

# People's 人民中国 China

April 1, 1951

## **New China's Foreign Trade**

— Li Ching-yun

## **The Japanese People Will Smash U.S. Plots to Re-arm Japan**

— Kawamura Kazuo

## **Peking's All-Circles Conference**

— P. C. Yu

# 7

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Short Story: *An Iron Chain*

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## CONTENTS

April 1, 1951

### EDITORIALS

Asia's Wealth Belongs to the People .....	3
Rice from China .....	4
Fascist Police Rule in Malaya .....	4

### ARTICLES

New China's Foreign Trade.....	<i>Li Ching-yun</i>	5
The Japanese People Will Smash U.S. Plots To Re-arm Japan.....	<i>Kawamura Kazuo</i>	8
Peking's All-Circles Conference.....	<i>P. C. Yu</i>	11
The Great Unity of the Chinese People (2).....	<i>Cheng Hsin-ju</i>	13

### PICTORIALS

The New China—A Big Family of Fraternal Nationalities .....	15
The National Minorities Dance .....	16
Sino-Korean Friendship .....	18
The Gold Fish.....	<i>Scissor cut by a peasant woman</i> 32

### FEATURES

An Iron Chain.....	<i>Lu Chih</i>	19
Workers Elect Their Own Representatives.....	<i>Lu Nien-kao</i>	22
Report from the Korean Front.....	<i>Special Correspondent</i>	23
Japan...Enemy or Ally?.....	<i>An Australian Contributor</i>	26

### CULTURAL FRONT

Bookstores for the People .....	25
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CURRENT CHINA March 11—25, 1951.....	27
--------------------------------------	----

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## Asia's Wealth Belongs to the People

The imperialists have concocted a special economic theory to mask their exploitation and despoliation of colonial and semi-colonial countries. According to their "theory," the economic backwardness of Asia is due mainly to the primitive technique of the Asian countries, to their low labour productivity and over-population.

In its *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East, 1948*, the U.N. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, basing its conclusions on this typically imperialist viewpoint, gives four reasons for the poverty of the colonial and semi-colonial Asian peoples. These are: 1) the predominance of agriculture in Asian economy; 2) under-development of industrial resources; 3) low productivity of labour and 4) pressure of population on resources.

This "analysis" deliberately ignores the fundamental reason for Asia's poverty—the exploitation of the colonial and semi-colonial peoples by the foreign imperialists and their allies, the feudal class and compradore capitalists. Fearing to disclose the real reason for the poverty of Asia, the authors of this "analysis" put results in place of causes.

The whole theory of the "development of backward countries" devised by the American and British ruling class is based on this false analysis. Announcing his Point Four programme on January 20, 1949, Truman vauntingly declared: "The U.S.A. is pre-eminent among the nations in the development of industrial and scientific techniques...I believe we should make available to peace-loving peoples the benefit of our knowledge in order to help them realise their aspirations for a better life."

The British Labour Party used similarly high flown language in propagandising the Labour Government's plan for the exploitation of colonial countries entitled *The Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme*: "Great Britain and the colonies have gone into partnership to liquidate ignorance, poverty and disease."

But what are the facts behind these grandiloquent declarations?

The truth is often blurted out. John Abbink, State Department consultant responsible for the direction of the Point Four programme, openly acknowledged on March 23, 1950: "The U.S. must be prepared to guide the inevitable, large-scale industrialisation of under-developed countries if it is to cushion the shock of intensive economic development abroad on the American economy. It is this conviction that led to the framing of the Point Four programme."

The Point Four programme is a plan for the export of private U.S. capital to gain super-profits, establish economic control and obstruct the independent economic development of the "backward" areas. According to a November, 1950, report of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the profits of the American private capitalists from the oilfields of the Middle East gave them a dividend of 25.6 per cent.

The British government states that it spent £25,609,108 between 1940 and 1949 under the *Colonial Development Scheme*. But in this same period (1940-1948), Britain ran up a debt of £600,000,000 with its colonies. In 1948 alone the United Africa Co., one British company in South Africa, made a profit of £25,000,000, that is, almost the total sum spent by the *Colonial Development Scheme* in nine years.

A mass of similar incontrovertible facts shows that it is precisely the exploitation of imperialist monopoly capital that transforms the colonial and dependent countries into providers of raw materials and markets for the U.S.A., Britain and other imperialist countries and thrusts them ever deeper into the abyss of poverty. The peoples of the colonial and semi-colonial countries of Asia are still suffering from this terrible yoke. But they are daily becoming more keenly aware of the real cause of their misery and of the remedy.

The true voice of the Asian peoples and their demand for freedom from poverty was heard in the speeches of Liu Ning-yi, head of the World Federation of Trade Unions' delegation to the UNECAFE, and of the Soviet delegate. Liu Ning-yi pointed out that "the real cause of the economic backwardness of Asia and the Far East and of the long years of suffering of the Asian peoples under sub-human standards of living, is that these countries do not have an independent economy, but are controlled by foreign monopoly capital and the economy of the imperialist countries." By pointing to the successful experiences of New China, he showed that "the establishment of independent and sovereign national economies provides the only sound solution to the economic problems of Asia and the Far East."

The tremendous achievements of the People's Republic of China in economic construction prove beyond doubt the correctness of this analysis. People's China has in the main abolished the system of feudal exploitation. It has confiscated the land of the feudal landlords over a huge territory and redistributed it among the peasants. The agricultural productive forces of the country has thus been liberated and favourable conditions for industrialisation are being rapidly developed on a large scale.

The shattering of imperialist rule and the gaining of complete national independence is the necessary pre-requisite for the realisation of such far-reaching democratic social-economic changes. The Chinese people have won this pre-requisite by their own victorious struggle against imperialist domination and its agents. Their experiences are of enormous value to the exploited peoples of Asia in finding their path to victory. The imperialists' specious economic "theories" fall to pieces in the face of the enlightening example of the Chinese and other liberated Asian peoples who have found the true path to freedom, prosperity and plenty. The victory of the Chinese people shows that by taking the path of determined anti-imperialist struggle the colonial and dependent peoples will win sovereignty, economic independence and a bountiful life.

## ***Rice from China***

The first shipments of a consignment of 50,000 tons of rice have arrived in India from the People's Republic of China. This rice is in exchange for thousands of gunny sacks under the terms of the Sino-Indian Barter Agreement.

The Chinese and Indian peoples are celebrating this historic event in the trade relations between the two greatest Asian countries.

The *Naya Sabera* of Lucknow states: "This shipment from New China has brought in the form of rice a message of goodwill and friendship to the Indian people." It also draws the attention of its readers to the fact of the prompt delivery of these shipments in contrast to the dilatoriness of the Americans in shipping grains urgently requested by the Indian government to relieve a food shortage. "It is clear" the paper comments, "who has genuine concern for the welfare of the Indian people."

It is a just comment. Trade between the people's China and India is different in its very nature from that between India and any imperialist country. It is an expression of mutual aid on a basis of

equality between two peoples who have suffered cruel years of imperialist exploitation. The Indian press has been quick to see the further significance of this shipment of rice from China.

China in the past suffered yearly from famine. It was ravished for more than a decade by foreign invasion and American instigated civil war. Yet within a year of the establishment of the People's Government, as a result of the land reform and the fact that the people have been able to develop their economy along lines determined by themselves in full sovereignty and with the fraternal aid of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, her people not only have a sufficiency themselves but are able to export rice to aid others. China has shown the way to abundance for the Asian peoples.

The mutual aid between the people's China and India demonstrated by these shipments and the advance of the people's China to prosperity in the peaceful construction that has made these shipments possible, will further cement the ties of friendship between the Asian peoples. It will strengthen the defence of peace in the Far East and the world.

## ***Fascist Police Rule in Malaya***

In our last issue we briefly mentioned the cable sent to the Attlee Government by a Chinese people's relief mission requesting permission to investigate the position of the Chinese population in Malaya which, it is known, is being subjected to intensified repressions.

It is not surprising that up to the present no reply has been received from London, because the British imperialists know well that the case against them is unanswerable. Nevertheless by refusing to let a relief mission go to Malaya, the British Government makes it clear that it is attempting to hide the horrible conditions under which its victims live—not only the overseas Chinese, but the whole of the Malayan population.

Malaya today is under fascist police rule. Under its so-called "emergency regulations," the British colonial authorities have recently intensified their ruthless oppression of the Chinese nationals of Malaya. Chinese schools have been closed, thousands of Chinese men, women and even children have been flung into jails or concentration camps. Thousands more have been ruthlessly uprooted and deported to China. Frequent reports have been received of the slaughter of Chinese people in the Malayan countryside. In spite of the repeated protests of the people of Malaya and elsewhere, the savage persecutions have grown in scale and beastliness with each passing month.

The persecution of the Chinese community in Malaya is part of the futile attempt of the imperialists to suppress the national liberation movement which

is now surging through Southeast Asia. The British colonial authorities have concentrated their attacks on the Chinese community—which forms half of the Malayan population and is the largest single national group there—because they vainly believe that by suppressing the Chinese, they can perpetuate their reactionary rule and continue their lucrative exploitation of this rich country.

They do not wish to read the signs of the times. The powerful national liberation movement of Malaya whose aim is to end the yoke of British imperialism has a wide popular support that cannot be destroyed by deportations, concentration camps nor terror.

Malaya today is a mirror of British imperialism in its death pangs. When a government has to rely on sheer brute force to suppress the just demands of a people—its days are numbered. The heroic Malayan struggle for national liberation shows that the broad masses of its people are determined to throw British imperialist rule into the garbage of history. No amount of terror will save their oppressors from ultimate collapse.

The Chinese people meanwhile will hold the British government responsible for all the losses suffered by their brothers and sisters as a result of this criminal campaign of oppression in Malaya. The continuation of such brutalities as we are witnessing now in Malaya cannot be tolerated. The British government therefore must bear the full consequences of persisting in its frantic policy of bloody suppression in Malaya.

# New China's Foreign Trade

Li Ching-yun

For the first time since the Opium War in 1840, China now has her own independent foreign trade policy. For more than 100 years China suffered from imperialist economic encroachment which forced her to serve as a dumping ground for surplus foreign goods and a supplier of cheap raw materials. Today China knows what she wants in trading with foreign countries and how to get it for her people.

The new foreign trade policy of the Central People's Government of China protects home industrial and agricultural production, and prevents this production from being crippled by imported goods. In his May Day Address, 1950, China's Vice-Chairman Liu Shao-chi said:

"Imperialism has been driven from China and the many prerogatives of the imperialists in China have been abolished. The customs and foreign trade policy of New China has become an important means of safeguarding the development of the country's industry.

"That is to say, the key to China's front door is in our own pockets instead of in the pockets of the imperialists and their running dogs, as was formerly the case. China's industry from now on will not suffer from the competition of the cheap commodities of the imperialists. China's raw materials will first of all supply the needs of her own industry. This clears away one of the biggest obstacles that has hindered the development of China's industry for the past hundred years."

What are the changes resulting from this new foreign trade policy initiated in 1949? There are three of special importance.

## No More Non-Essential Imports

First, China now orders only what she really needs, and no longer imports non-essential consumer goods as under the Kuomintang regime.

In 1932, in the purchases from abroad made by the reactionary Chiang Kai-shek government, rice, wheat and sugar occupied 20.75 per cent of the total value of imports for that year; cotton cloth and cotton products, 8.55 per cent; kerosene, 5.77 per cent. These few items alone—all of them consumer goods—totalled 35.07 per cent. Other items on the import list consisted mainly of flour, tobacco, lumber, coal, and even marine products and canned goods. The one major item for industrial use, cotton, totalled only 11.33 per cent of the total value of imports.

Four years later, in 1936, the situation was as follows:

### CHINA'S IMPORTS IN 1936

Description	% of Total Value
Manufactured Goods . . . . .	55.41
Semi-Manufactured Goods . . . . .	20.91
Foodstuffs, Tobacco and Beverages . . . . .	13.14
Raw Materials . . . . .	10.54
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Furthermore, it should be noted that under manufactured and semi-manufactured products, which together constituted 76.32 per cent of the 1936 imports, machinery and tools, essential to industrial production, accounted for only 6.37 per cent, and chemical raw materials, for 9.37 per cent.

What did all this mean? It meant that the policy of the old, semi-colonial China was not to develop home production and construction. It was a policy that made this country neither more nor less than a market for the surplus commodities of imperialist countries. That an agricultural country like China imported large quantities of grain reveals the extent to which the nation's rural economy had been neglected and ruined by Chiang Kai-shek, obedient servant of American imperialism.

## The KMT's "Open Door" Policy

After V-J Day, the KMT reactionaries went even further in their sell-out of China's national sovereignty. They gave extensive economic concessions to the American imperialists in return for supplies of arms and ammunition in a vain attempt to prevent their tottering rule from falling to pieces. China's "door" had thus been forced wide "open"—open to a steady stream of surplus American goods, some camouflaged as "American aid" and "relief supplies", some simply smuggled in by American naval vessels in broad daylight. The key to China's front door was then in the pockets of Wall Street's agent, L. K. Little, who was Inspector General of the Chinese Customs from 1943 to 1949.

The KMT-controlled areas were literally flooded with American goods from V-J Day until liberation. Non-essential U.S. imports—to mention a few—cloth, plastic goods, cigarettes, patent medicines, soap, toothpaste, nylon stockings, lipsticks and even toilet paper drugged the market. China's home industries were almost strangled.

This situation changed in 1949, as the people took power when the victorious PLA was sweeping southward. Ports and major cities were liberated. Railway lines were gradually restored. Vast areas of the country came under the people's government. Imports began to reflect the new direction in which the whole country was turning. In that year, for example, New China's cotton imports represented 13.97 per cent of the total value of all imports; chemical products, 10.21 per cent; fuel oil and kerosene, 9.55 per cent; metal manufactures, 7.65 per cent; rice, 5.97 per cent; paper, 5.65 per cent; machinery and tools, 5.34 per cent; dyes, 5.07 per cent; and lubricating grease and paraffin wax, 3.73 per cent. Other imports consisted of rubber, flour and grain, gasoline, cotton goods, miscellaneous metals, vehicles and vessels, etc.

The above figures show that even under the difficult war-time conditions of 1949, liberated China

## China's Trade Exhibition

The wealth of China shone under bright lights beneath the lofty shadowed ceiling of the Tai Miao, the central hall of the Peking Working People's Palace of Culture. Jade from Canton. Furs from the North. Silks from Hangchow. Enamels from Peking. A thousand specimens of the mineral riches of the land. Glittering steel rings from the industrial furnaces and presses of the Northeast. Pottery. Insulators. Radios. Dynamos. Soya beans with their myriad uses....

Sponsored by the Committee of Economic and Financial Affairs and the Ministry of Trade, the preview of the more than 7,000 item exhibition designed to show China's trade versatility at the Leipzig International Fair and in Prague attracted nearly 10,000 people during the few days it was open in Peking.

The Tai Miao, once part of the Imperial "Forbidden City," has surely never before seen such magnificence as in this review of the export products of the People's China. Here were the creations that brought particular fame to China: ivory carved in the most intricate forms in the world. Cloissone wares from Peking's craftsmen in ancient and modern designs. Rich brocades. Cottons for everyday wear, sturdy and well-designed. Canteens of tea: the best green tea of the

West Lake, Chekiang, the red tea of Chimen, Anhwei. Furs: mink, marten, sable, fox, expertly trimmed and dressed. Here also are the products that have made China famous in the industrial raw material markets of the world: Northeast China's soya beans, ground-nuts, Tientsin bristles, horsehair, feathers, egg products, dried fruits and spices; the metals and minerals: antimony, tin, tungsten, wolfram and coal. Such established trade goods as hair-nets, sausage-casings, straw goods, ceramics, herbs, cumquats and ginger.

But here, too, are many products new to Chinese industry: insulating materials and ball bearings, rubber tires and metal ware, porcelains for industrial uses, steel sheets, tubing and wires, precision tools and micrometers, electric bulbs and electric appliances....

This is the first time that China has participated at the Leipzig Fair, which the press of the German Democratic Republic has described this year as "a door to peaceful trade with the East," a contribution to world peace by aid through economic and cultural interchange between countries. This exhibit is a vivid testimony to the vast potentialities of the new China, in which the great natural resources of the land are at last united with the mighty liberated creative forces of its people.

was already stressing the import of equipment and raw materials for industrial production. There were still some consumer goods imported, as many parts of the country were not liberated until late in 1949.

In 1950 there was a basic change in China's foreign trade situation. During the year, the import items were as follows:

### CHINA'S IMPORTS IN 1950

Description	% of Total Value
Cotton	18.04
Rubber	11.52
Iron and Steel Materials	11.34
Machinery	8.25
Gasoline, Kerosene	6.29
Medical Goods	4.03
Vehicles and Vessels	3.24
Gunny Bags	2.95
Chemicals	2.34
Lubricating Oil	2.19
Dyestuff	2.01
Sugar	1.99
Sulphate of Ammonia	1.96
Copper	1.76
Cable Wire	1.47
Newsprint	1.25
Tires	1.15
Miscellaneous	18.22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.00</b>

These imports fell mainly into the categories of industrial raw materials, machinery, equipment of

various kinds, fertiliser or packing materials, all essential to the nation's industrial and agricultural production.

What do these facts show? They indicate that China had switched from the import of consumer goods to the import of tools for production and raw materials that facilitate the growth of home industry and agriculture. This was possible because the Chinese government had a correct, positive and integrated foreign trade policy, and because the customs administration was at last in the hands of the Chinese people. China, in short, ceased to be a dumping ground for surplus American goods.

### New Orientation

Second, China began to trade more and more with the U.S.S.R. and New Democratic countries, and less and less with capitalist countries. Her economic dependence upon the latter countries, which tried to keep her a perpetual semi-colony, has been drastically lessened and is constantly decreasing.

In 1936, a year before the Anti-Japanese War, China's trade with the United States occupied 22.54 per cent of the total value of her foreign trade; with Japan, 15.50 per cent; with Germany, 11.47 per cent; with Great Britain, 10.62 per cent; and with Hongkong, 7.53 per cent. But trade with the Soviet Union was then only 0.35 per cent, a negligible amount.

From V-J Day until liberation the U.S. dominated in China's foreign trade. Indeed, in 1946 foreign

trade carried on with the U.S. reached as high as 53.10 per cent, more than half of China's total foreign trade.

In 1949, however, there was a marked increase in the trade between this country and the Soviet Union, which amounted to 7.76 per cent of the total value of China's foreign trade for that year, rising from the less than half a per cent of 1936 to third place in 1949. This country was still doing most of its trade with capitalist countries and their colonies, particularly Hongkong, in 1949. For example, trade with Hongkong amounted to 28.29 per cent; with the U.S., 24.46 per cent; with Great Britain, 6.98 per cent; and with Japan, 2.07 per cent.

1950 saw a more complete re-orientation of China's foreign trade. In that year, trade between this country and the Soviet Union rose sharply from the 1949 figure of 7.76 per cent to first place. Trade with the U.S. and Hongkong fell to second and third place respectively. Details of China's foreign trade follow:

#### CHINA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN 1950

Country	% of Total Value
U.S.S.R.	23.36
U.S.A.	23.00
Hongkong	14.48
Great Britain	7.10
Malaya	5.77
Japan	4.56
India	2.84
Holland	2.10
W. Germany	1.83
Pakistan	1.51
Other Countries	13.40
TOTAL	100.00

A good beginning was made in 1950 for laying the foundation for trade between this country and the People's Democracies. Five trade agreements were negotiated and signed in 1950 and two in the early months of 1951. The Central People's Government has thus far signed trade agreements with Poland (February, 1950 and January, 1951), Czechoslovakia (June, 1950), Korea (August, 1950), Germany (October, 1950) and Hungary (January, 1951).

This change in China's foreign trade policy is of great significance. The economic co-operation between this country and the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies is based entirely on friendship and mutual benefit.

The aim of China's new foreign policy is clear. It is to promote economic prosperity and to improve the living conditions of working people, not only in China but also in the countries with which trade is carried on. As stipulated in the trade agreements, this country is now exporting raw materials to the Soviet Union, and the People's Democracies in return for industrial installations and equipment. China needs these urgently for the gigantic economic construction now in progress.

What a contrast this provides with the past when China's trade with capitalist countries was invariably conducted under the duress of unequal treaties and often at gun-point! How sharp the contrast, too, when one remembers that the sole aim of those

capitalist countries was to keep China industrially undeveloped and economically dependent on them.

#### Favourable Balance

Third, China, whose foreign trade for years has shown huge deficits, in 1950 had a favourable balance in foreign trade.

Between 1926 and 1936, China's average annual foreign trade deficit amounted to US\$152,830,000. The deficit hit its peak for this ten-year period in 1932 when it totalled U.S.\$189,250,000. In 1946, one year after V-J Day, it soared to the astronomical sum of US\$472,450,000.

These figures explain what is meant by imperialist economic aggression in China. They show to what extent China's national wealth was siphoned off into the purses of foreign capitalists through the good offices of their jackals, Chiang Kai-shek and his henchmen, who also grew fat on the ruthless exploitation of the Chinese working people.

But this unhealthy situation changed completely in 1950. In that year, China's exports occupied 52.23 per cent, and imports, 47.77 per cent of the total value of foreign trade, giving this country a favourable balance of 4.46 per cent in total foreign trade, or 9.34 per cent of the total value of imports, for the first time in years.

The important role played by private businessmen in the foreign trade field is reflected in the figures for foreign trade carried on by the government and by private importers and exporters. In 1950 the state companies were responsible for 53.29 per cent of the total value of exports; private business, 46.71 per cent. With regard to exports the situation was thus: state companies—70.52 per cent; private firms, 29.48 per cent.

Private importers and exporters made good profits in 1950. This was because of the encouragement given them by the people's government. No longer was it possible or necessary for those without political or family connections to pay large bribes to government officials—a standard practice under the KMT—to obtain import and export licenses. Businessmen who abide by regulations are given every facility for carrying on legitimate trade by the government.

As to the kinds of commodities exchanged last year, the chief items in export trade were soya beans, tung oil, hog bristles, peanuts, wool, egg products, tea and mineral ores. Imported goods consisted mainly of installations and equipment for production and construction purposes as well as industrial raw materials.

#### Three Major Changes

To sum up the three major changes brought about by the new foreign trade policy, they are: (1) a protective tariff which fosters imports only of those goods facilitating industrial and agricultural production; (2) a new orientation—more trade with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies; (3) a favourable balance in foreign trade.

Vice-Premier Chen Yun, reporting on the financial and economic situation on October 1, 1950, said: "State trading companies . . . co-ordinating closely with private importers and exporters, have taken the initiative in trade with foreign countries. Our

(Continued on page 30)

# The Japanese People Will Smash U.S. Plots To Re-arm Japan

Kawamura Kazuo

America has been frantically carrying through the re-arming of Japan, and today this re-arming of Japan and Western Germany have become world questions.

The United States regarded the end of the Second World War as its opportunity to steal the fruits of victory. The Truman "Doctrine," the Marshall plan and North Atlantic Pact, the open armed invasion in Korea all prove this. In the Far East, America aims to achieve a permanent control and monopoly over Japan's strategic position, industrial productive power and 80 million people; to use Japan as a base for invading the Soviet Union and suppressing the Chinese revolution and the liberation movements in the Asian countries.

The American aeroplanes, which have carried out their cruel and wanton bombing in Korea and Northeast China, take off from air bases in Japan where there are eight big aerodromes for B-29 and B-36 bombers, 32 for lighter aircraft and several hundred former Japanese military airfields which are being repaired and enlarged.

The American naval vessels which bombard the Korean coast and blockade the Taiwan Strait also have their bases in Japan. The biggest naval base is Yokosuka, and other former naval bases such as Kure, Sasebo, Maizuru and Ominato have been refitted and modernised by the U.S. occupation authorities. Even trading ports such as Yokohama, Kobe and others are put to exclusive American military use. Camps, supply dumps and networks of military highways have been constructed. Japan has in fact been turned into a huge American military base for aggression.

Arms and other military supplies which are being used by the American invasion troops in Korea are made from Japanese raw materials and by Japanese factories. By the end of last year, orders for military supplies and payments for services totalled 250 million U.S. dollars. By last October, 248 Japanese vessels with a total tonnage of one million tons had been commandeered; Japanese ship-building yards received orders to repair ships for the American forces; and 65 per cent of the freight trains of Japanese state railways were used for military transport. These measures to destroy Japan's peaceful industry and revive her military industry have been carried out according to MacArthur's plans.

## 140,000 Driven into War Services

More than 140,000 Japanese have been driven into services for the Korean war in many ways. U.S. troops and supplies are transported by Japanese vessels and crews. During the landing at Inchun last September, nearly 30,000 Japanese people were forced to serve as sappers and transport workers.

This is a condensed translation of the speech delivered to the World Peace Council on Feb. 22 in Berlin by Kawamura Kazuo, representative of the Japanese people.

The Japanese maritime security force has mobilised mine sweepers to take part in the Korean war.

In spite of MacArthur's denials, there are Japanese soldiers in the American armed forces. Ten thousand men of the Japanese Police Reserve Corps are fighting in Korea. Many Japanese mechanics are working on airfields in Korea.

All the facts prove that the Japanese people are being treated as cannon fodder by the American troops, and this has been made possible through the help of the Japanese militarists and fascists.

MacArthur has secretly ordered the Japanese Government to rebuild an army one million strong, a navy of 500,000 tons and an air force of 1,000 aircraft. The maritime security force has become the backbone of a future Japanese navy. It possesses 300 vessels and 18,000 personnel.

At present, the state and local police forces actually number 150,000 men. Together with the 100,000 police reserves, they total 250,000, equal to the standing army of Japan before the Sino-Japanese War. Yoshida's regime is preparing for conscription.

## MacArthur Reviving Fascism

MacArthur is reviving Japanese fascism. A special institution of former Japanese officers of high rank was long ago set up in his headquarters to plot war against the Soviet Union and China. There are also underground organisations of officers of the former Japanese army and navy.

The Americans protect the fascist militarists. They refused to turn over the bacteriological war criminal Emperor Hirohito to be tried at the International Court, as proposed by the Soviet Union; Lieutenant General Shiro Ishii was sent to America to join in American army research work in bacteriological war; war criminal Lieutenant General Hiroshi Nemoto has been allowed to enlist soldiers for Chiang Kai-shek in Japan; the arch war criminal, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mamoru Shigemitsu, and 180 other war criminals have been illegally released. The restrictions on 13,000 fascist militarists have been lifted.

MacArthur is depriving Japan of its sovereign rights; controlling Japan's finances, enterprises and trade; plundering Japan's resources and enslaving the Japanese people. The Japanese people are bankrupt. The workers are starving and are constantly under the threat of being thrust among the more than 10 million already unemployed. Agricultural products are taken from the peasants by force and heavy taxes.

MacArthur and the reactionary government of Japan violate the Potsdam Declaration, the Japanese Constitution and other laws and deprive the Japanese people of basic human rights. Workers are forbidden to strike and demonstrate; democratic publications are banned; progressive elements in enterprises, institutions and schools are purged and patriots are court-martialed. Democratic organisa-

tions of the Korean people in Japan have been dissolved; 24 members of the Central Committee of the Japanese Communist Party have been banned from public office and more than 400 members of the Communist Party indicted without cause. The general office of Zenroren, the National Liaison Council of the Labour Union of Japan, which is affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions, has been closed. Eight young patriots who were among the masses of people who demonstrated against war and demanded independence in Tokyo on May 30 last year, were sentenced to up to 10 years' hard labour on the pretext of resisting the American police. Twenty young patriots were sentenced to death or long-term imprisonment on the pretext of the so-called "Matsukawa" case. The demand for freedom and peace made by these 20 young patriots in prison represents the voice of hundreds of thousands of Japanese fighters for peace.

The people of Japan are aware of their responsibility for the crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists against the peoples of Asia.

Aggressive Japanese imperialism caused vast damage to the peoples of Asia and the Japanese people also suffered terrific calamities. None of the Japanese people want to be dragged into a war of aggression against any other nation.

#### Japanese People's Demands

The demands of the majority of the Japanese are: Oppose war; win an over-all peace to restore our independence; occupation troops to withdraw immediately.

All the struggles of the Japanese people, such as the struggle of the workers against unemployment, of the peasants against grain requisitioning, the merchants against extortionate taxation, the women to safeguard their livelihood, and the students for freedom, will eventually develop into the struggle for peace and independence. This campaign is now unfolding in Japan on a wide scale, and large numbers of intellectuals and re-

ligious followers participate in it. The 6th meeting of the Academic Conference of the Japan Institute of Sciences in April last resolved that "the sciences will not serve war." The 26 directors of the "Society of Intellectuals" organised by prominent academicians, professors, writers, film directors, journalists and lawyers, issued a manifesto in defence of freedom of thought and speech.

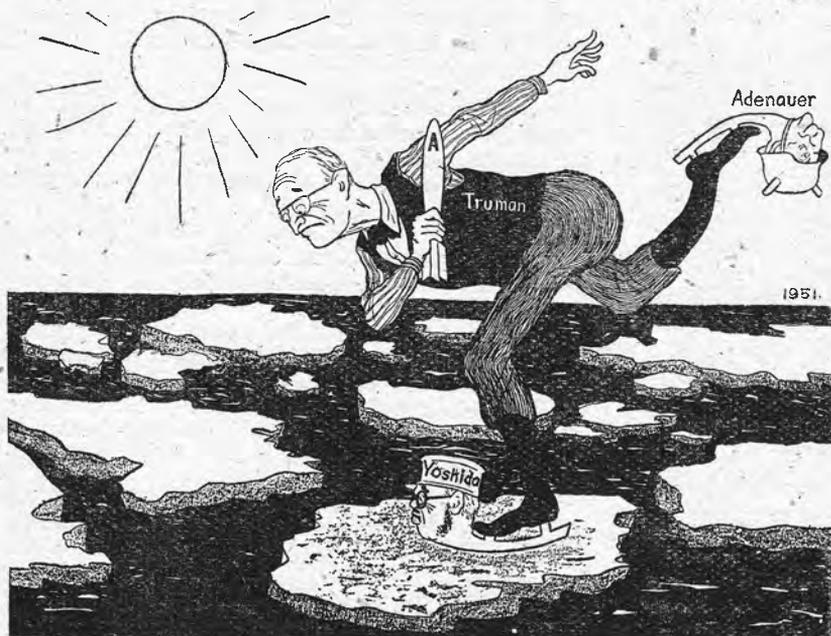
When John Foster Dulles arrived in Japan, *Asahi Shimbun*, the biggest commercial paper of Japan, published an editorial appealing for an over-all peace. This indicates the general atmosphere in Japan. The Socialist Party, whose programme is anti-Communist, and the conservative political parties also advocate an over-all peace and oppose rearmament. But warmonger Dulles has made the Yoshida regime accept America's proposal for a separate peace treaty which would exclude the Soviet Union and People's Republic of China and thus make Japan the core of America's aggressive power in the Far East.

The World Peace Congress has further enhanced the peace campaign in Japan. In the summer of 1948, various democratic parties, popular organisations and cultural people united in a League Supporting Democracy. With this League as a core, the Committee for the Defence of Peace came into being in 1949 and became the leading organ of the peace campaign in Japan. Subsequently, in factories, schools, villages, districts, cities and counties, the Japanese people organised many peace committees and the peace campaign has actively developed. In the period ending January 10, 1951, over 6,270,000 persons signed the Stockholm Peace Appeal. This peace campaign is carried out by the Japanese people, irrespective of political affiliations, religious beliefs, vocations or sex, in a constant struggle with the American military police and the Japanese police.

The resolutions and the manifesto of the Second World Peace Congress have given the Japanese people still greater courage and confidence. In the

middle of January, 1951, scores of organisations, including the Communist Party, the Worker Peasant Party, the progressive faction of the Socialist Party and the Youth Section of the Socialist Party, held a meeting in response to the resolutions and manifesto of the Second World Peace Congress. It was resolved to launch a 10 million signatures campaign to "win an over-all peace and oppose rearmament." The Peace Committee of Japan called on all peace organisations and popular bodies throughout Japan to regard the realisation of the resolutions of the Peace Congress as their urgent task.

Anti-war atmosphere as well as anti-American sentiments and dissatisfaction with their treatment are beginning to spread among the Police Reserve Corps. The members of the Corps in Hokkaido won a struggle for better conditions. This compelled the



Pretty Thin Ice

Cartoon by Liu Hsun

## Gas War Criminals

MacArthur's Headquarters emanate a cloud of poisonous lies in an effort to cover up the latest of the American atrocities in Korea. Around Lilri, 10 kms south of Seoul, on the Han River on February 23, the U.S. invaders used poison gas bombs for the first time. Gas shells were used on the Han River front on February 26 and again on March 3. On March 6, the day after MacArthur's staff denied the use of gas shells, two more were fired by American troops in the Kuritong area. These gas bombs emitted a brown-black vapour—evidently one of the arsenical gases. Their victims grew giddy, nauseated and fell unconscious, taking 12 hours to recover even after treatment.

The use of gas is a violation of international law. Popular organisations in Korea and China immediately registered their protest against this barbarity. The Chinese Red Cross called on the 100 million members of the Red Cross throughout the world to halt this crime.

Yet this new development is not wholly unexpected from the gangsters who have tried to pulverise Korea into submission. It was the U.S. government which shielded the Japanese bacteriological warfare criminals, one of whom, Shiro Ishii, they hired to work for them in the States. It was the U.S. atomaniacs who order the development of the H-bomb. Only last November, Truman threatened to use the atom bomb in Korea. The use of gas is of a piece with all the other U.S. bestialities and atrocities in Korea.

The U.S. imperialists have taken over the Japanese fascists' tactics of terror. In fury and frustration because of the bitter defeats and heavy losses they have suffered in Korea, they resort to these weapons of scientific sadism and, when confronted by evidence and accusation, resort to blustering denial.

The spokesman of the Chinese people's volunteers in Korea rightly said that the U.S. gangsters are afraid of the wrath of the people. The use of gas is an act of desperation. But such tactics will not succeed now where they failed six years ago.

The people's fighters of Korea and China have solemnly given their word: "We will fight to the end until the invading troops on Korean soil are completely and thoroughly annihilated. Those who ordered the use of poison gas will be sought out, hunted down and dealt with as war criminals!"

Government to publish the fact that the number of deserters, purged members and those who just quit the Corps had reached 4,000. The American and Japanese reactionary forces are fearful of the opposition of the Japanese people.

For a long time the Japanese workers have called for "opposition to the intervention in Korea," and "opposition to the manufacture and transport of military supplies" and have struggled to realise these aims.

The action taken by 800 workers of the Mitaka Factory of the Fuji Company, Tokyo, is a typical example. Since August last, these workers have opposed the switching of the factory to the manufacture of military supplies, opposed the cutting of staff and lowering of wages. They have carried out a continuous six-month strike under the slogans "national independence," "oppose war," and "support peace." In dealing with these 800 workers, the Government has mobilised 3,000 armed police and has arrested more than 100 workers. Workers in factories controlled by the American troops are now beginning to struggle in defiance of bayonets. Longshoremen in Yokohama have refused to load and unload military supplies.

Since February 7, 1951, over 200,000 workers in the coal mines of the Japanese financial magnates have been striking. They have caused Japan's output of coal to fall by 40 per cent.

Japanese seamen in Kyushu have refused to man American military transport vessels. The peasants' struggle throughout Japan is becoming more and more violent. Last autumn, peasants in Hyogo county resisted the Japanese police and the American military police and drove them out of the village.

Because of the priority for the transport of military supplies, enormous quantities of Japanese goods have been stopped from shipment. An unprecedented inflation prevails. The purchase of raw materials is difficult, causing more and more medium and small industrialists to go bankrupt. America's ban on trade with China has seriously affected Japan. In breaking off commercial contracts with China alone, Japan has sustained a loss of 15 billion Japanese yen. Capitalists are openly demanding the reopening of trade with China. Anti-American sentiment is rising among them.

We Japanese believe that a peaceful solution to Japan's present problems requires, first and foremost, the speedy conclusion of an over-all peace treaty on the basis of the Potsdam and Cairo Declarations and the Yalta Agreement, with the absolute participation of the Soviet Union and People's China. Secondly, it requires the withdrawal of all occupation armies from Japan within a specified period after the conclusion of the peace treaty. Thirdly, it requires the removal of the ban on Japan's peace economy, prohibition of the revival of her war potential and removal of the ban on trade with the Soviet Union, People's China and People's Korea. Fourth, it requires the rejection of all motives advanced in favour of an aggressive Pacific pact.

The Japanese people have chosen the road to peace and independence. No matter what happens, we resolutely refuse to be the "public enemy" of the peoples of the Far East. The Japanese people will closely unite with the peoples of the world to promote world peace in order to bring about the Japanese people's liberation.

# Peking's All-Circles Conference

P. C. Yu

At the Third Session of the Peking All-Circles Representative Conference (ACRC) on Feb. 28, 1951, the delegates lined up to cast their votes. A worker dressed in quilted blue cotton, folded and dropped his ballot slip into the box. A homely-looking peasant stood next in turn. He was followed by a middle-aged house-wife and a fighter of the PLA. A Buddhist priest advanced holding his ballot in one hand and his beads in the other. A venerable bearded Peking resident dressed in rather old-fashioned wear, in a fur-lined silk gown and round black cap, and a college student just of his teens, walked closely one behind the other—a striking contrast in age.

Besides the mayor and two vice-mayors they were electing the municipal council which would lead the reconstruction of the people's capital during the next 12 months. These elections were the concluding act of a three-day conference in which the 519 delegates heard and approved the reports of the outgoing administration and laid down the lines of advance for the new. Here in this ancient double-roofed temple, where for centuries the imperial despots had enshrined the God of Earth and Grain in token of their domination of the land and where they were wont to intone their own blessings, every voice was raised now in the interests of the people.

## Highest City Authority

Peking's new ACRC has been convened according to the provisions of Article 14 of the *Common Programme of the PPCC*: "Pending the convocation of the local People's Congresses elected by universal suffrage, the local All-Circles Representative Conferences shall gradually assume the functions and powers of the local People's Congresses." As Chairman Mao Tse-tung pointed out in his speech to the first ACRC session in August, 1949, the conference is the highest city authority. It elects the municipal government council members, determines the policy and the measures to be followed by that council, examines the budget and balance sheet and makes proposals and decisions regarding the municipal construction programme. It is through this conference that the masses take the ruling power into their hands and exercise their control over their government.

The ACRC also embodies the great unity of the local people. It is representative of the workers, the peasants, merchants, industrialists, intellectuals and professional men, students, members of the Communist Party and other democratic parties, and groups of Christians, Buddhists, Moslems, etc. It unites all circles of the people of Peking for the common tasks of New Democratic construction and to defend their revolutionary gains by exercising their dictatorship over the common enemy, the counter-revolutionaries.

Jointly sponsored by the Peking Military Control Commission and the (provisional) municipal government which took control immediately on the liberation of the city on Jan. 31, 1949, the First Session of the Peking ACRC opened in August, 1949. By this time the people's democratic organisations had been firmly established. The political consciousness

of the population as a whole had been greatly enhanced and it was opportune to take this next step in developing democratic self-government.

After full consultations with the leading political parties and popular organisations such as trade unions, industrialists and businessmen's associations, women, intellectuals' and youth associations and religious circles, etc., the municipal government appointed 322 representatives of these circles to the first ACRC. This session introduced 180 proposals and 171 of these were carried out in the succeeding months.

The second ACRC session was called in November the same year on a yet wider democratic basis. The representatives were still appointed by the municipal government on the basis of popular consultations, but they themselves elected the mayor, vice-mayors and the city government council members and undertook further functions as provided for in the organisational regulations for All-Circles Representative Conferences laid down in the *Common Programme*. They passed 355 proposals on various aspects of life in Peking and of these 342, including such measures as the ending of prostitution in Peking, have been or are being carried out. At the last meeting of the second ACRC it was decided that the democratic basis of the third ACRC should be still further broadened; that the people should elect directly or indirectly the majority of delegates.

As Liu Shao-chi, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government, stated at the Third Session: "In the city where the people have the appropriate organisation and in those parts of the countryside where land reform has been completed and the people begin to be able to elect their own representatives, the people should unhesitatingly be allowed to elect directly or indirectly their representatives to the people's representative conferences of various levels."†

During the two years since the liberation, the people have greatly developed their democratic organisations—trade unions, peasant associations, organisations of women, youth etc., and the district people's representative conferences. They are clearly approaching the position where they can undertake the holding of elections on a basis of full suffrage.

## ACRC Elections

The electoral units established by the Municipal Consultative Committee—the standing committee—of the last ACRC, vary in size. The large factories and universities with several thousand voters, for instance, elect three delegates. Smaller factories or institutions elect one or two delegates. Factories or institutions too small to form separate electoral units are combined to elect a joint delegate. The city districts, depending on their size, elect 2 or more delegates.

The method of balloting also varies at present according to the status of the electoral unit. In

† From the *Peking People's Daily*, March 13, 1951.

publicly-run enterprises and universities where the voters are concentrated and experienced in voting procedures, direct elections are held. In the case of popular organisations as among the women, youth, intellectuals or industrialists and businessmen's associations, or where the voters are scattered as in rural areas or urban districts, the election of delegates is indirect. Delegates from the Peking districts, for instance, were elected by the local people's representative conferences. Except in the universities where the vote is secret, the prevailing form of voting in the electoral units is by show of hands.

A month before the third ACRC, committees were set up in factories, institutions, schools and districts to conduct the election of representatives under the authority of the central election committee of the ACRC. Thus at the third ACRC 83 per cent of the delegates were elected directly or indirectly (22 per cent by direct voting). Of the remaining 17 per cent, three per cent were appointed and 14 per cent were invited by the municipal government to participate in the conference.

#### Conference Proceedings

It was these representatives of the people who now sat as masters of their city in the conference hall of Peking's Chungshan Park. Many of them had been cruelly exploited and oppressed before the liberation. Now they heard Vice-Mayor Chang Yu-yu report on the development of local industry and trade, on rising agricultural production, on the expansion of the system of primary, middle and vocational schools to meet the demands of tens of thousands of new, eager students; on the health services that had successfully combated smallpox, typhoid and other infectious diseases; on the provisions of free hospital and clinic services for the people; the repair of roads, national monuments and developments of water works and sewage systems.

The director of the municipal Bureau of Finance presented a full statement on the budget of 1950. Each representative listened attentively to these reports since each single item closely concerned the people, his own life or that of his next door neighbour, each had been initiated by the people themselves for the improvement of their day-to-day living. Then the reports were opened to discussion and voted on by the delegates. They were passed unanimously.

The final business of the session was the election of officers and presentation of proposals for the new council to act upon. For this purpose the delegates broke up into 19 smaller groups based on the various circles represented. The workers, peasants, intellectuals, merchants and industrialists, etc. thus consulted together regarding the proposals they would submit and the candidates they would nominate for the posts of mayor, vice-mayors and council members. These consultations were thorough affairs. In reporting back to his constituents each delegate had to be in command of all relevant facts about the candidate, his abilities, his social background and attainments.

The unanimously-chosen candidate for the post of mayor was Peng Chen, 49-year-old secretary of the

Peking Committee of the Communist Party and member of the Political Bureau of the Party. Two candidates for vice-mayors were unhesitatingly adopted by all the groups: Wu Han, well-known professor of history and Deputy Director of Tsinghua University, member of the Central Committee of the China Democratic League, and Chang Yu-yu, Secretary-General of the North China Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party who had shown himself an outstanding organiser in many leading government posts.

Lao Sheh, author of the well-known novel *Rickshaw Boy*, was proposed by most of the circles as a council member. His new play *The Lung Hsu Ditch*\* has won him great popularity throughout Peking which feels that he is able to express the very mind of the once-oppressed and will be an invaluable aid, to the council. Another welcome name was that of Cheng Yun, a school teacher for 33 years. Her tireless devotion to her work has brought her high public esteem. She has lived long in Peking and "knows where the shoe pinches," as they say.

After their consultations the groups sent up their list of nominees to the Presidium along with the various proposals which they had discussed and wished to be included in the 1951 plan. The Presidium then drew up the ballot papers for the council with the names of nominees submitted in order of the votes given in the group lists. Each representative marked his ballot and deposited it in the voting box. In case he had any objection to a candidate he could cross out his name and substitute it with the one he personally favoured.

The balloting elected the 29 nominees thus selected with Peng Chen as mayor. Chang Yu-yu and Wu Han were re-elected vice-mayors. The 26 council members include 11 government workers, one office employee, one doctor, three workers, two school teachers, two professors, one writer, two businessmen, one banker, one retired military commander and one representative of the Women's Federation.

#### Election of the City Council

Peking's 1951 plan was also adopted by the Conference. It was drafted on the basis of the plan drawn up by the preceding ACRC under Mayor Nieh Jung-chen (who had resigned because of pressure of other work) and incorporated the 799 proposals submitted to the Proposals Examination Committee. These proposals included plans to build another 20,000 rooms in Peking, to extend piped water to another 600,000 people, to have more clinics in factories, more schools for adults, to raise production, to increase support to the patriotic campaign.

The ACRC at the same time elected the Municipal Consultative Committee. This will be the standing committee of the ACRC when it is not in session. It will supervise the carrying out of the 1951 plan and the holding of the next municipal elections on a yet wider democratic foundation which will lead to the final establishment of a municipal government elected by universal suffrage.

\* A notorious open drain in Peking, a plague spot until it was eradicated by the people's government.

# The Great Unity of the Chinese People (2)

Cheng Hsin-ju

A mighty constituent part of the great revolutionary unity of the Chinese people is the mutual confidence and fraternal relations existing between the various nationalities of the People's Republic. These relations have been greatly consolidated and strengthened in the past year.

China is a multi-national country in which the Han nationality predominates. It is estimated that the population of the national minorities totals 40 to 50 million people. They are scattered all over the country but are mainly concentrated in the border regions.

The relations among the nationalities in old China were marked by the oppression of the national minorities as a result of the Great Hanism policy carried out by the ruling cliques. The national minorities heroically resisted this oppression. Under the leadership of the working class and its vanguard, the Communist Party, their struggle for freedom merged with that of the Han people against their common oppressors, the KMT reactionaries and the imperialists.

Thereafter, and particularly since the founding of the People's Republic, there has been a fundamental change in the relations between the various nationalities in China.

## A Multi-national Unity

The *Common Programme* of the PPCC stipulates that "all nationalities within the boundaries of the People's Republic of China are equal." (Article 50) They shall establish unity and mutual aid among themselves. Racial discrimination is prohibited. It is forbidden to engage in acts leading to the oppression and the breaking of the unity of the nationalities. All national minorities within China have the right to join the PLA and organise local people's public security forces in accordance with the unified military system of the state. National minority areas are assured the right of regional autonomy (or adequate representation in governments of areas of mixed population), freedom to develop their culture and preserve their local customs and religious beliefs.

The Central People's Government, in accordance with the principles of the PPCC, considers that the central task of work among the nationalities is to strengthen the unity among the various nationalities, to spread a full knowledge of and realise the government's policy on nationalities, to break down all obstacles to the fraternal unity among the nationalities and bring about their reconciliation and to eliminate the mistaken views of Great Hanism or local chauvinism, the evil legacies of the past.

The people's government and the PLA strictly observe the policy of non-intervention in regard to

the religious beliefs and popular customs of the various nationalities. Any changes in religious beliefs and customs must await the awakening and voluntary demand of the nationalities concerned. The Agrarian Reform Law, the Marriage Law and other laws promulgated by the Central People's Government all have special reservations which take into account the special conditions existing among the national minorities.

Democratic, united government organs representing the various nationalities have been established in areas where different nationalities live together. Regional autonomy is being realised where national minorities are concentrated.

Many representatives of the national minorities now occupy important positions in the people's government organs ranging from the Central Government to the local governments. In the Central People's Government Council, there are representatives of the Mongols, Tungans (Mohammedans), Uighurs and other minorities. Of the 49 members of the Northwest Military and Political Commission (where there are many national minorities), ten are from the national minorities—four Mohammedans, two Uighurs, two Mongols, and two Tibetans. In the Southwest Military and Political Commission, five members are Tibetans, three are Yis, and two are Miaos. Several seats are reserved for other minorities. In the Central-South Military and Political Commission, there are two representatives of the national minorities. Among the provincial people's government councils, that of Sinkiang Province has most of its members from the national minorities—20 out of the total of 32 members.

The All-Circles Representative Conferences of the various levels in the national minority areas have furthermore made the fullest efforts to secure the participation of representatives of the various nationalities.

A regional autonomous people's government was established in Inner Mongolia as early as May 1, 1947, and with the aid of the Central People's Government it is leading the area to prosperity. Mongol units played a splendid part in the Liberation War. The land reform has been completed in the agricultural districts and last year the grain harvest increased by 82,000 tons over 1949. The nomads are guaranteed their rights of pasturage. One of the six Leagues alone increased its herds from 400,000 to 800,000 head of cattle between liberation day in August, 1945 and 1949. Industry is also being developed. The Mongols now have their own textile, leather, and printing factories, metal works and arsenals.

In this area where illiteracy was almost universal, the 2,875 primary schools now have 238,900 students—61 per cent of the children of school age.

Provisional regional autonomous governments have now been established in the A-la-shan and O-tsi-na Banners in Ninghsia Province and in the Tibetan-populated Choni region and the Tungsiang-

Part 1 of this article, dealing with the principles of the revolutionary united front of the workers, peasants, petty bourgeoisie and national bourgeoisie; the PPCC and relations among the democratic parties, appeared in the preceding number of *People's China*—Editor.

populated Linhsia region in southern Kansu Province.

Through this policy the various nationalities are enabled to manage their own internal affairs according to their democratic will and in forms suited to them according to the over-all principles of the *Common Programme*. Thus a dependable basis for the voluntary unity and co-operation of the peoples is secured.

In eliminating the political, economic and cultural backwardness of the national minorities which are caused by historical conditions, the People's Government is paying great attention to the training of cadres from among the various nationalities.

In addition to special training classes, colleges for the nationalities have been established in Peking, in Southwest and Northwest China. The Central People's Government is also giving all the assistance possible in funds and other aids to rehabilitate and develop their economies. One of the first tasks was to help the nationalities develop their trade by buying huge quantities of the local products at prices favourable to both the minorities and the government and to supply them with daily necessities and goods needed for production. The People's Government is also giving extensive assistance to these areas in developing pastures and agricultural land, improving seeds, animal husbandry, agricultural methods and implements, water conservancy, etc., and extending educational and medical facilities.

To finally eliminate all the evil legacies of the past, to finally free all the national minorities and make them secure from foreign imperialist oppression and militarist intrigues, much, of course, has still to be done. All Tibet and Taiwan have still to be liberated, but the experience of the past year has shown that the great aim of the "People's Republic of China as a big fraternal and co-operative family composed of all its nationalities" (the *Common Programme*) will soon be realised.

#### All-Circles Representative Conferences

The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conferences are the organisational form of the democratic united front of the entire Chinese people, says the *Common Programme*. These organs of the people's state power and of the people's political consultation are able to collect and summarise effectively their opinions on the affairs of the country from among the representatives of the various nationalities, democratic classes, parties, people's organisations, overseas Chinese, and other patriotic elements, in the process of formulating and executing the laws and policies of the state.

The past one and half years have witnessed the realisation of the great revolutionary unity of the democratic parties in the formation of the Central People's Government. It has also seen the consistent progress made in the establishment of the various other organs of people's state power. The various governmental organisations are becoming increasingly effective and ever more fully representative of all the various democratic social strata of the country. Thus the people's democratic dictatorship is more consolidated than ever and the range of the unity of the people is being further extended. Through

the Central People's Government and the governments on the provincial, *hsien* (county), *chu* (district) and *hsiang* (sub-district comprising several villages) levels, the system of the people's democracy is laying indestructible roots among the rank and file of the masses, and thus establishing a solid foundation for the state power of the people's democratic united front. The most vivid reflection of this is the fact that the people's representative conferences on the various levels are now being convened on a nation-wide scale.

According to the *Common Programme*, the system of state power is the government of the People's Congress, based on the principle of democratic centralism. "Pending the convocation of the local People's Congresses elected by universal suffrage, the local All-Circles Representative Conferences shall gradually assume the functions and powers of the local People's Congresses." (Article 14).

At the time of writing, Northeast China, one of the nation's six Administrative Areas, has already convened its People's Congress and elected the Northeast China People's Government. All the 28 provinces (not including Taiwan and Tibet) and the nine Administrative Regions with the status of provinces, have convened their All-Circles Representative Conferences and 16 of these have already assumed the functions and powers of People's Congresses and elected Provincial People's Governments. All of the 13 cities directly under the administration of the Central People's Government or the Administrative Areas have already convened All-Circles Representative Conferences, and out of these, nine have already assumed the functions of People's Congresses. All of the 73 cities of the country which are directly administered by the Provincial Governments or Administrative Regions have convened All-Circles Representative Conferences of which 22 have assumed the functions and powers of city People's Congresses. In the cities of Peking, Tientsin, Canton, Nanking, and Chungking, *chu* or district (administrative subdivision of a city) All-Circles Representative Conferences have been convened. Of the 2,068 *hsien* and 58 banners (the equivalent of *hsien* in Mongol-populated areas), of the country, 1,961 *hsien* and 46 banners have convened All-Circles Representative Conferences, and 95 of these have assumed the functions and powers of the People's Congresses. All-Circles Representative Conferences or People's Congresses have been convened in most of the *chu* or districts in the Old Liberated Areas of Northeast and North China.

The convocation of these All-Circles Representative Conferences has produced excellent results in uniting the people of the various social strata, parties, and nationalities, in gathering the opinions of the people and developing their understanding and supervision of government work. After every conference, the unity among the people themselves, between the people and the government, between the democratic classes, and between the nationalities has been further strengthened. The collective wisdom and energy of the people of the various social strata have been given full play.

The second session of the National Committee of the People's Political Consultative Conference decided that the political consultative committees

(Continued on page 31)



In token of the great unity of China's nationalities, the representatives of scores of minority races presented gifts to Chairman Mao last October in Peking. The picture here shows one from the Yao nationality.

## The New China—A Big Family Of Fraternal Nationalities



Premier Chou En-lai toasts an Inner Mongolian representative last October in Peking.



Uighur girls in Sinkiang are interested in publications brought them from Peking.



A group of Sinkiang peasants are happy to get pictures of Chairman Mao.



An Uighur worker is delighted to see photos of PLA victories at an exhibition.



Folk dancers from Inner Mongolia.



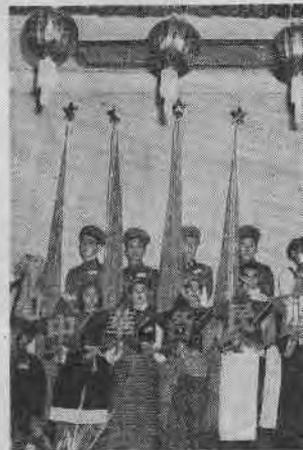
Chungchia

## *The National M*



Miao peasants from Southwest China.

Representatives an  
40 national minori  
to participate in the  
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A T



Singers from Kweichow.



Korean dancers from Northeast China.

## Minorities Dance

Art troupes from more than  
es came to Peking last October  
celebrations of the first anniver-  
sary. The performances of these  
troupes were an impressive display  
of rich cultural talent set free by the  
New Democracy.



Tibetan performance.



The Sinkiang troupe—Uighurs, Uzbeks, Kazahks, Tartars...



Self-sacrificing and well-disciplined, the Chinese people's volunteers are everywhere welcomed and loved by the Korean people. Here a group of volunteers and KPA men are shown helping a Korean family with the household chores.

Chinese volunteers and Korean People's Army men (2nd and 5th from left) exchange combat experiences.



Chinese volunteers carry water and cut firewood for a Korean peasant household.



## SINO-KOREAN FRIENDSHIP

The Korean children, too, find the Chinese volunteers are their good friends.



Short Story

# An Iron Chain

Lu Chih

Saturday afternoon is the time when comrades in PLA units usually wash their clothes and quilts, and put their knapsacks out to air. Platoon leader Li Hung-kuei fetched his knapsack from the storeroom, untied it and, one by one, took out the odds and ends. He was looking for a clean shirt. Suddenly something dropped to the ground with a clinking sound that attracted the attention of several of his comrades busy with similar chores.

"Hey, what's this?" called out Young Liang, picking up an iron chain with five or six links.

"Give it to me!" The platoon leader's face was serious.

"What do you want with a thing like this? The rust will only ruin your clothes," said Young Liang, casually throwing the iron chain out of the window.

"Damn it! Why did you do that?" the platoon leader remonstrated, and rushed out to pick up the chain.

"What's the matter? It's only an old rusty chain, no good to anyone," said Young Liang.

"This is no ordinary chain. There's a story behind it. Sometime I'll tell you about it."

That evening after dinner when the platoon was sitting around talking about this and that, Young Liang said to the platoon leader, "There's time now. How about telling us the story of that chain?" Li Hung-kuei agreed, and began the story.

"Once when I was very young, just a child, my mother, who was very superstitious, called in a blind fortune teller. I remember that he smelt like rotting quilts. He had a few things to say, too. 'Fortune tellers have no scruples,' he began, 'and gentlemen ask not about fortune, but about misfortune. Well,

Lu CHIH, a young writer who has been doing cultural work in the People's Liberation Army artillery units in North China, has had many poems and stories published in army newspapers. The above translation is based on an abridged version of his original story, "An Iron Chain."—*Editor.*

of the five elements—metal, wood, water, fire and earth, metal is the curse of all generations of your family!"

"Well, he guessed right, too," continued the platoon leader. "My grandfather was killed by an iron ploughshare while tilling the fields of a landlord. He was buried in a mat. The year I went to work on the railroad, my father was injured by the iron handle of a pulley. He lingered on for several years and died a cripple.

"I myself, however, didn't believe in fate and I wasn't worried by the fortune teller's words. I believed that everything was man-made. I thought that all that was necessary was to be honest and work hard. If you did this, I believed that there would always be a way. At that time I was a railroad worker. But this, plus cultivating a bit of land, brought in barely enough to support my old mother, my wife and our little child.

### Japanese Rule

"When the Japanese invaders came, I thought I could go on as before. Whoever employs me will have to feed me, I reckoned. At first I was not much disturbed.

"Things went from bad to worse each year under the Japanese devils, however. It became very difficult even for ordinary workers. Railroad workers earned pitifully little. Then there was the drought. The people in our village got sick from eating the rotten flour which was all that we had.

"It was impossible to work on an empty stomach. One day a Japanese guard saw one of my neighbours, 'Little Deaf One,' taking a rest by the side of the road. Immediately two puppet policemen, under instructions from the guard, arrested him. A big notice was posted in the station saying that 'Little Deaf One' was a Communist saboteur!

"Although we'd never seen the Communist-led 8th Route Army, we knew more or less that they were not the wicked monsters that the Japanese devils said they were.

We knew that they were fighting the Japanese. I didn't join the 8th Route Army then because, first of all, I wanted to look after my family myself, and secondly, I didn't know where the 8th Route Army was. But the main reason was that I knew very little about the Communist Party and the 8th Route Army.

"'Little Deaf One' was the sole support of a paralysed mother, a widowed sister and her child. If anything happened to him, it would mean beggary and certain death for the three of them. The rest of us were too poor to feed them. We petitioned for leniency for 'Little Deaf One.' But what good did it do? On our way home from the Japanese gendarmerie office, we heard the shots that killed him. What real devils the Japanese were!

"Those who had gone with me, ordinary workers like myself, were infuriated. We wanted to strike!

"But how can you strike when there's a big gun and a glistening bayonet held at your back? To strike meant certain death!

"But we couldn't leave it at that! One night a group of us got together and made our way stealthily to the railway tracks. We were going to destroy them. I can remember—I suppose the other workers felt the same—that even in my bitter anger, I felt a pang at destroying my own creation. With our own hands and strength we had built that railway!

"We were experts and we finished the job in no time at all. Right then and there several workers left to find the 8th Route Army. My best friend, Li Yu-teh, was among them. He asked me if I would go with them. I hesitated, thinking of my old mother, of my wife, and of the baby. They were all at home waiting for me to come back. When would we meet again if I left them? I told Li Yu-teh that I couldn't go.

"We embraced our comrades who were going. None of us could say anything, we were all so moved. We even wept silently. We could see only complete darkness in front of us. Who could even dare think of the future?

"The very next day one of the Japanese devils assembled all the workers in a big courtyard. He howled, stamped and screamed. With his bloodshot eyes, he stared at each worker. 'Who destroyed the tracks?' he wanted to know.

"We all stood there silently.

"Suddenly someone grabbed me and pulled me out of the ranks. For a moment I thought I would faint, that the end had certainly come. But, somehow I calmed down quickly.

"Speak up, you!" snapped the Japanese devil. "If you don't, you're crazy and you'll be shot!"

"I didn't speak....

"Quick! Speak up! Who did it?" he yelled, pointing to the crowd.

"I kept still.

"So you won't talk, eh?" he gave me a horrible smile. Suddenly he slapped my face: "Still won't talk, eh?" Again and again he hit me.

"At first I felt the pain, then I became numb. Licking the corners of my mouth I tasted blood. I tried to block his hand with my arm, but even that was a crime in his eyes.

"Finally I was taken away. Some of my friends looked at me helplessly. At the devils' barracks I had my first taste of their tortures. They tied me to the 'tiger bench' which twisted my legs until I could hardly stand the pain. Then they filled my nostrils with peppered water which came out of my mouth mixed with blood. Many times I thought I was dying.

### Imprisonment

"I was sent to the Shihchiachuang jail, handcuffed, and my feet in chains. The metallic noise of the chain followed me everywhere. One day seemed like ten years. I was imprisoned in a room that never saw the sunshine. A wooden sign outside the door read 'political prisoner.' All I saw was the wall, the iron-barred window, the prison guard, the whip, the hand-cuffs and the chain that bound my feet.

"Once my wife came to see me. She didn't look well, her hair was dishevelled and her face pale and bloodless. In her arms she held our child who looked thoroughly under-nourished.

"She cried, I remember. I couldn't cry. What was there to say?... Quietly she whispered that Li Yuteh had written from the other side, saying that they were doing well.

How I regretted that I hadn't gone with him! But what was the use of regrets?

"That night I thought hard. I touched the iron chain that bound me. Could it be true that generations of my family would be bound by iron chains, by 'metal,' as the blind fortune teller had predicted? I thought of my child and remembered the way he had called me 'pa.' Was he, my next generation, to grow up with the same fate?

"Not long afterwards, several other prisoners and I were sent to do hard labour in the Chihhsing coal mine. We had to do as much work, handcuffed and chained, as the other workers. The Japanese devils lengthened the chain on our legs to make it possible for us to work. All around us were barbed wire, sentries and trenches.

"Nevertheless, we saw the open sky and could move around a bit. We planned our escape while working.

"One afternoon when the sentry was not watching, three of us slipped away into a ditch and crawled toward the barbed wire.

"I was so frightened! My heart was pounding so loud! My legs would scarcely move. With great difficulty we managed to crawl up to the wire. One of us tore a piece of rag from our clothing and hung it on the wire. No smell!

"The wire's not charged!

"Climbing over the wire, one of our group got so scared that we could see him trembling. He couldn't move in spite of all his efforts. 'You two go ahead. I can't move....'

But we pushed and dragged him over the wire. We crossed another ditch and began running.

"We must have covered half a mile before we heard rifles crackling behind us.

"We ran! We crawled! We rolled! Anything to gain a little space.

"Suddenly both of my friends fell. They had been hit by bullets. I kept running. I dared not look back. I seemed to be moving with great difficulty. The damn handcuff prevented me from swinging my arms. I couldn't run fast with the iron chain on my leg. My legs were so sore. I knelt down for a precious moment and feebly tried to break the chain. But how

could I do this? I stood up and started to run again. I tried to forget the chain.

"The sound behind me seemed to be fainter. 'Stop! Or we'll shoot!' They must be nearer. 'What are you made of? Still trying to run!'

"They caught me. I couldn't move. Someone hit me and I fainted.

"When I came to, I felt like a piece of wood being towed by someone. I saw that my own two legs were raising dust. I looked down at the chain that bound them, the chain that was covered with my blood, dust, tears and hatred.



Torture

Hua San

"I was hit again and fainted as soon as we got back. When I came to, I couldn't raise my hands, nor could I move my legs. Somehow they didn't seem to belong to me. They were still bound by that chain.

"They sent me back to Shihchiachuang, and the iron chain went with me. I was sure that this time I would die. My ankle had been badly hurt during my attempted escape. I couldn't move. I simply waited for death.

"Then like thunder out of the blue sky, the Japanese devils surrendered!

"How I cried! I'd not cried like that before in my life, and this was my first cry since landing in prison. I was so happy. Looking at the iron chain, I kept thinking, 'This time I'm going to get rid of you!'

"But I didn't.

"During those days, when the KMT was reviving the civil war and carrying on 'peace talks' at the same time, they took down the sign on my door which said 'political prisoner' and replaced it with one saying 'criminal prisoner.'

"We shouted and shouted. 'Isn't it true that political prisoners are to be freed?'"

"Who could hear your voice in that little room? The KMT, the prison guards, the iron-barred window, the dark wall, and the iron chain that bound me.

"We heard that an American-sponsored 'mediation team' was coming and we were joyous. One day, indeed, we were 'asked' out of the prison. All that meant, however, was more false promises and transfer to another county, to Kaocheng hsien. We were fooled. Dark rooms and chains still! The Kuomintang reactionaries and the Japanese devils, we found, were fellow travellers.

"I lived the same kind of life—between living and dying. This time I no longer wanted to die. I wanted to see what was going to happen to me.

"The 8th Route Army attacked and advanced into Kaocheng in the winter of 1946. We crowded near the small window to watch the fire; and the flying bullets. Freedom marched into Kaocheng!

#### Liberation

"One by one the locks and doors of the prison were opened. The prison guards, scared to death, were followed by an armed 8th Route Army man.

"I was the first to embrace that comrade and I cried like a child seeing its mother for the first time after a long absence.

"That comrade broke my handcuffs and my chain. The 8th Route Army saved me and liberated me. It was the middle of the night then, but I felt as though suddenly it was broad daylight.

"The 8th Route Army comrade threw my handcuffs in a corner of the yard. He was about to do the same with the chain that bound my feet when I interrupted, 'Wait, comrade! I want to keep that.' I wanted to find the handcuffs too, but I couldn't. There were so many handcuffs in a heap, all blood-stained and rusty: I couldn't distinguish one from another.

"I took the chain and walked out of the prison without looking back. I walked straight over to the Army Headquarters and asked to join the 8th Route Army!

"Wherever we went, on marches and in battles, I took the chain

with me. I looked at it each time before going into battle, and I've kept it for four years. It will never bind me again. Sometimes people tell me that I'm brave in battle and ask me why. How can I tell them?

"We began mobile warfare in 1947. We had to travel with very little equipment when moving. Nothing but a rifle and some grenades. But the chain was always with me. At first I began removing one link after each victory, but then I decided it would be better to keep the chain. I want to keep it and remember it.

"Not long afterwards, we were reorganised into a special corps. About then I received a letter from home telling me that my folks had received some land through land reform, and that life was easier for them. My boy was then in primary school.

"Whenever I feel in the least homesick or lonely during marches

and battles, I take out the chain and look at it. The revolution is my business, and everybody else's. It's for the next generation, too.

"A few days ago I thought of donating the chain to a PLA exhibition, but I changed my mind. Why? Because the imperialists are at us again! This time it's the American devils in Korea! Whenever I close my eyes, I can hear the iron chain clicking on the Korean people. The American devils are not merely fighting the Koreans. They are fighting me!

"Do you think I'm afraid? No, there's nothing to be afraid of when getting rid of the chain.

"Some day I want to give this iron chain to an exhibition held by all the peoples of the world. The day when there are no chains on any people...."

When he passed the chain for his comrades to examine it, they could see the faint blood-stains on it.



Annihilate the Last Enemy

Woodcut by Yen Han

## Workers Elect Their Own Representatives

Lu Nien-kao

"Hurry and you'll get to the workshops in time to hear the election results for the whole plant. They're putting them on the blackboards now," the gatekeeper of the Peking People's Printing Factory, a state factory and one of the biggest printing plants in the city, said greeting me.

We went up the smooth paved road lined with trees, through the main building, an imposing brick structure of five stories, and into one of the workshops.

Normally the presses whirl and hum so that you can hardly hear yourself talk. But today there was another sound. The shouting and clapping were deafening. Every worker and employee in the shop was crowding around the blackboard to take a good look at the election figures for the whole plant.

People were shaking each other by the hand, clapping their neighbours on the back, and laughing with excitement and happiness. The three names on the blackboard now, the elected candidates, were Wei Shiao-tien, Liu Yueh-chuen and Li Teh-shou.

### The Candidates

"All six candidates are good people, active trade unionists and fine leaders," said one of the workers around us. All six were, indeed, highly respected by their fellow workers. Upon nomination their names had been considered by the election committee and then submitted to all the workers and employees for thorough discussion and consideration. Among the six, one was the Communist Party branch secretary, one a woman worker and member of the China New Democratic Youth League, two were employees unaffiliated to any party, and two were older workers, also non-party.

The three who had been elected were a cross-section of the factory. Wei Shiao-tien is the Communist Party branch secretary, and Liu Yueh-chuan an assistant technician who was formerly an apprentice. Li Teh-shou is an older worker, a member of the Factory Administrative Committee, with 36 years' experience in the printing trade.

For six days before the election on February 3, there had been intensive educational preparations under the auspices of the trade union. Under the authority of the central electoral committee set up by the Peking ACRC, an election committee had been set up with representatives appointed by the trade union, the management, the factory branch of the China New Democratic Youth League and the Communist Party branch. There had been meetings of the trade union shop leaders from each of the more than twenty shops. Full meetings of each workshop, too. Some workshops, indeed, had broken up into small groups for discussion after work on several nights. Then there had been a big meeting of all workers and employees in the factory to explain the election's special significance and the procedure to be followed.

This was an important election, for the representatives elected to the Third Session of Peking All-Circles Representative Conference would not only elect a mayor, two vice-mayors and members of the city government council, but also discuss and formulate Peking's administrative policies for the coming year.

Each workshop held elections separately, but everyone throughout the plant voted at a specified hour. Everything was very orderly and carefully planned. In one workshop, it took place in this manner. Just after the bell for off-shift rang, more than 200 workers and employees clanked the presses to a full stop. The noise of machines was replaced by the animated hum of human voices.

A blackboard with the names of the six candidates in big characters which had been standing at one side of the shop for the past two days was brought forward. The names and records of each candidate were discussed again. A trade union cadre stood on a stool so that the crowd could hear him better explain the nature of the Peking All-Circles Representative Conference, and the functions and responsibilities the representatives

have. He gave a factual report, and the attentive way in which the workers all listened showed how keenly interested they were. There were questions and answers. Another worker stood up and gave an objective and full report on the records of each of the six candidates. Then came the voting. Every worker and employee in the shop participated. The voting took place by a show of hands. After each candidate's name was announced, the upright arms were carefully tabulated, checked, and the number of votes was immediately marked on the blackboard against the candidate's name.

### A People's Government

This was not the workers' first experience with democratic elections. They had elected the members of their own trade union committee and of the Factory Administrative Committee, but this was the first time they had voted for such representatives. They were familiar with the work of the All-Circles Representative Conference on the basis of their own past experiences.

The women workers and employees, for instance, remembered how in November 1949 the Peking People's Government acting on the recommendations of the All-Circles Representative Conference had taken immediate steps to close down all the city's brothels.

Then, too, the workers remembered and appreciated other steps taken by the city government—again acting on proposals submitted by the Peking All-Circles Representative Conference—which had affected them directly. The Peking People's Printing Factory is located in a thinly-populated district with muddy streets and poor lighting facilities. For more than 40 years there was little or no public works improvement carried out by the reactionary governments to improve the district. It mattered little to them that tired workers would stumble and fall on the rough unpaved roads, or that there was no running water.

Workers in the factory had proposed to district representatives to the *chu* (district) All-Circles Re-

representative Conference that road surfaces be repaired, street lighting be improved, and a project installing a good supply of running water be organised as soon as possible. On all these suggestions, the Peking People's Government acted, and acted quickly. Today the roads are smooth, the street lights are bright and the workers have a good supply of running water.

The workers look upon their rights and privileges in the new society as very precious. Conscious of their new rôle as leaders of the country, they are keen to exercise their democratic rights. They have not forgotten what a farce and mockery the KMT made of "elections." They remember well the election of city councillors under the KMT reactionaries, and all the dirty tricks and gang rule which prevented them from cast-

ing honest votes. An electoral district with 10,000 voters would turn up 50,000 votes in those days!

"How could there be an election under the KMT bandit regime?" Fan Shih-wu, an older worker, asked. "They were always either buying or stealing ballots. What chance was there for us workers to vote freely? None! But now, we elect our own representatives, from our own factory, and not only does the government keep us informed, but it asks us ordinary workers to make suggestions. There's certainly been a change, a real turn-about for us."

\* \* \*

The meeting in the work-shop was breaking up. Someone started singing "Solidarity Is Strength" and the tune was picked up in near-by workshops. Hundreds of workers and employees throughout the plant joined in. As the workers

walked out of the factory gates in their black cotton padded uniforms, you couldn't help but feel their new confidence, in themselves, in their factory and all that goes on about them.

Talking over the election, Chin Yu-shiu, one of the older workers said to Kuo Tsin-sin, a young worker, "It's good. These people will take our suggestions to the leading authorities and bring us their opinions. We'll be right there, too, helping the People's Government build this capital city of ours into a magnificent city."

Kuo Tsin-sin nodded in agreement. "The last two sessions of the All-Circles Representative Conference did good work. It'll be better still to have our own representatives at the third session. We'll be participating directly. Seems to me," he laughed, "we're in on everything these days."

## Report from the Korean Front

Special Correspondent

### HEROIC MESSENGER

The "Na Ching-chun battalion" named after a 19-year-old messenger has a story of the great courage of the Chinese volunteers behind its name. In an encircling movement on the South Korean Western Front against American troops fleeing along a highway in a mountain valley, a company of this battalion which was chasing the Americans went up a hill on the other side of the road to try to cut them off. Before the company could establish complete contact with the rest of the battalion, a fierce battle was underway.

No one wanted to see the Americans slip out of their hands. The battalion commander sent three men to inform the company of the signal for an all-out combined attack. They were killed in the valley. Another four who made the attempt were wounded.

Na Ching-chun, a typical peasant, volunteered for the mission. The fight was reaching its height when he zigzagged his way to the foothill through showers of bullets and shells. Eight G.I.'s approached. He fell flat and lobbed a hand grenade. It killed two and the rest turned back. He followed them closely and managed to slip across the highway.

A heavy tank came round a bend roaring in his direction. Na Ching-chun had never tackled a tank himself, but he had heard a lot from his comrades about rushing on top of American tanks and throwing in hand grenades to destroy them. He disposed of the tank in this way just as about a hundred G.I.'s rounded the bend after the tank. To his surprise, they fled. Seeing that the tank was wrecked, they must have thought the volunteers were ahead. Na Ching-chun made use of this confusion to rush up the hill.

He delivered his message and returned by the same route, but a shell burst got him. Lying bleeding, he levelled his gun at the more than 20 approaching Americans still some distance away.

The battalion commander noticed this through his binoculars and immediately sent a force to his rescue.

A few minutes later, bright signal rockets appeared in the misty sky followed by a tremendous attack from both sides of the highway. The Americans were either trapped and wiped out or taken prisoners. Only a few escaped. Eighteen tanks were captured besides numerous other trophies.

### PUPPET TROOPS AWAKEN

Recent news from the Korean front tells of how men who had once fought in Syngman Rhee's puppet forces are now playing a heroic part in the ranks of the people's forces.

The Chinese volunteers have picked up thousands of wounded and half-frozen, half-starved puppet Korean soldiers who had been left to their fate by the Americans. Medical aid and food has been provided to the former puppet troops, who, once beginning to realise the cynical "white supremacy" policy of the U.S. imperialists, give vent to their pent-up hatred and become eager to turn their guns against the U.S. aggressors.

Some of these Korean soldiers have displayed extraordinary heroism after joining the people's forces. They are successfully persuading thousands of puppet forces to surrender. This is one instance of how they go about doing this. During a patrol mission, one of these liberated soldiers, Son Hyng Sun, sighted a group of Korean puppet troops on a hill. He shouted to them through a megaphone: "I used to be a puppet soldier just like you. I've joined the People's Army and now I am very well treated.

What is the sense of fighting against your own people for the American aggressors and the traitor Rhee? Come over, brothers!"

Forty-three puppet soldiers emerged from their hide-outs and walked down the hill with their hands up. They belonged to the 27th Battalion of Rhee's 5th Division.

#### U.S. JETS KILL P.O.W.'s

The American P.O.W.'s find that the greatest threat to their safety comes from their own planes bombing and strafing them.

Nineteen American prisoners of war were killed or wounded during an attack by two American jet planes on the afternoon of February 19. Over 200 American prisoners of war were at the P.O.W. camp in the North Korean rear when it was fiercely bombed and strafed for 20 minutes by the U.S. planes. Two American prisoners, Lanais I. Button, former private of the K Company of the 9th regiment of the U.S. 2nd Division, and Berred J. Clansky, former corporal of the L Company of the 38th Regiment of the same division, were killed instantaneously. Two, Jesse B. Connette, former corporal of the A company of the 38th Regiment of the same division, and Aubrey E. Hux, former corporal of the B company of the same regiment, died of serious wounds soon after. Fifteen others were wounded and one was driven mad by utter panic.

There were a great many letters written to families in the U.S. by the prisoners the next day recounting the attack. Almost every letter mentioned the good treatment received from the Chinese volunteers and urged the folks at home to do everything they could to pull the American troops out of Korea and end the terrible devastation the war was bringing. The P.O.W.'s pointed out that the greatest danger to their safety came from their own planes.

#### ONE G.I.'s CONSCIENCE

A nineteen-year old American P.O.W. has expressed the wish to be allowed to stay in Korea after the war and help build up what American imperialism has destroyed. A private first class, whose father is a Massachusetts fisherman, the young P.O.W., sitting in a Korean hut, explained quietly from his own experiences how the American troops had behaved. (His name is deliberately withheld for fear of retaliation against his family by American authorities.)



The KPA joins forces with the Chinese volunteers by Li Hua

"When our fellows went into a village, it was the commonest thing in the world to clear the family out of their home, bust open any chests, take whatever the soldiers fancied and then throw the rest out. When they left, they would as often as not put a match to the straw roofs and leave the village blazing.

"I would like to bring my wife and boy to Korea when the war is over. I truly believe from what I've seen that the Koreans and Chinese today stand for what I think is really democracy and peace. You can't win against what's right, and they're right."

#### "AN AMERICAN AFFAIR"

The feeling against the U.S. imperialists is rising sharply among rank-and-file soldiers of America's "allies" in Korea.

The British soldiers in Korea are thoroughly fed up with the war in Korea. When the Americans pulled back to and through Seoul, they left the British 29th Brigade behind to guard their retreat and one American regiment to protect the British flank. This American regiment ran away and left the British to their fate. Later in the day, U.S. planes bombed and strafed these same British who were fighting desperately to keep their escape route open.

As a result of the American bombing and strafing, the British had to run, take to the hills, fight their way out or surrender in utter chaos. Casualties and captives were many.

The British soldiers are bitter. "The war in Korea is an American affair entirely," said one, commenting on the general attitude of the British troops.

A young British P.O.W., a commercial display artist named Ronald Cocks, of West Croydon, Surrey, called up against his will to fight in Korea after six years' fighting in the last war, told a Chinese volunteer, "We all knew the Americans were using the other troops to cover their own retreats. They did it to the Turk and left them in the lurch and now they did a 'Turk' on us, the Royal Ulster Rifles."

Cocks described how most of the British soldiers went to Korea unwillingly and especially hated to fight the Chinese volunteers. "These Yanks are damn rotten soldiers," he said. "Moreover, they're smashing this country to bits. They make no attempt to bomb accurately. I've seen villages blotted out and bombs in the fields all round. And refugees in masses killed on the roads. By contrast, the Koreans and Chinese volunteers treat us as friends. One chap named Wang gave up his own rice rations for a man who had stomach ulcers. Can you see a Yank doing that?"

**CORRECTION:** In Report from the Korean Front (p. 27, Vol. III, No. 5), lines 6 and 7 from the bottom of the first column were transposed. They should read: "The United States wants awakening. We should long ago have recognised...."—Editor.

## Bookstores for the People



In these Spring days on the Wang Fu Chin there is always a press of people looking into the windows of a three-storied yellow-fronted shop, one of the largest on this busiest of Peking's streets. Its 20 show cases are filled with books and pictures, cartoons, posters, series of photographs on China's volunteers, the people's democracy in Rumania, our fighting sisters in Korea, new advances in science, sports in the Soviet Union... Here indeed are windows on the world. Above them are four characters in bright red, glistening in the sun: *Hsin Hua Shu Tien*, the New China Bookstore—our national bookstore, the second largest in the world.

Inside there is an atmosphere of efficiency. Furnishings have clean cut modern lines. There are no counters. Customers choose their books directly from the cases that line the walls or from the more than 50 special exhibition tables. Shelves are clearly marked; books comprehensively classified according to contents. An eager crowd of buyers: workers, PLA men, students and Young Pioneers, scholars and cadres are reading intently or thumbing through new publications... the works of the giants of revolutionary thought, the classics of world literature. This is a far cry indeed from the first Hsinhua Bookstore of 13 years ago.

### Hsinhua's Beginning

In 1938 in Suiteh, Shensi Province, five cadres set out the contents of a single packing case of poorly printed books on the rough wooden counters of a small shop. Over the entrance a paper sign announced: "The Northwest Resist-Japan Bookstore." This was Hsinhua's beginning. Since then, under the leadership of the Communist Party, more and more bookstores have been opened for the people. They carried on and expanded during the eight difficult years of the War of Resistance and the four years of the War of Liberation.

In the old Liberated Areas, books were brought in through the KMT blockade at risk of life. In those days, lead type for printing was worth its weight in gold. Libera-

tion always brings with it an intense demand for knowledge. In the guerrilla areas, Hsinhua books passed from hand to hand until they were all but indecipherable. The sight of a revolutionary book drove the reactionaries into a special frenzy. In May, 1942, 27 cadres died defending their North China Hsinhua Bookstore at Wuan, Hopei. In 1946, KMT secret police raided and smashed the Chungking Hsinhua branch.

But the march of the books continued, routing the enemy, aiding the guns of the PLA. By 1948, there were several hundred new Hsinhua Bookstores throughout the liberated territories. The revolution already controlled several large cities. To supply the needs of the people, the larger branches set up their own printing shops. Millions of books were published.

In February, 1949, the Hsinhua enterprises were reorganised. Publishing activities were centralised under the Communist Party's Publications Committee which became responsible for the initial publication of important political and state documents, and authorized translations of the classical works of Marxism-Leninism. At the same time, the two United Publishing Companies established in Peking and Shanghai and jointly financed by state and private interests took over the issue of text books.

After the establishment of the Central People's Government in October, 1949, the Hsinhua organisation expanded still faster. Millions of emancipated workers and peasants, women and youth, crowded into the adult schools. Old-style intellectuals faced the tasks of ideological remoulding. The Publications Administration of the Central People's Government now took over control of the Hsinhua enterprises. In early 1950, it directed branches in every province to hold conferences to reorganise their work in the light of their great new tasks. With more than 12,000 employees, the Hsinhua already had 1,143 branch stores distributed throughout the liberated country and these owned over 20 printing houses.

From January to October, 1950, they had published 4,960 books with a total edition of 56,586,000 copies and 486 text books with a total edition of 54,848,000 copies. These books included 177 of the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tse-tung totalling 11,401,000 copies, and yet the demand for books still outstrips the supply. In co-ordination with the national study movement, the Company has also published large editions of the books which are required reading for cadres and popular study books for workers and peasants. Besides hundreds of local journals, the Hsinhua also publishes 11 journals with a nationwide circulation.

### Nationwide Circulation

Today the Hsinhua publishing enterprises have been handed over to the central and local People's Publishing Associations and the printing houses are under separate management. Hsinhua Bookstores, however, remain as the central distributing organisation. They are noted for their keenness in getting their books to their readers. The Shanghai branch designed special cars, pedi-cabs, and cycles as mobile bookstores. In three months they supplied books to 150 factories, 23 schools, 15 institutions, four exhibitions, nine cadres conferences and helped establish 48 libraries throughout the city. In the rural areas, the bookstores do their business through village cadres, winter study schools and even entertainment troupes. Story-tellers boost the latest books from the stages. Last winter, the Northeast Hsinhua Bookstores helped organise and stock 4,000 village libraries. Supporting the nation-wide emulation movement, Hsinhua Bookstores launched a magazine promotion campaign. The Northeast stores, trebling the previous record, got 95,470 new subscribers in a single month.

For the year 1951, forward-looking Hsinhua Bookstores have set a new target—to sell 347,900,000 volumes of knowledge to the people. Of these, 100,000,000 will deal with the campaign for peace, to resist America and aid Korea.

Book Review

## Japan . . . Enemy or Ally?

In the light of the frantic efforts by America to rearm Japan and the attempts by Truman, Dulles and others to present Japanese militarists as doves of peace, it is interesting to glance at a book, *Japan... Enemy or Ally* written by W. Macmahon Ball. The book was published early in 1948, at a time when even Dulles and MacArthur hardly dared openly speak of a remilitarised Japan, but it is a highly interesting and documented study of the behind-the-scenes American intrigues to sabotage Allied control in Japan and to lay the foundations again of an aggressive, militaristic nation.

The author is well qualified to write such a book. Professor W. Macmahon Ball was the Chief of the British Commonwealth Mission in the Allied Council in Japan, from March, 1946 to September, 1947. An Australian, he represented jointly Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and India and was concurrently Australian Minister to Japan. Yet due to his opposition to MacArthur in the Council and the fact that he sometimes sided with the Soviet member, a violent campaign was whipped up against Macmahon Ball in the American press. On the specific demand of MacArthur, he was removed from his post. It is ironic that Dr. Evatt, Australian Foreign Minister at the time and later President of the United Nations, who made a special trip to Japan at MacArthur's behest to fire Macmahon Ball, has lately found it necessary himself to utter a warning about the rearming of Japan. Evatt who is now deputy-leader of the Labour Party opposition in the Australian parliament said in a foreign affairs debate on March 14, of this year: "The Australian people are overwhelmingly displeased at Japanese rearmament... Australian opinion is that Japanese rearmament once begun would become uncontrollable. Everybody agrees about the profound desire of many Japanese to live peacefully, but there is no doubt that the Japanese military caste would keep alive military or-

ganisations and plan revenge. It is contrary to the principles of international justice and the interests of Australia that the Australian government should become party to a decision to repudiate the 11-power agreement for peace with Japan." Evatt had his eyes on the forthcoming general elections in Australia, but on this occasion he truly voiced the opinion of the Australian people.

### Reflects Grave Fears

Macmahon Ball's book has the added weight of having been sponsored jointly by the conservative Australian Institute of International Affairs and the Institute of Pacific Relations. Although it is written in the mild, academic manner of a university professor-turned-diplomat, and although it leans over backwards to impute the best possible "if misguided" motives to the Americans, *Japan... Enemy or Ally* not only reflects the grave fears of a revival of Japanese militarism by the Australian man-in-the-street but also the apprehension of large sections of the middle-class and business circles throughout the British Empire. The book, however, suffers from a great gap between the factual material presented and the comments and conclusions which Macmahon Ball was so qualified to make but did not.

In his introduction, Ball sets out his ideas on what the allies were to do in Japan and his first paragraph is a fair statement of the aspirations of many peace-loving persons in the world. "The time has come," he writes, "for a peace settlement in the Pacific. We want a settlement that will give military security to those Pacific countries which have during these last years been the victims of aggression; a settlement that will provide for the economic stability of East Asia and a rising standard of living for Asiatic peoples; a settlement which, if possible, will lay the basis for co-operation between the United States and the Soviet Union... We were reasonably clear what we wanted to do in 1945. We were determined that Japan should be completely demilitarised."

One sees as the book develops how MacArthur played on this

"concern" for other Asian peoples and saved Japan's heavy industry just as Clay saved Germany's heavy industry with the excuse that it was necessary for the prosperity of Europe. One sees that the reparations programme in Japan was spiked because Japan's industries would be needed to provide the peoples of China and Korea with manufactured goods. But the hypocrisy of such arguments was exposed later when it became evident America was dismantling factories that produced goods in competition with the U.S.A., spared and restored munition factories and lastly put a complete boycott on trade with China and North Korea.

The U.S. pursued identical policies in Japan and Germany. They saved heavy industry on the plea of serving Asia's and Europe's needs. Once it was saved, they cut it off from its normal trade outlets. Instead of Western Germany trading with the German People's Republic and the People's Democracies of Eastern Europe, she was forced to turn West for her trade and compete in traditional British markets. Instead of Japan trading with China, she was forced away from "helping Asia" to trade in Africa and other traditional English markets. This served American policy in several ways. It helped to bring Britain further to her knees and more completely under American domination. It whetted the appetites of the militarist-industrial barons for military aggression to break into China and Eastern Europe by force, seize the raw materials they were being denied by the U.S. ban on peaceful trade, impose trade again on their own terms, backed by their occupation armies. This was the policy being built up brick by brick by General Clay in Germany and General MacArthur in Japan. Macmahon Ball grasped this fact and exposed it.

Ball makes it clear that he soon found that the Allied Council for Japan had no powers at all. Far from being a Control Council, it was purely an advisory body whose advice was never heeded on vital matters. Ball shows that MacArthur from the first days of oc-

cupation was the supreme Dictator of Japan and "Allied" policy.

#### Japan Groomed as U.S. Ally

On the question of demilitarisation, Ball says it was apparent by 1947 that Japan was being groomed as America's chief ally in the Pacific. In reply to one of his mild protests, he received the reply from a U.S. general, "When for Pete's sake, will you seven million Australians realise the importance of having seventy million allies in this country?" Ball points out that Japanese General Staff officers were kept organised although they had changed their titles to Heads of Army and Navy "Demobilisation" Ministries. He comments that it is highly probable that the admirals and generals "who demobilised their forces so smoothly will have taken every care to ensure that remobilisation may be carried out with equal smoothness." He mentions that many of them were war crimes suspects and constantly sabotaged attempts to pick up war criminals. Billions of yen's worth of military equipment was salted away for future use.

A number of paragraphs from the Basic Post-Surrender Policy for Japan are quoted to show that it had been agreed to ban any form of militarist or anti-democratic activity, to eliminate the influence of militarists and militarism, to ban the retention or manufacture of any arms factories or maintenance of armed forces. Ball then points out that even in 1947 this policy had been scrapped. The book was written in 1948 and only deals with the laying of the foundations of a new aggressive, military Japan but it is quite clear that Ball saw the trend towards the rapid rearmament of to-day even though for fear of offending MacArthur, he admits he did not raise his voice loudly enough. "Can we be sure" he asks his readers "that in emphasizing the role of industrial leadership... we are not helping to re-establish that economic imperialism which in the war years, we spent so much blood and treasure in an effort to destroy? It would be strange if the Allies, under United States leadership, were to

help Japan achieve those ambitions which she failed to achieve by force of arms." He warns further that "The psychological atmosphere in Japan everywhere suggests that the armed forces are not dead, but dormant." There is no doubt that Prof. Ball reported these trends and his own misgivings to the British Commonwealth governments and there is equally no doubt that these governments shielded the Wall Street war-mongers and betrayed their own people by not making these warnings available to the people.

Ball reports that as early as 1947, the Japanese Foreign Office sounded out Allied representatives (certainly excluding the Soviet delegates) about being allowed a standing army of 100,000 men and a small air force. The "sounding-out" was undoubtedly done with American approval although in direct contravention of basic Allied policy and in contravention of Article IX of the Japanese Constitution, adopted by Japan only a year previously. Article IX states "War... is forever renounced as a means of settling disputes with other nations. The maintenance of land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be recognised. The right of belligerency of the state will never be recognised."

This article doubtless reflects the wishes of the masses of the peace-loving Japanese people and reflects also the desires of those peoples who suffered from Japanese aggression. It is now a worthless scrap of paper, as America's need for cheap and plentiful cannon-fodder becomes more pressing.

#### Zaibatsu's Power Remains

Ball is critical of the way in which land reform was carried out and extremely critical of the farcical way in which the Zaibatsu, the great industrial monopolies, were politely put in charge of their own supposed disintegration. Needless to say the Zaibatsu, like the heavy industry groups on the Ruhr, once again play a dominant role in Japan's expanding industrialisation.

Despite much vagueness and diplomatic language throughout the

book, Ball comes out firmly in his conclusion against any remilitarisation of Japan.

"I can see no reason," he writes in his last chapter, "why Japan will be less likely in the 1950's than in the 1930's to want to use war as an instrument of national policy. Imperialism and militarism may well be the inevitable expression of the sort of economic and social system that still stands in Japan... In the face of these manifold uncertainties, I believe it is rash and dangerous to assume that Japan cannot in the foreseeable future again become a danger to her neighbours. For all these reasons, I think the first task for the peacemakers is to establish firm safeguards against the renewal of Japan's military power. I have referred to the proposal that Japan should be permitted a small army, perhaps 100,000 for 'police duties.' This proposal should be firmly rejected... The army of 100,000 men permitted Germany, after World War I, became a rallying point for the revival of German militarism. We should not forget that experience."

Ball concludes with an appeal for the West to get together with the Soviet Union... "This first task of Western statesmanship today is to learn how to live in peace with Russia... It is supremely important that the West should work with Russia in making the peace settlement and in the subsequent control of Japan..." He points out finally that the peoples of Asia, and not allied soldiers, must decide the future of the Far East.

The rearming of Japan is becoming a live issue in the election campaign in full swing in Australia. The Labour Party (whose own Foreign Minister sacked Macmahon Ball for his attempts to curb the U.S. war-mongering when he was in Tokyo) is even trying to curry favour with the voters by attacking the government on this issue. *Japan... Enemy or Ally* provides much valuable ammunition for the growing body of Australian opinion which is now demanding a halt to the U.S. remilitarisation of Japan.

—An Australian Contributor



## CURRENT CHINA

March 11—25, 1951

**U.S. Spies Trapped**

An underground espionage organization in Tientsin operating under the American SSU, a department of the former American OSS (Office of Strategic Services), has been exposed by the Public Security Bureau. Twenty-one U.S. spies of various nationalities working for the U.S. have been arrested.

The SSU set up its office in Tientsin before liberation under the name of the "U.S. Army Liaison Group" and went underground in 1948. Under orders from Jackson, a U.S. spy, agents of various nationalities collected information on China, the Soviet Union and People's Korea.

Heinrich Lipphardt, a white Russian of German origin, an international spy in the guise of a sales manager of Jardine, Matheson & Co., Tientsin, was the principal person involved. Through the introduction of de Frank, another white Russian American agent, he joined the U.S. espionage organization in 1947 and established contact with two Chinese brothers Ku Tsung-fan and Ku Tsung-teh, also agents under Jackson. These two erected a radio set in Tientsin, which served as a transmission centre for intelligence reports.

Another important U.S. agent was Yu Tsung-pin, a clerk in the Kai-lan Mining Administration in Tientsin, who, aided by the Ku brothers, sent out over 60 messages to the U.S. Intelligence.

Among the articles found with these agents were three radio transmitters, four secret code books, and 109 documents including directives, outlines of investigations, U.S. identity cards and letters from Jackson.

**P.O.W.s' Letters Forwarded**

The Chinese People's Committee for World Peace and against American Aggression has established a postal service for the prisoners of war in Korea to forward letters to their families in the U.S. and Britain. The first batch of P.O.W. letters has already been posted from Peking. The Committee will also make every effort to forward letters to the prisoners from their families.

**Rice for India**

China's first rice shipments for India totalling 13,100 tons, arrived in Calcutta on Feb. 19 and 27. This rice has been sent in fulfilment of the Sino-Indian Barter Agreement which provides that 50,000 tons of rice be sent to India in exchange for 16,500 bales of gunny bags.

The Chinese Consul-General in Calcutta, Yao Chung-kang, held a party on the evening of Feb. 21, attended by officials of the West Bengal Government, businessmen, professors, writers, artists and journalists, to celebrate the occasion.

**U.S. Losses in Korea**

The *New York Herald Tribune* recently disclosed that the heavy casualties suffered by U.S. troops in Korea totalled 100,000.

**Planes Shot down.** KPA units shot down 12 U.S. planes in the Seoul area on March 12 and another off the western coast on the 13th, states the KPA GHQ.

The Chinese people's volunteers brought down 6 U.S. planes with light machine-guns between March 2-3.

**Rear Threatened.** Behind the U.S. lines "lies the menace of 25,000 guerrillas hidden up in the mountains," reports Reuter correspondent Eusak. They are "one of the greatest potential threats" and will hold down two more U.S. army groups.

**Seoul Evacuated**

The KPA and Chinese volunteers on their own initiative and after inflicting over 30,000 casualties on American and puppet troops along the Suwon-Seoul line, evacuated Seoul according to plan on Mar. 14.

**Indian Volunteers**

In Ceylon, 25 youths in a letter to the All-India Students' Federation expressed their determination to fight with the KPA and Chinese volunteers against the U.S. aggressors, says a report from New Delhi. Some 50 Bombay youths and 12 East Punjab students have also volunteered.

**New Ambassador to USSR**

The Central People's Government has appointed Chang Wen-tien Ambassador to the Soviet Union. His predecessor Wang Chia-hsiang has been transferred home to take up the post of Vice-Foreign Minister.

**Nuns Murder Children**

A murder factory was recently discovered in Canton and identified as the "orphanage" set up by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, a Canadian convent, in charge of Sr. St. Alphonse du Redempteur M.I.C. 2,116 children, or 94 per cent of the total charges of the "orphanage," died in the past 18 months due to inhuman and criminal neglect.

Two more slaughter houses were found in Nanking. Out of 557 children in the Sacred Heart Hospital in the city, headed by Jacqueline Andre, also a Catholic nun, 372 died between January 1948 and June 1950. In the Tze Ai Home for Babies, in charge of Lauscher Agnes and 15 other nuns from the Sancti Verbi and Sancti Spiritus, 54 of a total of 69 children died between July 1 and Dec. 1, 1949.

These criminal acts have aroused wide-spread indignation and anger all over the country. The Canton "orphanage" has already been taken over by the Canton branch of the People's Relief Administration of China. Sr. St. Alphonse du Redempteur M.I.C. and four Canadian assistants of the same religious order working at the "orphanage" are being brought to trial.

**UN Slander Exposed**

The *Hsinhua News Agency* refutes as "groundless and malicious" the illegal Feb. 27 resolution of the 12th session of the U.N. Economic and Social Council which slandered the Chinese Government by stating that it offered to sell opium in Hongkong. The purpose of this slander is to cover up US aggression by diverting the world's attention, states *Hsinhua*.

**Support Spanish Strike**

The All-China Federation of Labour on March 17 cabled a message to the Democratic Spanish Trade Unions, supporting the strike of 300,000 workers in Barcelona.

## Religious Groups Demonstrate

Over 50,000 religious people in Shanghai, including Protestants, Catholics, Buddhists and Moslems, held a parade on March 21 against the rearming of Japan.

They came from schools, churches and monasteries. Among them were staff members and students from over 130 former missionary schools.

## Spring Projects on Huai

Following the completion of the winter programme, the Huai River will soon see an even greater project in operation this spring along its course across Honan, Anhwei and Kiangsu provinces, involving about 1,500,000 peasants. Over 800,000 workers have been organised for this work in three administrative districts of North Anhwei alone.

## Coal Cutting Record

Miner Chao Wen-hsin of the Feng Feng State Colliery in southern Hopei on March 19 created a new national coal cutting record—243 tons cut in one manshift (seven hours and 20 minutes). This is a

new peak in the record-breaking emulation campaign developing all over the country. It was achieved with the technical aid of Soviet experts.

News of the record was cabled by the colliery to the Ministry of Fuel for transmission to Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

## New Railway Line

A new railway linking Nanning, provincial capital of Kwangsi, with Laipin in the same province was completed and opened to traffic on March 5.

## Freight Rates Reduced

Freight rates along the Yangtse River for peasant produce from the southwestern provinces have been reduced by 10 to 50 per cent since the end of February.

## Exports Going Up

South China's products, including lacquer, wax, ginger and other items, have had big sales in the European People's Democracies.

## Miao's Autonomy

An autonomous people's government has been set up in the Kaili area of Kweichow, where 88 per cent of the population are Miaos. Nine of the 13 members of the government are Miaos.

## Tree Planting Project

China's peasants will this year plant 240 million trees on hitherto unused land. This is additional to the Government's afforestation targets.

This year's tree planting aims at water and soil conservation in co-ordination with the huge flood-prevention projects. Shelter belts against wind and sand will also be planted in parts of Northwest, Central-South and North China.

## Chinese Films Awarded

Two documentary films, *Liberated China* and *Victory of the Chinese People*, jointly produced by Chinese and Soviet film workers, have been awarded Stalin First Class Prizes.

## "China Pictorial"

*China Pictorial*, a popular pictorial featuring all aspects of life in China, is now being published in the Chinese, Russian, English, Mongolian, Tibetan and Uighur languages.

## Esperanto League Formed

On March 12, a meeting in Peking marked the founding of the All-China Esperanto League. A Standing Committee of 25 with Hu Yuchih as Chairman was elected.

China's Esperanto periodical, *El Popola Cinio*, has a popular reception in over 30 countries.

# Peking Welcomes Peace Champions

Over 1,000 representatives of all circles in Peking attended a meeting on March 22 in honour of Dr. Madan Atal, Chairman of the All-India Preparatory Peace Committee and member of the World Peace Council; Thea Sik Ien, Head of the Indonesian Delegation to the Second World Peace Congress and member of the World Peace Council; and Wilfred G. Burchett, representative of the Australian Peace Council. The meeting was sponsored by the China Peace Committee.

As spotlights turned on them, the guests of honour stepped on to the rostrum over which hung a huge reproduction of Picasso's dove of peace. The hall was decorated with great streamers, some of which read: "Peace will surely vanquish war!" "Long Live the great unity of the peoples throughout the world!"

Kuo Mo-jo, President of the Peace Committee, delivered a speech of welcome. He emphasised that the people of the East must oppose the U.S. imperialists who are preparing to start a new war by rearming Japan.

Dr. Atal asked all peoples to fight for the demands of the World Peace Congress—that all foreign forces be withdrawn from Korea, that the re-arming of Japan and Germany be stopped immediately and that the Big Five sign a pact of peace without further delay.

Thea Sik Ien of Indonesia denounced the atrocities committed by the American troops in Korea and the use of poison gas against the Chinese volunteers.

Wilfred Burchett stated that the peace movement received the widest support among the Australian people and pointed out the Australian government's failure in recruiting troops for the Korean war.

The Peking *People's Daily* stated editorially that the meeting shows the fraternal unity among the peoples of China, Indonesia, India and Australia and signifies that the Asian and Australasian peoples are rising in a joint struggle to defend peace in the Far East and the world.

## NEW CHINA'S FOREIGN TRADE

(Continued from page 7)

foreign trade, which once had a semi-colonial character, now protects the interests of the country. Foreign goods which are unnecessary to China's national economy are no longer imported. In accordance with the principle of protecting the peasants and not exploiting them, surplus farm products and by-products are being exported in the largest possible quantity. The century-old phenomenon of an unfavourable balance in foreign trade and foreign exchange also came to an end in 1950."

### Volume of Trade Expanding

The situation was, in actual fact, even more favourable than the above figures indicate. For in spite of U.S.-instigated KMT bombing and naval blockade and U.S. economic "sanctions," China did more business with foreign countries in 1950 than in pre-war years.

This is certainly not what the U.S. imperialists hoped for and expected. The mistake was theirs in thinking that their boycott of trade with New China could retard this country's economic development. Through their own efforts the Chinese people scored most impressive victories on the financial and economic front last year.

In this connection, it is worthwhile to instance the import of cotton. In 1950 China spent foreign exchange importing cotton, most of which came from the U.S. Nevertheless, China will not, as American imperialists had believed, suffer acute shortage of this important industrial crop if she has no supply from the U.S. Last year's bumper crop has already provided China with supplies adequate for both industrial and consumer requirements. The target for cotton production in 1951 constitutes an increase of 36.9 per cent, and by autumn harvest this year China will be completely self-sufficient in cotton.

Cotton is singled out for special mention, because, as it will be recalled from the above, cotton accounted for 18.04 per cent of the total value of imports in 1950. China is solving the acute problem of raw material supply, and there is no obstacle to her progress which she cannot overcome.

By their hostile actions the representatives of Wall Street monopolies have succeeded only in making the Chinese people more aware of their enmity. For instead of her economy being strangled by U.S. imperialism, China is prospering, and her trade with foreign countries, far from contracting, has been on the increase.

The volume of this country's foreign trade in 1950 and early 1951 had been constantly expanding. It surpassed the 1949 figure by a wide margin and very substantially exceeded the pre-war 1936 level.

So much for the achievements. What is the new direction for China's foreign trade policy? Consolidation and expansion of this country's trade with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies—this is the answer. The trade between China and the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies is expected to increase this year by more than 100 per cent over the 1950 volume.

Business transactions with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies have been conducted in a manner that would confound American money grabbers. The Soviet Union supplies China with what she needs without stint and at low prices. For example, Soviet machinery and industrial equipment has been 20 or more per cent lower in cost than that imported from capitalist countries. Knowing that China has a great demand for liquid fuel, the great Socialist land lowered its price last October, instead of raising it as would have been the case with the American profit-seekers.

But increasing trade with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies has more than economic significance alone. It has political significance as well. With her newly-won economic independence from the exploitation of capitalist countries, once China is free from external political and military hostility, she will, of course, proceed even more rapidly with her peaceful building of a New Democratic society. The tightening of economic ties among peace-loving countries also means strengthening the world peace camp.

### Guiding Principle

The guiding principle of China's peaceful construction is, therefore, to rely primarily on her own efforts, together with closer economic ties with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, and trading with other foreign governments and peoples on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

China does not, of course, refuse to trade with capitalist countries. It is clearly stipulated in the *Common Programme* of the People's Political Consultative Conference, the fundamental law of the nation, that "The People's Republic of China may restore and develop commercial relations with foreign governments and peoples on a basis of equality and mutual benefit." But it must be emphasised that the words "on a basis of equality and mutual benefit" serve as a primary condition for China's trade with any foreign governments and peoples.



A Bumper Crop

Woodcut by Su Kwan

## THE GREAT UNITY OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE

*(Continued from page 14)*

ected by the All-Circles Representative Conferences on the provincial and city levels should assume the functions of the local committees of the National Committee. By the end of 1950, the 27 provinces, and the 73 cities directly administered by the Central People's Government, the Administrative Areas and the provinces, had established such political consultative committees.

The local organs of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference are the organisational form of the people's democratic united front in the localities. And it is through these organs that the representatives of the different social strata, the democratic parties, nationalities and people's organisations are united, make proposals as to how the local people's governments should implement the policies and laws of the Central People's Government and raise important issues of local or national interest. It is through them that the relations between the democratic classes and parties and among the various nationalities are adjusted.

Events in the past year have proved that these organs of political consultation are the most effective organisation of the united front in uniting the people of various social strata in conducting negotiations and consultations. The development of this work will clearly greatly strengthen and extend the range of the great unity of the Chinese people.

### **Patriotism and Internationalism**

On the day of its foundation, the new China declared that it would "unite with all peace-loving and freedom-loving countries, nations and people, first of all with the Soviet Union and the People's Democratic countries, and will ally itself with them to oppose the imperialist plots for provoking war and to strive for a lasting world peace." (Declaration of the First Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference).

The historic victories of the Chinese people have greatly encouraged progressive mankind. They have made a decisive contribution to the strength of the world camp of peace headed by the Soviet Union. They have seriously shaken the very foundations of the imperialist colonial rule in the East.

But the imperialists are not willing to acknowledge their defeat. They want to re-establish their rule and re-enslave the Chinese people. The occupation of Taiwan by the U.S. imperialists, their bombing of the Northeast and the invasion of Korea are acts of naked armed aggression against the Chinese and Korean peoples. The battle-tested and united Chinese people have known how to reply to these provocations. The Chinese people deeply love peace. They wish to undertake the great tasks of national construction under peaceful conditions. But they well understand that "peace does not wait on us, it must be won." Events have proved that in this new struggle, the democratic classes, parties, and various nationalities are united as one. This unity was expressed by the joint declaration of the democratic parties on November 4, 1950, stating that they "will pledge their support, with all their might, to the just demand of all the people of the country,

and support all the Chinese people who voluntarily undertake the sacred task of resisting America, aiding Korea, protecting their homes and defending their country."

This historic document demonstrates the will of the Chinese people to bar the way to the American imperialists. Beginning from the middle of November, the democratic parties—the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang, the China Democratic League, the Democratic National Construction Association, the China Association for Promoting Democracy, the Chiu San Society and others have successively convened their central committees. They have taken the development of the campaign to resist America and aid Korea as one of central importance in their work. They are zealously undertaking the work of propaganda, education, and mobilisation among all strata of the people with which they are connected.

The patriotic campaign to resist America and aid Korea has become a wide-spread mass movement. Faced with the challenge of the struggle, the unity of the Chinese people is even more broadened and consolidated. All the attempts of the imperialists to split this unity have failed miserably. The criminal acts of the American imperialists have enhanced the vigilance and political consciousness of the Chinese people. The people of different strata and professions are actively participating in the great patriotic movement. Thousands have volunteered to fight in Korea and there, alongside the heroic KPA, they have gained glorious victories over the aggressor. Millions are at their home posts supporting the patriotic campaign by contributing their services.

This anti-imperialist and patriotic movement is now unprecedented in scale, and has produced profound effects. The people now have a keener understanding of the aggressive nature of imperialism. It is a step forward in the ideological purge of the poisons spread by the long period of cultural aggression by the American imperialists. It has rid many of the feelings of self-abasement which were shaped by a century of imperialist oppression. The self-confidence and self-respect of the Chinese people are greatly enhanced. At the same time, the masses' understanding of the unity of patriotism and internationalism is also being deepened so that they have now come to understand that "to save our neighbour is to save ourselves. To defend our fatherland we must support the people of Korea."

This massive patriotic movement has reflected the further awakening of the Chinese people as well as the further consolidation of their great revolutionary unity. By this unity, the Chinese people have in the past defeated the powerful enemies which oppressed them. Today they are forming a yet more powerful patriotic and anti-imperialist united front unparalleled in their history. This united front ensures an inexhaustible reserve of strength capable of vanquishing all their enemies. Today, all Chinese know that justice is on their side. The people of the world stand together with them. The Chinese people have the determination to resist imperialist aggression. They are confident that in a joint struggle together with the freedom-loving people of the world they will shatter imperialist aggression and its instigators and victoriously construct the People's China.



Gold Fish (A scissor cut for a window-pane)

by a peasant woman of Shantung Province