

PEKING REVIEW

23

June 3, 1977

北
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報

**Construction of Chairman Mao
Memorial Hall Completed**

**Chairman Hua Meets Delegation of
Central Committee of Portuguese
Communist Party (M-L)**

***Chairman Mao's Talks on Literature
And Art in Yanan Commemorated***

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BEIJING ZHOUBAO

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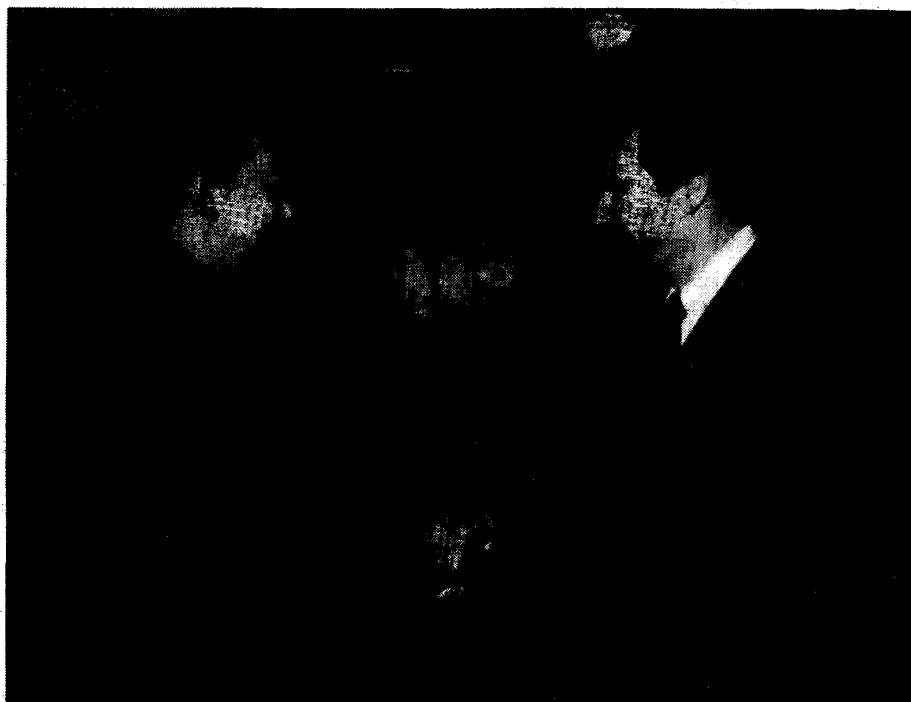
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CONTENTS

THE WEEK	3
Chairman Hua Meets Delegation of Central Committee of Portuguese Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist)	
Construction of Chairman Mao Memorial Hall Completed	
President Tito's 85th Birthday Greeted	
Publication of Comrade Chen Yi's Poems	
Delegation of Japanese Workers' Party	
Reiterating China's Stand on "Japan-South Korea Agreement for Joint Development of the Continental Shelf"	
ARTICLES AND DOCUMENTS	
Hold Still Higher the Great Banner of Chairman Mao's Revolutionary Line in Literature and Art — In commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the "Talks at the Yen'an Forum on Literature and Art" — <i>Renmin Ribao</i> editorial (Excerpts)	8
Roundup: Chairman Mao's Yen'an Talks Commemorated	11
Mass Criticism: "Gang of Four" — The Nation's Scourge: Sabotaging Publication of Lu Hsun's Works	14
The So-Called "Three Prominence's"	15
A Factual Report: "Gang of Four's" Scheme in Criticizing "Water Margin"	17
Chairman Mao's Nationality Policy Guides Us Forward — Notes on studying "On the Ten Major Relationships" — the theoretical study group of the Party committee of the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region	19
On the Industrial Front: Socialist Labour Emulation Drive on the Upswing — Chou Chin	23
Hailing Zaire's Complete Victory in Repulsing Soviet-Paid Mercenaries' Invasion — <i>Renmin Ribao</i> Commentator	26
At United Nations: China's Refusal to Have Contacts With South African Racist Regime Reaffirmed	27
Japan: "Japan-South Korea Continental Shelf Agreement" Opposed	28
Report From Khartoum: Victory Hailed — Hsinhua Correspondent	30
ROUND THE WORLD	31
Western Europe-Africa: Unity Against Soviet Hegemonism	
Somalia: Castro's Proposal Rejected	
ON THE HOME FRONT	32
Locusts Under Control	

Chairman Hua Meets Delegation of Central Committee Of Portuguese Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist)



Comrade Li Hsien-nien and Comrade Heduino Vilar proposed toasts at the banquet, which was permeated with the brotherly feelings of the two Parties.

Comrade Li Hsien-nien said in his toast: The Portuguese Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) has steadily grown in strength through tireless efforts over the past years in the course of the struggle against imperialism, modern revisionism and domestic fascist rule and particularly in the struggle

HUA KUO-FENG, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on May 28 met and had a cordial and friendly conversation with the Delegation of the Central Committee of the Portuguese Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) led by its General Secretary Heduino Vilar.

Members of the delegation present were Jose Santos, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and Secretary of the Central Committee, and Ana Faria, Member of the Political Bureau of the Cen-

tral Committee, of the Portuguese Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist).

Also present were Li Hsien-nien, Member of the Political Bureau of the C.P.C. Central Committee; Keng Piao, Member of the C.P.C. Central Committee and Head of its International Liaison Department; and Feng Hsuan, Member of the C.P.C. Central Committee and Deputy Head of its International Liaison Department.

After the meeting, Chairman Hua gave a banquet in honour of the delegation.

against Soviet social-imperialism. We believe your Party will surely win new, greater victories in the process of integrating the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism with the concrete practice of the revolution in your country.

Comrade Li Hsien-nien pointed out: The present international situation is excellent; it is continuing to develop in a direction favourable to the people of various countries and unfavourable to the two hegemonic powers, the Soviet Union and the United States.

(Continued on p. 6.)

Construction of Chairman Mao Memorial Hall Completed

UNDER the leadership and concern of the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua, construction of the memorial hall of our great leader and teacher Chairman Mao was completed on May 24 in the short span of only six months since Chairman Hua filled in earth around the cornerstone on November 24 last year. This is a new landmark in the history of Chinese architecture. The memorial hall, which crystallizes the common aspirations of hundreds of millions of people, now stands majestically in Tien An Men Square. It is 105 by 105 metres square and 33.6 metres high. Its surroundings are landscaped with pines, cypresses and flowers and Tien An Men Square is more magnificent than ever.

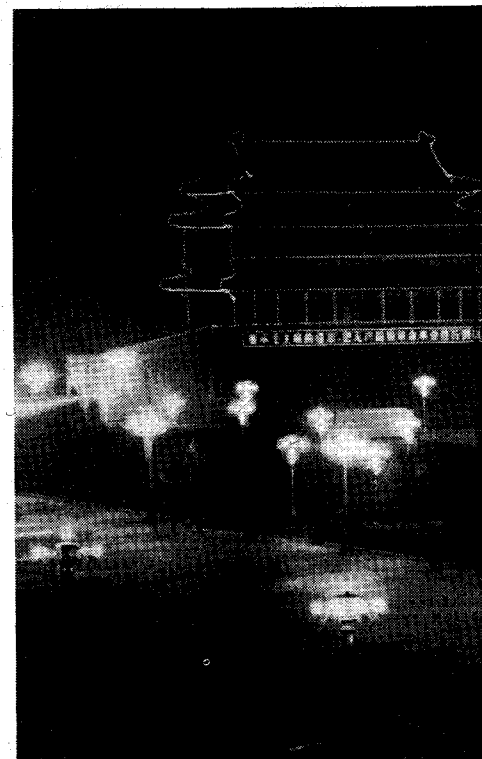
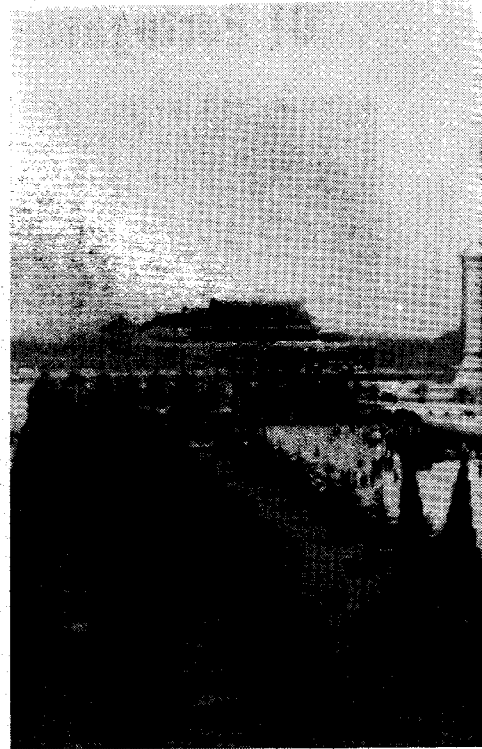
Two-thirds of the construction work was done in winter. The builders designed and built the memorial hall simultaneously and the quality of construction is up to the highest standards in our country.

Taking the heroic Taching oil workers as their example, thousands of workers, cadres, technicians and P.L.A. commanders and fighters participating in the project worked day and night over the past six

months. A vigorous socialist labour emulation drive was launched at the construction site. *Gongdi Tongxun* (Construction Bulletin), a paper run by the construction workers, and many wall newspapers and blackboard newspapers propagated the deeds of a great number of advanced builders. The builders said confidently: "Each job we do must live up to the expectations of Chairman Hua, the Party Central Committee and the people throughout the country and can stand the examinations by our future generations."

The Party committee of the construction command and leading cadres at all levels resolutely carried out Chairman Hua's directive to meticulously organize and command and worked in a creative way. They grasped the key link of exposing and criticizing the "gang of four" and launched the mass movement **In industry, learn from Taching**, which brought the builders' enthusiasm and wisdom into full play.

The construction of the memorial hall has won wide support from the people of all nationalities throughout the country. They sent their choicest building materials and best



Top: South gate of the memorial hall.
Below: Front gate.

equipment to Peking. Each considered his small contribution as a great honour. In the last half year, more than 700,000 people from various parts of the

country took turns in voluntary labour at the construction site.

Following completion of the construction, the work of sculp-

turing a statue of Chairman Mao, installing the crystal sarcophagus, decorating the interior and other work are now under way.



(Continued from p. 3.)

He said that the Chinese and Portuguese Parties have supported each other in the common struggle against imperialism, revisionism and reactionaries. He expressed the deep belief that the visit by the Delegation of the Central Committee of the Portuguese Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) will surely further strengthen the militant friendship and unity between the two Parties.

In his toast, Comrade Heduino Vilar said: The Portuguese

Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) regards the principles of the communist teachers Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tsetung as its own principles.

He spoke highly of the contributions made by Chairman Mao Tsetung to the development of Marxism. He went on to say: Mao Tsetung belonged not only to the Chinese Communists and people, but also to the Communists and people the world over.

He said: The Portuguese people today see with their own

eyes the fierce contention between the two superpowers on Portuguese soil. In the guise of "friends of the working people," Soviet social-imperialism is the most dangerous imperialism.

Comrade Heduino Vilar pointed out that the Portuguese and Chinese Parties have supported each other in the struggle against their common enemy. He expressed the wish that the fraternal friendship between the two Parties would constantly grow.

President Tito's 85th Birthday Greeted

HUA KUO-FENG, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Premier of the State Council, sent a message to Josip Broz Tito, President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, warmly greeting the President on his 85th birthday. The full text of the message read:

President Josip Broz Tito,
Belgrade,

The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Please accept my warm greetings and good wishes on your 85th birthday.

May you enjoy good health and long life. May the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia enjoy prosperity and strength and her people well-being. May the Yugoslav people steadily

achieve new successes in their struggle to defend independence and sovereignty.

May the friendly relations and co-operation between China and Yugoslavia develop daily. May the friendship between the Chinese and Yugoslav peoples deepen with each passing day.

Hua Kuo-feng

Peking, May 24, 1977

Publication of Comrade Chen Yi's Poems

Comrade Chen Yi (1901-72), who was Member of the Ninth Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Vice-Chairman of the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee, Vice-Premier of the State Council and concurrently Foreign Minister, not only was a proletarian revolutionary held

in profound esteem by the Chinese people, but he also was a poet. Chairman Mao highly praised his fighting life, while Lin Piao and his like and the "gang of four" vilified and persecuted him.

The work of compiling a *Selection of Chen Yi's Poems* was completed in November 1973 by Comrade Chang Chien, Chen Yi's wife, who died of cancer four months later. However, the

"gang of four" prevented this selection from being published.

The selection contains 150 poems written by Comrade Chen Yi from 1929 to 1966. They record the course of his persistent struggle and hard work, and express his loyalty to and love for Chairman Mao, the Party and the people, and his hatred and contempt for reaction, imperialism and revisionism. Sincere and moving, the

poems are written in a simple and refreshing style.

On May 25, *Renmin Ribao* printed some of Comrade Chen Yi's poems. The paper said in an editor's note: "Comrade Chen Yi was a proletarian revolutionary held in profound esteem by the Chinese people and the revolutionary people the world over and a devoted fighter of the Chinese people. Under the leadership of the great leader Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee, Comrade Chen Yi persisted in struggle and work for several decades and served the people wholeheartedly during the protracted revolutionary wars and the socialist revolution and socialist construction, thereby making contributions to and performing immortal deeds for the revolution in China and the world. He died of illness on January 6, 1972. The great leader and teacher Chairman Mao attended the memorial meeting for Comrade Chen Yi and extended warm sympathies to his family.

"The Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao anti-Party clique all along had an inveterate hatred for Comrade Chen Yi who always loved Chairman Mao and was loyal to his revolutionary line. Both during Comrade Chen Yi's life and after his death, the 'gang of four' viciously and rabidly slandered, attacked and made up false charges against him in a vain attempt to negate his glorious record of fighting for the revolution all his life and wipe out his influence among the people. All this fully exposed the wild ambitions of this bunch of conspirators and

careers to overthrow a great number of revolutionaries of the older generation."

Delegation of Japanese Workers' Party

Chi Teng-kuei, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on May 22 met and had a cordial and friendly conversation with a delegation of the Workers' Party of Japan led by Itai Shosaku, General Secretary of the Party.

Comrade Chi Teng-kuei gave a banquet in honour of the Japanese comrades after the meeting.

Reiterating China's Stand On "Japan-South Korea Agreement for Joint Development of The Continental Shelf"

Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Ho Ying on May 27 met with Heishiro Ogawa, Japanese Ambassador to China, at the latter's request. The Vice-Foreign Minister reiterated the Chinese Government's stand on the "agreement between Japan and south Korea for the joint development of the continental shelf."

On the Japanese Government's instruction, Ambassador Heishiro Ogawa explained to Vice-Foreign Minister Ho Ying matters relating to the so-called "agreement between Japan and south Korea for the joint development of the continental shelf" which the Japanese Government had submitted to the Diet for discussion.

The Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister pointed out: The Japanese Government and the south Korean authorities have marked off a so-called Japan-south Korea "Joint Development Zone" on the continental shelf in the East China Sea behind China's back. This act is an infringement on China's sovereignty. The Chinese Government absolutely cannot accept this. It has stated this position on many occasions. It is regrettable that the Japanese Government nevertheless has submitted this "agreement" to the Diet for ratification. The Chinese Government has consistently held that the question of how to divide the continental shelf in the East China Sea should be decided by China and the other countries concerned through consultation. But the Japanese side signed this "agreement" behind China's back and is now trying to have it ratified in the Diet, so as to create what it calls a *fait accompli*. How can this be described as having the sincerity of being ready to consult with China?

Vice-Minister Ho Ying stated that if the Japanese Government ignores the Chinese Government's view and insists on having the Diet ratify this "agreement," this will be harmful to the development of the relations between China and Japan and the Japanese Government must bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising therefrom. It is hoped that the Japanese side will give prudent consideration to the view of the Chinese Government in the interests of the friendly relations between China and Japan.

Hold Still Higher the Great Banner of Chairman Mao's Revolutionary Line in Literature and Art

— In commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the
"Talks at the Yen'an Forum on Literature and Art"

"Renmin Ribao" editorial (Excerpts)

TALKS at the Yen'an Forum on Literature and Art, a brilliant work by Chairman Mao, is not only a historic document of succinct Marxist-Leninist generalization on the question of literature and art, but also a great programme for transforming the objective and subjective world in the image of the vanguard of the proletariat. It sets forth for our Party a comprehensive proletarian revolutionary line in literature and art and points out the bright road for Communists, revolutionary cadres and revolutionary intellectuals to integrate with the workers and peasants.

In the *Talks*, Chairman Mao thoroughly repudiated the "Left" and Right opportunist lines in literature and art pushed by the renegade Wang Ming in the 30s, scientifically summed up the revolutionary literary and art movement following the May 4th Movement*, defined the orientation of literature and art serving the workers, peasants and soldiers, and showed the road for literary and art workers to integrate with the workers, peasants and soldiers. Thus the *Talks* became a beacon lighting up the road of advance for the proletarian revolution in literature and art. Over the past 35 years many outstanding works have been produced and a contingent of revolutionary writers and artists trained under the guidance

*Breaking out on May 4, 1919, the May 4th Movement was a revolutionary movement waged by the Chinese people against imperialism and feudalism. It was also a movement opposing feudal culture in a thoroughgoing way. Opposition to old ethics and advocacy of new ethics and opposition to old literature and advocacy of new literature were the two banners of the cultural revolution at that time.

of the *Talks*. They have played an active part in the course of the Chinese revolution.

There has always been a sharp and intense struggle between the two lines on the literary and art front since the *Talks*, especially in the first 17 years after liberation and in the ten years since the start of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. The fundamental question of whether to keep to or turn against the orientation of serving the workers, peasants and soldiers has remained the focus of the struggle. Liu Shao-chi, Lin Piao and the "gang of four," chieftains of the revisionist line in the Party who rabidly opposed Chairman Mao's great theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat and the Party's basic line, opposed the orientation of literature and art serving the workers, peasants and soldiers.

Chairman Mao sharply pointed out in 1963 that "problems abound in all forms of art . . . and the people involved are numerous; in many departments very little has been achieved so far in socialist transformation. The 'dead' still dominate in many departments. What has been achieved in the cinema, new poetry, folk songs, the fine arts and the novel should not be underestimated, but there, too, quite a few problems exist." The next year, Chairman Mao severely criticized the old Department of Propaganda under the Party Central Committee and some literary and art associations under the old Ministry of Culture, saying that "in the last fifteen years these associations, . . . and by and large the people in them (that is not everybody) have not carried out the policies of the Party. They have acted as high and mighty bureau-

crats, have not gone to the workers, peasants and soldiers and have not reflected the socialist revolution and socialist construction. In recent years, they have slid right down to the brink of revisionism. Unless they remould themselves in real earnest, at some future date they are bound to become groups like the Hungarian Petofi Club."

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution initiated and led by Chairman Mao thoroughly repudiated the counter-revolutionary revisionist line of Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao so that Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought has been popularized on an unprecedented scale. The writers' and artists' consciousness of the two-line struggle and their efforts in continuing the revolution have been further enhanced. The emergence of modern revolutionary theatrical works, nurtured by Chairman Mao and Premier Chou and created by the literary and art workers through painstaking labour, changed the situation in which the "dead" dominated the field. The revolution in literature and art thus entered a new historical period.

The "gang of four," the renegade and careerist Chiang Ching in particular, grabbed the fruits of the revolution in literature and art, negated the great guiding role of Chairman Mao's *Talks*, and decked themselves out as organizers of literary and art ideological struggles and as "standard bearers" in opening up a "new era" in the revolution in literature and art. Changing their tactics, they pushed the counter-revolutionary revisionist line more frenziedly than ever in an attempt to lop off the great banner of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line in literature and art and fundamentally change the orientation of serving the workers, peasants and soldiers so as to meet their counter-revolutionary political needs and turn literature and art into their tools for creating public opinion to usurp Party and state power and restore capitalism.

Chairman Mao and his close comrade-in-arms Premier Chou En-lai resolutely struggled against the "gang of four's" counter-revolutionary revisionist line. On many occasions they

criticized the shortage of works of literature and art resulting from the gang's sabotage and its crimes in going against Party policy to negate everything in literary and art circles and distort history. Chairman Mao's directives on the film *Pioneers** in July 1975, on the novel *Water Margin*** in August and on the publication and study of Lu Hsun's works*** in November of the same year were stern rebuffs to this gang of careerists, conspirators and capitulationists. Chairman Mao denounced them for "nitpicking" and said that "it hampers the adjustment of the Party's current policy on literature and art." This was a sharp criticism of the gang's counter-revolutionary revisionist line in literature and art.

Past struggles in literary and art circles prove that as long as we uphold Chairman Mao's revolutionary line in literature and art, our literature and art will advance and flourish, and whenever we deviate from this line we will meet with setbacks and commit mistakes. We must hold still higher the great banner of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line in literature and art, inherit and carry forward the glorious tradition of the revolutionary literary and art movement in China since the publication of the *Talks*, fully implement in literary and art circles our wise leader Chairman Hua's strategic policy decision of grasping the key link in running the country well, deepen the exposure and criticism of the "gang of four's" counter-revolutionary revisionist line in literature and art, put to rights matters concerning the line previously

* *Pioneers* is an excellent film depicting the arduous road traversed by Chinese workers in developing the petroleum industry. The "gang of four" and their followers in the Ministry of Culture made up ten accusations against it in the hope of killing the film. In a letter to Chairman Mao, the script-writer refuted this nonsense of the "gang of four." Chairman Mao commented: "There is no big error in this film. Suggest that it be approved for distribution. Don't nitpick. And to list as many as ten accusations against it is going too far. It hampers the adjustment of the Party's current policy on literature and art." See *Peking Review* No. 47, 1976 concerning the struggle around this film.

** See p. 17.

*** See p. 15.

distorted by the gang and consolidate and develop the achievements of the revolution in literature and art.

We must unwaveringly follow the orientation set by Chairman Mao of making literature and art serve the workers, peasants and soldiers, thoroughly criticize the gang's distortion of and tampering with the revolutionary orientation and ensure that literature and art play a stronger and more militant role in consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat and in implementing the strategic policy decision of grasping the key link in running the country well.

We must study even more diligently the Marxist theory on literature and art, study Chairman Mao's *Talks* and the writings on literature and art in Volume V of the *Selected Works of Mao Tsetung* and thoroughly repudiate the gang's revisionist literary and art theories with the "three prominences*" as the core.

We must resolutely implement the literary and art policies of "letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend," "making the past serve the present and foreign things serve China" and "weeding through the old to bring forth the new" — policies formulated by Chairman Mao for our Party. These are important guarantees for keeping to

* See pp. 15-17.

the worker-peasant-soldier orientation, encouraging the creation of socialist literature, drama, film, fine arts, music and dance and making them serve proletarian politics. The gang's bourgeois cultural despotism must be thoroughly demolished.

In the course of our struggle we must gradually build up a big contingent of revolutionary writers and artists so as to bring to fruition Chairman Mao's expectation that the proletariat should have its own writers, artists and literary theoreticians. It is necessary to mobilize all positive factors on an extensive scale, enthusiastically encourage the older generation of revolutionary literary and art workers to make new contributions, give warm attention to the growth of the younger generation and make great efforts to help workers, peasants and soldiers go in for creative works and engage in literary and art activities in their spare hours. We must thoroughly criticize the gang's crimes in sowing dissension and poisoning the minds of workers in literature and art.

The "gang of four's" line on literature and art is an ultra-Right line. The great harm done by the "gang of four" to China's literature and art must not be underestimated. Only by deepening the exposure and criticism of the "gang of four" can the proletarian revolution in



Left: The popular yangko dance *Brother and Sister Reclaiming Wasteland*, created under inspiration of the *Talks*, drew a large audience when it was performed in Yen-an in 1943.



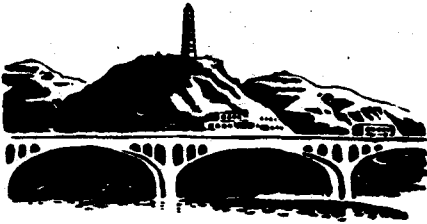
Right: The same yangko dance staged in Peking in commemoration of the 35 anniversary of the publication of the *Talks*.

literature and art develop better in accordance with Chairman Mao's revolutionary line.

A new leap forward is taking shape in our socialist motherland since the "gang of four" was smashed more than half a year ago. Comrades on the literary and art front must heighten their revolutionary spirit, go all out with revolutionary drive and keep pace with the forward march of our era. They must follow Chairman Mao's teaching and "must for a long period of time unreservedly and wholeheartedly go among the masses of workers, peasants and soldiers, go into the heat of the struggle," so as to know the workers, peasants and soldiers well, learn from them, and remould their own world

outlook. They should do their best to reflect in their works the great struggle of exposing and criticizing the "gang of four" and the mass movements of "In industry, learn from Taching" and "In agriculture, learn from Tachai," portray the outlook of the Chinese people in striving to bring about great order across the land and achieve socialist modernization, and recount the brilliant historical course of China's proletarian revolution. They should do their bit to help socialist literary and art creations flourish and realize Chairman Mao's earnest expectation: "I hope that more good works will be turned out."

(May 23)



Roundup

Chairman Mao's Yen'an Talks Commemorated

THIS year is the 35th anniversary of Chairman Mao's *Talks at the Yen'an Forum on Literature and Art*. As a result of the overthrow of the "gang of four" who undermined proletarian literature and art, the literary and art workers and the people of the whole nation were more jubilant than ever in their commemorative activities.

Grand Performances

Chairman Mao made his concluding remarks at the Yen'an forum on literature and art on May 23, 1942. On that day this year, 18,000 writers and artists and workers, peasants and soldiers in Peking attended a grand performance.

There were big-character slogans at the gathering place: "Raise high the great banner of Chairman Mao, closely follow Chairman Hua and carry the proletarian revolutionary cause through to the end!" and "Adhere to the orientation of literature and art serving the workers, peasants and soldiers and advance triumphantly

along Chairman Mao's revolutionary line in literature and art!"

Two thousand professional and spare-time literary and art workers from Peking, Yen'an in the old revolutionary base area and the Taching Oilfield presented their items with soaring political enthusiasm. They sang the praises of the victory of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and Chairman Hua's great achievements, and extolled the excellent situation since the smashing of the "gang of four." Interspersed with the powerful performance of a large chorus and magnificent dances by several hundred people were short and lively solos, duets and dramatized singing. Among the items presented were traditional folk dances expressing festive joy and celebrating victories such as the dragon dance, the lion dance, the red scarf dance and the *yangko* dance. They reminded the audience of the lively literary and art activities in the liberated base areas during the years of the revolutionary wars.

Also performed in the capital were 60 modern plays, operas and dance-dramas as well

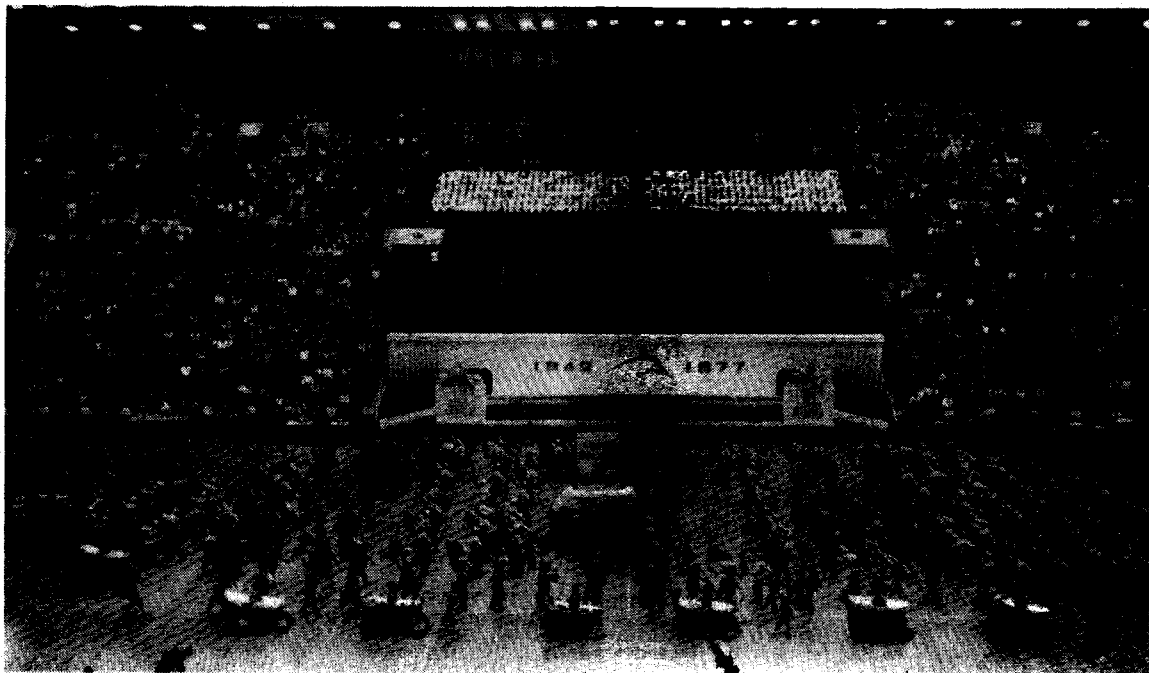
as dances and musical and acrobatic programmes. About one-third were given in factories, villages, work-sites and army units. People cheered: With the overthrow of the "gang of four," literature and art are liberated.

Reminiscences of Premier Chou En-lai

Many articles commemorating the *Talks* were published in the press. A long article written by the theoretical group of the Ministry of Culture highlighted the deeds of the late Premier Chou En-lai in defending Chairman Mao's line in literature and art.

When he was in the revolutionary base areas after the publication of Chairman Mao's *Talks*, Premier Chou often went into the streets and to farm fields and together with the people saw new items presented by literary and art workers using folk art forms to portray the struggle and life of the workers, peasants and soldiers. While working in the Kuomintang-controlled areas, he united with the progressive literary and art workers on a broad scale in accordance with Chairman Mao's instructions. He organized them to study the *Talks* and spread its spirit far and wide.

Following the founding of New China, Premier Chou waged a prolonged struggle against the revisionist line in literature and art pursued by Liu Shao-chi, Lin Biao and the "gang of four" and thereby defended the orientation of literature and art pointed out by Chairman Mao. The Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Mao decided in 1964 to hold a festival of modern Peking operas. Premier Chou was an active advocate of this. He encouraged literary and art workers to give full play to their creativeness and enthusiasm under the premise of literature and art serving the workers, peasants and soldiers, and advocated the free development of different art forms, styles and schools and free debates on various academic questions in literature and art. He maintained that the subjects of literary and art creations should not only mainly portray the struggle and life of contemporary workers, peasants and soldiers but must also pay due attention to wide coverage and variety. In the Great Cultural Revolution, he reprimanded the "gang of four" on many occasions for banning good films and good theatrical and musical works. Though ill, he saw the good works that were banned at the time and supported the literary and art workers who dared to struggle.



Big Yangko Dance by the Yen'an Prefectural Song and Dance Troupe and Peking's artists.

Premier Chou cared very much about the literary and art workers and showed concern for their growth.

The article said in conclusion: "Throughout his life, Premier Chou devoted his energy in defending Chairman Mao's line in literature and art. Our literary and art workers' respect for and memory of Premier Chou surpass the endless rivers and will continue for ever."

Pledges by Literary and Art Workers

At a forum commemorating the *Talks* called by the Peking Municipal Bureau of Culture, writers, actors, painters and spare-time literary and art workers, cherishing a profound memory of Chairman Mao, reviewed the flourishing development of our proletarian literature and art under the guidance of the *Talks* and their role as powerful weapons **"for uniting and educating the people and for attacking and destroying the enemy"** in the course of the revolution. Nurtured by the spirit of the *Talks*, the revolutionary contingent of literary and art workers has matured and grown into an important force of the big proletarian revolutionary army.

Veteran writer Tsao Ming recalled how she took part in the Yen-an forum of historic significance in 1942 and how she was received by Chairman Mao. Following Chairman Mao's instructions, she has for years lived among the workers, learnt from them and thus has written some good works. She said: "Chairman Mao's *Talks* guides the direction of my advance; I am determined to continue my advance and study, write and remould myself as long as I live."

A poet of worker origin, Li Hsueh-ao has just returned from a mountain village where he lived for a period to go deep into the life of the people. Talking about the expectations of the people there for the revolutionary literary and art workers, he said with emotion: "I'll always follow Chairman Mao's instructions to write for the workers, peasants and soldiers and sing their praises."

The participants indignantly exposed the "gang of four's" crimes of opposing Chairman Mao's *Talks*. Spare-time peasant-writer Chang Yu-ming said: "The 'gang of four' are the chief criminals in undermining socialist literary and art creations." Veteran writer Yang Mo, author of the novel *The Song of Youth*, said that educated in the Cultural Revolution, she decided to write a novel about the War of Resistance Against Japan. Many friends advised her not to write it in order to avoid persecution by the "gang of four." She repeatedly studied Chairman Mao's *Talks*, and, inspired by it, she defied any threat from the "gang of four" and finished the novel in four years.

Art Exhibition

A fine arts exhibition to commemorate the *Talks* opened at the China Art Gallery in Peking.

The 764 exhibits are selected from fine works created since the publication of the *Talks*. The exhibition surpasses all previous ones in its penetrating portrayals, richness of subjects, variety of forms and number of painters.

Guided by Chairman Mao's *Talks* in the 1940s, the fine arts workers went deep into the struggle and life of the people and created their first batch of works in which workers, peasants and soldiers are the masters. These still have their special attraction today. The exhibition includes woodcuts, traditional Chinese paintings, oil paintings, New Year pictures, posters, sculptures, cartoons, serial pictures, gouaches, water-colour paintings and sketches. Works in these diverse art forms express the people's struggle and life in the years of the revolutionary wars and since the founding of New China, and expose the ugly features of the Kuomintang reactionaries, imperialists and revisionists. These works have played a positive role in the Chinese people's great revolutionary cause.

The exhibition is effective proof that it is precisely Chairman Mao's *Talks* that ushered in a new era of our proletarian literature and art.

“GANG OF FOUR” — THE NATION’S SCOURGE

Sabotaging Publication Of Lu Hsun’s Works

LU Hsun (1881-1936) was “the chief commander of China’s cultural revolution”; “he was not only a great man of letters but a great thinker and revolutionary.” (Mao Tsetung: *On New Democracy*.) Containing a wealth of historical experience in class struggle, Lu Hsun’s works shine with brilliant Marxist, dialectical materialist thought. Chairman Mao once said: “My mind is in communion with Lu Hsun.” Chairman Mao time and again called on the people of the whole country to “learn from the example of Lu Hsun” and “read some works of Lu Hsun.”

For a long time, there has been an acute struggle centring round Lu Hsun and his works between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie and between Marxism and revisionism. The feudal warlords and the Kuomintang reactionaries as well as hack writers in the pay of the bourgeoisie and opportunists in the Communist Party all regarded Lu Hsun and his works as a thorn in their flesh and tried by every means to attack and vilify them. Members of the “gang of four” were in the ranks of such counter-revolutionaries.

Approved by Chairman Mao, the document prepared by the national meeting on publication work in 1971 stipulated that one of the primary tasks was to re-edit and publish the complete works of Lu Hsun, his correspondences, diaries and translations of foreign literary works as well as the Chinese classics compiled by him. The document called for completion of all this work within two to three years. Premier Chou showed great concern for the implementation of this plan. However, the “gang of four” which controlled the cultural and publication departments at that time sabotaged the work. They shelved the reports submitted to them by depart-

ments concerned for approval, opposed annotating Lu Hsun’s works, forbade publication of Lu Hsun’s correspondences and what not.

Lu Hsun’s correspondences constitute an extremely important part of his works; they reflect his thinking and record the militant course he traversed. They are, in fact, invaluable literature for us to learn from the example of this great man of letters and to study the struggle between the two classes and the two lines on the ideological and cultural front in his time. It is the urgent demand of readers and research workers to publish a fairly complete and correct volume of Lu Hsun’s correspondences. During those difficult days under the Kuomintang reactionaries and the Japanese imperialist invaders, Comrade Hsu Kuang-ping, Lu Hsun’s wife and comrade-in-arms, had worked hard for years in collecting and publishing Lu Hsun’s letters. The “gang of four” tried to destroy some of these letters because they contained evidence of the past crimes of its members. So in December 1967 the gang instructed one of its accomplices to seize all the manuscripts of Lu Hsun’s letters then kept in the old Ministry of Culture. Comrade Hsu Kuang-ping was infuriated when she learnt of this and she condemned the act which was, of course, a blow to her. She fell ill and died soon afterwards. Later, the gang prevented the publication of Lu Hsun’s correspondences on the pretext that some of those to whom the letters were addressed had degenerated politically.

As a result of the “gang of four’s” sabotage, the work of editing and annotating the *Complete Works of Lu Hsun* stopped entirely. And no efforts were made to criticize the bourgeois views that had long existed in the study of Lu Hsun. Topping all this, the gang went a step further to misinterpret Lu Hsun’s ideas, distort history and turn black into white in an attempt to create opinion for its usurpation of Party and state power.

Comrade Chou Hai-ying, Lu Hsun's son, raised his objections to all this on many occasions. But the "gang of four" simply turned a deaf ear. Driven beyond his forbearance, he finally wrote on October 28, 1975 to Chairman Mao, asking for help.

On November 1, 1975, Chairman Mao wrote the following directive on Chou Hai-ying's letter: **"I agree with Comrade Chou Hai-ying's opinion. Please see that his letter is printed and distributed among Members of the Political Bureau which should discuss the matter and make a decision to be carried out promptly."**

This important directive was made at a time when our Party was engaged in a fierce struggle against the "gang of four." Chairman Mao severely criticized the gang on many occasions. In May 1975, Chairman Mao warned them: **"Don't function as a gang of four. Don't do it any more. Why do you keep doing it?"** But the gang pretended to accept the criticism while actually going against it. On May 3 that same year, Chairman Mao made the important arrangement for solving the problem of the "gang of four," giving the instruction that **"if this is not settled in the first half of this year, it should be settled in the second half; if not this year, then next year; if not next year, then the year after."**

Chairman Mao also adopted a series of measures in the field of ideology and culture.

In July that year, he issued an instruction concerning the film *Pioneers* which reflects the outstanding deeds of China's oil workers in opening up the Taching Oilfield. Chiang Ching and her cohorts hated Taching and fabricated ten charges against the film. It was in view of this that Chairman Mao gave the important instruction: **"There is no big error in this film. Suggest that it be approved for distribution. Don't nitpick. And to list as many as ten accusations against it is going too far. It hampers the adjustment of the Party's current policy on literature and art."** This instruction was a great inspiration to the literary and art workers in their tit-for-tat struggle against the "gang of four."

In August, Chairman Mao initiated the criticism of capitulationism advocated in the novel *Water Margin*. (See p. 17.)

Then in November, Chairman Mao wrote the directive on Comrade Chou Hai-ying's letter, dealing another heavy blow at the "gang of four."

The gang kept this directive of Chairman Mao's from the people, including Comrade Chou Hai-ying. They slandered that Chou's letter "reflects the feelings of the old force of habit" and that it was written "at somebody's bidding." Later on, the gang even tried to label the letter as a manifestation of the "Right deviationist attempt to reverse verdicts" and wanted to ferret out the "behind-the-scene boss" of Comrade Chou Hai-ying. This shows how wildly they opposed Chairman Mao.

It was by no means accidental that the "gang of four" sabotaged the publication of Lu Hsun's works. Investigations show that Chang Chun-chiao is a Kuomintang secret agent hidden in the revolutionary ranks. In the 30s, using the pseudonym Ti Keh, he joined in the attack against Lu Hsun. Chiang Ching is a renegade who as early as in the 30s extolled Chiang Kaishek, public enemy No. 1. Yao Wen-yuan is the son of Yao Peng-tzu, a renegade and Kuomintang secret agent denounced by Lu Hsun. Wang Hung-wen is the kind of newborn bourgeois upstart Lu Hsun once described with great vividness. Lu Hsun's works are like daggers and poniards pointing right at their hearts.

With the smashing of the "gang of four," the study and publication of Lu Hsun's works can now go on smoothly and at an accelerated tempo. The new edition of *Complete Works of Lu Hsun* will be available before 1981, the centenary of the birth of Lu Hsun.

The So-Called "Three Prominence's"

MAKING out that she was a creator of literary and art theory, Chiang Ching concocted a so-called "principle" consisting of "three prominence's"

The so-called "three prominence's" were: "give prominence to positive characters over other characters, give prominence to heroic characters over other positive characters and

give prominence to the principal heroic character over other heroic characters." To supplement the "three prominences," a trusted henchman of the "gang of four" later added the following: "Between positive and negative characters, the latter's role must be to set off the former; among positive characters, the general-run of positive characters must help set off and complement heroic characters; among heroic characters, the non-principal heroic characters must help set off and complement the principal heroic character."

Although this "theory" was arrant nonsense, for a time it was elevated by the gang to the "fundamental principle for creating proletarian literary and art works" and the "supreme standard" in literary and art criticism. Not only plays, films and novels, but poems and paintings all had to conform to this so-called "three prominences."

Theoretically, the "three prominences" were absolutely preposterous; politically, they were downright reactionary.

Relations among characters in literary and art works reflect relations among people in real life. In class society, there are relations between antagonistic classes locked in a life-and-death struggle and there are comradesly relations among people in the revolutionary classes, and these are manifested in an endless variety of forms. Revolutionary literature and art should truthfully express typical examples of these relations and "typify the contradictions and struggles" as Chairman Mao said in his *Talks at the Yen-an Forum on Literature and Art*.

The "three prominences" theory turned all relations among characters in literary and art works into relations of giving prominence in turn at each level to bring out the principal heroic character. It put literature and art into a straight-jacket and gravely distorted life, class relations and the acute, complex class struggle.

The "three prominences" decreed that all positive characters introduced must be for the sole purpose of setting off the principal heroic character and they should serve as "an assemblage of stars revolving around the moon." This character must, under all circumstances, "dominate," be "head and shoulders" above

everyone. The heroic character had to be pre-eminently "heroic," infallible and flawless from the very start, that is, inherently perfect. He must never be portrayed as "a hero in the making" or portrayed as "having and overcoming a fault."

Obviously, such principal heroic characters can be only born heroes, people who do not need to be educated by the Party, helped by the masses, or tempered through practice. They are "demigods," "saviours," all-knowing and all-powerful, above the Party and the people. The masses of people, of course, are there to be dictated to by them, existing only as the vulgar mob to set off these heroic characters. In order to make them particularly conspicuous, the Party and the masses can be debased and besmirched so long as it serves this purpose. This is nothing but the bourgeoisie's idealist conception of history and idealist apriorism. It runs counter to Chairman Mao's teaching that "the people, and the people alone, are the motive force in the making of world history." (*On Coalition Government*.)

In practice, the "three prominences" also are extremely harmful.

The "gang of four" used the "three prominences" to replace Chairman Mao's six political criteria for distinguishing between fragrant flowers and poisonous weeds, namely, **"(1) Words and actions should help to unite, and not divide, the people of our various nationalities. (2) They should be beneficial, and not harmful, to socialist transformation and socialist construction. (3) They should help to consolidate, and not undermine or weaken, the people's democratic dictatorship. (4) They should help to consolidate, and not undermine or weaken, democratic centralism. (5) They should help to strengthen, and not discard or weaken, the leadership of the Communist Party. (6) They should be beneficial, and not harmful, to international socialist unity and the unity of the peace-loving people of the world. Of these six criteria, the most important are the socialist path and the leadership of the Party."** (*On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People*.) Under this premise, different forms and styles in art can develop freely and different schools in science can contend freely.

However, the "gang of four" used the "three prominence's" as the yardstick by which to judge literary and art works. All these works had to conform to the "three prominence's" formula, deciding first the main theme and the "principal" character, then building up contradictions and the plot in accordance with the needs of giving prominence to this character, introducing "secondary," "tertiary," "ordinary," and "negative" characters. . . . Thus literary and art works became idealist subjective fabrications, metaphysical hybrids mechanically kneaded together. In this court where the "three prominence's" were law, many revolutionary literary and art works were deprived of the right to appear before the public. The orientation of literature and art serving workers, peasants and soldiers set by Chairman Mao was destroyed, the Party's policy of "letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend" was trampled underfoot and literary and art works became lifeless, formalistic and conceptualistic.

A Factual Report

"Gang of Four's" Scheme in Criticizing "Water Margin"

IN carrying out their conspiracies, the Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao anti-Party clique often resorted to the trick of a thief crying "Stop thief!" What they did during the criticism of the novel *Water Margin* well illustrates the point.

Chairman Mao's Instruction

On August 14, 1975 Chairman Mao issued the following instruction concerning this novel: "The merit of the book *Water Margin* lies precisely in the portrayal of capitulation. It serves as teaching material by negative example to help all the people recognize capitulationists." He also pointed out: "*Water Margin* is against

The "three prominence's," moreover, raised a crop of poisonous weeds. In recent years, particularly when Chairman Mao was gravely ill, the "gang of four," in the guise of portraying "heroic models in the struggle against capitalist-roaders," produced a litter of films and other works from their "three prominence's" mould to defame as "capitalist-roaders" large numbers of central and local leading cadres who upheld Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. They portrayed our Party and our socialist system as being in a complete mess, while surreptitiously inserting their images into these works, making themselves out to be impossibly sublime "heroic characters."

The so-called "three prominence's" were actually one single prominence — giving prominence politically to the "gang of four" by lavishing extensive praise on them to prepare opinion for their usurping Party and state power.

corrupt officials only, but not against the emperor. It excludes Chao Kai from the 108 people. Sung Chiang pushes capitulationism, practises revisionism, changes Chao's Chu Yi Hall to Chung Yi Hall, and accepts the offer of amnesty and enlistment. Sung Chiang's struggle against Kao Chiu is a struggle waged by one faction against another within the landlord class. As soon as he surrenders, Sung Chiang goes to fight Fang La."

Chairman Mao's teachings penetratingly exposed the reactionary essence of *Water Margin* in preaching capitulationism and called upon the people throughout the country to crit-

icize the novel and use it as teaching material by negative example to discern capitulationists.

"Water Margin"

Water Margin is a long novel about a peasant uprising towards the end of the Northern Sung Dynasty (960-1127 A.D.). It is generally believed that it first appeared at the end of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368 A.D.) or early in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 A.D.). The centre of the insurgent peasant army in the novel is in present-day Shantung Province's Liangshan County.

Chao Kai is the founder of the Liangshan insurgent peasant army. He adheres to the line of the peasant revolution of "working together and be of one mind and rise in revolt" against the emperor. That is why he calls the hall where he and his men meet to discuss matters of importance the Chu Yi Hall (*chu yi* meaning to unite and rise in revolt).

A small official from the landlord class, Sung Chiang considers that the peasant revolution is a treasonable crime. Forced to join the Liangshan peasant army only after being sentenced to death for murder, he makes Liangshan a temporary refuge and awaits the opportunity to surrender to the emperor. After Chao Kai's death, he usurps the leadership of the peasant army and changes Chu Yi Hall into Chung Yi Hall (*chung yi* meaning loyal to the emperor). Having thus hoisted the banner of loyalty to the emperor, he actively engages in capitulationist activities. Later, after surrendering to the emperor, he serves as an active agent in suppressing the peasant army led by Fang La.

The leading group of the Liangshan peasant insurgent army consists of 108 people. But the novel excludes Chao Kai from the 108 people. This shows the authors' intent to extol Sung Chiang and advocate capitulationism.

Through its intricate plot, the novel propagates the central idea that the emperor is good and only some officials in power are bad. It also preaches that Sung Chiang is a good example for people to follow.

There had been almost no correct appraisal of the novel from the time of its publication. Even just before the start of the Great Cultural Revolution, as a result of the serious influence

of Liu Shao-chi's counter-revolutionary revisionist line, views praising it held sway in literary criticism circles. Among these was a comment published in January 1958 by Yao Wen-yuan who regarded *Water Margin* as a great work.

Chiang Ching's Fallacies

After the start of the Great Cultural Revolution, fewer and fewer people publicly praise the novel. But Chiang Ching was an exception. She went out of her way to laud it.

At a February 22, 1973 meeting, Chiang Ching made a speech about *Water Margin*. She said: "First of all we must regard Sung Chiang as a hero." "He was a great man with wisdom, resourcefulness and a sense of justice," she added. "He was loved by the people because he robbed the rich to help the poor and was able to unite the people. After he was forced to go to Liangshan, Sung Chiang led the uprising and played a big part in fighting resolutely against the feudal ruling class." Chiang Ching also argued that Sung Chiang's accepting the offer of amnesty and enlistment was a "limitation of history" and so "he should not be called a double-dealer."

After Chairman Mao's instruction on *Water Margin* was published, newspapers and periodicals carried many articles by literary critics criticizing the novel or making self-criticisms of their former wrong views. But Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan never mentioned a word about their past erroneous views. On the contrary, they made out that they always had been right and seized the banner of leading the criticism of *Water Margin*.

Before the convening of the first national learn-from-Tachai conference in September 1975, Chiang Ching went to the Tachai Production Brigade and made a speech about *Water Margin*. She opposed Chairman Mao's directive, alleging that the essential point of *Water Margin* was not advocating capitulationism but Sung Chiang's manipulations in making Chao Kai a figurehead. She also alleged that there were people in the Party Central Committee trying to make Chairman Mao a figurehead, thereby directing her attack against Premier Chou En-lai in a vain attempt to split the Party

(Continued on p. 22.)

tional splittists who sabotage the unity of the various nationalities and the unification of our motherland and deal blows at the class enemies who engage in counter-revolutionary activities under the cloak of religion.

With a view to uniting all the nationalities in the common endeavour to build our socialist motherland, Chairman Mao laid down a series of major policies on the question of nationalities. The most fundamental of these policies is to introduce national regional autonomy in places where the minority peoples live in compact communities. There they are their own masters handling their own affairs. This is the one and only correct policy for resolving the question of nationalities, a policy which Chairman Mao worked out by applying the Marxist principle in the light of the history and reality of China's nationality question. While guaranteeing the unification of our country, the introduction of national regional autonomy is a measure that takes into full account the peculiarities of the various nationalities and their aspirations and is conducive to bringing into play the minority peoples' enthusiasm for socialism. Guided by this brilliant thought of Chairman Mao's, since 1953 and starting from the lower levels, we have set up six autonomous counties and five autonomous prefectures, and in 1955 the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region was established. All minority nationalities in Sinkiang now enjoy national regional autonomy. Practice over the last two decades shows that this policy of national regional autonomy has played a tremendous role in promoting the political, economic and cultural progress of the minority peoples and is warmly supported by the people of all nationalities in Sinkiang.

The key to the introduction of national regional autonomy and to the complete solution of the nationality question lies in actively training cadres from among the minority peoples. Chairman Mao taught us long ago: **"Without a large number of communist cadres of minority nationalities, it would be impossible to solve the national problem thoroughly and to isolate the minority nationality reactionaries completely."** What Chairman Mao said here is the need to pay attention to training cadres of minority nationalities in large numbers and the need to educate them in communist ideas. His

directive on training cadres of minority nationalities was a measure of strategic significance. Leading Han nationality cadres should energetically train and help cadres of minority nationalities, as this is what the Party's cause calls for. We have all along insisted that cadres of Han nationality and minority nationalities should learn from each other, respect each other, strengthen their unity and make joint efforts to do revolutionary work well. In the three great revolutionary movements of class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment over the last 20-odd years, we have trained large numbers of national minority cadres and promoted outstanding ones among them to important leading posts; we have at the same time laid emphasis on training minority peoples to become cadres in science and technology or skilled workers. To date, cadres of minority nationalities throughout our region are more than twice as many as in 1955, the year the autonomous region was founded, and minority peoples account for 65 per cent of the members on the Party committees at all levels. This effectively guarantees the various minority nationalities to exercise their right as masters of their own houses, and plays a notable part in strengthening unity among the various nationalities, safeguarding the unification of the motherland and speeding up the socialist revolution and construction in places where national regional autonomy has been introduced.

In order to foster good relations between the Han people and the minority nationalities and steadily strengthen the unity of all nationalities, it is imperative to respect the minority peoples' customs and habits and attach importance to using their own languages. In regard to these customs and habits, it is our Party's policy that every nationality has the right to preserve or change them, and people of other nationalities must not interfere but should respect and give them due consideration. This policy of our Party fully embodies the spirit of equality among all nationalities. Its implementation has resulted in a much stronger unity among the various nationalities, especially the unity between the Hans and the minority peoples. In the meantime, with the heightening of the people's class consciousness and the progress of socialist construction and improvement in the people's livelihood, the

various minority nationalities have of their own accord reformed undesirable aspects of their customs and habits while preserving and carrying on what is good in them. This has brought greater prosperity to the various minority nationalities and enhanced the unity among all nationalities.

Use of their own languages, written as well as spoken, by the various minority peoples is a paramount right in national regional autonomy, which likewise fully embodies the spirit of equality among all nationalities. The Constitution of our country clearly stipulates: "All the nationalities have the freedom to use their own spoken and written languages." We have called on Han cadres and people working in places inhabited by the minority nationalities to study and use the spoken and written languages of the minority peoples in their localities, and we also have called on cadres and people of minority nationalities to learn to speak and read or write the Han language (Chinese). This is conducive to cementing closer ties between the Han cadres and people on the one hand and the cadres and people of the minority nationalities on the other; it helps promote mutual understanding and unity as well as the economic and cultural progress of all nationalities. While attaching great importance to the use of the minority peoples' languages, we have at the same time energetically helped in reforming the Uighur and Kazakh languages. New written languages for the Uighur and Kazakh peoples came into use in July 1976.

In his brilliant work *On the Ten Major Relationships*, our great leader Chairman Mao particularly stressed that **"we must sincerely and actively help the minority nationalities to develop their economy and culture."** In line with Chairman Mao's teachings, the Party and government have always attached great importance to the development of economic and cultural undertakings in places inhabited by the minority nationalities and given them enormous support — material, financial and in manpower. As a result, socialist construction has made rapid headway and big changes have taken place in these areas which were destitute and backward in the past. The progress of the economic and cultural undertakings in these areas has in turn contributed to the nation's socialist construction

as a whole. Sinkiang is a multi-national region and, in addition, the forefront against revisionism. Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee have shown great concern for its socialist construction. For more than 20 years, under the leadership of Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee and with the big help from the state and support from various parts of the country, the people of various nationalities in Sinkiang have, in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle, made considerable progress in their socialist economy and culture and achieved much improvement in their livelihood. Sinkiang is no longer the poor and backward region it used to be. In the course of economic and cultural construction, we have persisted in taking class struggle as the key link, adhered to the Party's basic line and persevered in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. We have grasped revolution and promoted production, resolutely carried out the general line of going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism, implemented the general principle of taking agriculture as the foundation and industry as the leading factor in developing the national economy and extensively deepened the mass movements of learning from Tachai in agriculture and learning from Taching in industry, thereby ensuring the triumphant march of Sinkiang's socialist construction along the course charted by Chairman Mao. Simultaneous with the active development of economic construction, we have paid great attention to cultural construction as well, and actively unfolded the socialist revolution in the superstructure, including the realms of education, literature and art, health and science and technology. Much has been done to develop education and promote literature and art and health among the various nationalities. As a result, culture and education in Sinkiang are flourishing as never before.

As proved by practice in the last two decades and more, Chairman Mao's nationality policy, which is the only correct and Marxist policy, has won the warm support of the people of all nationalities throughout the country. The Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao "gang of four," for the purpose of usurping Party and state power, subverting the dictatorship of the proletariat and restoring capitalism, pushed an ultra-Right

counter-revolutionary revisionist line. This same line was also applied by the gang to the nationality question. It undermined the unity of all nationalities, created splits among them and sabotaged the anti-revisionist struggle waged by the minority peoples in the frontier regions. Just as Chairman Hua Kuo-feng pointed out in his important speech at the Second National Conference on Learning From Tachai in Agriculture, the "gang of four" is a bunch of ferocious enemies who did their utmost to sow dissension among the nationalities, create splits among them and disrupt the unity of the big family of the Chinese nation.

Last October, the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua smashed the gang at

one stroke. The various minority nationalities in our autonomous region wholeheartedly cheered Chairman Hua for having eliminated a big evil for the Party and people and removed the scourge causing disunity among various nationalities. They are determined to rally most closely around the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua, carry out Chairman Hua's strategic policy decision of grasping the key link in running the country well; follow Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line still more resolutely, implement Chairman Mao's nationality policy, preserve the unity of all nationalities as one does the apple of one's eye, carry the anti-revisionist struggle through to the end and do a still better job in building this frontier region of our motherland.

(Continued from p. 18.)

Central Committee headed by Chairman Mao. She used the tactic of a thief crying "Stop thief!" and shouted: "A handful of bad eggs who have wormed their way into our ranks sing the praises of this novel which prettifies a traitor."

At the opening ceremony of this first national learn-from-Tachai conference on September 15 that year, Chiang Ching arbitrarily interrupted other comrades' speeches and demanded that a recording of her speech on *Water Margin* be played at the conference and the text printed and circulated, in an attempt to alter the conference's schedule and orientation. Comrade Hua Kuo-feng who was presiding over the meeting at the time saw through her scheme and immediately reported this to Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee. Chairman Mao sharply criticized Chiang Ching's talk: "Shit! Barking up the wrong tree!" Chairman Mao also issued the instruction: "Don't publish the talk, don't play the recording or print the text." Comrade Hua Kuo-feng resolutely carried out Chairman Mao's instruction. Chiang Ching's plot was thus frustrated.

"Gang of Four's" Scheme

The "gang of four," however, did not stop there. They instructed the writing groups under

their control to dish out a large number of articles tampering with Chairman Mao's instruction on *Water Margin*. Using the criticism of the novel as a pretext and attacking by innuendo, they clamoured for ferreting out present-day Sung Chiangs and capitulationists. In this way they attacked by insinuation Premier Chou and other leading comrades in the Party Central Committee and the State Council.

The following case is an example. In accordance with a plan approved by Chairman Mao, Premier Chou and the State Council agreed to export some petroleum and import several complete sets of equipment. This was meant to develop normal international trade, but the "gang of four" smeared it as a traitorous act to the nation and labelled it as the slavish comprador philosophy of capitulationists.

It is known to all that the "gang of four" distorted Chairman Mao's teaching on criticizing the capitalist-roaders inside the Party and advocated the slogan of "overthrowing all." In the name of criticizing Lin Piao and Confucius, the gang went in for ferreting out Confucius' disciples. And using the criticism of *Water Margin* as a pretext, they vilified Premier Chou and other veteran proletarian revolutionaries as present-day Sung Chiangs. Their tricks may vary in form, but they always had one purpose in mind, which was to usurp the supreme leadership of the Party and the state.

Socialist Labour Emulation Drive On the Upswing

by Chou Chin

CHINA is heading for great order across the land after the smashing of the "gang of four." A new leap forward is taking shape on the economic front. Workers' enthusiasm is soaring and a socialist labour emulation drive is developing vigorously in every trade and profession.

Railways Take the Lead

Last February, the central authorities convened a national conference on railway work. Due to the interference and sabotage by the "gang of four" in the railway system, many lines had not functioned properly, causing the national economy great difficulties. The conference called for a deepening exposure and criticism of the "gang of four," eliminating the chaos they had created and boosting rail transport. During the conference, Chairman Hua issued the call that the railways should be run as an advanced enterprise like the Taching Oilfield, a socialist labour emulation drive should be unfolded so that work could be done faster and better. Warmly responding to the call, the railway workers went into immediate action.

The transport work by the Chengchow Railway Bureau in central China had been most severely undermined by the gang. On March 1, the bureau issued a fraternal challenge to the Peking Railway Bureau calling for socialist emulation. The letter of challenge by the Chengchow bureau proposed to study Chairman Mao's works conscientiously and follow the in-

structions of the comrades in the central leading organs, expose and criticize the "gang of four," enhance the political consciousness of the workers and staff and work hard for three years to build the bureau into a Taching-type enterprise. It also set concrete targets for the number of freight waggons to be loaded, for safety, punctuality and maintenance of equipment and pledged to run their lines smoothly and haul a greater volume of goods at a faster speed.

The Peking bureau accepted the challenge and, at the same time, it enthusiastically proposed a socialist emulation drive with the railway administrations all over the country. Party committees of many railway bureaus including the Tsitsihar bureau in the northeast, the Kwangchow bureau in the south, the Shanghai bureau in the east and the Urumchi bureau in the northwest immediately called meetings to discuss and formulate their respective terms of response to the challenge. Thus an emulation drive between railway administrations surged forward wave upon wave. Average daily loading in April hit an all-time high since the founding of New China in 1949, and the loading of coal, which takes up a large proportion in China's rail transport, topped the figure of the same period in any previous year. Much headway was also made in other items. Last month saw a continued rise in railway transport.

The coal industry also went into action. In unison, all 30 Taching-type enterprises, 10 advanced mining teams and a number of labour

models proposed that all the coal mines unfold an emulation drive. At the Kailan Coal Mine where the earthquake had brought great damage, 106 labour models and 37 heroes in fighting the quake made a united proposal to make up for the losses caused by the "gang of four" and the quake. "Help each other, learn from each other and compete with each other" is now a common phenomenon among mines, teams and individuals in Kailan. At present, all seven mines in Kailan have restored production and it is striving to reach within this year the production capacity before the earthquake. A follower of the "gang of four" in Honan once stuck his nose into the affairs of the Pingtingshan Coal Mine, causing production to drop by a wide margin, and serious losses were incurred. The situation there swiftly turned for the better after the shattering of the "gang of four." In February, the mine launched a campaign to fulfil the monthly targets of producing one million tons of coal and turning over one million yuan in profits to the state. All of the 70,000 coal miners enthusiastically plunged into the campaign. Leading cadres went down into the shafts to work together with the miners. Pingtingshan's production in the first quarter of this year created a record and overfulfilled the state quota.

On March 23, the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry called a meeting in Peking on launching an emulation drive. Representatives of the Shoutu Iron and Steel Company challenged the iron and steel companies all over the country. A representative of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company in the northeast, China's biggest such complex, mounted the stage in response, pledging that the company would make a big change in its outlook within one year, turn it into a Taching-type enterprise within two years, overcome difficulties and fulfil this year's production and construction tasks. A representative from a small iron and steel



Competition in a loom workshop in the Shanghai No. 33 State Cotton Mill in order to swap technical experience.

complex in Yentai Prefecture in coastal Shantung Province said: Big enterprises are making big strides, we small enterprises should also make big strides. The complex made concrete proposals challenging the small iron and steel companies across the land. During the meeting, representatives from different mines and non-ferrous metal enterprises were also making proposals or responses to each other, determined to create outstanding achievements. Compared to March, the national daily output of iron and steel in April increased by a big margin and overfulfilled the state plan.

The Liaoyuan Power Plant in Kirin Province which stood squarely against the interference by the "gang of four" in recent years, proposed a socialist emulation drive with seven other power enterprises in their work. At present, friendly competition embraces not only the power generating and power supply system, but also capital construction sites and scientific research units. A seething atmosphere is prevailing throughout the power industry.

The Ministry of Light Industry recently called a national conference. The Light Industry Bureau of Hopei Province, the Kwangchow Paper Mill, the Peking Cigarette Factory, the Tientsin Shoe Factory and eight other factories proposed an emulation drive in their respective

trades, which immediately won warm response from many units.

The Taching Oil Refinery and 17 other major oil-refining enterprises made a joint proposal for an emulation drive with all their counterparts in the same trade.

Production at the Kiangsi Tractor Plant, which suffered severely from damage caused by the "gang of four," is being rapidly restored. Recently, the plant made proposals to the big tractor plants in Loyang, Tientsin and Changchun to have a labour emulation drive, which was responded by all the plants. They are determined to work harder and faster and make contributions to the mechanization of China's agriculture in the main by 1980.

Theory Guides Action

One of the fundamental experiences of China's socialist revolution and socialist construction is to rely on the masses and launch mass movements in a big way in all work. The socialist labour emulation drive is a good form of mass movement. It can mobilize all the positive factors and give full play to the masses' enthusiasm, wisdom and creativeness.

Proletarian revolutionary teachers highly praised the socialist labour emulation drive. Lenin said: "Among the absurdities which the bourgeoisie are fond of spreading about socialism is the allegation that socialists deny the importance of competition. In fact, it is only socialism which . . . for the first time opens the way for competition on a really mass scale." (*The Immediate Tasks of the Soviet Government*.) He also said: "Far from extinguishing competition, socialism, on the contrary, for the first time creates the opportunity for employing it on a really wide and on a really mass scale, for actually drawing the majority of working people into a field of labour in which they can display their abilities, develop the capacities, and reveal those talents." "Now that a socialist government is in power our task is to organize competition." (*How to Organize Competition?*) Chairman Mao also pointed out: "There must be labour emulation campaigns, and rewards

should be given to labour heroes and model workers." (*On Coalition Government*.)

Socialist labour emulation is possible only after the proletariat and all the other working people have seized state power and become masters of the state and enterprises. It materializes the comrade-like relationship between labouring people in socialist production and their position as masters of their own country. It is diametrically opposed to competition in capitalist society. In this kind of emulation, people learn from and help each other so that they all make progress. Whenever an individual or an enterprise gets advanced experience, it will be introduced to other units. This will make the advanced more advanced and those lagging behind to catch up.

However, the "gang of four" opposed the socialist labour emulation drive. Attacking Chairman Mao's instruction on the emulation campaign as "outdated," they smeared emulation as following the "theory of productive forces" and commending advanced personages as "championitis" and "splitting the ranks of the working class." They did not allow the newspapers and periodicals to propagate any news of emulation campaigns. Their aim was to smother the masses' enthusiasm for socialism and undermine the socialist economic base in order to restore capitalism.

After the smashing of the "gang of four," in his important speech at the National Conference on Learning From Tachai in Agriculture held last December, Chairman Hua called on us to "launch mass movements energetically, bring into full play the enthusiasm, wisdom and creativeness of the cadres and masses, unfold socialist emulation campaigns and build socialism in a big way."

In full accord with Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, the call has received warm response from the people throughout the country. In the wake of the upsurge of the movement to learn from Taching in industry, the socialist labour emulation drive is now developing vigorously.

Hailing Zaire's Complete Victory in Repulsing Soviet-Paid Mercenaries' Invasion

by "Renmin Ribao" Commentator

AS tidings of the Zairian people's victories in repulsing the Soviet-paid mercenaries' invasion keep pouring in, another exhilarating good news has arrived. Like the wind sweeping away dead leaves, the Zairian armed forces have in one stroke retaken Kapanga, the last foothold of the mercenaries' invasion. The recovery of this lost land signals the Zairian people's complete victory in repulsing the Soviet-paid mercenaries' invasion. It is a new song of victory scored by the Zairian people in defending their national independence and state sovereignty against Soviet social-imperialist aggression. It is a major contribution to the third world's cause of unity against hegemonism. With great joy, the Chinese people extend their warm congratulations to the heroic Zairian people and the African people in general.

The Zairian people's struggle against the Soviet-paid mercenaries' invasion lasted nearly three months. Soviet-trained-and-commanded mercenaries, equipped with up-to-date Soviet-made arms, launched a surprise attack on March 8 and occupied part of Zaire's Shaba Region. The Soviet revisionist leaders reacted gleefully and their propaganda machine noisily and unscrupulously attacked the legitimate government of independent and sovereign Zaire and blatantly described the mercenaries' invasion as an "insurrection." For a time, dark clouds hung over the heartland of Africa and the young Republic of Zaire faced a grave national crisis. Led by President Mobutu, the Zairian Government then issued a call to defend the country's independence. This found immediate response from the broad-masses of the army and the people. Effective political, economic and military assistance soon came from many African and Arab countries, and the Moroccan Government resolutely sent troops to support Zaire in its counterattack against the Soviet-paid mercenaries. Timely support was also given by

some West European nations. The present victory won by the Zairian people after nearly three months' fighting once again demonstrated the great strength of the African countries' unity in struggle. It unmasked the repulsive features of Soviet social-imperialism, unmatched in its rapacity and shamelessness, which is outwardly strong but inwardly brittle, and sharply punctured its arrogance as an aggressor and expansionist in Africa.

Zaire is a weak and poor country. However, confronted with invasion by Soviet-paid mercenaries equipped with sophisticated weapons, the Zairian Government and people dared to rise up with arms in hand to wage a tit-for-tat struggle against the Soviet colossus in order to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country. It is precisely because of their noble spirit of daring to fight that the situation in the struggle between aggression and opposition to aggression, with the Soviet Union and its mercenary troops on the one hand and Zaire and other African countries and people on the other, has gradually changed in a direction favourable to Zaire. United as one and imbued with a fighting will, the Zairian people have won sympathy, support and assistance from an increasing number of countries. The mercenaries and their master, Soviet social-imperialism, blustering over two months ago, have become more and more isolated and suffered defeat and bankruptcy. The Zairian people's major victory once again shows that in a war against aggression, the strong and the weak, the big and the small, can be transformed into one another under given conditions. Just like all reactionaries, Soviet social-imperialism is a tiger in appearance and a paper one which cannot withstand exposure to wind and rain. Provided they are united and dare to struggle, weak and poor countries can emerge victorious in the fight.

The militant unity of the African countries has played a great role in the victory of the Zairian people's struggle against aggression. At the same time, this unity has stood the test and developed in the struggle. Before winning their independence and afterwards, the African countries suffered from aggression, oppression and threat by imperialism and colonialism, but a solid basis for unity was formed in the common struggle. For years, Soviet social-imperialism has carried out aggression, interference and subversion everywhere and has been creating dissension and making trouble everywhere, thus leaving behind a despicable record in many places in Africa. Its armed intervention in Angola opened the first page of Soviet armed aggression in Africa. In Zaire, it has set a precedent for the armed invasion of a sovereign African state. Which country will be the next to suffer? Many African countries are now confronted with this grave and real question. By its own actions, Soviet social-imperialism has told the African countries and people that it is the main enemy of and the major threat to Africa. This is the basic reason why Zaire en-

joys support from many African countries and a joint armed force has been formed for the first time on the African continent to fight the aggressors. With the support of the African people, the Zairian people have won complete victory in repulsing the Soviet-paid mercenaries. This fact itself demonstrates the new awakening of the African people. A united front against Soviet social-imperialist aggression and expansion is taking shape and developing.

Despite its reverse in Zaire, Soviet social-imperialism will not abandon its policy of aggression and its expansionist activities in Africa. It is in fact spying out the land for a chance to launch aggression again some day in Zaire or somewhere else. However, there is no reason for unusual alarm even when this happens. The African countries will unite on a broader scale and smash it through resolute struggle. The wild designs of Soviet social-imperialism will come to nought in the end, whatever tactics it resorts to. The African people fighting for their just cause are bound to win.

(May 30)

At United Nations

China's Refusal to Have Contacts With South African Racist Regime Reaffirmed

AT the May 25 Security Council session discussing the provocative attacks by the racist regimes in Rhodesia and South Africa against Botswana, Chinese Representative Chen Chu pointed out in his speech: "The Southern Rhodesian racist regime has dared to act so truculently because it has the strong backing of imperialism and the South African racist regime." He said: Recently, while colluding

with the Smith regime of Southern Rhodesia in intensifying repression of the national-liberation movement of the southern African people, the South African racist regime "has been resorting to a clumsy political intrigue by impudently declaring that it 'wants to establish ties with China,' in an attempt to confuse the public, thereby deceiving the people at home, altering its ugly image abroad and extricating

itself from international isolation. On the other hand, social-imperialism, working hand in glove with the Vorster regime, has set in motion its propaganda machine and spared no effort to help the South African racist regime spread rumours to slander and malign China in an attempt to sow discord in the relations between China and the African countries and people."

He stressed: "Here we deem it necessary to point out solemnly that no force on earth can undermine the militant friendship between the Chinese people and the great African people and that the above wicked tactics on their part, far

from deceiving anyone, only reveal their deplorable position of increasing decline and helplessness."

He said: "The Chinese delegation once again solemnly declares that the Chinese Government has not, and will never enter into, any direct or indirect political, economic, trade or other contacts with the South African racist regime. The Chinese Government and people will, as always, firmly support the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and Azania in their just struggle against racism and for national liberation until they win complete victory."

Japan

"Japan-South Korea Continental Shelf Agreement" Opposed

THE Japanese authorities are extending the current Diet session so as to get automatic Diet approval of the so-called "Japan-south Korea continental shelf agreement," but the attempt is meeting opposition in Japan and from abroad.

The "Japan-south Korea agreement" was signed on January 30, 1974, by the Japanese Government and the south Korean authorities. A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of China issued a statement on February 4 the same year pointing out that "the Japanese Government and the south Korean authorities have marked off a so-called Japan-south Korea 'Joint Development Zone' on the continental shelf in the East China Sea behind China's back. This act is an infringement on China's sovereignty which the Chinese Government absolutely cannot accept." The Government of the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea has also issued statements voicing opposition. The Japanese authorities have all along tried to railroad the agreement through the Diet, but failed due to the opposition of most opposition parties and far-sighted members of the Liberal Democratic Party.

On April 27 this year, in the absence of Diet Members of the opposition Japan Socialist Party, the Komei Party and the New Liberal Club, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party forced passage of this agreement by the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, then railroaded it through the House of Representatives plenary session on May 10 and immediately sent it to the House of Councillors for consideration. According to Japanese newspaper reports, some persons in Japanese ruling circles on May 26 proposed a 12-day

extension of the current Diet session scheduled to end on May 28 so as to obtain automatic approval of the agreement. Under the Japanese Constitution, a treaty or agreement approved by the House of Representatives will automatically come into force if the House of Councillors fails to act on it within 30 days while the Diet is in session.

This scheme is being opposed by most opposition parties and public opinion in Japan.

Diet Member Tokuma Utsunomiya, commenting on the issue in an article in Bulletin No. 4, 1977 of the Japan-China Association on Economy and Trade, pointed out: "It is obvious that the seabed of the area is the alluvial of the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers and is connected with the Chinese continent by a gentle slope of 20, 40, 60, 80 and 100 metres deep under the water. The part of the continental shelf 200 to 400 metres deep under the water is demarcated as the 'Joint Development Zone.' According to the principle that the continental shelf is the natural extension of the continent, this area is obviously a continental shelf belonging to China." The article said that the matter should not be decided only between Japan and south Korea.

An article by Japan Socialist Party Diet Member Susumu Kobayashi in *Asahi Shimbun* on May 25 said: "Marking off an area of the Chinese continental shelf as a joint development zone without any negotiations with China, one of the most important countries concerned, can only be regarded as a unilateral blockade of China, or at least a breach of international faith."

The article pointed out: "China is the country which suffered the most from Japan during World War II and the only country which did not demand any reparations or an inch of land from Japan." It expressed the hope that the Japanese Government will keep faith.

An article by Japan Socialist Party Diet Member Tamio Kawakami in the weekly *Economist* on May 24 pointed out that China had protested against the conclusion of the agreement by the Japanese authorities. However, "the Foreign Ministry said that these protests are not formal protests of the Chinese Government and ignored them." It added: "To injure friendship between Japan and China for the sake of immediate interests is not worthwhile for our country."

A commentary in the May 15 issue of the fortnightly *Present-Day Asia* pointed out: "The agreement hampers the development of the traditional friendship among the Japanese, Chinese and Korean peoples and is illegal. We resolutely oppose Diet ratification of the agreement."

A commentary in the May 10 issue of *International Trade*, organ of the Japanese Association for the Promotion of International Trade, pointed out that the "Japan-south Korea continental shelf agreement" drew a protest from the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea immediately after its conclusion. The Chinese Government has also lodged protests with the Japanese Government, pointing out that the zone marked off in the agreement includes an area of the Chinese continental shelf and therefore represents an infringement on China's sovereignty. The commentary said: "Thus one can see that if the 'Japan-south Korea continental shelf agreement' were to be ratified by the current Diet session, it would create a grave international issue."

The commentary said the most dangerous thing at present is to arbitrarily railroad the agreement through the Diet disregarding the protests by China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It demanded that the Japanese Government immediately repeal the bill for ratification of the agreement which had been submitted to the House of Councillors for consideration.

VICTORY HAILED

THE Government of the Sudan decided on May 12 to terminate its contracts for Soviet military experts and to close the Soviet Military Experts' Office attached to the Soviet Embassy. When the decision was announced, the elated Sudanese people hailed it as a victory in the struggle against Soviet hegemonism and in defence of national independence and state sovereignty. Thousands of workers, peasants, youths and women demonstrated for several days in front of the Soviet Embassy, protesting Soviet crimes in Africa, the Arab world and in the Sudan. The air reverberated with shouts of "Down with Soviet neo-colonialism!" A statement of the Sudanese National Council for Friendship, Solidarity and Peace pointed out: "The Soviet leaders have discarded all the principles and slogans they once proclaimed. Now they are pursuing a policy opposed to the progress of the world's people who are struggling for freedom, sovereignty and national independence."

The manager of a printing house told this correspondent: "All the Sudanese people are happy to hear this wise government decision. The Soviet experts have done nothing good in the interest of the Sudan. Their sole aim is to control the Sudan." A worker said: "The Soviet Union has been defeated twice in plotting armed subversion in the Sudan so it hates the Sudanese people and Government. It has been engineering new conspiracies against the Sudan. How could we tolerate these Soviet experts remaining in the Sudanese people's armed forces!"

Officers and men in the armed forces found that weapons supplied to the Sudan as "Soviet aid" were all outdated but high-priced. The Soviet Union refused to supply spare parts because the Sudan adhered to her independent political line and declined to move into the

Soviet orbit. Thus planes cannot take off, motor vehicles cannot move and weapons and equipment stand like piles of scrap iron. An officer said: "People used to criticize the Soviet Union, calling it a merchant of death, but it belongs to the worst kind of arms dealers. The Soviets regard their arms and spare parts as a means of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, imposing political pressure and blackmail, and even plotting subversive conspiracies. Their true desire is to reduce the recipient country to their dependency."

In recent years, the Sudanese people have been indignant at the behaviour of Soviet experts who enjoyed high salaries while doing very little work. Taking no account of the conditions and difficulties in the recipient country, they asked for costly houses, air-conditioners, refrigerators, cars, etc., even before they started doing any work. "These Russians have done nothing good for the Sudan, but made trouble all the time. It is a really hard job to deal with them properly," said a Sudanese officer who once worked with Soviet military experts.

More intolerable is the fact that the Soviets took part in espionage activities and gathered military intelligence in various capacities. The Soviet Embassy in Khartoum has a huge staff, of which about 150 people are anything but diplomats. Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Francis Deng, in a talk with the Soviet Ambassador on the night of May 21, pointed out that the huge number of Soviet embassy staff here, which greatly surpasses that of all other foreign embassies, has attracted "the special attention of the people." The Sudanese Government has now demanded a reduction of the Soviet embassy staff.

(Hsinhua Correspondent, May 22)

ROUND THE WORLD

WESTERN EUROPE-AFRICA

Unity Against Soviet Hegemonism

When the Soviet Union instigated mercenaries to invade Zaire, France and some other West European countries provided military and logistic assistance to the invaded country. This new trend of West European-African unity against hegemony is being strengthened.

Political and material assistance from France and other West European countries to Zaire's struggle against Soviet expansion has been welcomed by many African states. Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Executive Chairman of the Organization of African Unity and Prime Minister of Mauritius, noted on April 15: "As the Executive Chairman of the O.A.U., I approve the initiatives of Morocco and France in regard to Zaire." He added that the O.A.U. could not tolerate armed encroachment upon the territorial integrity of an African state.

President of the Sudan Gaafar Mohamed Nimeri said on May 16: "We appreciate the just and equitable position of France on the cause of peace and freedom in our African continent."

Mauritanian President Daddah also praised French assistance to Zaire. Moreover, the 18

heads of state and government of African countries at the French-African summit conference in Dakar generally expressed approval of French support for Zaire.

West European support to African countries in opposing Soviet expansion in Africa was of course aimed at preserving Western Europe's security and its interests in the continent. An important supplier of raw materials to Western Europe, Africa is an important marketplace for its manufactured goods and a place to which Western Europe exports capital. Important minerals including those essential to Western Europe's defence and most advanced industries come mostly from Africa.

Exports of the nine E.E.C. countries to Africa in 1974 accounted for 46 per cent of the total value of African imports. French exports of capital to Africa was one-third its total capital exports. Belgium's investment in Zaire amounted to 4,000 million U.S. dollars.

The sea route from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic via the Cape of Good Hope is known as the "lifeline on the seas" for the West. Most strategic materials, over half the oil and one-quarter of the grain imported by Western Europe are shipped by this route.

SOMALIA

Castro's Proposal Rejected

In a recent interview with the Egyptian paper *Al Ahram*, President Siad Barre of Somalia disclosed that he had rejected Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro's proposal for a confederation of Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia and Somalia.

In the interview carried in the paper on May 19, the Somali President confirmed that the proposal had been submitted at an Aden meeting he attended together with the heads of state of Ethiopia and Democratic Yemen in the presence of Castro, or two days before the Taiz conference of four Red Sea states. "But this proposal was refused by us," he said.

The President said: "We have strong ties with Saudi Arabia, and we have common interests now."

Referring to a visit to Saudi Arabia by a Somali delegation sometime earlier, he said: "We talked about Afro-Arab relations, the Red Sea security problems. We were in perfect agreement on the necessity of keeping the Red Sea a safe area."

Asked by the correspondent about the facilities granted in the Somali port of Berbera, the President said: "We grant the Soviets maritime facilities. We are also prepared to grant any other state the same facilities, on the condition that this should be done through normal, legitimate channels, and the sovereignty of the country should be absolutely maintained."

ON THE HOME FRONT

Locusts Under Control

THE most ferocious pest to threaten farm production in old China was the locust. Historical records show that there were more than 700 major locust invasions in the 2,600 years from the seventh century B.C. to 1935. When such a calamity struck, standing crops over large areas were devoured by tremendous swarms of the insect. The serious locust onslaughts on the three provinces of Shantung, Honan and Hopei in north China during the 1942-44 period left millions of peasants famine-stricken and wandering for a livelihood. On one occasion, in 1929, locusts covered a railway section near the town of Hsiashu in Kiangsu Province so that trains were delayed for two hours to avert possible derailment.

Since China's liberation in 1949, the people have been organized for efforts to wipe out locusts according to the principle of combining the use of pesticides with transformation of the pest's breeding grounds. As a result, there has been no locust invasion over any large area. The scourge has been kept under control and the insect is no longer a major threat to farm production.

The People's Government has paid close attention to locust control. Immediately after the founding of New China, the state took steps to strengthen leadership over this work, provided financial, material and technical aid and organized the masses to destroy locusts.

In traditionally locust-plagued areas, locust-fighting command posts and branches were set up, under which were groups made up of professionals and peasants.

In 1951, planes were used for the first time in China to spray insecticides. By the early 60s, the area sprayed in this way had reached 70 per cent of the total affected area.

Plant protection scientists also geared their efforts to locust control. Shortly after liberation, they began making a nationwide systematic study and investigation of the insect's life cycle and habits and its breeding grounds. On this basis, they worked out measures suited to different affected areas.

Control work made further advances following the collectivization of agriculture in 1958 when people's communes were established. On the one hand, sustained efforts were made to destroy locusts relentlessly and with ingenuity so as to reduce the size of migrating swarms and minimize the scourge. On the other hand, transformation of the insect's breeding grounds was carried out with the aim of eliminating the pest completely.

The transformation of locust-breeding grounds in the affected areas has made remarkable headway particularly since the launching in 1966 of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution which greatly stimulated the movement to learn from Tachai in agriculture. The people's communes in many afflicted areas have combined locust-

fighting work with farm production. They opened up wasteland, built water conservancy works, brought more land under irrigation, changed their farming systems and planted trees, thereby making propagation of the insect difficult or destroying its breeding grounds. These measures enabled a number of affected areas to eliminate locusts once and for all and boost farm production in a few years. Suchien County in Kiangsu Province, east China, is a case in point.

Some 40,000 hectares of its land were hit by locusts yearly in the past. Since liberation, the peasants there have fought the locusts every year to ensure rich harvests of grain and oil-bearing crops. However, the scourge was not entirely rooted out.

Following the establishment of the people's communes, the county launched a massive drive to convert a good-size lake, the Loma Lake, into a reservoir. Dry except in June and July each year, the lake and its shores on which a single crop of wheat was planted a year were a major locust-breeding ground. Now the reservoir provides ample water for the change-over to double-cropping of paddy rice and wheat or some other crop on large tracts of land. Moreover, efforts have been made to raise fish and shrimp in ponds dug in the low-lying parts, plant fruit trees on the river banks, convert barren hills to vineyards and grow trees along field balks and river dykes. All this has reduced the places locusts can breed and enabled some communes to basically wipe out the scourge in just one to two years.