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北京周报

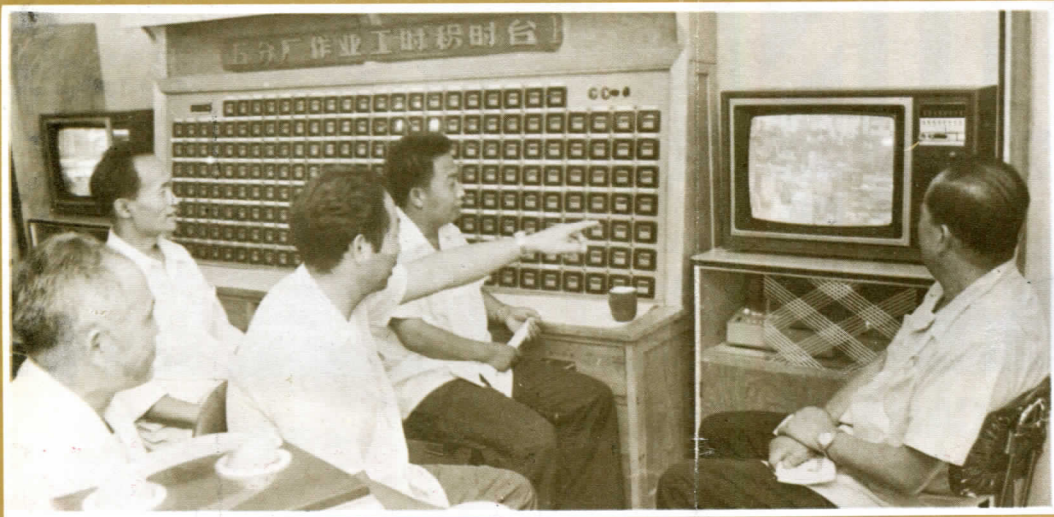
A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

CHINA CALLS FOR DISARMAMENT

Aiding African Famine Victims



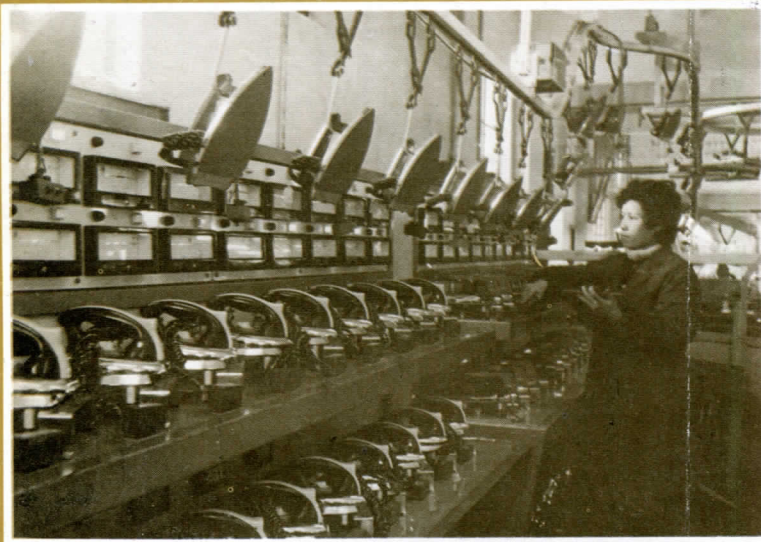
*Shandong Peasants
Keen on Sports*



Directors of the Wafangdian Bearings Factory in Liaoning Province follow the production process on closed circuit TV with the help of a teleprinter. The factory has changed greatly since modern management techniques were adopted.

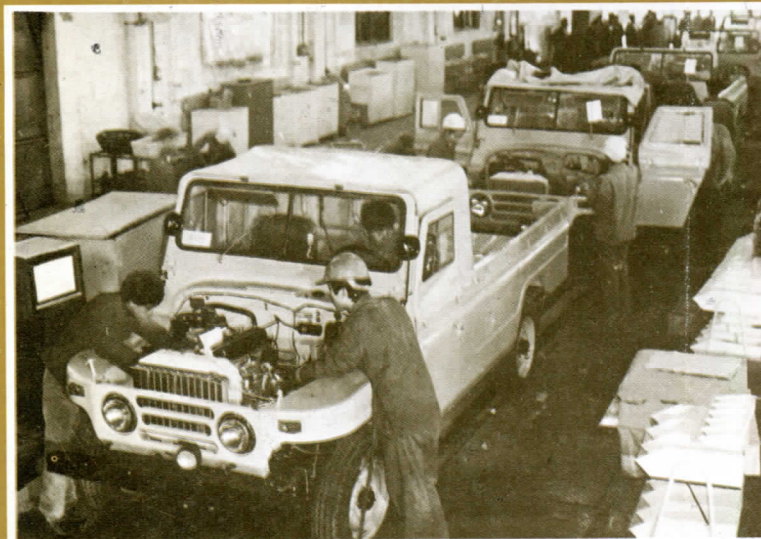
China Speeds Up Technological Transformation

The assembly line designed and built by the Shanghai Electric Iron Factory has been operating well since its inauguration at the end of 1984.



The biggest technological transformation project at the Wuhan Iron and Steel Company, now under way, involves a computer controlled stoking system for the blast furnace.

As part of its technological transformation, the Beijing motor Vehicle Plant built a truck production line.



SPOTLIGHT

BEIJING REVIEW

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COVER: Shandong peasants' motorcycle race.

Photo by Huo Jianying

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Education System Slated for Reform

China's goal of catching up with the developed nations is based on its ability to promote education, its scientific capabilities and the quality of its people, Deng Xiaoping said when he addressed a recent national education conference reviewing a draft resolution on education reforms (p. 6).

China Calls for Total Disarmament

The call for disarmament has been heard all over the world as the ever-swelling stockpile of nuclear and conventional weapons increasingly jeopardizes international peace. China favours total disarmament and hopes to see the United States and the Soviet Union take the first step towards reducing their nuclear arsenals (p. 15).

A Helping Hand for Africa

In the face of the most severe drought in Africa's history, people all over China are contributing what they can to help relieve the suffering. Benefit clinics, sports meets and performances have been organized to raise money (p. 6).

Developing Rural Energy Resources

The boom in rural industries and sideline occupations in recent years has sharply raised the demand for energy in the countryside. To meet this need, the government is encouraging more efficient use and development of alternative energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal and tidal power (p. 23).

Shandong Peasants Take Up Sports

With "sports fever" sweeping China, peasants who once hardly had any time or money for sports have now taken to the playing fields. Shandong is one of these advanced provinces (p. 26).

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Market Changes to Set Prices Right

by JIN QI
Economic Editor

Beijing's food markets took on a new look on May 10, when the municipal government decontrolled prices of meat, fish, poultry, eggs and vegetables. The changes, already in effect in 24 other provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, boosted prices of 1,500 food items by an average of 30 percent. Some local favourites — lean pork, beef and yellow croaker — saw rises of 100-200 percent. Further increases hit prices of cooking gas, matches and public bath services.

With decontrol, about 30 percent of Beijing's retail sales items have now been freed from state fixed-price systems. They will now be sold on a market where transactions are made at prices agreed upon by both buyers and sellers. The law of value will play a key role in these transactions, and prices will float according to changes in supply and demand.

The readjustment is by far China's most dramatic to date, affecting a highly sensitive area of urban life — the dinner table. The municipal government will chip in more than 500 million yuan in cash subsidies each year to help consumers defray the higher cost of living. Decided after much study of the consumer level and the scope of the price increases, the amount averages 7.5 yuan a month for each of Beijing's 5.5 million urban residents. Rural peasants, who in 1984 alone received 380

million yuan in subsidies for selling sideline products to the state, are expected to benefit directly from the price rises.

An extensive public relations drive was mounted to pave the way for the new price changes. The municipal government has also stored enough, meat, poultry, eggs and other nonstaple foods to supply Beijing for six months, while 15,000 supervisors have been sent

The state has decided that beginning from this year, a more rational price system will be created in five years. People hope that the current price decontrol will serve as a good beginning.

out to local markets to help curb arbitrary price hikes.

Consumer reaction to the decontrol was calm and reserved. "We have long expected this to happen, and it is now the right time, was the common remark of many Beijing residents.

But some are wary, and are taking a wait-and-see attitude. Others simply don't see the need for dramatic changes; to them this is merely a matter of state subsidies going from the farmers' pockets into those of the city dwellers.

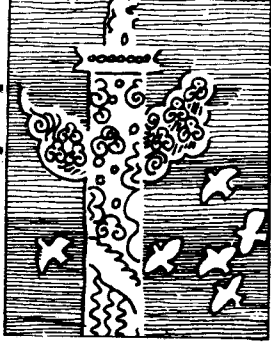
It will probably be some time before the significance of deregula-

tion is fully understood — The move is, after all nothing short of a revolution in economic management. It is true that allowing prices to be governed by market forces has made some products so expensive as to temporarily discourage consumer interest. But higher prices will serve to stimulate production. And the experience of places already under the new pricing system has shown that once more commodities become available on the market, their prices naturally go down and settle at levels acceptable to both buyers and sellers.

In Guangzhou, for example, prices of nonstaple foods soared shortly after controls were lifted in 1982. They have been decreasing steadily for the last couple of years, however, and both their quantity and quality have improved. The price of fresh fish dropped from 6 yuan per kg to 2-2.8 yuan. Last year, Guangzhou's price index rose by 1.5 percent, while the average consumer level was up 18 percent.

The new practice is designed to remedy, among other things, an old problem caused by a lack of understanding of the law of value and market forces — prices that do not reflect product quality. Fuel, raw materials and farm and sideline products have long been too cheap, while the prices of industrial goods are kept too high, and good-quality products are sold at low prices. This put well-managed factories at a disadvantage, and helped ill-managed enterprises to muddle through.

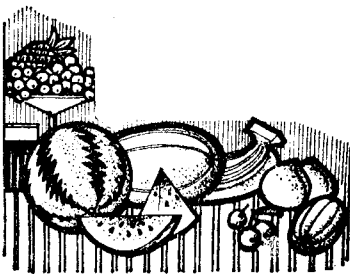
Then, too, there is the pork problem. Before decontrol, the state



purchase price for pork was 1.3 yuan per kg—but 1.48 yuan worth of corn (4 kg) was needed to produce that amount. This meant an 18-fen loss on every kg of pork, more than enough to discourage pig breeding. It is not surprising that in many places pork is in short supply, while granaries are filled to overflowing.

These and many other problems can be solved only when exchanges of equal value become the rule of the market and the prices are set to ensure that producers can earn a fair return on their labour.

But time and patience are needed for China to completely come to grips with its lopsided price system. Hasty moves can only push the state, enterprises and consumers beyond their financial capabilities. No effort should be spared to avoid a drop in state revenue, or a loss in consumer interest. That calls for a process of gradual readjustment. In China, it will take four to five years to create a more rational price system. The current price decontrol will serve as a good beginning.



LETTERS

Education for Handicapped Children

"Giving Handicapped People a Better Chance" in Issue No. 11 attracted my interest. I know the hardships and frustrations of those who engage in educating mentally retarded children. I cannot but sympathize with the parents of those children, and their daily anxieties.

Today, the Chinese people enjoy warm clothes and enough food. Their society has made great headway, but still lags behind the developed countries in the education of handicapped children. However, the article convinced me that, with good teachers like Guan Shuzhen, who is pictured on the front cover of your magazine, China will soon come from behind and surpass the developed countries. Guan looks amiable and maternal, and the boy with her seems to say with shy and innocent eyes, "I see, teacher." I feel as if I have heard their conversation. With teachers like Guan, the cause of educating China's handicapped children has a promising future.

Satakichi Wakana
Tochigi, Japan

Software Imports

I want to say something about the article "Reform Invigorates 1984 Economy" in Issue No. 10.

According to the statistics provided, China's modernization drive is making encouraging progress in all fields.

The article tells of progress in technology, technological research, technology imports from abroad, and the improvement of production equipment in old factories.

It's good for an open economy to import advanced machines and equipment from abroad. But it is more important, as I see it, to import "software" for better use of those machines and equipment.

In the past, your magazine has given software very little coverage, and I don't think your enterprises have seen the true value of software.

Shozo Kodma
Takasaki, Japan

On Southeast Asian Problems

Your article entitled "Who Actually Owns Cam-Ranh?" was of special interest to me; I fear that history (read: war) is about to repeat itself in my very unfortunate homeland, which is already suffering greatly under a tyrannical regime working for and serving only foreign interests.

The Soviet military build-up in Viet Nam is seen by nations in the region as a threat to world peace and security. This could lead to covert and overt actions involving other foreign powers, and more suffering for the peoples of Indochina.

Personally, I long for a Viet Nam where my children and their children's children can live in peace and harmony with all the people of their neighbouring states. Sino-Vietnamese friendship in particular should be preserved for the sake of peace between our two peoples, who are descendants of the same culture and share a common heritage.

Thanh-Truc
California, USA

Education System Slated for Reform

All Chinese youngsters will be given nine years of compulsory education under reforms, announced the national education conference ending May 20 in Beijing.

The change will bring rural children, who previously received only four to six years' compulsory schooling, into line with their urban counterparts.

China's overall strength, as well as its economic growth, depends more and more on the skills of its workers and the quality of its intellectuals, Party Central Advisory Commission Chairman Deng Xiaoping said in his address to the session, which is reviewing a draft resolution on the reforms.

The country's goal of catching up with the developed nations before its centenary in 2049 is based on its ability to promote education, improve its scientific capabilities and train millions of capable people. Officials who fail to recognize the importance of education are not qualified to lead the modernization drive, Deng warned, and he urged cadres to talk to teachers and students to find out their needs and help them overcome their difficulties.

Vice-Premier Wan Li also told the delegates that people and organizations offering high pay to lure teachers away from schools are "killing the goose that lays the golden egg." This and other malpractices including taking over campus buildings and diverting funds from education must be averted, he said.

College admissions will also come in for reform, as will the system of state job assignments for college graduates. Colleges and uni-

versities will be given a freer hand in admitting students with good academic records but relatively low entrance examination scores. An experimental recommendation system will be tried instead of entrance exams in some colleges this year.

Further reforms will involve teachers' recruitment, transfers and salaries, school curricula and educational methodology, participants said.

China Lends a Hand To African Victims

"Would you please donate some money for children in Africa?" pleaded a schoolgirl standing alongside a collection box at the Beijing Railway Station.

Gao Shenglin, a young farmer from Heilongjiang Province on his

way home after a visit to the capital, had heard of the millions in Africa threatened by starvation. Touched by the child's plea for her African siblings halfway around the world, Gao reached into his wallet and handed over 170 yuan — all the money he had left.

Liu Fangxin, a doctor who has twice travelled to Africa, decided to write a letter to the Health Ministry asking to be sent a third time so she could use her medical skills to lend a hand.

Millions of Chinese are eager to do something for the Africans. Across that troubled continent, 34 countries have been plagued by drought and 150-185 million people are threatened by starvation. At least 10 million hungry people have been forced to leave their homes to go in search of food and water. The tragedy was brought home to the Chinese by television reports that graphically depicted the suffering.

A team of doctors sent by

Professor Guan Youbo, a liver specialist at the Beijing Traditional Chinese Medical Hospital, turned over the proceeds from a benefit outpatient clinic to the fund for African drought victims.



China's Health Ministry and the Red Cross in April witnessed the tragedy in Ethiopia with their own eyes.

In the face of the greatest human disaster in Africa's modern history, the Chinese Red Cross and the Young Red Cross early this year appealed to the nation to help out as much as possible.

Contributions poured in to local Red Cross societies and to the headquarters in Beijing. Among those who responded to the plea, said a Red Cross official, were a Heilongjiang police squad which donated 2,000 yuan and a monk in Shaolin Temple on the Songshan Mountain in Henan Province who sent in all his 1,000 yuan savings.

When a citywide donation drive began on April 13, Beijing residents responded by giving 400,000 yuan (US\$140,000) in the first two weeks, said Shen Dehuang, deputy secretary-general of the Beijing Branch of the Chinese Red Cross.

Contributors included primary and middle school pupils, college students, retired workers and office cadres, as well as health units and other institutions.

The staff of *Beijing Review* have donated 447 yuan.

Students from nearly 1,000 primary and middle schools, colleges and universities in the city donated pocket money and a portion of the income earned by school-run factories, said Shen.

The Red Cross official said that some 100 People's Liberation Army hospitals and clinics in Beijing and a still larger number of local health stations turned over outpatient fees from special benefit clinics to the fund.

In addition, said Shen, 30 noted calligraphers and painters contributed works. Benefit performances were given by the Chinese national women's volleyball team, the national men's basketball and

football teams, and famous musicians, singers and dancers.

Fund drives are also gaining momentum in Shandong and Anhui provinces, Tianjin, Shanghai, Nanjing and elsewhere.

According to the Chinese Red Cross, China has dispatched 37 medical teams, comprised of 8,000 doctors and nurses, to Africa since 1963. Last year the Chinese government provided 120,000 tons of grain to Africa. And in the past two years the Chinese Red Cross has donated 1.93 million yuan to 21 drought-ridden African countries.

World's Youth Gather for Peace

Hundreds of young people from every corner of the world gathered May 11 and 12 at the Fragrant Hill Hotel in the picturesque Western Hills of Beijing. Despite differences in ideology and the language barrier, they found areas of agreement during their conference on the "Role of Youth in Peace and Development."

Speakers at the conference included representatives from 48 delegations attending the Beijing Meeting for Young People in the

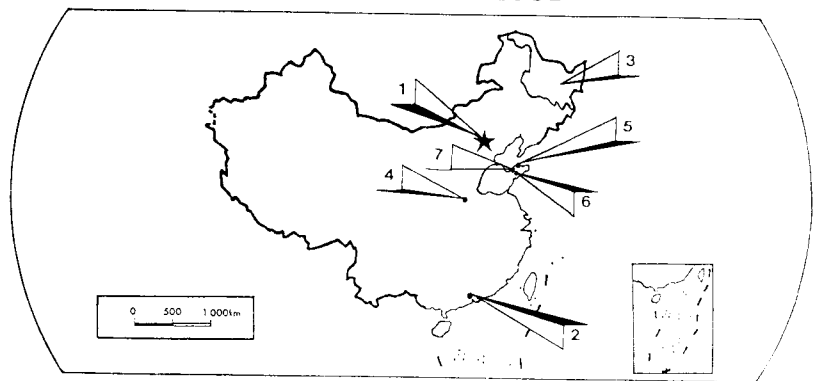
Asian and Pacific region in celebration of the International Youth Year (IYY). They included observers from Africa, the Americas and Europe. The speakers touched on most major issues confronting the modern world, although they approached the issues from different perspectives.

Delegates unanimously agreed that people all over the world yearn for peace and progress, and now is the time for young people to make their contribution towards these goals.

Despite the crisis and turmoil in the world, the delegates noted that many young people are apathetic and seek only personal pleasure. However, they agreed, there are millions of young people who want to help but find it hard to overcome prejudice against them. The delegates called on all young people to show concern for world affairs. They also urged people of the older generation to recognize the talents of the young and give them more responsibility.

Many delegates talked about the contributions of youth in their own countries. Mohammed Ali Salih Al-Fajia from the Yemen Arab Republic told the other delegates about his country's celebration of the IYY. "We engaged in many activities, such as teaching people how to read and write, providing

PLACES IN THIS ISSUE



- (1) Beijing (p. 4) (2) Guangzhou (p. 4) (3) Heilongjiang (p. 6)
(4) Songshan Mountain (p. 7) (5) Dengzhou (p. 27)
(6) Laixi (p. 27) (7) Yexian (p. 28)

News in Brief

China will set up a team of more than 200 officers to supervise, examine and approve all civilian nuclear facilities, said Jiang Shengjie, director general of China's Nuclear Safety Administration.

The officers are now being trained in a course co-sponsored by the Chinese organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Police detained 127 soccer fans after a riot in and outside a stadium on May 19 in Beijing when China's National Team lost to Hongkong.

The rioters were only a tiny fraction of the 80,000 spectators present, many of whom helped the police in identifying and arresting the troublemakers.

Nationwide, 10,000 factories and other civilian organizations are now using computers for management, storage, banking, transportation and quality control.

Computers will also be used to design clothing and furniture.

Thirty-one Chinese colleges affiliated with government ministries have offered industrial enterprises the results of 1,921 research projects this year.

They have won 221 invention awards, almost 25 percent of the nation's total. The colleges have signed 8,000 technology transfer contracts.

medical care and purifying water, with great success," he said.

Young people account for 30 percent of the population of Cyprus, a small island country in the eastern Mediterranean. Most of them are involved in social, cultural and political activities, said delegates from the country. But they face many problems, including a shortage of institutions of higher learning, the commercialization of cultural and sports activities and the lack of job opportunities.

Mustafa Yildirim, a delegate from Turkey, said that more and more young people in the developed and comparatively rich countries and regions are dissatisfied with the superficiality of the technological age and are looking for more in life than material gain. In the developing countries, Yildirim said, young people hope to see their economies and their own talents develop further. Such young people might be more interested in world affairs, he said, if they were not so consumed with their own problems. Faced with economic problems, political instability, social woes and unemployment, third world youths have to struggle for security, he said.

Common problems confronting young people in education, employment, recreation and health were much discussed. Many delegates were seen in small groups discussing such topics into the wee hours of the morning.

Many delegates argued that a peaceful international environment is necessary if young people are to fulfil their potential. A Japanese delegate noted that his parents lived in China during World War II. Born in 1948, he described himself as an idealist. During a discussion of peace, he said that nuclear war, which would destroy the world, must be avoided. But the lack of war in itself, he said, is not "positive peace." Such a "positive peace" should include world

equality and justice, he said. He continued that poverty, segregation and prejudice constitute "indirect aggression."

Abdul Latheef, head of the delegation from the Maldives, appealed for peace in the Indian Ocean. "We hope there will be lasting peace in the Pacific too," said a delegate from New Zealand. "We hope the Pacific will become an ocean of friendship and peace."

Liu Yandong, head of the Chinese delegation and chairman of the conference, took the floor after delegates from Iran and Iraq had spoken. "The Iranian and Iraqi youths are all friends of Chinese youths," said Liu. "We extend our warm welcome to both of them. We hope Iran and Iraq will end their war as soon as possible."

An 18-year-old Australian had a difficult time keeping up with the conference pace due to her fractured leg, which was set in a huge plaster cast. Though the Melbourne acrobat had fractured the leg in an accident just three weeks earlier, she wasn't about to miss the conference.

"It's painful to have a fractured bone, but I don't want to lose a rare chance to attend the friendship meeting of the youths in the Asian and Pacific region in China. It's worth being here while still suffering from the pain," she said. Not only did she participate in the discussions from the beginning to the end, she also visited two art exhibitions marking the IYY and toured the Great Wall.

Most of the 400 delegates and observers were visiting China for the first time. They made many friends with their Chinese hosts and among themselves in the short span of a few days. Larry C.Y. Cheah, head of the Asian and Pacific Economic and Social Committee delegation, spoke highly of the meeting. "This is a party that goes beyond race, belief and occupation. It's really inspiring," he said.

Green Great Wall Holds Back Desert

China has just wound up the first phase of a giant afforestation campaign aimed at halting the spread of deserts in its arid north, northeast and northwest.

The drive to build the new Green Great Wall began in 1978, when the government decided to plant a shelterbelt along the boundaries of the sandy 130-million hectare wasteland which covers parts of 12 provinces across the country's northern tier. The desert, stretching from Xinjiang through much of Inner Mongolia, receives no more than 40 mm of rainfall a year. By contrast, its annual evaporation rate is about 2,500 mm, aided by dusty winds blowing at speeds of up to 25 metres per second. If the desert is allowed to spread unchecked, some scientists warn, it could bury Beijing in the next two hundred years.

The first stage of the Green Great Wall, which will eventually be 7,000 km long, involved afforesting 5.93 million hectares to raise local coverage rates from 4 percent to 6 percent, said Chen Hong, director in charge of the project's central section.

More than 8 million hectares of farmland benefit from this part of the drive, Chen added.

The government has allocated 267 million yuan to the programme over the past seven years. An additional 900 million yuan has been raised through other channels, including collective and individual initiatives.

The second stage of the campaign, which extends from 1986 to 1990, will see 6.51 million more hectares planted. The third phase, scheduled for completion at the turn of the century, will afforest an additional 10.66 million



The Long Road to Lhasa

Twenty trucks driven by the young farmers from Sujiatuo Village, in Beijing's Haidian District, arrived in Lhasa on April 19. The convoy, the first to drive direct from Beijing to Tibet, began its 5,000 km journey at the end of March.

hectares. When finished, the shelterbelt will raise forest coverage rates to 10.6 percent across northern China, according to Forestry Ministry officials.

Beijing Enforces Ban on Spitting

Beginning May 20, people who are caught spitting in Beijing's public places will be made to clean up after themselves and pay a fine of 50 fen.

Spitting is a deep-rooted public health problem. The extremely dry climate and lack of proper heating facilities during winter cause bronchitis and other diseases to be quite widespread, especially among older people. This was the reason for the spitting. Though housing and medical services have improved, spitting remains a habit. During a municipal government session, Beijing Mayor Chen Xitong said that

“such an uncivilized, unhygienic and immoral habit seriously hurts the image and reputation of the capital city.”

The problem, he said, is not insignificant. “It affects the health of the Chinese people, and has much to do with China's image and reputation as a socialist country as well,” said the mayor.

The sight of people spitting in buildings and on the street has long drawn criticism from Beijing residents and foreign visitors. “At present, some cadres and people hold that banning spitting in public places is making a fuss over a trifling matter,” Chen said. “But this is wrong. They should change their attitude.”

The mayor encouraged an educational campaign to convince people not to spit at public places and said the city will need to implement the municipal government decision. “No matter how high his ranking is, the spitter has to accept punishment: Wipe it up and pay a fine,” Chen added.

According to the decision, people who refuse to clean up their spittle and who attack the person having cited them for spitting will be turned over to higher authorities for punishment.

Spitting will be banned in all public institutions, parks, stores, restaurants, stadiums, gymnasiums, railway stations, airports, streets and squares located either in the city proper or in the suburbs.

On May 20 when the decision took effect, more than 147,000 health inspectors began patrolling Beijing streets to enforce a new city-wide crackdown on spitting.

Thousands of health workers and school children set up stalls at street corners, with anti-spitting slogans emphasizing health and courtesy. People were reminded to spit into spittoons instead of on the ground.

Health inspectors from 57 units were patrolling the Yongdingmen Railway Station. Some 63 offenders were fined at the Beijing Railway Station.

Party and government leaders from State departments also took part in the campaign which is due to continue for many weeks with several special days.

China to Tax Foreign Firms

A 5 percent industrial and commercial consolidated tax will be imposed on all foreign, Hongkong and Macao corporations operating in China and other economic organizations starting June 1, said Jin Xin, director of the Ministry of Finance Taxation Bureau.

"The decision is in accordance with the articles in our previously promulgated legislation and regulations and with the relevant provision of the tax treaties the Chinese government has concluded

with foreign governments," he explained.

"It is also in accordance with international practices," the director said.

According to the regulations, taxable items include commissions, rebates and fees received for conducting market surveys and providing business information as well as performing liaison, consultation and other services for clients in China.

If a foreign enterprise has offices in several parts of the country, each of these offices should pay its own taxes to local tax departments.

Foreign corporations and other economic organizations will not be allowed to operate in China without registration, the regulations stipulate. If they have already begun operation, they should pay taxes on the commissions, rebates and fees received from their business activities.

However, those offices acting solely for their head offices and not receiving payment from clients for their services, and those appointed by enterprises in China to engage in business mainly outside China will be exempt from paying the taxes.

While drawing up the regulations, Jin said, consideration has been given to the established practice of a country protecting its national interests. Due attention has also been given to the interests of foreign enterprise offices.

"Such an attitude will play an active role in facilitating the implementation of our open policy, absorbing foreign funds, imports of advanced technology and acceleration of our modernization drive," he said.

Enterprises were required to pay 15 percent income tax as of January 1 this year.

China & the World

Cuban Minister in China

Cuban Vice-Foreign Minister Pelegrin Torras arrived in Shanghai May 4 on a work visit to China as guest of his Chinese counterpart Zhu Qizhen. His schedule included visits to Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Nanjing and Beijing.

China, Singapore Start Direct Air Service

Direct air service between China and Singapore was inaugurated May 15 with Singapore Airlines' first arrival in Beijing. CAAC, China's national airline, began its Beijing service to Singapore via Guangzhou on May 17. This is CAAC's 24th international route.

Although China and Singapore do not have diplomatic relations, ties have expanded steadily over the past few years. Trade reached US\$1.4 billion in 1984, a 54 per cent hike over 1983.

Bank of China to Issue Public Bonds in Europe

The Bank of China will issue public bonds in the Federal Republic of Germany in late May. This is the first time a Chinese bank has issued bonds in Europe.

The total value of the seven-year bonds will be 150 million Deutsche marks. The largest commercial bank in FRG, the Deutsche Bank, will act as lead manager. Several other banks will also take part in the bond offering.

Middle East

Peace Talks Will Not Come Easy

Peace talks in the Middle East are once again being seriously discussed, but United States Secretary of State George Shultz made no breakthrough on the thorny issue of Palestinian representation during his Mideast visit.

by **YI MING**

"Beijing Review" News Analyst

THE three-day visit of United States Secretary of State George Shultz to the Middle East, his first in nearly two years, was aimed at helping Arab-Israeli peace talks move beyond the stage of exploration towards reality. But, as the May 10-13 visit shows, the players in the Middle East have not fundamentally altered their stands, and the future of negotiations is still uncertain.

Shultz went to Israel, Egypt and Jordan to discuss the composition of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to prospective talks on the future of the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip.

After US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's 16-day tour of seven Mideast nations last month, the US administration announced that it is considering talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that would include members of the Palestine National Council (PNC), which serves as the parliament of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), but would not meet with a delegation that included actual PLO members.

Although there have been slight changes in the US position — now the administration realizes the need to involve Palestinians in the peace process — the administration still refuses to recognize the

legitimacy of the PLO. The State Department says it will not talk with the PLO unless the PLO recognizes Israel's right to exist by accepting United Nations Resolution 242.

The US attitude towards the PLO is in deference to Israel, which has ruled out any negotiations with members of the PLO.

On the other side, the Arab nations hold that without the participation of the PLO, which they see as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, no settlement of the Palestinian issue can be achieved. The February 11 Jordanian-PLO agreement, which gave rise to the current diplomatic activities, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's February 25 proposal both called for the PLO to participate in a mixed Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

It was initially reported that Jordan and the PLO agreed on a list of Palestinian representatives who are not PLO members, but PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has denied that such an agreement exists.

Even the US plan to include members of the PNC in a negotiating team was rejected by the Israelis when the secretary of state visited Jerusalem May 10-11. Reports say that Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres has shown some flexibility, but Foreign Minister Itzhak Shamir sees the PLO and the PNC as the same

institution. Shamir is the head of the powerful Likud bloc in Israel's coalition government.

By siding with Israel, Shultz was unable to make a breakthrough in the makeup of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation. At the end of his visit, Shultz acknowledged that it was difficult to find Palestinian negotiators acceptable to both the PLO and Israel, and so the question of Palestinian representation is still the major stumbling block to scheduling peace negotiations.

In addition, there are widely divergent views on the peace process. Jordan contends that the joint delegation should first talk with the United States, then with Israel, and finally an international conference should be convened, which would include Syria, the Soviet Union and others. This is similar to the Egyptian proposal. In contrast, the United States, echoing the Israeli stand, has called for direct negotiations between Israel and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Pressed by Egypt and Jordan, Washington agreed to meet the joint delegation, but, as the US administration put it, only as a preparatory step for direct Arab-Israeli talks. And, thus far, Washington has rejected the idea of an international conference.

The United States has treated the Middle East with caution since its Lebanon setback in 1982. However, as Soviet influence continues to grow in the region, Washington is eager to see the stalled peace process revived.

Meanwhile, Israel is now more willing to enter into negotiations. Its foray into Lebanon ended in failure, as the invading troops were constantly harassed by the Lebanese resistance. The myth of

Israel's military invincibility has been destroyed and Israel's vulnerability has been exposed. The Israelis fear that the resistance will spread from southern Lebanon into the occupied territories. What's more, the Israeli economy is in shambles, as consumers have been plagued with rampant inflation.

Still, with firm support from the United States, Israel is reluctant to

make concessions. Recently, Israeli leaders announced that the Golan Heights are an inseparable part of Israeli territory. This shows how stubborn Israel can be. Meanwhile, Syria is opposed to any talks with Israel. Syria is also critical of the Jordanian-PLO accord.

It seems peace talks will not come easy, despite the current gathering momentum.

Paris-Washington

Disagreements at Bonn Summit

American-French disagreements surfaced at the recent Bonn summit when Paris opposed holding a new round of trade talks in 1986 and refused to join President Reagan's "Star Wars" programme.

by MA WEIMIN

THE most notable development of the recent Bonn summit came when a new dispute surfaced between France and the United States over two major issues: French opposition to fixing a date for trade negotiations in 1986, and its refusal to participate in research on the US Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

Because of factors including the continuing strength of the US dollar, economic troubles in the third world and the slow recovery of the Western economies, the United States has recently had difficulty selling its products abroad. Farm products have been especially hard-hit, causing trade deficits to increase rapidly. To protect the US economic recovery, Washington has demanded that all nations remove their tariff barriers. The major American aim at the summit was to fix a date for a new round of talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) early next year. The effort foundered, however, on opposition from Paris.

French President Francois Mit-

terrand gave several reasons for his country's refusal: first, he was more concerned over the European Economic Community (EEC), particularly its tariff protectionism under current agricultural policies; second, the third world countries should be consulted before a date for the negotiation is decided; and third, monetary negotiations should be convened simultaneously with the trade talks.

Of course, as French newspapers have indicated, Mitterrand acted as he did to protect French interests. French farm exports, which earn the country most of its foreign currency, rank second in the world. There were worries that large losses could result if the United States concentrates its attention on farm products in the trade talks. Paris media observers also noted that the French government dares not offend the farmers before the coming elections scheduled for spring 1986.

Moreover, monetary problems are more important than trade negotiations. The strong US dollar has forced France to increase its import spending, and thus to bear a heavier foreign debt. Every ten

centime rise in the US dollar boosts the French import bill by 2,000-3,000 million francs a year. From 1982 to 1984, the US dollar jumped from 6.72 francs to 9.72 francs. France therefore insisted that trade negotiations and monetary talks be convened at the same time. However, the move was not accepted by the United States.

On the US Star Wars programme, Mitterrand was tight-lipped until his arrival in Bonn. At the summit, he announced France's refusal to participate in SDI research, based on its intention of maintaining its independent nuclear deterrent.

Last March, the United States proposed that its allies participate in SDI research. The US move was made to win political support for its stand on the Soviet Union and to attract qualified personnel and technologies from Western Europe.

For its part, Paris hoped its EEC partners could make a collective reply to Washington to prevent Western Europe from becoming a sub-contractor for the United States. In mid-April France proposed a plan, dubbed Eureka after an independent high technology defence system in Western Europe, which called for European co-operation in science and technology. Though France reiterated that Eureka has nothing to do with the "Star Wars" programme, the French plan was still described by the press as a counter to the US strategy, and an effort to make Western Europe adopt a common, or at least co-ordinated, attitude towards the United States.

Relying on its powerful economy, the United States has held private contacts with dozens of West European banks and industrial groups. Attracted by a projected investment of US\$26 billion in

SDI during its first five years of research, several West European companies, including two French firms, have formally decided to participate.

The Eureka plan, which was previously praised by Federal Germany and Belgium, was ignored by Britain and the

Netherlands. Last April's meeting of the Western European Union (WEU) gave only general support to the French move. A French delegation is still consulting other West European nations on the plan. The EEC summit scheduled for June in Milan will also study the initiative.

Cuba

Havana Launches Peace Offensive

In an effort to ease its economic troubles, Cuba is working to establish a peaceful international atmosphere by improving its relations with the United States and the Latin American countries.

by QI YAN

AFTER more than 20 years of diplomatic deadlock between Cuba and the United States, Havana has begun a peaceful offensive in an effort to improve its relations with its big neighbour to the north.

The move is part of a broader attempt to improve Cuba's standing in the Western Hemisphere. Long plagued by an isolated economy, Havana sees the establishment of a peaceful international atmosphere as a way to overcome its economic problems.

Though the attempt to cozy up to the United States has been interpreted by some Western observers as a sign that Cuba is drifting away from the Soviet Union, the fact is that Cuba is closer to the Soviet Union today than ever before. And the recent attempts to clear the air with the United States have economic roots rather than political ones.

Tension between Cuba and the United States was sparked by the Caribbean Crisis in the early 1960s. Though the crisis soon ended, the tension remained through the 60s and the 70s. But in recent years Havana has taken

positive diplomatic steps to improve the situation. This January Cuban President Fidel Castro invited and received a delegation of Catholic bishops and a group of three congressmen from the United States. In their meetings, Castro expressed his hope for normalization of bilateral relations.

Later that month, in an interview with the *Washington Post*, Castro said that recent Cuban contacts with the United States were constructive and positive, showing again his willingness to exchange views on any issue.

And in early February, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, during a visit to Moscow, praised the Cuban-US talks, saying that Cuba wants to solve existing and future problems through negotiation. The new moves, foreign newspapers have noted, indicate that Cuba has made some readjustments in its policy towards Washington.

Despite the friendly gestures, Cuba has received nothing in return from the United States. Recently the US government decided to allow an anti-Cuban radio to broadcast in Spanish to Cuba, and Havana, terming the US move a "barefaced provocation," retaliat-

ed by announcing suspension of its immigration accord with Washington reached last December. So, for the time being, there seems to be little chance for a breakthrough in the long years of deadlock.

On Central American issues, Cuba has recently adopted new, flexible policies. Havana has declared that the region's woes must be solved through negotiation and mediation. Cuba has announced that it supports Nicaragua's measures for peace. The Cuban government has dispatched specialists on Central American issues to visit Costa Rica and Nicaragua to mediate a dispute caused by the arrest of a Nicaraguan student who was seeking asylum in Costa Rica's Managua embassy to avoid military recruitment.

The presence of Cuban military advisors in Nicaragua has been cited by Washington as a matter of the utmost concern. But Cuba has pledged that it will withdraw its advisors if the Contadora Group can hammer out an agreement calling for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Central America that is acceptable to Nicaragua. When in late February Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced that he would dismiss a group of Cuban military advisors and postpone indefinitely a plan to buy Soviet-made MiG fighter jets, Cuba immediately responded that it would recall a group of 100 advisors.

On the Salvadoran issue, Cuba has encouraged talks between the government and the guerrillas as a way to iron out problems.

While making moves to improve its relations with the United States and its Central American neighbours, Cuba is also looking to strengthen its ties with other Latin American countries. It has always

maintained friendly relations with Mexico, one of the member states of the Contadora Group. And Cuba's being "ostracized" in South America has changed in recent years. In the early 1960s, the Organization of American States applied collective sanctions against Cuba, banning Havana from the Pan-American system. For years Mexico was the sole Latin American country with diplomatic relations with Cuba. But over the last decade many nations in the region have

established or resumed diplomatic ties with Havana. Cuba's relations with Argentina are much improved, and the past contradictions with Venezuela and Peru have been eliminated. Cuba has also lent qualified support to the new democratic governments in South America. Havana recently expressed the hope that diplomatic relations with Brazil, which have been severed for 20 years, will be resumed now that Brazil has a new democratic government.

the rearrangement of debts, the debt crisis is not as dangerous as it was a year ago. But due to high interest rates, debtor nations are making ever-higher repayments. Recent World Bank reports indicate that the debtor nations paid out US\$92 billion in principal and interest in 1984, more than the nations took in for the year.

According to the International Monetary Fund, the developing countries will experience an economic growth rate of about 4.5 percent in 1985, a little higher than in 1984. But the factors limiting recovery have not been eliminated. Oil prices will remain low, as will prices for raw materials. Protectionism will continue to grow, and the existence of famine in Africa, war in the Middle East, political upheaval in Central America, and inflation and unemployment in many countries will continue to frustrate real economic recovery.

Asia will continue to enjoy the speediest rate of economic development. Taking advantage of the improved economic situation in the West, Asia will export more goods and raise the competitive level of its products. But countries that depend on US consumers to buy their goods will be hurt by protectionism and the slowed speed of economic growth in the United States. It is expected that Asia's economy will grow a little more slowly in 1985 than in 1984.

For Africa 1985 will be another difficult year. Drought, low prices for raw materials, foreign debts and overpopulation will keep economic growth depressed.

The economic situation in Latin America remains relatively bright. The economic recovery of the West, the relaxation of the debt crisis, an increased inflow of foreign capital, economic readjustment and improved domestic conditions should help speed up economic recovery in Latin America.

Developing Countries

Economic Recovery Slow, Uneven

After several years of crisis, the economic situation in the developing world is improving, but there are still many difficulties to overcome.

by **GU YUANXIANG and WEI YANSHEN**

AS the economic recovery progressed in the West last year, the economic health of the developing world also began to improve. Many countries in the Middle East, Latin America and Asia climbed from the depths of crisis towards recovery.

Still, the recovery was not universal. Many African nations are mired in economic woes, and the recovery all around the developing world has been slow and uneven. There are several reasons for this imbalance:

1) As Western economies have improved, the United States and the other major developed countries have not played a significant role in spreading the recovery to the developing world.

2) Faced with growing budget deficits, the United States and other developed countries have abandoned their free-trade philosophy and are insisting on protectionism. They are throwing up more and more import quotas

to block the import of goods produced in developing nations. As a result, developing countries have had their export trade handicapped.

3) In the early stages of the Western economic recovery, prices for materials went up on the world market. But high interest rates and the strengthening of the US dollar reduced the demand for raw materials. And many raw material-producing countries, in order to reduce their deficits, pushed down prices in the hope of stimulating production and increasing exports. All these factors caused raw material prices to fall during the second quarter of 1984.

As for oil, there has been a glut on the market for several years now. Spot oil prices in 1984 were generally lower than the bench mark, a sign that the oversupply continues unabated. As a result, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) once again lowered its crude oil price at the beginning of 1985.

4) With the economic adjustment of the debtor nations and

China Pushes for Total Disarmament

The arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union is rooted in their hegemonic policies. China hopes to see the arms race halted and total disarmament become a reality. The two superpowers, first and foremost, should reduce their armaments. Initially, they should cease testing, improving and manufacturing nuclear weapons and substantially reduce their nuclear arsenals. If they do so, other nuclear countries should take corresponding measures to reduce their arms.

by XIA YISHAN

TODAY, as the number and destructiveness of nuclear and conventional weapons multiplies, the people of the world live under the threatening shadow of nuclear holocaust. There is no question that halting the arms race and preventing a nuclear war is the most important task facing the world.

The Soviet Union and the United States possess most of the world's armaments. The two nations have between them more than 50,000 nuclear warheads. Altogether, those warheads have a total explosive power of 15,000 megatons, or 1 million times that of the US bomb that killed 140,000 people in Hiroshima in 1945. The 16 Poseidon missiles installed on each of the United States' strategic submarines have more firepower than all the bombs dropped in Europe and Japan during World War II. Soviet scientists had produced nuclear warheads of 50 and 100 megatons by the early 1960s.

Nuclear weapons are not the only problem. Both nations have enormous arsenals of conventional arms and chemical weapons. And they are both researching space weapons at a speed never before matched.

Threat to World Peace

The arms race has aggravated the confrontation between the Soviet

Union and the United States and between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Warsaw Treaty Organization (WTO). It is the cause of constant international tension and a grave threat to world peace.

The danger has been multiplied as the two superpowers are working hard to improve their nuclear arsenals and develop new strategic and intermediate-range missiles. Now both the Soviet Union and the United States are able to fire a nuclear warhead at a site 9,000 km away and are confident that it will land within several hundred metres of the target. Their intermediate-range missiles in Europe can pinpoint targets within minutes. There is little room for error.

Chance of Mishaps

The more nuclear weapons there are, the more chances there will be for technical mishaps. In recent months there have been two incidents. Last winter a Soviet missile went off course and entered the airspace of Norway and Finland, and a US Pershing II missile caught fire in West Germany. According to data released by the US Defence Department in 1980, the United States had experienced 33 nuclear weapons incidents. In the Soviet Union, it is known that at least 10 such incidents have occurred. Moreover, false warnings have become increasingly

common. With the intense distrust and suspicion that exists between Moscow and Washington, the technical incidents constitute a very real danger.

No Winners

If a nuclear war were to break out, hundreds of millions of people would die, and the survivors would suffer immeasurable pain from radiation poison. More and more people have come to realize the horrible nature of nuclear war, and even the Soviet and US leaders concede that there can be no winners in a nuclear conflict.

Not only has the arms race increased the danger of nuclear war, it has also consumed vast human and material resources. According to United Nations statistics, about 50 million people have military-related jobs, of whom 25 million are in active service and 500,000 are scientists and engineers. Significant amounts of key resources are used for military purposes, and the military consumption of oil products accounts for 5 to 6 percent of the world's total. Total world military expenditures reached US\$800 billion in 1984, or 6 percent of the world's total production. The world pays out US\$2.2 billion for military spending every day, and it costs each person an average of \$166 a year. The United States and the Soviet Union are the most extravagant spenders. The two major military blocs — WTO and NATO — account for 70 per-

cent of the world's total military outlay.

Military consumption of labour and material resources has aggravated global economic difficulties. It hinders the economic development of those countries which have planned economies. And nations with market-based economies are plagued by inflation, unemployment and a shortage of capital due to the military demands. But the most severely victimized are the developing countries.

The Root of the Problem

Moscow and Washington continue their arms race because they are vying for world hegemony.

Ever since he entered the White House, US President Ronald Reagan has, under the pretext of restoring the equilibrium of power, pursued a policy of military rebuilding and tough confrontation with the Soviet Union. The US military budget has swollen dramatically. Military spending in fiscal 1982 and 1983 increased by 7.8 percent and 7.1 percent, and the military budgets for fiscal 1984 and 1985 went up by 8.8 percent and 9.3 percent respectively. Planned allocations for the research, development and purchase of military hardware have increased an average of 16 percent every year from 1983 to 1987.

The Kremlin is showing no sign of weakness in the face of the Reagan's challenge. Also using the pretext of maintaining a military balance, the Soviet Union has constantly worked to harden its military muscle and made sure that military spending increases 4 to 5 percent annually. Soviet leaders have repeatedly stressed that they will not allow the present military balance to tip in favour of the United States and NATO.

Now both superpowers have

turned their attention towards improving the quality of their weapons and to new technological fields, especially space weapons. Following the theory that "he who has control over outer space controls the earth," they are locked in a rivalry for space supremacy.

No Sincerity in Talks

Although the Soviet Union and the United States have held numerous arms control or disarmament talks over the past 30 years, they have been unsuccessful in retarding the arms race. This is because both of them lack a sincere desire to disarm. They only see such talks as an opportunity to limit the other's weapons so as to get an advantage. There seems to be no real effort made to end the arms race.

In fact, the United States has created a rationale for the arms race — the doctrine of nuclear deterrence. The concept implies that only a reliable nuclear deterrent that ensures the destruction of the enemy can discourage the enemy from launching a preemptive attack. Although Moscow has attacked the United States for its nuclear deterrence idea, the Soviet strategists actually believe in the same philosophy. In the early 1960s, Nikita Khrushchov admitted, "They (the United States) try to intimidate us with war, and, we do likewise."

Balance of Terror

Washington has always stressed the importance of beefing up its nuclear deterrent force and maintaining a balance of terror. US leaders believe the dangerous nuclear standoff has guaranteed peace for 40 years in the Northern Hemisphere. The Soviets, too, have always emphasized the need for a military balance, and they have advocated putting military work

above everything else. They contend that their nuclear missiles have checked US adventurist actions and guaranteed the security of the Soviet Union and its allies.

It is clear that the theory of nuclear deterrence is a sham created by the superpowers to rationalize their stepped-up arms race. As a rule, military competition leads only to insecurity. As the number of weapons grows, so does the possibility of nuclear war.

All third world nations condemn the superpowers for holding the security of the world and the survival of mankind as hostage. They demand that the superpowers forgo their nuclear deterrence strategy and halt the arms race.

China's Stand

China always supports the complete prohibition and destruction of all nuclear weapons.

The Chinese people know the horrors of war. During the War of Resistance Against Japan, more than 35 million people in China died or were wounded. China, a developing socialist country, needs peace and a stable international environment in which to develop. China has put forward many proposals and taken practical measures to safeguard world peace, ease tensions and help bring about disarmament.

In recent years, while the superpowers have increased their military expenditures, China has reduced its military spending, shifting a considerable portion of its defence industry to civilian production.

To realize the aim of complete disarmament, China takes the following stand:

1) **The main responsibility for disarmament must rest with the superpowers.** The present threat of nuclear war comes from the United

States and the Soviet Union. Their nuclear arsenals account for 97 percent of the world's total. Only the superpowers are truly capable of waging a nuclear war. Only when they stop the arms race and substantially reduce their nuclear arsenals can nuclear war be prevented. A few other countries have a limited number of nuclear weapons. But even if those countries completely eliminated their nuclear weapons, the clouds of nuclear war would not be dispersed. Therefore, the main responsibility for disarmament lies with the superpowers. China, which possesses a very small number of nuclear weapons, has never avoided its responsibility to disarm. Any attempt to put these countries on a par with the superpowers can only obscure the objectives of disarmament.

2) Disarmament and international security are inseparable. Unless the tense international situation is eased and world security is ensured, it will be difficult to realize disarmament. And without disarmament, the world can never be fully secure. The nations of the world must oppose hegemonism in order to reduce tensions and guarantee security. They should observe the United Nations Charter and the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence so that all nations may live in harmony. When nations fail to do so, they may come into conflict, or even resort to arms. China is opposed to both "cold war" and actual armed conflicts. It would like to see the United States and the Soviet Union ease their relations, a turn of events that could result in an end to the NATO-WTO standoff.

3) There are both long-term and short-term goals for disarmament. The long-term aim, of course, is to completely prohibit and thoroughly destroy all nuclear weapons. However, it will take a long time to realize this aim. In

the meantime, some practical steps should be taken. Washington and Moscow should take the lead in stopping testing, improving and manufacturing nuclear weapons and substantially reducing their nuclear arsenals. Afterwards, other nuclear countries should also take corresponding measures and reduce their arms proportionately. Before this, all nations with nuclear weapons should undertake not to use nuclear weapons first, and not to use or threaten to use such weapons against non-nuclear nations. They should also reach agreement on non-use of such weapons against one another.

4) The fundamental way to prevent nuclear war is to completely prohibit and thoroughly destroy all nuclear weapons. But, prior to the realization of this goal, we must take some practical steps to reduce the risk of catastrophe. The Soviet Union and the United States should take the lead in putting an end to the testing, manufacture and deployment of nuclear weapons in order to create conditions for other nuclear countries to take the corresponding measures. These two countries should stop deploying medium-range missiles in Europe and Asia, and they should hold negotiations on the reduction and destruction of such weapons. If all nuclear countries agree not to use nuclear weapons and the two superpowers put a halt to the deployment of their intermediate-range missiles, inter-continental ballistic missiles and space weaponry, the possibility of nuclear war will be greatly reduced.

5) Preventing an arms race in outer space is crucial. At present the superpowers are rushing to research and test space-based weapons in an attempt to gain superiority in outer space. Should one of them make a major breakthrough, the space arms race will be fiercer, posing a new threat to world peace. Therefore, it is most urgent that

space weapons be prohibited immediately.

China opposes any type of arms race, including the space arms race. China has always contended that outer space should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Space exploration should promote the economic, scientific and cultural development of the whole world. In 1983 China signed the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. China feels the first step in demilitarizing space is to prohibit the testing, manufacture, deployment and use of all space-based arms and destroy them. The superpowers must assume particular responsibility for stopping the arms race in outer space. They should participate in both bilateral and multilateral negotiations to work out an international agreement banning such arms systems. Now is the time to end the space arms race. It is not too late to avoid the dangerous situation. If such a ban is delayed and space weapons begin to proliferate, the results will be horrible. For this reason, China, as a third world country with limited outer space capabilities, will join other countries in an effort to ban weapons in space.

6) While stressing nuclear disarmament, the world should not neglect any opportunity to reduce conventional weapons. In the arms race between the superpowers, conventional arms occupy an important position. The United States and the Soviet Union spend 80 percent of their military expenditures on conventional arms. Their huge arsenals of such weapons are their major tools for aggression and expansion.

The destructiveness of conventional war is not to be underestimated. During World War I more than 10 million people were killed. And World War II left more than 50 million dead and 80

million wounded. The dozens of smaller conflicts since 1945 have killed another 21 million—all victims of conventional weapons. The superpowers have been directly or indirectly involved in a number of such wars. This has not only brought suffering to the people of war-torn countries, it has also caused East-West tension and threatened to escalate minor conflicts to global warfare. Today's conventional weapons are far more technologically advanced and lethal than the arms of the past. For these reasons, conventional weapons cannot be neglected. Nuclear disarmament should be accompanied by a drastic reduction of conventional weapons.

7) Chemical weapons should be banned as soon as possible. The Geneva talks on such a ban should move ahead at full speed. China has always supported a ban on chemical and biological weapons. China declared as early as 1952 that it would abide by the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare if the other signatories do the same. And in 1984 China signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

Chemical weapons were used extensively during World War I, and they resulted in death or injury to some 1.3 million soldiers. Since then, chemical weapons have been modernized and today are much more lethal. Delivery systems and spraying methods have been constantly improved.

The two superpowers possess more than 40 kinds of chemical weapons including chemical shells, bombs, missiles, rockets, mines and airborne sprayers. According to estimates in the West, the Soviet

Union's chemical arsenal includes about 350,000 tons of munitions (some say the total is twice as much), one-sixth of the total Soviet arsenal. If only the bombs, shells and rockets are counted, the chemical munitions make up 35 percent of the total. The US stockpile of chemical munitions is estimated at 150,000 to 200,000 tons. But the US military has the capability to easily increase the total to 400,000 tons on short notice. Both the Soviet Union and the United States have developed a huge chemical warfare programme. Washington spent US\$111 million on this programme in 1978, and in 1983 the expenditure increased to US\$705 million. Soviet spending on chemical weapons is roughly equal to the US figure.

Chemical weapons are the second most lethal weapons, next to nuclear arms. They are dreaded weapons—hateful and inhuman. Such weapons are relatively cheap and easy to produce. Since World War II, the two superpowers have a shameful record of using chemical weapons. People all over the world are now strongly demanding that an international convention on banning these weapons be concluded. The Geneva conference on disarmament has made some progress in this regard but not enough. China hopes to see the negotiations move forward quickly so chemical weapons can be prohibited and removed from the face of the earth.

8) China does not approve of the partial nuclear test ban treaty; instead, it stands for complete prohibition of nuclear tests.

As early as 1963, when the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain signed the partial nuclear test ban treaty forbidding atomic weapons testing in the atmosphere, outer space and underwater, China pointed out that the pact was designed to strengthen their nuclear monopoly and legitimize the un-

derground testing of nuclear arms. This judgement has been proven correct by the fact that in the following 20 years the Soviet Union conducted 365 nuclear tests and the United States, 425. In addition, they have been continuously inventing ever more advanced nuclear weapons, and their nuclear arsenals are always on the increase.

Though China refuses to be a signatory to the partial nuclear test ban treaty, it stands for a comprehensive prohibition of nuclear tests. It believes that a comprehensive test ban will be helpful, under certain conditions, in realizing the long-range goal of completely prohibiting and totally destroying nuclear arms. Therefore, China is ready to participate in discussions on such a ban. However, it still maintains that a comprehensive test ban should be an integral part of nuclear disarmament, and that a mere veto cannot halt the superpowers' arms race. Until the superpowers set about slashing their nuclear arsenals, a blanket test ban which applies to all nuclear countries can only favour the maintenance of their nuclear superiority. Deep cuts in the superpowers' nuclear stockpiles are needed before a comprehensive test ban can be concluded. This will contribute to reducing and finally removing the danger of nuclear war.

9) China refuses to join the Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of June 1968, though it is not for such proliferation. China regards the treaty as discriminatory. First, nuclear non-proliferation should refer to both "horizontal" and "vertical" non-proliferation—in other words, the non-nuclear countries should not acquire nuclear weapons, and the nuclear countries should not increase or improve their nuclear arms. The treaty, however, only forbids the spread of atomic weapons to the non-nuclear countries, but it fails

to prevent the nuclear signatories to the treaty from increasing and improving their arsenals. Clearly this is unfair.

Second, the provisions concerning the obligations of the non-nuclear signatories to the treaty are concrete and strict. Article 2 stipulates, for example, that non-nuclear states undertake not to receive, acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons or other explosive devices. However, the terms applying to the nuclear signatories are general and lack binding force. For instance, these countries are merely obliged to undertake serious talks, as set down in Article 6, on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race and disarmament. Therefore, the treaty obligations imposed on the two categories of countries are not equal.

Third, the aim of the treaty, as stated clearly in its preamble, is to guarantee the security of the people of all nations. But while the non-nuclear member states must comply with their treaty obligations by giving up their right to possess nuclear arms, it stands to reason that the nuclear member states should undertake not to use nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear weapon countries, thus ensuring their security. The treaty, however, misses this point. Therefore, it is expedient for the superpowers to maintain and strengthen their nuclear monopoly — and their capability for nuclear blackmail. It cannot truly prevent nuclear war and guarantee international security.

China also believes, however, that “vertical” non-proliferation is more important. Therefore, the superpowers must halt the development of nuclear weapons and unconditionally undertake not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear countries and nuclear-free zones.

Many non-nuclear countries hope

to aid the cause of disarmament and reduce the risk of nuclear war by giving up their right to nuclear arms. China respects their wishes. China supports the African and Arab peoples’ opposition to South Africa and Israel importing or developing nuclear weapons for intimidating other countries and seeking regional hegemony. China is always in favour of the non-nuclear countries establishing nuclear-free zones on a voluntary basis. And China holds that all nuclear countries, especially the superpowers, should respect the status of these non-nuclear zones.

In international nuclear co-operation, China takes a cautious and responsible attitude towards dealing with nuclear technology, and attaches considerable importance to its sensitivity. The late Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Chen Yi said in 1965: “Nuclear co-operation has two aspects — on the peaceful use of atomic energy . . . China is willing to provide help; as for asking us to help make the bomb, this is out of question.” China has always adhered to this position.

When China joined the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1983, it declared that it would require the IAEA safeguards as a condition for its exports of nuclear materials and facilities. China also ensures that its own imports of nuclear fuels and facilities are to be used only for peaceful purposes.

In his report to the Second Session of the Sixth National People’s Congress, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang declared China’s basic policy on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation: “China is critical of the discriminatory Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and has declined to accede to the treaty. But China by no means favours nuclear proliferation, nor will it engage in such proliferation by help-

ing other countries develop nuclear weapons.”

In addition, China also sticks to the following principles: Since disarmament concerns the security and interests of the people of the world, all countries, whether large or small, nuclear or non-nuclear, strong or weak, should have an equal part in the disarmament talks, as well as equal rights to monitor the implementation of relevant agreements. Furthermore, no agreement should hamper or endanger any country’s independence, sovereignty and security. Disarmament accords must also contain strict and effective measures for international verification to ensure compliance.

China’s cardinal position, in summary, is to oppose the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race. It stands for complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and slashing conventional arms. China’s aim is to prevent nuclear war and safeguard world peace.

The Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel, who invented dynamite, thought that the explosive was so powerfully destructive that it would make war ridiculous and therefore impossible. But he was mistaken. Since that time, wars have occurred one after the other, costing tens of millions of lives. Now, some people hope to use nuclear weapons, the most powerful and destructive instruments mankind has ever devised, to deter another world war. The idea is dangerous. Only by reducing and destroying nuclear arms can nuclear war possibly be prevented. Even though the danger of nuclear war now exists, the forces to control it are growing in strength. China believes that world peace is attainable provided that the peace-loving peoples of the world unite to control their own destiny. □

Surplus Rural Labour Put to Work

The development of township industries has provided new job opportunities for surplus labour in the countryside. The emergence of a work force in rural Jiangsu Province which engages in both agriculture and industry reflects the gradual transition of peasants into workers. The existence of this work force not only changes the structure of society but improves the population distribution.

by FEI XIAOTONG

This is the third and concluding part of the series of articles. The first and second parts appeared in "Beijing Review" issue Nos. 14 and 17. — Ed.

THE development of township industries has provided job opportunities for the huge surplus rural work force. According to statistics from Wuxi, the number of labourers absorbed by township industries and other rural enterprises in Wuxi accounted for 34 percent of the city's total rural labour force. The situation in Suzhou, Changzhou, and Nantong is approximately the same as in Wuxi. This indicates that more than one-third of the total rural labour force in southern Jiangsu has given up farming. Rural industrial workers total more than 4 million, almost equalling the total number of urban industrial workers in the province. According to statistics from the provincial labour bureau, Jiangsu's urban enterprises and institutions employed 990,000 rural labourers in 1982. This has somewhat alleviated overpopulation in the countryside, as these peasants have begun to take up industrial production.

Peasants Turned Workers

The number of surplus rural labourers changes with the farming season. While the surplus is smaller during the busy planting

and harvesting seasons, there are large numbers of surplus hands during slack seasons. So industry must be flexible when using rural labourers. When these surplus rural labourers switch to industrial work, they should set aside enough time to do farm work so as to ensure the stability of agricultural production. If the rural economy is to develop smoothly, rural labourers must work concurrently in agriculture and industry. This is,

in fact, a distinguishing feature of the rural labour force.

In southern Jiangsu's rural areas, an analysis of the population and the amount of arable land shows that there are far too many labourers to do the farm work. In view of this, it is a good thing for the surplus work force to switch to industry, commerce, construction, transportation and the service trades. People have now changed their old view that agri-

Peasants work at a sock mill in Jiangyin County, doing farm chores and sideline jobs after their factory shift.



culture could absorb an infinite amount of labour. Instead, they have sought new channels for this surplus labour and opened up new avenues of production.

The rural factories we visited usually adopted the method of recruiting one able-bodied worker from each family. This method seems to be inconsistent with the principle of recruiting the most qualified workers, but it conforms with the concrete conditions in the rural areas. The villagers said this method helps maintain a rough balance in income among peasant households. It also allows peasant families to simultaneously engage in other trades. When one able-bodied family member works in the factory, the rest of the family do the farm work. And when the factory worker returns home, he or she can help with the farm work too.

The director of the Xinguang Towel Factory in Hutang, Wujin County, is such a moonlighter. She manages the factory of 1,800 workers and does some farm work after returning home. In fact, the pattern is followed by all the factory's employees. On the basis of a collective economy, industry and agriculture are incorporated into each family. This type of family accounts for about 80 percent of all Hutang households. In the rural areas in Wuxi, Shazhou, Wujin and other counties where township industries are relatively developed, almost all households engage concurrently in industrial and farm work.

Of course, because the moonlighters are limited by the employment system, work hours, work type and family labour power, the number of jobs they hold simultaneously differs vastly. There are approximately three types of moonlighters:

(1) While engaging primarily in farm work, some peasants concurrently undertake industrial pro-



This cane and wicker products factory is run jointly by six peasant households in Huashi Commune, Jiangyin County.

duction. They may take embroidery, weaving and other handicraft products home and complete their work during spare time;

(2) Some people act as both workers and farmers. These individuals work in seasonal township enterprises or rural factories near their homes. They may do a considerable amount of farm work after finishing their factory shift or do farm work only during busy seasons.

(3) Others work mainly in industry while concurrently doing farm work. This group generally works in county seats or in larger towns away from their homes. They live and eat in factories and return home only on weekends to do a stint of farm work.

The practice of taking part-time jobs actually reflects the gradual transition of peasants into workers. With the rise in the forces of industrial and agricultural production, more and more peasants are in a position to join the ranks of those performing two or more jobs. Our investigation revealed that there is no essential difference between most of these industrial workers and urban workers. Many of these moonlighters have become

indispensable to factory production and some of them actually serve as technicians, engineers and managers, though they lack professional titles.

No doubt, these new rural workers constitute a key segment of China's industrial labour force. The rise of the rural worker represents a new change in the social structure of southern Jiangsu's rural areas.

Population Distribution Improved

The emergence of part-time labourers has not only changed the structure of society, but has improved the distribution of population. Southern Jiangsu is a densely populated area, but, in the past, the distribution of population has been extremely irrational. For many years the population has been flowing in two directions: Peasants streamed into big and medium-sized cities and urban people were sent to the rural areas in line with government policies. These population shifts resulted in the overpopulation of the big and medium-sized cities and an oversupply of labour in the countryside. Meanwhile, the number of people in



Specialized households offer water transport between town and country in southern Jiangsu Province.

county seats and small towns sandwiched between the city and countryside decreased. As a result, the population distribution resembled the shape of a dumbbell, with concentrations in the cities and the rural areas.

Since 1979 most industries in counties, towns, communes and brigades have rapidly developed. They are usually located in county seats and small towns, so large numbers of surplus rural labourers went to work in these small towns. The shift to the towns helped even out the population distribution. Qingyang Town in Jiangyin Coun-

ty, for example, had 5,500 people shortly after liberation and 5,885 people in 1960, only a 7 percent increase in 10 years. But beginning in the 1970s Qingyang township industries began to attract rural labourers. By the end of 1982, Qingyang had grown to 15,366 people, 5,114 of whom were part-time workers, accounting for 33 percent of the town's total population. And the actual number of people working and doing business in southern Jiangsu is even greater. The overwhelming majority of Jiangsu moonlighters still live in the countryside, and they

swing like a pendulum between the towns and their village homes every day. In this way, small towns function to check the influx of population, thereby reducing population pressure on big and medium-sized cities.

Skills to the Frontier

Our investigation shows that in recent years these regions have also begun to transfer their labour and skills to frontier areas. For instance, rural collective construction and engineering brigades in Nantong sent 130,000 people to work on construction projects in Heilongjiang Province and in the Inner Mongolian and Xinjiang autonomous regions. These Jiangsu construction brigades are praised by frontier construction departments for their fine-quality and high-speed work. The brigade members do not take their families along, nor do they complain about rugged living conditions, and they usually fulfil their yearly tasks in 10 months. When finished, they return home and help with the farm work or go to work outside their villages the next year. While exporting their labour power, Wuxi, Nantong, Changzhou and other cities and counties also develop economic and technological cooperation with the border regions on a mutually beneficial basis.

By sending surplus labourers to work in distant frontier areas and by having some rural workers commute between the village and the small towns, the irrational population distribution in Jiangsu has been changed. Today some 4 million village residents have left the farm work to commute to township industries and another 1 million have been dispatched to work on construction projects in other places. These two methods of relieving the oversupply of farm labour are worth studying in the efforts to solve China's population distribution problems. □

Developing Rural Energy Resources

by DENG KEYUN

IN the vast areas of rural China, the population is huge, the cultivated land is limited and the energy supply is insufficient.

Since the introduction of the production responsibility system a few years ago, agricultural production has greatly increased, accompanied by booming rural industries and sideline occupations. This has resulted in soaring energy consumption, making it an imperative to provide more energy to rural areas to ensure the peasants' daily needs, the continuous development of agricultural production and the improvement of the local ecology.

Conflicts Between Supply And Demand

In the present-day world about 1,500 million people still burn firewood for cooking and heating, and half of them are Chinese peasants. The firewood and vegetation burnt by Chinese peasants every year equal 220 million tons of standard coal. But since the heat efficiency of the traditional rural firewood stoves is only 10 percent, the heat obtained actually equals that produced by only 23 million tons of standard coal burnt in a modern furnace. Based on an estimation of the lowest consumption, the rural areas need at least 20 percent more than what is currently available.

The direct burning of large quantities of biomass has damaged the vegetation and increased the country's area affected by soil

erosion from 110 million hectares in the early 1950s to 150 million hectares today. Every year, about 5,000 million tons of fertile soil are washed into rivers and streams. The content of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium in this lost soil is equivalent to 40 million tons of commercial chemical fertilizer.

The direct burning of straw has caused a shortage of fodder and organic fertilizer. Because areas where the vegetation is gathered are not quickly replanted, the soil has lost much of its humus, nitrogen and carbon, diminishing fertility and starting the vicious circle of erosion and ecological destruction in some areas.

China's rural production mainly relies on commercial energy resources such as coal, oil and electricity. The commercial energy consumed in rural areas in 1983 equalled 139 million tons of standard coal, accounting for 38.7 percent of all rural energy consumption and 21.4 percent of the country's total commercial energy consumption. The energy consumed in rural production that year exceeded 90 million tons of

standard coal, compared with 60 million tons in 1978.

To meet the energy needs of rural industries in the last few years, China has been working hard to develop small coal mines and small hydroelectric power stations. The coal supplied by small coal mines to the rural areas increased from 42 million tons in 1980 to 102 million tons in 1983. The electricity generated by small hydroelectric power stations rose from 1980's 12,700 million kwh to 20,000 million kwh in 1983. Currently, the electricity generated by small hydroelectric power stations is all used in the rural areas, accounting for 42 percent of their total electricity supplies. However, the supply of commercial energy to the rural areas still falls far behind the demand created by the rapid development of the rural economy.

Energy Policy

Taking the current situation in China into account, and particularly the fact that the state has been unable to supply the rural areas with enough energy within a short time, the government has formed a policy on rural energy development. It encourages each

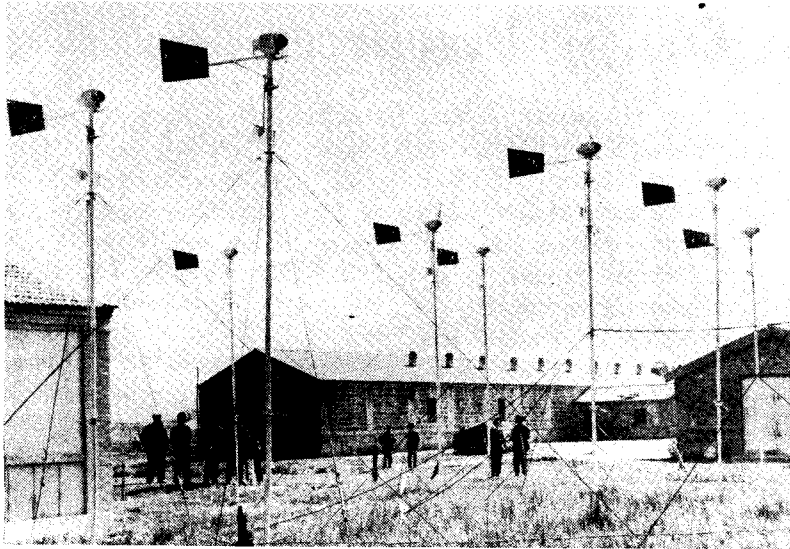
Supply of Rural Commercial Energy in 1983

Coal			Electricity	Oil
From local mines	From state mines	Total		
52.37%	25.37%	77.74%	13.64%	8.62%

Non-Commercial Energy Consumption in Rural Areas

Straw	Firewood	Dung	Biogas	Other
50.31%	46.76%	2.56%	0.23%	0.14%

The author is a deputy secretary-general of the China Energy Research Society.



Scientists at the Ulanqab League (Prefecture) in Inner Mongolia help local herdsmen install wind powered generators.

area to develop local energy resources according to its own conditions, and to encourage more efficient, practical use of energy. In the coming years, efforts will be made to popularize more efficient woodburning stoves, plant more forests, develop biogas, build small hydroelectric power stations in places with plenty of running water, open small coal mines, and develop solar, wind, geothermal, tidal and other new energy resources, with an eye to easing the energy shortage in the rural areas and improving the ecology. Some concrete steps have already been taken.

Currently, a kind of woodburning stove with 25 percent heat efficiency is being popularized in the rural areas. It is easy to handle and can save the firewood equivalent of 400 kg of standard coal a year. Various local governments have trained more than 90,000 technicians to help the peasants improve their stoves, and have drawn up plans to encourage the use of efficient woodburning stoves. By the end of 1983, more than 7 million peasant households throughout the country were using these economical stoves, saving 3 million tons of firewood and straw a year.

The government plans to help 100 million peasant households build this type of stove before 1990, which will save the vegetation equivalent of 33 million tons of standard coal a year.

Recycling biogas is a good way to effectively use all the helpful elements in vegetation waste and feces, to obtain both compost and fuel. It can also help improve rural sanitation. Today, China has more than 3.76 million household biogas generating pits, which can produce 1,000 million cubic

metres of biogas a year (equivalent to 650,000 tons of standard coal). The government plans to build another 5 million biogas generating pits before 1990, with the peasants contributing the funds and the state providing technological assistance.

However, in the next 20 to 30 years, firewood will continue to be the peasants' main daily energy source. Given this, better reforestation work and more efficient woodburning stoves must be stressed. The introduction of the production responsibility system in recent years has encouraged the peasants to plant more trees and grass. In 1983 alone, they reforested 6.3 million hectares of barren hills and waste land with trees suitable for firewood.

Other natural resources must also be tapped. China has 70 million kw of exploitable hydroelectric power resources, of which, only one-tenth has been exploited so far. In building small hydroelectric power stations, the government encourages localities to provide their own funds, while the state offers technological aid.

In recent years, many specialized rural households have pooled their money to build small hydro-

A technician in Nagqu Prefecture in Tibet tells herdsmen how to use a radio-cassette player powered by solar batteries.



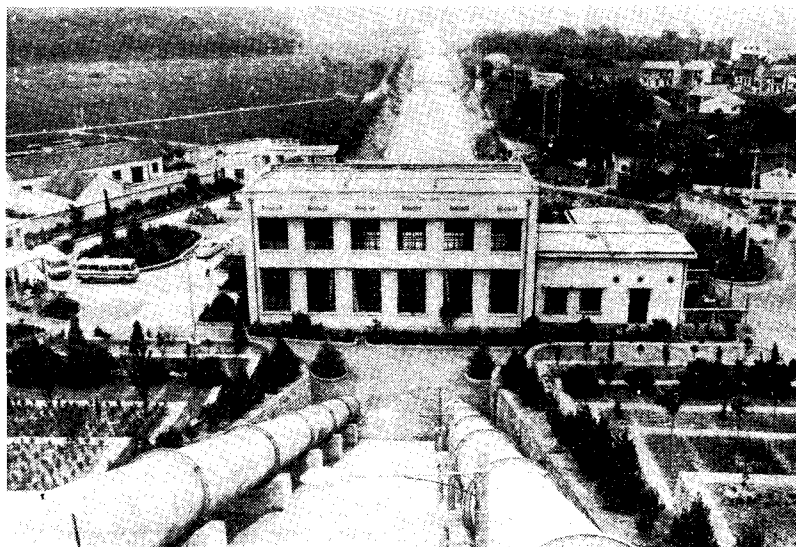
electric power stations, with a generating capacity of several kw or several hundred kw each. Many places now use the electricity generated by these small stations to process farm and sideline products. For instance, Xinchang County in Zhejiang Province, known as the "home of tea," used to consume 9,000 tons of coal and 5,000 tons of firewood a year to process 4,500 tons of tea. Now the work is done with electricity generated by a local hydroelectric power station. This has protected the local forest, saved coal and increased the peasants' incomes.

Small coal mines are also being developed locally. In the last few years, the output of small coal mines built by the peasants has increased at an average rate of more than 13 percent a year, from 110 million tons in 1980 to 160 million tons in 1983. The coal supplied by these small mines to the rural areas also increased from 40 million tons to 102 million tons.

China's rural economy is slowly changing from being almost self-sufficient to a large-scale commodity economy. In addition to the traditional agricultural and sideline products processing and building materials industries, efforts are also being made to develop the fodder and foodstuffs industries. This has increased the demand on energy resources.

Developing New Energy Resources

China now has more than 16,000 small coal mines in 27 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. In the nine provinces south of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River 3,300 small coal mines have been built to meet local needs. These small coal mines have introduced flexible production methods to retrieve shallow coal reserves.



The Lishan hydroelectric power station in Xinchang County, Zhejiang.

0.3 metres below the earth's surface and coal left in abandoned coal mines.

In recent years, good results have been achieved in developing new energy resources in energy deficient areas. The Abaga Banner on the Inner Mongolian pastureland now makes full use of the wind to generate electricity, enabling the herdsmen to enjoy television programmes and cassette tapes.

Since 1980, Xiaoling town on the Loess Plateau in Gansu Province has set up more than 10,000 solar cooking stoves (each can be used 200 days a year), which has saved a large amount of fuel. The peasants there used to burn animal dung for cooking. Now the dung is used to fertilize their farmland.

On the coast of Zhejiang Province, three tidal power generating stations have been built. Geothermal energy resources are being tapped in Tibet, Fujian, Liaoning, Hubei, Jiangxi and other places.

In most places, however, the development of new energy resources is still in the trial stages, and the energy produced by new resources in the rural areas only makes up a small proportion of the total rural energy consumption.

Strengthening Leadership

To strengthen the leadership working on the development of rural energy resources, the State Council formed the Rural Energy Leading Group headed by Vice-Premier Li Peng, April last year. Leading members of the ministries and commissions involved are all part of the group. They lead and co-ordinate the planning and research work related to rural energy development.

Corresponding organizations in charge of rural energy development have also been founded. Currently, China has more than 70 institutes of higher learning and research institutes engaged in this field, and many workers are helping to popularize rural energy advances. There are 40,000 peasant technicians involved in the work of popularizing biogas. In addition, a large number of technicians are working on hydroelectric power, forestry and farm machinery.

With all this attention, China's rural energy supplies are sure to develop day by day, and the shortage of rural energy will gradually be solved. □

Shandong Peasants Take Up Sports

by LIU BIN
Our Correspondent

AMONG the 10 major sports stories in 1984 was the completion of a cultural and sports centre built in Wangsheren, a village on the outskirts of Jinan, capital of Shandong. The local peasants spent 3.5 million yuan on the project.

Incomplete statistics show that half of the 90,000 villages in this coastal province have cultural or youth centres with sports grounds and related facilities. There are 19,391 sports teams. The peasants and their children participate in a wide variety of sports, including mountain climbing, track-and-field events, *wushu*, basketball, volleyball, table-tennis and badminton.

Family Sports Meet

The first peasants' sports meet in Laiwu last spring was attended by 877 people from 14 townships. They belong to 303 families.

The most popular events were

the 100-metre, 400-metre, and 800-metre races. The 400-metre family relay attracted a large crowd — sometimes three or four took part in the relay, and sometimes all three generations of one family tried to win the race, each covering different distances. The judges were generous. All those who ran fast were given prizes.

Walking has been included in national competitions for only a few years, but Shandong peasants have long had women's 400-metre and men's 800-metre walking races in their games. This is because they walk so much throughout their lives — going to work in the fields, carrying farm produce to the market on shoulder-poles, etc.

When the starter's pistol went off, athletes in different kinds of sportswear darted out like arrows. Each tried to outpace the other. Then laughter broke out from the rostrum. It seemed that several walkers, fearing they might lose, began to run. The judge immediately gave a warning, but the violators remained in the race. For

these new athletes, rules shouldn't be enforced too strictly.

The new rural economic policies mean more income for the peasants. Laiwu's peasants earned an average of 443 yuan per capita in 1984. New houses have been built, and, with better food and clothing, the people want more entertainment and cultural life.

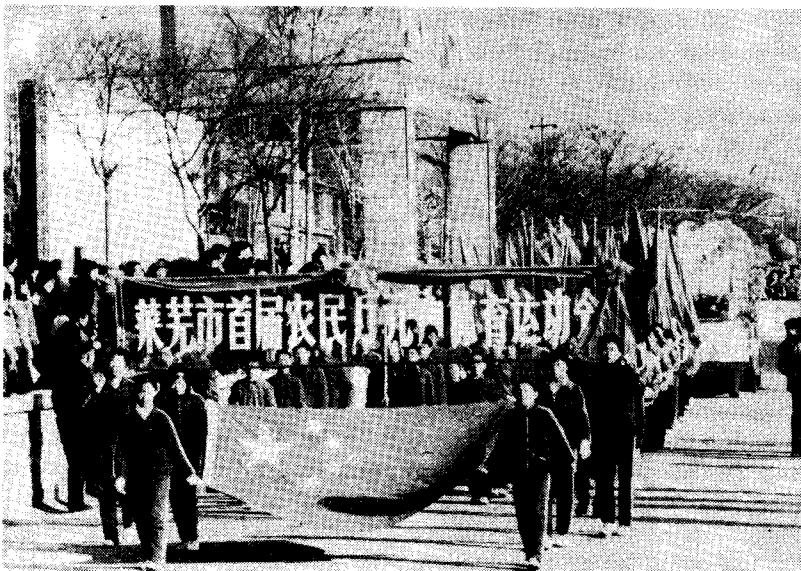
Sports Fever

Inspired by the quick rise of Chinese athletes in international competitions and by the excitement of the recent Olympic Games, a kind of "sports fever" has swept China. Laiwu is no exception. Sporting events have drawn huge crowds and sports facilities are being built to meet the demand.

In Miaoshan County, for example, the five townships now have 33 basketball courts and 37 rooms for table-tennis. About 12,000 people, or 27 percent of the population, took part in sports activities. There are 43 basketball teams, 21 volleyball teams, 23 badminton teams and 52 table-tennis teams. This is a big change from the past when the peasants hardly had any time for or interest in sports.

One of the winners at the Laiwu family sports meet was 39-year-old Jiang Cuidong. Her nickname is "Minister of the Seventh Machine-Building Industry" because she owns seven machines for processing farm produce. Since her family started its grain and fodder processing business, it has made a lot of money. Last year the family earned 12,000 yuan. This year Jiang worked in co-ordination with another eight families to set up a cattle-breeding company, using a combined investment of more than 100,000 yuan. She is now the manager of the company.

Laiwu peasant athletes march into the arena.





A family relay race.

When Jiang was in primary school, she really liked sports. But later she had to quit school because her parents could not afford for her to go. Now she takes her four children jogging around the village every morning. She teaches them track-and-field events, strictly by the rules. Indeed, she has formed a family track-and-field team. She also encourages her husband and mother-in-law to practise *taijiquan*. At the sports meet, she and her son and her mother-in-law won first place in the 400-metre relay. The 64-year-old woman ran 50 metres.

Peasant "Wushu" School

Dengzhou in Penglai County is historically famous for *wushu*. Many *wushu* masters came from this place, including the founders of the *tanglangquan*, *baguaquan* and *baguazhang* styles. Today a *wushu* school has been set up by the peasants in Changyu, a village in Dengzhou. They spent 100,000 yuan.

In the past people had to pay high fees to learn *wushu* from the masters. Those who were unable

to pay could only watch and try to learn by themselves. But as rural incomes rise, the peasants have been able to set up their own clubs and amusement areas, and they can set the fee.

The Dengzhou *wushu* school was established last July. Enrolment is open to the public. Those who apply must have the consent of their parents and are admitted only after physical check-ups and oral tests. The oral test is to make each student understand that the aim of *wushu* is to build up the physique and to inherit the tradition of this Chinese art. The physical check-up is to see whether the lower back, legs, arms and feet are fit.

The 120 students admitted are divided into four classes according to age and sex. In addition to peasants' children, cadres, soldiers, workers and students have also enrolled.

For children the tuition is only 5 yuan a month. They learn *wushu* all day on Sundays. For adults, the monthly fee is 8 yuan. They learn the art every evening for two hours.

The students are usually taught *tanglangquan* and *changquan*, the two main schools of *wushu*. *Tang-*

langquan, with its quick, forceful movements, is suitable for men. The more elegant, graceful *changquan* is best suited for women.

The Dengzhou *wushu* school has three masters invited from outside the county. A national referee who is also a *wushu* coach at the Yantai Sports School is the honorary principal of the school.

Private School

In Wuzibu, a village in Laixi County, 34-year-old Han Meixiang runs a private *wushu* school. Han is from a family with a long *wushu* tradition. She learnt the art from her father Han Pengyao, once a *wushu* coach in a military academy and a renowned master. She herself has mastered four schools of *wushu* — *xingyiquan*, *baguaquan*, *tongbeiquan* and *changquan*.

When her father died Han decided to teach her 4-year-old daughter in the family tradition. Soon several of her neighbours asked Han to take their children as pupils as well. In 1984 she set up a private school with 16 children, the oldest was 8, and the youngest only 4.

But coaching *wushu* is not Han's main job. She and her husband also plough half a hectare of land and raise pigs and chickens. No

Children practising "wushu."



matter how busy she is, she gives two hours a day to the children. The lessons are free. As long as the children are fit and take an interest in the sport, she teaches them. With the help of her husband, she has also made simple instruments such as wooden daggers, sticks and small sandbags and even swings for the little ones.

Under her careful and patient coaching, the children have learnt the rudiments of *wushu*. Han is also carefully studying the book on *wushu* handed down by her father and is now a member of the Laixi County Wushu Association. Last February she took the children to a county demonstration.

Sports for Kindergarteners

In Shandong, the best place for small children to play is Yexian County. There are 1,012 kindergartens in the county, where 95 percent of the children over the age of 3 are cared for. As the cradle of China's future, the kindergartens must first make sure the children are healthy. A wide variety of physical games specially suited to young children have been organized.

The Xibei Kindergarten basket-

ball team in Xiyou is known all over the county. All 72 children have been divided into three basketball classes, according to their ages, coached by three teachers. The first team was formed in 1973.

One of the coaches is good-natured 30-year-old Wu Yuezhong. On a typical day, a co-ed match was being hotly contested, to the enthusiastic cheers of onlookers. The referee, a 10-year-old boy was a third grade pupil. His seriousness made everyone laugh, but also won their praise.

Wu said it is no easy matter to set up a basketball team among the pre-school children. A special programme to teach the basic rules and a time schedule must be worked out. Small balls and lower hoops must be specially ordered. In the beginning some parents worried their children might get hurt. But later when they saw that those children who play ball games were healthier, they willingly let their children join the team. Some bought special sports clothing and shoes for the kids.

At present 10 of the 29 kindergartens in the town have basketball teams. Many kids have learnt how to pass, dribble and shoot the ball and can play in a 20-minute match.

Tug-of-war.



In another kindergarten in the town, all 30 children are learning *wushu*. The two young coaches, Xu Anning and Zhang Wenying, had been the best students at Yan-tai's children's sparetime sports school. These young and enthusiastic women devote all their energies to the physical education of pre-school children. When the *wushu* team was first founded in May 1984, the kindergarten couldn't afford any equipment. So the two teachers made blunt-edged wooden swords and knives for them.

Mountaineering Day

Magnificent Taishan Mountain towers over the centre of Shandong Province. Since 200 BC, emperors have built temples on the 1,524-metre-high mountain. Today the mountain is like a history museum.

In early spring when the grass has just turned green, the local people traditionally climb the mountain. March 12 is Mountaineering Day. At five o'clock in the morning thousands upon thousands of climbers gather at the foot of Taishan, ready to begin.

Last year Liu Chuanying, a 40-year-old peasant from a neighbouring village, was among the climbers. She said, "When I was a child, my mother climbed Taishan every spring and autumn with bound feet. She would buy some candles and incense with what little money she had and pray to the Goddess of Taishan to bring peace to the whole family and to give us enough to eat. Even though she climbed the mountain every year, we remained poor all the same. Now I'm here just for fun and to keep fit."

A 64-year-old man said he climbs Taishan every other day in order to keep fit and enjoy a long life. As for the young climbers, aside from keeping fit, they said they want to make themselves tough and enjoy the beauty of nature. □

Ideas on Developing West China

from "JISHU JINGJI DAobao"
(Technological and Economic Herald)

Gu Weiqun and Huang Fangyi wrote in to give their ideas on developing west China. Their letter said:

China is a vast country, but its development is very uneven. About 90 percent of its people live in eastern China, while the vast west, which makes up nearly half the country's territory, lies undeveloped or half-developed. A new economic boom is beginning, centred on the eastern coastal areas, but what shall be done with the west?

We think measures should be taken to develop west China in concert with the economic boom in the east. Our ideas are: to exploit coal resources and build railways.

The west has rich reserves of minerals. Of the 147 minerals known in the country, the verified deposits of around 40 found in the west top the whole country. These include nickel, molybdenum, rhenium, selenium, lithium and potassium. But the most important is coal: There are verified deposits of 225.5 billion tons in Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Qinghai and Gansu. Perspective reserves in Xinjiang have been estimated at 1,600 billion tons, surpassing Shanxi and accounting for 37 percent of the nation's predicted total. In addition, the ash and sulphur content is low, while the coal seam is thick and lies close to the surface for easy exploitation.

New energy resources such as nuclear, solar, wind, geothermal, tidal and hydrogen energy have gradually become feasible. It has

been calculated that the earth's verified oil reserves will be on the verge of exhaustion by the third decade of the next century, while solar energy and other new energy resources won't be in wide use until a half century later, i.e., around 2080, because of technological, economic and social factors. So in the 50 years between 2030 and 2080, when the world's oil is nearly used up and the new energies are not yet popular, there will be a new boom in the use of coal.

But if the development of west China is postponed until new energy resources are widely used, the region's enormous resources will become worthless.

Therefore, it is of immense importance and urgency to develop the western part of our country. In light of this situation, we think several more railways should be built in the region to serve a new coal production base with an annual capacity of 160 million tons.

If the building of one ton of coal production capacity costs 175 yuan, the whole base would cost 28 billion yuan, equal to the amount earned from three and a half years of coal exports.

The plan may be implemented in several steps. In 50 years from now or less, a foundation for the west's development should be established by exploiting coal reserves, building new railways and moving more people into the region.

The second stage will centre on the development of a coal-based chemical industry, coal liquification and gasification (using nuclear power) and machine-building industries. Gasified and liquified coal can be transported by pipeline to the east coast, or used in the region or exported.

Following these two stages of development, with the influx of people from east China and the resulting enhancement of the west's intellectual and technological resources, a new knowledge-intensive, technology-intensive industrial system (including a number of rising industries) may be formed.

Several decades later when the economic boom in east China links up with these trends in the west, not only will the west take on a completely new look, but the entire nation's economic strength will increase many times over. This will help enervate all of Asia.

Researcher Listed in Who's Who

from "GUANGMING RIBAO"
(Guangming Daily)

Dai Shuhe, a professor and director of the chemical engineering department of the Nanjing Chemical Engineering Institute, who is listed in the 1984-85 edition of *Who's Who in Science and Technology*, recently received a letter from the deputy chief

editor of America's *Who's Who in the World*. It reads, I am very glad to inform you that you have been listed in the *Who's Who in the World* (VII edition), which is soon coming off the press. Compared with the range of influence of the *Who's Who in Science and Technology*, the *Who's Who in the World* describes people from the

international point of view. Your chronicles will be listed among those who have been chosen to represent the worldwide scientific and technological community.

Dai has long been engaged in chemical engineering research and teaching. From 1980 to 1982 he

conducted fracture mechanics research at the University of Rochester in the United States as a visiting scientist. Dai was attempting to theoretically explain the existence of the dislocation-free zone of crack point, a phenomenon that has been observed with electron microscopes in recent years.

and often buying her clothes and other necessary articles.

Household services have provided great help to many workers and professionals. Guo Jiuchun, a teacher at the No. 22 Middle School in Shenyang, had trouble coping with household chores because of his wife's illness. Since he hired a housekeeper, his wife is well cared for and the whole family is more comfortable.

The housekeeper introduction office has been warmly welcomed in Shenyang. Every day it receives a constant stream of visitors and callers. So far, it has introduced housekeepers to more than 300 families, and 200 more households have placed their applications.

Housekeeper Introduction Office

from "BAN YUE TAN"
(Fortnightly Forum)

As their living standards rise, many Chinese are now hiring housekeepers to ease their daily burdens and free them for study or other cultural pursuits. This is particularly true of families with children, or those that have sick or aged people to care for.

At the moment, however, it is no easy thing for urban residents to find housekeepers. Because of this the Majiawan Household Labour Service Company in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, established its household help introduction office last July.

The office recruits rural young women around 20 years of age who have received at least a junior middle school education. It then trains them in courtesy, child care, nursing, household appliances and other practical skills. When they are hired, a contract is signed between the introduction office, the employer and the housekeeper, specifying work hours, salary, and the rights and duties of both parties. The office also makes follow-up inquiries to make sure the agreements are satisfactorily upheld. Infringements on the employers' interests or maltreatment of the housekeeper is criticized; contracts can also be terminated if the case is severe.

However, surveys show that

most employers and housekeepers have good relations. Zhou Zongchang, an officer in the Shenyang Military Area, and his wife treat their housekeeper, 19-year-old Dou Xiuming, like their own daughter, sharing what they have with her

Should Teachers Do Business?

from "JINGJI RIBAO"
(Economic Daily)

A signed article says:

A few days ago I called on a friend of mine, a high school principal who has long suffered an addiction to teaching. Usually he cannot steer his conversation away from his students, his courses and his teaching methods. But this time was different.

After beating around the bush for a while, he began to ask me about going into business — the hotel business, to be specific.

After a few anxious inquiries, I learnt that the Beijing government department concerned had recently made the decision that primary and high schools should rely on themselves to pay the teachers and staff their bonuses and subsidies. This policy of self-reliance became a matter of some anxiety for those involved. Painfully deserting their classes, the teachers began racking their brains for ways to make

money. Some left their classrooms to become managers or business representatives.

This is a startling fact. Schools are for providing education, not doing business — primary schools and high schools in particular. The teachers are there to help their students go on to higher learning. They should concentrate on their teaching, and not seek ways of making money for themselves. To ask teachers to collect money for their own welfare and so on is simply too much. In the last few years, the state has adopted all possible measures to raise teachers' salaries, update classroom equipment, encourage teachers to love their profession, and to improve their teaching ability. This "self-reliance" on bonuses and subsidies will give headaches to the principals, who will be forced to assign some teachers to business rather than teaching. And worst of all, the students' parents or their employers may be asked to make illegal payments.

Fibre Materials Imports to Increase



Wang Zhongshan.

"If prices are suitable, China will increase its imports of raw materials for chemical fibres by 20 to 25 percent this year," Wang Zhongshan, deputy general manager of the China Textile Raw Materials Import and Export Corporation, told *Beijing Review*.

Wang said that China's raw materials imports mainly include polyamide, polyester and acrylic fibres. China has become a major

purchaser of the three materials, although there have been ups and downs in its import volume from year to year (see Table).

Chemical fibre supplies far exceed international market demand this year, and this will drive market prices down, he noted. At the same time, Chinese living standards are constantly improving, and the amount of the chemical fibres needed by Chinese people is increasing considerably. That means China will not cut imports for some time to come, Wang added.

Asked whether China would reduce polyester fibre imports after the new Yizheng Chemical Complex in Jiangsu Province and the Jinshan in Shanghai went on stream, the deputy general manager said, "So far as the Chinese market, which takes in 1 billion people, is concerned, the operation of one or two factories will not affect the overall situation."

Annual per-capita purchases of chemical fibres have topped 20 kg in the industrially developed countries, while the international

average is seven kg per person. But the figure is only four kg in China. That gap should be narrowed as the country steps forward to join the ranks of the world's advanced nations, Wang said.

Portugal Interested In China Market



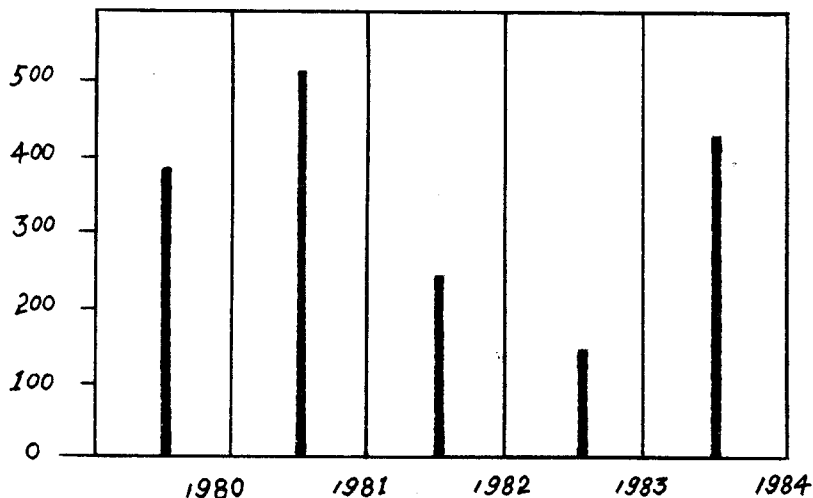
Joao Marques Teixeira.

"A joint venture producing storage batteries for vehicles will be set up in Shenyang early next year. This will be the first co-operative project with equal share of investment from the Shenyang No. 1 Transportation Company and the Sociedade Portuguesa Do Acumulador Tudor of Portugal. The latter is one of Europe's major manufacturers of aircraft, submarines and storage batteries," said Joao Marques Teixeira, first secretary of the Portuguese Embassy in China.

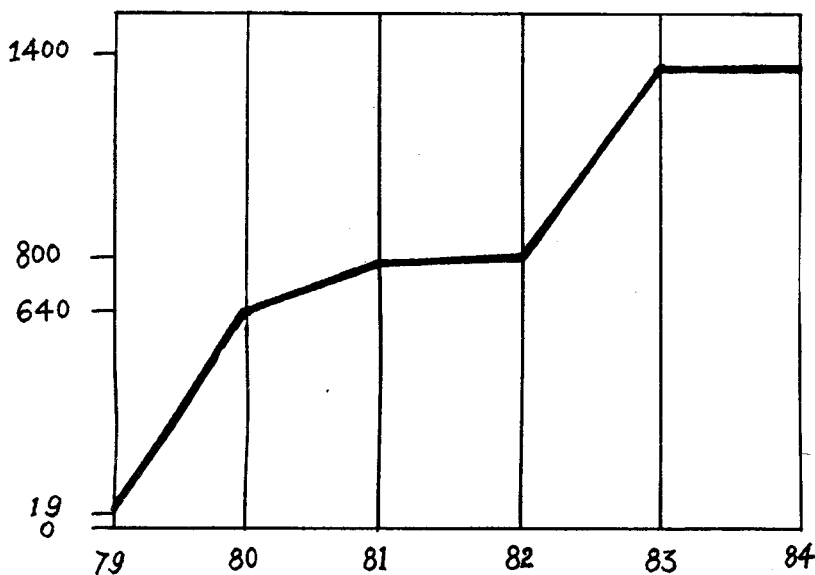
Portugal is very interested in investing in and doing business with China, and mining may be one important sector for Sino-Portuguese co-operation, Teixeira said.

Chemical Fibre Imports.

Unit: 10,000 tons



Total Import & Export Volume of Trade Between China and Portugal (1979-84)
Unit: US\$ 10,000



* The figures are provided by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

A Chinese delegation headed by Minister of Geology and Mineral Resources Sun Daguang will visit Portugal next month for talks on marble quarrying and processing. There will also be discussions on co-operation in the mining and refining of uranium, wolfram and other ores.

Portugal has already indicated its willingness to work with China in these areas.

Sino-Portuguese economic links have been growing since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in February 1979, Teixeira said, with especially great strides in the last two years (see Table). Portuguese exports include cork, paper pulp, marble, uranium and medicines. Lisbon buys leather, canned pork, handicrafts and silks from China.

Portugal will become a full member of the European Economic Community in January 1986, Teixeira noted. That will make the country China's gate to the European market, and there will be development of bilateral economic co-operation and trade.

Commenting on rumours that

Macao will top the agenda during President Eanes' China visit this month, the Portuguese diplomat said settlement of the Macao issue was "a matter of course" after the successful resolution of the future of Hongkong by China and Britain. It would therefore not be raised while Eanes was in China.

President Antonio Ramalho Eanes began his China tour on May 21 at the invitation of President Li Xiannian. Li paid a visit to Portugal last year.

Foreign Firms to Invest in Hainan

Hainan Island and a consortium of Australian firms signed a contract on May 20 on the exploitation of oil resources in the northern part of the island. Companies from France, Japan, Singapore and the United States have also shown interest in oil exploration there.

Since the beginning of this year, many overseas investors have come to Hainan Island for business talks with the local authorities. The discussions have so far resulted in the signing of 18 agreements and let-

ters of intent on such large and medium-sized projects as transport, energy, farm machinery and tourism.

French and Swiss companies have signed letters of intent with the local authorities on building a 220,000-kw hydroelectric power station in western Hainan.

Japanese firms have also agreed to develop tourist facilities at Sanya, an important trading port on the southern tip of the island, and to expand Sanya Airport.

Hongkong, Macao and foreign firms last year invested more than US\$100 million in over 100 projects since Hainan was opened to outside investment in 1983.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Guangdong Province branch of the newly established China Export Commodity Base Corporation will set up joint ventures in Foshan, Zhaoqing and Shantou. The ventures include a pig-raising company, financed by a US firm and Guangdong, which will produce 400,000 lean-meat hogs annually. Also on line are a galvanized iron sheet factory with an annual output of 70,000 tons, funded with a Japanese firm, and a tropical fruit and vegetable development company financed with an Australian company. A dozen more projects are also under discussion.

- The China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation signed two contracts with the 50 C/S Group of Europe on March 27 in Beijing.

Under the contracts, the 50 C/S Group's six companies — based in France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland and Belgium — will provide China with 150 6,400-kw-electric locomotives, and major spare parts will be transferred to China uncompensated.

Modern Drama Mirrors Society

Modern drama, which first appeared on the Chinese stage during a time of social change around the turn of the century, continues today to mirror the ever-changing face of society.

By depicting the joys and tribulations of real life, modern drama puts the real world in a test tube and holds it up for study. A number of new works being staged across China provide theatregoers with a glimpse of society in the 1980s as well as an artistic treat. Following is a cross section of the current dramatic offerings:

A Time of Throes, staged by the Beijing People's Art Theatre, tells the story of a woman factory director and the trials she goes through in appointing a group of intellectuals to help her factory. The play provides a vivid profile of another carefree manager who appears to be nonchalant towards things around him. But, deep inside, he cares deeply about the factory and the need for reforms.

People From the Special Economic Zone is the story of the conflict between people with old attitudes and economic reformers played out against the backdrop of

a special economic zone. Performed by the Guangdong Modern Drama Theatre, the play is an indictment of the favouritism and "iron rice bowl" mentality that threaten to cripple China's efforts to modernize.

In the drama, manager Wu Ming courts disaster by firing an incompetent office leader and hiring Luo Dan, a college student, as an interpreter without going through cumbersome hiring procedures. He also assigns a senior official's wife, a woman not accustomed to hard work, to manage the canteen during her probation period. By hiring and firing people on their merits, Wu faces harsh criticism from people used to doing things in "the old way."

The plot thickens when Luo and some of the other young workers decide to open a disco to provide them with evening entertainment. The idea is roundly criticized by Old Lady Sun in charge of personnel, but manager Wu sticks up for the young people. When the criticism mounts, Wu even says he will take to the dance floor to defend the hard-working youths.

Destinies, staged by the Shan-

dong Provincial Modern Drama Troupe, follows the lives of three sisters from the 1950s through the 80s in an effort to describe the political and social changes that have transpired. The play also tells the story of two enterprising men who take different paths to success. One, a man who studied in the Soviet Union during the 1950s, returns home to work as a harbour designer. His education and organization skills pave the path for prosperity. The other is a peasant who sets up a factory, invites technicians and succeeds in making the whole village rich.

Black Rose, written by an oil driller from the Daqing Oilfield, chronicles a woman quality checker who enjoins young workers to reform their work.

All these plays have been praised as accurate reflections of modern China. Rather than generalizing the changes taking place, they provide a look at how reform alters the daily lives of real people.

The new dramas, however, are not without faults. Some of the works paint a simple picture—the negative characters are pale, weak and even unreasonable.

Most of the playwrights know very well about the life they write about. Yang Limin, the oil driller who wrote *Black Rose*, said, "I hope to tell the people how the average person is thrown into the current of the times."

By casting a careful eye on China's countryside, factories, mines, special economic zones and cities, the dramatists describe the age-old emotions of love, loyalty and deceit in modern, realistic context. Using the familiar world, they tackle the timeless themes as well as reflect the specific dramas of today.

A scene in "People From the Special Economic Zone."



More Areas Opened in Tibet

The Tibet Autonomous Region will open all its high peaks and areas along the Yaluzangbu, Lujiang and Lancang Rivers before 1988 for mountaineering, hiking, horseback riding and motorcycling.

The Tibet Sports Service Corporation was established last

September to aid touring sportsmen.

Climbing teams from Britain and Spain are now challenging the 8848-metre Qomolangma (Mount Everest), the world's highest peak.

Skiers and mountain trekkers

account for the majority of the sports enthusiasts arriving in Tibet. Two-thirds of the more than 60 foreign sports teams scheduled to come this year are from the United States, Australia and Italy. There are also some from Japan, Britain and Spain.

The region will play host to 1,300 athletes this year, nearly as many as in the past five years put together.

Climbers test their skills in the Himalayas.



A bear hug for a Tibetan who has returned from the Cho Oyu expedition.



Tibetans Conquer Sixth Highest Peak

A team of nine Tibetans made mountaineering history on May 1 when they became the first Chinese expedition to conquer Cho Oyu, the world's sixth highest peak. It was also mankind's first successful ascent of the 8,201-metre-high mountain from its northern face.

Sandwiched between Qomolangma (Mount Everest) and Xixiabangma (Gosaintham), the world's 14th tallest mountain, on the Tibet-Nepal border, Cho Oyu was little-known until 1921. It later became a frequent target of Himalayan expeditions but was scaled only three times, by teams from Austria, West Germany and India. All reached the summit via the southern route from Nepal.

The Tibetans and their 37 support climbers arrived at the foot of Cho Oyu in early April. From their base on the Balong Glacier, they moved up to camps at 5,700 metres and 6,300 metres before winning a tight race against severe weather brought by the approaching spring monsoon.

It was the first time any of the Tibetans had attempted a peak over 8,000 metres.

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A Tale From History.

ART PAGE

Woodcuts by Lu Yan

Lu Yan, born in 1935 in Shenze County, Hebei Province, works at the Liaoning Provincial Art studio.



Woodpecker.



Children From the Mountains.

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