

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

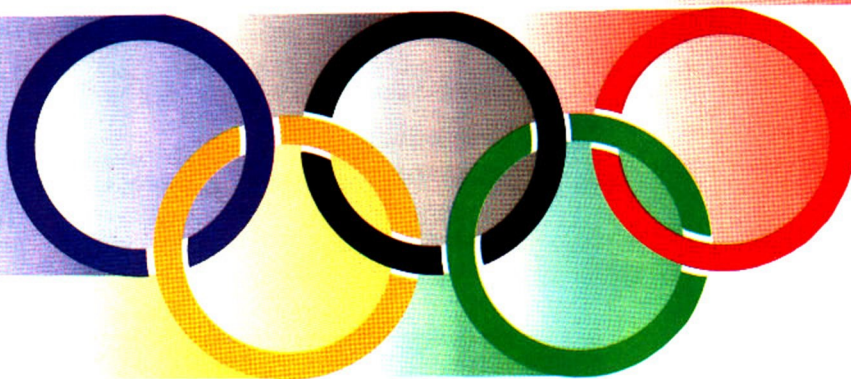
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CHINESE ATHLETES HEAD FOR BARCELONA



Stock Markets
Developing Swiftly

Type-54 Bulletproof Vest



The Type-54 bulletproof and stabproof vests are available in two styles — sleeveless garment and waist vest. Pictured here is the waist vest.

The Patron Saint-brand bulletproof vest, type 54, and the stabproof vest are new products developed by the Quartermaster Research Institute of the General Logistics Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. The institute is also the sole legal producer and seller of bulletproof vests and other military equipment in the country.

The Type-54 vest passed the state appraisal in May 1990 and was awarded first prize for scientific and technological progress by the army in June 1992. The vest is now widely used by army units, armed police, public security units and Customs offices. Tests by competent international institutes show that the protective ability of the vest meets advanced international standards. The Type-54 vests are exported to the United States, the Philippines, Australia and other countries.

Made from two layers of hard and soft bulletproof materials, this bulletproof vest effectively defends the wearer from 5.5-gram bullets (such as those fired by the Type-54 pistol) shot at a speed of less than 450 metres per second from a distance of two metres. Made of non-metal materials the stabproof vest also effectively protects the wearer from all kinds of daggers, including the triangular-edge dagger. Both the Type-54 bulletproof and stabproof vests are lightweight, well-designed and easy to conceal.

Unit to contact:

Research and Development Department of the Quartermaster Research Institute of the General

Logistics Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Stock Market Balloons in China

□ In the first half of this year, China's stock transaction volume shot up five times the figure for 1991 as a whole. Some experts describe the big boom as "overheated," because legal and managerial facilities remain deficient (p. 4).

Chinese Athletes Move Into Barcelona

□ The 380-member Chinese Sports Delegation sent to the 25th Olympic Games in Barcelona will participate in 20 out of the 25 events. According to Wu Shaozu, head of the Chinese delegation and minister of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission, China will win more medals in this year's events than it did in the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. The Chinese people wish their athletes the best of success at the present Olympic Games and hope that the 27th Olympic Games will take place in China, the most populous country in the world (p. 14).

China Fights Drug Abuse

□ As China becomes more open to the outside world, the country finds it difficult to cut off the drug market from its sources. Drug abuse is particularly rampant in Yunnan Province which borders the notorious "Golden Triangle." The country's public health departments are meeting this problem head on, pooling their efforts to advertise drug control and find more effective treatments of addiction (p. 16).

Non-Governmental Educational Exchanges

□ Non-governmental educational exchanges between China and other countries have improved participating Chinese students' education. They have also furthered other people's understanding of China and fostered friendship between Chinese people and foreigners (p. 22).

CSCE to Launch Peacekeeping Operation

□ At this year's summit meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, participants blamed the resurgence of nationalism for the burgeoning conflicts in Europe and planned peacekeeping operations (p. 13).

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Stock Market Sees Rapid Expansion

China's stock exchanges have generated a bull market during the first half of this year. The transaction volume in the period was five times the total of last year as a whole.

The Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges, the only two stock markets currently authorized by the central government, handled 21.6 billion yuan in stock transactions between January 1 and June 30 of this year, while the figure for 1991 was only 4.4 billion yuan.

During the first six months of 1992, China issued stocks valued at 5.2 billion yuan, compared with a total of 2.77 billion last year.

The number of companies listed on the two exchanges has shot

up from 15 to 32. Forty-three types of stocks, with an overall face value of 3.05 billion yuan, are now traded. In addition, 10 B-shares issues, valued at 377 million yuan, are targeted at overseas investors.

The Shenzhen exchange expects that 50 companies will be listed there by the end of the year, while the Shanghai exchange is expected to offer 70 stocks by that time.

A stock market spokesman revealed that preparations are underway for economically sound firms to issue and list shares in Hong Kong, possibly as early as this year.

Experts say the brisk activities on the Chinese stock market reflect the rapid expansion of the domestic economy since late last year.

However, they cautioned that problems exist as the fledgling markets mature.

Lin Wen, a market analyst from the Stock Exchange Executive Council, under the State Commission for Restructuring the Economic System, commented that the current market is somewhat "overheated."

Lin said artificially high prices have been created by the large gap between supply and demand, and do not accurately reflect the true performance of the enterprises.

"Excessive market speculation is a big risk for investors," the analyst added.

Moreover, he noted, some local enterprises, lured by huge amounts of capital raised by the markets, have been issuing stocks without official authorization. Such practices have been conducted despite the central government's repeated pronouncements that issuance of shares must be approved by the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank.

At present, only three provinces — Guangdong, Fujian and Hainan — as well as Shanghai and Shenzhen have been authorized to issue shares to the public.

Officials from the economic reform commission pointed out that China faces a difficult task bringing share-issuing enterprises up to standard because central planning mechanisms still govern many aspects of enterprise management and operation.

As part of an effort to ensure the healthy development of the stock market and help install international norms, the central government recently issued guiding rules for the implementation of the share-holding system, related accounting and auditing activities, and regulations governing operation of the market.

So far, China has no national law governing corporations and securities. Recently, however, the State Council announced the formation of a working conference to intensify supervision of the market. More regulations and rules are expected to be drafted in the near future in order to complete a legal framework for share-holding companies and the stock market.

At the same time, a securities supervisory and management committee will be formed to review the qualifications of corporations seeking to issue stocks.



PAN JIAMIN

Odd-job men from the countryside try their luck at the Shenzhen stock exchange.

Floods Hit South, Droughts Bake North

While heavy floods recently hit provinces in south China, some provinces in the north have been suffering from a serious drought.

Since late June, heavy rainfall has hit areas in Fujian, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guangxi and Sichuan. The Min River in the eastern Fujian Province has been hit by the most serious floods since 1949. The upper sections of Zhejiang's Qiantang River, Jiangxi's Xin River and Guangxi's Li River have suffered their second-worst floods since 1949, when the People's Republic of China was founded.

According to a spokesman for the State Flood Control Headquarters, floods have caused losses of over 15 billion yuan (US\$2.7 billion).

Meanwhile, provinces along the Yellow, Huai and Hai rivers, all among China's seven largest rivers, are suffering from serious droughts.

The spokesman said some 18 million hectares of farmland, or roughly one fifth of China's total farmland, are affected by the drought, particularly in the provinces of Shandong, Henan, Hebei, Shaanxi and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

At present, cities along the lower and middle reaches of the Yellow River, China's second-longest, are suffering from acute shortages of drinking water because of the drought.

The central government urged localities to concentrate on anti-flood and anti-drought work, and 20,000 troops were ordered to the flood-hit eastern provinces to help limit the damage.

East China's Jiangxi Province is now mobilizing resources to fight severe flooding that hit large parts of the province in early July.



ZHANG SHENGGUI

Besieged city: Fuzhou, the capital of Fujian Province, was recently devastated by the worst flood to hit the area in the past 50 years.



WU ZENGXIANG

Dried river: the riverbed of the Yellow River in north China's Jinan area has been exposed due to a prolonged lack of rainfall.

As a result, the Zhejiang-Jiangxi railway line, which had been held up for 23 hours because of flooding, resumed operation on July 6.

In Fujian, torrential rains have lasted for five days in most parts of the province. According to official statistics, a total of 148 persons were killed and 34,000 people were stranded by floods in the area.

At the same time, Henan Province in central China is making great efforts to overcome its

worst drought in decades.

Since the middle of May, Henan Province has had very little rain. The drought has affected 5.1 million hectares of farmland, and another 155,000 hectares have not been planted with autumn crops because of the drought.

A total of 3.74 million people and 1.026 million animals are facing water shortages. The local authorities have taken measures to save the harvest and help solve the problem of water supply. ■

Ningxia Co-operates With Arab Countries

The Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, a muslim-dominated province, is making efforts to expand economic ties with Arab countries.

According to an official in the regional government, Ningxia has set up a number of building and commercial enterprises in Kuwait and Egypt.

Ningxia and Saudi Arabia will jointly invest US\$80 million to run a corporation in Yinchuan, the provincial capital.

He Jiyuan, deputy general manager of the Wuzhong Plastic Industrial Co. Ltd., said his company will sign a contract with an Islamic investment bank to run a plastic bag factory in the United Arab Emirates.

He said that total investment in the project was US\$1.5 million and that the equipment was supplied by the Chinese partners. The annual capacity of the factory is expected to reach 10 million bags.

As a major manufacturer in China, the Wuzhong Plastic Industrial Co. Ltd. has more than 1,400 employees, and its products include woven plastic bags, knitted garments and rugs that are exported to Southeast Asia and the United States. ■

Private Economy Booming in Hui Area

Most urban residents on the Chinese mainland work in the state- or collectively-run economic sec-

tors, but in Linxia Hui (Muslim) Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu Province, 80 percent of the city dwellers derive their income from private businesses.

Official statistics show that over 70 percent of workers in Linxia are self-employed or work in privately owned firms.

At present, there are over 20,000 privately- or individually-run enterprises in Linxia, which account for almost 50 percent of the prefecture's total industrial output and 40 percent of tax revenues.

Linxia is an inland prefecture located at the juncture of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and the Loess Plateau. The majority of residents are ethnic minorities, including the Hui, Dongxiang, Baoan and Sala nationalities. They are all Muslims.

During the long period before



A Muslim pedlar in Pingluo County, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, selling mutton.

CHEN SIYU

the country began to implement the reform and opening policies in the late 1970s, Linxia had been a poverty-stricken area. The prefecture, with a population of 1.63 million, is short of arable land and natural resources.

In the past dozen years, the local government has issued a series of preferential policies and mapped out plans to spur the private economy.

According to the policies and plans, local people are encouraged to trade any goods that are not expressly forbidden by the state.

In the past few years, the prefecture has opened offices in several big cities and special economic zones to strengthen economic ties with other regions of the country.

Thousands of local businessmen are engaged in transporting special and local products from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau to the developed coastal areas, while bringing back daily necessities, such as tea and silk, to highlanders and herdsmen.

One out of every five locals is involved in the private commercial or industrial sector.

Meanwhile, various special markets have mushroomed that deal in goods from across the country. The region has been turned into a large market.

Linxia only turns out approximately 100,000 animal skins and 800,000 kilogrammes of wool per year, but its annual turnover in the goods reaches 7 million skins and 5 million kilogrammes respectively.

Along with the accumulation of commercial capital and the booming of markets, many well-off private businessmen have poured funds into the processing industry, using raw materials and products bought from

other regions.

At present, the private economy in Linxia employs over 170,000 labourers and owns 157 million yuan (about US\$28.5 million) in fixed assets and 67.17 million yuan (US\$12 million) circulating funds.

In 1991, the private sector in the prefecture handed over 14.52 million yuan in taxes. ■

Scientific Application Vital to Economy

The application of scientific achievements demands that relevant measures be taken in the educational, administrative and legislative systems, according to an article in *Science and Technology Daily*.

The role of scientific research in improving industrial and agricultural products has reached a level of vital significance.

Annual growth of grain output per hectare averaged 36 kilogrammes worldwide from 1950 to the end of the 1980s, while in the first half of the century this figure was only 1.5 kilogrammes.

The increased use of scientific and technological advances made the difference.

However, only 30 percent of scientific and technological data have been put into production in China, 40 percentage points lower than that of developed countries.

Although China now regards science and technology as the chief engine of production, a system has yet to be established to turn scientific achievements into economic returns.

The newspaper suggested that three measures be taken to help form such a system.

The first move should be made in China's institutions of higher

learning.

Under the present educational system, China's 2.1 million students, in more than 1,000 colleges, do not pay much attention to the practical demands of production.

As a result, they usually have a hard time adjusting themselves to economic construction after graduation.

The second measure should be dedicated to promoting awareness of copyright protection.

It is not rare for some enterprises to refuse to pay research institutes for using their scientific achievements.

The third means is to set up a government department to coordinate efforts between institutes and enterprises.

The newspaper reported that to serve this purpose, a special organization has recently been formed by officials from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the State Education Commission and the Economic and Trade Office under the State Council.

The newspaper also suggested that experimental bases be built where scientific achievements could first be put into trial production before being shifted into mass production.

Such bases should effectively reduce the possible dangers in applying scientific achievements. ■

Market for Technology Vigorous in Shanghai

Trading in scientific and technical research data is becoming ever more vigorous in Shanghai, one of China's metropolises.

Statistics show that during the first six months of this year, the volume of technology trade tran-

sactions reached 627 million yuan, 22.7 percent more than that in the same period of 1991. The trade involves almost 15,000 items of technical research.

As a traditional industrial centre, Shanghai has ideal conditions for absorbing advanced technology. In the past decade, township and collectively-run enterprises were the major buyers of such information and products. But now large state-owned enterprises are seeking more products on the technical market. In addition, they have also begun to sell technology.

With an upgrading of technical research, items on sale have also become more expensive, with the individual contract value on average reaching 100,000 yuan, some 40 percent more than in the corresponding period of last year.

Since the beginning of this year, local authorities have further adjusted relevant policies governing technology transfers. This has created a closer link between the application of scientific research and profit for the developers.

As a result, researchers and scientists are more active in developing new technology and more keen on the application of their work.

Experts say that the deepening of the country's economic reforms, the introduction of market mechanism and more flexible policies have promoted the market. ■

No US POWs in China

No new information on American POWs (prisoners of war) or MIAs (missing in action) from the Korean War has been found in

China.

During the Korean War, the Chinese People's Volunteers handled POWs in strict compliance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war.

Recently, a list of 125 unaccounted-for American military personnel from the Korean War was given to China by the United States. The United States said that it had been told that these people had been interrogated in the former Soviet Union and possibly had been transferred to China.

China, after conducting an investigation, has informed the United States that it did not receive anyone on the above-mentioned list from the former Soviet Union.

Reform in County Governments Urged

Reforming county-level government structures is crucial to the development of social productive forces, Premier Li Peng said during his recent tour of east China's Jiangsu Province.

Greater emphasis should be laid on the goal of serving the local economy and government departments must be further streamlined, he said.

In addition, Li noted that governments at the provincial, prefecture and city levels should grant more powers to county governments and that the latter should delegate more power to lower-tier government bodies.

The premier also urged the authorities to offer work opportunities to people ousted in the streamlining drive. ■

Imports and Exports Grow

China's foreign trade volume reached US\$68.67 billion in the January-June period of this year. Imports grew by 23.4 percent, to US\$33.06 billion, over the same period of last year, while exports went up by 17.3 percent to US\$35.61 billion.

Cross-border trade experienced the most energetic growth during the period, with a 10-fold rise in exports and a six-fold increase in imports.

Foreign trade volumes of the five special economic zones of Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Shantou, Xiamen and Hainan now account for 15 percent of the national total. ■

UNDP to Help China's Agriculture

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges approved a major programme on July 2 to assist China to increase its agricultural production through using modern farming techniques and products.

The UNDP will provide US\$4.38 million in technical assistance to China's Ministry of Chemical Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture to assist in research on modernizing agriculture, especially in the development of safe, low-cost pesticides and fertilizers.

This programme will start in July and will extend for a period of five years. ■

Africa Challenged by Political Pluralism

by Zhou Songmin and Liu Jiang

With poverty chaining their feet and social disorder threatening their heads, Africans are betting on political pluralism to change the course of the future.

In a clamorous, sea change of political systems, country after country has swung from one-party or military rule to multi-party politics over the past three years.

From Mali to Madagascar, over 40 of the 46 sub-Saharan nations, most of which are classified as the world's poorest, are flirting with Western-style frameworks largely modelled on the US or French systems, the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies said in its annual report released recently.

Even Tanzania, a country reputed as "a land of tranquility," failed to abstain from this temptation, albeit with stiff resistance. Tanzania became the latest convert to multi-party politics at the end of June, when President Ali Hassan Mwinyi approved a constitutional amendment that legalized the opposition.

The wind of change first appeared in the west African nation of Benin in 1989, and steadily gained force in the following years until it swept through almost all sub-Saharan countries.

The storm peaked in 1991, when Gabon, Congo, Mali, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Niger, Togo, Zaire, Mozambique, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Somalia, Ghana, Bur-

kino Faso, Zambia and Kenya all acceded to political pluralism.

The gust of change has been powered by complex and diverse elements. The transformation of the global political structure from a bipolar to a multipolar one, as well as a mounting, broad-based urge to escape from the current sorry state of things by whatever means, has

the leadership of the West, have closely linked development aid to heavily-dependent African nations with introduction of "multi-party systems."

Hoping to obtain their badly-needed assistance, many African countries, including Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Cameroon and Kenya, were forced to bow to this pressure, though some did so reluctantly.

Bankrupt economies in parts of African countries have stoked the people's disenchantment with the military or one-party rule, and inflamed their desire for change. Social injustice, polarization and corruption of the hierarchy in some states also aroused widespread discontent with the status quo, and caused the public to desperately search for some means of national renewal.

Political strife and civil war in some areas of Africa have shattered fragile economies in the region and have created millions of refugees. These problems heightened an anti-government mentality among underprivileged commoners.

Cashing in on the surging resentment of the broad masses and the favourable climate, politicians with various forms of motivation quickly rallied and launched major offensives against the ruling regimes.

Following the introduction of pluralist politics, a swarm of assorted parties flourished. In Zaire, for example, there are now over 80 political parties, small and large, while in Congo over 20 parties have been

In a clamorous, sea change of political systems, country after country has swung from one-party or military rule to multi-party politics over the past three years.

led many African nations to rashly adopt drastic measures for change.

The transformation of Eastern Europe and the collapse of the former Soviet Union have been followed by a tilt in the balance of power in Africa in favour of the industrialized nations. This trend has made it much easier for the developed nations to force-feed their former colonies with Western-fashioned values and models, both economic and political.

In recent years, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), under

formed. At present, most of the African countries boast at least 10 political parties each.

Actually, political pluralism is not new to Africa. After gaining independence in the 1960s and 1970s, some African nations adopted a multi-party system while others chose one-party rule. The results, however, are mixed when analyzed according to each type of political institution.

For instance, Botswana, which has pursued a multi-party structure since becoming independent in 1966, has developed a sound economy with strong industrial and agricultural bases. During the past few years, Botswana's economy has been growing at a

record rate of some 10 percent, one of the highest in the world. This southern African nation also enjoyed a relatively stable political environment with the ruling party and opposition parties largely coexisting in harmony.

However, multi-party politics failed to work in such other countries as Benin, Somalia, Ghana, Sudan and Uganda. Pluralist systems initially established in those states were later disrupted either by military coups or by tribal conflicts, and caused great social chaos and economic setbacks.

Meanwhile, there are also examples of successful one-party states, including Kenya, Cote d'I-

Ivoire, Gabon, Cameroon and Tanzania, where the political situation was relatively stable and national economy grew at a moderate pace.

Kenya, for instance, took up the one-party system in 1982, with the Kenyan African National Union at the helm. For years, this east African country achieved political stability almost unprecedented in Africa. Despite the existence of dozens of tribes, few tribal clashes flared up before the multi-party system shook the country at the end of 1991.

Economically, Kenyans are far better-off than most other Africans. The country has a healthy economy, with a growth

THE PHILIPPINES

Vote for Strong Leadership

by Zhang Xiaodong

In the first election since 1986's People Power revolution in Manila, Fidel Ramos, former Philippine defence secretary and President Corazon Aquino's hand picked candidate, won the presidency on May 11, 1992. Ramos became the country's 8th president since its independence. In the elections, more than 87,000 candidates ran for 17,000-plus central and local public posts.

The country's situation has greatly changed since 1986, when Aquino was pushed to power by the People Power movement. However, Aquino's six-year rule has suffered chronic political turbulence, seven military coup attempts, typhoons, floods, an earthquake and the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. President Aquino spent much of her time on coping with these man-made

or natural disasters. The country's economic development had lagged behind other ASEAN nations for several consecutive years. Even worse, the Philippines' economy witnessed a negative growth rate last year.

Traditionally, Philippine elections have been determined through money and violence, the so-called gun, gold and goon. But many observers believe this year's election was the most orderly in decades. Only about 88 people were killed in election-related violence, or one third the number in 1986.

In 1986, there were practically two political forces-pro-Marcos and anti-Marcos. But with the worsening of the country's economy, the anti-Marcos alliance has disintegrated. Various political parties, the Commission on Elections, Protestant and Cathol-

ic churches, the armed forces and police stepped in and played a major role in the recent elections.

Initially, 78 people declared their candidacy for the presidency. But soon, most of them gave up and only seven were formally nominated presidential candidates. Of these, Ramos, Ramon Mitra, speaker of the House of Representatives, and Miriam Defensor Santiago, former secretary of Agrarian Reform, maintained high profiles in the elections.

President Aquino's full support was primarily responsible for Ramos' winning of the office. Ramos, 63, a graduate of the US West Point Military Academy, had long been a high-ranking aide to former President Ferdinand Marcos. As deputy chief of staff, Ramos played an important role in helping Marcos impose martial law.

However, when the People Power revolution erupted in 1986, Ramos joined military forces that helped Aquino overthrow the Marcos regime. As a reward, Ramos was appoint-

rate outstripping that of population. For quite a long time Kenya has been the envy of the rest of Africa. Modern Kenya has a good road network, a sound phone system and a reliable postal service.

However, most states ruled by one party or the military in Africa have not fared as well as Kenya in maintaining social stability and economic development.

Some of them, including Angola and Mozambique, suffered from drawn-out civil wars, while others, like Ethiopia, tried hard to escape from economic stagnation and halt falls in people's living standards, but to no avail.

Now, some three years after

Almost without exception, boycotts, demonstrations, strikes, sit-ins and violence have accompanied political change in those countries agitating for pluralism. These setbacks have ruptured the social fabric and side-lined economic reconstruction.

recharting the course of the nation, most African states have found that there is no smooth-sailing path to multi-party politics.

Almost without exception, boycotts, demonstrations,

strikes, sit-ins and violence have accompanied political change in those countries agitating for pluralism. These setbacks have ruptured the social fabric and side-lined economic reconstruction.

ed chief of staff and then defense secretary in the Aquino government. In the past six years, Ramos helped put down seven coup attempts by military rebels.

On one hand, Aquino's recommendation of Ramos as presidential candidate was due to appreciation for General Ramos' support of her government. Aquino also believed Ramos would continue her policies. On the other hand, Aquino chose Ramos on the grounds that no one but Ramos, with a strong military background, can cope with the threat of military coups in the future.

Likewise, Ramos is acceptable to Americans because of his close links with the US military. Ramos' prudence, patience and international prestige also helped him win the election.

Election returns indicated that the Filipinos wanted a strong leadership. People have lost confidence in and are tired of traditional politics. Mitra, who had nearly 40 years of political experiences and many supporters in the ruling Lagan Ng Demokrati-

kong Polipino, as well as the backing of Philippine church, was defeated, reflecting the decline of traditional politics.

Although Ramos was strongly bolstered by Aquino, he won less than a quarter of the vote, a victory by a nose. His six-year term

Election returns indicated that the Filipinos wanted a strong leadership. People have lost confidence in and are tired of traditional politics.

of office will not be easy.

Ramos needs to make efforts to maintain and strengthen social and political stability, prevent new turbulence and mutinies. But it may be difficult for Ramos to reach his policy goals, which are likely to be challenged

by the Philippine Congress. Ramos' lack of a majority in the Congress also brings about problems in the formation of a new cabinet.

In foreign affairs, the focus will be on US-Philippine relations. But Ramos will make some changes. In the past, Filipinos heavily depended on the United States, and the country's foreign affairs were dominated by its relations with Washington. Ramos said that the Philippines needs to pay more attention to links with neighbouring countries.

In the economy, Filipinos hope the new president will adopt measures to galvanize economic prosperity. But analysts at home and abroad said that general Ramos is a novice in the field. Although Ramos declared that he will continue to implement the Aquino government's privatization plan and encourage foreign investment, as well as urge Philippine enterprises to compete in the international market, it is painstaking work to energize the country's economy. ■

In Zambia, the West's showcase of multi-party democracy, waves of strike have washed over the land ever since President Frederick Chiluba took power last November. Chiluba defeated former President Kenneth Kaunda in the country's first multi-party elections in 17 years.

In Kenya, with the advent of multi-party politics, a spate of tribal clashes shattered the prevailing tranquility in many provinces, and claimed over 200 lives during the past six months.

In Zaire, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo, anti-government demonstrators clashed with riot police, spilling blood onto the streets and causing huge property damage. In some places, even soldiers went on a rampage, looting, raping and killing, and reduced once-prosperous cities to horrifying ghost towns.

While moves towards multi-party politics have been instrumental in bringing about a precarious peace to war-torn Angola, similar measures have not stopped fighting in Somalia and Ethiopia.

On the economic front, the introduction of pluralism and economic liberalization hasn't worked wonders in delivering bread and butter to the hungry. On the contrary, life is getting even harder for the average person.

The past few years have witnessed prices rocketing in such countries as Zaire, Gabon, Niger and Zambia. These states all adopted multi-party politics while taking such economic steps as removal of subsidies, decontrolling prices and devaluation of local currencies.

In Zambia, months after political pluralism gained an upper hand, prices for major commodities shot up by as much as 300 percent. Many local people still face a stark reality: they have to hold down at least two jobs to feed themselves.

At present, it seems that the realities of change have dampened to some extent the initial fervor for multi-party systems. Many Africans have come to see that democracy does not necessarily call for a multi-party system.

"We need structures that allow the full democratic participation of the people. That is the essence of democracy. But democracy can take many different forms," said Emeka Anyaoku, secretary-general of the Commonwealth. "There may be places where an umbrella one-

At present, it seems that the realities of change have dampened to some extent the initial fervor for multi-party systems. Many Africans have come to see that democracy does not necessarily call for a multi-party system.

party state is appropriate," he added.

Political analyst George B. N. Ayittey, in an article published by the *New Africa* magazine, stated, "It would be most naive that the institution of multi-partyism in Africa will necessarily result in democracy. It is not the number of political parties (or the absence thereof) which determines whether a political system is democratic or not."

Observers in Nairobi said that the obsession with a multi-party system has reflected Africans' fervent quest for an improved life after years of poverty and

mismanaged governance, a desperate search for a way to rid themselves of economic ills and political evils.

Nevertheless, Salim Ahmed Salim, secretary-general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), said that "multi-partyism is not a panacea for economic ills in Africa." "It was an over-simplification to suggest that multi-partyism was a solution to the problems of African nations which needed to find their own paths to stable democratic systems taking into account the cultural peculiarities of their societies," he commented.

In the raging debate on political pluralism, Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema said: "Africa is suffering more from its economy than from its politics. Africa must salvage its shattered economy before it can embrace multi-party democracy."

Some political analysts also pointed out that African countries, with different backgrounds in culture, history and experience, must derive their own political systems based on their unique circumstances rather than "importing" a single copy of an established political structure.

Speaking before the the OAU summit, which opened in the Senegalese capital of Dakar on June 29, new OAU Chairman and Senegalese President Abdou Diouf said: "The search for a model of democracy suited to the value of African societies is one of the challenges facing Africa under the changing world situation."

Africans have picked up the gauntlet. They are probing deeply for democracy with African characteristics that will simultaneously bring about economic prosperity and social stability. ■

Europe Calls for Peace

by Shi Lujia

Leaders of 51 member countries in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) issued a strong appeal for peace during their July 9-10 summit meeting in Helsinki, Finland.

In contrast with the jubilation of the last CSCE summit meeting, held a year and a half ago in Paris, disappointment, anxiety and uncertainty shrouded this year's summit.

The Helsinki meeting took place at a time when Europe is coping with burgeoning problems in security.

Ethnic conflicts, long suppressed during the superpower confrontation, are now resurfacing, and have already caused great loss of human life. Small-scale wars, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the political transformations of Eastern Europe have caused millions of refugees to flood into West European nations, sowing new seeds of future clashes.

For more than 40 years following World War II, Europe was the axis of contention between the two superpowers. Oddly enough, although the confrontation between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Warsaw Pact led to an escalation of the arms race, peace was maintained through a war of threats.

Today, the cold war has ended and the Warsaw Pact disbanded, yet Europe no longer enjoys peace. This provides Europeans with much food for thought.

The most talked about topic at the Finland-hosted summit, both

during session speeches and news conferences, was the issue of how to check burgeoning nationalist movements in Europe. The ongoing conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and in Bosnia-Herzegovina all stem from ethnic- and religious-inspired discord. Nationalistic sentiments and calls for autonomy or independence are also on the rise in other areas, including some West European countries, creating the danger of new conflicts. Some leaders described nationalism as an "evil spirit" and "plague of the 21st century."

Leaders of some medium- and small-sized nations stated that yet another factor threatened European peace — unbalanced economic development between the rich and the poor.

Polish President Lech Walesa said, "Economic crisis is conducive to unrest." He stated that the economic imbalance is the root cause of all the conflicts in Europe. He called for the CSCE to take effective measures to remove economic barriers among member states.

Obviously, the worker-turned-president was voicing common wishes of the poorer nations.

Echoing Walesa's statements, United Nations Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovski said, "Poverty and unequal distribution of national wealth are common causes of the ethnic and social tensions."

However, this issue was not resolved by the CSCE. The summit did not make any specific decisions on economic issues other

than calling on member states to enhance economic co-operation.

One concrete result of the Helsinki meeting was a mandate drafted within the CSCE to create a peace-keeping mechanism in Europe.

The Helsinki Decisions said, "Peacekeeping constitutes an important operational element of the overall capability of the CSCE for conflict prevention and crisis management intended to complement the political process of dispute resolution."

Under these decisions, a CSCE peacekeeping operation force, to be composed of civilian or military personnel, may range from small-scale to large-scale, and may take on a variety of tasks, including observer and monitor missions and deployment of forces.

As a first step, the CSCE agreed in principle to send 100 "blue-helmet" observers to Nagorno-Karabakh to be headed by an Italian diplomat.

During the meeting, both the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Western European Union issued statements saying they would launch an operation to monitor sanctions against the former Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia quickly rejected the statements.

The CSCE is one of the primary bodies set up to maintain peace in Europe, along with NATO and the WEU. The United States and Europe are currently vying for leadership over security matters. Washington wants American-led NATO to be the main force for peace in Europe, while many Europeans prefer handling their own affairs.

All of the CSCE's decisions have to be implemented through member state governments and other international organizations; therefore, the CSCE remains, to many, a forum for free talk rather than a mechanism for action. ■

Chinese Athletes March Into Barcelona

by Wei Liming

China has sent a sports delegation of 380 people to the 25th Olympic Games, which began July 25 in Barcelona, Spain.

Wu Shaozu, head of the delegation and minister of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission, said China vows to win more medals, including gold medals, than it did at the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games, during which China carried off a total of five gold medals.

The Chinese sports delegation contains 251 athletes, of whom 118 are male and 133 female. Their average age is 23.4. These athletes will contend in 20 of the 25 events being held at this year's Olympic Games. In preliminary contests, China failed to qualify for competition in four events—football, baseball, handball and hockey. In addition, China chose not to contend in the equestrian competition.

Li Furong, deputy head of the delegation, said that Chinese contestants had their hopes pinned on winning medals in the events of diving, gymnastics, table tennis,

badminton, shooting, women's judo, track and field, swimming, women's volleyball, weight-lifting, canoeing, rowing, yachting and cycling.

Although China has a long tradition of engaging in sports, it has never been regarded as a leading contender in the international sports community. Most foreigners used to think of China as a nation that participated in only such sports as *gongfu* and *taijiquan*. When the first modern Olympic Games was held, China was still under the feudal reign of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Men had to wear pigtails and women were forced to bind their feet in their youth. The conditions prevalent at that time prevented people from taking part in sports activities. The average life-span of the Chinese at that time was less than 35 years, and they were scorned by foreigners as "the ailing people of East Asia."

Chinese athletes began to stride into the international sports arena after the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. How-

ever, China was excluded from many international competitions due to the Taiwan issue. In 1980, when the People's Republic of China became a legal member of the International Olympic Committee, that situation changed.

At the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games, Chinese athletes attracted worldwide attention. The 360 contestants garnered 15 gold medals for China, bringing great honour to the Chinese people, who pay much attention to their position in the world.

However, at the 24th Olympic Games in Seoul, held four years later, China's scores were discouraging and caused its countrymen to grieve, despite the many-sided reasons behind the poor results.

In 1990, China hosted the 11th Asian Games in its capital, Beijing. Some 37 Asian countries and regions participated in the grand gathering, and Beijing was adorned with fresh flowers and new stadiums and gymnasiums. China won a total of 183 gold medals at the games, proving to the world that it could hold a lead-



XU BU

Li Jing takes part in the pommel horse competition.



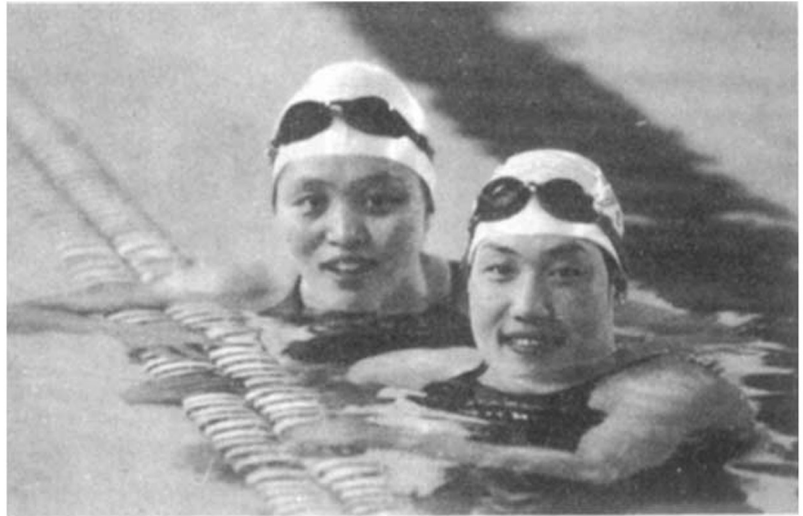
Shot-putter Huang Zhihong in training.

LU YINGLIANG



LU YINGLIANG

Table tennis player Deng Yaping scored well in many matches.



LU YINGLIANG

Lin Li (right) and Wang Xiaohong (left), two Chinese entrants in the women's swimming contest.

ing place in Asian sports circles. The Chinese people once again became enthusiastic about sports competitions.

The late chairman Mao Zedong once called on the nation to "promote physical culture and build up the people's health," an idea which still prevails among Chinese. About one-third of the 1.1 billion Chinese regularly participate in sports activities. Since the 1980s, Chinese athletes have participated in various international contests and won over 1,000 medals.

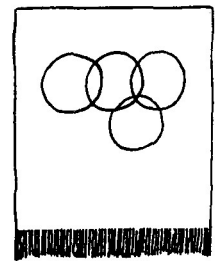
China's budget for sports stands at US\$300 million, just enough to provide basic exercise facilities for its people. At present, China owns 400,000 sports facilities, ranging from ordinary sports sites to multi-functional gymnasiums. It now has 3,000 amateur sports schools, training 270,000 youngsters aged 6 to 15. Most of them are potential members of national or special teams. At the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, China gained 222 medals, 90 percent of which were obtained by athletes who had received training at amateur sports

schools.

Currently, China is striving to have Beijing chosen as the host of the 2000 Olympic Games. Millions of people have signed up to support the Chinese government in its bid to host the Olympic Games. The Chinese people, who have been maintaining exuberant enthusiasm for sports over these years, wish their athletes all the best at this year's Olympic Games and hope that the dream to host the Olympic Games in China, the most populous nation in the world, will become a reality. ■



Cyclist Zhou Lingmei.



Being Mischievous.

Drawn by WANG JINGFENG

China Fights Drug Addiction

by Our Staff Reporter Cui Lili

The Ministry of Public Health is advancing the anti-drug campaign by promoting research on medicines for treating drug addiction.

One day last year, a skinny and haggard young man came to the China National Drug Abuse Treatment Centre in the Anding Hospital, outside Beijing's Desheng Gate, to ask for help. Jiang Zuoning, a professor with several dozen years of clinic experience treating mental diseases, knew at first glance that the young man was a drug addict. A pedlar from Xinjiang in northwestern China, the young man was suffering both mentally and physically and, moreover, he had spent all his hard-earned money satisfying his addictions. He was hospitalized after paying minimal fees, then discharged after one month of rehabilitation. Before leaving for home he promised to give up drugs.

This young man was one of the more than 20 drug addicts the centre has treated since it began treating patients in 1991. Official statistics show that drug abuse cases have increased in the last few years. The number of addicts has now hit 150,000 and their distribution is extending northward from its previous concentration in the southern border regions. As in many countries around the world, drug addiction in China has become a serious

social problem requiring immediate attention.

The Drug Abuse Treatment Centre is a scientific research institute established by the Ministry of Public Health especially to treat drug addiction. In the past year, the centre has concentrated its efforts on theoretical research and clinical testing of both medicines commonly used in other countries and newly developed Chinese medicines.

It is relatively easy to cure physical addiction with medicines. But treating mental addiction is much more difficult, and often requires a year or longer to achieve notable results. Drug abuse treatment programmes in developed countries often include long-term comprehensive psychotherapy. "Our centre lacks necessary facilities to employ psychotherapy," Jiang noted regretfully.

Drug addiction is rampant in the southwestern border province of Yunnan. An abuse treatment and rehabilitation centre similar to those in other countries is being built in Kunming, the provincial capital. However, the Kunming centre is costly to build and treatment there will be expensive. China can ill-afford to

set up and run more such centres, and few addicts will be able to bear the hospitalization expenses. According to Professor Jiang, China can only effectively advance the work by developing programmes suitable to its own economic situation.

The Ministry of Public Health has entrusted the public health bureau in Yunnan Province with the task of introducing a layer-by-layer comprehensive treatment programme at the village, township and county levels. Some primary treatment centres have already begun operation in Ruili and Lancang counties. These centres offer addicts both medicinal treatment and basic psychotherapy. After one to three months of treatment in these centres, the patients are sent to township rehabilitation centres to participate in therapy programmes which involve labour, such as growing vegetables and knitting. These programmes are intended to fire the patients' enthusiasm for life and work, thereby helping alleviate psychological addiction. After being discharged from the centre and returning to their villages, they will continue to receive help from their families and community organizations for as long as is deemed necessary.

Practice has proved that this method is effective in arousing social concern and saves both money and time. Some experts believe this method suits China's conditions, but add that there is still room for improvement. The method has also attracted attention from specialists abroad.

Past and Present

Soon after its founding in 1949, New China adopted a series of harsh measures to control drugs in order to save the estimated 20 million drug addicts and protect the health of the rest of Chinese population. In south-

western provinces alone, 17,187.5 kg of drugs and more than 200,000 opium pipes were burned, more than 5,400 opium dens were closed, 10,000 drug smugglers were arrested and their leaders severely punished.

In the 1950s, the Ministry of Public Health issued China's first Provisional Regulations on the Control of Narcotic Drugs, which detailed the production and control of these drugs. During that time, the ministry also developed medicinal treatments for drug addiction and demanded that all addicts undergo treatment at local treatment institutions. The flow of drugs from their sources was also stemmed. These measures were so effective that there were no cases of drug smuggling or addiction for the next 30 years.

The drug problem reappeared in China in the 1980s. According to Wang Zhiqing, director of the ministry's pharmacy administration department, as drug addiction has become a worldwide problem, China can hardly avoid being affected after it opened its doors to the outside world and increased its international ex-



ZHOU CHONGYAO

A public security officer searches for drug caches near Yunnan's southwestern border.

changes. Where China borders the notorious drug production centre known as the "Golden Triangle" in Thailand and Myanmar to the southwest, the penetration of drugs endangers its population.

Statistics show that the majority of the drug smuggling cases handled in the past two years have been connected with over-



ZHOU CHONGYAO

A public security officer searches for drugs in a luggage room of the Kunming Railway Station.

seas drug dealers. As drug smuggling activities have increased, drug trafficking has spread from the border provinces of Yunnan, Guangdong and Guangxi to more than 700 counties in ten provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, including Gansu, Shaanxi and Inner Mongolia.

Confronted with this quickly intensifying problem, the National Narcotic Control Commission, founded in 1990, recently launched a national anti-drug campaign. But the situation today is quite different from that of 40 years ago. The more open environment makes it more difficult for China to cut off the drug market from its sources. Hence, it is becoming more important for the public health departments to advertise drug control and find more effective treatments of addiction.

In addition to the National Drug Abuse Treatment Centre, the Ministry of Public Health has established the National Drug Dependency Research Institute and the State Narcotics Laboratory. These three institutes have conducted systematic



BAI DING

A doctor examines a drug addict at a treatment centre in Yunnan.



Drug smugglers under sentence of death.

ZHU YUHU

research ranging from clinical treatment to pharmaceutical analysis and laboratory tests using animals. They have also conducted training programmes for treatment centre staff and investigated epidemic diseases caused by drug addiction. These research institutes have set up drug abuse monitoring stations in Yunnan, Gansu, Shaanxi, Sichuan and Guizhou provinces and plan to establish a nationwide monitor network to keep track of the distribution of drug addicts.

In March this year, the Ministry of Public Health established a committee composed of dozens of well-known experts on narcotic drugs. The committee provides technical consulting services on the control of narcotics, psychoactive substances and chemicals used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs, and examines and assesses newly developed medicinal and psychological

treatments for drug addiction. The establishment of the committee indicates that China has entered a scientific management stage in its anti-drug work, said Wang Zhuqing.

Many drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation institutions have been established with local funds. Yunnan Province alone has 160 such institutions. All of them will get advice and guidance from the committee of narcotics experts.

A pamphlet on fighting drug addiction was published in Beijing on the eve of the International Anti-Drug Day, June 26. The booklet, which is designated by the State Educational Commission as an extra-curricular text for primary and middle school students, educates people on physical and mental damage caused by drug addiction, China's anti-drug history and the necessity and urgency of the fight against drug abuse today.

A New Trial

Since last April, the Chinese press has carried reports about treating drug addiction with traditional Chinese herbal medicines. Experts note that any kind of new medicine should be subject to strict laboratory examination and observation before it is approved for clinical use. But tapping into traditional Chinese medicine in search of new anti-drug abuse medicines is commendable.

Historical records show that Chinese herbal medicines can relieve intoxication, said Wu Boping, an expert on traditional Chinese medicine. When Lin Zexu, a Qing imperial commissioner, cracked down on the smuggling and use of drugs in Guangdong Province more than 100 years ago, he used herbs to treat drug addicts. Some effective herbal medicines were also used in the anti-drug campaign in the 1950s. ■

NANJING

Clean Water Once Again

by Hao Jiaqing

As one of China's six dynastic capitals, Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu Province, has tried successfully to reduce water pollution and improve its environment. It ranked 13th in a national evaluation of the urban environmental quality of 32 cities in 1990.

In August 1991, at the Second National Conference on Urban Environmental Protection held in Jilin, Jilin Province in northeast China, Nanjing's project to comprehensively treat the Qinhuai River, and 85 other projects, were nominated for excellence by the State Environmental Protection Agency and the Ministry of Construction.

The move signified the achievements made by Nanjing in its effort to reduce water pollution.

Nanjing served ten feudal dynasties as a capital city. The area around the city possesses a crisscross network of rivers and lakes. The Yangtze River passes by the urban centre and the five-km-long Qinhuai River meanders through the city's southern part. The Xuanwu Lake, a shining pearl, lies in the heart of the urban centre. The area covered by water accounts for 11.4 percent of the city.

The rich water resources have not only nurtured a unique atmosphere and a splendid culture but also provided conditions necessary for the city's social and

economic development. Nanjing has transformed itself from a consumer city into a comprehensive industrial production base and one of the four central cities of the Yangtze River basin. Petrochemical, electronics, measuring instruments, machine-building and building material enterprises make up the city's industrial foundation.

With its rapid development, however, the city has also been faced with water polluted by industrial wastes and sewage. Each year, 600 to 700 million tons of waste water (85 percent of all industrial waste water produced by the city) has been discharged into the 60-km-long section of the Yangtze River traversing the city, resulting in a greasy dirt belt some 20 km long and over 10 metres wide along the river bank. The pollution not only threatens the source for 18 drinking water factories located near the river, but also impedes the city's economic development.

The Yangtze River

The serious problem of water pollution on the Yangtze River has forced the Nanjing municipal government to undertake a comprehensive water treatment project and adopt measures to deal with many polluting factories in the area.

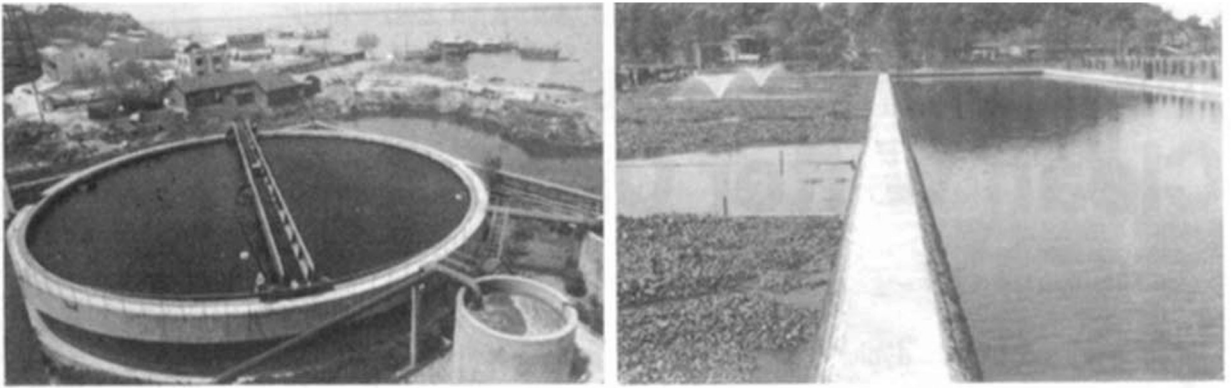
Some 51 projects have been intended to treat 15 out of 20 heavily polluting factories along the Yangtze River. For example, during the ten years of the Sixth Five-Year Plan period

(1976-1980) and the Seventh Five-Year Plan period (1981-1986), two water processing facilities, three water circulation pools and a 15,000-cubic-metre oil entrapment basin pool were constructed at the Nanjing Oil Refinery at a cost of 42.79 million yuan. This has enabled the factory to reduce industrial waste discharge from 6,000 tons/hour to 2,000 tons/hour. Some 90 percent of the waste content—oily dirt, sulphur, acid and phenol—is within permitted standards.

Factories which heavily polluted water sources were made to halt or switch production or move to other places. In 1985, the municipal government invested over 1 million yuan to relocate an oil processing factory near the Shangyuanmen Water Works. In 1988, a small amount of DDV discharged by the Nanjing Chemical Works was detected in water sources. The factory was ordered to limit production and later ordered to relocate.

The design, construction and operation of the main production facilities of new factories are required to include environmental protection facilities in order to control any new pollution. The construction of the Yangzi Petrochemical Corp., with a production capacity of 300,000 tons of ethylene annually, was one of China's key investment projects during the Seventh Five-Year Plan period. To ensure that the Yangtze River would not be further endangered, the corporation imported waste water pro-

* The author is an official with the Nanjing Bureau for Environmental Protection.



Left: The contaminated water processing tank of the Nanjing Chemical Works. **Right:** After being processed, the treated water is released into the Yangtze River. HAO JIAQING.

cessing facilities from Germany at a cost of 100 million yuan, facilities which were technologically advanced even by international standards. The investment was worthwhile because there was no discernible increase in water pollution after the project was put into operation.

The municipal government has not only tried to tackle the problem of industrial wastes but has also strengthened micro-control over water sources used for running water production along the Yangtze River. In 1981, the municipal government issued Provisional Regulations on Protection of Water Sources in Nanjing which gave the water treatment programme its legal underpinning. Recent regulations have even more clearly spelled out the prohibitions against construction of factories and clusters of residential buildings in areas reserved for running water factories. Simultaneously, a network has been established under the joint efforts of the Environmental Monitoring Centre and the Running Water Co. of the city to monitor discharges of industrial wastes and other pollutants.

After years of efforts, the water quality of the Yangtze River's main stream has improved, and there has been a reduction and, in some locations, an elimination

of pollution along the river bank. Some 90 percent of 16 water pollution indexes continue to be in accord with permitted standards. While the industrial output of the city witnessed an annual increase of 21.9 percent, reaching 36 billion yuan in 1991, the emission of industrial wastes saw no increase and the amount of chemical oxygen consumption and pollutants (such as petroleum and phenol) emitted along with the industrial wastes saw a fall of 12-32 percent.

The Qinhuai River

The five-km-long Qinhuai River, used to be famous for its rich entertainment and recreational buildings and brightly painted pleasure boats and commercial vessels which plied the river day and night. For hundreds of years, the area remained a site where businessmen and literati both plied their trade.

However, the river has been a source of nausea to visitors for years. With the development of tourism and economy, roughly 40,000 tons of unprocessed water poured into the river each day, making the river a fetid and heavily silted body.

Finally coming to grip with the decline of the river's vitality, the municipal government set forth the following goals in 1980: eli-

mination of stagnant water, pollution and inundation after torrential rains and enabling boats to ply the river once again. Nearly 200 million yuan was invested and a ten-km-long pipeline for polluted water was installed underground. Of some 448 sources of pollution along the river, 90 percent have been curtailed. This was coupled with the effort to dredge the river and reinforce the river bank. By the time the first phase of the renovation project was completed in 1991, the Qinhuai River had taken on a new look, with vermilion buildings standing by the green water dotted with colourfully painted boats. The restored river attracted an endless flow of visitors, including one 50-year-old handicapped man from Hong Kong, who arrived at the river by wheelchair specially for boat sightseeing. Now, the Qinhuai River is one of the five top scenic areas in Nanjing with more than 200,000 visitors daily.

The cleaning up is still going on. The construction of the Ji-angxingzhou waste water treatment centre, with a daily capacity of purifying 260,000 tons of polluted water, began in November 1991. It will be the largest of its kind in east China. By 1994, when the project is completed, pollution of the Qinhuai River

will be fundamentally eliminated.

Xuanwu Lake

The Xuanwu Lake, located in the northern part of Nanjing City, is one of China's five urban lakes and has been a scenic site in the city since ancient times. Over recent years, about 12 million tons of industrial wastes from over 30 factories along with sewage from local residents emptied into the lake. This killed off the fish population on six occasions, a situation which has aroused great public concern.

In 1977, the nearby factories were asked by the city government to install waste water processing facilities. By the early 1980s, discharge of heavy metal ions into the lake water was fundamentally brought under control. When the Shuojincun pollution treatment centre was built to the east of the lake several years ago, sewage from adjacent residential areas could be treated. Catchment pipelines were installed underground in the heavily-polluted area south of the lake. The amount of fish was reduced and fresh water is diverted into the lake four times annually.

According to statistics, with a



The Qinhuai River after being cleaned up.

LI PING

total investment of 100 million yuan, the municipal government constructed 554 water treatment projects during the Seventh Five-Year Plan period. The processing rate of industrial wastes increased from 35.1 percent in 1985 to 64 percent in 1991 and industrial waste pollutants decreased remarkably. Water quality of the Yangtze River, Qinhuai River and Xuanwu Lake also has seen noticeable improvement. In 1990, Nanjing ranked 13th in the national survey of urban environmental qual-

ity sponsored by the State Environment Protection Agency.

To keep track of macro-control and micro-treatment, the municipal government is working on an environmental protection plan for water resources. Based on the current situation of the water environment and sources of pollution, effective and feasible objectives will be set forth to protect the waters of the Yangtze River, Qinhuai River and Xuanwu Lake. Under the plan, the total amount of industrial wastes in the city will be limited to 1.01 billion tons by the year 1995 and some 75 percent of all factories are expected to meet environmental protection standards. A maximum limit of 320 tons of waste water is set for every 10,000 yuan worth of industrial products. The processing rate of industrial wastes is targeted to increase by 65 percent and the additional capacity to process waste water by 40,000 tons a day will be introduced. The quality of the main waters of the Yangtze River, the Qinhuai River and Xuanwu Lake will be required to reach the standards set by the central government. ■



XU XIAOYI

Staff at the Nanjing Environmental Monitoring Centre taking water samples from the Xuanwu Lake.

Non-governmental Educational Exchanges

by Our Staff Reporter Cui Lili

China's non-governmental educational exchanges with other countries have promoted not only the development of the nation's education but also brought about a greater understanding of China and strengthened friendship between the Chinese and foreigners.

It is seven years since the Chinese Education Association for International Exchange (CEAFIE) and the US English Language Institute jointly ran intensive summer English classes for China's middle school English language teachers. Last year, hundreds of American scholars and seasoned retired teachers

worked in 32 Chinese cities, including Kunming, capital of the remote border province of Yunnan. They taught English to more than 3,400 middle school English teachers for six to eight weeks.

With their standard pronunciation and lively teaching methods, these envoys of friendship from the United States introduced US politics, economy, customs, music, culture, daily habits and American history. Trainees not only quickly improved their English listening, speaking, reading and writing abilities, but also furthered their understanding of the American people and friendship between the two peoples.

This is one of the most ambitious programme organized by CEAFIE, a national non-governmental organization set up in 1981. "The programme involves primary-level, non-governmental exchanges with foreign countries," said Ni Mengxiong, secretary-general of the association. According to Ni, there are more than 400,000 middle school English teachers in China, a work force joined by 20,000 new English teachers each year. Since surveys have indicated a high rate of unqualified English teachers in senior and junior middle schools, a co-operative programme to improve English levels was signed with the US English Association.

More than 13,000 teachers have taken part in training classes over the past seven years. They came from middle schools and from schools for children of employees working in the departments of commerce, railway, aviation and oil industries in 23 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government, including remote Inner Mongolia, Gansu, Qinghai, Xinjiang and Guangxi. Although many trainees had taught English for many years, they have had no con-



Mr. Charles Thone, superintendent of schools in Nebraska and former state governor, talking with the CEAFIE delegation headed by Professors Gu Mingyuan and Wang Chunshan about US-China non-governmental educational exchange in the United States.

tact with foreigners. The English training thus helped them improve their sense of the English language and, at the same time, allowed them to explore more effective teaching methods.

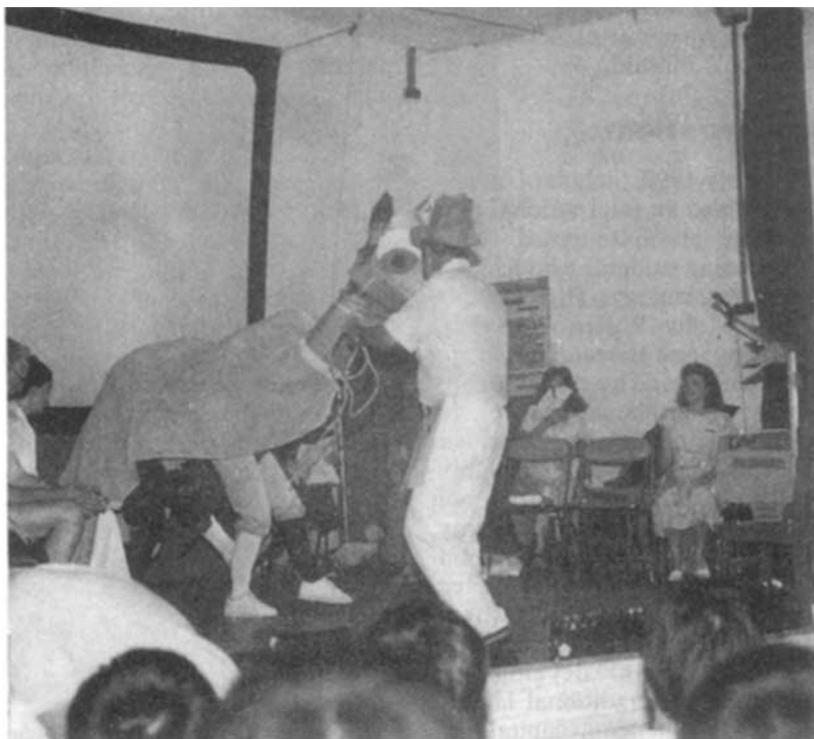
All of the nearly 1,000 overseas teachers (including a few Canadian and British teachers) volunteered for the programme and put love and affection for China and the Chinese people into their teaching, working conscientiously despite the low pay. "They have contributed a lot to China's middle school English language courses. The effort will continue through the next century because such an effort is sure to lay a solid foundation for future friendly exchanges between Chinese and Western people," Ni said.

According to plans, the training programme will last until 1995.

Achievements

CEAFIE came into being during the 1980s, a product of China's reform and open policy. In the past decade, the little known association with its two dozen staff has developed exchange and co-operative programmes with 63 non-governmental, quasi-governmental and quasi-official educational organizations in 16 countries. More than 60 Chinese universities, educational institutions and units have become members of the association. Local branches have been set up in 24 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. Dozens of professors from China's key universities act as the association's deputy presidents or council members. They include Ding Shisun, Wei Yu, Ji Xianlin, Zhang Wei and Gu Chaohao.

In co-ordination with its local branches, the association has conducted various educational exchanges with other countries. It organizes mutual visits by special delegations, promotes exchange between colleges, hosts international seminars on education,



Foreign teachers stage plays to introduce US culture.

helps implement foreign aid projects for China's education, invites foreign teachers to China or sends Chinese teachers to study or lecture abroad, and arranges foreign educators to visit China at their own expense.

In the past two years, the association received 89 delegations of 462 people and dispatched 34 Chinese delegations of 212 people to foreign countries. It held 13 meetings or seminars at different levels. The biggest such meetings included an international symposium held in Shanghai in 1990 on curriculum development and social progress with the participation of representatives from eight countries and regions and an international seminar on Mongolia in Hohhot, Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, attended by 140 Chinese and foreign scholars. The association also sponsored an exhibition of paintings by Chinese children for Asian Children's Day and jointly sponsored with Japan the fourth Japanese speaking and singing contest for young people

in Beijing.

Non-governmental educational exchanges are a wide window and flexible channel by which the people of China and other countries can better understand one another. It can supplement the work done under official auspices since many foreign independent educational institutions prefer this approach, Ni said.

The key to the development of the association is to select exchange programmes with special characteristics. As soon as it was established, the association gave priority to ordinary but significant programmes, such as training middle school English teachers, sending delegations of kindergarten teachers to Japan to study the educational system there, arranging for principals of middle schools to go to the United States to conduct comparative research and teaching exchange for three to six months, and co-operation with Thailand on a suburban educational system. "These programmes are easily neglected by

other exchange channels but they are just what our association focuses on," Ni said.

Co-operation

In early 1990, Sichuan University received an international postgraduate class composed of 30 outstanding students who had majored in sociology. The class was organized by Witten University Germany, and Hawaii University, United States. The postgraduates would undertake a year of research in 20 countries. China was the 15th stop. At Sichuan University, teachers lectured on Chinese culture, the economy, politics, women, minority nationalities and environmental protection. They also arranged visits to factories, the countryside, free markets, urban development areas, and the traditional lantern festival in Chengdu, capital city of the province. The members of the class, who had an opportunity to enjoy the famous Sichuan cuisine, were deeply impressed by the Chinese culture during their three-week visit. Any prejudices and misunderstanding which they had were gone by the end of their stay and they arrived at a new and more practical understanding of China. Many said that China was the most significant and impressive country out of the 15 they had visited.

Foreign educational circles have expressed a deep interest in various aspects of Chinese culture and many people want to better understand the history, changes and development of these aspects through non-official and more direct contacts. CEAFFIE has done a great deal in this regard. Efforts originating in the United States are one example. Since 1981, with the co-operation of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, USA, a US national non-governmental organization, CEAFFIE has sent 561 visiting scholars to many parts of the United States to teach Sinology,

including literature, customs, folk songs, Peking opera and Chinese painting. The US association, in turn, organized the visit to China of more than 230 scholars.

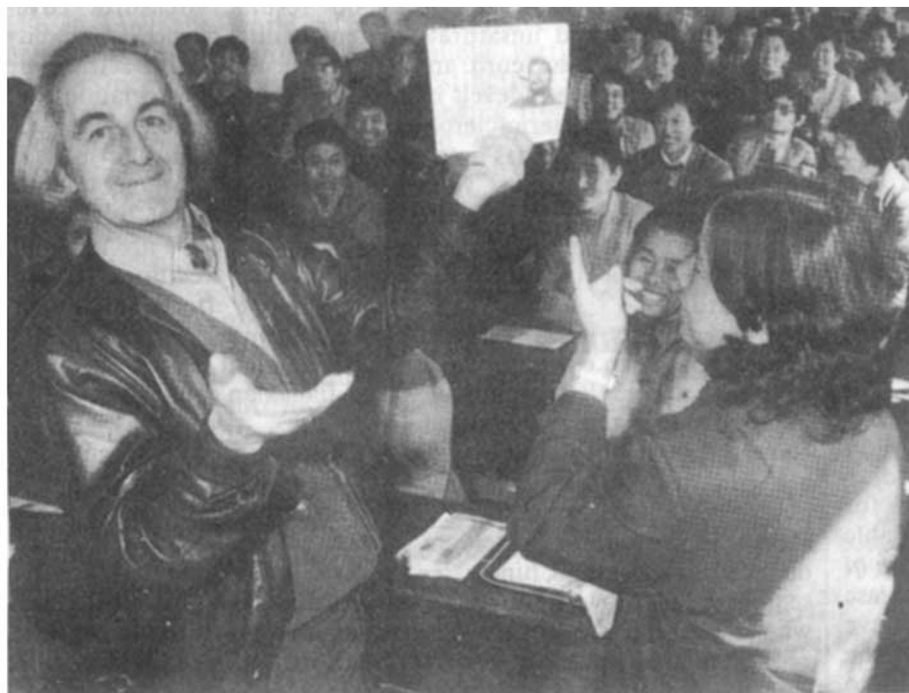
Since 1989, CEAFFIE has jointly sponsored an annual conference on international issues with non-governmental organizations of the United States and Japan. Outstanding scholars from the three countries have participated in an exchange of views on the most important issues of the day, a process which has promoted understanding between the East and West. This kind of conference has become a long-term co-operative

effort and many countries have expressed an interest in participating.

"Apart from introducing our culture and views to foreigners and learning from other countries, keeping in mind global educational trends has been the major goal of our association over the past 10 years," said Ni, who was in charge of foreign affairs at Beijing University before being transferred to the association in 1982 as secretary-general. He recalled that although China's open policy attracted many foreign educational institutions and colleges in the early 1980s, many focused



In 1986, when CEAFFIE's delegation for book donations visited Japan, Mr. Masajuro Shiokawa, minister of education, met with Prof. Ji Xianlin and Li Tao, Vice-Presidents of CEAFFIE.



Mr. Rene Burri, a Swiss expert on photography, lectures at Jiangxi University.

only on China's key universities. Dozens of foreign institutions wanted to establish a co-operative exchange programme with Beijing University alone while universities located in remote provinces were hardly noticed.

In order to correct the imbalance, the association decided to promote co-operation between China's provincial colleges and their equivalent foreign counterparts.

When CEAFFIE first established a co-operative arrangement with the US association of state colleges and universities in 1985, several dozen provincial universities and colleges in China conducted exchange programmes with some of the US association's 400 colleges and universities. In 1988, CEAFFIE arranged a three-month visit to American state universities for the three presidents of the Northwest Teacher's University, Yunnan Nationality Institute and Gansu University of Industry. The presidents noticed that American state universities emphasize multi-faceted, multi-size and

multi-level education and that the state universities in different states take it as their duty to train talent specifically for the economic development of their own region. Different universities have different characteristics irrespective of their level. In China, however, local universities or colleges often have neglected local demand for talent and always wanted to follow key universities like Beijing University by unrealistically pursuing complete course programmes. The visit convinced the three Chinese university presidents that they could gain a great deal of enlightenment from the experience of American universities and colleges.

Supported by the CEAFFIE and its American partner, 12 Chinese university presidents from Inner Mongolia, Gansu and Qinghai and nine American state university presidents met in 1990 in Xian, capital of Shaanxi Province, to discuss how local university education could serve local economies. Both sides published a collection of papers which explored how

their counterparts could serve local economy.

According to the agreement, CEAFFIE in April of this year again organized a tour of some American state universities by provincial university presidents. Both associations plan to hold one seminar every two years, on an alternate basis, on the management of provincial level universities.

Support and Seminar

The US United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, a 10-year-long partner of CEAFFIE, contributed US\$7 mil-

lion in the past 10 years to support Chinese scholars and teachers in their study abroad and for foreign scholars to lecture in China. It also donated library equipment for some provincial universities and plans to increase the figure to US\$9 million in the next 10 years. Funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges has signed a six-year co-operative programme worth CAN\$7.5 million with the CEAFFIE. Japan's International Care programme has donated stationery worth 100 million Japanese yen to middle and primary schools in China's poor rural areas. All of this support will be useful for years to come. Moreover, CEAFFIE is trying to collect more money for the Fund of Chinese Education Association for International Exchanges, Ni said.

CEAFFIE will hold a total of four international seminars this year. ■

Bean Curd: A Future Favourite

RENMIN RIBAO
(People's Daily, Overseas Edition)

The *Economic Outlook*, a United States publication, has predicted that China's bean curd will be a favourite food in the next decade.

This food, invented during the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-25 AD) by Liu An, has now been around for 2,100 years. According to the *Compendium of Materia Medica*, bean curd, a digestive aid and beneficial for the spleen and the bowels, is able to improve the circulation of *qi* (human vital energy), increase the appetite, and help relieve bloating and internal heat. The *Food Materia Medica* goes on to say that "People who are unaccustomed to conditions in a new place will feel better after eating bean curd."

Bean curd is made by soaking soybeans in water, grinding them into a powder, then boiling them. Soybeans are high in nutrition, and contain 43.8 percent protein, much higher than any other food crop and two to three times higher than that of lean pork. The figures for bean curd are even better. Not only does the amount of protein increase to as much as 92-96 percent, but it is also easy to digest. Better than vegetable protein, soybean protein contains essential amino acids, and lysine in amounts ten times higher than that of cereals. With the exception of methionine, soybeans contain amino acids in ratios which approximately match the requirements of the human body. Cereals contain abundant methionine, so the nutritional value of a diet can be raised by eating cereals together with soybeans. In countries where supplies of animal protein are insufficient, soybeans and bean curd can be good sources of additional

nutrition.

Phytum sterol and unsaturated fatty acids in bean curd are able to lower cholesterol levels in blood and prevent arteriosclerosis. An American editor has noted that if you want to lower your cholesterol, you'd better replace eggs with oats at breakfast and exchange your meat at dinner for bean curd.

In recent years, it has also been noticed that bean curd may help prevent cancer. Research conducted by Japanese scholars has showed that the incidence of cancer seems to be notable lower for people who often eat bean curd soup than for those who seldom do. And analysis by Chinese researchers has shown that people who have bean curd every day reduce their chances of getting stomach cancer by as much as 50 percent.

(June 13, 1992)

Proffering Cigarettes an Unhealthy Habit

JINWAN BAO
(Evening News Today)

Chen Minzhang, minister of Public Health, has called on citizens to halt backward customs by not offering wine and cigarettes at weddings and funerals. He put forward his ideas at a study meeting on how to deal with smoking among Chinese farmers.

A change in farmers' smoking habits is an important form of preventive health care in rural areas, since many common and frequently occurring diseases are directly or indirectly caused by smoking. In recent years, however, the smoking rate in China's rural areas has risen by more than one percent annually.

Research on how to discourage farmers from smoking, led by the China Health Education Research Institute, has yielded

good results. Measures cover strengthening of media publicity and education, the setting up of anti-smoking associations, individual signing of pledges to renounce the habit and mutual-support groups for nicotine addicts wanting to quit. Supplies of cigarettes and wine are to be not prepared for weddings and funerals. These efforts have resulted in a drop in the smoking rate by six to eight percent in Jishan and Jiangxian counties in Shanxi Province.

Chen believed that control of smoking, a social problem that affects health, requires support not only from leaders at all levels and all walks of life but also the discarding of old customs, so that a non-smoking environment can be created. More enlightened life styles should be advocated to help more people understand that offering cigarettes to guests is not correct protocol and a disreputable form of social conduct.

(No. 2,685)

Training Centre for Foreign Doctors

RENMIN RIBAO
(People's Daily, Overseas Edition)

A doctor from a hospital in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, came to train in Shanghai No.6 People's Hospital in July, 1991. Three months later, he returned home and practised his new microsurgery skill. Within two weeks he reattached two fingers, one of which survived, amazing the locals.

Statistics indicate that more than 20 foreign doctors from 15 countries such as the United States, Germany, Italy and Mexico have received training on reattachment of severed limbs and microsurgery in Shanghai No.6 People's Hospital.

This hospital has garnered accolades as the "cradle of China's

reattachment of severed limbs." It performed the world's first such successful operation in the 1960s. Since then, under the leadership of Yu Zhongjia, a famous professor of the orthopedic department, progress has been made in rebuilding of hands, transfer of free histocytes of blood vessels and tissue transplants. This has not only raised the world level of microsurgery, but also saved many lives hit by so-called incurable complaints. As information about this work has spread to world medical circles in varied ways, numerous foreign doctors have made special trips to Shanghai to study it.

Recently, a doctor from an emergency clinic in Austria visited the Shanghai hospital and admired the consummate skill in reattaching severed limbs. He decided to undertake training there. Professor Yu said, "We welcome all foreign doctors who wish to visit and receive training. We will help them as best as we can."

In order to spread its techniques to the outside world, the Shanghai Hospital has set up the Shanghai International Limbs Microsurgery Centre for teaching foreign doctors. It is the only base for foreign doctors to study Western medicine in China.

(April 2, 1992)

Nature Reserve on Roof of the World

KEJI RIBAO
(Science and Technology Daily)

Located on the southern fringes of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the Mt. Qomolangma Nature Reserve is the largest comprehensive nature reserve in Tibet and the highest in the world. The Himalayas, with Mt. Qomolangma as their tallest peak, form the centre of the reserve. Under the protection of the mountain ranges, the

southern, northern and western areas have evolved a series of unique vertical ecosystems with distinctive natural landscapes ranging from subtropical to frigid zones. There are also lush varieties of vegetation, vestiges of ancient glaciers and intact modern glaciers. The customs and age-old cultural tradition are all seeped in the strong flavour of Tibet.

Rivers and lakes as well as vast grasslands exist in the reserve. Nature rears a multitude of rare birds and animals. There are not only antelopes, wild donkeys, foxes and two wild breeds of sheep but also flocks of yellow ducks, brown-crowned gulls and black-necked cranes.

According to preliminary surveys, the nature reserve has a total of 2,348 species of higher altitude vegetation, 780 types of mosses, lichens and fungi, 53 breeds of mammals, 206 varieties of birds, eight lines of amphibians, six sorts of reptiles and five kinds of fish. Among the aforementioned creatures, there are 10 species of plants on the list of important plants to be given special protection by the state. They include the rare long-leaf dragon spruce and long-leaf pine unique to the area. Among the 33 breeds of wild animals are 11 species under first-class state protection. In the Tibet Autonomous Region, the Mt. Qomolangma Nature Reserve has the largest variety of creatures after the Motuo Nature Reserve.

(Feb. 11, 1992)

Building High-Tech Groups

GONGGONG GUANXI DAOBAO
(Public Relations Guide)

Over the next four years, China will build 5,000 high- and new-tech enterprises including 50-plus consortium, whose annual output is expected to exceed

100 million yuan. This is aimed at shaping suitable-scale high- and new-tech groups, according to a leader of the State Science and Technology Commission.

By the end of 1995, China should have more than 10,000 new advanced products, with most in mass manufacture and 30 percent for export.

The leader added that in the coming four years, while building up the State Council-approved 27 state high-tech industrial development zones, efforts will be made to create optimum conditions for opening further similar zones. There will be around 300,000 people employed in such enterprises in 1995.

(April 3, 1992)

Tea Helps Raise IQ

TUANJIE BAO
(Unity)

Well-known nutritionist Yu Ruomu has proposed a revolutionary concept about the effects of tea drinking. She believes that the high intelligence level of the Chinese can be attributed to a millenia-old tea culture.

Yu said many overseas Chinese excell in academic study and perform superior work. This display of high intellect is closely linked with tea. This is not to say that all Chinese who live abroad are inveterate tea drinkers, but to illustrate the theory that the tea culture of the Chinese nation has cultivated high-powered grey matter.

Yu holds that tea plays an ever-growing and flourishing role that cannot be ignored in Chinese preventative health care. She said, "Modern medical, biological and nutrition research reveals that most types of tea possess beneficial ingredients for regulating the body's metabolism."

(February 29, 1992)



Xian Cultural Festival

Xian, a renowned historic and cultural city, will hold a cultural festival from September 14-20 this year.

The festival will focus on a display of paintings from the Zhou (1066-256 BC), Qin (221-206 BC), Han (206 BC-220 AD) and Tang (618-907) dynasties. It will also offer colourful cultural and artistic activities including a classic dance drama *Changan Treasure* about the ancient capital Changan (present Xian), a show of Changan imperial court fireworks, night sightseeing at the ancient Xian city wall, evening shopping, visits to key cultural sites, an exhibition of fine relics from 12 dynasties and performances staged by a dozen artistic groups from home and abroad.

Xian is the biggest city in northwest China. During the festival, Shaanxi, Gansu and Qinghai provinces as well as the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in northwest China will conduct large-scale economic and trade talks and exhibit their local and special products as well as new and brand-name goods. Xian will propose nearly 1,000 projects for economic and technological co-operation and import of advanced technology and equipment, involving machinery, electronics, textiles, light industry, building materials, pharmaceuticals, food, energy resources, communications, posts and telecommunications, tourism and land development.

Xian was the former capital of 12 Chinese dynasties and one of the birthplaces of Chinese civilization. As early as the Tang Dynasty, Xian was the centre of ancient Chinese culture and art and formed an important chapter in world cultural and aesthetic histo-

ry. In the last decade, Xian has become an international tourist hot spot with many cultural and historical sites including the wood or terracotta figures of warriors and horses of the Qin Dynasty. According to Cui Lintao, mayor of Xian, the festival is being held to open the city wider to the outside world, and promote the city's economic and cultural co-operation and exchange with foreign countries, as a return to the prosperous days of the "Silk Road." ■

Development of Forest Tourism

Gao Dezhan, minister of Forestry, said at a recent working conference on forest tourism that the Ministry of Forestry has tried its best to attract foreign capital for the development of tourism in this field. He announced the establishment of the Office in Charge of Forest Tourism.

At present China has 91 forest parks and 14 international hunting grounds established with the approval of the Ministry of Forestry. Forestry departments at various levels have invested a total of 100 million yuan in the construction of hotels, restaurants, shops and other facilities in forest tourist centres and in training of a contingent of managerial personnel.

By the end of last year, forest tourist areas had received more than 100 million tourists, including 1 million travellers and hunters from abroad. ■

Boom in N. Europe-Beijing Air Flights

North European countries are experiencing a China travel boom. Flights to China are swamped. China International Aviation Co. has booked out all tickets for the year on the weekly Beijing-Stockholm flight. The four regular flights a week on three air routes between capital cities of North Eu-

ropean countries and Beijing have lagged far behind increasing demand. The three airlines involved have doubled numbers of flights since last spring. China International Aviation Co. has also increased its flights to Stockholm, making two round trips a week. Finnish Airlines has increased flights from Helsinki to Beijing from one to two a week. SAS has added one flight to its Copenhagen to Beijing flight, up from the original twice a week. SAS has also opened the SAS Royal Hotel in Beijing. The Copenhagen-Beijing route is among the airline's most profitable ones. ■

News in Brief

● **China Eastern Airlines new route to Europe.** On June 10, China Eastern Airlines opened regular air flights from Shanghai to Brussels via Beijing and Bahrain. China's first air route from Shanghai to Europe, it will soon extend to Madrid.

The flight from Shanghai to Brussels takes about 17 hours. The MD-11 passenger aircraft imported recently by China Eastern Airlines leaves Shanghai on Wednesdays and Saturdays and returns from Brussels on Thursdays and Sundays.

China Eastern Airlines will open air flights from Shanghai to Seattle and Chicago within the year. It plans to open new air routes from Shanghai to America, Australia, European and Asian countries.

● **World natural wonders.** Two officials from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recently inspected the Huanglong and Jiuzhaigou scenic sites in Sichuan Province. They believe the two should be cited as part of the world natural heritage and can be entered in the *World Natural Heritage List* edited by UNESCO.

Other places qualified for listing are Zhangjiajie in Hunan, Huangguoshi Waterfalls in Guizhou and the Stone Forest in Yunnan. ■

New Measures to Further Open Tianjin

Tianjin, one of China's three municipalities directly under the jurisdiction of the Central Government, as well as north China's economic centre, recently announced its economic development strategy for the coming decade. The plan is to build the city into the socialist Hong Kong of north China.

At the Tianjin Symposium on Reform, Open Policies and Economic Strategy held in late June by the Tianjin municipal government and the China Representative Office of the United Nations Development Programme, Tianjin mayor Nie Bichu noted that the coming decade would focus on developing its bonded zone, the economic and technological development zone and the high technology industrial park. The coastal region is now being developed into belts of concentrated industrial bases. There are belts of raw materials processing, chemical and high-tech industries, all focused on international business. The city centre will be turned into an area for finance, commercial trade, information and the tertiary industries. New economic development zones will be opened in rural areas.

In order to attain its target, Tianjin has adopted the following measures:

- The bonded zone will be expanded and international entrepot trade will be developed by inviting large foreign trading companies to set up business there;

- The real estate market will open up comprehensively. Domestic and foreign funds will be used to develop barren and uncultivated state-owned land;

- A number of facilities be-

nefitting the tertiary industry will be constructed with domestic and foreign funding. Retail sales markets, foreign-funded banks and financial concerns will set up to improve the city's financial, commercial and trading centre;

- Foreign funds will be used to update existing enterprises, and a number of large and medium-sized state-owned enterprises will be selected to upgrade themselves with all or part of their assets through joint ventures and co-production; and

- Through the establishment of international retail chains and using commissioned and agents, foreign trade will be developed on many levels.

by Li Ping

Opening up the East China Sea

As a means of developing its offshore oil industry, the Chinese government has decided to open part of the East China Sea to international investment. To do this, the China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC) has issued the fourth round bidding notice to representatives of foreign oil companies doing business in China.

The total area open to bidding covers 72,800 square km in two separate regions. The northern region of 18,800 square km is situated 230 km east of Shanghai. The larger, 54,000-square-km southern region lies 110 km east of Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province.

The CNOOC will, beginning on July 31, issue bidding documents to all foreign firms that have completed bid applications.

The East China Sea is one of the world's as yet fully untapped sources for oil. During the past few years, China has begun ex-

ploiting this source on a limited scale. The results indicate there are considerable oil and gas reserves in the area.

The first co-operative ventures China undertook with foreign countries were those having to do with the exploitation of China's undersea oil reserves. Since 1980, China has signed 70 oil production contracts and agreements with 50 oil companies in 13 countries. By the end of 1991, foreign companies had invested a total of US\$3.1 billion in exploitation and development. At present, six co-operative oilfields have been put into operation and nine oil and gas fields are now under construction. The CNOOC estimates China's undersea crude oil reserves exceed 3 million tons. ■

Xian Speeds Opening Up

Since the beginning of this year, Xian, the starting point for the Silk Road in ancient China, has markedly quickened its opening to the outside world. Statistics show that in the first four months of this year, the number of approved foreign-funded projects saw an increase of 400 percent over the same period last year. In the first quarter of this year, the city received 52,000 overseas tourists and the tourism industry earned 50 million yuan in foreign exchange, increases of 27.2 percent and 88.4 percent respectively over the corresponding period last year.

Hosting economic and trade talks in Beijing and other countries is an important measure of the city's accelerated opening up. In April this year, Xian successfully hosted the China Silk Road Trade Festival in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, which helped

foreign businessmen a better understanding of the city. In mid-May, Cui Lintao, mayor of Xian, held an economic and technological co-operation negotiation meeting in Beijing. Within three days, 43 contracts were concluded with foreign business representatives on the establishment of joint ventures. The total contracted value came to US\$157 million, including US\$82.98 million to be contributed by foreign investors.

It is reported that Xian will host the Xian Industrial Products Fair in Moscow, a news conference on economic and technological co-operation in Hong Kong and an information meeting on Xian's investment environment in Tokyo.

Mayor Cui Lintao announced at a press conference at the Beijing International Hotel that the Xian municipal government is determined to quicken the reform and opening up, absorb foreign capital and introduce foreign technology in a variety of ways, expand its economic and technological co-operation with other countries and strive to build Xian into a major entry point into China's interior.

by Jin Ling

Co-operative Projects in Shanxi Province

Recently, Shanxi Province published more than 100 economic and technological projects for co-operation with foreign enterprises. The projects include the establishment of joint ventures, co-funded and foreign-funded enterprises, compensatory trade, the import of spot exchange and projects to develop real estate.

Liang Haosheng, director of the Department of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade for

the province, described the general features of these projects. First, they involve a wide range of trades, including metallurgy, coal mining, mechanical and electronics production, building materials, light industrial and textile production, food, water conservancy, communications and real estate. Second, special attention is being given to projects importing high technology. Some projects up for consideration involve the Shanxi No.7 Machinery Factory capable to produce high-speed precision digital control lathes; a Datong company able to produce 250,000 tons of liquified coal annually. The Taiyuan Optical Fibre Factory will import technology and absorb foreign capital to turn out 200,000 km of optical fibre each year, and the Taiyuan No. 4 Radio Factory will produce low-light scotopic vision instruments. All these products will meet international standards. Third, investment is encouraged in projects to improve the investment environment. Such projects include communication systems, highway and other transportation networks, hotel construction and real estate development. One example of the latter is the recreational area planned for the Holiday Village, on the southern outskirts of Taiyuan, which will have a playground, refreshments area and villas. And fourth, about 15 percent of the large projects will raise investments exceeding US\$10 million.

These projects were brought up for discussion with foreign business people at the Shanxi Provincial Export Commodities Exhibition and the Economic and Technological Co-operative Symposium held in Hong Kong from July 6 to 14.

Possessing China's largest energy resources, Shanxi produces over 25 percent of the na-

tion's total coal annually. Since the government introduced the policy of reform and opening to the outside world, Shanxi's economic and trade relations with other countries have developed rapidly. Last year, for instance, Shanxi exported US\$504 million worth of products. By the end of last year, the province had established 139 joint ventures, co-funded and wholly foreign-funded enterprises. In the first five months of this year, 55 foreign-funded enterprises raised the list to 194, exceeding the increase during the whole of 1991. ■

High-tech Product Geared to World Market

The high-voltage silicon rectifier made by the Dalian 3820 Transistor Factory is technologically advanced and of high quality. A component of an engine which is exported to more than ten countries and regions, it commands more than 90 percent of the domestic market. In 1990, it won a gold medal, China's highest award for product quality.

Factory director Zhang Dafu said that the technology has held a leading position in the world ever since it was first developed in 1975.

Advantages of this product over the traditional thyatron are its smaller size, energy conservation, stable performance, long service life as well as non-polluting characteristics.

According to Zhang Dafu, there have been no reports of failures of the 15,000 high-voltage silicon rectifiers the company has manufactured since 1975. In contrast, the average life-span of domestically produced thyatron is no more than 2,000 hours. As an illustra-

tion of differences in life-span, a high-voltage rectifier for the equipment of the Shanghai Steel Pipe Factory imported from Britain had to be changed at least once every eight months. Nine years ago the factory decided to replace the rectifier with one produced at Zhang's factory, and that same rectifier continues to work perfectly.

Zhang also noted that his factory is planning to further expand its export business and is seeking international co-operation. The factory is willing to consider several types of co-operation with other companies, including the establishment of joint ventures in China and abroad, co-production, and technology transfers.

High-voltage silicon rectifiers have been widely used in broadcasting and television transmitters, the launching of satellites, electron-positron colliders and high-frequency dielectric heating (e.g. high-frequency welding, induction hardening, high-frequency drying).

by Han Baocheng

Huadu Earns 200 Million Yuan in 10 Years

July 31 this year was the tenth anniversary of the Beijing Huadu Hotel. In the past decade, the hotel has received more than 1 million domestic and foreign guests. The annual average rate of occupancy surpasses 75 percent, ranking Huadu first in the trade. The hotel's receipts for the past ten years come to 200 million yuan, and the state's share of this has topped a whopping 75 million yuan. Huadu paid off its loans incurred during construction 39 months ahead of time.

Operated as part of the Beijing Tourism Group, the three-star Huadu Hotel was designed, constructed, and continues to be financed and managed by Chinese.

In order to ensure that it meets international standards, the hotel has sent dozens of its management staff to the United States, Austria, Japan, Italy, Hong Kong, and Cyprus to study advanced hotel management methods. The combination of foreign management expertise with their own experiences at

home can result in a complete management system meeting advanced international standards for hotel management and services.

In addition, Huadu has joined funds with a Taiwan businessman to establish the Beijing Huadu Entertainment Palace Co. Ltd. which extends the groups involvement in the services industry. It is reported that Huadu plans to delve further into this field in the future. ■

Matsushita Technology in China

Recently, Matsushita Electronics Industries signed an agreement to provide China with technology to produce precision electric motors for video-recorders and basic spare parts and components. They have also delivered letters of intent for establishing co-operative ventures.

China has not had the ability to produce domestic video-recorders from start to finish. Matsushita's co-operation will result in the setting up of a production system capable of an annual output of 1.5 million spare parts and components by 1994. By that time, China will have constructed its first domestic video-recorder production line.

In 1991, video-recorder sales in China came to about 1.6 million. Of these, 200,000 were assembled with the assistance of Japanese factories and the remainder were imported from Japan as finished products.

Matsushita already has video-recorder assembly plants in Beijing and Dalian set up prior to 1991 with a combined annual production of 60,000 models. As the Japanese TV factories expand their markets into the nation, the demand for video-recorders in China is sure to expand correspondingly. ■



Part of Huadu Hotel.

WU MING

Mysterious Altai Rock Paintings

The exhibition of Altai Rock Paintings, jointly sponsored by the Xinjiang Altai prefectural cultural department, the cultural relic protection agency and Xinjiang Museum, was recently held in the Museum of Chinese History in Beijing.

These rock paintings, depicting herds of goats, wild deer, and hunters with bows and arrows as well as sexual acts, can be traced back to the Bronze Age, more than 5,000 years ago.

The Altai Mountains, which lie in the middle of Eurasia, are situated on the borders of China, Mongolia and the former Soviet Union. The Altai region is located in the south of the central mountains, covering a total area of 117,000 square km.

China's scientific research on the Altai rock paintings began in the 1960s and the 1980s saw its most active period. No less than 75 groups of rock paintings have been initially confirmed while others still remain undiscovered.

Altai region, which boasts a long history, was a major hunting range and habitat for nomadic tribes in ancient times. In 1989 Chinese archaeologists found stone age relics there. They gathered more than 180 stone implements which attested to the antiquity of the region. It was subsequently peopled by many ethnic groups such as the Sienpi, Huns, Turks and Mongols, who left behind a rich cultural heritage both above and underground.

The Altai rock paintings, distributed along the 1,000 km mountains and steppes,

have been designated a 1000-km-long art gallery.

Altai rock paintings can be classified into two major categories: open-air and cave rock paintings. The largest group of open-air paintings covers an area of several hundred thousand or millions of square metres. Cave paintings, chiefly done in red dye with some painted in white, conjure up a grave and eerie atmosphere. Some caves are believed to have been places of worship for the ancients.

Altai rock paintings vividly depict animals, hunting on horseback, herding, primitive vehicles, totem signs and sexual acts, among other things. Scenes

of hunting indicates this was an important early human activity in this region. Some paintings show hunting tools and methods.

Academic research circles believe the horse was first domesticated in Central Asia in the Bronze Age. Many Altai paintings portray horses. Some are standing still and look very tame. However, it is not evident whether horses were used in hunting.

Many scholars believe the dog was the first animal tamed by man but images of humans do not appear with those of dogs. It is also difficult to determine whether other animals were domesticated or not.

Elephants and kangaroos which inhabit tropical regions appear in some of the paintings. Further studies are needed to provide an explanation for this.

The extinct wild ox and David's deer also can be found in the paintings, indirectly revealing the long history of this region.

It is still in dispute who created these splendid rock paintings and when. Some researchers have attributed their beginnings to the Warring States period, about 2,000 years ago, while others date them to about 3,000 years ago. However, most researchers believe they were produced during the early period of the Bronze Age, about 5,000 years ago.

China's Altai rock paintings are the most important link in the chain of rock paintings ranging across Eurasia and the pasture lands of North America. They provide crucial data for understanding the early activities of the human race and migration between the Asian and American continents.

by Wei Liming



A rock painting.

Traditional Yunnan Musical Instruments

The tone of the *bawu* (a bamboo pipe-shaped clarinet) is low and pleasant, while the melody of the *hulusheng* (a gourd-shaped wind instrument with inserted bamboo pipes) is slightly pensive. The Yunnan National Musical Instrument Concert performed by the Yunnan Song and Dance Troupe not long ago demonstrated the various musical instruments of Yunnan, the home of the greatest number of China's ethnic minorities. The most intriguing phenomena was music emanating from ordinary tree leaves.

There are 26 ethnic minorities with extremely rich musical resources in Yunnan Province. Statistics show that Yunnan boasts 200 of the 500 odd musical instruments of China's 55 minority races. Each unrolls many traditional musical themes. In today's world with its numerous musical genres, China's musicians, including those in Yunnan, have long searched to solve the dilemma of how to keep national music alive and developing. Since 1949, many excellent musical works which have produced a nationwide impact have emerged from Yunnan. People are invariably attracted by the strong ethnic features and melody of Yunnan music.

The fresh music created since 1991 displayed a unique artistry, although the works were not massive in scale. *Dance With Left Foot* contained a dancing rhythm to the simple sound of a four-stringed instrument, while the melody of a small *erhu* (two-stringed Chinese fiddle) was unrestrained and smooth. The music showed that in Yunnan ethnic music, songs and dances do not exist separately. The Yi say, "People cannot help dancing



A dance to the beat of the elephant-foot drum.

whenever they hear the sound of string music." One Jingpo work entitled *Wenbeng* conjured up images of the plateau, drawing on modern composition methods. The Yi music *Asuzhao* adapted the traditional melodies of folk songs and performances popular in Yunnan Province. It deftly used complex tones to express the emotions of maidens.

A new music band playing the musical instruments of various ethnic groups performed. Each of the themes in the concert was played by a different band, displaying varied artistic allure and expression. The work *Scene of the Rain Forest* was struck up by a percussion band with Yunnan ethnic percussion instruments. It began with a pair of bronze drums and a large wooden drum, followed by a low gong, a big drum, an elephant-foot drum, a bamboo slip, a Bai angle drum, a Dai celesta and a cow bell and so on. The music gradually grew to a high crescendo, ranging from simple to complex, from low to high, and from old to modern. It created the echo of a tropical rain forest scene and also outlined the main theme of percus-

sion from ancient times to today.

The work *The Ringing Horse Team Coming From a Mountain Valley* was played mainly by *zhi-di* (a Chinese straight bamboo flute), leaves, a four-stringed instrument, cow bells, bamboo slithers and other Yunnan ethnic minority musical instruments. With themes from folk music and other tunes, the band created a piece of beautiful music, which conjured romantic images in people's minds of the horse goods teams of the ancient "Southwest Silk Road."

The music for this concert was devised and orchestrated to an original simple folk flavour, to achieve a unique style. It brought a fresh and engaging wild mountain wind to listeners craving modern music.

Chen Zhixin, musical director of the concert, said, "We hope to form a southwest genre in national music through our unremitting efforts."

Yunnan ethnic minority musical instruments are not only numerous but have a long history. Yunnan folk music was recorded in documents early in the Han and the Jin dynasties dating back

2,000 years ago. Unearthed bronze drums and sets of bells vividly reflect the bygone age of Yunnan music. From the 86 different wind instruments, including Chinese wind pipes, we can see the development and evolution of the winds of the Chinese nation, while the 23 kinds of stringed instruments have opened a new train of thought about their history. Yunnan also has 21 plucked instruments and 46 percussion instruments which range from as large as 500 kg to as small as a fist. These instruments can be said to reveal how existing musical instruments developed. They reflect the way the esthetic standards of Yunnan ethnic groups formed in different social and geological environ-

ments, showing the great vitality of their traditional culture.

Contemporary musicians and the inheritors of this rich national music are trying to rearrange it. Many ethnic instruments have limitations but people do not think they should be kept in museum showcases just for display because of this reason. They should play a bigger role in modern people's lives. Over the past few decades, careful efforts have been made to restructure musical instruments, with satisfying results. The Yunnan National Musical Instrument Concert used many such instruments. The *hulusi* (a gourd vertical bamboo flute) was an example. In the past it had a set of eight tones with incomplete scales. The

new *hulusi* not only retains the original tone, but also has expanded its compass and enriched its range of expression. In 1989 it won a special science award from the Yunnan Provincial Cultural Department, and a third-class scientific progress prize from the Ministry of Culture. Alteration of instruments such as the *bawu*, *yueqin* (4-stringed full-moon-shaped Chinese mandolin), elephant-foot-shaped drum, and others have also been approved by experts of the Appraisal Meeting of National Musical Instrument Reform under the Yunnan Provincial Cultural Department. Work is proceeding on other instruments.

by Feng Jing

Hongbao Attempt to Cure AIDS

Hongbao, a new medicine produced from traditional Chinese medicinal herbs to prevent and cure AIDS, was invented after years of research by Zhang Beisong, a pharmaceutical expert of the Military Medical Science Institute and director of the China Global AIDS Foundation. It won the 1991 national new technology and new product gold medal, and has obtained patents and state approval. Mass production has begun of the drug.

In March 1989, Hongbao was sent to the AIDS Prevention Centre in San Francisco, California. Clinical trials were made on 18 AIDS patients. The concoction had an obvious effect on AIDS patients who took it for only three months. Their immune function was raised by a substan-



Zhang Beisong (middle), and his Hongbao.

tial margin. Clinical trials did not uncover any toxic reactions or side effects.

Hongbao used as a medication to reinforce immune function in the human body has also been used to effectively treat or cure tumor, cancer and hepatitis B patients.

The research results were

reported at the 5th International Meeting for AIDS held in June 1989 in Montreal, the Pan-American Meeting on AIDS held in October 1989 in San Francisco and the 6th International Meeting on AIDS held in June 1990 in San Francisco. News of the medicine aroused great interest in medical circles.

by Zhao Jianwei

Keep-Fit Waistcoat

Jointly developed by Longhai Lanxin United Economic Development Corp. and the Shaanxi Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the Keep-Fit Waistcoat is a major new invention patented by the Patent Office of the People's Republic of China. Prepared with precious Chinese medicinal materials on the basis of the secret recipes of Sun Simiao (king of traditional Chinese pharmacy), meridian doctrine and acupuncture principles, the waistcoat incorporates a series of prescriptions to strengthen the human body, prolong life and cure illnesses. It is now being exported abroad.



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