

People's China

人民中国

September 1, 1950

A Marxist Military Line

— Shuang Yun

New China's Water Conservancy Programme

— Fu Tso-yi

American Atrocities in Korea

— Hsinhua War Correspondent

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Taiwan Shall Be Liberated!

The U.S. Government committed direct, open, armed aggression against the People's Republic of China when, on June 27th, the American President ordered American armed forces to prevent the liberation of Taiwan by the Chinese people. Immediately thereafter, the U.S. Seventh Fleet took up combat positions along the Taiwan coast.

This American armed intervention is not merely a flagrant violation of China's territorial integrity. It constitutes a serious breach of peace in Asia and directly threatens world peace.

On August 24, Foreign Minister Chou En-lai, in a message to the U.N. Security Council, officially accused the U.S. Government of armed aggression in China and demanded that the Council carry out its obligations to maintain international peace and security and to uphold the U.N. Charter. He proposed that the Council "condemn the U.S. Government for its criminal act . . ." and "take immediate measures to bring about the complete withdrawal of all the United States armed invading forces from Taiwan and from other territories belonging to China."

Accurately reflecting the wishes of the Chinese people, China's Foreign Minister re-affirmed his country's determination "to liberate from the tentacles of the U.S. aggressors Taiwan and all other territories belonging to China."

These words should serve as a solemn warning to the handful of ruling capitalists in America that the Chinese people are not frightened by Washington's blustering display of force. We have already defeated imperialist Japan. We have overthrown the American-supported regime of Chiang Kai-shek. We have before our eyes, furthermore, the inspiring sight of the crushing defeats which the heroic Korean people are inflicting upon the American invaders.

We are confident that Taiwan will be liberated and re-united with China's mainland. Should the United States Government attempt to interfere with the final phase of the Chinese people's revolutionary war, it must be held fully responsible for the serious consequences of this lawless intervention.

Peace Requires China At UN

The ties of friendship between the Chinese and Korean peoples have always been strong, but never so strong as today. As our two nations face the common peril of American imperialism in Asia, these ties become still stronger. We have not only frontiers and ideals in common, but a common struggle also—against the phrenetic Wall Street aggressors.

The solidarity between our two peoples was given forceful expression when the Chinese Delegation to Pyongyang, on behalf of China's 475 millions, conveyed support to the heroic Korean people in their great fight for freedom. We must regard the Korean people's defensive war as our war also, for the American invasion of Korea is as much a threat to us as it is to the existence of a free and independent Korean nation. That is why the attack on Korea has such sinister undertones for China, why the struggle of the Korean people is bound up with our struggle, and inevitably with the struggle of all Asian peoples against imperialism.

But although the mounting national liberation movements in many parts of Asia serve warning on the United States and its satellites that the Asian peoples will decide their own affairs themselves, the overfed imperialist gentlemen of Wall Street will go to any lengths to maintain their investments. They even have their warmongering lackeys like U.S. Senator Brewster and British M.P. Peter Roberts shout for atom bombs to be dropped on Korean women and children.

All over the world, however, the common people

want peace. They have rushed to sign the Stockholm Peace Appeal. They are voicing strong support for the Soviet delegate's proposals to the Security Council meeting of August 4 for a peaceful regulation of the Korean question by a legally-constituted Security Council. This is the true voice of peace-loving people of all countries. If the war-makers in Washington ignore it, they do so at their own peril.

The Chinese people agree fully with the Soviet proposals put before the Security Council. As Foreign Minister Chou En-lai declared on August 20 in his message to the United Nations, the Korean question can, and must, be settled by peaceful means with the participation of the People's Republic of China in the Security Council. Since Korea is China's neighbour, the Chinese people are especially concerned with any decision affecting Korea. The fact that the lawful representatives of the Chinese people are still not seated at U.N. meetings is a direct result of the American bloc's conspiracy—and nothing else. But these conspirators cannot justify the denial of legal representation to one quarter of the world's population. The American bloc must bear the full consequences for standing in the way of a peaceful solution to the Korean question and the seating of the representatives of the Chinese People's Republic at the U.N. We know the forces of peace will triumph over the dark forces of imperialism.

World peace and the peaceful solution of the Korean question require the presence of the People's Republic of China at the United Nations!

U.S. AGGRESSION ON TAIWAN DENOUNCED

On August 24, Chou En-lai, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, sent the following telegram to Yakov Malik, President of the Security Council, and Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations:

On June 27th this year President Truman of the United States of America announced the decision of the United States Government to prevent with armed forces the liberation of Taiwan by the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Meanwhile, the United States Seventh Fleet moved toward the straits of Taiwan, followed by the arrival in Taiwan of contingents of the United States Air Force, in an open encroachment on the territory of the People's Republic of China. This action on the part of the United States Government is a direct armed aggression on the territory of China, and a total violation of the United Nations Charter.

Taiwan is an integral part of China. This is not only a fact based on history, confirmed by the situation since the surrender of Japan, but it is also stipulated in the Cairo Declaration of 1943 and

the Potsdam Communique of 1945 as binding international agreements which the United States Government has pledged itself to respect and observe.

The people of China cannot tolerate this action of armed aggression by the United States Government on the territory of China, and are determined to liberate from the tentacles of the United States aggressors Taiwan and all other territories belonging to China. On behalf of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, I now raise to the United Nations Security Council the accusation and propose that for the maintenance of international peace and security and for the upholding of the dignity of the United Nations Charter, the United Nations Security Council is obliged by its inalienable duties to condemn the United States Government for its criminal act in the armed invasion of the territory of China, and to take immediate measures to bring about the complete withdrawal of all the United States armed invading forces from Taiwan and from other territories belonging to China.

China's Stand on Korea

On August 20, Chou En-lai, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, sent the following telegram to Yakov Malik, President of the Security Council, and Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations:

The United States of America instigated the Korean incident, launched sea, land and air forces in a direct aggression of Korea, and invaded the territory of the People's Republic of China — Taiwan — with her Seventh Fleet, attempting thereby to spread the war and attain her goal of subjugating Asia, and thus seriously violated peace in Asia and the world.

The peace-loving peoples all over Asia and the world eagerly hope that the United Nations should bear the responsibility for the maintenance of world peace and security, and promptly regulate the Korean question by effective and peaceful methods. Since Korea is China's neighbour, the Chinese people cannot but be especially concerned about the solution of the Korean question, which must and can be settled peacefully. But so far the multifarious obstructive and dilatory actions on the part of the United States of America in the Security Council meetings have prevented the reasonable peaceful settlement of the Korean question in which the whole world is interested. The United States Government must bear the entire responsibility for the fact that the Korean question failed to attain a peaceful settlement.

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China fully supports all the proposals concerning the peaceful regulation of the Korean

question submitted on August 4 in the United Nations Security Council by Mr. Yakov Malik on behalf of the U.S.S.R. Government.

These proposals are in complete accordance with the spirit of the United Nations Charter and with the wishes of the peoples of Asia and the world.

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China firmly maintains that when the Korean question is being discussed in the Security Council, it is imperative that the delegate of the People's Republic of China, a country with a population of 475 millions, should take part and the representatives of the Korean people be invited to express their views; that the military operation in Korea be stopped and all foreign troops be withdrawn from Korea. Otherwise it is impossible to obtain a reasonable peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China firmly opposes the barbarous bombings of the towns and peaceful inhabitants conducted by American air force in Korea, fully supports the solemn and rightful protest lodged by Mr. Bak Hunyung, Foreign Minister of the Korean Democratic People's Republic, with the United Nations Security Council on August 5, and demands that the Security Council take immediate steps to stop the atrocities committed by the United States forces in violation of international law and the rules of human ethics. This is a duty which no member of the Security Council which is entrusted with the responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security can shirk.

Bring Victory to Reason and Justice

— An Appeal from the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress —

Hundreds of millions of men and women have united and continue to unite around the Stockholm Appeal. On behalf of these millions of men and women, the bureau of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress convenes the second congress, whose sessions will be held in Great Britain from November 13 to 19, 1950.

The international situation, which has been aggravated of late, has become a direct threat to general peace and imposes new obligations more important than ever before on all peace supporters.

Peace supporters continue their campaign for banning the atomic weapon and again come out for general restriction and control over all kinds of weapons whose growth increases the danger of war and imposes heavy sacrifices on peoples.

Peace supporters oppose aggression wherever it occurs and denounce armed intervention from outside in the domestic affairs of peoples. They demand the cessation of such intervention in countries where it is taking place.

Peace supporters welcome and support peaceful steps undertaken to end the war in Korea, which is a hot-bed holding out the menace of a general conflict.

Peace supporters resolutely come out against mass bombings whose victim is the civilian population.

Peace supporters demand that the Security Council, whose composition should include real representatives of the five great powers, should as swiftly as possible undertake the peaceful settlement of the Korean question and grant



representatives of both sides concerned the opportunity to be heard.

Peace supporters demand the prohibition of any aggression facilitating the outbreak of war in any country whatever.

We urge all peace supporters throughout the world to organise a broad public discussion of these proposals and to elect to the second World Peace Congress those who express their views.

We propose to all organisations — political, trade union, cultural, social and religious, as well as to women and the youth — to all who strive to preserve world peace, to take part in the fulfilment of this task irrespective of their political convictions and ideological motives which prompt them to do so.

We know what a force the vast majority of people united around the Stockholm Appeal already represents. This unity should expand and grow. We were able to appreciate the full efficiency of the campaign we had undertaken. Thus, the first steps have already been made. Further steps will follow. They can and must lead peoples to the lasting peace desired by all.

This peace cannot be attained by force of arms. It will be attained by general joint actions of all men and women of good will who are capable of bringing victory to reason and justice.

*(Signed by FREDERIC JOLIOT-CURIE,
President of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress,
Prague, August 1950.)*

A MARXIST MILITARY LINE

Notes on re-reading *The Strategic Problems of China's Revolutionary War*

Written by Chairman Mao Tse-tung in 1936

Shuang Yun

I

There have been two decisive days in the history of the Chinese people's revolution — July 1, 1921, which marked the founding of the Communist Party of China; and August 1, 1927, which saw the creation of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, the predecessor of the People's Liberation Army.

On the first date, Marxism-Leninism was united with the Chinese revolution and began to guide the Chinese people's revolutionary struggle. On the second date, Marxism-Leninism was united with the Chinese people's revolutionary armed forces and began to guide the Chinese people's armed struggle. The events occurring on these two days were decisive factors in leading the Chinese people to attain revolutionary victory. If there had not been these two days, if there had not been a Chinese Communist Party armed with Marxism-Leninism, and if there had not been a people's army led by the Communist Party, the victory of the Chinese people's revolution would have been inconceivable and unattainable.

The victory of the military struggle of the Chinese revolution, just like the victory of the political struggle, was gained under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. Chairman Mao is the organiser and creator of the Chinese revolution and also of the Chinese people's army. It was his creative genius that united Marxism-Leninism, mankind's highest form of ideological weapon, with China's revolutionary practice and with the Chinese people's armed struggle. He personally organised and led the first detachment of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army — that heroic and victorious army of the people, whose deeds in serving the people are unrivalled in China's history. Furthermore, Chairman Mao devised for this people's army a correct military line and a full set of revolutionary strategies and tactics, all wholly based on Marxism-Leninism.

The military ideas and theories on war which Chairman Mao created on the basis of Marxism-Leninism constitute the guiding policies of China's revolutionary struggle. These theories are collected in the book *The Strategic Problems of China's Revolutionary War*. This is a very basic book. Although Chairman Mao has written quite a few books on the problems of military strategy and tactics, this is the most concentrated of them and contains all of his major theses on warfare.

II

Chairman Mao said in this book: "Past revolutionary wars have proved that we not only require a correct Marxist political line but also a correct Marxist military line. Fifteen years* of revolution and war have already forged such political and military lines. We believe that in the new stages of the war which will arise from now on, these lines will be further developed, substantiated and enriched in accordance with the new environments and will attain the goal of victory over our national enemies."

This prediction has been entirely borne out. After 23 years of hardship and vicissitudes, China's revolutionary military struggle has now "attained the goal of victory over our national enemies." The Chinese People's Liberation Army was able to solve its difficulties in the midst of battle and gain victory because it was created and led by Chairman Mao, and because under his leadership it established "a correct Marxist military line."

What kind of line was this?

It was the guiding line and the strategy and tactics, based on the universal truths of Marxism-Leninism, which were determined by the nature and laws as well as the methods of China's revolution and revolutionary war. These constituted the starting point for evolving this line.

The nature of China's revolution in its present stage is that of a New Democratic revolution opposing three enemies (imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism). Its law of development has been that "the enemies of the revolution are uncommonly strong" but constantly became more corrupt and decadent; the Chinese people's revolutionary forces were weak at the beginning but constantly gathered strength.

It is this nature and law of development which determined the protracted and cruel nature of China's revolution and also determined that the methods and major forms of China's revolutionary struggle "cannot be peaceful but must be armed."** Stalin's famous saying that "the characteristic of the Chinese revolution is that an armed people opposes armed counter-revolution" was correctly derived from the nature and law of development of China's revolution.

* Calculating from the time the book was written — Author's Note.

** From *The Chinese Revolution and the Chinese Communist Party* by Mao Tse-tung.

The major forms of China's revolution "must be armed." The Chinese revolution and the Chinese revolutionary war are actually the same thing and cannot be separated.

"Since the beginning of class society, war has been the highest form of struggle for resolving the contradictions between classes, races, nations and political groups when they have reached a certain stage."*

Therefore, the nature and law of development of China's revolutionary war have been the same as those of the Chinese revolution as a whole. The enemy was strong and we were weak, but the enemy's armed strength grew weaker while the revolution's armed strength grew stronger.

It was this nature and law of development that determined the special features of China's revolutionary war. Chairman Mao said:

"China's revolutionary war, regardless of whether it is a civil war or a national war, is waged in an environment peculiar to China. Compared with war in general or revolutionary war in general, China's revolutionary war has its own particular conditions and particular nature. Therefore it has its own special laws in addition to the laws for war in general and revolutionary war in general."

According to Chairman Mao's analysis, the special features of China's revolutionary war were as follows:

"A large semi-colonial country that is unevenly developed politically and economically and that has passed through a great revolution;** a powerful enemy; a weak Red Army; an agrarian revolution — these are the four major characteristics of China's revolutionary war. These characteristics determine the guiding line of China's revolutionary war and its many strategic and tactical principles. The first and fourth characteristics present the Chinese

Red Army with the possibility of developing and defeating the enemy. The second and third characteristics present the Red Army with the possibility of being unable to defeat the enemy very quickly. Strategically, it presents the possibility of a protracted war, and also the possibility that if things are not handled well, the revolution can fail.

"These are the two aspects of China's revolutionary war, and they exist concurrently — that is to say, underneath the favourable conditions lie difficult conditions. This is the fundamental law of China's revolutionary war, and many laws arise out of this fundamental law."

This was the first main point of the Marxist line of China's revolutionary war. In other words, all military theory and the principles of strategy and tactics were evolved from these characteristics and fundamental law of China's revolutionary war.

III

What was the content of the theories on war and principles of strategy and tactics that Chairman Mao derived from the Marxist military line?

In *The Strategic Problems of China's Revolutionary War*, Chairman Mao raised and solved the following series of problems:

The laws of war are developmental
The aim of war lies in eliminating war
The tasks of the science of strategy
The methods of studying military theory
Problems of leadership in China's revolutionary war
The characteristics of China's revolutionary war
The major forms of China's revolutionary war
The problem of strategy and tactics

Regarding the first question, here are two points from among Chairman Mao's basic concepts which deserve our attention:

(1) The circumstances and laws that are peculiar to China's revolutionary war.

"We are now engaged in war," Chairman Mao pointed out. "Our war is being conducted in the

(Continued on page 28)

* From *The Strategic Problems of China's Revolutionary War*.

** The revolution of 1925-27.



Welcome our own forces

By Chow Ya

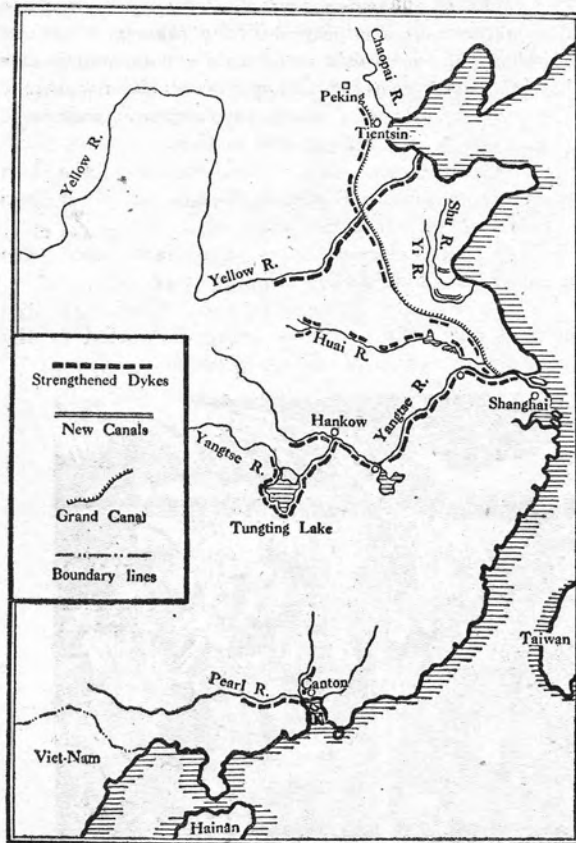
NEW CHINA'S WATER CONSERVANCY PROGRAMME

Fu Tso-yi

The main physical features of the landscape of China are high plateaux in the Northwest with slopes or declinations to the Southeast where lowlands or hilly terrain interspersed with basins have formed. This natural configuration explains why most of the country's rivers rise in the Northwest, flow through loess plateaux or mountain gorges, and then, travelling in a southeasterly direction, shape the alluvial plains of the coast.

I

The principal regions in China, divided into their various river systems, include the Sungari River Basin, the Liao River Basin, the Basin of the Chiyun and Luan Rivers, the Pai River Basin, the Yellow River Basin, the Yangtse River Basin, the Pearl River Basin and other relatively smaller river basins. The Yangtse River and the Yellow River, which both rise far inland and have long river channels, flow through vast expanses of the country.



Major Anti-Flood Works of 1950

FU TSO-YI is Minister of Water Conservancy of the Central People's Government.

These two rivers are like two arteries which nourish the country.

Of the total land surface of the country — approximately 14,390,000,000 *mow** — some 2,400,000,000 *mow* are arable and about 1,470,000,000 *mow* are cultivated.

There is a wide range in the yearly rainfall in different areas — from 200 to 2,000 millimetres.

From the point of view of future development, China not only has vast uncultivated lands which can be opened up for agricultural production but great hydraulic potentialities which are yet to be harnessed. According to very rough estimates, the natural flow of water alone — without tapping the water to be stored in reservoirs — is sufficient to irrigate an additional area of 300,000,000 *mow* of land. As for the potentialities of China's water power, it has been estimated that when the present resources are developed, they will be able to produce approximately 140,000,000 kilowatts of electricity.

In the past the Chinese people accumulated rich experiences in utilising water. Even today in Shehsi, Ninghsia, Shansi and Szechuan provinces, one can find irrigation channels built 2,000 years ago during the Chin or Han Dynasty. But due to feudalism's long oppression of the people, the work of water conservancy has not been developed to that stage it should have reached. Particularly in more recent times, under the reactionary KMT regime, water conservancy was characterised by destruction rather than construction. As a result, droughts and floods were common in pre-liberation days which partly accounted for the miserable life of the Chinese people.

In the history of China droughts and floods have been regular occurrences. The drought in North China in 1920 and the one in Northwest China between 1926-1929 were terrible scourges which rendered millions of people homeless and resulted in countless deaths from starvation.

Floods were particularly frequent in East and South China. In the last 2,400 years, the Yellow River has breached its dykes on an average of once every two and a half years. During the period of KMT rule, it has been estimated that the average losses caused by Yellow River floods reached approximately 24,000,000 silver dollars each year. The Yangtse and Huai Rivers, as well as a number of other minor rivers, have also flooded regularly.

* One *mow* is the equivalent of approximately 1/15 of a hectare.

One of the most disastrous floods of recent times occurred in 1931 when, according to KMT government records covering only Kiangsu, Anhwei, Hupeh, Hunan and four other provinces, approximately 147,850,000 *mow* of land were submerged and 52,710,000 people were affected. In the great flood of 1939 in North China, while no accurate statistics were compiled because of Japanese invasion, the vastness of the area flooded can easily be realised when it is recalled that within the municipal limits of Tientsin it was possible for boats to sail up certain streets. The flood of 1949 was on much the same scale as that of 1931. Negligence in repairing dykes during the rule of the KMT reactionaries increased the effects of natural calamities, as well as the deliberate destruction of dykes by retreating KMT army just prior to its defeat. At this time the area inundated totalled approximately 100,000,000 *mow*.

Often enough in the past man-made factors served to aggravate droughts and floods in China. Under the feudal land system when peasants were ruthlessly exploited, the people had little enthusiasm and no means for carrying out water conservancy projects. The feudal landlords and the state power representing them, on the other hand, spent the greater part of the nation's wealth on repressing the people so as to maintain their parasitic and corrupt way of life; they did nothing for the development of water conservancy or for the improvement of land.

Another contributing factor was the feudal contradictions which developed among the reactionary

rulers themselves. Such contradictions made it impossible to draw up comprehensive programmes which would harness rivers or make full use of water resources. These feudal rulers, thinking always of their own self-interest and, therefore, limiting their horizons to their own small areas, did not hesitate to take steps which deliberately caused great losses to the lives and property of people living in other areas. History gives us many examples of how, during the years of feudal domination, the reactionary rulers would divert floods to neighbouring provinces.

These corrupt rulers also thwarted and repressed scientific and technical developments in the water conservancy field. A certain engineering project — unread — was shelved for 20 years during the KMT rule. The result, of course, was that scientists were discouraged and lost all interest in their work. The public offices connected with water conservancy work grew rotten with graft and personal extravagance. The demoralising effects of such practices on people working in this field were so great that it became impossible to accomplish anything.

Even worse developments occurred more recently. During the Japanese invasion in 1938, the decadent and impotent KMT reactionary group, unable to put up any stiff resistance to the enemy, breached the Huayuankow dyke on the Yellow River in an attempt to stop the Japanese advance by flood rather than by armed forces. As a result, the Yellow River changed its course and flowed into the Huai River, completely immersing 9,200,000 *mow*

(Continued on page 30)



Yangtze R. & its tributaries: 93,310,462 cubic metres

One unit = 5,000,000 cubic metres



Yellow R., Huai R. & Grand Canal: 35,385,586 cubic metres



Yi River Project: 38,090,000 cubic metres



Tungting Lake: 29,162,515 cubic metres



Other rivers: 54,041,135 cubic metres

EARTHWORK INVOLVED IN MAJOR ANTI-FLOOD WORKS OF 1950

CHINA HAS ENOUGH TO EAT

Ke Chia-lung

China no longer needs to import grain from abroad. This startling fact was brought to light in the course of the vast grain-reshuffling programme carried out earlier in the year.

If one recalls that grain has long stood at the head of the list of China's imports, and that grain imports rose to 2,000,000 tons per year under KMT misrule, then it becomes clear that China's withdrawal from the world grain market is bound to have important effects, both abroad and at home. Its immediate effect abroad will be to heighten the scramble among capitalist nations for the rapidly dwindling market areas that remain. At home it will mean the raising of living standards; and it will also mean more rapid industrialisation because, among other things, the foreign exchange funds that were once sunk into grain purchases can now be diverted to the purchase of industrial equipment.

Many bourgeois economists and sociologists have found it expedient to maintain that China faced an insoluble problem in trying to feed her vast population. It cannot be done, they liked to declare pontifically, basing their pronouncements on the discredited Malthusian Law. However, specialists who were not blinkered by such reactionary preconceptions have frequently surmised that if China could cast off her production-hampering feudal system, and if she could solve her great transportation problems, she could grow ample food for distribution among all her population. And this has already proven to be the case less than one year after a people's government was formed.

Total grain production in 1950 has been estimated at 125,000,000 tons — an increase of 12,250,000 tons over last year's grain harvest. There is every reason to believe this estimate will be realised. A bumper wheat harvest is already in, providing 20,000,000 tons for the nation's granaries — an increase of 3,300,000 tons over last year's figures. Except for a few areas that were again inundated by floods, autumn crop prospects look very good.

The average annual consumption of grain per capita over the past centuries had ranged in the vicinity of 125 kilogrammes, a bare subsistence level. However, the anticipated grain yield this year will provide an average of more than twice this amount for every man, woman and child in China.

Even should unexpected natural calamities occur in various regions as they did last year, the government is in a position to stave off any famines. On June 30, just before the grain taxes on the winter wheat harvest were collected, the government's grain stocks south of the Great Wall totalled 1,187,450

tons. This amount is sufficient to feed Shanghai's 5,000,000 population for nearly two years, or sufficient to feed the populations in the four major cities — Shanghai, Peking, Tientsin and Hankow — for one full year.

It is absolutely unprecedented in China's recent history for the government to have such large surplus stocks of grain on hand at the end of spring. This is even more remarkable in view of the fact that in 1949, natural disasters had affected to varying degrees some 121,560,000 *mow* of farmland with a population of 40,000,000.

It was largely due to this huge government grain supply that, again for the first time in China's modern history, grain prices remained stable throughout the recent pre-harvest period. Although prices normally soar when the peasants' food reserves run low, this year the government was in a position to pour grain onto the market in sufficient quantities to out-maneuvre the speculators and to hold prices steady.

China could have been far more industrialised today if she had not spent huge sums of foreign exchange on food purchases but instead had been able to put the money into the necessary machinery for building up her heavy industries.

The country first began importing grain in 1721, when Emperor Kang Hsi of the Manchu Dynasty ordered 22,500 tons of rice from Siam for the coastal cities of southern China. Since then, the nation has become increasingly dependent on foreign food supplies. Although grain imports rarely exceeded 750,000 tons a year during the Manchu period, under the KMT regime, they rose to 2,000,000 tons a year. Statistics show that in 1888, grain ranked as sixth on China's list of imports; by 1930, it had climbed to second place, and it assumed top position two years later.

How much foreign exchange has been swallowed up by foreign grain purchases? The noted Chinese economist Ma Yin-chu estimated in his book entitled *The Re-making of China's Economy* that, in the three year period from 1927 to 1929, grain imports accounted for half of China's net deficit in her trade balance. *China's Foreign Trade*, a handbook published by the Commercial Press in Shanghai, shows that by 1932, grain imports constituted 19.67 per cent of the total net value of all foreign imports, whereas machinery made up only 2.95 per cent. This, of course, does not mean that the small scale of China's machinery imports was entirely due to the large scale of her grain imports. The reactionary KMT regime was committed to carrying out the

policies of foreign imperialists as a condition for its continued existence. Therefore, Chiang's rule was, in its very essence, a hindrance to the industrial development of the country. However, it still remains clear that China wasted a great deal of her wealth on foreign grain purchases.

This was one aspect of the former heavy grain imports — their detrimental effect upon China's industrialisation. Another aspect was their disastrous effect upon China's rural economy.

The dumping of such large quantities of foreign grain on China's market necessarily drove prices down, forcing the local peasantry to sell their produce at a loss, or else to leave it to rot in their bins. This not only undermined the peasants' living conditions but also dampened their zeal for production. It also left them with little purchasing power, and so they could not afford to buy manufactured goods — another hindrance to China's industrialisation.

How domestic grain was driven from the market can be seen from the following example. In 1932, rice was sold in Hunan Province (known as China's rice bowl) for \$6 to \$7 per picul. At that time, foreign imported rice was selling in Shanghai for \$7.50 per picul. Moreover, it then cost \$3.33 to ship one picul of rice from Hunan to Shanghai as a result of the excessive freight charges, packing expenses, internal customs duties, insurance rates and the multitude of government assessments. Naturally, under such conditions, Hunan's surplus grain did not move to the coast but remained in the province, depressing local prices and ruining the peasants who had grown the rice.

Or take the case of Wuhu, a famous rice-producing area in Anhwei Province. In the period from 1898 to 1904, this region exported an average of 337,500 tons of rice a year. By the 1930-35 period, after the heavy influx of foreign grain, the area could only export an average of 142,500 tons a year — about 42 per cent of the earlier shipments.

Under this crushing onslaught of foreign grain, millions upon millions of Chinese peasants were driven into bankruptcy and lost title to their small plots of land. They either became highly-exploited tenants and farm labourers or swelled the ranks of the urban proletariat, where their sheer weight of numbers held wages down to the lowest levels in the world.

This was the state of affairs that the Central People's Government inherited from the corrupt KMT regime. Something had to be done, and done immediately, to solve the nation's grain problems — a task made even more urgent by the food shortage in certain localities last year.

After studying the problem carefully, Marxist economists and agricultural experts ascertained that the problem was not indeed one of an actual grain

shortage, but of transportation. A few months after its inauguration, the People's Government had worked out details for a gigantic programme to reshuffle the nation's grain supplies. According to this plan, grain was to be shipped at government expense from grain surplus areas to the large urban centres, to localities affected by natural calamities and to cotton-growing regions that did not produce enough grain for their own needs. Northeast China was to provide 1,030,000 tons of grain; Szechuan Province was to send 200,000 tons; and Central-South China was to ship 300,000 tons. These figures did not include the large quantities transported by private dealers.

But in actual practice, what happened? By the time 50,000 tons had moved down the Yangtze River from Szechuan to Shanghai — or one-fourth of the province's quota — the metropolis wanted no more because it had already received enough from other areas and its granaries were full. Similarly, it was found that only four-fifths of the planned tonnage from Northeast China was needed south of the Great Wall. Further investigation revealed that inexperienced government workers, alarmed at the extent of the flood and drought last year, had overestimated the needs of the affected areas. Fortunately, the miscalculation was discovered in time to halt unnecessary grain shipments. But since the great grain-producing areas were anxious to dispose of their surplus, the government concentrated these stocks in strategically convenient places for use in controlling grain market prices when necessary. This explains why the government found itself with a supply of over 1,000,000 tons of grain on hand at the end of June.

As a result of the experiences gained in its tremendous grain reshuffling programme, the government has now become much more familiar with the state of grain supplies in China and with the grain-producing potentialities of its various regions — both subjects on which there had previously been very little reliable data. The government also gained invaluable experience in mobilising all the nation's transportation facilities for grain shipment.

With this background, the government authorities are now in a position to say with full confidence that they can overcome any threatened food-shortage that may develop anywhere in China. They can also say with assurance that China will never again need to import foreign grains, for she can grow and distribute all that her population can consume.

A more detailed account of the government's grain reshuffling programme is contained in the articles *How China Conquered Inflation*, by Yang Pei-hsin (Vol. 1, No. 12, p. 7) and *The Role of Public Grain*, by Cheng Lien-tuan (same issue, p. 19). Other related reference material may be found in *The Financial and Food Situation*, by Chen Yun (Vol. 1, No. 10, p. 5); *Chinese Agriculture in Speedy Rehabilitation*, by Tien Huonung (Vol. 1, No. 3, p. 7); and *China Increases Her Grain Production*, by C. N. Wu (Vol. 1, No. 10, p. 8). — Editor

AMERICAN ATROCITIES IN KOREA

By Hsinhua War Correspondent

Rangwul Village Near Taichun, July 31 — Seven thousand patriots were horribly butchered in a little valley about one kilometre from this village, during this month, under the supervision of American officers. American service rifle, pistol, and carbine bullets were used to kill them. The trucks that drove them to their deaths were American and some of the drivers were American. The empty cigarette packages which still litter the scene are American. The shooting, beating and beheading were done by puppet gendarmes and police, but this is an American crime — one of the worst the world has ever known. Great ditches, like those at Belsen and Buchenwald, were used to try to hide the traces of the massacre.

I have spent the last few days investigating a whole series of such American atrocities — all carried out under the instructions of American 'advisers.' In view of the evidence, only one conclusion is possible: What has happened here is the same as happened in Europe. As soon as the Syngman Rhee-Truman conspiracy to invade the north was launched, orders were given for the systematic physical annihilation of all democrats — all political prisoners then in Syngman Rhee's jails. They numbered between 200,000 and 400,000, but the exact figure will never be known.

Rangwul village lies seven kilometres southeast of Taichun, on the main road. I have spent many hours here, yesterday and today, visiting the death pits, taking photographs, collecting a few of the thousands of American cartridge cases that litter the ground, interrogating more than 20 eye-witnesses separately, checking every detail. Here is the story.

On the 2nd of July, truckloads of Rhee's police and gendarmes rode into the village and mobilised the villagers and others from nearby places, at rifle point, to go into the valley and dig a series of great pits. There were six of these, the largest being 200 metres long, varying between two and four metres wide and of a uniform depth of two metres. Two others were about half this length and the remainder varied in length down to 30 metres but the other dimensions were the same.

Trucks Bring Prisoners

As soon as the first pit was ready, on the 4th of July, police and gendarmes began to bring prisoners from the local jails to the spot in American trucks. Some of these were driven by American army drivers, others by puppet army drivers. The method of packing the prisoners on the trucks was as follows:

At the jails, they were beaten unconscious with heavy sticks and piled into the trucks — first a layer of men, then one of straw bags, another layer of men and so on, like sardines. On top sat the gendarmes. (These facts I got from visits to the jails and talks with some common criminals who had been in jail at the time.)

Each truckload contained more than 50 prisoners, each having his or her hands tied with wire behind them. Just before the trucks reached the valley, two American jeeps arrived, filled with high American and puppet officers who stood around smoking and chatting. The trucks were driven to the side of the first pit, and the prisoners flung out. Some of those in the bottom layer appeared already dead, most were half conscious from the beatings and because they had been starved for three days.

Those capable of maintaining a kneeling position were forced down and given a volley of six or so shots from behind. Rather, this was the case at first. Later, after the second truckload, an American officer was seen to be arguing with the puppet officers, making signs with his fingers and shaking his head. After that, each prisoner got one bullet, in the chest or back of the neck. If this failed to kill him, a Japanese sword was used to finish the job.

Those incapable of kneeling were shot on the ground or killed with a sweep of the sword. The bodies were bundled into the pits and, as soon as one section was filled, the peasants were made to throw in a layer of soil and stamp it down. The trucks then moved on to a new section.

Three Day Massacre

This first series of massacres went on for three days — the 4th and 5th and 6th of July. The number of truckloads exceeded 60 and each contained more than 50 people. The most conservative estimate of the number executed on these days cannot be less than 3,000.

There were no more shootings until the 17th of July, but the peasants went on digging, under the rifles of Rhee's police. On the night of the 16th, it will be remembered, the People's Army crossed the Kum River, about 20 kilometres north of Taichun. At dawn on the 17th, the jeeps arrived and shortly after, trucks started to enter the valley.

This time the trucks were crammed with about 100 prisoners, packed in the same way — there was little time left before the People's Army would

arrive. On this day, 37 trucks were counted — over 3,700 patriots — and the slaughter went on from dawn until after midnight.

Many prisoners were flung into the pits alive on this occasion and the dead piled on top of them. The American officers were seen urging the gendarmes to make greater haste. Only one prisoner escaped. He leapt off the truck just as it was entering the district and managed to get away. He told the peasants that the People's Army would soon arrive to avenge their deaths.

Villagers often recognised friends and relatives among the victims. One of them even had to watch his brother shot, but no sign of recognition passed between them. In another case, a peasant saw his brother-in-law among the victims and made some horrified exclamation. He was immediately seized, bound, beaten and shot.

After the 17th, the police tried to round up the parents, wives or husbands and children of the victims. They had little time, however, and on the 18th, 19th and 20th, only single truckloads went to the valley. A number of children were murdered on those days. No Americans were present on the last occasions, which presumably were not big enough to warrant their attendance.

Bodies Lie Exposed

I have just returned from the valley. Long before you reach it, the appalling smell fills the air. It needs a physical effort to go near a pit. So full of bodies are the pits that only a thin crust of soil covers them and this has been eroded by the wind and rain so that there are holes through which the weltering mass of bone and rotting tissue can be seen. In many places, what I take to be the action of rigor mortis has caused arms and legs and heads to thrust themselves above the surface as though in some last dead effort to reach for air and life. Halfway down the biggest of the pits, the hands of a woman, bound together with strips of hay, reach into the air, fixed in at a spasm of agony. Here a leg juts out, flesh falling from the bone.

What they call the 'Parents' Pit' was dug in the hillside. It is only half full of bodies and has not been completely covered. Only 11 days have passed since these last victims were killed and, in the dry air, their bodies are still well preserved. They lie there as they were flung, with bullet holes through their chests, some with their faces blown off, some with the backs of their skulls burst open, all with their hands tied with wire. Here lie the bodies of people whose crime was to be the parents, wives, husbands, and children of democrats who wanted Korea to be united and free from the domination of American finance. They themselves were not even 'political criminals,' merely related to them.

Between the pits, which half fill the valley, the grass is carpeted with the cases of spent cartridges, each of which killed a Korean hero — a man or

woman who fought for freedom against a police state organised with American efficiency, Nazi methods and the close-meshed control of a feudal system.

Here, briefly, are the results of my other investigations. They are enough to show that this is policy and not an isolated case.

Inchun. When the People's Army occupied Seoul on June 28, Rhee's army and police fled from Inchun but, finding there was still time, returned on the 29th. Meantime the people had set free the political prisoners, set up their people's committee and were demonstrating on the streets. The police and gendarmes opened fire with automatic weapons, killing 800 citizens. Then they proceeded on a house-to-house search, rounding up all known democrats and members of their families. It is known that over 1,000 patriots were taken to the sea and drowned. Their hands were tied behind them and they were hamstringed, stabbed, ripped open or otherwise maimed and flung from boats to drown. Everyday they float to the surface of the sea. One of the persons directing these operations was the American engineer from one of the two power generator ships anchored in Inchun harbour. He was seen giving orders to the gendarmes and, with numerous other reactionaries who failed to get out in time, was captured in Inchun. He is at present a prisoner in Pyongyang and I hope to interview him there later. After liberation, thousands of Inchun citizens volunteered to fight and work for victory, 3,000 women offering their services in three days alone.

Suwon. This was Rhee's second 'capital,' after the fall of Seoul. Here, in the Agricultural Academy, were Rhee's collaborators, his so-called ministers, John J. Muccio, the American ambassador, and a smallish gang of American 'advisers.' During their short stay before the inevitable encirclement by the People's Army, many young Korean women were kidnapped into this headquarters and raped by these people. The arrangement for this supply of women was in the hands of a schoolmaster named Kim Beny-ho, a former collaborator with the Japanese. U.S. soldiers roamed the streets with tommy guns, looting and raping. In Suwon, 260 bodies of murdered patriots have so far been found buried in eight caves around the city. More will be found because it is known that the prisoners of two branch establishments of the notorious West Gate Jail in Seoul were taken away and killed. I have visited these caves and photographed the usual evidence — bodies, American cartridges and empty packages of American cigarettes. A search party was at work when I visited one cave and I left them weeping as they went on digging.

Phyongtak. This little town of 20,000 people has been blasted into the earth by bombs. Thirty-one hundred and thirty patriots were massacred on the nights of the 3rd and 4th of July. The murderers ran short of wire and bound some victims with straw rope. Two prisoners bit through the rope and escaped.

Chochiwon. This town was about the same size. One hundred and fifty-six people were murdered by the usual methods of shooting, smashign heads with rocks, stabbing and so on.

Seoul. Seoul was fortunate. The People's Army advanced so rapidly that even ministers of Syngman Rhee's government had difficulty in getting away. There was no time for murder. Tens of thousands of political prisoners were set free by the people's troops.

Every town, however small, has the same tale to tell. It is enough to prove that the Americans have taken over from German imperialism all its bestiality, all its terrorism, all its unworkable stupidities and frantic destruction of what is good and progressive. It is the hallmark of a social order already halfway to its grave. The massacre of innocents in Korea must rally the peoples of the world to put an end to these horrors — then these martyrs will not have died in vain.

FULL TEXT OF CAPTURED U.S. DOCUMENT

Seoul, August 12 — Documentary proof that the Americans have been directly and for a long time supervising the mass murder of Korean patriots is given in a captured confidential memorandum which I have before me now. It was from the 971st Counter-Intelligence Corps Detachment, Taejon (Taichun) District Office A.P.O. 235, and reports on the massacre of 69 Korean democrats on the 27th of January, 1949.

It was in the vicinity of Taichun that more than 7,000 Koreans were slaughtered during the first three weeks of July and their bodies flung into great pits. Villagers who were forced to do the digging and burying all state that American officers supervised these mass murders. The present document proves that it was the normal practice for American "advisers" to take a leading part in such events from at least as far back as January of last year.

The memorandum is heavily marked "confidential." Here is the full text, in all its Hitlerite brutality. The spelling and grammatical errors are as in the original:

Subject: Execution of military prisoners, Taejon (1040 — 1490.)

Summary of Information.

On 271000 January (January 27, 10:00 a.m. — editor) 1949, execution of military prisoners, to be held just outside camp Taejon. Upon arrival at the scene a lack of preparation was noticed. At approximately 1030 (10:30 a.m. — editor) 20 prisoners were blindfolded and led to the point and tied. No medical officer was on the scene and only 10 riflemen to fire on the 20 prisoners. The advisor to the 2nd Korean Army Brigade immediately stopped the executions and advised to have a medical officer present and to either get 10 more riflemen or execute 10 prisoners at a time. 10 of the prisoners were untied and led to the rear of the firing point. A medical officer and 10 riflemen were summoned. At approximately 1130 final preparation was completed and the executions started. B — 2

The 10 prisoners were then retied to the post and the riflemen were assigned a post to fire upon. Each fired the allotted rounds into the prisoners assigned. One clip of M — 1 was used in each volley. Then the Kin Ki Dai officer, in charge of the executions, went down

the line and fire from one to three rounds in the bodies that showed signs of life. In some instances he had to fire on them the second time, making three time in all. After each group was pronounced dead by the medical officer, who merely went part of the way down the line and pointed to the dead and the live, the bodies were carried from the posts to the pit to the side of the execution scene. Firing was heard in the pit, evidently on those who still showed signs of life. B — 2

Four groups were executed, the first group totaled 20, the second 18, the third 18 and the fourth 13. Totaling 69 in all. After the first group was executed at approximately 1130 the rest of the executions followed in order and at 1215 all were executed. B — 2

All prisoners executed were from the 14th (Yosu) Regiment, from the Yosu-Sunchon area. They all appeared to be young and estimated overall average of 18 years of age. Prisoners were shoeless and were clad in underwear and some in fatigues. B — 2

After the first group which was led to the post from back of the firing point, the rest were trucked to the firing posts, then tied by a detail pre-arranged. B — 2

One very young prisoner tied to the post was singing the Communist battle song, and the last group sang as they were trucked to the posts, they sang a loyal Korean army song. Most all prisoners were pleading they were innocent. B — 2

Distribution.

C — 2, U.S.A.F.I.K. . . . 2.

File . . . 2.

This is the end of the memorandum.

Eighteen months ago, the American advisers were instructing their puppets to tie Korean patriots to posts and shoot them with a clip of service ammunition. By last month they were committing their crimes on a mass-scale and more economically. Then every patriot only got one bullet and many were flung still living into the great pits that had been prepared for the extermination of Korean democrats. But this confidential memorandum, captured by the people's army, is no longer confidential. All the world can now see this evidence that for a Korean to sing a "loyal" song is enough, in American eyes, to warrant death and that the massacre of the political prisoners who were crammed into Syngman Rhee's jails all over South Korea was carried out at American dictation.

(From the Peking Daily News Release)

AMERICAN CRIMES IN KOREA

These photographs, captured at the home of an American "adviser" in Korea, show the real nature of the American puppet regime of Syngman Rhee. Puppet troops and gendarmes, armed, clothed and directed by America, carrying out the mass murder of Korean patriots south of the 38th Parallel. The young victim on right waits bravely for the American bullet to end his life.



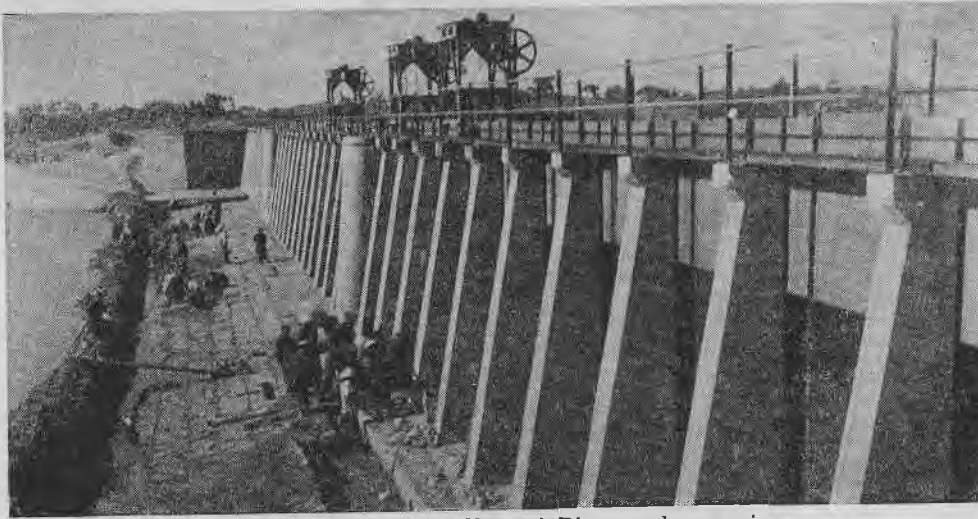


A dam is completed on the Luan River



A mod

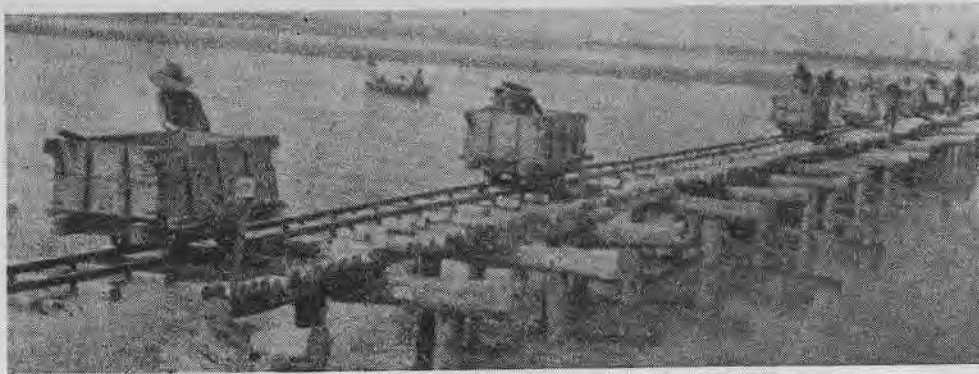
ORGANISED PEASANTS COMBAT NATURE IN E



A sluice gate on the Chaopai River under repair



"Grain tie



Light tracks built across the Chaopai to move supplies



The dyke built



el dyke-worker is decorated

ASTERN HOPEI



ets" are paid out for dyke work



ers hold a "mobilisation meeting"



One of the shock workers on the Luan River project



Peasant women help repair the dykes



MASSACRE IN KOREA

More captured photographs of atrocities in South Korea—the mass shooting of patriots whose only crime was to desire the freedom and independence of their country. Mostly, they were horribly tortured before they were killed.



On the Chaopai River

Lao Duane

Two days travel from Peking brought us to the Chaopai River workings, where the river flows through bleak, low-lying country, coming out of Jehol Province and making its way seawards through the narrow channel of the Chiyun River in eastern Hopei Province. With evening coming on, we walked over to one of the workers' encampments, rows and rows of newly-built mat-roofed huts reaching across the desolate landscape. Around the doorways clustered groups of peasants through with their work, pulling at long-stemmed pipes and fanning themselves with straw hats still damp with sweat, and here and there a bonfire of green grass burned, its thick acrid smoke warding off mosquitos. In the gathering dark, the long line of bonfires and the oil lamps flickering in the huts stretched out endlessly like an enormous lantern parade held up by a traffic jam. We made towards one of the biggest huts. "Here," said a cadre, taking us in the door, "you'll see one of the ways, one of the best ways, of keeping enthusiasm high."

'Accusing' the River

The dozen or so peasants squatting on the floor made way for us. "We hold these meetings to 'accuse' the river," whispered the cadre. "When the people tell of the way the river made them suffer in the past, they understand more clearly the need for action now." An old man—prematurely old at 45—moved towards the lamp. He adjusted the wick with a piece of stick. Then slowly he began to speak. "Brothers," he said, "when I was a child this river was nothing but a peaceful stream, quiet and giving no trouble. But then came 1912, when the Manchus had already tumbled, and the river broke its dyke and nothing anyone's done since has served to hold it back. Hasn't it been a summer

curse on our crops ever since? Hasn't it brought a misery that we couldn't tell to all the peasants in these eight counties? And what has it brought to me? My father died of hunger in a famine that came in the wake of flood. Our five *mow* he left us turned alkaline and barren. Our village became empty of people. Ten years ago, and my daughter drowned in another flood. Then last year the land was divided, and I and my family got ten *mow* and sweated and strained our backs to open up five more *mow* of wasteland. In the summer—well, you know what happened. The worst of all our floods, and not one thing did the waters leave me, not one grain of wheat. Without this work here, my family and I would have starved by now. I hate this river, like an old enemy. And yet there are things I hate even more, the roving warlords, the Japs, the Kuomintang. . . ."

One by one he went through the disasters, the vicissitudes of politics, the forms of oppression, which for four long decades had torn this part of the country and reduced it to poverty. He told how year after year the reactionaries had forced from the peasants huge sums for 'river-harnessing' and how these sums had found their way to the carpet-baggers' pockets. He told how the peasants had been driven into work on this project and on that, but never once was the Chaopai River tamed. And one after the other the peasants got up and with mounting bitterness told of their own sufferings from the river and the old regime, while a quiet young man by the light of the oil lamp took notes on scrap paper. The peasants finished talking and were quiet, and the young man rose:

"Comrades, you all know now that the Chaopai River alone wasn't the root of our misery, that we

suffered like this because there was no government to care for our interests. But now the situation's different. We have the People's Government's plan to bring the river under control within two years, and the People's Government means business.

"You know the disasters of last summer. Over 245,000 families were hit by it as badly as we were. Six million *mow* (400,000 hectares) of crop land went under water. A quarter million tons of grain were lost. Never, never must this happen again, and whether it does or not depends on us. If we complete the first part of our programme before flood season comes, half of our land that flooded last year will be safe and the danger less to the other half and 70,000 peasants in distress like you and me will have kept starvation at arm's length by working here."

He paused for a moment. "So far, our team's done well. But we can and will do better."

The meeting began to come to grips with the team's problems. The young man, a Communist Party member, outlined the way other teams organised their work, how much this one had done, how much grain that one had earned by greater efforts. His audience stirred with appreciation. A peasant rose to suggest a way to improve working efficiency. Another shouted how much they could do. And as they discussed, the whole flood-control programme and their own part in it became clearer, and their spirits rose. The chairman stood up again.

"I suggest," he said, "we all sign a 'determination paper,' that each one of us promises to overfulfil our quota." The meeting murmured assent, and he drew the statement up as they crowded round. Some signed and the illiterates put their finger-prints to it.

We proposed to have a talk with the chairman. "Well," he smiled, "there's nothing particular about myself. I was leading one of the shock teams, and when this team lagged behind, I was transferred here to help it on. Tomorrow we'll start working earlier than any others. So tonight it's sleep. But if you're looking for something worth writing about, why, write about how the Party, the Government, and a hundred thousand peasants and soldiers who are working on this river."

Gigantic Project

When the encampment came alive again in the early morning, we started for the district engineering headquarters. Already for miles around, the flat, bare countryside was surging with groups of workers, digging the earth, carrying it, dumping it. Along the Chienkan River, a 33.7-kilometre outlet that was being strengthened, stood the red flags won by outstanding teams, and the morning air carried sonorous chants to us:

*"Hei Ho Hei! All the people
work as one!*

*"Hei Ho Hei! For our own
good get it done!*

"Hei Ho Hei!"

The headquarters was modestly located in a small village, with a slogan splashed on its wall in white: "Remember, the flood season begins in early July!" People with dark sun-tanned faces and muddied uniforms streamed constantly in and out of the entrance, as though the headquarters did a never-ending business. The middle-aged engineer who was in charge of this sector of the project began enthusiastically to explain this vast programme to us.

"Look," he said, taking us to one of the maps on the wall of his office which was covered with topographical charts and blue-prints, "the Chaopai River rises in Jehol, there, and falls into the Hopei plain, here, with a record flow of 5,810 cubic metres per second. Once it used to make its way into the Grand Canal. But in 1912 it broke its banks and turned into the

Chiyun River through the Chienkan River. But the Chiyun River could only hold about 200 cubic metres per second. So only one thing could happen—flood. And it did.

"Our two-year programme plans to set this right. Here, you see, in the lower reaches, we want to provide for a flood peak of 3,000 cubic metres per second. Floods like that only happen about once in four years, and to deal with more than that we'll have to build reservoirs on the upper reaches later.

"Our present programme covers 28 separate projects, seven due for completion in early July. The scheme means the Chaopai will empty into the sea by two routes. The first will divert a total of 1,000 cubic metre per second to the Grand Canal. Part of this volume is then channelled off from the Grand Canal and drained into a vast low-lying natural flood basin, from where it'll finally be led into the sea. The second route will take 1,600 cubic metres per second into a newly-cut 41.7-kilometre channel and contain the water in another flood basin. From there it'll drain away into the sea through another new channel. Then the Chiyun River will only receive 400 cubic metres per second which, with improvements to the channel, it can hold.

"These seven projects, totalled up, mean 10 million cubic metres of earthworks and 5,900,000 man-days of labour. It will cost the government about 25,000 tons of grain." He moved us on to another map. As we followed, one of us asked:

"How is it you keep all these figures in your head, and use no notes or anything?"

"Oh, that?" he said. "I've been with this river many years. But there was nothing an engineer could do in the KMT days. Our only job was to draw up fancy blue-prints and write rosy progress reports so that the KMT bureaucrats could get more money to line their pockets."

We went south into the uninhabited swampy country of the Chaopai estuary, a journey of several days. But the once-deserted land had been invaded. A colony of straw huts had sprung up, fresh-water wells had been sunk, and there were rooms for reading and games. Over one hut hangs a motto: "Our shoulders may ache. Our hands may blister. But we will endure any hardships, for our work helps a million people in eastern Hopei." A PLA unit had moved in, cutting a new 9.5-kilometre canal and repairing an old 9-kilometre channel with the vigour and determination of troops going into battle. Their daily six-and-a-half-hour work on the channel done, they gave themselves up to two and a half hours of study, and to training, discussion and entertainment, with their own dance, song and drama groups enlivening the evenings. Sometimes, we were told, the troops, their own work done, would walk miles to the nearest villages to give the peasants a helping hand or have discussions with them.

The Army Helps

A few miles to the north lay another camp for civilian workers on a big construction site. Some of the huts have been levelled by a recent heavy storm. Here it was no use looking for anyone to talk to, for the peasants were too pre-occupied with rebuilding their huts to turn from their work. "They're afraid they'll be behind schedule after this stoppage," said one of the cadres, "but the Ministry of Public Health's centre is over there and you'll find some of them there." We went on to where a few medical staff were preparing anti-cholera and typhoid inoculations, chlorinating drinking water, and supervising a delousing squad.

The clean but rough-and-ready ward held a dozen patients, peasants injured in the storm. These at least had time to talk. "So you're newspapermen, comrades?" said one. "You'd better write something about our PLA here for us, and how they pulled us out of that storm, for it was a heavy one, that."

"Rained for several days, so hard that we couldn't work, couldn't even light a fire to cook by. And then our food began to give out. So we tried to make it to one of the nearest villages — miles away. But the very day we were packing up to leave, the worst storm struck us, scattering all our things, picking up our huts and just tossing them back on the ground. We had to start moving off in the pitch dark, not knowing quite where we were going. There were some of us who collapsed with hunger and weariness. A lot of us just got plain lost.

"South over there the PLA were having it hard too. But they're better organised so they came through the storm without much trouble. Then someone told them of our troubles and they came over at once. They sent soldiers all over the marshy country, slushing through the mud, shouting: 'Anybody left behind? Answer if you are!' That's how Comrade Chang found me.

"I'd fallen into a hole. Both my legs were hurt and I fainted. But Comrade Chang found me, lifted me out, took off all my rain-soaked clothes and exchanged his own clothing for mine. He gave me his raincoat and took me all the way to a field-station. If it hadn't been for him, I'd be dead by now perhaps. So if you can put in something about the PLA. . . and Captain Chang, just to thank them for us. . . ."

"When you recover," one of us asked, "will you go back to the river?"

"Why wouldn't I?" he laughed. "All my life it's been nothing but war and flood and war again. We're putting an end to all that."

A Fact, Not a Dream

Two days later we left the Chaopai Valley. On leaving, we turned for a last look at that sweeping plain, thickly dotted with moving people intent upon carving a broad new river-bed that would reshape their destinies.

"Will you really get it done? By next year?" we said to the cadres who were seeing us off.

"Never fear about that, comrades. But that'll be only half our work. We're on the defensive now, till we can push all that water safely out to sea. But in a couple of years, we'll be ready to take the offensive. Then you'll see something. We'll have this river giving

us power, irrigating our fields, doing what we want it to do. We'll change this famine-ridden valley into a place of richness. When we've finished, the Chaopai will no longer be a curse to the people but a treasure to be guarded and cared for."

The End of a 200-Year Feud

Ever since the 150-kilometre long Huan Canal was built in arid Kansu Province 200 years ago, the peasants along the channel have received a limited supply of water to irrigate their croplands. But they have also found a source of endless troubles in this canal.

Every year during the sowing season, the landlords and rich peasants on the upper course of the canal would keep all the gates and culverts along the canal banks wide open, letting into their own fields as much water as they could. The land-owners on the lower course naturally resented this because the water supply was quickly exhausted. Arguments constantly arose and they often resulted in armed clashes. The rich people who controlled the gates and culverts always remained back-stage during these quarrels, inciting or forcing their impoverished tenants to do the fighting for them. Not uncommonly, some of the poor peasants were killed or wounded during these annual feuds.

Then came liberation, and the local people's governments decided to put an end to such troubles. Many people, however, were skeptical. They thought: "The controversy has lasted for 200 years. What magic can the Communists use to solve it?"

But the Communists did prove to be good trouble-shooters. Their method was quite simple. They

mobilised the poor and middle peasants and called their representatives to a mediation meeting. It was already long enough after liberation for these peasants to have become politically awakened, and they were eager to co-operate with each other. As one of them said: "We poor people have been doing the actual fighting for generations and what did we gain from it? I suppose you people from the upper course are just as miserable as we are here. So let's put an end to this silly business. Let landlords do the fighting among themselves if they want to." His words typified the general sentiment.

Without the presence of landlords and rich peasants, who had always stirred up friction between the labouring peasants and kept them divided, the mediation meeting found it quite easy to reach an agreement. A simple rule was adopted: the upper course and the lower course would open their canal gates alternately for the same length of time until the water supply was exhausted.

This arrangement worked very smoothly last spring. But now the peasants along the Huan Canal are busily sinking wells with the help of government loans because they have realised that, after all, only an additional supply of water can fundamentally solve their problems.

LAND REFORM IN SOUTH KOREA

By Hsinhua War Correspondent

Wundang (a sub-county north of Seoul), August 14 — Millions of peasants in South Korea are putting the great Land Reform Programme into effect under the machine-guns and bombs of the Americans — with their ears tuned to catch the first whisper of a plane. These people know that the war is to decide who shall own their land and they are determined to own it themselves.

They meet after nightfall, with only the stars for light. In every other village, on any night, you find a mass of seated figures clad in white, sitting in the darkness, with someone arguing the merits of this piece of land and why this or that family should have it. They are discussing the proposals put forward by their elected peasants and rural workers committee, and when agreement is general, the land is allotted, title deeds issued and old debts wiped out.

For the peasants, land hunger is the most urgent thing, before which they cannot be intimidated by bombs or rockets. Pak Hung-wun is typical of the poor peasants of Wundang. He has never owned a shred of land in his life and was never able to rent more than half a hectare, from which he could usually rely on a crop of 24 bags of rice weighing 60 kilogrammes each — or the equivalent.

Of this, he had to pay 14 bags in rent and three bags in taxes, leaving seven bags to keep his wife and two children in a normally good season. This has been his life of drudgery and near starvation and of his parents before him. Now, at the age of 35, he will own one hectare under the land reform, with no rent to pay and lighter taxation. "I shall be well-to-do," he said. "I would rather lose my life than go back to the past."

Like the other peasants, Pak has been busy many nights since the

war began, on reconstruction work, road and bridge repair and transport. He has volunteered for the army, but they are taking younger men first, so he must wait.

This land reform is the last of three in the past five years. Two other 'land reforms' were forced by the peasants themselves by mass actions which the landlords and Syngman Rhee could not entirely withstand and which they, therefore, attempted to divert. After the defeat of the Japanese, the democratic upheaval of the peasants was so powerful that the landlords began to sell their land and otherwise dispose of it to the peasants. Later, when the influence of the land reform in the north led to widespread peasants struggles in the south, Syngman Rhee tried to divert the peasants by carrying out a fake land reform, under which the peasants bought their land in a 15-year spread-over. Both of these reforms left most of the peasants and landless farm workers where they stood and only benefited, as was intended, the more well-to-do sections on the land.

The present land reform is relatively simple, and is a process of readjustment in which the poor peasants and farm workers will get their share of land. The land of landlords owning more than five hectares of land is confiscated and distributed by the peasants' organisations. If a landlord family wishes to work on the land, it receives a normal share, but this applies in very few cases — most landlords are absentees and not devoted to the land or to work.

In Wundang, it works out like this: the population is 7,200, and there are about 1,100 peasant families. The total cultivated land is 1,300 hectares and the land available for distribution is 670 hectares,

nearly all formerly owned by absentee landlords. There are seven villages in the sub-county and these serve as the basis for distribution. After the land reform, the average holding will be a little more than one hectare. Families formerly having more land will still retain a bit more than the average. The details vary according to local conditions, but justice in the allocation of the land is ensured by the method of division by the peasants' own elected organs.

This great land reform is following fast on the heels of the people's army as it advances south. In Wundang, the village people's committees were elected, by a show of hands, on July 25. Two days later, representatives of the village committees elected the sub-county people's committee. Both the chairman and vice-chairman of the people's committee of the sub-county were born of poor peasants and have long records of struggle against the Japanese and later the Americans and their puppets.

Already, the peasants and rural workers' committees have made their proposals and these have been approved by mass meetings of the villagers and ratified by the sub-county people's committee. The land reform here and throughout this whole region is, therefore, complete except for minor details, although the area was liberated less than six weeks ago. This is sufficient comment on the mass strength of the movement.

And this strength is backing the war effort to a man. As Li Se-hun, a labourer who formerly had to keep his wife and child on four sacks of rice a year, told me: "Now we have the land and we shall fight to the last man to keep it. American air raids and the American army or any other army will not be able to take it away from us."

On the Peace Front

China has already added some 60 million signatures to the Stockholm Peace Appeal, collected in the past three months.

But the Chinese people are not satisfied with their present achievements. The target for signature collections was recently revised upwards from 100 million to a new goal of 200 million. To achieve this impressive figure embracing more than one-third of the nation's population, the China Peace Committee plans to extend the campaign deep into the countryside—up until now, the great bulk of the signatures has been collected in the urban centres and their immediate environments. However, a huge-scale publicity movement is being organised to carry the movement to the smaller towns and rural districts.

According to incomplete statistics, 500,000 peace signatures had been collected in the suburban areas of Shanghai by the middle of August. Two-thirds of the total population have signed in most of the districts while in some districts, the figure has climbed to 90 per cent.

* * *

In the northwestern province of Kansu, 550,000 persons belonging to national minorities have already signed the Stockholm Peace Appeal. In many cases whole family clans sign for peace, although old Chinese clan-type families are unusually large by normal standards. Hsifeng town in Chinyang county, for instance, has 150 such families in which every adult member has signed.

In Shantan county situated in the Kansu corridor astride the motor and camel route leading to Sinkiang

Province, 85 per cent of the population have signed.

* * *

The nomadic people of Inner Mongolia have demonstrated great enthusiasm for the peace campaign. Many of their tents are decorated with big streamers bearing the slogans: "In Defence of World Peace!" "Oppose U.S. Aggression in Taiwan and Korea!" During July, 100,000 people in Tuchuan county signed the peace appeal.

The people in these sheep and cattle raising communities are telling one another: "Besides signing our names, we must endeavour to increase our herds and raise more food to support the front, so that the comrades in the PLA can win more victories. This is the most practical way we can help in safeguarding world peace."



Peace Campaign in Inner Mongolia

By Paoying Tailai

CURRENT CHINA

August 11—25



PROTESTS

Against U.S. Bombing

All of China's political parties and democratic groups, as well as all leading popular organisations, jointly issued a statement on Aug. 22 protesting the wanton bombings of the U.S. Air Force in Korea. This statement, which carried the signatures of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the Communist Party of China, seven other democratic parties and groups and 12 popular organisations, lodged a "firm protest against this savage bombing by the American airforce and the U.S.-controlled majority in the Security Council who give the green light and co-operation to this brutal bombing."

"We believe," the statement continued, "that this bombing is a total violation of the U.N. Charter, of all international law and of humanitarianism. . . . We urgently appeal to all people . . . to stop the bestial bombing by the American air force and to demand that the Security Council pass, without further delay, the humane proposals submitted by the Soviet delegate on August 4."

Against Assassination

The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party protested the assassination by Belgian reactionaries of Julien Lahaut, Chairman of the Communist Party of Belgium, in a telegram sent Aug. 22.

ANTI-U.S. CAMPAIGN

Although the campaign week directed against U.S. aggression in Taiwan and Korea ended Aug. 1, campaign committees have been formed in all major cities and towns throughout China to carry on the struggle against foreign imperialist intervention in Asia.

ISLANDS LIBERATED

With the liberation of Nan-peng Island on August 9, all islands off the Kwangtung coast were cleared of KMT remnants. Six days earlier, the 70-day campaign to free all of the 75 large and small islets lying at the mouth of the Pearl River was victoriously concluded, thus smashing the sea blockade of Canton.

RURAL CLASSES DEFINED

The Government Administration Council adopted a decision on the demarcation of class status among the rural population on Aug. 4 which was made public on the 21st. This decision provides further guidance in correctly implementing the Agrarian Reform Law, promulgated on June 30, 1950. The government decision consists of three parts, two of which reproduce with minor revisions the two historic documents on agrarian reform put out in 1933 by the Democratic Central Government, then seated at Juichin, Kiangsi Province.

CO-OP FEDERATION

The All-China Federation of Co-operatives, embracing 20 million members of 3,600 consumers' co-ops in the cities and 35,000 supply and marketing co-ops in the countryside, was created by the 1st National Conference of Co-operative Workers held recently in Peking. The Conference decided that primary emphasis should be placed on developing three main forms of co-ops: rural supply and marketing co-ops, urban consumers' co-ops and producers' co-ops of small handicraft workers.

AGRICULTURAL FRONT

Wheat Purchase

Wheat prices in 13 cities of the major wheat-producing areas of China remained steady throughout July. This was the result of planned buying by state food companies set up to protect the peasants from excessive exploitation by private merchants who used to force down prices immediately after harvest time. The latter, however, are encouraged to purchase wheat at prices allowing them a reasonable profit. Protection for the growers comes from skilful control over prices and careful regulation of supply and demand.

Grain Delivery

Delivery of public grain (agricultural tax) is in full swing all over China. North China and Honan Province have completed over 80% of their summer wheat delivery programmes, while Hupeh Province has delivered more than 70%. Kwangtung and Kwangsi Provinces, which started the work later, are expected to attain their targets by mid-September.

Rent Reduction

The Southwest China Military and Administrative Committee has announced in Chungking that following the autumn harvest this year, a large-scale rent reduction and anti-despot campaign will be launched in the area, excluding, however, districts populated by national minorities. This decision reflects the urgent demands of some 50 million poor peasants and tenants, who constitute more than 87% of the total rural population in Southwest China.

PRODUCTION FRONT

Inventions Encouraged

Provisions for encouraging inventions, technical improvements and rationalisation proposals in production were passed by the Government Administration Council on Aug. 11. All such innovations have been placed under unified control, and regulations to protect patent rights have been adopted. However, patents will not be granted for innovations bearing upon national defence, military technique or general public welfare.

Plans Outlined

Fuel: Plans for national coal output in 1951 are 9% higher than the current year's target. In the electrical industry, the coming year will see substantial improvement in installations and better utilisation of existing power plants. The petroleum industry plans to improve installations at Yumen oilfield, in Kansu Province, which produces 80% of China's petroleum; these improvements will boost production by 55% while cutting costs by 20%.

Flour: In the 12-month period beginning June, 1950, China will produce 54,100,000 sacks of wheat flour (weighing 22 kilograms each) in areas south of the Great Wall.

Plans Fulfilled

Non-Ferrous Metals: Over-fulfilment of non-ferrous production plans for the first half of 1950 has been reported from various parts of China. In Manchuria, for instance, the output of copper surpassed the original quota by 51%, and that of lead by 38%. In Kiangsi Province, wolfram ore production met its target while both tin ore and bismuth output exceeded their plans.

Repair Factory: The railway repair factory in Kaifeng, Honan Province, has fulfilled its 1950 production plan in six months, thus saving the government over \$400,000,000 (people's currency). In return, the factory has been awarded the title of model workshop on the Chengchow line and a prize of \$17,780,000.

VICTORY TO VIET-NAM

On August 19, the fifth anniversary of Viet-Nam's August Revolution, the Peking *People's Daily* wrote editorially:

"Today, over 90% of the entire territory of Viet-Nam and 20,000,000 of the population have been completely liberated. The armed strength of the Viet-Nam Democratic Republic has grown more than ten times the original force of over 10,000 regulars and 30,000 guerrillas. . . .

"Since the French colonial army started its slaughter and pillage, suffering defeat after defeat in the course of it, it has expended 115 billion francs on field operations annually and in three years lost 150,000 troops. A further 150,000 French troops are tied down to hold a few cities along the coast and rail-lines. . . .

"At the time of its invasion of Korea, American imperialists directed a further aggressive blow at the young Viet-Nam Democratic Republic. Shamelessly and openly, Truman has been sending arms and food supplies to the French occupied areas and is recruiting troops from Japan and Western Germany as cannon fodder for the French colonial army. . . .

"The present international situation is obviously favourable to the Viet-Nam people's struggle for liberation, as the Soviet Union, China and other People's Democracies, together with democratic forces throughout the world, including the working people of France herself, are unanimous in their support of the Viet-Nam people's struggle.

"In this connection, President Ho Chi-minh stated on July 16: 'The American imperialists have been defeated in China. They will be defeated in Viet-Nam. We will meet with many difficulties, but we are sure to win!'

"We take this occasion to send our wishes to the Viet-Nam people for the early achievement of final victory."

HERE AND THERE

Aviation: Three airlines under joint Sino-Soviet management began operations in August. These link Peking and Alma Ata via Taiyuan, Sian, Lanchow, Chiuchuan and Tihua; Peking and Irkutsk via Kalgan and Ulan Bator; and Peking and Chita via Mukden, Harbin and Tsitsihar.

Homecoming: Some 64,000 Chinese returned to their homeland from Hongkong in July. A banquet honouring 369 overseas Chinese students from Southeast Asia was recently held in Peking.

Foreign Exchange: Official foreign exchange rates for U.S. dollars and the pound sterling dropped 8% and 11% respectively during August.

Unified Control: China's navigation and port control has been placed under the unified direction of the Ministry of Communications with a view to encouraging the flow of commodities.

Postal Reduction: International postal charges were reduced between 9% and 12% on August 16.

INTERNATIONAL

Korea: A Chinese people's delegation, headed by poet and historian Kuo Mo-jo and labour leader Li Li-san, took part in the Pyongyang celebrations of the 5th anniversary of Korea's liberation on August 15. The delegation presented gifts to General Kim Il-sung and brought medical supplies for the invincible Korean People's Army, as well as innumerable letters of solidarity from the Chinese people.

Gen. Ni Chih-liang, Chinese Ambassador to Korea, presented his credentials in Pyongyang on August 13.

Czechoslovakia: The Chinese delegation to the 2nd World Student Congress was warmly welcomed when it arrived at Prague on August 10.

Science Goes to the Countryside



There was a time when the villages of China were so stagnant and hopeless, confined within so narrow a horizon, that almost the sole guides for action were tradition and conservatism and the only science known to them was superstition. But liberation has brought life to the villages and land reform has revolutionised the peasants' outlook.

Everywhere new activity is accompanied by a desire for knowledge on the part of millions of peasants. In even the smallest hamlet it is possible at the end of the day to see groups of farmers studying characters to become literate. The liberated peasant knows well that for prosperity and higher grain yields, production levels must be raised; and to do this, new agricultural techniques must be mastered. The more than 800 cultural centres scattered throughout the countryside are one of the means of making these skills and knowledge open to him.

Early this year, three cultural centres in Shansi at Lucheng, Tsuchuan and Yangchien organised popular science exhibitions which

were enthusiastically received by the peasants. Anxious to learn from the experience of these three exhibits, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs' Popular Science Bureau sent survey groups to the villages to learn first-hand what subjects interested the peasants most, and what they wanted more information on. In response to this investigation the Ministry sent out experts armed with all kinds of additional material for more comprehensive exhibits. In a recent bulletin the Popular Science Bureau has published a report on the experiences of this team; so successful have the exhibits been that they are being reproduced in many other districts.

Of all the exhibits the new tools drew the most visitors. Implements which most of the peasants had never seen before—implements for weeding, plowing, sowing, hoeing and spraying—fascinated them. Word quickly went round that there was a new plow, one which would do more than half a hectare a day. The rush and crush to see it was so great the exhibit had to be moved out of doors to

accommodate all the visitors. This pleased the peasants even more, for now they could bring their horses and try out the new implements on the spot. "These are the best I've ever used in my life," said thousands of admiring peasants.

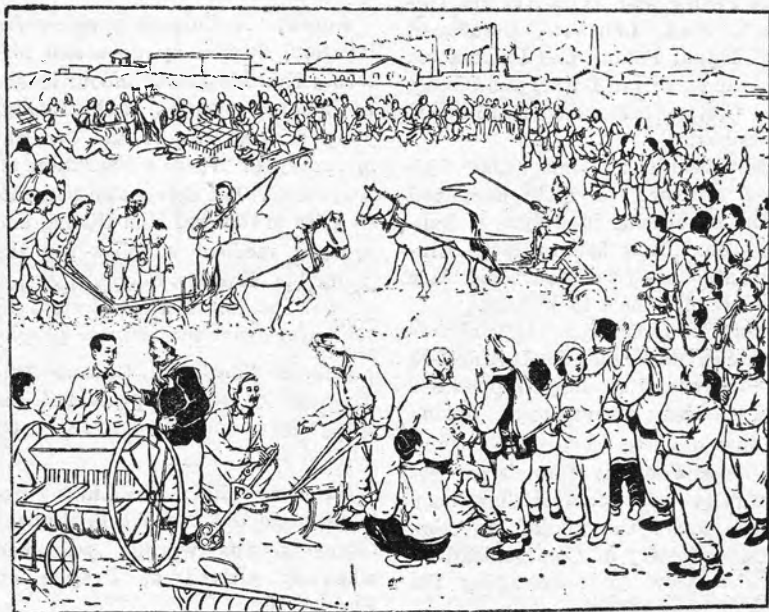
The exhibits didn't stay in any one place. After a time they were packed up, arrangements made, and a tour of the countryside would begin. On market days or at horse fairs, wherever peasants gathered, the cadres would open up the exhibit. One group from the cultural centre at Lucheng visited 54 villages attracting more than 110,000 spectators in less than eight months.

Practical Science Welcomed

The teams sent out by the Popular Science Bureau learned from the peasants themselves that what they wanted to know about most was scientific production. And so, after the exhibits, filmstrips or movies were shown in a district, the cultural workers would hold meetings where the information given was discussed. From these discussions it became obvious that peasants in the old liberated areas were far more receptive to innovations than those in newly liberated areas.

In the old liberated areas, too, peasants ask many more questions of the visiting teams, questions of a basic nature which seek for the principles behind the innovations being introduced. Frequently you can see them copying out exhibition captions with care lest they should forget the points they make; sometimes, too, they make suggestions to the team members for improving the teams' own work.

These popular science teams have found that new ideas in agriculture, if they are realistic, are welcomed open-armed by the peasants. There is a desire for scientific knowledge, a thirst which can only be met by practical, down-to-earth help and instruction such as this.



New Farm Implements

By Chang Huai-hsin

A Father Writes to His Son

Translated by Nyi Han-fang from the Ta Kung Pao, Hongkong

My Dearest Son:

Our society has been entirely revolutionised. The far-reaching influence of this upheaval has penetrated to every social stratum, every individual. Though you are still very young, nevertheless, if you look about you, you cannot fail to see how China has been transformed since the birth of a new government.

To start with our own family. For nearly ten years your eldest brother has been taking part in the revolution. When he left home, you were only three years old. Naturally you would not recognise him now, and he does not know how you look today. Following the rapid victories of the PLA, he crossed the Yangtse River, pushed southward, passed through Chingkiang, Tanvang, Changchow and finally reached Shanghai. In all these years, he has never returned home once. But his work required that he immediately return north, so he has cheerfully gone to Peking. He, your eldest brother, was the first to change and to take his place in the forefront of the revolution. You should model yourself on him.

Previously, our family of eight depended upon my salary alone for support. Whenever the school term began, I had to borrow here and there in order to pay all your tuition fees, board and other sundry expenses. Now your elder sister and myself have both placed our technical knowledge at the service of the revolution. Your second brother is now teaching, while your second sister, only four years your senior, has been admitted to the East China Military Academy.

Though what I am doing here is the same technical work I used to do, both my life and work have for

the first time taken on a definite purpose. Moreover, my ideas have been clarified. I feel I have been rejuvenated. In addition to taking part in the collective study in our department, I am attending the Russian class started by the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association. Well, this tells you a little about myself. But the one in our family who has undergone the greatest and most rapid change is your mother.

When she had her first child 25 years ago, she was a college student in Shanghai. At that time she. . . Well, why tell you what is beyond your knowledge. Let me mention some things about your mother which you can remember. For more than 10 years she has done little at home except knitting an occasional sweater. She neither sewed nor mended. If she did some cooking, it was only when she happened to feel like it. Sometimes she read newspapers and books; sometimes she scribbled some poems. But all these activities were merely pastimes. She became corpulent through lack of physical activity. Meanwhile, our family's financial condition grew worse and worse—the result of one man supporting the other seven members of the family who all produced nothing.

Now behold your mother after the liberation! She has changed, completely changed! Ever since she received your eldest brother's letter—the first in five years—written after he crossed the Yangtse, she has been exceedingly happy and tremendously excited. This happiness and excitement inspired her to join the Teachers' Summer Study Association in our county. She courageously left you and your younger brother and went to live

at the Association. For over a month, ignoring the summer heat, she diligently studied New Democracy, Marxism and Leninism, etc. Some of the county people made fun of her stoutness and her attempts to learn these new ideas at her age—for she is well over forty. But she paid no attention, caring only about her progress in her studies.

Now she is teaching at the county school and, fortunately, happens to be your class teacher and adviser. She guides her students in their studies and extra-curricula activities and looks after the well-being of the whole class. She also takes the lead in manual activities. The big cabbages she grew have already been pickled. Although she is busy enough, one would think, she still finds time for study. When she was home for a visit the other day, I noticed that she was no longer as fat as before and is the picture of health. This you can see for yourself. In a little more than four months, a woman whose "four limbs remained inactive" has been transformed into a healthy, active person.

As for you, my son, you live in comfort with your mother at the school. One can say that your way of life has not changed. Yet, just think of it! Our family, our society, our country—all have suddenly undergone a radical change. You must also try to keep pace with this sudden change and study hard. I recently learned that you have joined the New Democratic Youth League. That is very good. I think it will mark the beginning of your real change. And it is high time that you try to learn as much as you can. In other words, now when everything around you is changing, you must exert every effort to remould yourself in order to be better able to serve your fellow-men and your country.

Your Father

A MARXIST MILITARY LINE

(Continued from page 7)

political and economic environment of China, a semi-colonial country. Therefore, we must not solely study the laws of war in general, but must study the laws peculiar to revolutionary war and especially to China's revolutionary war."

After refuting all the erroneous concepts in regard to China's revolutionary war that had been put forward by dogmatists and empiricists, Chairman Mao expounded the concept of Marxism-Leninism (historical materialism). This concept is:

(2) "War and the guiding laws of war are developmental"; "Oppose mechanicalism in dealing with the problems of war."

Chairman Mao gave an analytical explanation of these ideas by saying:

"Different war situations determine the different guiding laws of war according to the differences in time, locality and character. Speaking in terms of the time factor, war and the guiding laws of war are developmental. Every historical period has its own peculiarities and, therefore, the laws of war also have their peculiarities and cannot be rigidly transferred from one period to a different period. As for the character of war, a revolutionary war or a counter-revolutionary war, a revolutionary class war or a revolutionary national war, all have their different peculiarities and, therefore, the laws of war also have their peculiarities and cannot be rigidly interchanged. On the matter of locality, every country and every race have their peculiarities, which also means that the laws of war have their peculiarities and cannot be rigidly transplanted. When we study the guiding laws of wars of various different historical periods, of different characters and of different localities and nations, we must focus our attention on these special features and the trend of their development. We must oppose mechanicalism in approaching the problems of war."

This is one of the basic concepts of Marxist-Leninist military theory.

★

In regard to the second problem—the aim of war lies in eliminating war—Chairman Mao similarly presented the Marxist-Leninist concept, which is:

(1) War is the highest form of struggle produced in a class society.

(2) Classes will ultimately be eliminated, and when this takes place, war will also be eliminated.

(3) Just as class struggle is the means of eliminating classes, so war is the means of eliminating wars.

Thus, Chairman Mao divided war into two categories—revolutionary war and counter-revolutionary war. He further pointed out: "We support revolutionary war and oppose counter-revolutionary war." He noted that one must "use revolutionary war to oppose counter-revolutionary war."

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On the question of the task of strategic theory, Chairman Mao explained that this task was "to investigate the guiding laws of wars having a comprehensive nature." The task of the theory of combat and tactics was "to investigate the guiding laws of wars having a partial nature."

While on this subject, Chairman Mao made a point of explaining the correct relationship between the whole and part. "The parts are attached to the whole, and the whole cannot be separated from its parts and stand independently because the whole is a composite of all its parts." This also explains the correct relationship between strategy, combat and tactics.

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In dealing with the methods for studying military science, Chairman Mao noted that the chief method was "to study war from war." He believed that "reading books is study; but application is also study and, moreover, the most important form of study." He emphasised the process of comprehending a situation, stressing that "both the subjective and the objective must be well blended." He showed the need "to amalgamate subjective guidance and objective circumstances," and "to become familiar with every aspect of both our conditions and those of the enemy, to seek out the laws behind their activities and then make use of these laws in our own activities." In short, this means starting from reality. Knowledge of oneself and one's adversary can bring a hundred victories in a hundred battles.

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On the problem of leadership in China's revolutionary war, after he had analysed the nature and conditions of every class in China, Chairman Mao asserted:

"In an era when a proletarian party has already been formed, the task of correctly directing the war cannot but fall onto the shoulders of the Chinese Communist Party. At such a time, any revolutionary war which does not have the leadership of a proletarian party or which betrays this leadership will surely be defeated or else will fail to achieve a thorough victory. This is because among all the classes in China's semi-colonial society, only the proletariat and its Communist Party are comparatively free from narrowness and self-interest and these have relatively the most far-sighted political outlook and the greatest sense of organisation. Moreover, they are the most humble in accepting the experiences of the advanced world proletariat and its parties and applying them to one's own cause."

This not only explains the realistic conditions of China's revolution but also summarises a major lesson arising out of China's modern revolutionary struggle. Without Communist leadership, China's revolution could not have been victorious. In the same way, without Communist leadership, China's revolutionary war could not possibly have won victory.

The laws of China's revolutionary war are produced by the characteristics of this war. As Chairman Mao said: "If one does not understand the characteristics of China's revolutionary war, he cannot direct it or lead it along the path of victory."

Therefore, Chairman Mao analysed the characteristics of China's revolutionary war, pointing out four chief peculiarities:

(1) China was a semi-colonial country with vast territory and rich resources that was unevenly developed, both politically and militarily;

(2) The enemy of the revolution — the KMT reactionary clique — was powerful and, moreover, was supported by the major reactionary nations of the world;

(3) The Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army had not at that time been in existence long and was created from guerrilla units so that it was weak;

(4) The leader of China's revolutionary war was the Chinese Communist Party, which was also carrying out the agrarian revolution.

These were the special features of that period, and it was these characteristics which determined the fundamental law of this war, namely, that "underneath the favourable conditions lie difficult conditions."

This analysis is entirely correct and it is also extremely important. All of the incorrect military lines and directives on warfare which brought defeat in this war can be traced to taking the wrong turning and losing one's direction in regard to this problem of analysing the characteristics of China's revolutionary war. Chairman Mao said: "The history of ten years of war* has proven the correctness of this law. Whoever fails to see these characteristics with his own eyes, and whoever fails to see the two aspects of the fundamental law which arises from these characteristics, is a person incapable of directing China's revolutionary war and one who cannot lead the Red Army to victory."

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These characteristics and this fundamental law determine that the major forms of China's revolutionary war are 'annihilation encirclements' and 'annihilation counter-encirclements.' "Until the day when the enemy becomes the weaker and the Red Army becomes the stronger of the two" — that is, until the turning point of the People's Liberation War in 1947-48 — these remained the major forms of China's revolutionary war. Only when there had been a basic change in all aspects of conditions on both sides could these forms change.

Nevertheless, during the ten-year Agrarian Revolutionary War,* these major forms of revolutionary war often either went unrecognised or else were virtually ignored by the opportunists with 'leftist' or right deviations. This caused the revolutionary war to meet with setbacks of varying degrees.

* A reference to the Agrarian Revolutionary War from 1927 to 1936.

At what period and under what conditions can these forms change? Chairman Mao made the following prophecy:

"When will the form of recurrent annihilation encirclements come to an end? In my opinion, should the civil war continue, then only when a basic change has occurred which reverses the relative strength of the enemy's forces and our own. Once the Chinese Soviet Red Army becomes stronger than the enemy, the recurrent encirclements will end. Then we will encircle the enemy and the enemy will attempt counter-encirclements, but political and military conditions will not permit the enemy to take up counter-encircling positions as the Red Army does. At that time the recurrent encirclements will in general be ended, although perhaps not entirely."

This scientific prediction has been entirely realised, and the whole process of development of the People's Liberation War has borne it out. The laws of development of China's revolutionary war have proceeded absolutely in line with this prognostication.

IV

Science is practical, for it starts off from reality and not from illusion.

Before the People's Liberation War reached the victorious situation of 1947-48, the foremost and gravest problem of strategy in China's revolutionary war was the problem of strategic defence.

That is why Chairman Mao stopped writing this book after completing the chapter on Strategic Defence. The whole series of strategic and tactical problems pertaining to strategic defence are contained in this chapter. In addition, there are concrete illustrations from the history of the Agrarian Revolutionary War and commentaries on the successes and failures of the five counter-encirclement campaigns** as well as on the concepts and policies of the various kinds of opportunists, both 'leftist' and right.

The series of strategic and tactical principles which Chairman Mao presented in this chapter were not only the major guiding principles of the Agrarian Revolutionary War, but also of the Anti-Japanese War and of the early phases of the War of Liberation. It was chiefly due to the application of these principles that the Chinese people won their unprecedented victory in the revolutionary war.

Of course, "war and the guiding laws of war are developmental." During the Anti-Japanese War and the War of Liberation, Chairman Mao took the guiding principles of warfare that he had created and developed them to a still higher plane, further substantiating them and enriching their content. But the essential content of all these developments are derived from the principles contained in *The Strategic Problems of China's Revolutionary War*. This book is, therefore, not only a treasury of the teachings of China's revolutionary war. It also presents the fundamental theories of the Marxist military line as applied in this war.

** Which occurred mainly in Kiangsi Province, between 1930 and 1934.

NEW CHINA'S WATER CONSERVANCY PROGRAMME

(Continued from page 9)

of land in the 23 counties of eastern Honan and northern Anhwei. Approximately 470,000 persons were drowned while 3,000,000 lost their homes. In the following nine-year period, the alluvia carried by the Yellow River silted up the Huai River, all its tributaries and the adjoining flood basins and lakes. The whole system of water drainage in the vast territories of Honan and northern Anhwei were thus paralysed. The Huai River Basin was so seriously affected that flood became almost a certainty in this area every summer. While high water would invariably lead to disaster, low water would also cause inundation, though on a lesser scale.

II

The great victory of the People's Liberation War has fundamentally changed the face of China. Under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people have eradicated the rule of landlord and bureaucratic capitalist classes. The people have now established their own government. The revival and development of production are now considered of prime importance. Agrarian reform is being carried out throughout the country. The enthusiasm of the liberated peasantry for production has

reached unprecedented heights. As part of the nation-wide drive to revive and develop agricultural production, water conservancy work has become one of the country's central tasks.

During 1949, when the revolutionary war was still in progress, it was impossible to draw up a nation-wide programme for water conservancy. But as each area was liberated, one of the first tasks of the People's Government was to co-operate with the people in fighting floods with all available means. Leading Communist and government cadres personally led the work of strengthening dykes even during storms and heavy rains which lasted for days at a stretch. The danger of flood was finally overcome in many districts. During September, 1949, for instance, the Yellow River registered a flood peak of 16,300 cubic metres per second in the Shenchow station in Honan Province. For 99 hours this flood peak remained above the level of 10,000 cubic metres per second. Thanks to the concerted efforts of the people and the government workers fighting against the flood in this region, the main dykes stood intact.

As a result of similarly heroic struggles against the high flood waters, 90 per cent of the cropland immersed in 1949 in different parts of the country was drained off by the 1950 spring sowing season. Thus there was no delay in planting. In order to help the flood victims tide over their spring food shortage, the Central People's Government organised

RECORD-BREAKER HSIA TSUN-WEN

As dusk set in over this section of the Yellow River in Pingyuan Province, dyke worker Hsia Tsun-wen dug all the more vigorously into the ground. Beside him stood a crowd of peasants and a man clad in cadre's uniform, who held a watch in one hand and a notebook in the other.

Hsia, a heavily-built man of about 40, clutched the pick handle in both hands and hurled it with all his might against the side of the dirt pit. Each time he struck, huge pieces of hard soil gave way. When enough earth had been loosened, he shovelled it quickly into a cart, pushed the cart up to a dyke about 70 metres away and emptied the load there. Then he dashed back into the crater and started digging again.

At seven o'clock, the uniformed man asked Hsia to stop working. Then, after adding up a series of figures in his notebook, he announced: "Hsia Tsun-wen has moved 28 cubic metres of earth today. This breaks all previous records." The crowd burst into cheers and applause. Hsia, smiling broadly, kept wiping the sweat on his bronze-coloured face with both sleeves.

Soon the fame of record-breaker Hsia Tsun-wen spread far and wide. "Keep pace with Hsia" became a popular slogan among the tens of thousands of peasants in several provinces who were working to conquer the Yellow River. Inspired by Hsia, many raised their daily quota above the standard of 10 cubic metres.

The remarkable thing about Hsia Tsun-wen was not so much the amount of earth he could move a day. It was the tremendous labour enthusiasm he displayed.

In 1947, peasant Kao Fa-cheng, from an old liberated

area, had set a record for Yellow River projects by hauling 14.2 cubic metres of earth per day. At that time many people questioned the credibility of the report. Last year, however, Wang Chuan-hsin and Wang Chuan-chia, two brothers from Pingyuan Province, attained an even higher record of 18 cubic metres. Now Hsia Tsun-wen had done 28, and his record was officially confirmed by an inspection team.

Hsia had devised some improvements on his tools and introduced a few new methods of working. Nevertheless, the implements he used were still among the crudest and his technique was hardly less backward. What made his achievement possible was his enthusiasm—a spirit so representative of China's emancipated peasantry today.

"My achievement was no miracle," Hsia later explained at a mass meeting where prizes were awarded to outstanding dyke workers. "Poor people like me lived like pigs and dogs in the old days. Flood or no flood, I never had enough to eat and still less to hope for. Why should I bother to work hard? When I worked on the dykes in those days, I used to move two or three cubic metres a day.

"But now I have six *mow* of land. Whenever I think of the lovely green shoots in my fields, I get scared at the thought of a flood destroying them. I just can't help but dig hard. Besides, I have learned from the cadres in our village that to make our country prosperous, everyone must do his share of the work well. I guess by digging more here and raising better crops back home, I am making some contribution, too."

a mammoth work-relief campaign for these people, raising the slogan that "none shall starve." In the field of water conservancy alone, the various work-relief projects provided livelihood for ten million people during the months preceding the summer wheat harvest.

The year of 1950 marks the first year of large-scale economic construction since the liberation of China's mainland. Of the funds appropriated for reconstruction by the Central People's Government, 11.7 per cent were allotted to water conservancy projects.

The seriousness of the 1949 floods, the general havoc wrought by the KMT reactionary government, the need for repairs on practically all the existing dykes and dams, the absence of necessary water conservancy data—all these combined factors compelled us to devote the greater part of our energy this year to anti-flood measures in general and dyke building and repairs in particular. Our first aim was to reduce or stamp out the flood menace. Only after winning a period of relative security can we initiate projects of a more fundamental nature.

In addition to anti-flood programme, some irrigation works have been carried out to meet the needs of arid regions. As for the task of regulating navigable waterways, so far only the most important ones have been attended to. With regard to hydro-electric work, the aim of the Government at present is to concentrate on restoring existing installations first. However, some experimental and survey work has been done as well.

The main features of the overall programme are as follows:

On the upper reaches of rivers in Northeast and North China, a number of irrigation schemes have been completed. In the lower reaches of these rivers, projects involving the repair of dykes and the regulation of river channels have been carried out.

On the upper reaches of the Yellow River, a number of irrigation projects have been undertaken; on the lower reaches, long sections of dykes and bank protection works have been repaired.

In the Huai River Basin, emphasis has been laid on dredging of the river-bed and restoring of the dykes.

In the Yangtse River Basin, embankments, culverts and gates have been repaired; experiments connected with irrigation by controlled flooding has been conducted in some localities.

As the Pearl River Basin was liberated comparatively recently, major emphasis in this area has been placed on the restoration of existing dykes.

In the Northwest, our chief task has been the repair and development of the existing irrigation system.

The Yi River and Shu River in the area of Shantung and North Kiangsu have flooded seriously

and regularly over the past years. Projects of a basic nature aimed at ending this situation have already been started on the two rivers.

The extent of this spring's water conservancy projects is unprecedented in the history of China, involving more than 350,000,000 cubic metres of earth-work. The same quantity of earth would be enough to build an embankment one metre wide and one metre high which would encircle the world at the equator more than eight times. By July 1 of this year, the whole programme had been completed on schedule with the exception of a few dredging projects on navigable waterways and a few irrigation schemes. The success of the programme was possible only because of the enthusiastic working spirit of the masses of the people.

III

In China there are two periods each year when the rivers are swollen by high waters. First, in the north there is the season of thaw on the upper courses of rivers and in the south heavy spring rains, at this time causing spring floods. The second period lasts from June to September, when heavy rainfall causes summer and autumn floods. At the time of writing, the spring floods have passed but the summer and autumn floods are only half over. Tested as they have been by floods, the aforementioned projects have scored initial successes. With the exception of the Huai River Basin where several localities suffered from the poor drainage of rain water, all rivers passed through the spring flood season safely.

It was the Huai River which again flooded this summer. Because of the breaching of the Huayuan-kow dyke of the Yellow River in 1938, the main river and its tributaries have been thoroughly blocked by silt. It requires a comparatively long time to effect a permanent solution to the flood problems of this area. Then too, this year's summer rainfall in the Huai River Basin was even heavier than in 1931 or 1949 when serious floods occurred; the water level rose above the limits of safety guaranteed by the projects carried out on this river. For this reason, considerable damage has been caused by summer floods in this region.

As for flood control work on other rivers, considerable success has been reported. Last year the Yangtse, China's largest river, flooded more than 22,000,000 *mow* of cultivated land. This year's first flood peak on the Yangtse has passed. Though the high flood waters at Ichang in western Hupeh once rose to 63,000 cubic metres per second, thanks to magnificent emergency work, not one dyke throughout the entire length of the river gave way.

Last year approximately 3,000,000 *mow* of land were flooded in the Pearl River Basin. But this year, apart from damage to a few small privately-built dykes, no serious dyke breaching has occurred.

These two river basins (the Yangtse and the Pearl), which embrace Kwangtung, Hunan, Hupeh, Kiangsi and Kiangsu provinces, are rich in agricultural products. The first rice crop has already been harvested and at least two-thirds of this year's harvest is now secure.

As for the Yellow River, the second largest river in China, its worst danger period still lies ahead. Nevertheless, since the dykes along this river have been reinforced, we feel certain that the river will not breach its dykes even if the flood waters reach a peak of 17,000 cubic metres per second at Shenchow station in Honan Province.

In the Northeast no major floods have been reported during the current summer season. In North China, however, anti-flood battles are being waged along all rivers. Since the summer rainfall has been extraordinarily heavy, swelling the flow of all the rivers in North China to two to three times of that of last summer, floods have occurred in some areas, though not on the scale of last year. On the Chaopai River (See page 19 — Ed.), which had plagued eastern Hopei for a number of years, the anti-flood work accomplished this year has already achieved impressive results in flood prevention.

The first phase of the projects to harness the Yi and Shu Rivers in North Kiangsu has been completed. When these projects were tested during the recent floods, they stood up satisfactorily.

As for irrigation work, it is anticipated that an additional 5,090,000 *mow* will be brought under irrigation in 1950. Among the most important irrigation projects undertaken this year are the Lohui irrigation project in Shensi and the Sankan River project in Chahar. Both projects have been successfully completed and are now supplying water to croplands.

IV

The above-mentioned facts reveal our main policies in the development of water conservancy work in New China. With the transfer of political power into the hands of the people, water conservancy has entered a completely new era. Its development is now urgently demanded by the people as they are restoring and expanding agricultural production. Because of this, we have the people's inexhaustible source of strength to draw upon in carrying out our programme.

The year 1950 marks the beginning of large-scale water conservancy developments in China. But because of the vastness of problems mentioned above, we can only start by taking defensive measures in order to stabilise the situation, even though we realise that simply building dykes to lead flood waters off to the sea is, in fact, a great waste of our water resources. In the future, therefore, we shall bring the water under control, storing it for

irrigation purposes or for power generation, thus putting it to the best possible use. This year we have already begun to create the conditions necessary for developing our future work along these lines.

We have also drawn up some plans and started on the preparatory work on next year's programme. In the field of irrigation, for example, we have completed our initial plan for irrigating a large section of Ninghsia and Suiyuan provinces. By storing water in reservoirs, we shall be able to irrigate 14,000,000 additional *mow* of land. Part of this plan will be put into execution next year.

In the field of flood control, ground-boring for a dam-site on the Yungting River which runs through Chahar and Hopei provinces will soon be completed. The construction of this dam will provide a basic solution to the problem of the Yungting River. Actual construction is being scheduled for the second half of 1951. In addition to preventing flood, it will irrigate a further 1,500,000 *mow* of land and make it possible to generate 60,000 kilowatts of electricity.

Basic improvements along the Huai River will be started during the second half of the current year.

A special organisation has been established to undertake permanent projects for harnessing the Han River, an important tributary of the Yangtse in Hupeh Province. The organisation is now surveying sites for reservoirs along the river.

Reservoirs and dams will be built along the middle course of the Yellow River; after numerous surveys, a number of sites have now been tentatively selected pending further investigation. This programme aims at controlling the volume of flood waters and soil erosion so that the current in the lower reaches of the river can be regulated. This project will provide irrigation for 30,000,000 *mow* of cropland, and it will also give us water power capable of generating 3,000,000 kilowatts of electricity.

Other plans which are now being studied and discussed include projects involving irrigation by controlled flooding along the Yangtse River, the regulation of the Grand Canal, the harnessing of many smaller rivers and the utilisation of ground water as well as other irrigation schemes in Northwest China.

In brief, our work is planned on a realistic basis and is closely integrated with the national programme for economic construction. We are first concentrating our efforts on the most urgent problems and will then proceed systematically to take up more comprehensive projects. With the unmeasured strength of the Chinese people behind our work coupled with the inexhaustible potential water resources of the country, the future of China's water conservancy unfolds before us with unlimited possibilities.