members adopt towards errors and defects in the Party.

It is impossible to convey in this introduction more than a pale impression of the richness of the treatment of all these questions. Everyone in the working class movement anywhere in the world must, to a greater or lesser extent, have come up against the kind of problems dealt with here and had to draw conclusions guiding his and other people's conduct in these matters.

Comrade Liu Shao-chi defines "the ideological cultivation of Party members" as "in the main a struggle in our minds between the ideology of the proletariat and other ideologies; a struggle in our minds between the Communist outlook on life and the Communist world outlook on the one hand, and all other outlooks on life and world outlooks on the other; and a struggle between two concepts: the personal interests and aims of Party members and the interests and aims of the Party and of the people."

Fundamentally, the aim of ideological cultivation is "to steel us as loyal, pure, progressive, model Party members and cadres", to develop the "Party spirit of a Communist". The Party spirit of a Communist "is the highest crystallisation of the class character, the substance and the interests of the proletariat. The steeling and cultivation of a Communist

in the Party spirit is the remoulding of his substance." Therefore "the Communist Party should develop the many great and progressive characteristics of the proletariat to the highest level" and "every Communist should remould himself in accordance with these characteristics..."

The standard set for defining the correct relationship between a Communist's personal interests and the interests of the Party is a lofty, noble standard. "A member of our Party is no longer just an ordinary person," says Comrade Liu. "He is a conscious vanguard fighter of the proletariat"; and "whether or not a Communist Party member can absolutely and unconditionally subordinate his personal interest to the Party's interests under all circumstances is the criterion with which to test his loyalty to the Party, to the revolution and to the Communist cause." He teaches that "to sacrifice one's personal interests and even one's life without the slightest hesitation and even with a feeling of happiness, for the cause of the Party, for class and national liberation and for the emancipation of mankind is the highest manifestation of Communist ethics."

Where a Party member has fully educated himself in this way he will develop certain qualities; and five different kinds of qualities are listed: 1. A high Communist moral standard, which includes loyalty and ardent love for his comrades, for revolutionaries and working people; the ability to consider other people's problems from their points of view; at the same time the capacity to deal firmly with the most vicious enemies of mankind. He will be the first to suffer hardship and the last to enjoy himself; 2. Courage to fight for the truth, including courage to expose his mistakes and shortcomings and boldly correct them; 3. The capacity to acquire the theory and method of Marxism-Leninism, to be objective, to be free from pre-occupation with personal matters, to test all theories in revolutionary practice and to be "no respecter of persons" where questions of revolutionary principle are concerned; 4. "He will also be capable of being the most sincere, most candid and happiest of men, not fearing the criticism of others and possessing the courage and sincerity to criticise others; 5. The highest self-respect and self-esteem. "For the interests of the Party and the revolution he can also be most lenient, most tolerant and most ready to compromise and he will even

endure, if necessary, various forms of humiliation and injustice without feeling hurt or bearing grudges”.

Comrade Liu goes on, “How can one’s personal position be worth worrying about? One’s position can never be higher than that of an emperor; nevertheless, comparing the position of an emperor with that of a fighter for the cause of Communism, how great is it after all? It is only ‘a drop in the ocean’,... So what is there worth worrying and bragging about?” This reference to ‘a drop in the ocean’ is an allusion to the reply given by Stalin to “a learned bourgeois biographer from Western Europe who visited the Soviet Union and asked Comrade Stalin what he thought about comparing Lenin with Peter the Great of Russia.” Stalin replied that Lenin could be compared to the waters of a mighty ocean while Peter the Great was only ‘a single drop in the ocean’.

The modesty and true Communist pride and humility, evidenced in these quotations, run all through the profound, subtle examination of the many shades of erroneous thinking which can do damage to the work of the Party and which are alien importations into the Party of the proletariat. Developing his criticism of “individual heroism”, he shows that “Anyone who appoints himself as a leader or who individually tries to become a leader can never become a leader in our Party.... The rank and file of our Party will not support as their leaders those who are self-conceited, given to individual heroism, showing-off, personal ambition for leadership and vanity.” This is only one of many aspects of this problem that he deals with in some detail, as he calls on Party members to make a close study of the life of Lenin and Stalin and their revolutionary working style.

The part of the book in which he traces the origins of wrong ideologies should be read in conjunction with his brilliant short essay on *The Class Character of Man*, which is included as an appendix. Here, he takes each class in Chinese society as it was and briefly and pointedly pins down its leading characteristic doctrines, ideas and forms of behaviour. “In a class society, all ideas, utterances, behaviour, social systems and doctrines of men are permeated with a class character, representing the particular interests and demands of certain classes.”

Thus the foundations are laid for understanding the source of differences in methods of activity among Party members, their differing ideas and views and how to overcome the various non-proletarian forms of outlook in the Party through inner-Party struggle. Comrade Liu Shao-chi is critical of both those “blindly optimistic” people who see no “defects, errors or undesirable things in the Party” and those who “see nothing or almost nothing but errors, defects and undesirable things.” He also separates out correct and incorrect attitudes that comrades manifest towards undesirable things in the Party.

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These lectures have served and will for a long time serve as an indispensable text-book and guide to millions of heroic Party and non-Party people in China. It is well-known by now that the high standards set for Communists in these Yen-an lectures of 1939 became the norm of conduct for countless thousands of Communists in the years that followed. This book will help the world to gain a deeper understanding of the quality of the Party that led the Chinese Revolution to victory.

Without an appreciation of the great qualities and standards of conduct which the Chinese Communist Party has systematically inculcated in its members—and through them in millions of others—it is impossible to understand the unflinching, selfless and glorious spirit of the heroic Chinese people’s volunteers in Korea, men and women with a high political consciousness of what they are fighting for, a tender care and consideration for the Korean people and leniency and forbearance towards the enemy soldiers once they lay down their arms. It is a book that inspires respect and gives supreme confidence that no force on earth can prevent a country with such a leadership from accomplishing its immediate tasks of construction and industrialisation and of leading China victoriously to Socialism and Communism.

Every page of this book has lessons for all who would add their efforts to the achievement of peace and progress. It will stimulate every reader to re-examine his ideas, his behaviour, his contribution to the cause, giving him at the same time the mighty encouragement that comes from the thought that the standards here set are those of the Party that has led the liberation of nearly a fifth of the human race.

# THE INNER MONGOLIAN AUTONOMOUS REGION

Peng Ssu-ke

The Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region established on May 1, 1947 was the first national autonomous region to be created within the People's Republic of China. A special interest therefore attaches to its development as an example of the national minorities' policy of the People's Government. And the record has been a brilliant one. Problems have been solved within a space of months that former regimes deemed insoluble.

Inner Mongolia with its area of some 600,000 square kilometres has a population of 2,400,000 including more than 800,000 Mongolians with smaller groups of Solons, Koreans, Tungans and Buriats. The rest are Hans (Chinese). The area is today divided into six leagues—Hsingan, Khu-Nam, Jerim, Chaowuta, Silingol and Chahar—and subsidiary banners which, formerly Mongolian nomadic tribal divisions, are now equivalent to the administrative regions and counties of the rest of the country.

The Autonomous Region is rich in natural resources. Three-fifths of its surface is prairie, ideal for animal husbandry. Flocks of sheep, horses, cattle, camels graze on its rich pastures. As yet these herds are only a fraction of what the land can support. The southern and eastern areas are suitable for farming and grain crops. The Hans form the majority of the population of these areas which contain about 80 per cent of the whole region's population and account for the major part of its wealth. In the Khingan mountains to the east the magnificent virgin forests form one of the biggest timber producing areas in the country. Talai lake provides considerable quantities of fish. Preliminary surveys indicate an abundance of mineral resources: iron, coal, salt, gold, mica, asbestos, etc.

Yet for centuries this richly endowed land was the scene of a long drawn out tragedy. The Mongolian population was decreasing year by year. As a result of ruthless exploitation by feudalism and imperialism, their economy was reduced to a state of chronic crisis. Herds and men were ravaged by disease and human depredations. Malnutrition and starvation were rife. Ignorance, superstition and racial enmity were officially fostered, the better to maintain the domination of the reactionary rulers. This was the hunting ground of all sorts of international adventurers and imperialist agents. The Japanese militarists attempted to denationalise the area and wipe out those who protested.

But over the years the Mongols rose again and again against their oppressors. Finally joining with the revolutionary forces led by the Chinese Communist Party, the Mongolian people found the way forward to freedom. In 1945, a Mongolian cavalry detachment was formed as part of the People's Liberation Army. It took part in decisive battles

against the U.S.-armed Kuomintang troops in the Northeast and North China. It fought 654 engagements and accounted for 21,900 enemy troops.

With the aid of the revolutionary forces of the whole country, the masses of Inner Mongolia thus made an end of the Kuomintang and feudal yoke. The Autonomous Regional Government was triumphantly proclaimed at Ulanhot on May 1, 1947 at a national congress of the people of Inner Mongolia. Ulanfu, the famous veteran Mongolian revolutionary, was elected chairman. Thus began a new stage in the life of the people of Inner Mongolia, united for the first time in their history.

## Fundamental Reconstruction

During the past four years, the regional people's government led by the Communist Party has carried through a series of far-reaching measures for the political, economic, social and cultural reconstruction of the area.

The domination of the feudal class who ruled the banners as the henchmen of the reactionary Kuomintang and the foreign imperialists has been ended. People's representative conferences have been established by democratic election in every league, banner, village and settlement. Most have met more than three times, while the majority of the villages have held people's congresses and elected the members of the village people's government committees, the basic administrative units in the region.

It is through these conferences that the people discuss and take decisions to solve their problems both old and new, and their decisions are taken as the basis of government action. Mongols play a big part in the government apparatus. Of the 18 members of the regional government 16 are Mongols, the other 2 are Hans. More than half the chairmen of the leagues and banners are Mongols. Over 11,000 have been trained since 1947 for work in the various government departments. The Mongolian people are represented in the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference by five members. Chairman Ulanfu is a member of the Central People's Government Council as well as Vice-Chairman of the Commission of Nationalities Affairs.

The economic bases of feudalism have been uprooted by the land reform in the agricultural districts where most of the region's population is concentrated. It was carried out in the midst of the war of liberation. The landlords' land was confiscated and distributed to the peasants who were landless or who had insufficient land. In the areas where nomad animal husbandry predominates democratic reforms have emancipated the herdsmen

who now have access to the pastures. Owning his land or flocks, relieved of the heavy burden of rent and usurious debts, paying reasonable taxes and with a government that he can for the first time in history proudly call his own, the emancipated inhabitant of Inner Mongolia is displaying an enormous enthusiasm in productive work. Between 1948 and 1950, altogether 217,000 hectares of wasteland were reclaimed. Mutual-aid teams have been organised on a wide scale. In the Liao river project, 4,200,000 peasants of Inner Mongolia and the Northeast united to build a 1,000 kms. long dyke. Farm tools and methods have been greatly improved. Productivity of labour and land has been steadily raised. In 1950 the average productivity per hectare in the Khu-Nam league, for example, was raised by 30 per cent compared with the 1948 level, thus considerably surpassing the 1936 (pre-Anti-Japanese War) figure.

### Animal Husbandry Develops

New perspectives are opening out before the peasants. In April, 1950 a state experimental farm was organised in this same area and equipped with tractors and combines to serve as a "pilot plant" for new methods of scientific farming.

Great attention has also been devoted to the rehabilitation and development of animal husbandry. Flocks of horses and sheep in particular were ravaged by the Kuomintang and the Japanese invaders. The herds of the New Barga (West) banner in the Hulunbair prairie land were reduced by disease and robbery to less than one-third in 16 years. In 1931 it had 600,000 head of cattle. At the time of liberation it had only 160,000. Today such statistics are a thing of the past. Production curves have taken a sharp upward turn. As a result of the government's policy of livestock protection, freedom of pasturage, and special veterinary aid, the West Banner's herds have grown to 500,000. In 1950, the number of livestock throughout the region increased by 10.7 per cent over 1949 and by 14 per cent over 1948. For last year the increase is estimated at 11 per cent. In most areas the head of cattle is double that of 1945. A large number of new veterinary surgeons are being trained. The herdsmen have organised a big wolf-hunting campaign. The existence of the southern and eastern agricultural areas gives an important all the year round fodder base for the livestock of the north and west, thus enabling the Region to develop a well-rounded agricultural economy.

A realistic plan of industrial development is also being carried through. During 1950 new state-owned power houses, iron smelting works and alcohol distillation plants have been set up. Gold mines are now being exploited. The lumber industry has been placed under centralised and modern state direction. Industries are being developed to process the produce of agriculture and animal husbandry: tanning works, leather goods factories, meat canning plants, etc.

In 1950, the regional people's government devoted 22.6 per cent of the region's budget to industrial construction.

This over-all development of agriculture, animal husbandry and industry has taken place against the background of the general economic advance of the whole country. The local currency was unified with that of the rest of China on March 20, 1951, a year after the 12-year old inflation was brought under control throughout China in March, 1950, and when conditions of stable prices had been fully brought about. Under the general policy of the Central People's Government of developing the interflow of goods between various regions and between town and country, and with the new prosperity of the peasant and urban masses, there has been an increasing demand for the products of Inner Mongolia—its grains and industrial crops, its animal products, skins, furs, camels' and sheep's wool, lumber, and industrial raw materials. Where before, the Kuomintang bureaucratic capitalists, speculators and agents of the imperialists carried out a systematic policy of cheating the Mongolian producers, today the new terms of trade greatly favour the producer, who is paid three times more than the pre-liberation price for grain and animal products. To a very large extent the middleman has been replaced by the state-trading organisations, consumer and supply and marketing co-operatives with their 640,000 members. These two types of trading organisations have together already taken the leading role in trade.

By these means the semi-colonial and semi-feudal conditions of Inner Mongolia's economy have been fundamentally liquidated. The living conditions of the masses are constantly improving. Their purchasing power today is estimated to be four times that of pre-liberation days. They are now able to buy a sufficiency of the daily goods they need: cloth, tea, salt, etc. The region as a whole is importing increasing quantities of these commodities as well as coal, newsprint and manufactured goods in general. The new industrial proletariat of Inner Mongolia advances confidently and under conditions of increasing well-being. Workers in the saw mills and power plants, for instance, receive higher wages than ever in the past as well as the full benefits of the *Labour Insurance Regulations*.

### Victory Over Disease

Perhaps the most vivid expression of the depth of the misery into which the Mongolians had been forced was the fact that the population was steadily declining. It was no exception for the population of a banner to be reduced by half in twenty or even in ten years. This was a direct result of the policy to "suppress the Mongolians" which was adopted by Manchu overlords. It was they who introduced Lamaism and at one time got half the male population into monasteries. The Japanese imperialists continued this policy by the more "modern" methods of fostering bubonic plague.

As one of its first acts, the people's government launched a "general offensive" against disease. With the aid of special health teams from Northeast China and later the Soviet Union, anti-bubonic plague measures, vaccination centres and mobile teams went into action across the steppes. As a result of



these and other fundamental health measures the number of bubonic plague patients decreased from 17,000 in 1947, to 22 in 1950 while the number of deaths decreased from 13,000 in 1947 to 17 in 1950.

A similar campaign has been launched against venereal disease which also scourged the local population. Special V.D. centres were established in most of the banners and teams of specialists from Peking came to assist the work.

In the four Barga banners, for example, some 8,000 people were treated for the disease and checks in a control group showed that over 70 per cent were completely cured. As a result the downward population trend has now been reversed.

Mongolia's women have always in the past enjoyed a greater degree of freedom than their Han sisters because of the conditions of nomadic life, but even they were subjected to severe social disabilities in relation to men. Now they are on the way to achieving complete equality along with all the women of China. They have full political equality and as elsewhere where the land reform has been carried out, they have received their share of land along with the men.

### Cultural Renaissance

These rapidly improving material conditions in Inner Mongolia have been accompanied by a renaissance in cultural life. Besides the new schools that have been set up in the villages mobile schools have been opened in the pasture-lands. The number of children at school has trebled, in comparison with pre-liberation days. Sixty-one per cent of all school-age children are now at school. A resolute drive is on to end illiteracy especially among adults, 506,000 of whom attended winter schools in 1950. Plans are afoot for the local development of higher educational facilities but in the meantime about 500 students have been sent to colleges and institutes in other parts of China for special studies.

The Mongolian language is now held as the official language alongside that of the Han and is studied in all schools. For the first time newspapers, magazines and books are being published in Mongolian in vast numbers. In 1950 alone more than 400,000 books were printed in Mongolian script. Mao Tse-tung's *Selected Works* are now being translated into Mongolian. His *New Democracy* and *The People's Democratic Dictatorship* have already been translated and are widely circulated. Serious study is now being given to unearth and bring to the people the riches of Mongolian literature and folk culture in all its forms.

### Fine Traditions Preserved

Many fine traditional national customs have taken on a new meaning. Natamu, the great fair in the steppe lands was for years perverted from its original communal significance and turned into a roudy bazaar dominated by wily merchant speculators. Now it has been transformed into a big national fair and trading centre, an exhibition and cultural centre for the spread of scientific knowledge



Besides regular schools, the people's government of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region has set up winter schools and literacy classes for adults. Herdsmen of a banner in the Chahar league attend a class outside their Yurta

and the presentation of new plays, dances, musical and literary compositions. Natamu meetings elect model herdsmen, hear talks on the current international situation and reports on government policy. Here the peasants see films of the advanced agricultural experience of the Soviet Union and the fraternal Mongolian People's Republic. Natamu each year becomes a more vivid spectacle. Mongol men and women wear their festival clothes. The men in bright silk gowns, and skilfully worked leather top-boots, their bridles and saddles gay with gold, vermilion and emerald green decorations. The women folk with their national headdresses of bright beads and silver ornaments. And all, young and old, heartily enjoy the horse-racing without which no Mongolian festival is complete. This is the heyday of the great Mongolian national games of trick riding, archery, wrestling.

Mongolian folk songs and dances have attained a perfection and spirit never before seen in the past. The national cultural troupe of singers and dancers received a tumultuous welcome when it performed in October, 1950 in Peking. Now over the radio network centred in Ulanhot, it is becoming widely known to the people of Inner Mongolia.

This cultural freedom is complemented by religious freedom, guaranteed by the people's government. The lamas and lama church have full rights to practise their religion. Their representatives participate in the people's representative conferences and engage in productive labour and secular study. As a result large numbers of the monks, who were formerly cut off from the vital life of the people, are being drawn into creative work for the whole nation.

Is it any wonder that the Mongolian people are today showing such tremendous enthusiasm in their support of their people's government and the various big national campaigns in which the country is engaged? The old strife between Mongols and Hans and other national minorities has ended. Today they co-operate closely for the common good through their various democratic organisations—the Youth League, women's organisations, the Peasant Association, mutual-aid teams and co-operative societies.

As in every other part of China, the people of Inner Mongolia are determined not to let the American aggressors get away with any attempts to undermine the peaceful construction in which they are engaged. They have taken resolute action against counter-revolutionary elements and thereby strengthened the people's democratic dictatorship.

Responding to the call of the China Peace Committee, 72 per cent of the population signed the appeal for a Five-Power Peace Pact and voted against the re-armament of Japan. The movement to resist American aggression and aid Korea has swept through the steppe land. Herdsmen, peasants, workers and lamas have joined together in a yet

firmer consolidation of the democratic united front to sign "pacts of national unity and patriotism". Donations collected are sufficient to buy 23 planes and other heavy equipment to aid the people's volunteers in Korea. Many volunteers from Inner Mongolia are repulsing the aggressor on the Korean battlefields.

It is with such advances that the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region approaches its fifth anniversary. The achievements already made in political, economic and cultural construction give complete confidence that even swifter advances will be made in the future. Within the People's Republic, within the context of the New Democracy led by the Communist Party and the Central People's Government, the form of the autonomous region gives a national minority full freedom of development of its national life, its economy and culture. This form enables it with the fraternal aid of the Han people to carry out consistently and resolutely reforms that are essential for its advance to a higher stage of social organisation—to Socialism. All this is amply demonstrated by the example of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region.

## China's National Autonomous Regions

The People's Republic of China now has over one hundred national autonomous regions. They have been established under the authority of the *Common Programme*, New China's basic law, Article 50 of which reads: "All nationalities within the boundaries of the People's Republic of China are equal. They shall establish unity and mutual aid among themselves, and shall oppose imperialism and their own public enemies, so that the People's Republic of China will become a big, fraternal and co-operative family composed of all its nationalities. Greater nationalism and chauvinism shall be opposed. Acts involving discrimination, oppression and splitting of the unity of the various nationalities shall be prohibited."

"All nationalities," states Article 53, "shall have freedom to develop their dialects and languages, to preserve or reform their traditions, customs and religious beliefs. The People's Government shall assist the masses of the people of all national minorities to develop their political, economic, cultural and educational construction work."

With the exception of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, all these new local autonomous governments were set up during the past two years, among the Tibetans in eastern Sikang province and the Moslems, Miaos, Yis and Yaos in other parts of the country. The Olunchun nationality in Inner Mongolia with about 1,000 members also has its own administration. In places where different nationalities are living together, 163 governments have been established which are jointly run by their representatives. In areas where even small groups of minority peoples are gathered, they are given special representation in the local people's governments.

As a result of this policy based on the Leninist-Stalinist principles of national policy as applied by Chairman Mao Tse-tung to the existing conditions in China, "unprecedented unity has been achieved among the various nationalities in China," as Li Wei-han, Director of the Commission of Nationalities Affairs of the Central People's Government said at the recent session of the Commission in Peking (December 14, 1951).

In his reply to a telegram of greetings sent by representatives of 14 different nationalities of Northwest China meeting this month to co-ordinate their efforts in the patriotic campaign to increase production and practise economy, Chairman Mao Tse-tung pointed out that one of the reasons why imperialism dared to bully China in the past was because China's various nationalities were not united. "But those days are gone for good," he concludes. "Since the very day of the establishment of the People's Republic of China, our various nationalities have begun to unite into a great, friendly and co-operative family, strong enough to defeat any aggression of imperialism and to build our Motherland into a prosperous and strong country."

# The Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region



**People's Democracy** — People's representative conferences have been held in all leagues and banners of Inner Mongolia. Representatives of the Silingol league outside their conference hall

The first national autonomous region established in the People's Republic of China shows how the New Democracy enables a formerly exploited and dying national minority to free itself, swiftly develop its economy and culture and ride the road to prosperity and happiness



**Wealth on the Hoof**—A typical sight in the vast grasslands of Inner Mongolia. Freedom of pasturage for all has emancipated the formerly exploited herdsmen



**The People's Leader**—Ulanfu, veteran revolutionary and chairman of the people's government of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, on a visit to the Chahar league

## New In

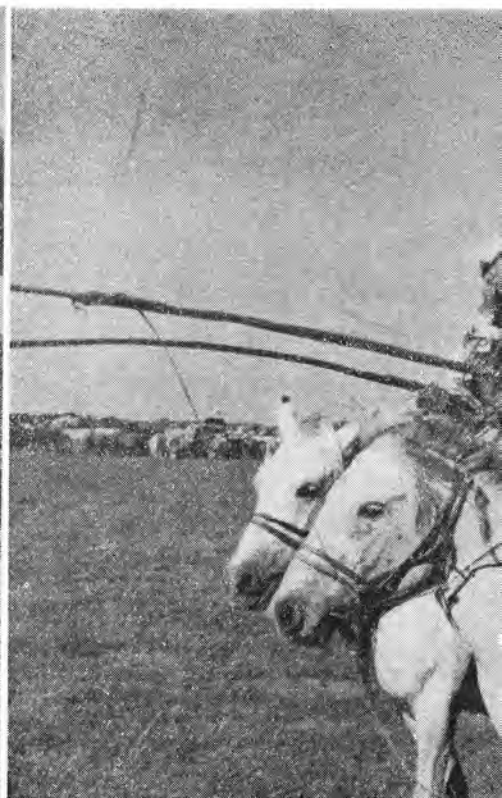
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**Resist American**  
slogan over a ga  
Demonstration in

**At Natamu Fair**—Sharing the growing national prosperity, the Inner Mongolian people's purchasing power in 1950 was 460 per cent of that of 1948. Manufactured goods are quickly sold by a state trading booth at the fair

**Youth**—The free youths of Inner Mon  
broad and bright as the



# Inner Mongolia

ist exploitation, disease and malnutri-  
at the Mongol nationality. Liberation  
Communist Party has brought a new  
in every sphere of life



Aggression and Aid Korea says the  
e of honour at the 1951 May Day  
Ulanhot, in the Inner Mongolian  
autonomous Region

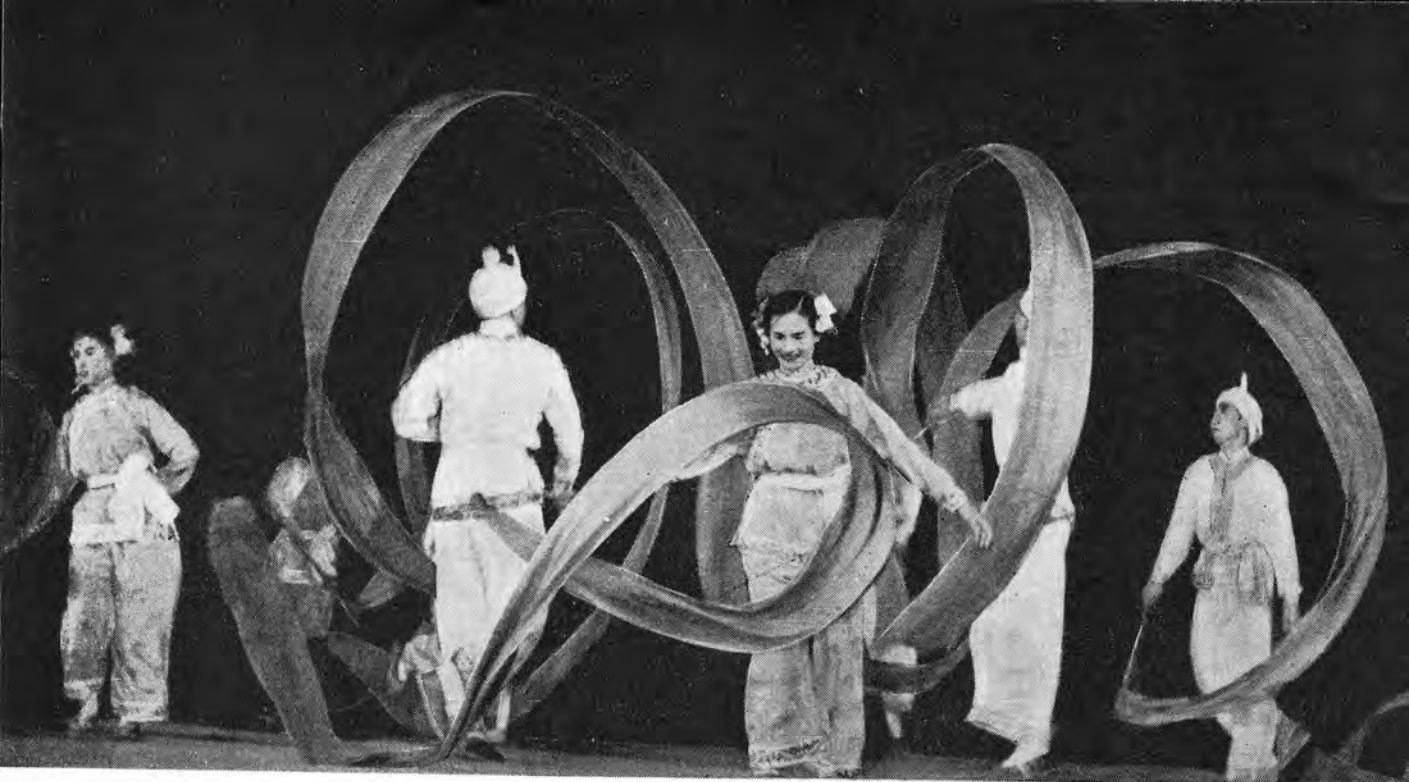


**Emancipated Women**—Delegates to a people's representative conference sign their names on the roster. The women of Inner Mongolia today share the power of deciding their destinies equally with men

golia today face perspectives as  
limitless steppes

**Death to the Plague**—Mongol health specialists at work. Bubonic plague claimed 13,000 victims in 1947. Anti-plague measures reduced this figure to 17 in 1950





The Red Silk Dance performed by the Chinese Dance Ensemble at the Berlin Youth Festival, 1951

## *Dances of Today*

The dance of New China includes such richly diverse elements as modern folk dances, particularly of the national minorities, and dances of the reformed classical theatre



The Dance of the Wild Goose performed by Tze Tso-kuan of the Inner Mongolian Dance Ensemble. The goose is a symbol of peace



Tsu Chuen-shao, a student of the Experimental School of Drama, Peking, in a dance movement from the reformed classical opera  
**The Night Flight**



## DANCES OF THE PEOPLE

*Poetry expresses aspirations. Songs chant out our emotions. When songs are inadequate, we complement them with the dance — the gestures of our hands, the movements of our feet—says the Shih King classic.*

For more than three thousand years the dance in China has been a popular and cultured form of entertainment. By the time of the Sung dynasty, a thousand years ago, in its theatrical form this art was already developing the elaborate system of conventional movements that are the classical model for the dances we see in the Peking opera of today. When the people are happy, they dance. They developed a rich culture of the dance in China. But the bitterness of life under the corrupt Manchu regime, under the warlords and Kuomintang, the daily horror of reactionary wars, plunder, pestilence and mass starvation strangled the spirit of the dance among the people.

Two years ago the revolution restored this art wholly to the masses. But this cultural heritage, overlaid with the excrecences of age and social misuse, needed reform to meet the people's new demands. This work is being carried out by the revolutionary cultural groups united in the All-China Federation of Literature and Art Circles in close collaboration with the people. Their work has taken three forms: the adaptation or reform of the classical or stage dance to modern needs; the development of the many national folk dance forms, particularly of the national minorities, and the assimilation of the dance experience of other lands, particularly of the mass dance movement of the U.S.S.R.

The classical opera dancers have been faced with a task of great responsibility for they are the sole custodians of a huge and complex repertoire. In reforming their art they must be careful to reject nothing that is of value to the people. In August, 1951 they selected two dances from this repertoire

as examples of their new work and performed them at the World Youth Festival in Berlin. They showed a story about the folk hero Wu Sung killing the tiger and the new version of the *Crossroads*, a comedy in which two knights of the people mistakenly fight each other while attempting to save another hero from the emperor's men. Re-establishing the democratic content of the originals, these dances were received with enormous interest. Thus reformed, this ancient art enjoys an unrivalled popularity throughout the country.

The folk dances too are growing and developing new forms expressive of the new content of life. The *Fan Dance*, for instance, depicting a young girl trying to catch a butterfly—symbolising her young lover—with her fan, was a popular Shantung dance of courtship. *Yangko*, in rural Northwest China, was an ancient ritual dance that developed into a gay festival spectacle. No attention was paid to such beautiful people's creations in the old days, but liberation has transformed them and made them nationally popular. Today, through the love theme, the *Fan Dance* expresses the happiness of rural life. *Yangko* marched with the People's Army from the villages to the cities and has become one of the most popular dance movements, deeply influencing the forms of plays and public spectacles. Born as a dance expressing the happy collective life of the peasants, today it expresses the triumphant joy of the whole nation.

### Hidden Treasures

For centuries the dances of the national minorities were treasures sealed in obscure corners of the land. Today their brilliance delights the whole country. Last year alone the Northwest Dance Troupe visited more than 40 nationalities and learnt more than 100 new dances. There are no detailed statistics for all dance groups but the huge scope of such work is exemplified by the fact that all the national minorities now have their dance ensembles. Northwest China alone has more than 28,000 professional dramatic workers and folk

artists who have performed in the past year to over 8,000,000 people.

Today China's modern dance movement is headed by Wu Shao-peng, chairman of the All-China Dancers' Association and Tai Ai-lien, a talented ballerina. Reflecting the revolutionary spirit of the people, their dancing is based on the study of the people's dances and the best progressive trends abroad. They have now been joined by the famous Korean dancer Choi Sung Hi. Their subjects speak for themselves: *The Doves of Peace*, a ballet; the group dance, *Victory of the Korean People*; vignettes of modern life; stage versions of folk dances, modernisations of the classics. A typical adaptation of an old theme is the *Red Silk Dance* presented by Tai Ai-lien's group. This combines the classical with the modern folk dance. In Mei Lan-fang's Peking opera *Angel Scattering Blossoms*, the dancer holds a long silken scarf whose soft curves blend with the delicate gestures of the dancer to create an evanescent and languid beauty. Now this solo has been turned into a group dance. Young men and women in bright apple green costumes dance with joyful rhythms, their red silk scarves flying and flashing in the light. *Yangko* steps give dash and vigour to every movement. The dance now expresses the victorious feelings of our era.

At the 1951 World Youth Festival Chinese dances were awarded a first prize. It was an indication of the swift advance of the art in the past two years. In July, 1949 there were only six dance troupes and less than 100 professional dancers in revolutionary China. Today there are 134 dance troupes and more than 1,000 dancers as well as several major schools. In addition every school, factory, army unit, institution, thousands of villages have their own dance groups.

On the eve of 1952, with the joyous memories of this year's achievements, looking forward with full confidence to a yet greater tomorrow, everywhere in China, at countless celebrations the people dance, because they are happy.

# Creating Capital for New China

## An Example from the Northeast

Chou Sheng

By the end of October, 1951 the workers of Northeast China's state-owned enterprises had accumulated capital sums to the value of over ten million tons of grain by increased production and the practice of strict economy in operations. And the movement continues.

With this huge sum you could buy 32 textile mills each with fifty thousand spindles, or you could use it to build a power station with a capacity of eight hundred thousand kilowatts.

This ten million ton grain-value does not, of course, represent the total industrial output of the Northeast. It is an extra sum patriotically created by the workers over and above the production target set for 1951.

The industrial rehabilitation of the Northeast only commenced in earnest in 1949 after the whole area and the main industrial centres had been liberated. Yet by 1950 industrial production had already reached 73.1 per cent of the 1943 figure, the highest level ever recorded, and this in spite of wholesale Kuomintang destruction. The target for 1951, which was set 18 per cent above the figure for 1950, was 84.9 per cent of the 1943 level. The speed of rehabilitation has been remarkable, but the workers are determined to increase it still more. The developing political situation, they recognise, demands that the Northeast should be built up even more rapidly as an important industrial base of the people's China.

The Northeastern workers, who are nearest to the danger threatening our country resulting from the American invasion of Korea, fully understand that they must increase their efforts both to help the Chinese people's volunteers crush the aggression of the American imperialists and to consolidate the national defences in order to safeguard China's security and peace in the East and throughout the world. But, for the tasks of national defence and new economic and cultural construction, large capital sums are needed, especially for heavy industry. How can People's China obtain these large sums of new capital? There are only two ways. While she may obtain a part of the required capital from sources outside the country, the main thing is to create it within the country itself.

### Capital for Industrialisation

The capitalist countries effect the primary accumulation of capital for industrialisation by the savage plunder of "backward" countries and the ruthless exploitation of their own toiling masses. The system of the People's Democracy of today

shows its superiority over bourgeois democracy because it opens up enormous possibilities for economic development through labour initiative and planning of its own. It is capable of accumulating capital in the first place by the rational utilisation of its own human and material resources supplemented by aid and credits from the fraternal Socialist Soviet Union and mutually beneficial trade with the other People's Democracies.

In this respect, the experience of the Soviet Union is invaluable. Two-thirds of the capital needed for the Soviet Union's Post-War Five Year Plan came directly from increased production and economy in operations. This is the road that China is following.

In New China, state-owned enterprises are the property of the people, of the workers. Through democratic management they directly participate in the management of their plants. Every initiative of the workers is encouraged and the management can count on their full support.

In May, 1951 Kao Kang, Chairman of the Northeast People's Government, called on the workers of the Northeast to produce a capital sum equal in value to five million tons of grain over and above their original 1951 target. Workers in individual mines and factories immediately discussed their share in this plan. When they sent their revised plans back to the government, it was found that they had set themselves substantially higher targets—totalling ten million tons—one hundred per cent more than the original amount called for by Kao Kang.

### 10,000,000 Ton Target

With this gigantic sum as the target the workers launched an emulation campaign. By the end of September, only a few months after it had begun, 48 state factories and mines had fulfilled their targets three months ahead of schedule. Factories and mines under the direction of the Department of Industry of the Northeast People's Government (exclusive of those operated by the provincial governments) had by the end of September accumulated capital equivalent to 6,801,538 tons of grain. By the end of October factories, railways, mines etc., had already reached the over-all target of ten million tons.

The great industrial centres of Mukden, Fushun, Anshan, Port Arthur and Dairen gave the most outstanding contributions. Mukden, the largest industrial centre in the Northeast, fulfilled its target



of two million tons by the end of October. In November it revised its plan to 2,500,000 tons, but by the end of 1951 it is expected that even this target will be beaten by another five hundred thousand tons, thus making a grand total of three million tons. Fushun, where one of the biggest open cast coal mines in the world is situated, fulfilled its target of 1,415,000 tons by the end of October and revised its target upwards to two million tons in November.

Since the movement to increase production and practise economy was launched, it has swept through the whole of the Northeast. Factories in light and heavy industry; factories large and small—all took up the work of increasing production in friendly competition. Altogether, one million workers of the Northeast have been mobilised in the campaign which has transformed the entire atmosphere of the factories and mines. The answer to the question how such remarkable results have been achieved in so short a time may be found in the political consciousness of the workers and their high labour enthusiasm.

So far we have been talking of targets in terms of tons of grain. The workers, however, also think of their targets graphically in terms of tanks, planes and artillery for national defence. "How many planes can our output buy?" is a question they always ask. In late 1951, the story of how a volunteer hero shot down several American planes with an anti-aircraft gun made a particularly vivid impression on the workers of one copper electrolysis shop who were aiming to contribute capital equivalent to the value of one anti-aircraft gun. It brought home to them in an entirely new and impressive way how the output of their factory was contributing to the defence of the people from the air pirates of the United States.

Increased production also directly raises the workers' standard of living. In the Northeast Non-ferrous Metal Plant, for example, when the movement began, the management and the trade union concluded a collective agreement to achieve the

common target. The trade union, on behalf of the workers, promised to fulfil its patriotic pact and to conduct an emulation campaign. The management, on its part, contracted to build a rest centre with eighty beds, new homes for 120 families and a modern nursery.

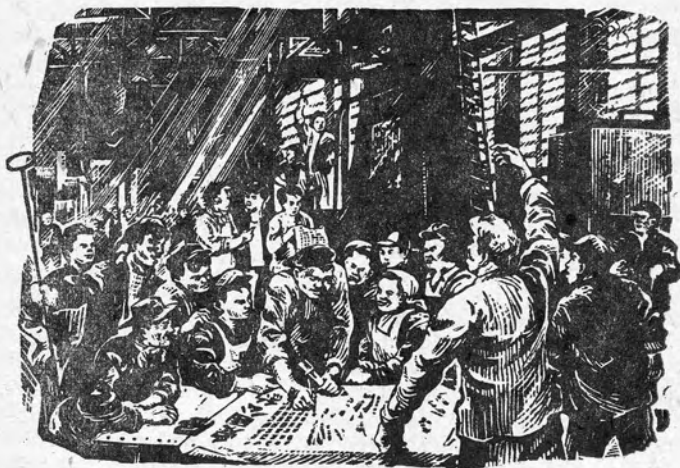
### Production Rises, Wages Rise

In one of the machine-building works in Mukden, the output target for 1951 was originally fixed at 3.1 times the 1950 figure. After the movement began, the factory found that it could raise its output not 3.1 but 5.8 times. This increase swelled the management fund (as the fund for workers' welfare is called) 120 per cent what it was before. Wages also took a jump upwards. In one workshop alone, bonuses were increased by 36 per cent more than before the campaign.

At the end of 1949 wages in the Northeast were 27 per cent more than in January the same year. In 1950 wages increased 12.5 per cent over 1949. Incomplete figures for 1951 show that wages are gaining another 15 per cent over 1950. In addition, the adoption of the *Labour Insurance Regulations* has brought increased welfare facilities to the workers. These are substantial advances in terms of everyday life. But the workers are not content to rest on their laurels. They are more than ever inspired by the noble ideals and lofty aims of the New Democratic construction.

Today, they often describe and discuss the vision of a Socialist society. They follow with intense interest the story of Socialist construction in the U.S.S.R. They are inspired by the vast projects undertaken by the Soviet people that are laying the foundation for the advance to Communism. They look forward to the day when China too will have a powerful industrial base to serve the needs of the people, a mechanised agriculture to produce food and raw materials in abundance and culture will flourish. Wei Shu-huei, a woman worker in No. 4 Mukden Rubber Shoe Factory, is typical of many. She was a simple village girl when she went to work as a sewer in the factory. All she wanted was to get her pay and have a better life than she had in the village. Then she began to hear about Socialism from the trade union leaders. A new world suddenly opened before her. Now, Wei Shu-huei works for the day when Socialism will transform the work and life of the masses. She has been a leader in the movement to reduce waste of time in her workshop. She says, "If I should waste twenty minutes a day, that would mean eight hours a month. If everyone acted like that, think how it would delay the advance of our China towards Socialism."

The enthusiastic participation of the Northeast workers in the movement to resist American aggression and to aid Korea, the identity of their personal in-



Signing a patriotic pact

Woodcut by Chau Ya

terests with the interests of the nation as a whole and the inspiring vision of a Socialist future—these are powerful forces that stimulate labour enthusiasm to a high level and sharpen the workers' keenness in friendly emulation competitions.

Many forms of competition have been invented. Among them, the one introduced by a machine-building factory in Mukden called the *Man Tang Hung* ("The whole workshop is red") competition has particularly caught the imagination of the workers. The campaign in this factory began with a competition between teams. Those that fulfilled their targets won the coveted red banner; those that missed the mark got the blue banner—considered a disgrace among the workers themselves. Sections then challenged sections. In this competition, the section in which every team fulfilled its target was awarded the sectional red banner. The next stage of the competition was between the workshops. If every section got the sectional banner, then the workshop would be honoured with the most coveted of all banners, the *Man Tang Hung* banner. This process of widening the scope of the competition, team against team, section against section and workshop against workshop not only ensures the even development of production; it enhances the spirit of friendly co-operation between the teams and encourages mutual assistance to achieve the workshop target. Under the slogan of the factory: "The red flags bravely advance; capture the *Man Tang Hung*!" the revolutionary heroism of the workers has been developed. Chairman Kao Kang has himself written to the management and workers of this factory praising their work and calling on the workers in other factories to learn from their experiences.

#### Enthusiasm Plus Technique

Labour enthusiasm alone does not, of course, explain the success of the movement. Labour enthusiasm has been linked with scientific technique. Techniques have been improved and management made more skilled and efficient. Together they have developed hitherto undiscovered industrial potentialities and overturned conservative outlooks and methods.

Although production has been constantly improved and the output of the most important products has reached or surpassed the highest pre-war levels, still an immense production potential remains to be tapped. Some factories, though their humber is not large, tended at one time to rest satisfied with the first increased levels of output attained. The Northeast Paper Mill, to take one case, suffered from this way of thinking. Its production in 1950 was 200 per cent above the highest pre-war level. The quality of the paper had also been improved. What further improvements could be made? The workers supplied the answer. After a report summing up the work of the mill for 1950 had been made by the director, the workers suggested that the major repair of one furnace scheduled for completion in January 1952 could be completed in September 1951. Using new ideas the workers finished the job not in September but in July, six months before the scheduled date! Today, the mill has made further increases in pro-

duction, thanks to the many brilliant suggestions made by the workers.

#### Workers' Rationalisation Proposals

Workers and technicians have made more rationalisation proposals and innovations than ever before. In the factories under the jurisdiction of the Machine Building Bureau alone, 1,493 rationalisation proposals and innovations have been made by the workers. In one Fushun workshop, Soviet high-speed cutting methods were tried by the workers on old-type belt-driven lathes. The experiment was a success. It not only tripled production in the workshop but proved to be invaluable to the other shops throughout the country which were using the old-type lathes.

In No. 1 Machine-Building Factory in Mukden workers changed the organisation of their work. Formerly the machines engaged on similar work in the same stage of the process were grouped in one unit. The workers reorganised these units so that each unit now deals with the entire process from cutting to the final stage. This rationalisation of work led to an increase of as much as 33 per cent in output.

#### Drive for Economy

In addition to the factors contributing to the release of production potential to which reference has been made, there are also the problems of reducing the cost of the product and the increase in the rate of capital turnover. The Northeast Non-ferrous Metal Plant supplies a good example of the way these problems are solved by the enthusiastic participation of the workers in factory management and the discussion of factory problems. In this plant, ore accounts for 80 per cent of the cost of the product. In the first half of 1951 it was estimated that in one process the plant was losing 100 tons of metal through imperfect methods of treating the ore. This was tackled by the workers engaged on that process. Technician Wang Chia-yi, guided by the Kovalev method from the Soviet Union, proposed a standard pattern of work that radically improved the situation. A sum equal to 800 tons of grain a year was thus saved in this case. The problem of capital turnover was dealt with in similar collective fashion. By the end of September the rate of turnover was cut from 201 days to less than 100 days, saving the plant capital to the value of more than 40,000 tons of grain a year. The workers were thus able to fulfil their target of producing capital worth 115,000 tons of grain by the end of September, 1951 and has raised its target to 148,000 tons to be fulfilled by the end of the year.

It is by such efforts and methods that the workers have been able to fulfil and overfulfil the Northeast's over-all target of ten million tons of grain-value ahead of schedule. Today while workers throughout the country are responding to Chairman Mao Tse-tung's call to launch the movement to increase production and practise economy on a nation-wide scale, the rich experiences of the Northeast workers will prove most valuable.

# P.O.W. Reply to U.S. Lies

Since the commencement of the Korean cease-fire talks sub-committee meetings on the exchange of P.O.W's, the families of the P.O.W's and all peace lovers had hoped for an early agreement. Despite the patient efforts of the Korean-Chinese delegation, progress has been obstructed by the irresponsible, stalling tactics of the American negotiators who did not stop at lies and diversions to achieve their purpose.

A devastating refutation of the monstrous tales manufactured by the U.S. is given in the following message made by the elected representatives of the P.O.W's themselves. The message is signed by the President (Captain Ambrose H. Nugent) and members of the Central Committee, U.S.-British War Prisoners' Peace Organisation, as well as the Chairman (Lt. Colonel Paul V. Liles) and members of the Peace Committee, Camp No. 12.

## To the peace-loving peoples throughout the world:

We, the undersigned, being members of the Central Committee, U.S.-British War Prisoners' Peace Organisation, and the Peace Committee of Camp No. 12, wish to express to you this message, which is the heartfelt desire of all the United Nations war prisoners in Korea.

We want to go home. For many of us this is the second Christmas in Korea as prisoners of war. Although the Chinese people's volunteers are treating us wonderfully, giving us good food and attending to our needs with great kindness, nevertheless we miss our homelands very much. We want to go home.

The reasons for our desire are simple enough. We want to see our wives, children and our parents. We long for a peaceful life once again. We are sick of the mass slaughter, of seeing all the indiscriminate bombing of the Korean people by U.S. aircraft, with innocent little children being killed every day needlessly, as we witnessed last August at Pyongyang when over one hundred B-29 aircraft bombed the city ruthlessly. We also hate to learn of our buddies being sacrificed at the front, and know that every day the peace is delayed means more and more lives wasted in vain.

This is why all of us have been and still are looking forward to a successful conclusion to the armistice negotiations going on at present. Especially now that the delegations are discussing the exchange of prisoners of war, our interest in the negotiations has become acute.

Yet we know that delaying tactics have been employed in the past by the U.N. side. For over five months we have followed the progress of the peace talks. We have seen how the U.N. side has used every kind of device for obstructing peace, in order to accomplish certain results elsewhere such as the fulfilment of vast military appropriations in the U.S.A., and the signing of the separate peace treaty with Japan. To us it seems that every time peace is almost here, the U.N. delegation brings forth some new tactics to prevent its being realised. Always peace seems just beyond our grasp.

An example of these delaying tactics is the recent statement made by Colonel James M. Hanley of the 8th U.S. Army alleging that the Chinese people's volunteers and the Korean People's Army have wantonly murdered U.N. prisoners of war in Korea. The aims of this statement are clear. It presents a pretext for delaying the peace negotiations still further. It is designed to fan war hysteria

in the U.S.A. and other countries by arousing the anger of the people. It is calculated to heighten the morale of the frontline troops who, just like us, want to go home, but are urged to keep fighting to avenge us. It is meant to deceive our relatives and create public opinion favourable to continuing the war, by spreading the idea that we are all dead anyway.

Therefore, to refute this statement, several P.O.W's describe their experiences as follows:

**Master Sergeant JOHN P. PORTER, Company "C", 24th Infantry Regiment, a member of the Central Committee:**

The Chinese volunteers had surrounded us, within one hundred yards. We could hear them shout in broken English, "Don't shoot, we are your friends."

Knowing that we were surrounded, and having many casualties, we decided to surrender. After we surrendered, the Chinese volunteers were very kind to us, and took only our weapons, never even searched us or took any of our clothes or personal belongings.

Since being captured, I have heard many of my fellow P.O.W's tell almost the same story, how the Chinese people's volunteers did everything to avoid killing them when surrounded in battle, and calling the same thing to them, "Don't shoot, we are your friends." The Chinese volunteers do not know English, but all of them learned these words. The fact that so many P.O.W's have heard these words just before being captured proves that it is the policy of the Chinese people's volunteers to try to save our lives.

Can anyone with a clear conscience call this "murder of war prisoners"? I can't.

**Rifleman EDWARD F. SPENCER, 1st Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles, 29th British Brigade, a member of the Central Committee:**

After capture, in the early hours of January 4, 1951, a group of us were walking to a P.O.W. camp in the rear.

While resting one day, I became ill and I knew that walking would cause me a lot of agony. The Chinese volunteers (our captors) soon became aware of my condition, they were very concerned and asked me, "Are you sure you can walk tonight?" I was still very much afraid of what might happen to me, if I became separated from the main body. I had heard that I would be killed; I had been told that the Chinese volunteers thought that the best

way to deal with anyone becoming a nuisance was to shoot him. So I very quickly replied "Oh! yes! I can walk alright." But there were some men who said that they could not walk and they were left behind. I continued on my way thinking how foolish they were and convinced I would never see them again.

On arrival at the P.O.W. camp, there were many good things in store for us. The one thing that gave me the greatest delight was the daily issue of pork. I have always been a lover of this, but on the meagre British rations, it is impossible to have pork weekly, let alone daily. Also among the good things at the camp were newspapers, it was from one of these that I learned the boys who had said they could not walk and were left behind on the journey had been returned to their own lines and were now at home with their loved ones. I shall always remember the question: Are you sure you can walk tonight?

Can anyone with a clear conscience call this releasing of prisoners "an obvious propaganda attempt to create a favourable atmosphere for future capture", as stated in Hanley's statement? I cannot.

**Corporal LeROY CARTER, Jr., 503rd Field Artillery Battalion, Second Division, Secretary of the Central Committee:**

Once I was sent to another camp. Much to my relief I and many other P.O.W's were billeted in a small village away from any main roads, where no military targets whatsoever existed.

For these reasons I felt quite safe from American aircraft and I was ever so grateful to my captors for their never ending concern for our personal safety.

Then it happened: out of a clear blue sky, for no apparent reasons at all came one of the fly boys of Uncle Sam's navy and bombed the P.O.W. camp. However, a few seconds after the explosion of the bomb, while the plane was still buzzing over the area, two Korean People's Army nurses were on the spot to give medical aid.

Yes, we may be slaughtered, at any moment, not by our captors, but by our own planes. How do you like that! How could he see any military target to bomb from the air? I was there on the ground and I'll be doggone if I could see it.

Later we came back to this camp again. Upon arrival I was greeted with familiar voices, but not faces. Chester Jennings, an old friend of mine, greeted me with his fat face and protruding stomach saying, "Don't look puzzled, Roy. I'm only 30 pounds heavier than before I got captured." Can anyone with a clear conscience call this "inhumane treatment"? I can't!

**Trooper RONALD COCKS, 8th Hussars, 29th British Brigade, Vice-President of the Central Committee:**

We were to leave that particular camp that had been our home for over six months.

Six months! During which time our Korean People's Army captors or, should I say, friends and we prisoners of war had become so close to each other. Together we had undergone the savage air onslaughts that had destroyed so many villages and

farms in our immediate area, including houses in the very village our camp was situated. Together we had volunteered to help the villagers gather in the harvest. Together we had overcome the terrible flood caused by the nearby river during the summer. Together we had been issued cool summer clothing and warm padded uniforms for the winter, ate the same food and smoked the same tobacco.

We had enjoyed the concerts members of the Korean People's Army had put on for our benefit and in turn they had joined in our nightly singsongs and shows we put on in our large club room. Now we had to say goodbye, and although it sounds fantastic I know most of us Americans and British were deeply moved at the prospect that we would probably never see our Korean friends again. We had arrived at this particular camp as captured enemy soldiers. Today we were leaving as close friends and comrades, with happy memories that would forever remain in our hearts.

Our two Korean nurses came over to the vehicles to say a final goodbye. Most of the small detachment of guards that had been with us joined them, and I could see them handing round cigarettes and shaking hands. I shook their hands with genuine sorrow in my heart. Again I'll ask the same question: "Can anyone with a clear conscience say that this kind of treatment we have received is a 'Communist atrocity?'" I know I cannot!

So, you have heard first-hand evidence of the kind and humane treatment the Chinese people's volunteers and the Korean People's Army are giving us, the U.N. prisoners of war in Korea.

Another tactic used by the U.N. side to delay the conclusion of the armistice negotiations is one concerning the exchange of prisoners of war. We have learned that the Delegation of the Korean People's Army and Chinese people's volunteers have been repeatedly insisting that when the cease-fire is realised, all prisoners of war held by both sides must be exchanged, but the U.N. side, on being asked about this proposal, have constantly avoided answering it. We know that the proposal is certainly fair, and conforms to the Geneva Convention which the U.S. government has signed, and also to all recognised practise, that at the end of hostilities all prisoners of war must be returned to their homelands. Yet the U.N. side has not agreed to this proposal, which is extremely important to us.

We shouldn't be surprised to see more of such tactics being pursued one after another, to delay the peace indefinitely and prolong the war so that those persons making vast profits from the war can continue to do so.

Therefore we demand that all peace-loving people throughout the world do something to bring about a successful ending of the armistice negotiations in Korea, we demand that they force the winning of peace, instead of just leaving the peace talks to those who like to see the war prolonged. For the sake of all the prisoners of war in Korea, for our parents, wives, and children, we appeal to all peace-loving people to compel our governments not to make use of us as points for bargaining, but to bring about peace in Korea and, our immediate release from captivity.

## The Third District's Proposal

Ku Yu

It was autumn. A gust of chilly wind rushed into Lao Chin's room, scattering the papers on his desk. Lao Chin tried desperately to catch the fluttering sheets, muttering to himself, "Bother! What a nuisance!"

He had hardly spoken when young Shang Wen dashed in.

"Oh, what a mess! Am I in the way, uncle?"

"No, you're not. It was the wind that upset everything." Lao Chin complained. "I'd just got these in order and just look at them now."

"Why, you should have asked me to help you, uncle."

"I looked for you but you weren't at home. Now here, put all these into order, young man. These are proposals for education and public hygiene. These are about matrimonial affairs, and these about agricultural construction plans...."

Shang Wen put everything in order. He sorted the papers and filed them, putting the more important ones on the top of each pile. He worked with a will; after all, wasn't Lao Chin the delegate he had voted for?

Lao Chin took up a file of proposals for conservancy work. There were one hundred and one altogether, and these considerably outnumbered all the rest. "The Brick Dyke to Be Repaired", "The Brick Dyke to Be Rebuilt!" This was the subject of them all. Lao Chin recalled when he attended the first conference of county representatives as delegate the previous year. Then, he had brought up this same proposal on behalf of the forty thousand people of his district. At that time the liberation war had not been completed, and the sum allotted for conservancy work in the area was so small that the proposal had to be laid aside. Narrow-minded people complained. Some blamed him for incompetence. Some even said that the government was not democratic enough. This year Lao Chin was again responsible for putting up the same proposal and a shadow of anxiety overcast his countenance.

"What's wrong, uncle?" asked Shang Wen.

"I am afraid that our proposal for the brick dyke may be turned down again this time."

"If it fails again, it may be just for lack of capital. The government does all it can for the people. It'll try its best."

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*The Third District's Proposal*, which we print here in a slightly abridged form, first appeared in the *China Youth News* of October 16, 1951. The author, Ku Yu, a young writer, is a member of the Literary Section of the Hopei (Provincial) Branch of the All-China Association of Writers and Artists. His story *New Ways of Doing New Things* was published in Vol. 1 No. 12 of this magazine. This translation is by Chien Kuo-ying.

"Yes, you are right; but it's easy for you to understand the situation because you're a Party member and also one of the district cadres. But people like Fourth Lao Kang will grumble."

"Grumble! That'd be too mean of him if he does!" Lao Chin's wife interrupted from outside the curtain. "Wasn't the eight years' war against the Japs won by the Communist troops? What was the whole story of the downfall of Chiang Kai-shek and the rising of the People's Republic? Take the land reform: who proclaimed that law? Is all that forgotten already? Fourth Lao Kang is the sort that prefers a dim lamp to the bright sunshine simply because he can take the lamp home and keep it. That's the kind of person he is, humph!"

"Auntie's right," Shang Wen said. "Fourth Lao Kang is exactly like that. But he'll change and think differently by and by, I'm sure."

"Our government won't fail the people, that is positive. It's as clear as daylight that things slow down simply because of lack of money. When there's money enough, everything will be supplied." Lao Chin assured his wife.

"Well, so far so good, you'd better get busy now," his wife exclaimed. "They are all out on the street waiting to see you off, Lao Chin."

Lao Chin got even more excited. He was delighted to have collected so many proposals from the people of his district. This not only showed that the masses supported the government, but also that they trusted him. He finished packing and folded the papers into his knapsack.

No sooner was he ready than there came the exhilarating sounds of the village band, which was waiting in front of his house for him, with gongs and drums beating vigorously.

At the village gate Lao Chin said farewell to the villagers who had come to see him off.

"When you meet our county head, tell him not to work too hard and forget to take care of his own health," one of them said.

"When you get there, please ask the comrade at the court if my daughter's divorce has been granted," another chimed in.

"Don't forget to find out why we got a smaller loan for the watermill than the first district," another put in eagerly.

"And the co-op, the co-op...!"

Lao Chin put everything down in his pocket-book. It was almost sunset.

"You'd better be going now, uncle," said Shang Wen. "There's still twelve li before you get there."

"Yes, yes, I know," Lao Chin replied. "There's just one more thing. When I get there, and the county head talks to me and asks how we peasants are getting along, what shall I say?"



"Brother Lao Chin, have a toast..."

"Why, you just tell him the truth," Mama Li came up and said without hesitation. "Tell him that we don't eat grain-husks any more."

"No, tell him this," said another female voice. "Since the government encouraged cotton planting, we eat no more chaff but get white bread every two or three days."

Shang Wen was still urging the traveller to get on his way, when children came to offer a large red paper dahlia for him to wear.

At last Lao Chin was allowed to mount the donkey which had been prepared for him. His fellow villagers still crowded around him.

"Don't forget the dyke repairing, Lao Chin. Don't forget!"

"No, I won't," Lao Chin answered. He was just about to start out, when Fourth Lao Kang came rushing from the village holding a little pewter pot of wine. He stopped before the rider, handing over a brimming cup, and said:

"Brother Lao Chin, have a toast. To your success, and to our government who has been and will be a blessing to us!"

Lao Chin emptied the cup in one gulp, waved his hand to the villagers and set forth. The villagers gazed after the rider till he was lost from sight.

Two years before, Lao Chin had been a hired labourer working all the year round for a landlord in this village. After the Communists came, he was given the wonderful opportunity of working on his own land assigned to him during the land reform. He had taken a leading part in co-operative and productive activity, and later he had been elected one of the labour heroes of the county.

Last year, the third district elected him to be its delegate to the county's first people's conference, and since then he had become increasingly active in the political administration of the district.

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On the second day of the conference, the head of the county administration, Comrade Wang, made

a report on the administration's work during the past year. It was closely studied by the delegates from all the districts. They were pleased that the government had made such great progress, particularly in conservancy work. One outstanding fact in Comrade Wang's report was that one catty of cotton had consistently held its value equal to the price of eight catties of rice. The transportation of fuel and food supplies had besides been arranged in good time. In a word, the government had given wonderful services to the people from year to year.

On the third day of the conference a report was made by Comrade Chao, the secretary of the county government, giving the annual accounts for the previous year and the budget for the coming one. The report was carefully made, item after item. Secretary Chao illustrated and emphasised certain points to be sure everyone followed them. He used both the blackboard and his

fingers. If he noticed that the delegates were puzzled, he would explain all over again until the wrinkles were smoothed out on their foreheads.

When it came to the budget for the coming year, everybody pricked up their ears to listen. Lao Chin was so delighted that he could hardly refrain from chuckling, because the sum assigned for conservancy works was five times that for the previous year.

In the afternoon, the report was to be studied and discussed in small groups led by Secretary Chao. No one said anything against the plans for expenditure, and the meeting seemed to be rather quiet and inactive. Secretary Chao reminded them again and again that their opinions "will be much valued by the government, and any suggestion, for or against, is a help to the government."

And to this Lao Chin replied: "I've listened to every word, and I didn't find anything wrong."

Another delegate said, "The government spent every single penny for the people. I didn't see any cadre who bought private property such as houses and lands."

Everybody raised his hand in complete agreement, and the statement was put through. Then came the second part of the programme: the conservancy project. This caused a flurry of excitement among the delegates. Nothing could have been more closely related to the local interest of each district. So when it was first announced, there was an immediate show of hands of delegates wishing to speak. A sum worth 270,000 catties of rice had been allotted for water conservancy. The truth was that this amount would be more than enough to repair one big dyke for a single district, but it would not be nearly enough for two. And besides, there were other conservancy works that needed attention.

There were three important proposals for conservancy works in the county, all concerned with the rebuilding of dykes. There was the dyke along the canal in the first district; the dyke along Tse Ya river in the third district; and another in the sixth district. And so there arose the question which proposal should be met first. It was a difficult problem to solve.

The delegates discussed and argued and finally came about half way to a solution. For it was understood that the brick embankment of the sixth district needed mending far less badly than those of the two other districts. It would stand for another two years without causing any trouble. Now the question was to choose between the first and the third district. One could hardly decide either way without affecting the public welfare.

They pondered for a moment, then the delegate from the second district stood up to say:

"My opinion is that the mending of the dyke in the third district seems more urgent, because the delegate of that district already raised the question last year. It was turned down because the budget for conservancy work at that time was too small to cover it. Now we have more money than last year, I think the third district should have first choice."

The delegate from the fifth district had a different view. "The fact," he said, "is that we should judge the matter by the importance of the case. I mean whichever case is more important should be taken care of first. The one who puts in a proposal first doesn't necessarily have the first claim."

"Right! That's to the point!..." the delegates murmured.

"I agree in principle with the second opinion," said Secretary Chao. "I suggest that the delegates from both the first and third districts tell us just how important it is to mend their dykes. Will you speak, then?"

"Yes, with pleasure." Lao Chin stood up at once. "In the first place, the dyke in our district was dug up by the Kuomintang reactionaries in 1946 when they were building a place to put their big guns. Two years ago, right after the liberation, the People's Government called on the people to make a new clay one. But we finished it in a hurry and it was not made firm enough. The Tse Ya river makes a sharp turn when it passes through our district, and the current becomes so rapid in the flood season that the clay dyke will hardly stand its force. Secondly, our district is a cotton raising district. Everybody knows that the national construction plans depend partly upon cotton production. People all over the country need clothing. The point is that we ought to safeguard this big cotton area. These, we think, are the important reasons for having our dyke repaired."

As soon as Lao Chin had finished speaking, the delegate from the first district, Wei Ping-shan, stood up.

"The dyke in our district is also vitally important. It was also destroyed by the reactionary Kuomintang. In 1947, the traitors' air force came to raid the fishing boats on the river. Their bombs were badly aimed and seriously damaged the dyke. The foundation of the dyke had to be repaired. I call your attention to the need to protect this dyke particularly because there is a railroad passing through our district. If the dyke were washed away the national transportation system would suffer. I urge you to consider this question carefully so that we will not harm the national interests."

After these two speeches, a debate followed. Various opinions were expressed, but the problem remained unsolved.

The chairman, Secretary Chao, suggested an interval of ten minutes to give the delegates time to prepare their minds and come to a decision.

During the interval, Lao Chin paced up and down the courtyard. His head was bent in thought. He was confused. Cotton, railroads, dykes, merged in his thoughts cloudily. He tried hard to put things in orderly fashion. He was afraid that, if he failed to get the right decision, it would bring a loss both to the national construction and his own people. He felt the responsibility weighing even heavier on him than before.

Suddenly an idea dawned upon him. He remembered that one should take a long term view of things. "If our dyke was washed away, the damage would only affect our part of the country," he thought. "But if it happened in the first district, part of the national railroad would be put out of action . . . . From the viewpoint of benefit to the nation the railroad is much more important than our local interest. Exchanging local goods means national prosperity and aid to Korea for a final victory in fighting imperialist aggression . . . ."

Thus Lao Chin made up his mind and returned to the meeting room after the interval.

Now the final decision was due. The chairman was about to put the question to the vote, when Lao Chin raised his hand.

"I ask for a hearing!"

At once there was silence. A kind of uneasiness and anxiety was in the air. People were disturbed by a sense of duty conflicting with their natural sympathies.

"I ask for a hearing," continued Lao Chin, "because I've thought it all over again. Now I find that to protect the railroad is much more important than anything else. Tse Ya river which passes through our district is smaller than the canal. I am sure that under the direction of our government, and with our own people's effort, the dyke will not be washed away. I, hereby, in the name of the forty thousand people in our district, withdraw the proposal we've made and reserve it till the next conference for consideration."

The anxiety of the delegates melted away, and they clapped their hands. All stood up to pay their respects to Lao Chin.

"We will come to your help if anything happens. We will never let the dyke be washed away." Everyone said that, and Chairman Chao concluded the meeting with the words:

"Comrade Lao Chin's speech was not made only in the name of the people of his district. It is also the voice of all the people of our country."

\* \* \*

In June, the level of the Tse Ya river came up level with the banks. The heavy rains caused the river to overflow at several points along the dyke. The swelling current ran so swiftly that it threatened to get out of hand.

For three days and nights people from the villages came to keep guard and did not dare close their eyes. They became worn out and increasingly anxious. Some carried stones and earth, others drove log-piles deep into the ground to strengthen the foundations. The tension grew.

Lao Chin walked along the dyke with the comrades from the conservancy bureau, looking at the heaving river, treacherous and whitish with foam in the dusk. A terror seized his heart, and he could not help saying, half to himself: "Did I make a mistake to withdraw the proposal for a brick dyke?"

Shang Wen stepped upon a water rat and killed it under his foot.

"No one at the conference thought so," he said.

"But ay, if the dyke is washed away, I'd grieve to death. Oh, what a mistake!"

"Do you really think so?" Comrade Tsuei, the Party representative, asked from behind.

"I do. I can't think otherwise."

"If the dyke collapses somewhere, it is not that district's delegate who is to blame, but the whole conservancy plan."

At this moment, they heard voices raised in anger. They stood and listened.

"I shall say what I like. And it's nobody's business." It was the husky voice of Fourth Lao Kang.

"I'd make you shut up, you old gossip!" the metallic voice of Erh Hsing roared in reply.

Lao Chin's group hurriedly went up to pacify them. Erh Hsing shouted at the top of his voice.

"He says that Lao Chin has betrayed our district, that he's been bribed by the first district. Don't you think he's a traitor to say things like that?"

"It's the truth," Fourth Lao Kang shouted back. "If the dyke had been repaired in time, I wouldn't be so scared as I am now. I'd have had my land hoed for the third time if it wasn't for this. It's a scandal."

Shang Wen looked up at the sky, and noticed a faint halo round the moon. He gave a warning that the wind would soon be up. Everybody came back at once to their posts.

Shang Wen knew Fourth Lao Kang very well; whenever the old man was tired, he would get bad-tempered. So he said to him good-humouredly, "Uncle Kang, you'd better have a little rest in the tent. I'll take your place."

Fourth Lao Kang threw away his spade and, without a word, turned away from the young man.

An emergency meeting of the Party and the Youth League members was summoned by Comrade Tsuei. At the meeting he asked the League members to follow the example of the Party members, and said the Party members should do their duty with the utmost loyalty. At a critical time like this, he said, members of the Party and the League should unite the masses and take the lead. No one should behave like Fourth Lao Kang and Erh Hsing, who

had just been quarrelling; they ought to be criticised in their group.

After the meeting, all the members went back to their posts. They passed the word on to all the members of the League and Party, and the feelings which had surged up seemed to quiet down. All concentrated on doing their duty. One could only hear the spades turning up the earth and the hammering at the piles.

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Fourth Lao Kang lay in the tent. He had not slept for two or three nights. His eyelids were dry and burning and he longed for sleep. But his mind was in a turmoil and that kept him awake. He opened his eyes and found Lao Chin standing just above him and watching him fixedly. He tried to sit up but was gently pushed down by Lao Chin, who said, "Get your sleep, old chap, you need it."

"I can't."

"Why, upset again?"

"My word! What do you think? . . . Suppose we had had the dyke mended, we wouldn't be so frightened. The people of the first district have everything under the sun; they seem to be on top of the world now."

"Be patient, our turn will come sooner or later."

"I'd rather have it sooner. Just think, acre after acre of beautiful cotton plants. What a shame to have them all swamped!"

"It won't be that bad, old chap. The river won't break through. There's the Party. There's the People's Government; it will give us all the help it can. We must do our best, and our cotton plants will be kept unharmed."

But Lao Kang was not reassured.

The wind had begun to rustle among the leaves. Lao Chin was startled and rushed out to the working area.

"Hurry up!" he heard the people on the dyke shouting. He found that a part of the dyke was threatening to collapse. There were already dozens of men standing shoulder to shoulder against the dyke to support it. The clay was soaked through. In spite of the men's efforts, the river would not give way. Muddy streaks like melting lard streamed down the men's necks. Other villagers brought basketfuls of earth and stone in a continuous stream to help stop the opening gap. But the water was too fierce to let the earth hold its place. It looked as if the dyke was going to yield at any moment.

Lao Chin knew that the most critical moment had come. It was no use trying to hold the river with mud and earth now. He jumped on top of the dyke and shouted, "Let us stop it with our own bodies!" He was just about to jump down, when Shang Wen caught him by the arm.

"Let me take the lead, uncle."

Lao Chin tried again but was again pushed aside by Erh Hsing who threw himself down flat upon the ground below. He was followed by Shou Yuan, and several other members of the Youth League. In a moment, a bulwark of young human bodies was formed layer after layer; the gap was stopped for the time being.



"Pack in closer, you boys on the top!" yelled Shang Wen, "the water is still leaking through."

"Never you mind, lad," cried Erh Hsing at the top of his voice. "Now, fix the earth quick, you fellows, we've stopped the gap!"

By this time Fourth Lao Kang had come up; he was so much moved by the sight of the human wall that he offered to join the group, but he was stopped by Lao Chin.

"God forbid! Don't be silly."

Meanwhile, the Party representative, Tsuei, rang up the county government, while Lao Chin directed the emergency work on the dyke. The situation was still extremely critical when, suddenly, there was a shout. People were coming from the east. It was a group of villagers from the first district led by their delegate, Wei Ping-shan. They were carrying logs, hay, baskets and panniers of mortar, and they shouted from a distance:

"We are coming to help you, comrades!"

After the gap was closed up, Lao Chin thanked the villagers from the first district.

"Think nothing of it, comrades," their neighbours replied. "We are all brothers. It is all for our country's sake."

Lao Chin seized Wei Ping-shan's hand and shook it heartily. "A friend in need is a friend indeed," he said, "you came just in time. We are much obliged to you."

"It's mutual, comrade. We owe everything to your help in getting our brick dyke repaired. We'll help you to keep out the flood with our bodies and souls, and that will be a bulwark solidier and firmer than a brick dyke. You know, the news was a bit delayed in reaching us; that was why you got into such danger. I am still feeling guilty about it."

It was now about daybreak. The villagers from the first district volunteered to take over the guard on the dyke, so that their tired friends of the third district might get some rest and food....

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When the Spring Festival was over, but the peasants did not yet feel ready for the busy season, the county government called the third conference of the district representatives.

On Lao Chin's return, the villagers went a long distance out to meet him; the militia were organised as a troupe of drum dancers and the children's corps performed *yangko* steps in row. At the entrance to the village, Lao Chin was warmly received by the village chairman and offered a cup of wine as a token of comfort and honour.

"Welcome home, brother!" said the chairman, smiling. "How about our proposal? Was it adopted and confirmed?"

"Just guess," answered Lao Chin abruptly.

The villagers pressed on him from all sides and shouted: "Sure to have been adopted? It must be...."

The village head, however, seemed doubtful. "I am afraid that it may have fallen through, for the third time."

Fourth Lao Kang interrupted him: "They promised last year to postpone it till this spring but no further."

Erh Hsing joined in: "Never mind! We held the river last year. We can do it again."

"Please tell us frankly," said the village chairman, "was it passed or not?"

"Well, it was and it wasn't," replied Lao Chin enigmatically.

Fourth Lao Kang came up and caught Lao Chin by the arm, saying:

"At first they didn't have any money, and then they didn't have enough money. What's their excuse now?"

Erh Hsing said with a slight trace of bitterness: "I bet they've got too much money this time."

This made them all laugh. Lao Chin's wife raised her voice and said: "Salt without sauce or sauce without salt, one way or the other the problem's never settled."

"It's not a question of salt or sauce," said Lao Chin. "Erh Hsing has got the right answer."

The hearers were all puzzled.

"Don't worry," went on Lao Chin. "Be neither pleased nor depressed. It's all because that proposal of ours is out of date."

"What! Out of date, did you say?" The villagers became more muddled.

"Yes, out of date," explained Lao Chin. "There is a difference between the government's view and ours. The county head says that water is a precious thing: man can't live without water, nor can the crops grow without it either. So he says that merely to check it with a dyke or prevent it flowing altogether is unreasonable."

Impatient, Fourth Lao Kang stamped on the ground and said: "To hell with it! Let the flood come in then and see what it does to us!"

"Well, be reasonable," said Erh Hsing. "It's true, in spring we have to toil between the river and the fields to carry water and save the young plants. We simply pray for rain then."

"That's right," said Lao Chin. "We don't want too much of it, of course. But we must have as much as we want. So the county head says that we should solve the problem once and for all since we've got enough money. If you swallow too much food it chokes you, but you don't stop eating for fear of being choked, do you?"

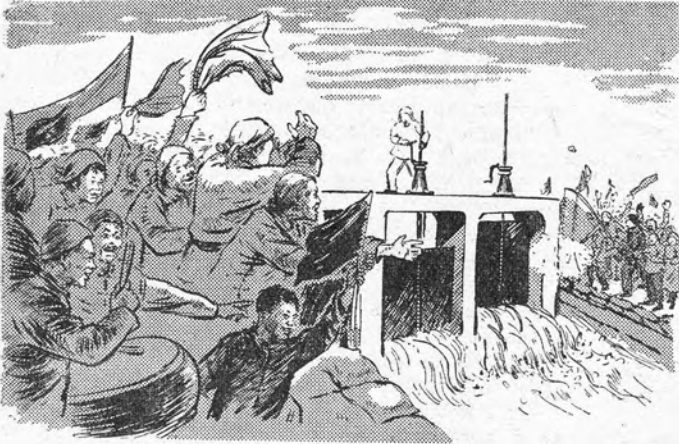
"Oh, be done with it!" said Fourth Lao Kang. "Keep this talk for later on. Tell us the truth now in plain words."

Lao Chin took Lao Kang's hand in his, saying: "The government plans to build a dam, instead of the dyke we were asking for."

\* \* \*

Soon after the decision was made, engineers were sent from the provincial capital, local workers and peasants were mobilised, all necessary materials were made ready, and the work of construction immediately began. In two months and five days, a complete solid dam stood there. Alongside the dam was set up a stone tablet on which were engraved in graceful characters:

To The People's Welfare



“...Precious water rushed through while the people formed into groups to sing and dance.”

The third moon wore on and rain was scarce. In former years at this season the villagers used to work till the sweat poured down their backs, carrying water all day long to irrigate the newly-sown fields. But this year there was a completely different picture. They paid just as much attention to their plots but could set about it in a leisurely way.

On the 27th of the third moon, a celebration was held on the occasion of letting the water through the dam. Crowds of people from the district stood

all about the dam, and the sluice gates were slowly opened, with an accompanying burst of fire-crackers. Torrential water, precious water, rushed through while the people formed into groups to sing and dance.

“Long live Chairman Mao! Long live the People’s Government!” shouted all of them in chorus.

Comrade Wang, head of the county, shook hands with the villagers one after another enthusiastically and encouragingly.

The water flowed along its regulated course. It went through Four Li Tun where the people congratulated themselves by saying: “It’s due to our own proposal.” Then it reached Hsueh village where the people said to each other: “The government has realised our hopes and better than we expected.”

The neighbouring cotton fields, fertile and lovely to see, were all irrigated by the smooth flowing river. The peasants were more confident than ever that they could fulfil their patriotic undertakings to contribute grain and cotton for more guns and airplanes to aid Korea and to resist American aggression.

The unruly river which had caused disasters for decades had changed its character, and under the control of the people’s regime, had begun to serve the people. The story of the third district’s dam will be told among the local people for years to come.

## A Wonderful Thanksgiving in Korea

Corporal James A. Kippke, R.A. 13272621, never expected “Thanksgiving to be as wonderful as it was.” This, in part, is how he described Thanksgiving 1951, in a prisoner-of-war camp in Korea.

“I am thankful to the Chinese volunteers that I am still alive and in good health. I am also thankful that they have given me a chance to learn the truth about things that have been held back from me in the past. I am thankful for this celebration.

“...The cooks took many pains to cook us one of the best meals we ever had. . . . For eight men there was a whole chicken, a bottle of wine, a big pan of soup, a bowl of salad, sugar peanuts and pork and as many buns as we could eat. . . .

“We had the freedom to go where we pleased. The town outside of camp was open to us. A good old American game of football was played. It was a very exciting game and both sides failed to score. A game of soccer was played by the British. A movie, recordings of classical music were played. After all of this, church services were held for both Catholics and Protestants.

“A party was held in town. We got packs of cigarettes, pears, peanuts, apples and tea. There were many Chinese volunteers there as guests. There was a variety of entertainment. . . . Many of the Chinese participated in the singing just as they participated in all the rest of the events of the party. . . . Here it was not P.O.W. and guard, here it was all friends, all were happy and gay.

“... I have been and always will be grateful to the Chinese volunteers for my liberation and the celebration of this Thanksgiving. The celebration of this Thanksgiving came as a surprise to most of us. It was the Chinese volunteers who suggested the celebration . . . planned the big meal and the party. . . . All this was done for us because they knew that this day meant a great deal to most of us.

“This Thanksgiving is one I shall never forget as long as I live. . . . One of the things it has taught me is more respect for the Chinese volunteers. A respect of friendship and unselfishness. A respect that shall never die. . . . An enemy would not treat us like this. They are our friends and shall remain as such as long as we are in the class of common people.”

# Korean Cease-Fire Negotiations

As we go to press, the generally expected deadline for ending the Korean cease-fire negotiations on December 27 has passed, and no armistice agreement is in sight.

For nearly a month agreement on supervision of the armistice (Item 3) has been held up by the preposterous American demand for the right to obstruct the reconstruction of North Korea, to bring in reinforcements to replenish their battered forces and weapons in Korea, to have free access to all parts of Korea during the armistice—in short to intervene in the internal affairs of Korea.

On the question of exchange of P.O.W's, the American negotiators have proved themselves equally irresponsible. The repatriation of war prisoners of both sides was consequently further delayed.

Ever since the sub-committee on the exchange of prisoners of war (Item 4) began to function, the Korean-Chinese delegation had advocated complete release of all prisoners of war as soon as an armistice is signed and comes into effect. The joint delegation proposed that the sub-committee immediately go into the principles governing the release of war prisoners, such as prior repatriation of the sick, etc.

By contrast, the American negotiators unreasonably insisted on "exchanging data" on P.O.W's instead of tackling the principles governing the exchange of the P.O.W's themselves. They also demanded that the International Committee of the Red Cross be permitted to visit war prisoner camps before any discussion as to how the actual exchange would take place.

To remove any pretext for further stalling, the Korean-Chinese delegation suggested at the December 18 meeting that data on prisoners be exchanged at once. That same day, a list of all U.N. prisoners of war, with names given in their own languages and army serial numbers, ranks, units, nationality, etc., in Korean or English, was handed to the American side. The list received from the American side, on the contrary, was a virtually incomprehensible jumble of Korean and Chinese names in English transliteration with no particulars of identity except the prison camp numbers of the men. This was impossible to check and therefore worthless.

More sinister is the fact that the total of P.O.W's on the American list is 1,456 names short of the figure previously submitted to the sub-committee by the U.N. delegates themselves. Moreover, it was 44,205 short of the number of names submitted earlier by the American side through the International Committee of the Red Cross. When challenged, the American delegates soon abandoned all attempts to explain away the missing 44,205 names. They went so far as to brazenly declare that they meant to detain 16,243 listed prisoners of war because of their so-called South Korean origin. In fact, both the American army and the Rhee puppets, with the former's connivance, had massacred Korean and Chinese P.O.W's by the thousand, a fact which is confirmed by captured U.S. soldiers.

A gap does exist between the P.O.W. name list handed over by the Korean-Chinese side and the number of enemy soldiers alleged as "missing" by the U.S. Defence Department. This could hardly cause any surprise. For even the reactionary American press (*U.S. News and World Report*, Dec. 9, 1951) admitted that large numbers of corpses had been left behind on the battlefield by the American side when it was driven from its positions. The American army headquarters has now inflated the "missing" list in order to cover up the actual dead. It is universally known that the Korean-Chinese side has followed the policy of releasing large numbers of P.O.W's in the course of the war. By contrast, no such release of P.O.W's ever took place on the American side. Furthermore, a proportion of the P.O.W's perished from American air attacks on camps or as a result of shortage of necessary medical supplies also caused by devastation by the U.S. air force. Such conditions did not exist on the American side.

The attitudes of the two sides on the question of the exchange of prisoners of war are as different as day is from night. The Korean-Chinese delegation has striven for agreement on the complete release of all prisoners of war in order to realise an early armistice. The American brass-hats have schemed to hold substantial numbers of Korean prisoners of war, to drag out the talks and to resume the offensive.

The hypocrisy of General Ridgway's expressions of "concern" for the P.O.W's is fully exposed by the tactics of his deputies at Panmunjom, which make clear that the plight of the prisoners and their families mean nothing to the U.S. war leaders while their imperialist goals and the profits of Wall Street mean everything.

On December 24, 1951 Generals Kim Il Sung and Peng Teh-huai made another attempt to facilitate agreement. In reply to a message from Ridgway, they proposed that a joint delegation composed of representatives of the Korean Red Cross, the Chinese Red Cross, and the International Committee of the Red Cross be formed to visit the P.O.W. camps of both sides and help in repatriation immediately after the armistice. They said in their message: "We consider the most important thing at present is to settle swiftly the various issues in the negotiations in order to reach an early armistice agreement. This will enable all P.O.W's who are now in the P.O.W. camps of both sides to get back home quickly to their anxious relatives from whom they have been long separated and resume their peaceful lives."

Why has an armistice still not been concluded? When agreement on the military demarcation line and demilitarised zone (Item 2) was reached on November 27, it was hoped that a final, full armistice agreement could be secured within a month's time. If the American side had been sincere, this hope would now be reality. As it is, they face the wrath of world opinion for their persistent sabotage of the talks.

—C. C. F.



# The Making of A Commander

Po Ning

One morning in the spring of 1942 Tuan, Li and I were entering Che village to discuss our next actions against the Japanese when we were suddenly stopped short by two boys carrying glittering tasselled spears.

"Comrades, show your passes." That disarmed us all.

"My little comrades," I said apologetically, "we are from the county government. We forgot to bring our passes, but the village cadres know us well."

The chubbier boy shook his head. "We are acting on orders from the county government; no one may enter without a pass."

It was true that orders had been issued to this effect because Japanese spies were especially active at that time.

Tuan laughed: "Let me introduce you to our county magistrate...."

"Magistrate or no magistrate. No pass, no passage." The boy thought we were trying to bully our way through.

I approached him again. "You are perfectly right. But we are on urgent business. Maybe you can take us to the village chief?"

He hesitated for a while then pointing at me said: "Follow me!" He turned to his companion. "You take care of the others," he said, referring to Tuan and Li.

When we arrived at the militia headquarters, I was ordered to wait outside while he went in to report.

The village chief, on seeing me, laughed and said to the young guard: "My good boy, you've caught the magistrate."

The boy stuck out his tongue and grinned. "He hasn't got a pass," he said and dashed away before I could speak to him.

That's how I first met Sonny. He was then twelve years old, and head of the Children's League. His father, Tsao Lao-lu, had been murdered by the Japanese in front of his wife and child because he refused to divulge information about the guerrillas or the whereabouts of the villagers' concealed food

stocks. Sonny was like his father: intelligent, capable, active, and hardworking.

The village was a guerrilla base, a centre of resistance against the Japanese spring "mopping-up" campaign. I was sent there to direct the operations. I lived in Sonny's home and got to know and love him. He used to suppress his tears when his mother related heart-rending stories of the villagers' sufferings during the Japanese occupation. He had a way of leaning closer to her, and the deep wounds in his heart were clearly reflected in his expression. Once I asked him what he intended to do when he grew up. He promptly replied: "Join the Eighth Route Army and avenge the death of Dad."

Early one morning, Sonny dashed into my room to say that the Japanese had arrived in a nearby village. They had ridden in on horse-back from the north and south. We immediately left, heading east until we came to a swamp, five miles in circumference. As we were taking cover we discovered two more people had joined us. To my joy, one was Sonny. He had slipped out after he had spread the news to several families.

That day the sun seemed to move very slowly. We waited and waited. Finally the rumbling of guns and the sound of horse hoofs died down under the darkening sky. We were relieved, but we were thirsty, hungry, and tired. What could we do? The best thing would be to send someone back to the village who would not arouse suspicion to take a look, but we were all young and difficult to disguise.

"Magistrate, let me go back to reconnoitre and get some food," requested Sonny. He seemed to have read our minds. A small boy was a suitable scout, but I was reluctant to let him go. But before I could reply, he was heading for the village.

Hours passed and there was still no sign of Sonny. Then suddenly he appeared from nowhere with some pancakes and a tin of Japanese food in his hands. He quickly told his story.

When he entered the village, Sonny was caught by two Japanese and made to do chores. He learned from an old woman that the head of the militia had been killed and that the militiamen had escaped by an underground tunnel. Sonny waited until the Japanese got drunk, then he snatched the food and dashed into an underground tunnel which led him out of the village.

This is an abridged version of a true story by Po Ning, a Chinese volunteer commander now in Korea.

Sonny was exhausted but nothing could hide the smile on his round face. He had accomplished his mission!

After a while we returned to the village through the underground tunnels. We played "hide-and-seek" with the enemy during the day and did our work at night, reorganising the militia, carrying out lightning attacks, punishing traitorous landlords and strengthening the anti-Japanese leagues. Every day we moved to a new hideout to avoid detection. We dashed to safety whenever we heard the clear ringing voice of Sonny calling: "Mama," which was a warning of the enemy's approach. We then sought refuge in the underground tunnels.

One night the enemy got news of our whereabouts and surprised us while we were asleep. Only two comrades besides myself had time to drop into an underground tunnel. But it was an unfamiliar one and a little way down we found that the passage had been blocked. There was nothing we could do. We swallowed the secret documents we carried and loaded our guns.

Smoke began to pour in from the entrance to the tunnel. The enemy was trying to suffocate us. Our eyes began to smart. We all felt dizzy, but were suddenly aroused by the sound of digging. A moment later, a hole opened up and we heard someone whisper, "Magistrate!" It was Sonny! Knowing that we had entered a tunnel unfamiliar to us, he had gone down a passage that he knew was linked with our tunnel but had been temporarily closed.

We crawled on after him, opening and sealing holes in the section walls until we came to a wider space which he called the "insured spot"—it was inaccessible to the enemy. We hugged our little rescuer in gratitude and joy.

Soon after this the enemy garrison was increased and the struggle grew more bitter. The anti-Japanese leagues and the militia were almost completely destroyed. But we persisted. The village and its vicinity continued to be our base.

Most of the entrances to the underground tunnels were discovered and sealed by the enemy. We dug new ones and found new friends to live with. Circumstances required greater secrecy, but Sonny always knew where to find us and give help that no adult could have given.

One day he came to say that he and his mother had arranged a concealed chamber where an underground passage could be dug to connect it with the main network of tunnels. The soil excavated could be put in the cabbage cellar and would thus leave no trace. It was agreed that the tunnel entrance would be made in the wall instead of the floor. This would give added safety against detection, because a hole in the ground made a hollow sound when tapped and was therefore easily detected.

We immediately started work. On the fourth day I was called away to a meeting. But that same day trouble started for the comrades I left behind. One of them was spotted by a traitor who informed the Japanese.

At dawn, the enemy led by traitors surrounded Sonny's home. The comrades, asleep in the chamber, dashed down the tunnel opening when they heard the door flung open, but the entrance was quickly

discovered because of some newly dug earth which had not yet been carried away. Tuan, Li and another comrade, Yi, crouched in the passage, still separated from the main tunnel by four or five feet of earth.

Sonny was ordered to descend to get the "magistrate" out. He went down and told the comrades what was happening above. Then he climbed out and said: "It's deep and dark below, no one there." A Jap slapped his face and sent him down a second time. But very soon he came back and repeated: "No one's there." Another Jap kicked him to the ground with his heavy boot and placed a sword on his neck.

"Tell the truth or die!"

Sonny only shook his head. The Jap was furious. With his sword, he drew a deep cross on Sonny's back. Blood poured forth.

For the third time, Sonny was forced down the hole. The comrades felt the boy's wet, sticky back and tears welled from their eyes. Sonny did not want to go up again. But Tuan insisted he should not share their fate.

"Tell them the truth. Tell them we are here." Thus saying, Tuan pushed Sonny up again.

"Anyone there?" challenged the Japs.

"Really no one," replied Sonny.

Wild with rage the Japs set fire to a pile of wood and threw Sonny into it. When his mother finally succeeded in pulling the boy out, he was gasping for breath.

The three comrades lying low in the tunnel finally shouted that they would surrender. They threw up a revolver and a batch of bank notes. As the traitors grabbed at these, a hand-grenade was thrown up, killing two and wounding one. Shots from the tunnel felled a Jap. The enemy fired down the hole for a long time. Then all was quiet.

Late in the afternoon the hole was opened. Tuan's body was dragged out—the middle finger of his right hand still in the ring of a hand-grenade.

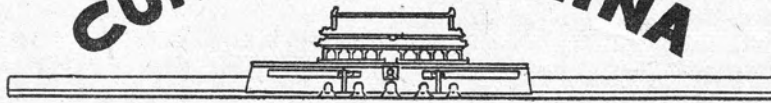
Li and Yi had also meant to end their lives with that last hand-grenade but they were only severely wounded. They were taken away by the enemy after Sonny's home had been ransacked and burned.

When I returned to the village I found Sonny at a neighbour's. He wept for the first time, not for himself but for his friends. Looking at him closely I saw he was no longer a child of twelve, but a grown man with eyes burning with a fire from which his enemies could never escape.

I met Sonny twice after the village was liberated in 1944. He and the villagers were levelling the Japanese fortifications. There was much happiness in the meeting; our wishes had come true, for not only Sonny's father, but the fathers of countless other children had been avenged.

Recently I heard from an old comrade-in-arms that Sonny had joined the volunteers in Korea and become a commander. I am sure that he is as indomitable today against the American aggressors, our most deadly enemy, as he was toward the Japanese. I wonder if he knows that I too am in Korea. I hope I shall meet Sonny again, perhaps somewhere in Korea or perhaps on the banks of the beautiful Yalu river upon our triumphant march home to our beloved Motherland.

# CURRENT CHINA



## Panchen Returns to Tibet

Panchen Ngoerhtehni, the popular Tibetan religious leader, left Sining, Chinghai province, on December 19 for his homeland after an absence of 28 years. The Panchen and his party will be met en route by officials and lamas sent by the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Local Government.

Before his departure, Panchen, in a cable to Chairman Mao Tse-tung, expressed gratitude for the satisfactory settlement of the Tibetan problem and pledged himself to co-operate with the Dalai Lama to uproot imperialist influences and build a new and prosperous Tibet. News of the return of Panchen Ngoerhtehni was received with the greatest enthusiasm by the Tibetan people and lamas.

## Economic Gains in East China

East China made further economic gains during 1951. On the agricultural side, grain production reached 95% and the cotton output 136% of the pre-war level. The output of salt slightly exceeded the pre-war level and the fishing industry is well on its way to recovery with the 1951 catch around 500,000 tons.

With the rapid development of town and country trade, and the increasing demand for both agricultural and industrial goods, production rose in all industries. During the first half of 1951 production, as compared with the corresponding period in 1950, increased as follows: textiles, 17%; tobacco, 37%; paper, 278%; matches, 37%; flour, 119%; and rubber tyres, 1,277%.

## More Fruits in South China

In sub-tropical South China with its warm, humid climate, fruits ripen all the year round. There are three rice harvests and eight silk crops a year. 75 per cent of the country's sugar cane acreage (excluding Taiwan) is in this area, while rubber and coconut trees on Hainan Island are a

source of important industrial raw materials. Under Kuomintang rule, production of all crops dropped drastically, and economically the area was on the verge of ruin.

Two years of liberation, however, have brought an amazing change in South China. The danger of floods from the Pearl river delta has been minimised through water conservancy projects. Grain production has been raised, ravaged orchards restored, and the supply of vital but formerly neglected raw materials raised to new levels.

Today, South China sugar cane production is fast approaching the 1936 (pre-Anti Japanese War) level. The annual output of bamboo, used in house construction and furniture, has been raised from 1,500 to 14,600 tons in 1951. Although complete figures for the 1951 output of resin distilled from pine tree sap are not yet available, the total promises to be twice that of any pre-war year. Fruit orchards are also being enlarged to meet the new home demands. In the Canton region alone, more than 50,000 additional orange trees have been planted.

## Forest Survey by Air Force

A survey of the vast virgin forests in the Khingian mountains, Northeast China, was recently completed with the aid of the Chinese People's Air Force.

Conducted by the Forestry Department of the Northeast People's Government, the air survey provided factual data on the extent, location, variety and density of the forests in this rich timber stand and helped in the mapping out of a projected five-year afforestation plan. Shelter-belt afforestation work in the western part of Northeast China was also inspected.

## Lantern Slides Popular

Lantern slides have become one of the most powerful media for popular education. In 1950, 80 million and in 1951 more than 200

million people attended lantern slide programmes.

Lantern-slide showings are accompanied by running commentaries, music, drum or recitation and sound-effects. Because they do not depend on electricity, they are especially useful in villages, remote areas and army units.

They are widely used to disseminate technical information. In agricultural areas, for example, cotton growers are shown how to plant cotton to protect it against drought, and how to recognise and take preventive measures against cotton pests. To convince the peasants of the soundness of the new methods, the successful experiences of mutual-aid teams and labour heroes are described.

By means of lantern slides, information on the latest national and international developments as well as on the fundamental laws of the country such as the *Agrarian Reform Law* and the new *Marriage Law* are brought dramatically to the countryside. In the same way, the peasants learn about hygiene and mother and child care.

In Tangshan colliery, safety measures were popularised in the pits by means of lantern slides. Slides made by the soldiers themselves are used in the Army. When the men arrive in a new area, local customs, geography and other useful information are studied and popularised through slides. There are now about 10,000 projectors in use throughout the country.

## Cultural Advances in NW China

Rapid advances in education and culture in Northwest China, a formerly backward area, are reflected in the latest figures on schools and students. There are now more than 400 spare time schools for workers, with five times the number of students than in the first half of 1950. In 1951 the number of primary schools had increased to 26,300 in which 1,740,000 children were studying, representing a 36 per cent increase over 1950. There are also over three million peasants studying in winter schools.

As a result of the growing demand for reading material, the number of books, periodicals and

other publications put out during the first six months of 1951 was 81 per cent greater than that of the second half of 1950.

Since the completion of land reform, thousands of amateur theatrical groups have been organized by the peasants, many of whom wrote dramas based on local artistic forms. For example, an edition of 110,000 copies of the folk ballad *On Land Reform* by Hsieh Maokung, a Shansi peasant, was sold out within a few days of publication.

## Chronicle of Events

### December 11

A sub-committee is set up to discuss Item 4 of the Korean cease-fire talks agenda—arrangements concerning prisoners of war.

### December 12

Sino-Rumanian agreement on cultural co-operation signed in Peking.

Representatives of 14 national minorities meet in Sian to discuss the campaign for increased production and economy.

### December 13

Price of petroleum reduced by 10% by order of the Ministry of Trade.

### December 14

Second session of the Commission of Nationalities Affairs opens in Peking.

### December 15

Press reports announce that 3,062 planes have been donated by the Chinese people to aid the Chinese people's volunteers in Korea.

### December 19

Panchen Ng'erhtehni leaves Sining, Chinghai province for Tibet.

Despatches from the Korean front state that 35,151 U.S. and satellite troops were annihilated and 275 enemy planes brought down or damaged during November.

### December 21

Kuo Mo-jo, chairman of China Peace Committee, is awarded the 1951 International Stalin Peace Prize.

### December 24

Generals Kim Il Sung and Peng Teh-huai write to General Ridgway proposing that the representatives of the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, of the People's Republic of China and the International Committee of the Red Cross visit the P.O.W. camps of both sides in Korea after the armistice agreement is signed.

Chairman Mao cables greetings to William Gallacher, chairman of the British Communist Party, on his 70th birthday.

# Letters

## We'll Wash Away Shame

MILAN, ITALY

Reading *People's China* I felt deeply moved by the enthusiasm you have, by the feeling of your whole country united to fight and work with one aim and one faith. No sacrifice is too great when one knows one is master of one's destiny, that one is working for a better future and that one can be proud of what has been done and hopeful for what will be done.

I envied you somewhat. In *People's China* I felt something of the atmosphere we had in Italy during the resistance fight against the Germans or soon afterwards. Of course in China it is better: you have annihilated feudalism and reaction. We had only begun the fight and did not attain victory. Many of us were so engrossed in the battle against the German invaders that we thought everything would go well once Italy was freed of them and the fascists in power had been overthrown. Instead fascism proved to be only one of the historical expressions of Italian reaction; so those who had hoped that the fall of Mussolini's clique would solve everything, found to their sorrow that feudalism and reactionaries were still active and again ready to oppress the Italian workers and peasants by new means.

We tried to transform our national fight into a wider political and social revolution of Italian society, but we failed, and since we did not rebuild the whole Italian social structure, we are now in a very sad situation. Misery has never been so widespread. We put out the Germans, but the Americans are now even more powerful. We hung a few fascists, but state apparatus, bureaucracy, etc. are still strong. You know what kind of government we now have. Nevertheless we go on fighting without fear to establish a new democracy which will change the social structure of Italy and wash away shame from our people's name.

All that we had hoped for in our country, has become a reality in China or is near. I am very glad for your people. Of course you still have a very long way to go, but you have sure hopes that the future will get better and better. Moreover, you are sure that your people will never again be oppressed, misled, betrayed, forced against their will.

You will never be ashamed of your country and of your government as we were under fascism, and still are today. It was terrible to see Italian soldiers compelled to fight a war which the majority of them did not

wish to fight, to see them suffer and die and moreover feel ashamed of having fought. I saw many soldiers set out for war who were not fascists. Many of them never came back. We have to say that they died not for their country but against it. I hope we never have to see all that again.

We will unite with all fighters for freedom and democracy and sooner or later Italy too will rank among the progressive countries. We know we are not alone, for nobody is alone who fights for justice. Your battle against American aggression in Korea helps us, just as the strikes of Milan workers against war production and the Sicilian peasants' fight against feudalism, helps you. When you hear that the Italian people are free, I hope there will be as great joy in your country as there was here when China was liberated in 1949. Believe me, there was hardly a wall in the workers' sections of this town where there was not written in huge letters "Long live Mao Tse-tung! Long live People's China! Enjoy China's freedom!"

Your people and the Koreans are now bearing the greatest weight of the fight against aggression. We feel a deep solidarity with you. Every time I get a new signature for the Peace Pact Appeal I think to myself it will be of help to you (even though it is a very small help). Our people know you are fighting for us also; they clearly understand that if you were defeated in Korea, it would mean more hunger, unemployment, oppression and exploitation in our factories and on our farms. We will do our best to help you, we are sure you will always be friends of the Italian workers, as we are of you.

ENRICA PISCHEL

## The Example of China

KOTACHERY, INDIA

I am not a member of any political group, but still, I cannot but admire the great achievements of the Chinese people in their struggle for freedom. You have really proved to the world that the reactionary elements, however strong they are, can no more stand against the rising people. Being your kinsmen, we, the Indians, have much to learn from you.

D. BAL GANGADHAR

## TO OUR READERS

Our readers' attention is drawn to the new reduced rates of subscription to *People's China* which appear on page two of this issue.

Our first number in 1952 also introduces a new method of numbering by the year and not, as previously, by the volume of 12 issues.

經中國人民郵政管理局登記執照第一號  
北京郵政管理局登記執照第一號  
新華社總發行



Bringing New Year greetings to the families of the fighters of the People's Liberation Army  
New Year drawing by Hsiao Yu-ming

People's China  
wishes all its readers  
a  
happy and peaceful  
New Year





26 Kuo Hui Chieh, Peking, China

Dear Readers,

*People's China* is now entering its third year of publication. Since the beginning, we have tried to improve the magazine with each issue. Our constant aim has been to inform you, and other readers, more fully and clearly about the achievements, aims and policies of our country—political, economic and cultural.

To improve further, we are in urgent need of your help. We can make the magazine more useful to you, to peace and to friendship between your people and ours, if you will fill out the following questionnaire, which we have arranged in such a way as to take the minimum time.

Please mail this questionnaire back to us. Whether you answer all the questions or only some of them, whether you sign your name or not, we will give your reply our serious attention. But do it today—because the more replies we receive the more fully we can gauge whether we are meeting the needs of our readers or not.

Yours for peace and friendship,

EDITOR

Please check appropriate square

1. I read *People's China* mainly because I am interested in:

- a) Political theory and documents
- b) Economic developments
- c) Cultural material from China
- d) Using it as background material for my own academic research, teaching, writing or speaking
- e) .....

2. I have found the following articles of most interest

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3. I have found the following articles of least interest

.....  
.....

4. I like      do not like      the following regular sections

Current China

Pictorial

Cultural Front

Remarks .....

5. I would like to see more of the following type of material

Cultural

Historical

Economic

Short Stories

Informative and factual

Theoretical

Remarks .....

6. I would prefer to see the magazine appear:

a) Twice a month as at present

b) Every week but with fewer pages

7. My friends have expressed the following opinion of the magazine:

It is satisfactory

It is too heavy in content/style

It has insufficient serious material

Other remarks .....

8. I receive my copy about.....weeks after date of publication

9. I have  have no  difficulty in receiving the magazine

Remarks .....

10. Please send introductory gift copies to the following friends who I believe will be interested in the magazine

Name (Please print)

Address (Please print)

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(Please type on separate sheet if space above is insufficient)

11. I would like to make the following further remarks

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