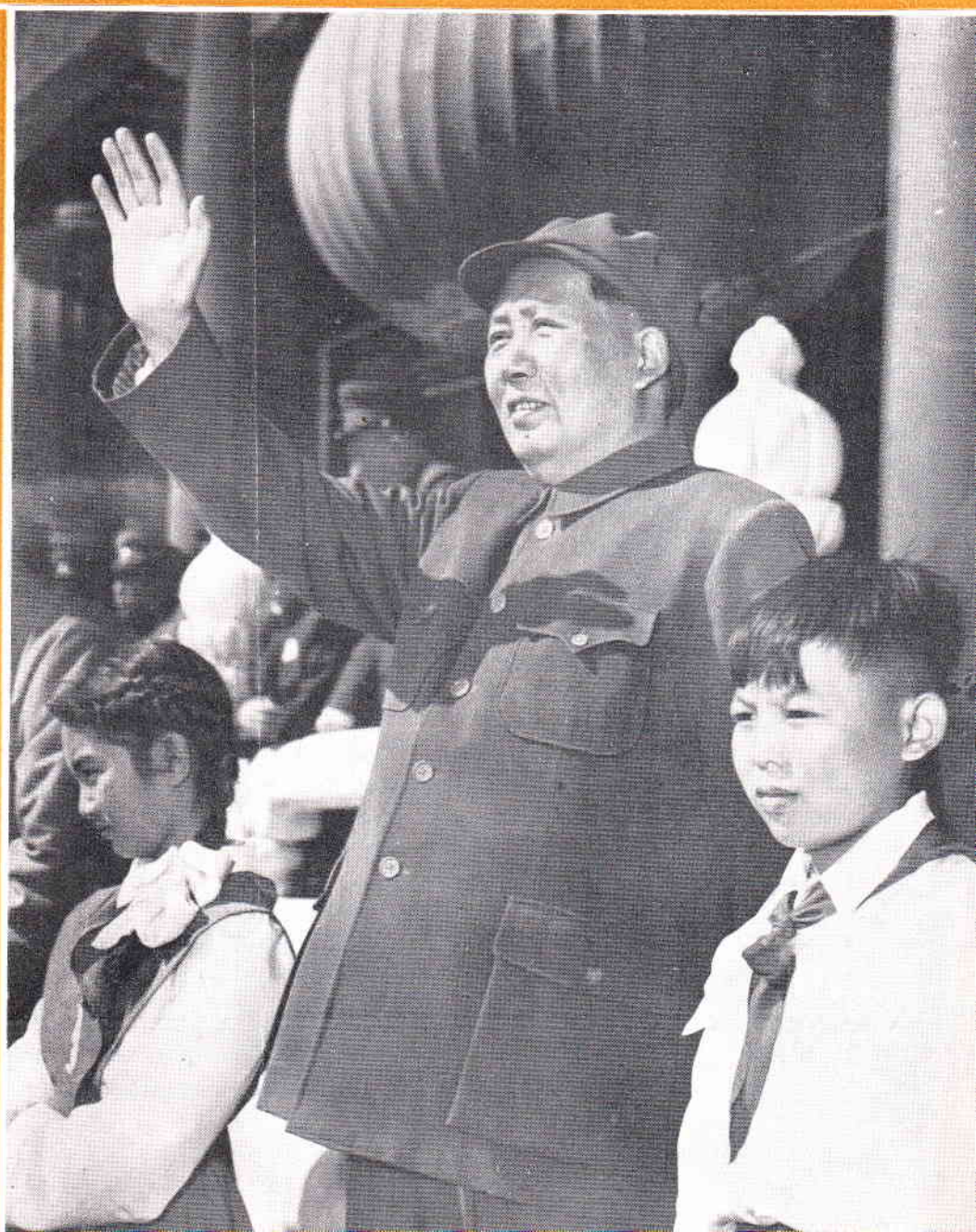


PEOPLE'S CHINA



20
1953

PEOPLE'S CHINA

A FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE

Editor: Liu Tsun-chi

CHRONICLES the life of the Chinese people and reports their progress in building a New Democratic society;

DESCRIBES the new trends in Chinese art, literature, science, education and other aspects of the people's cultural life;

SEEKS to strengthen the friendship between the people of China and those of other lands in the cause of peace.

No. 20, 1953

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Chairman Mao Tse-tung on the reviewing stand at Tien An Men, Peking, on China's National Day

Entered as first-class printed matter at the General Post Office of China.

Published by the FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS, 26 Kuo Hui Chieh, Peking, China.

Towards Socialist Industrialisation

ENTERING the fifth year of the existence of their People's Republic, the Chinese people can survey with pride the massive economic achievements which have led to the completion of the rehabilitation of their country and the launching of the first five-year plan of national construction—the first big step of the transition to Socialism.

Such a survey is contained in the Communiqué of the State Statistical Bureau of the People's Republic of China on the rehabilitation and development of the national economy, culture and education in the course of 1952, which we present as a supplement to this issue of *People's China*. This important document tells what the Chinese people, led by the Communist Party and the People's Government, created by their labour in the last year of the stage of economic rehabilitation. The achievements it summarises demonstrate the superiority of the New Democratic system over that of capitalism. It is on the firm basis of these achievements that the present stage of large-scale national construction has begun so successfully.

THE Communiqué records that China's 1952 industrial output was 28 per cent above that of 1951, reaching and surpassing, in most branches, the highest levels in the country's history. State-owned industries developed much more rapidly than others; their output rose by 45 per cent. Among large-scale industrial plants, state-owned and joint state-private enterprises produced some two-thirds, reckoned in value, of the total output.

In agriculture, food crops increased by 13 per cent and cotton crops by 24 per cent. Significant growth was also registered in the number of draught animals and other livestock. Liberated by the land reform, more and more peasants were working in common, while retaining private ownership of their land. At the end of 1952, the number of mutual-aid teams exceeded 8,300,000. There were 3,663 agricultural producers' co-operatives, a more

advanced form of co-operative production. State farms in operation totalled 2,219.

Trade, both domestic and foreign, expanded considerably. On home markets, state enterprises and co-operatives handled more than 50 per cent of the total volume of transactions. Constantly developing foreign trade, mainly with the Soviet Union and other countries of the camp of peace and democracy, now helps China in her national construction.

Thanks to the increase in labour productivity and the economies carried out by the working people, industrial investment in 1952 was much greater than in the previous year. It grew between three and fourfold in the iron, steel and electric power industries, and between two and threefold for coal, non-ferrous metallurgy and cement. Investments in light industry were more than one and a half times the 1951 total. In this way the state carried out the policy of concentration on heavy industry as the foundation of socialist industrialisation.

On the basis of increased production, there were further improvements in the living standards of workers, peasants and employees. In the enterprises under the ministries of various industries, employment rose 22 per cent and wages went up by an average of 11 per cent in comparison with the figures of the previous year, in addition to special allowances. Remarkable advances were recorded in education, culture and social services.

Taking account of these achievements, a recent discussion in the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and the Central People's Government Council formulated the general line for national construction in the period of transition to Socialism:

Work for the socialist industrialisation of the country in stages and for the carrying out of the socialist transformation by the state of agriculture, handicraft industry, private industry and commerce, step by step, over a considerable period of time.

At the same time, the discussion defined the tasks of the current five-year plan. The main effort is to go into the development of heavy industry and the modernisation of national defence. Requisite measures will be taken to train personnel for national construction. Communications, transport, light industry, agriculture and trade will be developed. Agricultural and handicraft co-operatives, based on the voluntary principle, will be promoted. The reform of private industry and commerce will continue. The role of individual farming, the handicrafts, private industry and commerce will be developed in the correct way. The steady growth of the socialist sector of the economy will be ensured and the material and cultural standards of the people will rise.

The successes of the rehabilitation period and of its last year, 1952, make the Chinese people fully confident that they can carry out these tasks. The new agreement with the Soviet Union, providing for all-sided aid in the construction and reconstruction of 141 major economic enterprises, increases this confidence. Soviet assistance, which played such an important part in the rehabilitation of the economy, will continue and grow in the new period. This shows the tremendous importance of the selfless, friendly co-operation among countries in the democratic camp.

The Chinese people know the road ahead of them—the road to Socialism. They have a concrete programme to guide them. With happiness and determination, they are marching towards the future, their own and of all mankind.

Great Men in World of Culture Commemorated

One thousand and two hundred writers, poets, artists and scientists gathered in Peking on September 27 to commemorate the four outstanding contributors to human culture: Chu Yuan, Nicolaus Copernicus, François Rabelais and José Martí.

The meeting was jointly sponsored by the Chinese People's Committee for World Peace, the All-China Federation of Literature and Arts Circles, the All-China Federation of Scientific Associations, and the All-China Association for the Dissemination of Scientific and Technical Knowledge.

Among those present at the meeting held at the Huai Jen Tang Hall, where the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions met a year ago, were the well-known French writer Vercors; Professor Witold Joblonski and the writer Wojciech Zukrowski, from Poland; Nicolas Guillen, noted Cuban poet, and many other guests from various parts of the world who are visiting China. Ikuo Oyama, Chairman of the Japanese National Peace Committee and winner of the Stalin International Peace Prize, was present, and members of the diplomatic corps in Peking also attended. Kuo Mo-jo, chairman of the meeting, delivered the main address dealing with the contributions of the four great men to world culture. Speeches were also made in their honour by representatives of China, Poland, France and Cuba.

The Chinese people are commemorating this fourfold anniversary in many other ways.

An exhibition on the lives and works of Chu Yuan, Nicolaus Copernicus, François Rabelais and José Martí was opened in the Peking Library on September 28. The exhibits include more than 100 portraits, photos, paintings and charts and over 130 copies of books, magazines and newspapers in several languages relating to their achievements.

Kuo Mo-jo's famous play, *Chu Yuan*, has been produced in Peking and is playing to large audiences.

The press throughout the nation has, in the last several months, devoted many pages to tributes to these four great men. Numerous public meetings, exhibitions and discussions are being held in honour of their great contributions to mankind.

For World Peace And a Flourishing People's Culture

Kuo Mo-jo

Chairman of the China Peace Committee

IN response to the call of the World Peace Council, the Chinese people, confident that peace will win and with feelings of profoundest respect for the cultural legacy of mankind, are today paying high tribute to the four cultural giants of the world: Chu Yuan of China, Nicolaus Copernicus of Poland, François Rabelais of France, and José Martí of Cuba.

These great contributors to, and champions of, human culture are truly immortal. Chu Yuan died 2,230 years ago; Copernicus, 410 years ago; Rabelais, 400 years ago, and José Martí, if he were still alive today, would be 100 years old; yet they all live in the hearts of the peoples of the world. Though they were born into different ages in different countries, they had one thing in common: they devoted their lives to the struggle for justice and the progress of mankind. Through their creative labour, precious legacies were added to human culture. Their ideals, their work and struggle were at one with the interests of the people in their respective countries and times. When we study their special significance for their times, we find that their ideals, their work and struggle are also bound up with the interests of the people of the world today.

Last year we commemorated Hugo, Da Vinci, Gogol and Avicenna. Today we commemorate these other four great contributors to world culture. Being inspired by these great men of world culture, we are deeply conscious of our high responsibility of carrying on and

developing their splendid traditions, so that the lofty aims they held in common—friendship among peoples, a life in freedom and lasting peace—may become a reality, and we are fully confident that we can succeed in this task.

Chu Yuan

At this meeting the first to whom we shall pay tribute is Chu Yuan of China.

Chu Yuan was China's first great patriot-poet. He yearned for freedom and justice all his life. He ardently loved his motherland and its people and scorned the corrupt and incompetent ruling class. In the end, he gave his life for his ideals.

His works have exerted a far-reaching influence on the development of Chinese literature, and bequeathed to poets of later generations a style of great brilliance. For more than two thousand years, the patriotic feeling that pervades his poetry has never failed to give to readers in each generation new and inspiring strength.

Although Chu Yuan had been born into an aristocratic family in the Kingdom of Chu,* yet through long and close contact with the common people, his works became permeated with the thoughts and feelings of the common people. Chu Yuan, because of his ideals, came into violent conflict with the retrograde and unscrupulous nobles at the court of Chu. Unfortunately, King Huai of the Kingdom of Chu was a worthless ruler, weak, vacillating and conceited. He ignored Chu Yuan's advice,

This is an abridgement of a speech made by Kuo Mo-jo at the meeting commemorating the anniversaries of the four outstanding contributors to world culture, held in Peking on September 27, 1953.

* The Kingdom of Chu was a big state in the Yangtze River region during the Warring States period (403-221 B.C.) of Chinese history.

which would have relieved the people's misery and suffering. Besides, he gave a ready ear to the malicious talk of the evil-doers that surrounded him. In this way, he gradually alienated himself from Chu Yuan, and finally banished Chu Yuan from the court.

For the next twenty years and more, Chu Yuan lived the life of an exile, his heart burning with grief. Chu Yuan was reduced to utter sorrow and despair as he saw King Huai, surrounded by reactionary nobles, fall further into licentious, idle and reckless living, and the Kingdom of Chu descend into final catastrophe. Yet, during his banishment, he continued to write poems in which he expressed his noble ideals and his profound love for his homeland and people. The name of Chu Yuan, author of the immortal poem *Li Sao*, not only aroused great sympathy among the people of the Chu Kingdom, but will always be an integral part of the glorious cultural heritage of all the Chinese people.

The poetry written by Chu Yuan is a gem of the heritage of Chinese classical literature; it is also a great contribution by the Chinese people to the culture of mankind.

The people's emotions and the feelings of patriotism that are expressed in Chu Yuan's

writings acquire new significance in our times. It is just such a spirit of patriotism that generates boundless strength in overcoming the forces of evil.

Copernicus

Today, we are also commemorating Nicolaus Copernicus of Poland, the forerunner in the field of modern natural science.

In the Europe of over 400 years ago, the medieval feudal rule and its supporter, the Catholic Church, utilised theology and its servile scholasticism to imprison human thought in darkness. Copernicus stood out in the field of natural science as one among the great heroes who fought the decadent culture of the Middle Ages. He did not limit himself to one particular branch of study. Copernicus was a man of many talents, well versed in various branches of learning. He was an outstanding mathematician, a famous economist, and had great repute as a doctor. He excelled in mechanics and topographical surveying. He knew Latin and Greek and was versed in all the ancient arts. He was a painter, and also engaged in many other activities on behalf of his fellowmen. But what gave immortality to his name was his signal contribution to

astronomy. His major work of historic significance, *On the Revolutions of Celestial Bodies*, shattered the prison medieval theology had erected, freed the reason of mankind and proclaimed the victory of science.

Copernicus' discovery of the rotation of the earth was a great step forward in the development of astronomy, but what is more important, it enhanced man's potentialities for knowledge of the universe, thus laying the foundation for a correct conception of the universe and opening a new era for the natural science.

Rabelais

Among the great fighters who struggled on behalf of culture and the progress of humanity, we cannot forget the French humanist, François Rabelais. He was a great satirist. With his epic-like novel *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, he sang



M. Vercors, the well-known French writer (left), Mme. Vercors and the Polish writer Wojciech Zukrowski (right) at the Peking exhibition on the lives and works of the four great representatives of world culture, Chu Yuan, Copernicus, Rabelais and José Martí



Chu Yuan
(340-278 B.C.)

Nicolaus Copernicus
(A.D. 1473-1543)

François Rabelais
(A.D. 1495?-1553)

José Martí
(A.D. 1853-1895)

the praises of the heroic struggles which the progressive forces in West European society were carrying on against the dark feudal rule.

In this comprehensive work which took him twenty years to write, Rabelais painted a true picture of the wickedness of the autocrats, hypocrites and pseudo-scholars. The gigantic, realistic force of this book sends its piercing flashes right down into our present day. His merciless satire on aggressors brings joy and inspiration to the peace-loving people of today.

Rabelais, the great realist writer, crosses the limits of his time and takes his stand with us in our present righteous struggle. His contempt and hatred for war and aggression help mobilise ever more powerful forces against these evils today. His prophecy of a happy future for mankind has now indeed begun to take shape.

José Martí

Lastly, we are celebrating one more honoured "Messenger of Freedom," namely, José Martí of Cuba. Brought up in Cuba under the rule of the Spanish colonialists, José Martí experienced personally what oppression and humiliation means. At the age of sixteen, he was sentenced to penal servitude because of his patriotic revolutionary activities. After repeated imprisonment and exile, José Martí still stood firmly by his dream of the national liberation of tormented Cuba. Through his writings and activities, he mobilised the forces of the revolutionary struggle for national freedom

and independence and laid the foundation of the Cuban Revolutionary Party. Finally, he gloriously gave his life for the people in the struggle for liberation which he had organised. Although the cause for which he laid down his life has not been realised, his name is the banner under which the Cuban people rally in their struggle. In the course of his creative activity, José Martí showed his inborn revolutionary fervour. His poems are pervaded with passionate love for his people, fervent joy in participating in life's struggles and an unshakable confidence in victory. The people can draw from the poet's impassioned lines new confidence and strength to fight for freedom against injustice.

José Martí once said, "The future will be decided by peace." This resounding and militant call finds today an ever more ardent response throughout the world.

A Common Heritage

Chu Yuan, Copernicus, Rabelais and José Martí lived in different ages, but in the history of human culture, they shine like the Pleiades, bright and eternal. The precious creations they left behind have become the common heritage of all progressive humanity. The spirit to seek for truth and the spirit, which they shared in common, of self-sacrifice in service of the people, will forever command respect and support. In commemorating these four cultural giants, we are deeply conscious



Ikuro Oyama (right), Chairman of the Japanese National Peace Committee and winner of Stalin International Peace Prize, at the exhibition

of the fact that a future full of happiness and beauty is the common goal pursued by the best cultural fighters of every nation, from remotest antiquity down to the present day. Therefore, respect for, and development of, the best traditions of all national cultures and the promotion of cultural exchange among the nations are factors necessary for the advance of mutual understanding and friendship among the nations, for the enrichment and elevation of human culture and for the achievement of a lasting world peace.

As we pay tribute to Chu Yuan, Copernicus, Rabelais and José Martí, we must bear in mind the state of affairs that faces mankind and culture today. The enemies of peace are everywhere instigating war; they sabotage the peace movement and brazenly obstruct the free development of, and cultural exchange between, nations. They hate the freedom and progress of mankind; they tamper with the conscience of artists and scientists, and trample on and destroy human culture. The material and cultural life of mankind is threatened by these provocations of the war-instigators.

Link Between Peace and Culture

Today, when the Korean armistice desired by the peoples of the world has been realised, in celebrating these four giants of world culture, we must further stress the close relation-

ship between peace and culture. One of the chief tasks of the world peace movement during the last four years has been to defend world peace through cultural exchange. Like economic relations, smooth cultural exchanges between the various nations are possible only in a peaceful environment. If peace is threatened or thwarted, then cultural exchanges will be interrupted and violated. Hence, the struggle to defend peace and the struggle to safeguard culture are inseparable. At this commemoration, we must call upon people the world over to concentrate the force of public opinion on the consolidation of the Korean armistice, to

stop existing wars in other parts of the world and to eliminate all threats of war.

We advocate the strengthening of cultural exchange between all nations on the basis of equality so as to increase mutual understanding and respect. But at the same time, we are firmly opposed to the cultural aggression disguised as "cosmopolitanism" which is intended to enslave the world with the so-called "American way of life." We stand for settling all international disputes through peaceful negotiations, but we must oppose the plot of warmongers who, under the pretence of negotiations, lay down prerequisites for negotiations, in order to achieve their real aim—that of sabotaging negotiations. This is the crux of today's struggle in defence of lasting world peace and in developing the best cultural traditions of mankind.

In their respective times, Chu Yuan, Copernicus, Rabelais and José Martí each triumphantly fulfilled their tasks. They have become immortal. On us now falls the duty to follow in the footsteps of these great champions of human culture, to struggle for the realisation of world peace and to develop further the culture of mankind. Like these great men, let us struggle in the same spirit of self-sacrifice, pursuit of truth and serving peace, for a life in freedom and for the lasting peace of humanity!

Highways in New China

Han To-fu

CHINA'S network of highways is being systematically expanded. With the simultaneous growth of railways, inland waterways and civil airlines, a modern communication system is arising which will knit China's vast territory into closer unity.

Some 120,000 kilometres of highways are now open to traffic. This is about five times the operating total on the eve of the liberation. They include local roads as well as long-distance trunk lines. The Lanchow-Tihua Highway, which was repaired and reconstructed after the liberation, traverses the famous "Kansu Corridor" and the Gobi Desert; it is the major artery serving the entire Northwest. The Sikang-Tibet Highway, now being rapidly constructed, crosses many deep valleys and torrential rivers and climbs the "Roof of the World"—bringing new prospects to the Tibetan people.

On the highways one can see passenger buses as well as long convoys of trucks. Some of the latter carry new-type farm implements, fertilisers, seeds, cloth, thermos flasks and bicycles to the thriving villages. Others take salt, tea, tobacco and other daily necessities to the national minority areas far out near China's borders. Grain, technical crops and subsidiary products of the peasants' labour are transported in large quantities to supply the populations of the cities and support the country's industrial construction.

Old Highways for Plunder

The construction of modern highways in China began in the 1920's. Under the reaction-

ary regime, they served as instruments for the exploitation of the people and a convenience for the penetration of imperialist influence deep into the interior of China. For these purposes, about 30,000 kilometres of highways were built in ten years.

In 1927, Chiang Kai-shek betrayed the revolution and unleashed civil war. To wage his armed struggle against the revolution, he built many highways particularly in the south—in Kwangtung, Kiangsi, Fukien and other provinces. The total length of China's highways in 1935 was more than five times that of 1927. Most of these highways were built on confiscated farmland, by the conscripted labour of the peasants. No sooner had a highway been completed than troops would swoop down to ravage the villages. It was no wonder that the people hated this road-building.

Because construction funds were embezzled by big and small officials, the quality of the roads at that time was very poor. Most highways were not surfaced and only a few were covered with a thin layer of sand and gravel. When it rained, they turned into muddy, impassable tracks; then they were abandoned for lack of funds for maintenance and became overgrown with weeds. In 1948, the total length open to traffic throughout the country did not exceed 75,000 kilometres.

During the War of Liberation when the Chiang Kai-shek bandits were fleeing in panic before the People's Liberation Army, they wantonly destroyed the highways. They pulled up the road-beds and blew up bridges and tunnels whenever they had the time to do so.

As a result, some 50,000 kilometres of highways were made unusable. But the people's forces restored many highways in 1949 in the course of their pursuit of the enemy. By the end of that year, 75,000 kilometres of highways were again in full commission.

Post-Liberation Construction

After the liberation, highway building began on a large scale. The total length grew to 102,800 kilometres in 1950, to over 107,400 kilometres in 1951 and to over 120,000 kilometres in the latter part of 1952. This year, the scale of highway construction has grown still further. More than five thousand kilometres are being added to the road network by construction directly financed by the Central People's Government alone. If the new roads made by local authorities are included, the total is considerably greater.

The volume of transportation has also grown. The mileage covered by state-owned trucks has rapidly increased. In 1951, they carried 75.5 per cent more freight than in 1950. In the first half of 1952, they transported 26.8 per cent more than in the corresponding period of 1951. Freight carried by privately-owned trucks also registered a considerable increase.



This bus takes travellers across 750 km. of sparsely populated grasslands from Peitzumiao, Inner Mongolia, to Changchiakow, Hopei Province. This modern passenger transport service was inaugurated last July

The restoration of old highways and the construction of new ones are being carried out in conformity with the overall plans of China's economic construction.

In the Northwest, there are now 17,000 kilometres of highways. With Lanchow as their centre, they spread out into the provinces of Sinkiang, Chinghai, Ningsia, Shensi and others, linking up the fertile agricultural areas, boundless grasslands, rich mineral areas and the newly-rising industrial areas of the region.

Many roads have been built to facilitate the large-scale exploitation of the abundant mineral wealth of the Southwest. One begun in March, 1951, runs 526 kilometres from Chengtu to Ahpa in the Tibetan Autonomous Region of northwestern Szechuan Province. Its chief purpose is to give access to the coal, copper, antimony and other important ores in this region. In 1952, other highways were laid through the mountainous areas of Yunnan and Tibet. The 1953 construction projected for this area is twice that of 1952.

To Aid National Minorities

In locating new highways in People's China, particular attention is being paid to the development of the border regions and those areas inhabited by national minorities, which were hitherto very difficult of access. Between 1949 and 1952, over 11,000 kilometres were newly built in the border and national minority regions. Most of the highways built this year are also located in these areas.

In the past, because of backward communication facilities in such areas, it was hard to move their local products to markets elsewhere in China, and to bring in outside products needed by the people. This was one of the key factors in perpetuating the wretched life of these peoples. Some national minorities had never used any factory-made goods.

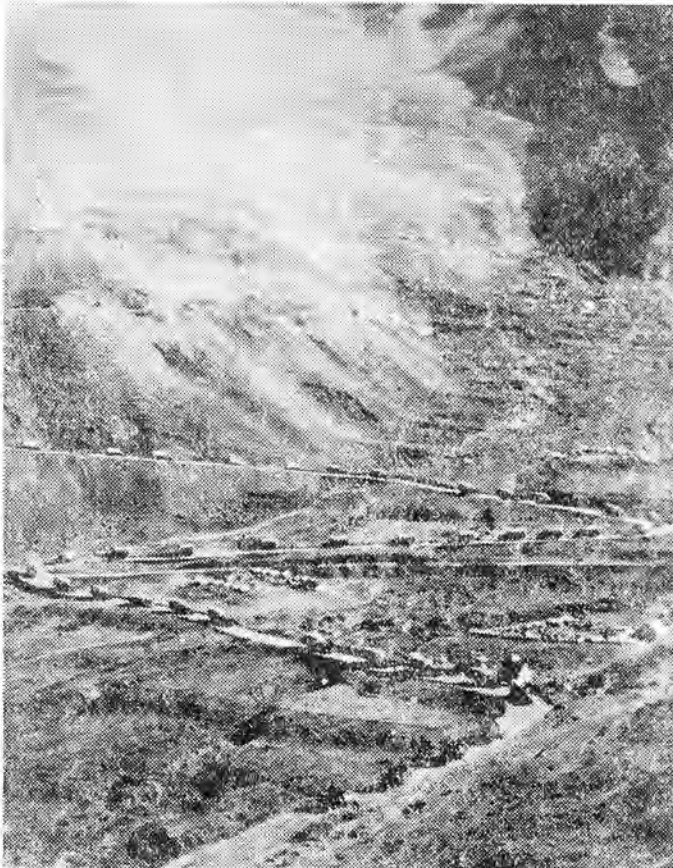
With the liberation of the whole country, the situation changed rapidly. Following the completion of a 400-kilometre-long highway between Lanchow and Langmussu, goods delivered at Lanchow by the Lunghai Railway could be carried southwards to the Kansu-Szechuan Border Area, which is inhabited by the Tibetans. Now, in state trading companies in their own locality, these Tibetans can buy the famous brick-tea from Hunan, cloth woven in Tientsin, flour milled in Lanchow and many other products. At the same time the furs, leather and other goods they themselves produce now go out along the same highway to the rail-head to be transported and sold in Peking, Tientsin and other cities.

Sikang Province, where the majority of the population is Tibetan, now has 170 times the length of highways that it had in the year of the liberation. Partial statistics show that over 27,000 million yuan worth of local products of the Tibetan autonomous regions in Sikang were moved out by these highways in 1951-52. At the same time large quantities of goods required by the local people were transported into the region.

In the far Northwest, the recently-opened Tihua-Kurla Highway brings grain, cotton, wool and other products abundant in South Sinkiang to the provincial capital. In return, local products, industrial goods and agricultural machines and implements are conveyed from Tihua to south Sinkiang. In the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, the 900-kilometre-long highway from Changpei to Tung-liao, completed in 1952, plays an important role in the development of trade.

Routes of Prosperity

Because the highways directly benefit their interests, the people, especially in national minority areas, are enthusiastic in helping in their construction. Besides enlivening local production and trade in the regions traversed, highway construction directly brings in funds



On the Sikang-Tibet Highway which, when completed, will be the main economic artery between Tibet and the rest of the People's Republic of China

in the form of wages, while the presence of the builders stimulates local business. The people along the routes are always ready to lodge the highway builders in their homes. This not only facilitates the construction work but gives householders some extra income in the form of rent.

Along the highways already operating, the local people have organised maintenance corps. These regularly go out to inspect the roads, taking spades with them, and fill in every hole that they find. They take as good care of their roads as they do of their own crops.

With the support of the people, highway construction in China will proceed on a constantly expanding scale. In areas where draught animals, wheelbarrows and human carriers are still the chief means of communication, long truck-convoys will soon be seen.

What Happened at the Korean Truce Talks (III)

Wilfred Burchett

THE fourth item on the agenda of the armistice talks, dealing with prisoners of war, was intended by the Americans to be the end of the road of the armistice talks. If the talks had not broken down on other issues or been bombed out of existence, it was intended that they should founder completely on the question of prisoner repatriation. This was revealed a few weeks after the Americans broke off the talks on October 8, 1952—in an article in the *Saturday Evening Post* by its associate editor Demaree Bess. Bess wrote that the American Joint Chiefs-of-Staff had accepted the recommendations of the U.S. Army's Psychological Warfare Department to make the prisoner-of-war exchange a key issue and break international law by insisting on so-called "voluntary repatriation." This decision had been made on July 5, 1951, five days before the cease-fire talks started. And it was clear from the beginning of the discussions on the prisoner-of-war exchange that "voluntary repatriation" in fact meant forcible detention and was a weapon to wreck the talks. History has since proved this.

U.S. Slave-Trading Tactics

When discussions on Item Four started on December 11, there was no mention by the

This is the third and last article in a series on the Korean truce talks written specially for *People's China* by the correspondent of *l'Humanite* in Korea. The first two articles (*People's China*, Nos. 18 and 19) described the steadfast and finally successful efforts of the Korean and Chinese side to overcome U.S.-made obstacles and get agreement on the agenda of the talks, the demarcation line and concrete arrangements for the realisation of the cease-fire. The present article describes how the agreement on P.O.W's was achieved.

Americans of "humanitarianism" or "voluntary repatriation." The Americans started off by trying to turn Panmunjom into a slave market with themselves in the role of brutally hard traders in human flesh. General Lee Sang Cho for the Korean-Chinese side made their usual clear-cut, simple proposal based strictly on generally accepted precedents, on international law and on the Geneva Convention. He proposed the "release and repatriation of all prisoners of war" as soon as the armistice would be signed.

Admiral Libby, for the Americans in keeping with his slave-trader approach, said he "had no intention of buying a pig in a poke." Before any matters of principle were settled, he demanded to know what quantity of prisoners he was going to get.

On the very first days of discussions, the American chief information officer Nuckols told the press that the Americans had no intention of presenting the Communists with a "military advantage in manpower" by returning more prisoners than they received. It is noteworthy that the high-sounding principles the Americans later developed to justify their schemes of forcibly detaining scores of thousands of prisoners were never mentioned in the frankly brutal language of the first weeks of discussions.

In order to speed up work and in an effort to reach agreement by the December 27 deadline, so that the armistice could be reached and there would be no need for redrawing the demarcation line, the Korean-Chinese side agreed first to produce lists of names of prisoners to be exchanged, and later agreed on the principle, although this was obviously putting

the cart before the horse. On December 18, the name lists were exchanged. The Americans were given a list of 11,000 odd names with precise particulars of ranks and army serial numbers. The Korean names were written in Korean, and the non-Korean ones in English. In exchange, Admiral Libby dumped a worthless pile of 132,000 names of Korean and Chinese prisoners on the table—all of them written in English, in an arbitrary anglicisation of names in Latin script which bore no resemblance at all to the actual names. There were no other details of rank, units or any means of identification.

Libby announced that discussions could not be continued until the Americans had checked the accuracy of the lists they had received. When it was pointed out that there was no possible way of checking the lists he had handed over, he replied laconically that he would provide another list giving the Chinese names in Chinese characters and the Korean names in Korean within "about a week."

On December 25, two days before the thirty-day time limit was due to expire, Libby turned up with the list—this time with the American anglicised version of Chinese and Korean names turned back into a Chinese and Korean version of the American anglicisation. This list was just as incomprehensible as the first one and bore no relation to the prisoners' original names: it was still without ranks or units or any other information which would enable it to be checked.

From the date the discussion on prisoner-of-war exchange started, there remained seventeen days of the thirty in which the Americans had promised that a maximum effort would be made to sign the armistice. Fifteen of these seventeen days were wasted by Admiral Libby by the clearest methods of sabotage. When he did agree to discuss matters of principle, Libby went back to the slave-trading language of the opening day.

The Americans held far more prisoners than the Korean-Chinese side for a very simple reason. Most prisoners captured by the Korean-Chinese side were taken in the first months of the war when whole battalions of

Rhee troops surrendered to the Korean People's Army as it swept south. The vast majority of them were released where they were captured in South Korea and could return to their homes. All prisoners still held after MacArthur made the Inchon landing in September, 1950, were released as the K.P.A. made its fighting withdrawal to the north. But the Americans could not carry out a similar policy. Every prisoner who fell into their hands had to be put behind barbed wire. If they had been released, the Americans knew full well, they would have immediately taken up arms again. Hence the big discrepancy in numbers of prisoners of war held.

The American plan for P.O.W. exchange submitted at the end of December was that prisoners of war should be exchanged on a "head for head" basis. After that, the South Korean people who had fled north should be exchanged for surplus Korean-Chinese prisoners held in American hands. If any prisoners still remained, they would only be handed back after the International Committee of the Red Cross was "convinced" they were demanding return.

It was notable that at this time American "humanitarianism" was still kept in the background. The U.S. side now wanted to use the P.O.W's as hostages for civilian refugees. If the Korean-Chinese side would be prepared to round up a sufficient number of civilian refugees then all P.O.W's would be returned. "Voluntary repatriation" was therefore not an issue of principle at all, but was only to be applied to men who could not be bartered. The exchange of prisoners on a head-for-head basis and using them as hostages was without precedent in civilised times. But the Americans, as on so many other occasions, did not put this proposal forward because they really expected it to be accepted. It was thrown in as one more mighty boulder along the path to the armistice.

The "Voluntary Repatriation" Trick

This scheme was naturally sharply rejected. Libby then pulled "voluntary repatriation" out of the pigeon-hole and demanded that it be applied to all prisoners.

When it was pointed out that this was a violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention, Libby was astonished. It was clear from his reaction that he had never studied this document and was still arguing on the basis of the pre-Second World War convention.

Geneva Convention

When the delegates of sixty-three nations met at Geneva to draw up the 1949 Convention, there was an attempt by the Austrian delegate to have included the principle of "voluntary repatriation." Israel was the only country that supported him. The United States opposed it as vigorously as other Great Powers. A specific safeguard was written into the Convention to prevent "voluntary repatriation" ever being applied. Article 118 of the Convention states: "Prisoners of war shall be released and repatriated without delay after cessation of active hostilities." To ensure that prisoners of war were not coerced into renouncing their rights, a special Article Seven was inserted which states: "Prisoners of war can in no circumstances renounce in part or in entirety the rights secured to them by the present Convention..." The first draft of Article Seven contained the words "should not be persuaded by coercion or any other forced means to renounce their rights, etc..." But the phrase regarding coercion was deleted and "may in no circumstances" substituted because it would always be possible for the detaining power to apply coercion and proclaim the prisoners had acted of their own free will in renouncing their rights.

Articles 118 and Seven in fact were drafted and accepted precisely to avoid just that situation which the Americans had set up in their death camps on Koje Island when they coerced tens of thousands of prisoners into renouncing their rights of repatriation with branding irons, tattooers' needles, tanks and flamethrowers.

The discussions at Panmunjom continued, with the Korean-Chinese side vigorously rejecting "voluntary repatriation" which was immediately exposed as a camouflaged term for "forcible detention" of prisoners of war. They based their stand squarely on the Geneva Convention and international custom.

In the meantime world public opinion was shocked by the first news of wholesale slaughter of prisoners by the Americans. They were the February and March, 1952 massacres on Koje in which 51 unarmed prisoners of war were killed and 240 injured. In recommendations made after a half-hearted investigation of the massacres by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the latter urged the cessation "in particular of the continuance of the political programme of C.I.E. for education of prisoners of war." C.I.E., or Civil Information and Education, was one of the means being used in the camps to coerce prisoners into renouncing their rights of repatriation. Prisoners were resisting the C.I.E. programme with its corollary, the torturers and tattooers, and so were mown down by hundreds. From the time the discussions on the prisoner-of-war exchange started until the time the armistice was signed, well over 3,000 prisoners were killed and wounded even according to the greatly minimised reports of the U.N. Command and the I.C.R.C.

The original number of prisoners the Americans admitted holding was 176,000 according to their reports to the I.C.R.C. Later they claimed 44,000 of these were wrongly classified and were in fact "civilian internees." Apart from this there were a certain number of prisoners of the Korean People's Army whose homes were in South Korea. The Americans requested secret sessions to discuss the whole problem, and these were started on March 25, 1952. On the first day the Korean-Chinese side made a compromise offer. They agreed that prisoners with homes in South Korea could return to their homes without being repatriated and that the American figure of 132,000 be taken as a basis for checking the lists to decide just how many prisoners each side would repatriate. They proposed that both sides should accept the principle of full repatriation and write in figures of about 11,000 on the one hand and 132,000 on the other.

Colonel Hickman, who was the American delegate at the time, said he agreed to this in principle, but that the figures might not be exact as certain adjustments would have to be

made. Asked what adjustments he had in mind, he replied, "The only element I can think of is persons taken into custody since the effective date of the previous lists submitted by both sides. One other possibility would be where there were duplications discovered subsequent to the submission of our December 18 list." Later, Hickman added such other factors as deaths and escapes and prisoners whose homes were in South Korea. He said the figure might be reduced by as much as 16,000.

On April 1, Hickman again mentioned specific figures, and said, "We indicated at the beginning of the executive sessions that we considered that 132,000 failed to take into consideration all pertinent factors and was therefore likely to be too high to be the exact figure. We indicated that possibly 116,000 more nearly indicates the magnitude of the exchange..." He then asked for a recess so that both sides could check their lists and make the necessary "adjustments."

"Screening" in Death Camps

The secret sessions were resumed on April 19. The Korean-Chinese side produced the figure of roughly 12,000 to be repatriated. Instead of producing a figure somewhere between 116,000 and 132,000 as he had indicated, Hickman threw down a list of only 70,000. He pretended that by "checking lists," it was intended that each prisoner should individually be asked if he wanted repatriation. The Americans had carried out a "screening" process and 62,000 prisoners had said they preferred "death to repatriation."

The type of thing that happened during the April recess was told by Tsao Ching-shan to neutral nations observers and representatives of the world press at Panmunjom on September 27 this year. He was one of a group of sixty-five prisoners classified as "preferring death to repatriation" who came to the Korean-Chinese side in one group without waiting for explanations to start. He attracted the attention of all present due to the fact that the upper half of his right ear had been slashed off.

"Two days before screening started in April, 1952," said Tsao, "I let it be known that

I wanted to go home. That night, Taiwan agents came to my tent with an American police escort and took me to an isolated tent. I was beaten with clubs until I lost consciousness. Later, water was thrown over me. When I came to, an agent asked me what I intended to do during the screening. I said I wanted to go home. I was beaten again, on the head, body, legs and arms until I lost consciousness. I was again brought round with cold water. They again asked me what I wanted to do. I knew that the only chance I had of saving my life and ever returning home was to say I would refuse repatriation. I answered: 'I do not want to go home.' 'Where do you want to go?' they asked, and I replied, 'Taiwan.' The beating stopped. Next day I was taken to another place to be tattooed. I refused. The agents said, 'You must be tattooed. You said you didn't want to go home. Were you telling us lies?' I was again severely beaten and then agreed to the tattooing.

"One night," Tsao Ching-shan related, "agents went round the tents asking prisoners if any wanted go home. If so, they should stand up and say so, and nothing would happen to them." Despite the obviousness of the provocation, a number did stand up. They were taken away and either stabbed or beaten to death. Later, their bodies were brought back and shown to the prisoners. The agents said, "Look how we deal with Communists."

"Next day," Tsao Ching-shan continued, "screening started. There was a narrow barbed-wire-enclosed corridor, divided in two lengthwise. Prisoners were led in from one end. If they wanted to go home, they continued along the corridor and turned left. If they refused to go home, they turned right. But where you turned left stood a bunch of agents armed with heavy clubs. They crowded round anyone trying to turn left and beat them unmercifully. If you were very lucky and went in a crowd, one or two might get through. But most had no chance. They started to turn left, but under the rain of blows, they had to turn right, myself included."

Later, Tsao was sent to Cheju. It was here that he was punished by having his ear slashed off and a dreadful series of foot-long knife slashes made across his abdomen because he again hinted he still wanted to go home. His mutilated ear, abdominal scars and tattoo marks were all inspected by neutral nations observers.

The Dodd Incident

That Tsao was not lying when he spoke of murders during the screening period, we know from belated press reports that on April 10, "in sight of Brigadier-General Dodd," 33 prisoners were shot dead and 57 were injured. It was only on May 24, however, that this news was reported in the press. Many scores of other prisoners were also massacred during the "screening" period.

The grim lesson of those first months was not lost on the mass of prisoners on Koje. This was the reason why most of them refused to allow "screening" teams and tattooers into their compounds. This was the reason why the prisoners took the desperate move to make their plight known to the world by kidnapping Camp Commandant Brigadier-General Dodd and extracting a promise from Dodd's successor, Colson, that the forcible screening and massacre of prisoners should be halted and that they be treated humanely in the future. The stand of the 80,000 prisoners on Koje was the only way they could defend their rights to repatriation.

They, by their own spilt blood, proved that Hickman, Admiral Joy and Ridgway were cold-blooded liars when they said that all prisoners had been "individually screened." They proved the figure of 70,000 to be pure fantasy. The majority of the 70,000 had never been screened at all. While Hickman was still talking about only 80,000 prisoners being willing to go home, the press was screaming about 80,000 die-hard Reds on Koje who refused to be screened or allow screening teams in the compounds.

The story of Dodd's capture, admissions made, promises given and broken, bloody

reprisals by "Bull" Boatner are too well known to be repeated here. The Americans at Panmunjom later raised the figure from 70,000 to 83,000.

At an earlier session, they had admitted that their objections to the Korean-Chinese repairing airfields after the armistice was only a bargaining point. On April 28, they had offered to withdraw this objection, providing the Korean-Chinese side agreed to reduce the number of neutrals nominated by each side from three to two and to withdraw their nomination of the Soviet Union. But this compromise was only acceptable if the Korean-Chinese side agreed to write off all their prisoners except 70,000. Such an infamous proposal to detain at least 62,000 prisoners as hostages in return for the Americans' relinquishing a non-existent "right" was naturally unacceptable. The Korean-Chinese side was willing to compromise on the question of the neutral nations providing the Americans would give up their demands on the airfields and agree to the repatriation of all prisoners of war. Finally, the Korean-Chinese side agreed to compromise on the number of neutral nations. The Americans withdrew their absurd demands concerning the airfields. From that time—the end of April, 1952—the prisoner-of-war exchange remained the only issue blocking the armistice.

U.S. Breaks Off Talks

After the Dodd incident and the fresh massacres which followed, the Americans could not face the daily exposure at Panmunjom. They began declaring unilateral recesses: first, three days at a time, then, seven and ten days. Finally, they broke off the talks on October 8, 1952.

At that time the American warmongers must have felt a glow of triumph. Their plan had worked. The talks were wrecked. "Voluntary repatriation" had done what their trickery, bombing the neutral zone and scores of formidable obstacles had failed to do. The way was clear to continue and extend the war. They had rejected the October 15 letter from Marshal Kim Il Sung and General Peng Teh-huai demanding the re-opening of the talks

on the basis of the new Korean-Chinese proposal submitted on the very day the talks were broken off but suppressed by the Americans.

The American walk-out occurred just before the General Assembly of the United Nations opened at Lake Success. The Americans were confident that they could get renewed support for their war. Acheson and his deputy, Hickerson, on the very first days of the session demanded more men, equipment and money from their reluctant allies. But although they cracked the whip very hard and loud, there was no response. There was blank, cold silence from their allies. Later, Bradley and other military chiefs came to Korea to see how America would fare if it "went it alone." But Bradley's report that any real military effort would require total mobilisation in America and then that the results were far from certain, came as a painful shock to the loud-mouthed Senators and others screaming for action.

Chairman Mao's Warning

There was much talk of new offensives, amphibian and airborne attacks. The Korean Army and people and the Chinese People's Volunteers calmly prepared to meet any new military adventures as they had faced the previous ones. The loud-mouthed talk of extending the war to China was appropriately dealt with by Chairman Mao Tse-tung in his address to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference on February 7, 1953:

It is necessary to continue strengthening this struggle, because U.S. imperialism insists on detaining the Chinese and Korean prisoners of war, wrecking the armistice negotiations and making wild attempts to extend the aggressive war in Korea. We are for peace. But so long as U.S. imperialism does not give up its arrogance and unreasonable demands and its scheme to extend aggression, the Chinese people can only be determined to go on fighting alongside the Korean people. It is not that we are warlike. We are willing to stop the war at once and leave the remaining questions for later settlement. But U.S. imperialism is not willing to do so. Alright then, the fighting will go on. However many years U.S. imperialism wants to fight, we are ready to fight it, right up to the moment when it is willing to

quit, right up to the moment of complete victory for the Chinese and Korean peoples.

U.S. Forced Back to Talks

America was in a state of complete military bankruptcy in Korea by the end of 1952. The American people were demanding an end to the fighting. America's allies were demanding an end to the fighting. People all over the world were sick and tired of the bloodshed. The objective conditions in early 1953 favoured a new approach to get the Americans back to the conference table. This was made in the Korean and Chinese request for renewed meetings to arrange the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war and their steadfast insistence that out of this agreement should grow the further agreement on the exchange of all prisoners of war. The militarists wriggled this way and that, they tried to use the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners to build up an atrocity campaign, to muddy the atmosphere for further talks. They hemmed and hawed and delayed. But the steadfast attitude of the Korean-Chinese side and the increasing pressure of public opinion forced them back to the conference table. Despite American-sponsored sabotage on the part of Syngman Rhee even after the agreement was signed by both sides on the exchange of prisoners of war, despite the gravest provocations and threats in advance to wreck the agreement, the armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, and shooting stopped at 10 P.M. the same night.

In their patient work of removing every boulder along the path of armistice, by finding a way around the stone wall of "voluntary repatriation" at the end of the path, the Korean-Chinese delegates rendered an inestimable service not only to their own people but to all peace-loving people throughout the world. Their task was made possible, first of all, by the valiant Korean People's Army and their brothers-in-arms, the Chinese People's Volunteers, who, with guns in their hands, firmly defended the frontline of the world peace front. They drew immeasurable support from the Korean and Chinese people and from the mighty world peace movement, which played so great a part in rousing the world's conscience to support the demand to halt American imperialist aggression in Korea.

NEW CHINA IS SINGING

Marie Majarova

Leader of the Czechoslovak Cultural Delegation

AT the kind invitation of the Chinese Government, the Czechoslovak Cultural Delegation has come to celebrate China's National Day together with the Chinese people. They have come to join the Chinese people in their rejoicings at their achievements on the various construction projects of the first year of their five-year plan.

From the news to which we give our absorbed attention, and from the young Chinese literature with its ancient traditions, we of the delegation had learned that the Chinese people are forging ahead unswervingly along the pathway of a new social order with all their tremendous strength and invincible energy, with all their infectious enthusiasm and confidence. But the scene of the October 1st parade so vividly expressive of the joy that springs from the depth of their heart in celebrating the birth of the people's democratic China—is a scene that surpasses all one's expectations.

It was as a great, united, harmonious choir that China, with its hundreds of millions, presented herself to us through its people of Peking.

* * *

The ranks of the people in the October 1st parade are singing; the sound of their voices rises high into the clouds and is carried away in the breath of the early morning. They are singing to the red flags, so bright and beautiful,

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Marie Majarova

that fly over the ancient city towers and gates. The decorations on these city towers are so skilfully made that they enhance their ancient architectural beauty.

We hear the militant songs of the valiant Chinese people's army. Each one of them is a hero, and their song rises in a powerful melody. The roar of the weapons in the hands of the Chinese people serves as a warning to the imperialists. In the measured, united tread of this army, we can hear the echo of footsteps of the heroic Long March of the not distant past. This is an army dear to the hearts of the mothers of the whole world, for it is an army for peace. It fights only to defend peace; it fights only for the happiness of its own people. The tanks are rumbling over the earth; jet planes zoom in the sky. They sing aloud. These melodies fill the hearts of the spectators with firm confidence and unshakeable faith in the defence of peace.

A forest of banners flies over the crowd, over the lovely sun-tanned faces of the working people. They are singing too. This is the song of labour, a guarantee of the future. Among the rainbow shades of colour, we also see the banners of all the peace-loving nations.

Flowers wave high and songs are soaring with excitement as the children cheer the leaders of China. The lilting waves of the children's cheers and songs merge with the sparkling colours of roses, peonies and chrysanthemums. Their song rises high, to their beloved Mao Tse-tung. They fix their gaze



A happy young summer-camper

In a Children's Summer Camp

This year over 400 school-age children of the employees of the Harbin Railway Administration Bureau spent their holidays at a summer camp at Dairen, Northeast China



Youngsters' delight—A picnic under the shady trees

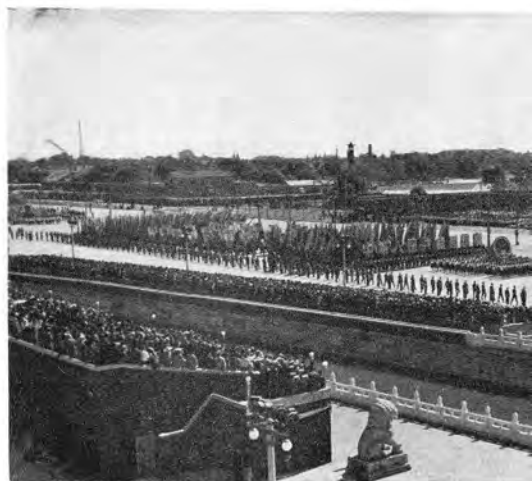
They're climbing to plant the Young Pioneer flags high up on the hills above Dairen



NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS I

On October 1, 1953, the people of China commemorated the fourth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. They celebrated the victories they have gained for world peace, the achieving of the armistice in Korea, the completion of the rehabilitation of their national economy and the launching of their first five-year plan of economic construction leading to the socialist industrialisation of the country.

In Peking's Tien An Men Square, a military parade of units of the People's Liberation Army and a demonstration of 400,000 people were reviewed by Chairman Mao Tse-tung and other leaders of the Central People's Government.



Workers carrying the national emblem and the slogan "the People's Republic of China!" headed the people across Tien An Men Square.



Peking's workers carried charts reporting their production successes and pledged to fulfil and over-fulfil production plans.



Representatives of the Chinese People's Volunteers exchanged cheers with the demonstrators.



Columns of thousands of sportsmen and women typified the nation's youthful energy and vitality.



N PEKING



the slogan "Long Live
the marching columns of
Tien An Men Square



Chu Teh, Commander-in-Chief of the People's Liberation Army,
read his Order of the Day from the rostrum of the Tien An Men
at the start of the National Day military parade in Peking



Tank units of the
People's Liberation
Army in the
military parade



Peasants reported
on their successes
in increasing food
and technical
crops to support
the nation's indus-
trial construction



Representatives of
peace-loving peo-
ple from many
countries celebrat-
ed the great nation-
al festival togeth-
er with the
people of Peking



"CHU YUAN"

A Play About China's Great Patriot-Poet

A new production of Kuo Mo-jo's drama has been presented by the Chinese Youth Art Theatre in Peking to commemorate the 2230th anniversary of the poet Chu Yuan's death. This production is part of the world-wide movement to mark the achievements of the four great men of culture—Chu Yuan, Copernicus, Rabelais and José Martí



Chu Yuan (played by Chao Tan) in his orchard where he has recited his *Ode to the Orange* in praise of the sturdy character of the orange tree



Tricked by a court conspiracy instigated by external enemies, King Huai of the Kingdom of Chu dismisses Chu Yuan from the state's service

Chan Chuan, Chu Yuan's young maid and true disciple, inspired by his lofty character and deep love for his native land and people, spurns the temptations of two treacherous and self-seeking pupils of Chu Yuan



upon Chairman Mao's face which radiates intelligence and goodness. He smiles at them, with great gentleness.

In these days of celebration, everything is singing. Melodies of joy linger in the air. The streets of Peking echo with the roll of dancing steps. The enchanting glitter of fireworks flash in the night sky above Peking—even these blue, green and red sparks are sing-

ing, to the liberation and to the people's leader. The whole of China is singing because the well-clad, well-fed people have put behind them the days of hunger, of brutality, of poverty and humiliation.

The songs of October 1st float in the air; songs of unrestrained joy. They are proudly ushering in the happy future of the Chinese people.

China Celebrates Fourth National Day

October 1, the fourth National Day of New China, was celebrated throughout the country with joyous rallies and colourful parades.

In Peking, 400,000 marched through Tien An Men Square and saluted their leader Mao Tse-tung. Over 10,000 people including leaders of the People's Government, many foreign guests, diplomats, labour heroes and a big delegation of the Chinese People's Volunteers watched this central event of the day from the reviewing stands.

At 9:55 a.m., Chairman Mao Tse-tung appeared on the rostrum with Vice-Chairmen Chu Teh, Liu Shao-chi, Soong Ching Ling, Li Chi-shen, Chang Lan and Kao Kang, Secretary-General Lin Po-chu, Premier Chou En-lai and other leaders of the Central People's Government.

At 10 a.m., after the ceremonial artillery salute, Commander-in-Chief Chu Teh reviewed the troops and then returned to the rostrum to read the Order of the Day. The military parade included column after column of infantry, parachutists, airmen, navymen, cavalry, motorised troops, armoured vehicles, artillery and tanks while jet planes swept overhead.

Following the military parade came the demonstration of the working people. First were the workers in massive columns 70 abreast bearing the portraits of the people's leaders of all lands. Masters of their country, the workers carried huge signs and charts showing their latest achievements in production and pledges for still greater successes in the march to industrialisation.

As the thousands of happy, cheering Young Pioneers and school children saluted their leader, they loosed hundreds of doves and coloured balloons over the gaily decorated Square. Then came the columns of peasants in bright new clothes, government workers, students and citizens of Peking and the art and literary workers and representatives of the national minorities who concluded the demonstration with the most colourful groups of dancers and drum and cymbal players.

In Shanghai, over one million people marched through the streets. Machine-building, steel and building workers displayed huge charts and diagrams showing their achievements in support of the Huai River and other construction projects.

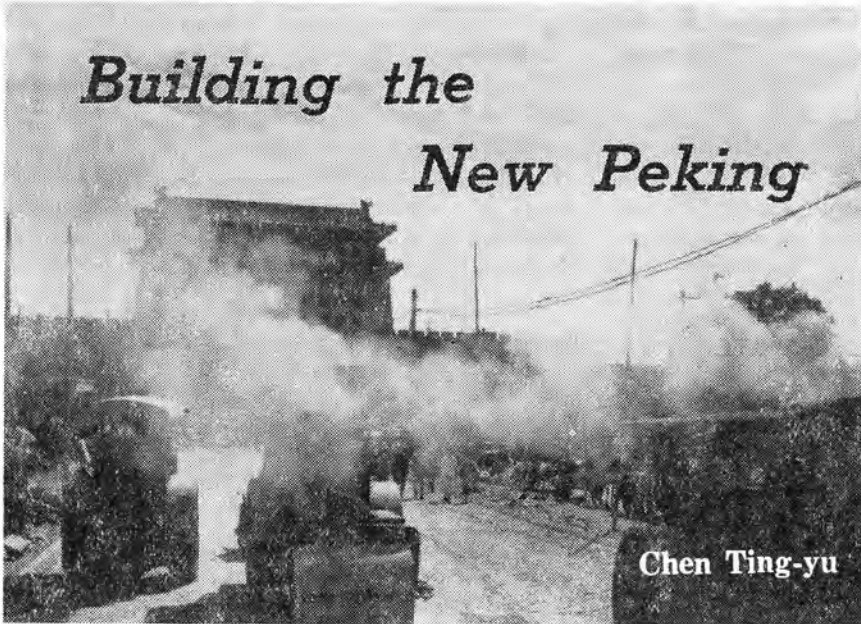
Sixty thousand people paraded the streets of Tientsin. Workers proudly reported their successes and announced their pledges of further achievements: 70 factories overfulfilled their September quotas, and building workers pledged to complete a huge new hospital three months ahead of schedule. In Shenyang, 380,000 workers paraded. Machine-builders attracted the attention of spectators with models of many new products. In Sian, Shensi Province, 200,000 people attended a celebration rally followed by a parade. Wuhan held a rally of 180,000 people.

Over 300,000 people, including units of the land, sea and air forces from the southernmost frontiers of the country, participated in the celebration and parade held in Canton. The watermen of the Pearl River held a great parade of boats.

In Chungking, the columns of industrial workers announced their success in overfulfilling their plans, particularly for heavy steel rails, which has given powerful support to the construction of the Lanchow-Sinkiang and Tienshui-Chengtu Railways.

More than 5,000 residents of Lhasa celebrated National Day at the public square in front of the Potala Palace. At Shigatse, the National Day celebrations were attended by more than 6,000 people. Representatives of the Panchen Lama's office and of the Local Tibetan Government hailed the great occasion.

Building the New Peking



Chen Ting-yu

PEKING, the beautiful and magnificent, is today faced with new demands as the capital of People's China in an era of flourishing advance. It is launched in a period of rapid reconstruction that will make it larger, more convenient and more beautiful for the people; a city of modern industry, creative cultural activity and efficient administration for the world's most populous nation.

New Peking, with the old city as its centre, is expanding in every direction. To facilitate communications between the busy centre and its growing suburbs, many new gates have been opened in its encircling 40-kilometre-long city wall. The new, greater Peking will cover an area ten times the original 62 square kilometres of the old. Its population will increase to double its present 2,700,000. And this expansion is being undertaken according to an overall plan. It will avoid the haphazard growth that has made so many cities of capitalist countries characterless agglomerations of buildings with festering slums for the masses.

A People's Capital

The old Peking was unique among the cities of the world. The new Peking has inherited its lovely palaces, massive but finely

proportioned gate towers, beautifully designed stone bridges over its lakes and canals; its many gardens with splendid buildings and pavilions, temples, altars and archways — various and diverse architectural units, built by the genius of the working people of China; individual artistic masterpieces grouped in wonderfully effective ensembles.

But the old Peking as a whole was built according

to the needs of the feudal court. It must be radically transformed to meet the demands of a growing people's capital. The original plan has an 8-kilometre-long axial line running due north and south, about which are grouped the imperial palaces and shrines whose magnificence was intended to awe the people. To travel from one end of Peking to the other, ordinary folks at great inconvenience had to by-pass the vast "Forbidden City" in the heart of old Peking. The many city walls and two city moats, built by the feudal rulers to protect themselves in case of attack, also greatly hamper communications. The spacious avenues were reserved for the court. The people had to use the inconvenient narrow lanes.

When the warlords and imperialists replaced old Peking's feudal court, such modern facilities as asphalted roads, electricity, running water, etc., were introduced, but only in the eastern and western parts of the city—the residential quarters of the rich and influential. The working people were crowded together in the slums. Here, in dry weather, the air was yellow with gritty dust; in the rainy season, the roads were muddy swamps. Stagnant ponds and ditches were clogged with filth and silt; they exuded diseases which menaced the health of the people.

Peking of the past was a typical consumer city, living on tribute squeezed from all parts of the empire. Until its liberation, it had little industry, and commerce was mainly limited to imports. Some delicate handicrafts were cultivated, but almost exclusively for the use of the exploiting classes.

The new Peking has taken the heritage of the old and is transforming it. The new city is being planned and rebuilt as a people's capital. It will develop a modern industry. Municipal construction will serve production and the working people. Old buildings which are of cultural value and can be used to the advantage of the people, will be preserved as parts of new architectural ensembles. All city planning is controlled by a committee formed by the municipal people's government, and the first steps of a fifteen- to twenty-year development plan are already being put into effect.

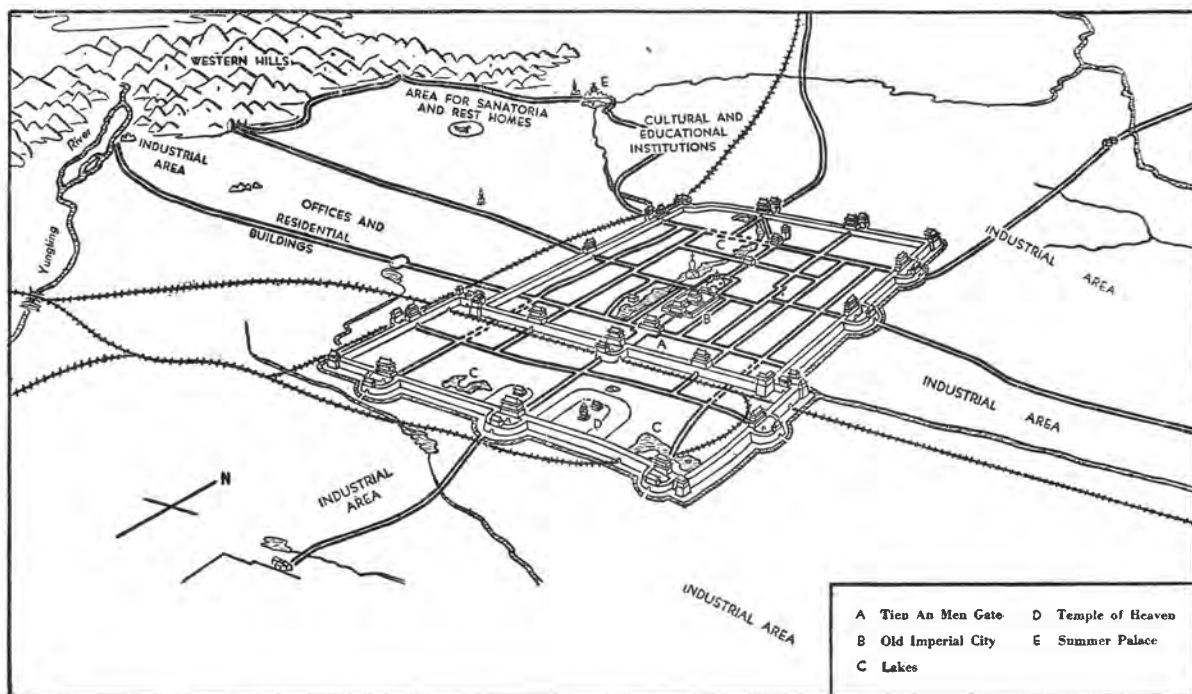
New Zones

Peking, a city with a glorious and ancient cultural heritage, will become one of the world's greatest modern cultural centres. Not

very long ago, only a few buildings dotted the *kaoliang* fields which stretched right up to the northwestern walls of Peking. Today, this area is developing into a large centre for scientific and cultural training and research. The buildings of twenty-five universities, technical and political schools, and five research institutes have been or are being raised here. Two hundred and twenty thousand square metres of new floor space will be built this year for six separate institutes of industry, of geology, steel and iron, oil, mining, and aeronautics. In five years' time, the floor space of dormitories and school buildings for these six institutes will be nearly four times this figure. Tens of thousands of technicians for heavy industrial construction will be trained here to serve the various centres of large-scale national construction.

A multi-storied building will soon be constructed for the Academia Sinica. It will be the centre of this new district which will expand to an area as big as old Peking.

West of the city another new district is developing. Along both sides of two broad avenues, hundreds of many-storied office build-



A sketch map showing how Peking is expanding

ings and apartments are rising amid a forest of scaffolding and reinforced concrete frames. This area, too, was covered with cultivated fields only a year or two ago. Now, throbbing with the rhythm of cement mixers, cranes and other sounds of construction, it is taking shape as a residential and office centre.

Peking is no longer a consumer city. The northeastern and southeastern suburbs are growing into industrial areas with light industrial enterprises, chemical and precision instrument works and plants. Since the prevailing wind is from the northwest, this will keep the centre of the city free from smoke and dust; and since topographically, Peking slopes from northwest to southeast, the liquid refuse of the factories will also flow away from the city centre. Many new factories and auxiliary structures are now under construction. These include a new cotton mill with a floor space of nearly 90,000 square metres. This is one of the ten biggest textile mills to be built in China since the liberation. The Peking Machine Tools Works, which will be built in the near future, will be the largest of their kind in the area. When completed, they will produce annually over 2,000 milling machines of various types. Shihchingshan, the heavy industrial area, the Mentoukou coal-mining area, and Changhsintien, where a large railway workshop is situated (all over 20 kilometres west or south of Peking proper), will also constitute a part of greater Peking.

To the west of Peking lie the famous Summer Palace and the pictureque Western Hills. Here will be Peking's main rest and resort centre. In the past, these places were exclusively the pleasure-grounds of the royal families; now they have become the resorts of the working people. More and more sanatoria, hospitals and summer rest homes are being built here. One is the 300-bed tuberculosis hospital which will be for students from all parts of Asia. Part of the buildings of the Summer Palace itself have been turned into rest homes for Peking's workers.

Inside the City Walls

The district within the old city walls of Peking will be the centre of the new city. Many new office buildings, residences, schools,

hospitals and other institutions have emerged or are rising in this city, the construction of which had come to a standstill for many years. Many-storied buildings are adding new beauty to the old, low structures.

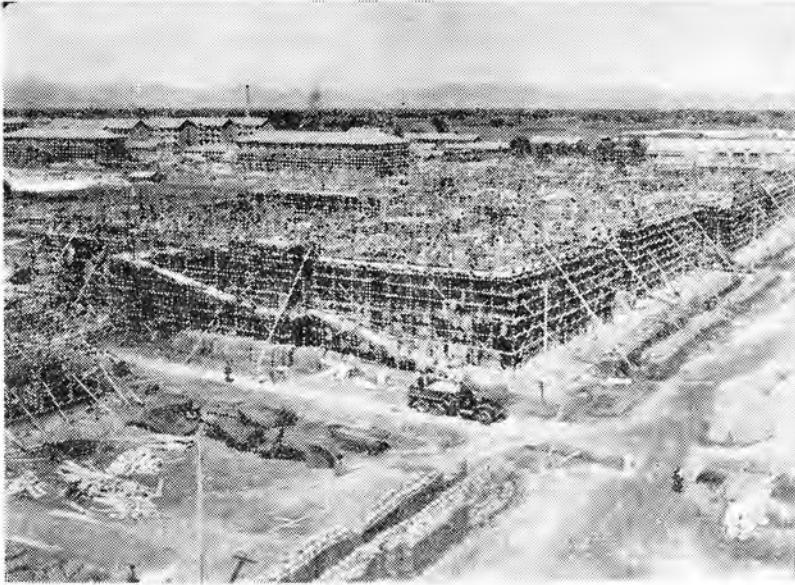
The area in the vicinity of Tien An Men (Gate of Heavenly Peace), the symbol of New China, and the heart of the city, will continue to be the nation's political centre. Here are the central institutions of the People's Government and the Communist Party.

At the southern end of Tien An Men Square, a Monument to the Fallen People's Heroes is now being built. It will tower 36.5 metres high and weigh more than 10,000 tons. The base will carry ten large bas-reliefs depicting the heroic deeds of the Chinese people's revolutionary struggle during the past century, and especially during the Anti-Japanese War and the War of Liberation. This great monument is scheduled to be completed in 1955. It is the nation's tribute to those who fell in the struggle for the new China.

Peking, the people's capital, is a hospitable city with many guests. Many new hotels and hostels are being built. This will enable the capital to accommodate conveniently its ever-growing number of guests and visitors: both those who come from every corner of China to confer on official or private business or simply touring; the many foreign guests who come in the cause of peace and friendship or to promote the interflow of culture or trade; and the Soviet specialists who assist China in her national construction.

In the past, there were very few amusement centres in the southern and northern sections of the city, which were mainly inhabited by the working people; and these had few pretensions to cleanliness or comfort. These centres have now been renovated and four new theatres and cinemas are being built there.

There are many more such instances of concern for the working people by their People's Government. Since liberation, scores of thousands of rooms have been built as living quarters for the workers; this has provided a preliminary solution to the housing problem which the reactionary rulers were unable and



Peking's northwestern suburbs are being developed into a great cultural centre. The geological institute in the foreground is one of 30 educational and research institutions already completed or under construction

unwilling to solve. Many stagnant bodies of water or waste ground detrimental to the health of the inhabitants have been transformed into swimming pools, skating rinks or gardens. Open sewers have been replaced by underground conduits. Roads have been repaired; trees planted. Running tap water is now available to all residents in Peking. A complete running tap water system has been built for the 28,000 workers and their family members in Mantoukou mining district, where the inhabitants in the past mainly used the dirty water discharged from the coal pits.

During the current year, a total of 2,700,000 square metres of floor space will be built in Peking. This is almost one-fifth of the floor space available in 1952. Seventy per cent of the new buildings are being constructed with reinforced concrete or mixtures of such permanent materials.

New Amenities

Adopting the proposals of the Soviet architects and city planning specialists, the City Planning Committee for new Peking pays the most careful attention, both in planning and construction, to the artistic unity of the city's buildings and to enriching their characteristic national style. The buildings of the

new Peking will reflect the life and thought of the people of New China. The advanced Soviet principle of giving top priority to the convenience, health and sanitary requirements of residents will be applied down to the smallest details. In planning permanent blocks of houses, adequate open space will be reserved for gardens and public squares. All the present sub-standard housing of Peking will be replaced gradually by dwellings fit for the working people.

Peking is already a green city. In the future it will be a garden city. In the new plan, the Imperial Palace, the Temple of Heaven, the Chunghai and Nanhai Lakes, the Summer Palace, the Jade Fountain Hill and the Western Hills—all the storied centres of historic and scenic interest, will be connected up by a network of parks and shady boulevards. To facilitate navigation and boating, the moat surrounding the city walls will be widened to 59 metres, and both sides of it will be landscaped. The city will be surrounded by green belts of groves, market gardens and pastures.

Step by step, the project of beautifying Peking is being taken in hand. Over two million saplings of about 100 species are now being raised in the Western Hills for trans-

planting to Peking. Here also a forest-belt is being cultivated. Fifty million trees will be grown to keep away the sands and high winds from the city, and they will do much to eventually transform Peking's natural environment and mellow its climate.

New Road System

These changes naturally necessitate the reconstruction of Peking's road system. Many new roads have been built and many repaired and improved. Over 210 kilometres of new roadways will be built this year, and this, added to what was constructed in the past three years, will exceed by one and a half times the total length of roadways built during the forty years before liberation. Many of the old narrow muddy lanes have been relaid and surfaced with asphalt.

The new districts that are being added to Peking will be connected to the centre of the city by wide main roads, so that inhabitants in the suburbs, in addition to enjoying their own local public and cultural establishments, can conveniently visit the theatres, cinemas and other cultural institutions and parks, trading companies, co-operatives and department stores of the central district.

Supplementing the original plan of roadways, the new roads, in the main, run from north to south and east to west. With the old city as a centre, new main roads will also radiate out to all the new areas to constitute an integrated network. The main roads, about 100 metres wide, will be connected by secondary roads and branches. High-speed and long-distance vehicles will be directed along certain main roads so that a maximum of safety and quiet may be ensured to districts of public buildings and the residential areas. Trolley buses and motor buses will serve the main and secondary roads. For the future development of Peking and complete solution of its transport problem, an underground railway will be built to connect all the most important points.

Good Water Supplies

Peking has for years suffered a shortage of water. Drinking water is either got from

wells or conducted from a lake in the western outskirts. This problem, however, will soon be fundamentally settled. On the upper reaches of the Yungting River, 100 kilometres to the northwest of Peking, the Kuanting Reservoir will be completed next year. In addition to preventing floods, irrigating farmlands and generating power, the Reservoir, with an area of 230 square kilometres, will supply ample running water to Peking. This and other smaller auxiliary projects, when completed in 1954 or a little later, will completely solve the problem of Peking's water supply both for drinking and industrial use. The Tung Hui River to the east of the city will also be deepened and lengthened so that boats and steam launches will be able to sail from the capital to Tientsin, the largest trading and commercial port in North China. This will greatly reduce freight charges and facilitate new Peking's industrial and commercial prosperity.

It is possible for Peking to undertake such a largescale planned reconstruction because its government is in the hands of the people and is therefore able to take decisions in the interests of the people as a whole. A special housing-control committee is authorised to purchase land in the environs of Peking with suitable compensation or other provisions made for its present occupants, who take, as all citizens do, a fine pride in their city. Thus the endless and finally insuperable difficulties that meet city-planners in capitalist countries are obviated in New China. Selfish vested interests cannot stand in the way of the common good and hold to ransom needed public developments.

Peking is keeping abreast with the speedy progress of New China. The rapid development of Peking testifies to the increasingly happy life of the Chinese people. This ancient city is seemingly growing younger. Never in the past has it demonstrated such creative power as it does today—as the capital of People's China, a capital serving the needs of the peaceful creative labour and happy life of the masses.

A Steel Worker

Chen Miao

I

AS soon as the crane had loaded all the charge, Sun, the old master worker, turned around to speak to Pei-sheng whose heart had begun to pound with excitement. Pei-sheng felt uneasy, as if pins were pricking him all over. But Master Sun was a changed man on this day. With his face flushed as if he had just drunk some liqueur, he said to Pei-sheng with a broad smile: "Well, how is it, young man? If you want to learn how to make steel, you must have an iron will. You'd better quit if you have a shilly-shally nature. Do you think you'll be alright?"

Straightening up, Pei-sheng answered, "Yes, I'll be alright." Seeing him answer so determinedly, old Sun felt a secret joy. Slapping Pei-sheng on the back as if to test his strength, he said encouragingly: "Very well then."

By this time all the workers at the furnace had gathered around them and were looking at Pei-sheng with curious but brotherly eyes, as if bidding him welcome to this factory. Master Sun told them to go and look after the iron runner behind the furnace, then turned to Pei-sheng and said: "Get ready, young man. Put on your canvas overalls, take that big iron rake there and draw out some of the slag from the tapping hole." This was what Master Sun usually set a new apprentice to do, to test whether he could stand the heat.

While putting on the heavy canvas overalls, Pei-sheng bit his lip and thought: "I don't care what you are, iron or steel. I'll chew you like I do a piece of meat!" He lifted up the rake and thrust at the tapping hole with all his might. The rake instantly bounced back, as if it had hit something with springs in

it. His dander up, Pei-sheng took a step forward and tried a second time. Again he failed. But he was not to be discouraged. Planting himself squarely in front of the furnace, he succeeded in making an opening.

A flash of white light in the red-hot furnace blinded him. He felt as if a knife was cutting his nose and cheeks, and his eyes were burning with fire. Vaguely, he saw Master Sun standing there, immovable as a statue, as if watching a play. Bracing himself, he set to work again. The overall he wore had become extremely hot. Whenever he moved, he seemed to be scorched by a burning metal sheet. Summoning up all his resolution, he made a final effort. Like a huge stone rolling down a mountain, something fell into the slag ladle. Something white and shining flowed out of the furnace. It was only then that Pei-sheng threw down the rake from which sparks flew in all directions. He was perspiring furiously, feeling somewhat dizzy.

"Feeling warm?" Master Sun asked.

"No!" answered Pei-sheng, trying with difficulty to keep calm.

Master Sun laughed. "This fellow is tough," he thought to himself. "A real man, I should think." Turning to Pei-sheng, he said: "This is only the first step on a long journey, and remember, you must have a strong will if you wish to achieve anything."

When work was over, Pei-sheng went home as happy as a lark, forgetting the day's toil and weariness.

II

One day the workers were mending the furnace. Every one of them held a spade in his hands and shovelled magnesium through the tapping hole by turns. Master Sun stood

The author is a well-known writer.

by, watching them through dark goggles. Scooping up a good spadeful of magnesium, Pei-sheng shovelled it with a swing into the tapping hole. But when he was about to move away again, Master Sun shouted at the top of his voice: "Hey, there, where are you shoving that stuff?" Turning back, Pei-sheng saw Master Sun glowering at him with the white of his eyes raised above his glasses. He apologised with a smile, but Master Sun was not appeased. Gripping Pei-sheng by the arm, he said: "You can't laugh a mistake off, young man! See what you have done!" Pei-sheng turned back to have a look. He saw the surface of the molten metal dotted with dark spots; his spadeful of magnesium had not reached the back wall of the furnace. He felt very uneasy—he couldn't tell whether it was because he was ashamed of what he had done or because Master Sun had been so harsh with him.

A few days later, someone reported that several tiles had fallen off the workshop roof. Pei-sheng had taken off his heavy work boots and was just putting on his shoes when he found that the laces were broken. In his stocking feet, he scrambled up the roof, and with the help of the workers below, got it mended. Coming down from the roof, he felt so tired that he could hardly breathe. His canvas overall was soaked through with perspiration. Looking down he suddenly found that his foot was cut and bleeding. He didn't pay much attention to it, but simply wiped off the blood with his hand.

At the after-work meeting of his team that day, everyone commended Pei-sheng's good work and courage. He tried to look indifferent, but his smiling face betrayed his joy. Suddenly, Master Sun broke in bluntly: "I should say that your commendations are a bit unwarranted." All present were non-plussed and Pei-sheng was thunderstruck.

Master Sun went on: "True, Pei-sheng is active and courageous in his work, but he should be criticised nevertheless. As the saying goes: 'Haste makes waste.' The laces of his shoes were broken and he did not get them changed in time. And now his foot is bleeding. Shouldn't this be criticised?"

The workers agreed that he was right. Pei-sheng bowed his head and said nothing. Quietly he listened to Master Sun's lesson, that one should always be careful even with small things.

At home, after dinner, Pei-sheng lay on the *kang* and brooded over what had happened. He said to himself: "Looks like the old man is always concerned with trifles. Maybe he was just trying to find fault with me?" Suddenly he heard someone calling at the door: "Is Pei-sheng at home?" It was the deep voice of Master Sun. He got up hurriedly, but he had not yet reached the door when Master Sun entered. When Pei-sheng saw his kind and smiling face, his heart began to throb. He felt as if Master Sun had heard what he had just thought, and, in spite of himself, he blushed with shame.

When Master Sun sat down, Pei-sheng was afraid he would mention what had happened that day. But Sun seemed to have forgotten the incident; he only chatted pleasantly about this and that.

Before he left, Master Sun took a little book from his pocket, saying that it was a book on metallurgy given to him by the engineer. He told Pei-sheng to read it when he had time. Book in hand, Pei-sheng looked at Master Sun. He saw the older man to the door, feeling as if there was something he would like to say to him. But having walked with him for some distance, he remained silent, then retraced his steps back to his room.

The next day, addressing a study meeting of the Youth League, Director Chang told a story about an old worker, which left a deep impression on Pei-sheng's mind. He found that he could not forget it whether walking along or just sitting quietly, or even when he was lying in bed in his warm cot.

Twenty years ago when the factory was built, the Japanese were afraid that the Chinese might learn the skill of making steel. The only workers allowed near the open-hearth furnace were those who swept the platform and tidied up for the Japanese. But there was one worker who was bent on

learning; quietly and secretly he watched and observed. Without betraying his intentions, he learned the technique of making steel.

One day, the Japanese were examining the test sample to ascertain the carbon content of the steel. Each was writing separate slips to see who could get the correct figure. One of them said to this worker, who was standing by, "Do you know anything about it?" The worker replied, "A little." The Japanese raised his eyebrows contemptuously and said: "What do you know? Let's see." The worker picked up the sample, examined it, and jotted down a figure on a slip of paper. The laboratory test showed that his estimate was the most accurate, while the figures of the Japanese were wrong.

This caused a great disturbance among the Japanese. The furnace foreman reported the matter to the director, who in turn reported it to the department head. They stared at one another, shook their heads, muttered and whispered among themselves. Some said the worker had simply hit on the right figure; some said he was just guessing. But the director shook his head and said it was not so simple. The foreman then remembered that every time after the steel sample had been used, this worker took it to throw away on the scrap pile, but before he threw it away he always examined it carefully, and when the laboratory tests came out he was always cocking his ears. His remark reminded the rest of what they too had noticed. The department head then made a decision: the worker was put on a rough unskilled job, carrying heavy bales.

As Pei-sheng pondered over the story, he was filled with deep anger. How hateful the Japanese aggressors were, as though it were a crime for the Chinese to learn some skill! "How hard it was to be a worker in those days," he told himself. Then he suddenly wondered if this worker was still living, and what he was like now. He regretted that he had not asked. It was only later that he learned that the worker was no other than Master Sun. He was dumb-founded and thought: "So it's Master Sun who is with me every day!"

Thereafter, whenever Pei-sheng met Master Sun, he would gaze at him, fascinated, unable to tear his eyes away from the old man's whiskers and the flushed cheeks, toasted a pomegranate-red by the fire.

When the time came to repair the furnace again, Master Sun saw through his goggles that a spadeful of magnesium mixture, rounded into a soft lump, had been placed squarely on the concave spot on the back wall of the furnace. Glancing sidewise, he discovered that it was Pei-sheng doing the job. He nodded approvingly and cried, "Good!" Master Sun taught Pei-sheng how to examine the test samples. His heart was happy when he saw Pei-sheng looking at the sample with great concentration, turning it over and over in his hands.

When Director Chang asked about Pei-sheng, Master Sun said: "Not bad. He understands everything as soon as you teach him, and he takes every word into his head. He's a good worker."

Another day was ending. Master Sun had gone to a meeting. The first and second helpers, being busy with other things, were also away somewhere. Pei-sheng alone was in charge of the furnace. At one moment he took up a pair of goggles and peered through the slit; at another he stood by, seemingly lost in thought. His face wore a gloomy look. He was still pondering over the talk he had at the Youth League branch at noon. He felt that he should become a Youth League member now. The secretary of the Youth League branch had also said that he had made rapid progress, but, he added, not enough. He advised Pei-sheng to learn even more modestly from the masses, and to go through a long period of steeling. Listening to him, Pei-sheng had felt unhappy, as though his heart were burdened by something.

At that moment Director Chang came up with a pair of goggles in his hand. He glanced through the slit. "Look," he said, turning to Pei-sheng, "a brick on the port is broken. Get it repaired quickly, otherwise when the gas enters it will not burn well." Pei-sheng said, "Yes," and Director Chang went away. A few minutes later, it was time to change

shifts, and Pei-sheng passed the task over to his replacement.

The shifts changed—from A to B and from B to C. The next day when their shift had just begun, Director Chang came again. Bending to take a look, he found not only that the brick had not yet been repaired but the crevice had got even bigger. Calling Pei-sheng he said: "See that?" His voice was quite sharp. Pei-sheng saw at a glance that the thing had got worse. He felt uneasy but said nothing.

"Why wasn't it repaired?" Director Chang asked. From his tone, Pei-sheng made out that the director was putting the blame on him. "Soon after you told me yesterday, I went off duty," he said in self-justification, "I told Shift B to do it and who is to blame if they didn't?" Director Chang was normally a soft-spoken man, but his answer was deliberately severe, "Since I assigned you the task, you should be responsible for it. If they didn't do their duty, you can take them to task. If you didn't do yours, I hold you responsible."

Pei-sheng felt extremely hurt. After Director Chang had gone, he got the brick repaired at once.

Lying in bed that night, Pei-sheng found it difficult to go to sleep; the more he tried to close his eyes, the more wide awake he was. His thoughts ran riot; he went over all the experiences he had had since coming to the factory more than a year before.... All of a sudden he realised why the secretary of the Youth League branch had said that he should be modest and go through more tempering.

The next morning Master Sun was barely awake when Pei-sheng rushed in quite out of breath, startling him. "I have committed a blunder," he said as soon as he entered the room. Panting, he told how he had behaved badly in front of the director. "You sit down," said Master Sun. "I want to talk with you." Pei-sheng sat uneasily on the edge of a chair. Getting down from the *kang*, Master Sun seated himself on the chair opposite Pei-sheng. "Do you know of any time in the past when we workers had a share in anything!" he began. "But now since Chairman Mao has led our revolution to victory, you have a share in

running the country, this factory and our No. 5 open-hearth furnace, understand?..." Master Sun's voice got louder and louder and he seemed to have forgotten himself. His wife, hovering around him, began to look anxious.

Pei-sheng's eyes never left Master Sun's face. Jumbled impressions arose in his mind. It seemed as if he could trace from Master Sun's face his past sufferings. His eyes swam with tears.

Then Master Sun stopped to take a breath and said, "the trouble with me is I am a little too severe...."

Pei-sheng raised his head. "No, not at all, Master Sun, every one of your words is right." As he said this, two big tears dropped on his coat.

III

When the first helper was transferred to another furnace last autumn, Pei-sheng was promoted to be second helper. Then Master Sun started to teach him new things.

One day when they were making soft steel, Master Sun said, "Pei-sheng, this heat has now been put under your care; you will answer for the quality of the steel." Turning to the other workers, he said, "Today Pei-sheng's words are law. You should all listen to his directions." Then he went aside and sat down to watch.

Bracing himself to shoulder the task, Pei-sheng felt as though he was carrying a heavy load on his back, and concentrated on the work. Like an ant in a frying pan, he dashed to and fro seeing how the work was going. When should the charge be added, and how much? Things he had handled from morning to night everyday now seemed to have escaped his mind. Calculating and racking his brains, hot with haste and anxiety, he was soon sweating all over. But Master Sun just sat there, smiling and silent!

Pei-sheng directed his fellow workers to add the charge, looked at the test sample and then added some manganese. After a while, the bell rang for the molten steel to be

tapped. The sound seemed to strike right at his heart. This was the first heat of steel made under his supervision from beginning to end. As his heart pounded, the molten metal poured like a torrent into the ladle. The workshop was illuminated by the white-hot steel stream emitting myriads of golden sparks.

The tapping had come to an end. The result of the analysis showed that the quality of the steel was up to specifications. When a worker ran in to announce the happy news, everybody shouted and jumped, as elated as when the first furnace of steel had been tapped after the steel plant was repaired. Pei-sheng breathed out heavily; it seemed that the tremendous weight he was carrying was removed with this exhalation, and he felt as light-hearted as if he were walking on air. But when people tendered their congratulations to him, mopping the perspiration on his face, he felt a warning bell ringing in his mind.

Master Sun came forward, through the workers surrounding Pei-sheng; now his whole face revealed the great joy he felt. "Pei-sheng, so the steel is made!" he said, smiling. Pei-sheng looked at him for a long time, not knowing what to answer. At last he said in a low voice, "It is easy to look at flowers but hard to embroider them. This batch of steel is just a start!" Hearing this, Master Sun burst into a laugh.

In spring this year, Wang Pei-sheng's application to join the Youth League was approved. Soon afterwards, the leadership ordered that a group of promising young workers be sent to study in industrial technical schools, where they would be trained to become specialists—specialists from the working class. Director Chang drew up the list of recommendations. On the piece of paper in front of him he wrote without hesitation: "Wang Pei-sheng."

Book Review

"That's Why I Went"

— Monica Felton on Korea

Chen Ti-chiang

THE shooting has now stopped on the Korean front, but the memory of the crimes perpetrated by the American invaders in Korea must not and will not be forgotten by all honest and peace-loving people. They will remain as a constant spur to the efforts and vigilance of all those who desire peace and oppose aggressive wars. It is therefore an essential part of the struggle for peace that the record of barbarity of the U.S. forces in Korea should be made known. Among such accounts, Mrs.

Monica Felton's book, *That's Why I Went*, occupies an important place. It is important not because it contains complete or comprehensive information, but because it presents the observations of an intelligent woman of the world who, like many in the West, persisted in doubting the existence of any American atrocities in Korea up to the very moment when she came face to face with them. Having come, heard and seen, she was appalled and was convinced.

Facts speak more eloquently than any form of propaganda. As every honest person must, Mrs. Felton drew the inevitable conclusions from the facts she saw. She followed this with

That's Why I Went, 168 pp. by Monica Felton, Lawrence & Wishart, London, 1953.

courageous action: instead of keeping silent, she stood up and protested. She was fully aware of the personal consequences (which included the almost immediate loss of her local government position in England) and even foresaw the possibility of a trumped-up charge of treason. Yet, nothing daunted, she raised her voice as a woman and a human being against the unbelievable acts of savagery which had been committed in the name of "democracy" and "civilisation."

Thanks to the conscientious and painstaking investigations of Mrs. Felton and her colleagues, the tribunal of the world's conscience is now in possession of an additional array of evidence with which to condemn the imperialist aggressors.

An Eyewitness Account

Mrs. Felton's book is an eyewitness account of the war-ravaged condition of Korea which she saw during a tour of the country as a member of a delegation organised by the World Federation of Democratic Women. Of its eleven chapters, the first five deal mainly with her journey and describe her thoughts and attitude prior to arriving in Korea. She kept an open mind, determined to be objective, resolutely resisting any circumstance that might in any way compromise her position of impartiality. But after seeing Korea, she could no longer keep aloof; she threw in her lot with the cause of peace. Mrs. Felton's story of her own conversion is typical of the impact of truth on a sane, just and unbiased mind.

In Chapters 6 to 10, Mrs. Felton vividly describes her experiences in Korea. During her brief but eventful stay there, she and her colleagues carried out numerous on-the-spot investigations. They examined evidence and interrogated witnesses. Conscious of the importance of their work, they maintained a judicial standard of objectivity and thoroughness. This is how they conducted their investigations:

We had observed calmly, exercising a control that must often have made us appear to the Koreans not merely cold but positively heartless. We had questioned mercilessly, and now, as we compared experiences and worked on our report, we were equally merciless in the way in which we questioned each other, eliminating from the story we had to tell to the world every statement

which could not be confirmed in the most minute detail. (P. 167)

It is not possible here to describe even in the barest outline the inferno to which Korea had been reduced by the American invaders. Peaceful towns were razed to the ground. Hospitals with huge Red Cross signs on the roof were bombed from low altitudes in broad daylight. The recent boast of the American authorities that the quantity of bombs dropped in Korea was equal to the total quantity dropped on Germany during all the years of the Second World War gives an indication of the scale of destruction, and, in view of the scarcity of military objectives in Korea, also gives an idea of the extent of civilian damage. During the dark days of the American occupation of Pyongyang and other cities, men, women and children were massacred by the thousands for not divulging the whereabouts of their relatives, or for no reason at all. Mrs. Felton personally visited caves in which hundreds of Koreans were burned to death by Americans who poured petrol on them.

Mrs. Felton came across countless stories of a similar nature. They all add up, to use the author's own words, "to a total picture of ruthless brutality that was beyond imagination." (P. 154) The picture is one of an effort to destroy a whole people, an entire civilisation in order to impose a foreign rule.

Mrs. Felton bears witness not only to this wanton destruction, but also to the fiendish plan of which it was a part. Together with her colleagues, she personally examined original documents captured at Seoul which prove conclusively the guilt of the Syngman Rhee gang and their American masters for initiating the war. These papers were carefully examined by the two lawyer members of the delegation, and their genuineness was established beyond doubt.

The world has the right to know the truth of the origin and consequences of the Korean war. The people of the capitalist countries, and of the United States and Great Britain in particular, should be thankful to Mrs. Felton for laying before them the true picture of the Korean war, for making them aware of the truth—that unless American imperialism is curbed, the fate of Korea awaits many other peoples, both of the East and West.



The people's forces defending a strategic height against Kuomintang attacks. A scene from the film "From Victory to Victory"

"From Victory to Victory"

A Film Dealing with Mao Tse-tung's Military Strategy

"FROM VICTORY TO VICTORY,"* a new film of the Shanghai Film Studios, was presented at the Chinese Film Week held in Czechoslovakia and Korea in October this year to mark the fourth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

This film, which marks a further advance by the Chinese cinema on the road of realism, gives a lucidly clear answer to an important question: How was the People's Liberation Army able to win its victories in the War of Liberation against a numerically stronger and far better equipped Kuomintang Army? It deals with various aspects of Chairman Mao

Tse-tung's brilliant military strategy that played a key role in these victories.

The basic aim of this strategy in the first stage of the War of Liberation was the destruction of the enemy's manpower and not the holding of cities or territory; that the success of each operation must be prepared by the concentration of an absolute superiority of forces in each individual case, with the aim of encircling and completely destroying the enemy; while avoiding unprepared battles the successful outcome of which was not assured.

The film treats its intricate and responsible theme—to show this strategy of Mao Tse-tung in action—with skill and clarity, and this result is intimately bound up with the actors' convincing portrayal of their roles, and the

* The original title of this film was "Fighting North to South."

authenticity of detail and general conception of the film.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung taught the revolutionary forces which he reared the strategy of mobile warfare in the War of Liberation in China. He taught them to advance and to withdraw boldly, and to be concerned about the gain or loss of a city or a locality only in relation to the main aim—the annihilation of the enemy's manpower on a large scale. The application of these strategic principles constitutes the central theme of the film.

Retreat to Victory

The audience is introduced to a certain battalion of the P.L.A. operating near the borders of Shantung and Kiangsu Provinces in the early spring of 1947, about half a year after the start of the War of Liberation. Retreating northwards on foot, the battalion crosses the Sha River and approaches Tao Village. Liu Yun-kuei, a young fighter whose family lives in the village, cannot help remarking somewhat bitterly to a comrade: "Victory after victory, yet we retreat!" That night, the battalion camps in Tao Village, and Liu Yung-kuei is reunited with his wife after a long parting. While busily preparing food for the

troops, Liu's wife too complains that just when they seem to be gaining strength, the people's forces keep moving back and leaving the villages to the enemy.

It was indeed hard for the people's army-men and the people to grasp at once the significance of the tactics of mobile warfare. Thus they were again surprised by the sudden order to leave Tao Village and immediately continue to retreat northwards just when several enemy attacks on the village had been foiled.

The real reason for the retreat, however, is made plain later. The people's forces are carrying out a well planned withdrawal from northern Kiangsu to Shantung to set a trap for the enemy. The American-equipped and numerically stronger KMT forces, thinking that the people's troops were routed, are recklessly trying to effect a pincer-attack from north and south to annihilate the people's forces in the mountains of Shantung. Taking advantage of this, the P.L.A. plan is as follows: The battalion led by Commander Kao, whose fortunes the film follows, is to make fake preparations for a decisive battle with the north-bound enemy troops in order to delay their march to join the smaller group of south-bound enemy troops. Meanwhile, the P.L.A. main force is to encircle this latter enemy group of more than fifty thousand men as it moves south, cutting it off from reinforcements and annihilating it.

Kao's battalion is successful in the delaying action assigned to it. The enemy is halted and stands confused. Kao's battalion adds to its perplexity by suddenly continuing its withdrawal to the north to join up with the main P.L.A. forces which are now encircling the southward-moving enemy force.

When the north-bound enemy troops recover from their surprise and get the news that their south-bound troops are encircled, they hurriedly send on reinforce-



A poignant moment in the film. A People's Liberation Army fighter and his wife, who do not fully understand the significance of the P.L.A.'s mobile strategy, are worried about their village's fate

ments ahead. Kao's battalion is assigned the task of stopping these. It captures a strategic mountain position, and from here, it deals a shrewd blow against the enemy.

Meanwhile, the main P.L.A. forces, having completely eliminated the encircled enemy troops, move victoriously on southwards to attack the second arm of the broken Kuomintang "pinchers."

The enemy troops retire in confusion.

Kao's battalion now becomes the vanguard of the pursuing P.L.A. troops. Taking a short cut, they recross the Sha River to overtake and stop the enemy.

In a concerted effort with the main pursuing force of the P.L.A., they sandwich and annihilate the whole enemy column in a triumphant conclusion to the operation.

This is a typical example, based on an actual campaign, of how the P.L.A., outnumbered and inferior in equipment, defeated the enemy again and again until the final victory. It is a story of how an army of the people came to understand and master Mao Tse-tung's tactics and strategy in active combat; how they came to realise that a temporary retreat may really mean preparations for a later engagement under more favourable conditions.

High Artistic Level

The film is of a high ideological order and attains a correspondingly high artistic level. It is rich in incidents that elaborate and elucidate its main theme, that display the heroism and revolutionary optimism and other characteristics of the revolutionary fighters in the liberation struggle. We see and feel the close ties, the indestructible unity that exists between the P.L.A. men and the people. After the withdrawal of the P.L.A., the Tao villagers courageously organised a guerilla unit which penetrated into the enemy rear and concerted its efforts with those of the P.L.A. regulars.



The People's Liberation Army Divisional Commander thanks the woman village-head for the aid she and her comrades-in-arms of the guerillas gave the people's forces in winning their victory

There are well sustained moments of excitement as when the retreating KMT troops determine to blow up the Sha River Dam in an attempt to stop the pursuing force by flood. But they are frustrated at the last moment by the guerillas. Humour blends with tragedy as in life and lends poignancy and reality to this incident. The ridiculous figure of the Kuomintang officer, hands to ears, waiting in vain for the explosion that never came, takes on symbolic proportions. It is a devastating portrait of the reactionaries who were always one fatal move behind their agile, heroic opponents.

When the P.L.A. regains the Sha River, a fighter kneels and drinks the water from his cupped hands. The gesture vividly illumines the tremendous fact that it is for their native villages and towns, for their rivers and streams that the P.L.A. men are fighting. It brings home the justice of their fight that determines who is to be the ultimate victor in the struggle.

In bringing to the screen so fine a film dealing with so difficult and responsible a theme as the liberation war of the Chinese people, the Chinese cinema has again demonstrated its artistic maturity and technical skill.

—Yao Fang-ying

IN THE NEWS



Delegation to Korea

A large Chinese people's delegation left Peking for Korea on October 4.

A big send-off was given by the people of the capital to the delegation, the third of its kind organised by the China Peace Committee. In reply to the farewell speech made by Kuo Mo-jo, Chairman of the China Peace Committee, Ho Lung, leader of the delegation, pledged that it would fulfil the tasks entrusted to them by the nation: to express to the heroic Korean people, the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers the congratulations of the Chinese people at home for the great success achieved in defeating imperialist aggression and defending peace and also assurances of their continued deep concern.

The delegation will also inform the Korean people of the ready spirit of the Chinese people in continuing to provide all possible help to them in their work of rehabilitation and reconstruction and in achieving lasting peace and the unification of their country. They will tell the Chinese People's Volunteers about the many great achievements of their motherland in peaceful construction and will report back to the Chinese people on the heroic deeds of the Korean people, the K.P.A. and the C.P.V.

Emulation Drive

The workers of the country continue their nation-wide campaign to increase output and reduce costs.

China's railway workers have taken the lead in the present drive launched in the last quarter of this

year. Their target is to produce extra wealth for the state equivalent to 4,100,000 million yuan.

The workers of Shenyang, centre of China's machine-building industry, take second place with their target of creating 1,070,000 million yuan worth of extra wealth.

The Anshan Iron and Steel Company workers hold third place with a target of 850,000 million yuan of extra wealth this year.

In Harbin city, the workers of 34 state-owned factories have joined the emulation drive, as have the coal miners at Fushun and Penki. Each centre has its own plan to save the state thousands of millions of yuan.

Steel workers in the suburbs of Peking plan to create extra wealth valued at 22,000 million yuan by the end of this year.

Textile workers in Tientsin have announced their plan of creating 137,700 million yuan of additional wealth in the current movement to increase production.

In Dairen and Port Arthur, workers in 25 factories and enterprises are working to create a total value of over 700,000 million yuan in extra wealth. They include plants producing cement, paints, textiles, sulphuric acid, caustic soda, glass, and machine tools.

Good Harvests

Good harvests are being reaped in most parts of the country.

In CENTRAL-SOUTH CHINA, the best harvest in many years is being gathered from the rice and cotton fields along the Chingkiang section of the Yangtze River. The

highest yield of rice recorded this year is 7.5 tons per hectare, and of cotton, three tons.

The farmers around Tungting Lake, the most famous rice-producing centre of Central-South China, are reaping an average of 3.75 tons per hectare from the 333,000 hectares sown to rice in the area. Here, too, the highest yield recorded this year is 7.5 tons per hectare.

A rich harvest of early autumn crops, on an average 10% above last year's, is reported from EAST CHINA, the second largest grain-producing area of the country. In many counties of Anhwei Province, the per-hectare yield of *kaoliang* is about 20% higher than last year's. The highest yield recorded this year is 3.75 tons per hectare.

In Shansi Province, NORTH CHINA, millet, *kaoliang*, maize and bean yields are estimated to be 12% higher than last year's. Many counties are looking forward to increases of 15-50%. In Tsin-cheng County, the millet harvest yielded from 3.7 to 5.2 tons per hectare.

Sungkiang Province, NORTH-EAST CHINA's major rice-producing area, has reaped an excellent rice harvest on 100,000 hectares. The average per-hectare yield is three tons, some 7% more than last year's. An area of over 16,000 hectares yielded an average of more than four tons per hectare. The Hsingho Collective Farm attained an average yield of 6.5 tons per hectare on a 190-hectare plot.

In Shensi Province, the biggest food-producing area of the NORTHWEST, preliminary estimates place the per-hectare yield of autumn food crops including rice, maize and millet at 10% higher than last year's. The average per-hectare rice yield in the Han River basin in southern Shensi reaches 4.5 tons.

Rich crops are reported from SOUTHWEST CHINA. Preliminary statistics show that the rice yield is some 7% above last year's. All the peasants in the village of Kaoli in Ipin County, Szechuan Province, have harvested an average yield of 4.7 tons of rice per hectare.

Good food crops are also being reaped in the major agricultural regions of TIBET.

Writers and Artists Confer

From September 23 to October 6, China's leading writers and artists gathered in Peking to discuss the creative task of writers and artists at the present historic stage of China's advance to industrialisation and the gradual transition to Socialism, to discuss the question of creating more and finer works of literature and art to meet the needs of the people's growing cultural requirements and stimulate their active participation in the work of peaceful national construction. This was the second All-China Conference of Writers and Artists; the first was held in 1949 soon after the liberation of Peking.

The conference was attended by some 560 writers, artists, composers, stage directors, cinema workers, dancers, singers and others in the sphere of literature and arts.

Premier Chou En-lai, addressing the conference on its first day, dealt with the achievements of national construction today.

Chou Yang, Vice-Chairman of the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, gave a report on the second day of the conference summarising the achievements of the past four years in literary and art work and pointing out future tasks.

The conference also heard reports of delegates about work in their respective areas. During the course of the conference, writers, dramatists, artists and musicians held separate meetings to discuss problems relating to their own particular fields.

National Sports Meet

China's first national athletic meet since liberation was held at the Peking People's Stadium from October 2-7.

With a programme of track and field competitions, gymnastics and cycling, the meet broke 19 national records, some of which had stood for 20 years.

Competing in the six-day contest are 658 athletes (about 40 per cent are women) representing six administrative areas of Northeast, North, Northwest, East, Central-South and Southwest China, the

Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, the People's Liberation Army, the Chinese Locomotive Sports Association (railway workers) and the visiting overseas Chinese sports group from Burma.

A Soviet Athletic Delegation made up of world-famous Soviet gymnasts gave performances during the meet. They are visiting China on the invitation of the Commission of Physical Culture of the Central People's Government.

Fresh Water Fishery

The first large fresh-water fishery covering 55 million square metres is under construction in Northeast China.

The fishery is being developed on the site of a natural lake, near the Nunkiang River in Heilungkiang Province. Construction work started last April and will be completed next summer.

With the first stage of the engineering job already completed, the fishery has been filled with water from the Nunkiang River. Nearly 13 million fry of carp and other species were transferred in June and July this year into the fishery. The rest of the project includes artificial hatcheries and fry nurseries. Three years after the fishery is completed, it will produce some 2,000 tons of fish annually.

Ships Carry More

Ships on the Yangtze River, in the first six months of this year, carried 90% more passengers and one-fifth more freight than called for by the state plan.

There is a constant flow of farm produce, manufactured goods and building materials along the river's 2,000-kilometre course from Shanghai to Ipin in Szechuan Province.

Cultural Briefs

The National Exhibition of Traditional Chinese Painting, which was opened on September 15 in Peking, is attracting large crowds. The first of its kind since liberation, the exhibition reviews the development of the realistic tradition in this school of painting. The 245 exhibits on display include landscapes, genre-paintings, portraits,

still life, birds and flowers. More than 200 artists were represented. The exhibits were carefully selected from among 842 entries from various parts of the country.

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The Polish Economic Exhibition in the Workers' Palace of Culture, Peking, has attracted some 110,000 visitors from people of all walks of life since its opening day on September 26 up to October 7.

The exhibition consists of 800 tons of varied items ranging from heavy machinery to handicrafts. It includes a fine art section.

It is sponsored by the China Committee for the Promotion of International Trade. Nan Hanchen, Chairman of the Committee, stated in his speech on the opening day: "This magnificent economic exhibition concretely and vividly displays before the Chinese people the excellent achievements of the Polish people in their economic construction in the nine years since liberation. It will give further impetus to the economic co-operation between China and Poland."

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An exhibition of Chinese industrial and agricultural products was held from September 25 to October 4 in Copenhagen by the Chinese Committee for the Promotion of International Trade on the invitation of the Denmark-China Association.

CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

September 21

Two Sino-Ceylonese contracts for the purchase and sale of rice and rubber during 1954 are signed in Peking.

September 24

The Korean-Chinese side has returned all P.O.W.'s not for direct repatriation over to neutral custody.

October 1

The fourth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China is celebrated.

October 3

A Sino-Hungarian Agreement on Scientific and Technical Co-operation is signed in Peking.



Fireworks Display Over Peking's Tien An Men Square on the Evening of National Day