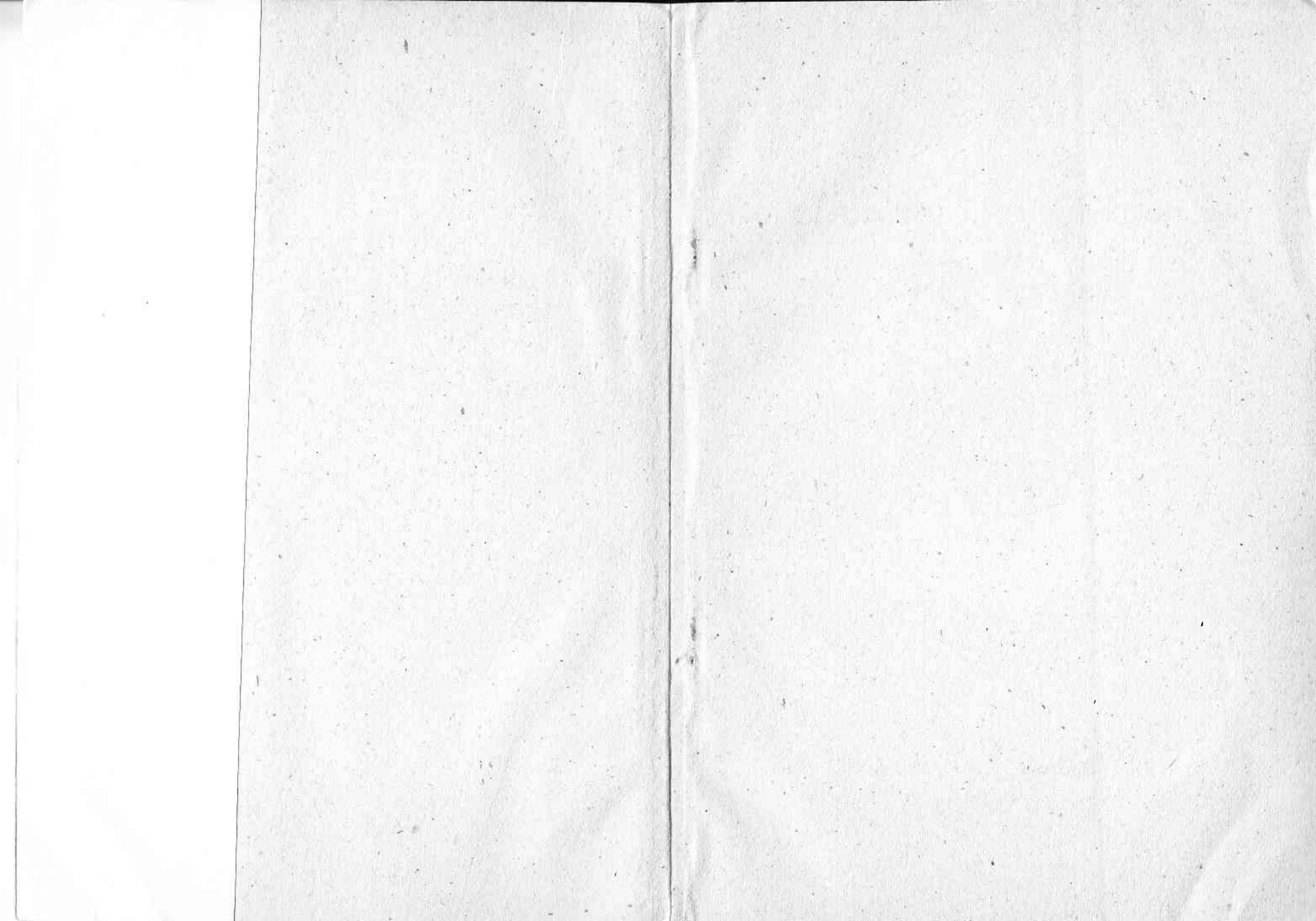


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CULTURE AND EDUCATION IN NEW CHINA





CULTURE AND EDUCATION
IN
NEW CHINA

FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS
PEKING, CHINA

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REPORT ON CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL WORK*

by

KUO MO-JO**

Mr. Chairman, members and comrades:

On behalf of the Committee of Cultural and Educational Affairs of the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government, I am going to make the following report on cultural and educational work.

My report deals with three problems: first, the general picture of the political study movement; second, the general picture of cultural and educational construction work; third, problems concerning the carrying out of cultural and educational policies.

I. THE POLITICAL STUDY MOVEMENT IN CHINA

I want first of all to say something about the current political study movement of the Chinese people.

* A report delivered at the 2nd Session of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, June 17, 1950. Figures quoted in this report were compiled in May, 1950, while those quoted in the special articles on China's press, broadcasting system and publication work were compiled in October, 1950.

** Chairman of the Committee of Cultural and Educational Affairs of the Government Administration Council.

A large-scale study movement was set going throughout the country after the Central People's Government was founded. It is a movement of the liberated people to educate and reform themselves by democratic methods of learning and it serves as the political foundation for our general cultural and educational work. The development and achievements of this movement are worthy of special note. Chairman Mao Tse-tung has said in *On People's Democratic Dictatorship*: "The People's State is for the defence of the people. Once they have the possibility of applying democratic methods on a nationwide and comprehensive scale to educate and reform themselves, they will get rid of the influences of domestic and foreign reactionaries. (These influences are still very strong at present and will remain for a long time to come; they cannot be eradicated quickly.) Thus the people can reform their bad habits and thoughts derived from the old society, so that they will not take the wrong road pointed out to them by the reactionaries; but will continue to advance and develop toward a Socialist and Communist society." This is the essence of this large-scale study movement.

The achievements of this movement may be summed up in general as follows:

1. By studying the three documents adopted by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference *The Common Programme, The Organic Law of the Central People's Government and the Organic Law of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference—Editor*), especially the *Common Programme*, the fundamental differences between old and new China have become clear to the broad masses of the people. The whole of the Chinese people, especially the workers and peasants, have become more aware of the fact that they

are the masters of new China. Unity between the various nationalities is greatly strengthened. Self-criticism is practised by many old-style intellectuals and government personnel engage in self-criticism of their old erroneous ideas. The influence of the fallacious idea of a so-called "middle road" has, in the main, been eradicated.

2. The broad masses of the people have also gained a better understanding of the two great camps in the world: The camp of world peace and world democracy headed by the U.S.S.R., and the camp of imperialist aggression headed by the U.S.A. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the broad masses of the Chinese people, (after education regarding the struggles in the field of diplomacy by such means as exposure of the American *White Paper* and careful study of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance) have recognised the nature of U.S. imperialist aggression and U.S. plans for aggrandisement and have realised that the American imperialists and their lackeys are sworn enemies of the Chinese people and are deliberately attempting to provoke a new world war.

The great friendship of the Soviet Union for the Chinese people has emphatically refuted the brazen lies of the reactionaries both at home and abroad. Instead of cherishing the suspicions and misunderstandings about the Soviet Union that were disseminated over a long period by the Kuomintang (KMT) reactionaries and the imperialists, the broad masses of the people recognise that the U.S.S.R. is the closest friend of the Chinese people, that she is the mainstay of world peace and that the signing of the new Sino-Soviet Treaty not only benefits the two great nations, China and the U.S.S.R., but also strengthens the defence of world peace. There is no middle road between the world's two great camps. China must stand

on the side of the U.S.S.R. The fact that the strength of the camp of world peace and democracy has surpassed that of the camp of imperialist aggression has greatly strengthened the Chinese people's faith in winning victory in their fight against the imperialists. The movement in defence of world peace is now spreading all over the country, and more than 10,000,000* people have signed the Stockholm Appeal.

The concept that labour is the creator of civilisation has been decisively established among the broad masses of the working people and the intellectuals. Labour has become an honour, and labouring people are everywhere winning universal respect. Production emulation campaigns are being developed in many factories and mines side by side with the New Record Movement.

4. The idea of serving the people has become prevalent among intellectuals and government personnel. After political study, many intellectuals and young students have taken part in the work of revolution and construction. The great majority of them are very industrious and have displayed initiative in their work. As a result, achievements have been made.

The People's Democratic Dictatorship has been further consolidated by the ideological awakening of the broad masses of the people. The task of national construction has been pushed ahead and the forces to defend world peace have grown.

This is a great victory on the ideological front. It goes without saying that this ideological victory is an integral part of the revolution's over-all victory. It has

* By the time of the Second World Peace Congress, over 223,500,000 peace signatures had been collected in China.

been achieved thanks to the correct leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Central People's Government and to the efforts of all those working in various fields.

This nation-wide study movement has been conducted mainly in the following ways:

(a) Political institutes and training classes have been established in various localities. According to incomplete statistics, total enrolment in these institutes and classes amounts to more than 470,000 students. With respect to social status, there are among them college and middle school students, working youths, workers, peasants, former employees and school teachers of the KMT regime, professional people, housewives, merchants, etc., with intellectuals and young students constituting the majority. So far as political affiliations are concerned, there are Communists, non-Party people, people from various democratic parties and former reactionaries.

(b) In general, teachers as well as students are organised for ideological study. After liberation, political classes in the history of social development, political economy, New Democracy, etc., have been opened in various universities and middle schools. Political studies have also been organised among teachers. As a result of the study movement, 20 per cent of our university and middle school students have joined the China New Democratic Youth League.

(c) Workers, peasants and urban citizens have been organised for education and study. Immediately after liberation, the political study movement was enthusiastically launched, first in the trade unions and in publicly-owned enterprises. After raising their political consciousness, the workers in general were eager for more cultural, technological and political knowledge. As a result, night

schools and spare-time schools for workers sprang up in various localities. According to incomplete figures, 500,000 workers are now studying in these schools.

An important form of education for the peasants is the winter study movement in the countryside. During last winter and this spring, over 10,000,000 peasants participated in winter study groups. As for the urban citizens, the spare-time schools are rendering them a great service. According to figures for December, 1949, there were 14,000 schools of this nature throughout the country with a total enrolment of 700,000 students.

To promote the study movement, government cultural and educational institutions have organised literary and artistic activities. These activities include writing newspaper articles and radio programmes, presenting scientific and cultural exhibitions and publishing large numbers of special books and journals. According to figures compiled by bookstores in North, East and Northeast China, 1,013,500 copies of books on revolutionary theory and government policies, including collections of documents, were printed and sold between January and March, 1950. The Central People's Broadcasting Station recently sponsored a programme entitled "Talks on Social Sciences", and within two months it had a basic audience of 206 organised groups scattered over 20 provinces. The play "The Song of the Red Flag" had a continuous run in Shanghai for many weeks, breaking all previous attendance records in China. All these examples serve to show the magnitude of the people's study movement.

Although tremendous achievements have been made in the self-education and ideological remoulding of the liberated people, the movement is still in its initial stages. We must strengthen the planning of our work so as to further develop the movement and consolidate the

achievements already made. Also it must be admitted that quite a few shortcomings still exist in our work. For example, we launched a general publicity campaign concerning the implementation of the *Common Programme*, our fundamental law, yet the work was rather vague and superficial and was not geared to actual needs. Such shortcomings must be overcome in our future work.

II. THE GENERAL PICTURE OF CULTURE AND EDUCATIONAL CONSTRUCTION WORK

Our legacy of culture and education from the old China was very meagre in quantity, and in content it largely failed to satisfy the demands of the people. Cultural and educational work, however successful in the old Liberated Areas, was small in volume. Basic facts and figures on education, public health, science, the arts and publications reveal the following:

EDUCATION: According to available figures, which are incomplete, China now has 227 colleges with 134,000 students; 3,690 middle schools with 1,090,000 students; 212,890 primary schools with 16,000,000 pupils. (These figures do not include political schools and political training classes).

Sixty-one per cent of China's colleges are government-supported and the rest are privately-run. A considerable proportion of middle and primary schools are also privately-run.

Where agrarian reform has been completed and economic reconstruction is going ahead, our educational work has already surpassed that of the old days in quantity and fundamental changes have taken place in the composition of the students. In the Northeast, the number

of schools at the end of 1949 were 60 per cent greater than the number before liberation. In the five provinces of North China, the increase was 50 per cent. In North-east and North China, the children of workers, farm labourers, poor and middle peasants and urban poor now form the majority of school children.

SCIENCE: The Academy of Sciences of China has now 14 research institutes, an astronomy station and an industrial research institute, all reorganised from former KMT research institutes. In addition, there are 93 natural science research institutions, 17 scientific institutes and 29 factories making scientific appliances in China.

THE ARTS: China now has three state-owned motion picture studios in Northeast China, Peking and Shanghai, which are capable of producing two-thirds of the country's films. There are four important privately-owned picture studios. Throughout China, there are 467 cinemas of which 206 are publicly-owned, 10 jointly-owned and 251 privately-owned. According to incomplete figures, in the 18 major cities below the Great Wall there are 151 theatres, while there are 82 theatres in the Northeast. There are also 400 dramatic groups, with 40,000 actors, musicians, singers, dancers and other members throughout the country, including those attached to the People's Liberation Army and those directed by municipal and higher governments.

PRESS: China now has 624 newspapers of which 165 are dailies. One hundred and twenty-two dailies are publicly-owned and 43 are privately-owned. There are also 216 army papers. According to incomplete figures compiled in May, 153 Chinese dailies had a total daily circulation of 2,600,000 copies. The Hsinhua News Agency has a network of seven branches and 43 sub-branches,

including three overseas sub-branches. There are 51 publicly-owned and 32 privately-owned broadcasting stations operating in China, of which 22 of the privately-owned are located in Shanghai.

PUBLICATIONS: The state-operated Hsinhua Bookstore now has 887 branches and 30 printing shops, which constitute about one-fourth of China's printing capacity. According to reports of the Publications Administration, there are 244 privately-owned publishing companies and six jointly-owned companies in 11 major cities throughout China. From January to March, 1950, the publishing companies in East, North and Northeast China published 878 new books, totalling 52 million copies, second editions included. Out of this total, the Hsinhua Bookstore alone published 40 million copies.

* * *

Since its formation, the Committee of Cultural and Educational Affairs of the Government Administration Council in cooperation with all organs concerned, has conducted the above-mentioned people's political study movement. Furthermore, it has carried out the work of taking over and reorganising cultural and educational institutions and of restoring, reforming and developing these institutions, giving top priority to the more important ones. I shall report just on a few important points:

Promotion of Education for Workers and Peasants

Since the All-China Educational Workers' Conference of last December, short-term middle schools for workers and peasants have come into being. In the first half of 1950, thirteen such schools of an experimental nature were set up in Peking and in the various Greater Administra-

tive Areas. In addition to those established by the educational departments of the government, quite a number of such schools have been set up in the army and in public organisations. More will be opened during the latter part of this year.

In the meantime, many spare-time schools and technical classes have been set up for workers in industrial centres. In a recent directive, the Government Administration Council decided that Committees on Spare-time Education for Factory Workers and Employees be set up throughout the country with the aim of guiding spare-time education.

Education for the peasants takes the form mainly of winter study groups in which the peasants study during the slack winter months. Many of these groups have grown into schools or study classes which are now open all the year round. In the Northeast, as many as 26,006 winter study classes have grown into regular schools for the masses.

Reform of Higher Education

Some important tasks have been carried out in reforming higher education. The first of these was the establishment of the Chinese People's University. Its establishment was based on the experience of the Soviet Union plus the actual requirements in China. Its educational methods emphasise the integration of study with practice. Its purpose is to train cadres who have had considerable revolutionary experience, selected industrial workers and young intellectuals for work in national construction.

The second task was the training of teachers. In the first half of this year, the National Peking Teachers'

University was reformed in line with the new educational policy. Changes in the curricula and teaching methods have also been introduced in other higher educational institutions.

The third task was the convening of the National Higher Education Conference in June, 1950, which discussed the future policy and aims of higher education. The conference adopted several proposals, including decisions on reforming the curricula of institutes of higher learning, and also laid down provisional regulations governing institutes of higher learning. The conference pointed out that the teaching methods of higher educational institutes must emphasise the integration of theory with practice. It also pointed out that higher educational institutes must train senior staffs for construction work needed by the State and must begin to open its doors to young workers and peasants and to government cadres who come from worker or peasant backgrounds.

Development of the Cinema Industry

In 1950 the Ministry of Culture of the Central People's Government plans to make 26 feature films, 17 documentary films, 48 newsreels and one colour film, and to dub 40 Soviet films with Chinese sound tracks. A part of this plan has been fulfilled, while the greater part of the projected films are under preparation. In addition, in order to turn out more progressive films so as to be able to cut down the showing of inferior American and English films, the Ministry is giving aid to private film studios and has set up film studios jointly run by the state and private interest. Loans were made available to private film studios. During the first half of 1950, \$6,000,000,000 (people's currency) and \$220,000 (Hong-kong dollars) were loaned to private film studios.

As a result of the warm reception given to progressive films by the public, the number of American and English films screened in North China dropped from 63 films in the first eight months of last year to 12 in the latter four months. It has been one of the chief tasks of our cinema workers to turn out more progressive Chinese films, to dub more Soviet films with Chinese sound tracks and to raise the standard of Chinese films so that more progressive films will be shown throughout the country.

Another great task facing our cinema workers is to take our films to army units, factories and rural areas. We plan to increase our present 100 cinema projection units to 700. There will be an average of 20 mobile units in each province, apart from those catering to factories, army units and public institutions.

Reform of Old-style Arts

The reformation of old-style arts is being carried out in close cooperation with the old-style artistes. The number of such artistes throughout the country is considerable. In Peking and Tientsin alone, there are over 6,000 of these artistes, according to an incomplete estimate. Their importance cannot be overlooked. We are adopting a prudent policy in the reformation of old-style arts. We first examined and corrected some of the old dramas and songs, and then began to write new ones for the artistes. Under the joint guidance of the government departments and artistes concerned, work along this line has met with initial success. In the Northeast, Peking and Tientsin, hundreds of ballads, Peking operas and other forms of folk art have been re-written.

A research institute, a school and a theatre have been set up in Peking to reform Peking opera. In the first

half of this year, over 2,000 artistes in Peking enrolled in two training classes to reform themselves. They included many well-known artistes. Similar work is being done elsewhere. This reform movement has become popular with the old-style artistes and is beginning to bear fruit.

Improvement of the Press and the Strengthening of the Broadcasting Service

A national journalists conference was called by the Press Administration in April, 1950. The conference adopted "Decisions on the Improvement of Newspaper Work" in which it was pointed out that newspapers must establish close ties with the masses, develop criticism and self-criticism, and strengthen their economic coverage in coordination with the economic policy and construction of the State. These decisions soon influenced all newspapers. The *People's Daily* in Peking and other leading local papers are now playing an important role in guiding and criticising the work of the people and of government organs, and they have gained still greater prestige among their readers.

Newspapers are now run on a business basis. A division of labour between government and commercial newspapers has now been made. In many places, post offices now serve as distributors of newspapers. In this way, efficiency is increased and distributing costs reduced.

In the first half of 1950, an international broadcasting station and nine new broadcasting stations were set up and six more were taken over. Five others are being built. During the national journalists conference, it was decided to set up a nationwide radio-monitoring network. This decision is now being carried out.

Readjustment of State-owned and Private-owned Publishing Houses and the Establishment of a System of Distribution

The Publications Administration plans to call a national publishers' conference this autumn with a view to readjusting State-owned and privately-owned publishing houses, to discussing a reasonable division of labour and to overcoming the chaotic and disorganised situation in the publishing business. In order to achieve efficient distribution of books printed either by State-owned or privately-owned publishing houses, thus cutting down the costs of distribution and the price of books, the Publications Administration is preparing to reorganise the Hsin-hua Bookstore so that it will no longer print books but will become the sole distributor of all publications throughout the country. This plan will be put into effect this autumn.

Promotion of Exchange of Culture Among Fraternal Nationalities

To help promote an exchange of culture among all the nationalities in China, we have already instituted radio programmes in the Tibetan and Uighur languages and are planning to start broadcasts soon in Mongolian. Newspapers are being published in the Mongolian, Uighur, Kazakh and Korean languages. We have also set up the Sinkiang college in Tihua and a college for national minorities in Lanchow, Kansu Province; as well as other schools for national minorities. Field teams have been sent to Inner Mongolia and other places to make motion pictures about the life of national minorities. Two groups are being organised by the Committee of Cultural and Educational Affairs and the Commission of Nationalities

Affairs of the Central People's Government to visit the national minorities in Northwest and Southwest China, and to investigate their cultural conditions.

III. SOME PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE EXECUTION OF OUR CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL POLICY

On the basis of eight months' experience, we have come across some problems concerning the execution of policy in the course of furthering our cultural and educational work.

First, great care must be taken in reforming our educational system. Our nation has undergone a drastic transformation, i.e., changing from a semi-colonial and semi-feudal country into an independent, democratic, united and peaceful New Democratic State. Since the country and society have changed in character, it is unavoidable that fundamental changes will also occur in culture and education. Article 41 of the fifth chapter of the *Common Programme* contains specific provisions regarding the cultural and educational policy. It stipulates:

"The culture and education of the People's Republic of China shall be New Democratic—national, scientific and popular. The main tasks of the People's Government in cultural and educational work shall be the raising of the cultural level of the people, the training of personnel for national construction work, the eradication of feudal, comprador and fascist ideology and the promotion of the ideology of service to the people."

This indicates that our old-style cultural and educational work must undergo a process of reformation. Chairman Mao Tse-tung has recently taught us clearly and correctly:

"The work of reforming education in old-style schools and of reforming the old social culture should be carried out methodically and carefully. All patriotic intellectuals should be won over to serving the people. On this question, procrastination and reluctance to carry thorough reform is incorrect; but rashness or attempts to carry thorough reforms precipitately is also incorrect."

We must follow this principle whole-heartedly, casting aside these two sorts of "incorrect" deviations of thought, and "methodically" and "carefully" carry out the work of reforming education prescribed for us by the cultural and educational policy. To reform the old-style cultural and educational work is indeed a long-term and difficult task. We must join forces with all patriotic intellectuals who are willing to serve the people, and only in this way can success be achieved.

Second, we must insist on the principle of uniting theory with practice and of elevating and popularising our cultural and educational construction. As pointed out in Article 46 of the *Common Programme*: "The method of education in the People's Republic of China shall be the unification of theory and practice." According to this principle, our higher and secondary education and our scientific research work should serve the practical needs of economic, political and cultural reconstruction and the national defense of our country.

Undoubtedly, the tendency of art for art's sake, which overlooks these needs, is wrong and must be corrected. On the other hand, we also want to prevent the tendency to ignore the importance of systematic, thorough study of theory. We must also correct the tendency to lower the level of educational and scientific work by merely considering immediate local needs to the exclusion of

long-range needs, under the pretext of meeting the practical needs, that is, not seeing the wood for the trees.

At the National Higher Educational Conference, we criticised these two incorrect tendencies and insisted on the principle of the unification of theory and practice. We are prepared to do this in all other fields of work.

In all our work in education, culture, science, hygiene and publications, there exists the problem of unification, improvement and popularisation. Either in theoretical study or in practical work, there are always two aspects—one is the extensive need of the overwhelming majority of the people and the other is the special needs of the few leading organisations. We have always realised that raising the quality of our work is necessary and this point is confirmed by the fact that with the growing complications in our present national construction work, specialists are needed more than ever. But precisely because of this, many of our cultural and educational workers overlook the work of popularisation, forgetting that ours is fundamentally an agricultural country and that 80 per cent of our population is in the countryside. It is, of course, at variance with the present conditions in the country to be unwilling to go to the countryside and do the work of popularising all kinds of cultural and educational work.

We should, on the one hand, pay attention to the work of improving the quality of our cultural work, providing all possible and necessary facilities for this, but on the other hand, we should make efforts to call on great numbers of intellectuals to undertake the work of popularisation.

Third, we must take into account the special features of both public and private cultural and educational

establishments and try to coordinate them. To unite all our potential forces in developing our cultural and educational work, we should resolutely carry out the principle of taking into account both public and private interests as laid down in the *Common Programme*. In helping the private cultural and educational establishments, we should not only help them overcome their financial difficulties, but more important, help them reform and improve their ideology. Under the guidance of the government, similar types of cultural and educational establishments should have a definite division of labour and should cooperate among themselves so as to be able to meet the needs of all the people.

In the course of our work, we have met and will meet many problems but we have already armed ourselves with the basic means for solving them. Just as Chairman Mao Tse-tung said at the meeting of the National Committee of the People's Political Consultative Conference in his opening address: "We have the great and correct *Common Programme* as our criterion for examining our tasks and discussing matters." Therefore, we shall not be without standards and go in a wrong direction.

Finance and economics are the material basis of national construction in all the countries. In this meeting we should especially thank our fellow comrades in this field of work who have achieved so much within such a short period of time. The financial and economic work of the whole nation is now unified. Income and expenditure are nearing balance. The vicious inflation has been cured. Prices are being gradually stabilised. This has not only built a firm foundation for us cultural and educational workers but has also set a good example for us.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung, in his report to the Third Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, called upon the whole nation to "fight for a fundamental turn for the better in the financial and economic situation". Chairman Mao said: "Three conditions are required for the financial and economic situation to take a fundamental turn for the better. These are: 1. the completion of agrarian reform; 2. the proper readjustment of existing industry and commerce; and 3. large-scale reduction in government expenditure.... These conditions can be realised with complete certainty in about three years. Then we will be able to see the entire financial and economic situation of our country turn fundamentally for the better."

This is again a scientific prophecy and we cultural and educational workers should now work together for the realisation of these three conditions. We can boldly say that in three years our nation's whole cultural and educational situation will also turn for the better together with the fundamental turn for the better in the financial and economic situation.

It is true that "no difficulty can halt the advance of the people's cause."

THE POLICY OF EDUCATIONAL CONSTRUCTION IN PRESENT-DAY CHINA*

by

CHIEN CHUN-JUI**

EDUCATION TO SERVE THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS

Education in China is people's education, that is to say, it is education to serve the people, which at the present stage means serving the four democratic classes—the working class, the peasantry, the petty-bourgeoisie and national bourgeoisie.

But for the present, China's educational policy is primarily serving the working class and the peasantry, not the people in general. This is due to the situation in present-day China.

First, "The foundation of the people's democratic dictatorship is the alliance of the working class, peasantry and urban petty-bourgeoisie. It is mainly the alliance of the workers and peasants because these two classes comprise 80 to 90 per cent of China's population. These

* An abridged text.

** Vice-Minister of Education.

two classes have been the major force in overthrowing imperialism and the reactionary KMT clique. The transition from New Democracy to Socialism also depends primarily upon the alliance of these two classes." (Mao Tse-tung: *On People's Democratic Dictatorship*) "The Chinese proletariat, peasantry, intelligentsia and other petty-bourgeoisie are the fundamental force on which hinges the fate of the State." (Mao Tse-tung: *On New Democracy*).

Second: "Among the four groups of people, the workers, peasants and soldiers are of primary importance because the petty-bourgeoisie are in the minority. Their revolutionary perseverance is comparatively weaker and they have comparatively more cultural training than the workers, peasants and soldiers." (Mao Tse-tung: *Talks at Yen-an's Literary Conference*) As to the national bourgeoisie, they are even fewer in number while their revolutionary perseverance is still weaker and they already have still more cultural training. In old China, education was in the hands of the oppressing and exploiting classes. The labouring people had no share in it.

Since October 1949, the people's democratic dictatorship, led by the proletariat and based upon the alliance of the working class and the peasantry, has replaced the feudal-compredore-fascist dictatorship of the imperialist-controlled big landlords and capitalists. In accordance with such a basic change, education must become a people's education to serve the workers and peasants, replacing the reactionary education which primarily served the imperialists, feudal forces and bureaucratic capitalists.

It should be pointed out that at present, education is by no means in keeping with the basic situation of China. Except for certain literacy classes, spare-time

schools and winter schools, there is a great lack of constant and adequate cultural and educational opportunities for the workers and peasants. At present China has about 220 universities and technical colleges, 3,690 middle schools and 212,890 primary schools. Aside from the middle and primary schools in the old liberated areas, where students are composed primarily of children of the workers and peasants, the bulk of the students elsewhere come from families of middle peasants and urban petty-bourgeoisie or from even wealthier strata. The workers and peasants and their children have practically no chance of receiving education. It is high time that we make great efforts to change this situation so that education can really become democratic and can raise the political and cultural level of the workers and peasants.

Does this mean that education, when serving the workers and peasants, does not serve other democratic classes? Of course not. The fact is that a great number of sons and daughters of the petty-bourgeoisie and the national bourgeoisie are studying in different schools. Far from objecting to such a thing, we welcome it.

It has been clearly stated in the *Common Programme* that "The culture and education of the People's Republic of China shall be New Democratic—national, scientific and popular." In other words, education in New China should be national, scientific and popular in content.

To say that our education must be thoroughly national means it must thoroughly oppose imperialist aggression. It must uphold the integrity, independence and liberation of the Chinese nation. The illusions about American imperialism now still being entertained by some people must be decisively eradicated. The harm

done to the Chinese nation by so-called "democratic individualism" must be exposed and the base and blind psychology of worshipping "western culture" i.e., capitalist culture, must be opposed.

We should to the best of our ability stimulate revolutionary patriotism. We must call upon the people to ardently love our own mighty country. We must ardently love our own brave, diligent and mighty people, the highly meritorious People's Liberation Army, the Chinese Communist Party which has led the movement of liberation of China, and the great Chinese leader—Mao Tse-tung. We must whole-heartedly study his teachings and style of work and stand firmly beside him.

On the other hand, we must firmly oppose narrow-minded nationalism. Internationalism, combined with new patriotism, should be fostered to unite us closely with our international friends, especially with the Soviet Union and other People's Democracies. We must cultivate warm sympathy and support for the national liberation movements in the colonies and semi-colonies. We must also take an active part in opposing warmongers all over the world and in defending lasting peace and universal security. We must resolutely oppose turning national self-respect into chauvinism and also oppose the viewpoint of looking down upon small nations still to be liberated.

Our new education serving the workers and peasants must be thoroughly scientific. Such a scientific education must "oppose all feudal and superstitious ideas, uphold the search for truth in facts, uphold objective truth and the unity between theory and practice." (Mao Tse-tung: *on New Democracy*) At present we should lay great emphasis on popularising the universal truths of Marxism-

Leninism, and on criticising idealism and superstitious ideas. Great efforts must be made to introduce the natural science of the U.S.S.R.

Our new education must also be really popular. The contents must be expressed in forms which the workers and peasants can appreciate and should not be separated from their lives and struggles. Meanwhile, the Chinese written language must be suitably revised so that it becomes understandable to the workers and peasants.

Before introducing such education, we should first know what facilities we have at our disposal and what difficulties we are going to encounter. First, we have the correct educational policies laid down by Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the People's Political Consultative Conference and the Central People's Government. Second, abundant experience in worker-peasant education has been accumulated during the more than 20 years of the people's revolutionary struggle led by the Chinese Communist Party. Third, the keen desire for culture, the growing consciousness and warm support on the part of the workers and peasants greatly facilitate this work. Fourth, we can begin to learn from the experiences of the Soviet Union in this respect.

Do we have difficulties? Yes, we lack the necessary funds, teaching staff and experience for this task. However, with the betterment of the economic and political situation, such difficulties will gradually be overcome.

How are we going to develop an educational system which serves the workers and the peasants.

First, by extending education to cadres of worker or peasant origin and PLA troops. The cadres of worker or peasant origin are the backbone and the most precious assets of New China. Since they have always been in

an environment of bitter struggle, they did not have much chance to receive a systematic education. Therefore, their cultural and scientific education should be greatly intensified. Since the PLA is being transformed into a modern army for national defence, it is necessary for all officers and men to attain a much higher scientific, cultural and political level.

Second, by promoting spare-time education for the workers. After the defeat of the revolutionary war in 1927, the Chinese Communist Party, the vanguard of the Chinese working class, correctly shifted the centre of its activities from the cities to the countryside. Until the liberation of the leading cities in 1949, the vanguard of the Chinese working class had for 22 years been separated from its own class in a geographical sense. Although the working class itself rendered much help in the different revolutionary stages, it did not have the same opportunity to receive education as its vanguard. This was due to the extremely terroristic control of the imperialists and the reactionary KMT.

Consequently, during the initial stages of liberation, the ideological level of the workers of the cities was generally lower than that of the peasants in the old liberated areas, who had gone through the trials of revolution and agrarian reform.

The way to alter such a state of affairs is by no means to lower the level of the peasants, but to push the working class forward so that it may catch up with the peasantry. This is the tremendous responsibility of the working class itself and its vanguard. It is also the tremendous responsibility of those engaged in the work of people's education. Under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, the trade unions and educational workers must work out

a clearly-defined division of labour and they must share the responsibility for establishing and broadening spare-time education for the workers gradually and systematically. About 500,000 workers in different regions are taking part in spare-time educational programmes, and we must strive for a still broader development of this movement.

Third, by spare-time education for the peasants. This is the biggest educational task in New China. In the old liberated areas, great results from peasant education have been achieved by the Communist Party.

Another important form of peasant education in the old liberated areas is the winter school. Literacy and political classes are conducted during the peasants' leisure hours in winter time, and are co-ordinated with their actual struggles and work. Soon after its establishment, the Ministry of Education of the Central People's Government issued a directive calling for the nation-wide expansion of winter schools. A workers' and peasants' education conference will be held autumn, 1950 to sum up experiences in conducting winter schools and discuss problems concerning teaching personnel and teaching materials.

Fourth, by promoting the literacy campaign and systematically liquidating illiteracy on a nation-wide scale. Chairman Mao Tse-tung has said: "The liquidation of illiteracy, which affects 80 per cent of the Chinese population, is an essential condition for constructing a new China." (*On Coalition Government*) We have already started building up a New China, but we do not yet have this essential condition. In other words, 80 per cent of the Chinese population are still illiterate. These illiterates are for the most part workers and peasants, the

fundamental force of the leading classes of New China. This is why the problem is such a serious one.

To solve this problem, we must make the necessary preparations now. The first thing to do is to expand the literacy campaign in the spare-time schools, the winter schools and the army schools. Experimental work in this field should be first undertaken in areas possessing the necessary prerequisites, i.e., where agrarian reform has been carried out or where factory production is well organised.

Fifth, by setting up short-term middle schools for workers and peasants. Chairman Mao has said: "From now on the Government should, on a planned basis, train up different kinds of intellectual cadres from among the broad masses of the people." (*On Coalition Government*) In China there are still very few intellectuals who come from the working class and peasantry. This is extremely disadvantageous to the construction of New China, and it would be even more disadvantageous in proceeding from New Democracy to Socialism. It is our important duty to train a large number of intellectuals from among the workers and peasants, arming them with knowledge of Marxism-Leninism and of the natural sciences. The main method is to establish short-term middle schools for qualified youths and cadres from worker and peasant backgrounds. After three or four years of scientific and cultural training, the greater part of them can be admitted to institutions of high learning where they can acquire more advanced technical knowledge. It is hoped that next year will see the widespread establishment of such schools in various localities and also in the Army.

Sixth, all levels of schools should open their doors wide to workers and peasants and to their children. The universities must be brought within the reach of young

workers and peasants. Such a policy may seem unconventional, and old intellectuals may have difficulty accepting it because they think that workers and peasants are stupid, dirty and unqualified for a college education. As a matter of fact, workers and peasants are more entitled to a higher education than others, because they are the mainstay of the state and the backbone of construction.

The Central People's Government has established the People's University of China. This university has eight departments: Economics; Economic Planning; Finance, Credits and Loans; Commerce; Cooperatives; Factory Administration; Diplomacy; and Law. Its courses of study range from two to four years. The first year's enrolment totals 1,400. Most of these students are worker-peasant cadres who have participated in revolutionary work for from three to eight years or else they are outstanding workers with a labour record of at least three years.

EDUCATION TO SERVE PRODUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION

New China's education is designed to help the restoration and development of the people's economy. The ultimate goal of the Chinese people's great revolution is the liberation of the material productive forces of Chinese society from semi-feudal and semi-colonial bondage, so that these productive forces can develop freely. Our New Democratic political and cultural construction will not have a solid foundation until these productive forces have been developed.

Above all, we must endeavour in our educational work to cultivate the viewpoint and habit of honouring

and loving labour, and we must eliminate the viewpoint and habit of despising labour and workers. "The world of man and even man himself are the creation of labour. Labour is the foundation on which human society exists and develops. Workers are the creators of civilisation. Therefore, labour must command the highest respect in the world. . . . We must give the labouring people, the honour that is due to them, especially the labour heroes and inventors who have made important inventions and innovations, and we must show our contempt for the social parasites who never work but live on others. This is one of our new moral standards." (Liu Shao-chi, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government, addressing a meeting of cadres in Peking on May Day, 1950.)

We must provide extensive and intensive education among the labouring people regarding labour discipline; we must pattern our education around the slogan "let us organise together," around labour cooperation and mass production.

Our education for labourers must be clearly differentiated from the so-called labour education of the bourgeoisie, which amounts only to training more submissive and more efficient wageslaves in the interests of the bourgeois class. Our people's education is a means to help our labouring people, through their own efforts, make more active and more effective contributions towards the consolidation and development of the victory they have already won, to help them consolidate and reinforce their position as masters of their own country, to facilitate the construction of their own nation.

Next, our people's education must emphasise the development of scientific and technical education and closely connect such developments with both our im-

mediate and long-range requirements in production. We must popularise knowledge of natural sciences and of industrial and agricultural technique among the broad masses of people, especially among the broad masses of the peasants. We must turn out experts for the various fields of construction and arm them with the world's best scientific knowledge.

To do this, we must learn principally from the scientific and technical achievements of the Soviet Union. We must connect our studies with China's construction so that our studies can be put into practice extensively and systematically. To further our construction, of course, we must also learn from the scientific and technical achievements of capitalist countries as well.

Chairman Mao long ago told us: "The imperialists count upon our not handling economic problems well. They stand on the sidelines and wait for our failure. We must overcome all difficulties and must learn the things we do not understand. We must learn to do economic work from all who know the ropes (no matter who they are). We must respect them as teachers, learning from them attentively and earnestly. We must not pretend to know when we do not know. We must not put on bureaucratic airs. If one bores into a subject for several months, for one year or two years, perhaps three or four years, it can eventually be mastered. Some of the Communists in the Soviet Union were also unable to handle economic work at the beginning, and the imperialists also waited for their failure. But the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. emerged victorious. Under Lenin's and Stalin's leadership, the Soviet Communists not only have been able to stage a revolution but also have been able to carry on construction. They have already built up a great and glorious Socialist State.

"The Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. is our very best teacher and we must learn from it." (Mao Tse-tung: *On People's Democratic Dictatorship*)

Stalin once said: "To carry on construction, both knowledge and the mastery of sciences are necessary. Standing in front of you is a fortress, the fortress of science and the different branches of technique. We must storm this fortress by all means." Educational workers of new China must guide and assist our young people in arming themselves as active and efficient builders of a new society by storming this fortress of science and technique.

Theory divorced from practice and learning separated from application were the main characteristics of education in the past. Today in our schools, especially in those schools in newly-liberated areas, such a situation still exists. This must be remedied.

Narrow empiricism is developing in some of our schools, and this must be corrected. It is imperative that new China's scientific and technical education considers our long-range construction requirements, and not only those of today. It is not our purpose to turn out short-sighted and narrow-minded "craftsmen" or "spare parts," but rather to prepare our youths as far-sighted, creative and fully developed builders of the new society.

To meet the urgent demand for various kinds of cadres immediately needed for production and construction, we should set up, according to priority, short-term classes to train a large number of students as junior technicians. However, it does not follow that all schools hereafter must have departments specialising in a very narrow subject or that students should always start by

studying special courses. This would be at variance with the long-range interests of the nation.

How are we to align education to the needs of production and construction as outlined above?

At the present time, the main course of study for cadres of worker or peasant origin and for the masses of workers and peasants should be literacy and arithmetic. If conditions allow, they may also take up vocational studies at the same time. For example, spare-time schools for workers should, as a rule, offer cultural courses, but young workers may use some of their spare time to learn a trade under an apprenticeship system.

Where agrarian reform has been completed, education for peasants should mainly consist of literacy classes. Various opportunities—such as production and co-operative emulation movements, the election of model workers, exhibitions of farm produce and the performance of plays—should also be utilised for popularising improved farming technique. Peasants living near state farms should be taught to adopt modern farming methods.

Cadres of worker or peasant origin, as well as other cadres working in enterprises, should regard the study of scientific technique related to their own occupations as one of their chief tasks.

In view of the fact that a large number of junior technicians is needed for production and construction, new China's secondary education in the coming years should emphasise secondary technical education. The existing number of secondary technical and vocational schools is very inadequate. For example, according to incomplete data, in the Northeast, 81.3 per cent of all secondary schools are regular secondary schools and only

7.2 per cent are technical schools. In North China, regular secondary schools constitute 73.2 per cent of the total, while technical schools comprise 5.6 per cent.

This does not mean that to develop our secondary technical education, we must turn all middle schools into technical schools. Taking China as a whole, the number of regular middle schools is woefully inadequate. Therefore our secondary technical education should be largely developed by setting up more secondary technical schools and classes with the cooperation of our educational bureaux, trade bureaux and big enterprises.

New China's institutions of higher learning should regard their chief task to be the training of various types of specialists who can master the newest achievements of modern science and technique, who can link theory with practice, who can relate practical production to science and who can take an active part in New Democratic construction.

An industrial education conference was held in the Northeast last May. Decisions were made on how industrial schools in the Northeast should be divided into different departments and sections. Discussions were also held on certain aspects of the schools' curricula, with a view to training specialists along more planned lines.

The Ministry of Education of the Central People's Government is in close contact with the various economic construction bureaux. Availing itself of the services of many experts, the Education Ministry is preparing a draft plan for the major curricula of colleges and universities throughout the country. This plan will be submitted to the First National Conference of Higher Education for approval, and following adoption it will serve as a target in our work for a specified period.

The Ministry has already set up in Tsinghua University an eight-month irrigation-engineering course, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture; a three-to-four-year chemical engineering course, in cooperation with the Ministry of Heavy Industry; and a five-month meteorology course, in cooperation with the Meteorological Bureau of the Central People's Revolutionary Military Council. Preparations are under way to set up similar classes in other colleges and universities throughout the country.

THE PRESS IN NEW CHINA

by

LIU TSUN-CHI*

The role of the press has been a particularly distinguished one in the victorious revolutionary advance of the Chinese people to complete national independence and the establishment of a people's democracy. The people have taken the management and operation of newspapers away from the KMT counter-revolutionaries and into their own hands. Building on the experience of the revolutionary press in the days before the nation-wide victory, the people's press, by propaganda, raising the people's political consciousness and organising the broad masses, has powerfully assisted the advance of social progress and national construction in New China.

Before the collapse of the reactionary KMT regime, the people of China had their own newspapers only in the old Liberated Areas. In all KMT-controlled cities, the press generally played the role of mouthpiece of imperialism. Most of its daily news was taken from the releases of such foreign news agencies as AP, UP, AFP (*Agence France Presse*) or Reuter. Its columns and special features were filled with corrupting articles translated from the American press.

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Even for news on China's own military, political and economic affairs, newspapers in KMT China depended on foreign news agency releases which were usually slanted to suit imperialist policies by the various foreign correspondents. These pressmen, who were assigned more or less permanently to China, enjoyed special rights and news collecting facilities which the Chinese newspapermen were denied. Indeed, the KMT did all it could for the capitalists of the United States, Britain, France and, at one time, Japan, who were subjected to no restrictions whatever and were free even to run, either in foreign languages or in Chinese, their own newspapers—an effective medium for keeping the props under long-term colonialism in China.

With very few exceptions, Chinese newspapers became little more than monopoly enterprises of the KMT reactionaries. Some of them were its open organs. Others, while nominally private-owned papers of a commercial character, in fact depended on the KMT for subsidies, in return for which the newspapers propagandised on behalf of the corrupt regime.

The victory of the Liberation War brought a fundamental change to the press. In place of the newspapers of the KMT and the bureaucratic capitalists, publicly-run newspapers owned by the people themselves appeared. These have been increasing both in number and circulation. Except for Taiwan and Tibet, each of the 28 provinces of China has its own publicly-run newspapers. Fifteen such papers were established over the past year alone. In addition, there are several hundred newspapers run by the various political parties, trade unions, youth organisations, etc., including 39 privately-owned newspapers. Together with the newspapers of various cities and localities, these newspapers have laid a sound basis

for the development of the people's press on a national scale. Mention must be made of the newspapers published by the People's Liberation Army, some of which have a proud history extending over 15 years. These papers make great use of the services of a network of soldier-correspondents from company units upwards.

Workers and peasants have their own special newspapers which are developing large circulations. According to incomplete data in August, 1950, local trade unions throughout the country have 32 newspapers, 20 of which were established during the past year. In addition, there are the newspapers of the national industrial trade unions—the number of trade union papers totalling over 80. In developing production, sharing experiences, organising the people and raising the cultural level of workers, these newspapers have done a magnificent job.

There are special newspapers, too, for the national minorities published in their own native languages which have done much to raise the cultural and political level of the minority peoples. Already more than 16 newspapers are published in the languages of the various national minorities.

Important Decisions

Following the liberation of many urban centres during 1949, the people's press faced an entirely new situation. In the past, in the old Liberated Areas, the bulk of newspaper readers had been the revolutionary cadres working in the countryside. During those years, production was relatively low and communication and transportation facilities were restricted, for the background was war, often guerilla warfare. Nevertheless, in

spite of these obstacles, by utilising the then existing conditions to the best advantage, the newspapers achieved some success in establishing direct contact with the masses.

But the victory in the Liberation War made new demands on the press. The reading public was now the broad urban population, including large numbers of workers and intellectuals. The main features of national life were changing. In place of war, there was economic rehabilitation and reconstruction. Besides, it was more than ever imperative to enlighten the people so that they could actively promote New Democracy in the vast newly Liberated Areas, thus strengthening the relationship between the people and the government.

With these tasks in mind, the Press Administration of the Central People's Government convened the National Press Work Conference from March 29 to April 16, 1950. In summarising the experiences of the press, as a result of the new circumstances brought about with liberation, the meeting reached certain conclusions embodied in the Decisions Regarding the Promotion of Press Work, lately promulgated by the Administration on April 22, 1950.

The Decisions calls upon all newspapers "to devote prominent space for reporting on the conditions of the people's labour and in production, publicising the experiences of success as well as the lessons of error derived in the work of production, and of financial and economic management."

Editors, reporters and commentators of newspapers are required "to foster an honest and practical working style of investigation and research," and "to try to maintain close links with the masses of the people, organisations and cadres."

Link With the Masses

On the basis of these decisions, the press of China has taken a great step forward, actually reflecting daily life and further consolidating its ties with the broad masses of working people.

The press has replaced tedious reports on meetings, trifling items about personal activities and academic discussions which have no bearing on actual conditions with a new type of news. Now, there are stories on new records set by workers in factories, on how railways and bridges demolished by the KMT have been rebuilt ahead of schedule, on the new measures taken by peasants to exterminate pests in the cotton fields, on how the peasants have carried out a dramatic water conservancy plan to control the Yi River, how illiteracy has been wiped out in a village after land reform, what methods the mother of a PLA fighter used to collect 3,000 signatures for the Stockholm Peace Appeal within a single week, on the increasing anger of workers and students towards the atrocities of the American invaders in Korea, and how these people seek the opportunity to fight in Korea so as to stop the imperialist troops' advance towards China's border.

Once publicised in the newspapers, an achievement in any branch of production serves to educate all those working in the same field in similar enterprises. Rationalisation proposals for production and the experiences of model workers when written up as newspaper stories serve as subjects for national study. For instance, the press gave wide publicity to the achievement of the now famous machine worker Chao Kuo-yu, as he worked to improve machine making methods. When he first reduced the time for making a cone pulley from 16 hours—till

then the usual time in the best machine making factories in China—to 2 hours 20 minutes, a countrywide emulation movement was set off, with the press playing an important part in stimulating and developing the movement. And as he further reduced the time for his operations, the whole country was kept informed step by step.

Among the press workers themselves, the old division of labour has been changed. The old method of distinguishing news editing from news gathering, and writing from editing no longer holds. Editors, commentators, reporters and correspondents have been classified according to the various fields of social activities which they cover—economy and finance, political affairs, culture, etc. Those responsible for reporting on agricultural developments have close contact with the agricultural departments of the government, with agricultural specialists, with peasants' associations and with the Party's organisations in the countryside. They are popular interpreters of the government's new laws and directives regarding agriculture. They are reporters of the peasants' activities both in productive and political fields.

Peasants from far and near are beginning to drop into newspaper offices to see those responsible for reporting on agricultural developments. Some have even used their newspaper connections to transmit letters to Chairman Mao. Some come with their complaints against the actions of such and such a rural cadre. Others even come for help in solving marital troubles.

The ties between the masses and the editorial offices of the press are growing closer and closer. Letters from workers and peasants receive considerable space in the newspapers. The *People's Daily*, the organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, for example, receives about 400 letters a day of this type. Letters of

special significance are published as important news items and given the most prominent space on the front page. Those which are not published are either answered directly by the editorial office or are passed on to the government branch concerned for treatment and reply. It is a new practice for people to "appeal to their newspaper" whenever they find themselves in need of help.

Another successful way to consolidate the ties between the newspapers and the people is the direct appointing of a large number of correspondents from among workers, peasants, students, PLA units and government branches. The *Hopei Daily*, for example, has more than 1,600 such correspondents, the *North Kiangsu Daily*, more than 1,200 and the *Fukien Daily* in Foochow, more than 5,000 regular correspondents. Workers' newspapers are especially enthusiastic about this practice. *Labour* in Shanghai has more than 7,000 correspondents spread through shops and factories of various sizes. Penetrating as they do all branches of production and reporting fully on cultural activities, these newspapers are close to the life of the workers and are thus able to publish lively reports on subjects which interest the readers deeply.

Criticism and Self-Criticism

Still another task is required of the press—the development of criticism and self-criticism. With liberation of the mainland virtually completed and the Communist Party of China taking the leadership in government, any defect or error in the work of Party members and government cadres can be detrimental to the interest of large numbers of the people. There are individuals who may be conceited. Others may reject criticism either

from within or outside the Party. Still others may attempt to suppress criticism. Such cases must be brought to public attention by the press. It is the duty of the press to consolidate the relationship between the Party and the people, to safeguard the democratisation of the Party and the state, and to strive constantly to expedite social progress in every way.

With these tasks for the press in mind, the Central Committee of the Communist Party promulgated the Decisions Regarding the Development of Criticism and Self-Criticism Through the Press on April 19, 1950. These decisions call on all Party organisations and cadres of all levels to adopt a genuinely revolutionary attitude by welcoming and supporting criticism which reflects the opinions of the masses. Any indifference to such criticism is strongly condemned. Bureaucratic attitudes which restrict the publication of such criticism or receive it in a hostile way by counter-attack, revenge or ridicule are also firmly opposed.

In connection with these decisions, the Press Administration also promulgated a resolution in April. This resolution calls on the newspapers to assume responsibility for making constructive criticism of the various government organisations, economic enterprises, and staff members. The resolution also provides that the newspapers should make it their responsibility to secure replies to all the criticisms published and to undertake to publish these replies so that the full facts are put before the people who can thus see the results of their criticisms.

These decisions have enhanced the role of the press in democratising all aspects of political life. Criticisms of various government departments, or regarding the management of factories, of Party cadres, are fully published in the press. Then the process of educating

the individuals or groups who have erred begins in public. In this way, the press is able to expose and quickly correct defects which impede progress.

As these criticisms sent in by the people are made public, the people steadily assume more power in their supervision of the government. In this very way, improvements have already been effected both in the work of various government departments and in the working style of cadres.

Examples of this type of criticism are now common in the press. To give one example, the North China People's Hospital, one of the largest hospitals in Peking, was criticised on several occasions for the inadequate treatment it gave to patients. The *People's Daily* gave considerable space to criticisms concerned with the hospital administration. The result was that the hospital reviewed its over-all administration and instituted immediate reforms.

Another example was the accusation of peasants in Hopei that certain rural cadres were illegally readjusting land already distributed to the peasants. The *Hopei Daily* exposed the incident. An on-the-spot investigation followed. A full page in the paper was devoted to the case. In this way, not only were the cadres and peasants involved in this case educated as to the proper steps which should have been taken, but the attention of rural cadres elsewhere was drawn to this case, which made clear the legal rights of peasants to their land acquired during land reform.

More Readers

Because of its close connections with the practical day-to-day situation, through its links with the masses,

through its development of criticism and self-criticism, the press of New China is enjoying the support of the masses of readers. Circulation is rising everywhere. In Mukden, the *Northeast Daily* has increased its circulation from 150,000 copies in the spring of 1950 to 200,000 copies this autumn. The *Southern Daily* in Canton has increased its circulation from 30,000 to over 50,000. The circulation of *Labour* in Shanghai has jumped from 50,000 to 80,000. The *Masses*, a peasants' newspaper published in Tsinan, has increased its circulation from 30,000 to 90,000. Newspapers of a more general character have also experienced a corresponding increase in circulation.

But the circulation figures do not reflect the actual number of readers. On the average, a single issue is read by at least ten people. Students in the same class, workers in the same shop, subscribe to one copy which is sometimes read by scores of people. News items and articles are publicised even further through the stencilling of selected stories, their publication in wall papers, by writing them out on blackboards and in other ways.

The system of newspaper reading groups which was adopted in the old Liberated Areas has been developed further. In these groups, the news is read aloud and discussed. Thus a great many illiterate people have become constant newspaper "readers." Only recently, the *South Kiangsu Daily* reported that in one month it had organised 183 such reading groups reaching over 1,839 people. In factories and in villages, the reading of newspapers has become a major cultural and educational activity.

How powerful a medium of education and culture the press can be, and how effectively it can raise the people's political consciousness, is very clearly shown by its reporting on American imperialism's aggressive war

in Korea. As model workers, combat heroes and popular organisations made their appeals in newspapers for resolute action against American aggression to safeguard the fruits of the revolution, the response came immediately from people all over the country volunteering to fight in Korea. The press has been the principal means for expressing public indignation at American air raids in the Northeast, and it has played a leading role in organising the people on the Korean issue. The signatures of hundreds of thousands of volunteers for service in Korea have been published. Those who cannot go to the front themselves announced in the newspapers suggestions as to how they could otherwise help in the fight against American aggression. And these lists of volunteers and the public expressions of hatred against the aggressor demonstrate how great is the reserve of strength upon which China can draw in the defence of peace.

Authenticity of Information

Finally, it must be pointed out that, like newspaper readers elsewhere, readers in China demand prompt and interesting information from the press. Most important, they demand authentic information. Recently, a newspaper gave incorrect figures for a certain colliery's output. Immediately, some of the colliery workers wrote to the newspaper asking that the correct figures be published.

The *Common Programme* stipulates: "Freedom of reporting truthful news shall be safeguarded." There is no press censorship in the new China. "Censorship" rests with the people themselves. But the press is not free to report untruthful or inaccurate news. The people them-

selves see to that, for it is the people who supervise the press.

In the space of a very short time, New China's press has shown its mettle. It has a key role. Its duty is to promote social progress, to help with the economic development of the country, to expand the basis of democracy, to stir up the people's national consciousness and develop their spirit of internationalism.

THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S BROADCASTING SYSTEM

by

MEI TSO

The Chinese people's broadcasting system, though still in its infancy, has already begun to play a vital role in the national life of New China. Its importance is steadily growing because of the progress it has made and because of the attention given to it by the public as a medium of popular education and entertainment, and as a means of propagation of information and political thought.

The first people's broadcasting station, the Hsinhua Broadcasting Station in Yen-an, was organized in September, 1945 amid numerous technical difficulties. Since then, owing to the large-scale War of Liberation, the people's broadcasting made little headway for a considerable time. Marked progress has been made in the field of broadcasting only during the recent two years and after the liberation of most of the country.

At the present time the people's broadcasting system has 58 stations and more than 108 long wave, medium wave and short wave transmitters in operation. Thirty-eight of these stations were set up in 1949 and nine in 1950. The combined power employed in these stations

is more than 200 times greater than that of 1947. The number of staff members has increased from 150 in 1947 to more than 4,000 at the present time.

These 58 stations are scattered all over the country: One with the Central People's Government, 10 in North China, 15 in the Northeast, 15 in East China, 7 in Central-South China, five in the Southwest and five in the Northwest. All of them are under the supervision and guidance of the Broadcasting Administration Bureau of the Press Administration of the Central People's Government.

In addition to these publicly-operated stations, there are now in operation 32 private-run stations of which 22 are in Shanghai and the remainder are located in Canton, Chungking, Ningpo, Peking, Tientsin and Tsingtao.

The distribution of receiving sets is also a question worthy of our attention. During the Kuomintang rule, according to data gathered from the files of the KMT and the Japanese-controlled puppet governments, there were, in the whole of China, roughly 1,000,000 to 1,100,000 receiving sets which were serviceable. All these radio sets were concentrated in large cities and owned by the upper classes. The vast masses of the people had no access to them whatsoever.

But the liberation of the country has greatly altered this situation. According to incomplete statistics compiled by the Shanghai Radio Parts and Radio Repairs Factory, the present purchasers of receiving sets consist largely of trade unions, popular organisations, schools, People's Liberation Army units, industrial establishments, and a scattering of skilled workers. An unprecedentedly great number of loudspeakers is also being sold, which proves that collective listening is being practised more extensively than ever before.

The Central People's Broadcasting Station, in its national programme, gives great importance to national news and information bulletins, social education, and cultural recreation. It operates Radio Peking, which offers daily foreign language programmes of news and commentary. Since April 10, 1950, Radio Peking has offered programmes in Korean, Japanese, Indonesian, Viet-Nameese, English, Siamese and Burmese, as well as in such Chinese dialects as Amoy, Ke Chia, Cantonese, Chao Chou and Mongolian and Tibetan languages.

The other publicly-run stations are operated by the governments of either administrative areas, provinces or of major municipalities. These lay more emphasis on news and government decrees relating to their respective areas or provinces. Municipal stations place particular stress upon social educational programmes.

In an effort to build up closer relations between the stations and the public, the various stations have organised individual and groups of activists to give speeches, discussions, re-counts of experiences, or amateur performances. For instances, students are invited to take part in the students' programme and workers are asked to talk about their trade union activities or give performances to their fellow workers. For similar purposes the activists are also encouraged to write correspondences for the special programmes, thus stirring up more public interest in these programmes. The Shanghai People's Broadcasting Station, for instance, has organised in half year's time 1,110 persons as its correspondents and invited more than 15,000 persons to take part in its programmes. The Tientsin Station last year organised in different schools, factories, artistic troupes, 470 broadcasting teams having a total of 2,000 persons and asked some 17,000 people to contribute to its programmes. The Peking Station has

among its listeners 52 broadcasting teams with 420 members. In the first three months of 1950, some 2,224 persons made speeches or other performances at the station. The Mukden Station organised 478 lectures and discussions by trade unionists, youth and soldiers. Two hundred and twenty-three persons regularly contribute articles to the station.

Local stations also offer vocational programmes to their listeners. For example, Russian lessons are regularly given by 14 stations and approximately 40,000 people are taking these radio courses. In Peking alone, more than 12,000 people bought the textbooks for the Russian radio lessons, and more than 4,000 persons have organised themselves into radio study groups.

Children's programmes are also very much popular. In Mukden, 35,240 school children have organised themselves into 5,120 groups to listen to the children's programme transmitted by the Mukden Station.

Throughout China, a radio receiving network is developing quickly, with thousands of radio monitors who have been trained and are being trained by the government.

These monitors may be professional, amateur, organised listeners in factories or villages, in schools, institutions and streets. The work of these monitors is to pick up the daily news, comments, central and local government directives and distribute them to the local institutions which need them. This material also serves as a news source for the local small size newspapers, blackboard newspapers and wall papers. These monitors have succeeded in giving timely circulation of both national and provincial news, giving wide publicity to government orders and facilitating the exchange of experiences.

To mention a few examples to illustrate this point. In Shangyi county of Chahar Province while the county Party congress was in progress, members of the county Party Committee learned from the radio about the provincial government directive to step up the cooperative movement in Chahar. Based on this information they were able to put the cooperative movement on the agenda and have all the work adequately arranged in this. A member of the county Party Committee of Huailai, Chahar Province, summoned a meeting of all concerned, and as a result successfully fulfilled the task of collecting agricultural tax in kind after he learned from the broadcasting monitor that shortcomings in the collection work of Huailai county government were criticised. Past experience in the Shensi-Kansu-Ningsia Border Region and present experience in North China all prove that a network of broadcasting recorders has the function of quickening the circulation of important news and government decisions, of assisting the study of local cadres and the exchange of valuable experiences, thus raising the efficiency of local governments and pushing forward work in the localities.

In these various ways, the people's broadcasting system is assuming an important place in the life of the Chinese people and is helping them to minimise the handicaps of illiteracy, poor communications and insufficient press facilities.



A village winter study class.



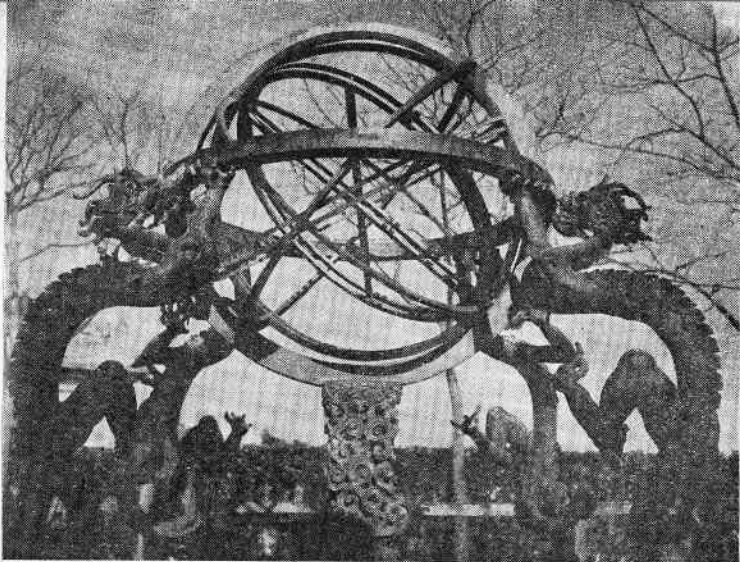
Mass lecture at the North China
People's Revolutionary College, Peking



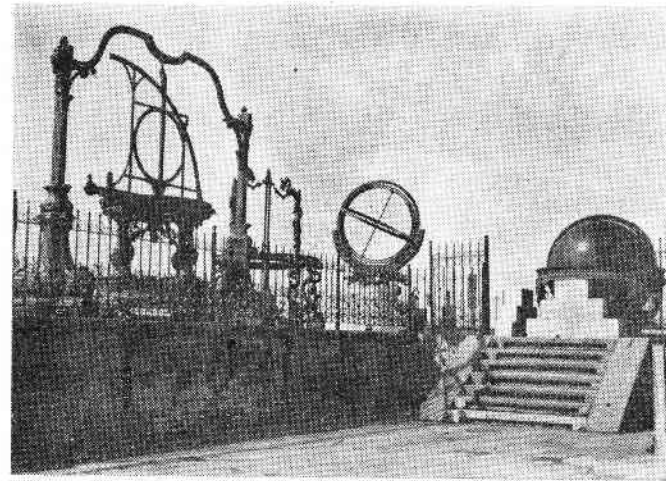
Group discussion—another main
form of study at the college.



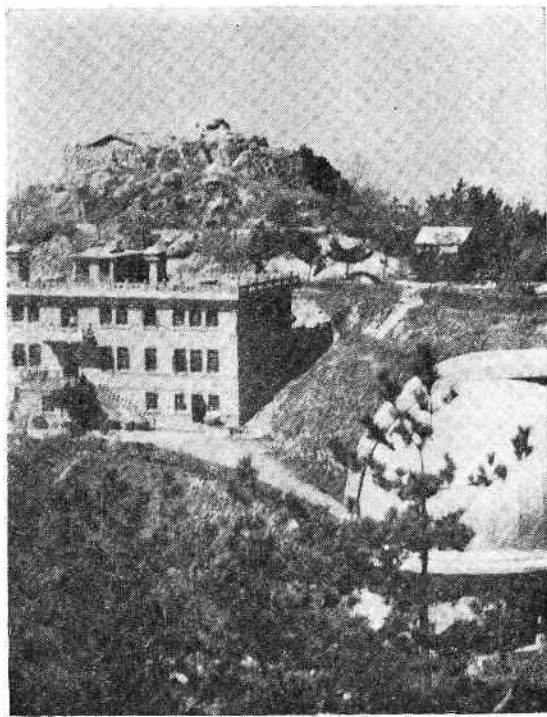
Student musi-
cians tuning up.



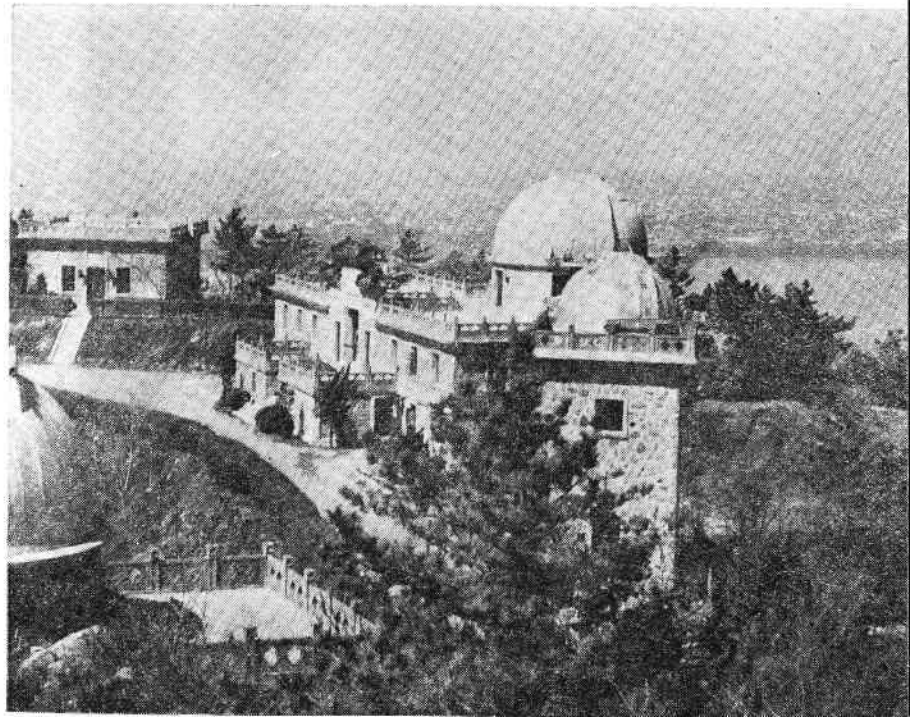
Armillary Sphere, over 600 old, at observatory in Nanking.

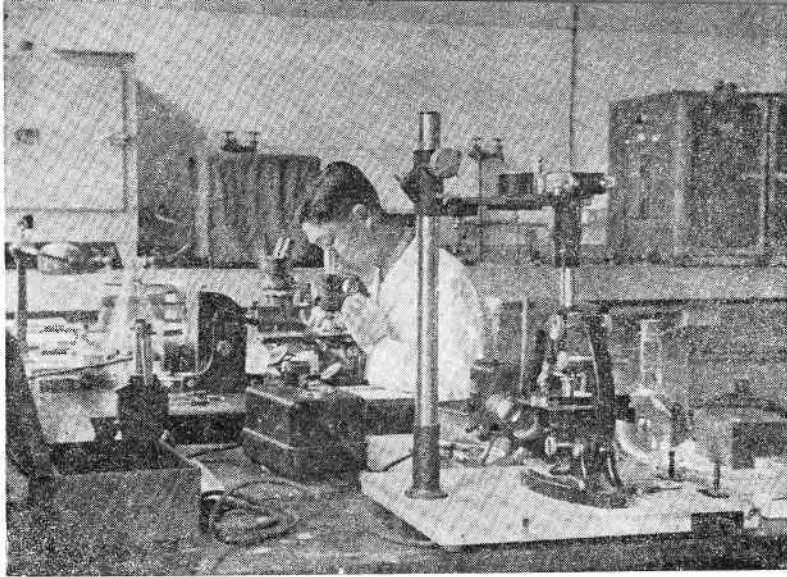


Inside the Peking Meteorological Observatory built in the Manchu Dynasty.

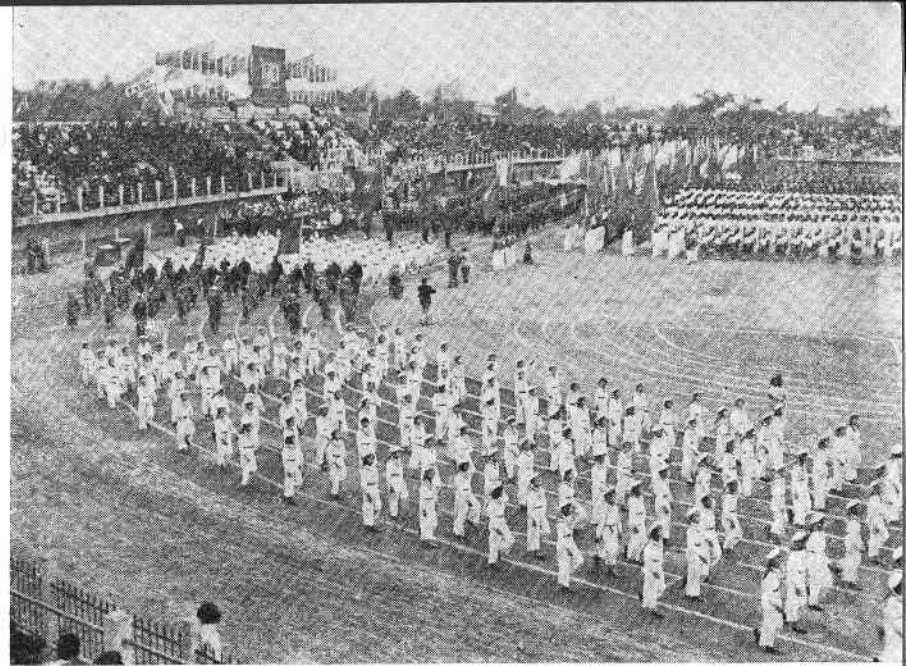


A view of the Nanking Purple Mountain Observatory with its planetarium in the foreground.

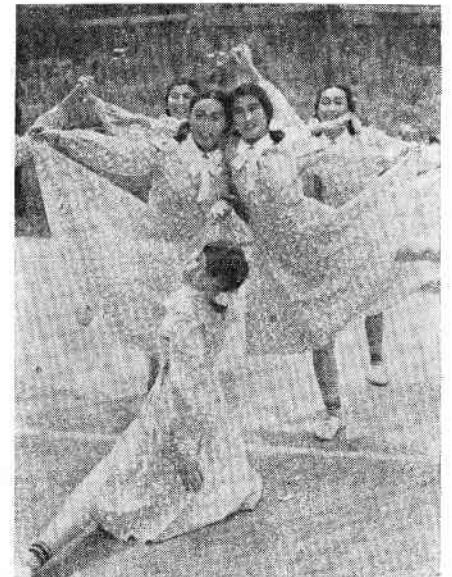




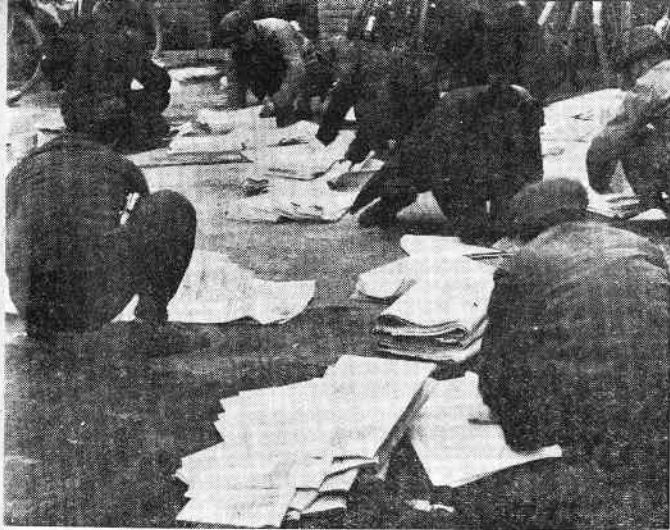
Scientists carrying out experimental research at the Academy of Sciences of China.



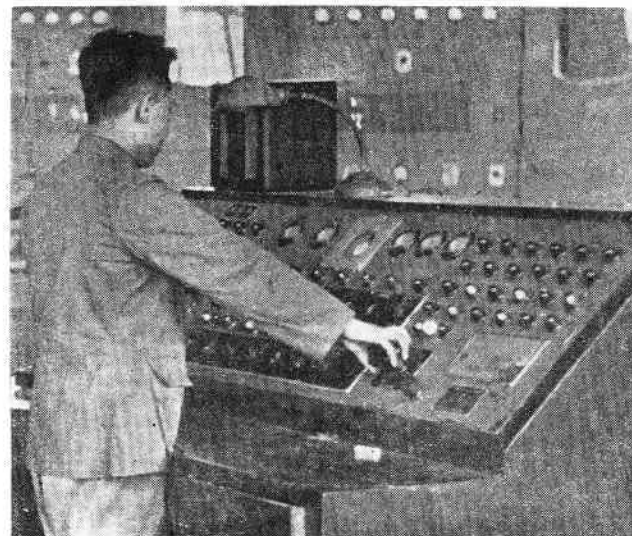
The opening parade at the People's Athletic Meet in Peking, 1950.



Young girls performing a Chinese dance at a summer camp.



News boys setting out to distribute morning papers.



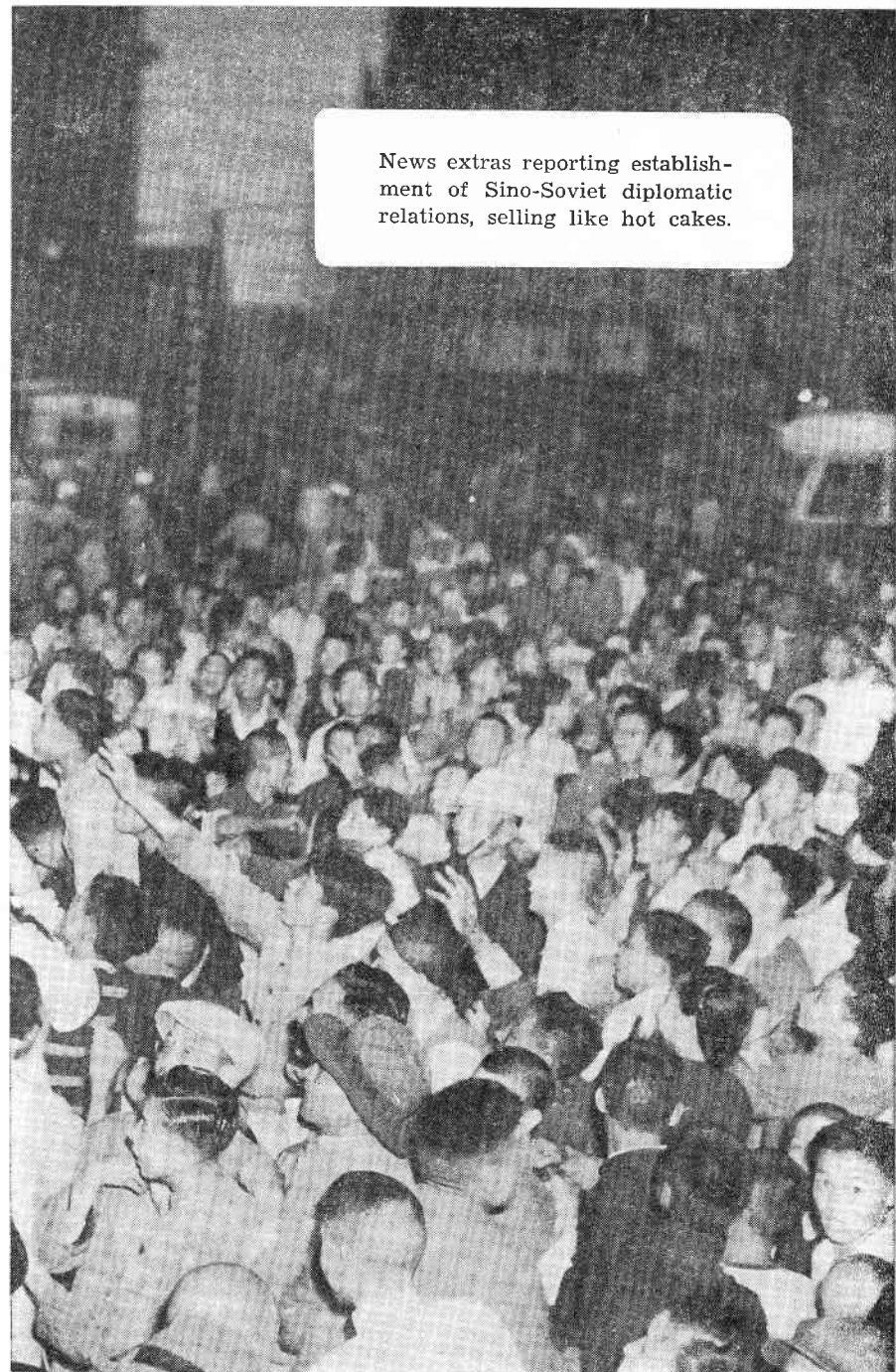
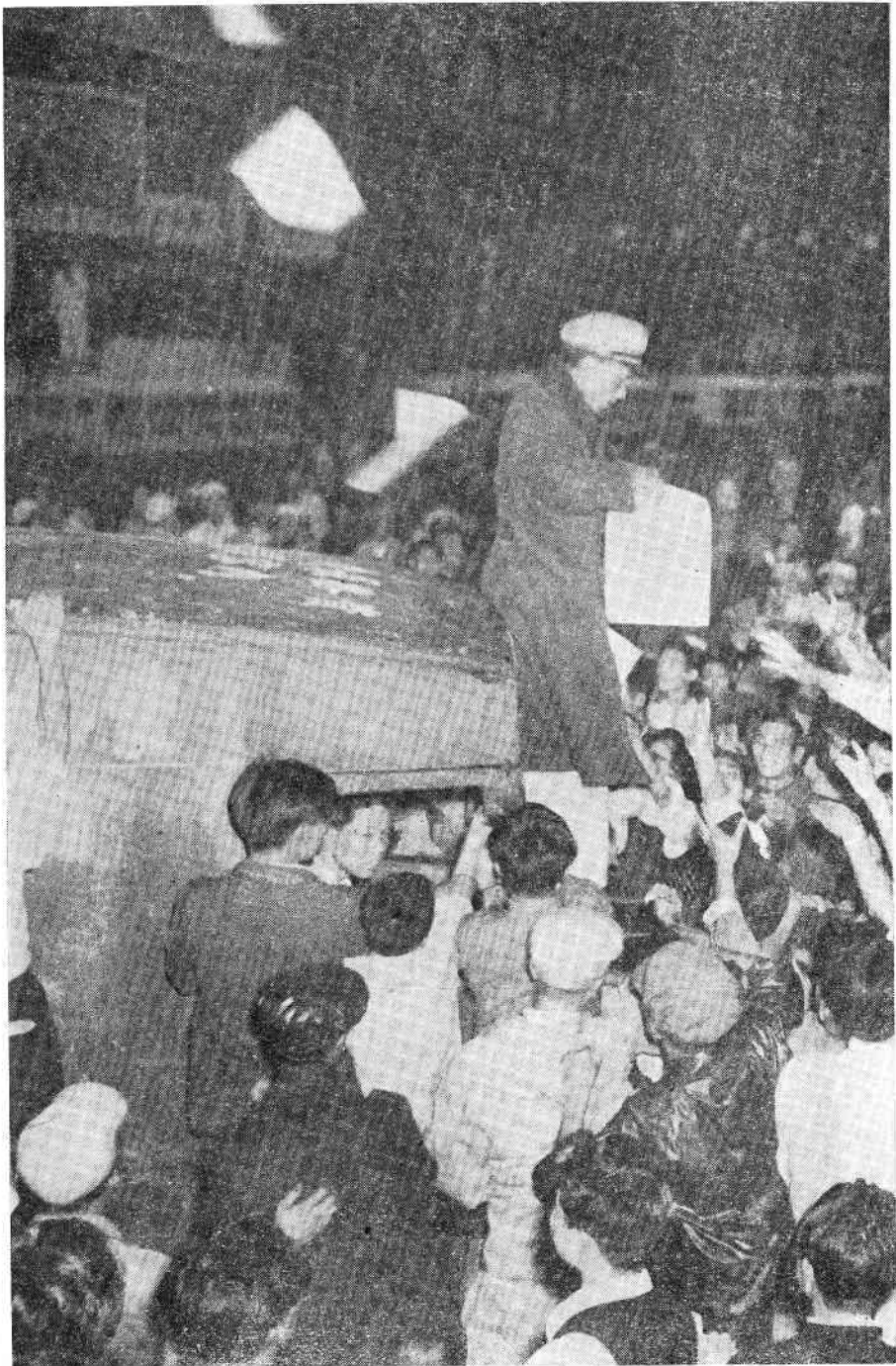
The control panel of the Central People's Broadcasting Station in Peking.



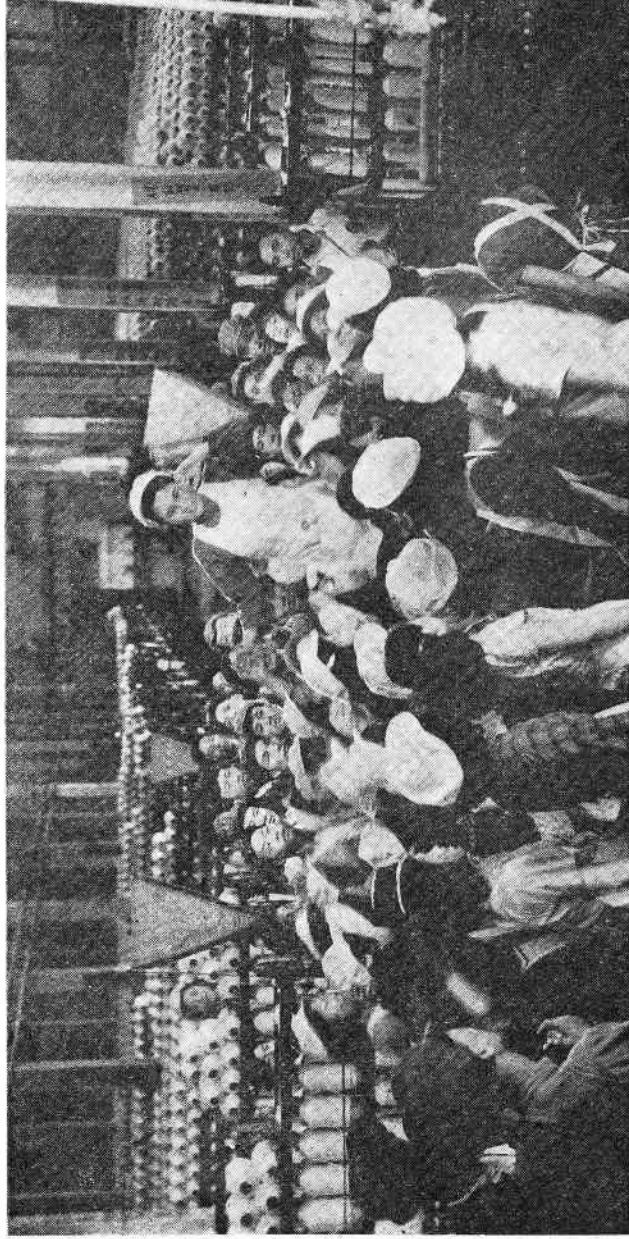
A display of People's Liberation Army newspapers.

Workers of the *Liberation Daily* are busy setting types.

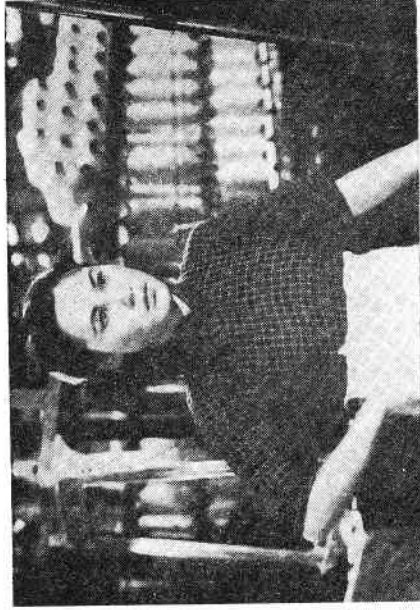
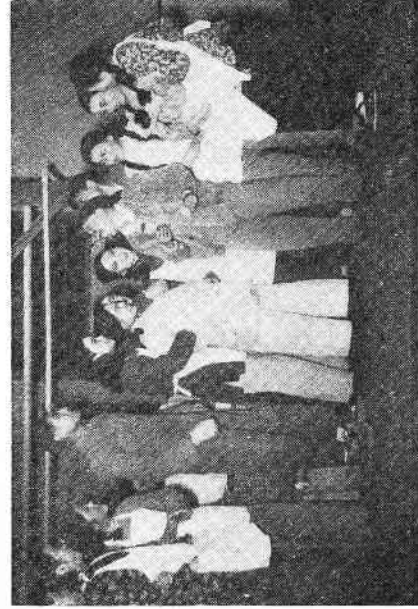




News extras reporting establishment of Sino-Soviet diplomatic relations, selling like hot cakes.



A scene from the film version of the popular stage play, "The Song of the Red Flag". The photo shows Ma Feng-chieh being awarded the red flag as the textile mill's foremost worker. Originally one of the most backward of the girls, she changes her attitude to production when she is brought to realize the great benefits liberation has brought to her country.



While other workers are excitedly planning the emulation competition (left, a scene from the Shanghai stage version), Ma Feng-chieh stays resentfully aloof (right, a scene from the film version).



Left: A Uighur girl from Sinkiang Province performs a native dance.

Below: Inner-Mongolian dancers symbolically presenting flowers to Chairman Mao Tse-tung.



Singing praise of Chairman Mao, a duet by two Miao girls from Kweichow Province

From Yunnan Province a member of the Yi national minority singing the "Song to Mao Tse-tung".



SCENES FROM THE
FESTIVAL OF NA-
TIONAL MINORITIES





A woman guerrilla leader (scene from the film *Chao Yih Man*).

A scene from the film *Heroes of the Lu Liang Mountains*.



PUBLICATION WORK IN NEW CHINA

by

HU YU-CHIH

The great victory of the People's War of Liberation has created a boundless and bright future for the people's publication work in China.

In the past when Chiang Kai-shek and his gang ruled, publication work was carried on under great difficulties. Oppression and persecution of progressive publishers was the order of the day. As a result, publishing houses had no alternative but to scatter and operate on a small-scale. The only large-scale ones were under the control either of bureaucratic capitalism or Kuomintang officialdom. The books they published, however, had very small sales—the only exception being school textbooks which were compulsory reading. Books that people liked to read most had to be obtained through illegal channels. Such books as Mao Tse-tung's *On Coalition Government* and Lenin's *State and Revolution* were printed clandestinely and passed secretly from hand to hand among the people.

But publication work among the free people, on the other hand, nurtured under the protracted war condi-

* Director of the Publications Administration.

tions existing in the Communist-led Liberated Areas, was constantly growing. Despite the fact that our publishers were working in rural areas and were under the constant menace of war at that time, they accomplished much with very limited material resources at their disposal. Printing shops were set up on mountains and in villages without electricity. Using very coarse paper, they printed the works of Lenin and Stalin, books on the Chinese revolution, and textbooks on culture and general knowledge for workers and peasants in an effort to meet the demands of the reading public.

Ever since the second half of 1948, when big cities were liberated one after another in quick succession from the diabolic rule of the Chiang Kai-shek gang, new China's publishers have been confronted with tremendous tasks.

The twelve books listed as required reading for cadres, including *The History of Communist Party (B) of U.S.S.R., Short Course*, *Lenin's On Imperialism, State and Revolution* and "*Left-Wing*" *Communism: An Infantile Disorder*, and Stalin's *The Foundations of Leninism*, were printed following the call made by the Chinese Communist Party to its members to raise their Marxist-Leninist ideological level. These books on fundamental theory are printed in both popular and de luxe editions. They are not only used as textbooks for Party members, but are also read ardently by non-party government personnel, technicians and the intelligentsia in general.

In addition to those included in the required readings, other works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin also find a large reading public. New translations of some of these books have been put out recently, such as Marx's *History of the Theory of Surplus Value*, Lenin's *Develop-*

ment of Capitalism in Russia and Stalin's *Anarchism or Socialism?*

How intellectuals, having passed from darkness into broad daylight, thirst after new knowledge is being demonstrated by the number of books sold. Many popular writings on dialectical materialism, historical materialism and on the difference in world outlook and the outlook on life between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat are pouring from the printing shops like a torrent from a broken dyke. *Hsüeh Hsi* (Study), a semi-monthly devoted to the study of the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism, has a circulation of 300,000, breaking all previous records set by Chinese periodicals. In the past under Kuomintang rule, when a periodical had a circulation of several tens of thousand copies, it was usually banned. Periodicals edited by the Kuomintang itself as a rule had a circulation of only 3,000 to 5,000 copies at the most.

How to meet the heavy demand for primary school textbooks has been a gigantic problem confronting our publishers. Textbooks compiled by Kuomintang reactionaries are full of fascist ideology and have been abolished. Many of the school textbooks used in the past in the Liberated Areas and in rural districts under war conditions are not adaptable to the present situation in new China. With the assistance of educational workers, experts in different fields and publishers, school textbooks are being revised each term in order that they may gradually meet the demand of popular education in new China. The publication of school textbooks is ever growing as a result of educational developments and improved publication methods.

Workers and peasants, under the reactionary rule of the Kuomintang in the past, had no chance for education

and culture. Books published by progressive book stores intended for workers and peasants were prevented from reaching their readers. Today the situation has changed. There are literary and artistic groups in nearly every province. They turn out literary and artistic works intended for workers and peasants which local bookstores publish. Pamphlets on farming technique and sanitation have been published for peasant readers. Chief among the publishers of reading matter for workers is the Workers' Publishing House, which is under the leadership of the All-China Federation of Labour. Workers of new China thirst for cultural, political, scientific, industrial and technical knowledge. New China's publishers are doing their best to work in accordance with the line set forth in the *Common Programme*: "The people's..... publication work shall be developed. Attention shall be paid to publishing popular books and journals beneficial to the people." Writings and poetry by workers themselves in which they sing the praises of labour, of the new life, of their leader Mao Tse-tung, have been printed in book form and have been received with great enthusiasm. The experiences of progressive technical workers on improving technique have been circulated among industrial workers. China never had these types of publications in the past.

A considerable part of new China's publications are books dealing with the Soviet Union, translations of Russian books on the experiences in national construction of the Soviet Union, and on the accomplishments of Soviet culture and sciences. New China's publishers have been pressed for answers to questions raised by readers in different walks of life on how the Soviet people organise their enterprises and their state and how they lead their new life. They often have the feeling that their work lags behind the demand of their readers.

Important criticisms of philosophy, literature and art that have appeared in Soviet publications are immediately translated into Chinese and published in book form, rendering great assistance to our cultural and educational workers. Lysenko's treatise has appeared in many Chinese editions. His accomplishments exert a great and positive influence on Chinese scientists. A Chinese translation of *Michurin's Selected Works* is also under preparation. In the field of literature and the arts, Soviet books enjoy a very large Chinese reading public. Fadeyev's *Young Guard* and Simonov's *Days and Nights* and *The Russian Question* are among our most popular books.

New China's publishers are working with the objective of giving even better service to the people. Because of this, their work is vastly different from the work of publishers under the control of the Kuomintang reactionaries. The reactionaries utilised imperialist slander and fascist blackmail to insult the word "book"; and people walking into a book store felt as if they were entering an icy cellar. Today, books which are unscientific, undemocratic, and anti-popular, are rejected by the people and have lost their market. Book stores have become really the treasury of truth. Especially on holidays, book stores in the big cities are the busiest shops of all. In the first three months of 1950, 878 new books, totalling 52,411,390 copies, second editions included, were printed in the Northeast, North China and East China alone.

The state-operated Hsinhua Bookstore has 887 branches and sub-branches. This figure is still inadequate in view of the vastness of China. But added to this figure are the even greater number of public and private book stores. Furthermore, by means of their mailing service, the Hsinhua Bookstore and other big book stores are selling books to localities where they have no agents.

Books are often on sale in cooperatives in small towns or rural districts. It is worthy of note that in the past, in areas under the control of the Kuomintang reactionaries, current books and newspapers were circulated only in big cities and were seldom found in the smaller ones, not to mention in rural areas. But now in the 198 counties of the Northeast, there are altogether 197 branches and sub-branches of the Hsinhua Bookstore. There are 352 Hsinhua branches and sub-branches in the 354 counties in East China. It is unprecedented that the broad masses of China can have such access to books.

However, this does not mean to say that there are no defects or difficulties in our publication work. Judging from what has been achieved, our publication work still lags behind the progress of the many other activities of the state and people. Our publishers are still unable to meet the people's demand for more and better books. Our nation-wide, state-operated publication enterprises have been inaugurated only recently. They need consolidation and further development. Many of the privately-operated publication enterprises must re-organise themselves so as to be better able to serve the people. Our public finance and national economy have not yet recovered from the destruction wrought by protracted wars and the misrule of the reactionaries, and in consequence the price of our books is still rather high, in many cases beyond the purchasing power of our readers. But we have full confidence that all such difficulties will be overcome.

Following our economic and cultural development, the people's publication work will make very rapid and continuous progress. The publication work of the Chinese people, like their other cultural activities, has been retarded as a result of the rule of the imperialists and

the backward influence of feudalism. But in this new age of people's democracy, the Chinese people will prove in deeds to the world that they will continue to uphold the traditions of their forbears who first invented printing.

Lastly, we cannot fail to mention the assistance rendered to our publication work by the Soviet Union. In order to satisfy the needs of the Chinese people, the Soviet Union constantly sends us a great supply of low-priced books. These are both in Russian and Chinese and cover many subjects including Marxism-Leninism, industrial technique and medical sciences. These books have been most warmly received by Chinese readers. For example, the Hsinhua Bookstore in Peking alone sold as many as 17,031 copies of *A Short Biography of Stalin* in seven days in November 1949, in celebration of Stalin's 70th anniversary of birthday.

The Kuo Chi (International) Book Company, in close cooperation with the Mezhdunarodnaja Kniga, has been established to import and sell foreign language books, chiefly books from the Soviet Union. In publication work, as in cultural and economic work, we perfectly understand that we are united with all the progressive peoples of the world, with the Soviet Union at their head and we oppose the imperialists who are doing all they can to mislead the people.

SCIENCE IN NEW CHINA

by

COCHING CHU*

Modern science was only introduced into China within the past 40 years. The first scientific research institution, the Geological Survey of China, was founded in 1916 by the Ministry of Industry of the Peking Government. Six years later, the Science Society of China established a biological institute in Nanking. About the time of the May Fourth Movement in 1919, the National University of Peking took the lead in appealing for the nation-wide promotion of science. Gradually scientific research gained a footing in the universities. Associations devoted to various branches of science, such as the Chinese Geological Society, the Chinese Physical Society, etc., were founded one after another. The Academia Sinica was established in 1928, and the National Academy of Peking in 1929.

During the 31 years since the May Fourth Movement, China has produced a number of eminent scientists who have made remarkable contributions to the study of science and are now internationally known. But, generally speaking, a survey of how much they have

* Coching Chu is Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of China.

promoted the people's welfare, or what contributions they have made towards the advancement of science in general, would reveal relatively slender results.

The reason why past scientific research in China reaped only a meagre harvest can be traced to political and economic factors. The reactionary Kuomintang (KMT) government never gave science much encouragement. Instead, it regarded science as something having merely a decorative function. Scientific research could hardly make any headway in view of the fact that government grants for research institutes were barely sufficient to cover the living expenses of the scientists. After 1937, the Japanese imperialist invasion compelled universities and research institutions to flee and seek refuge in the interior of China. Many of their valuable instruments and libraries were either destroyed or scattered in the course of wanton Japanese air raids.

However, a part of the blame must be laid at the door of the scientific institutes themselves. Many contradictions and shortcomings existed within scientific circles. Among the most prominent was the sectarianism which prevailed inside scientific organisations and the confused ideology of science for its own sake that was professed by most scientific workers. And since Chinese scientists had received their education from the capitalist countries, most of them made a cult of individualism. They considered the quest for abstract truth to be the sole purpose of their work. They felt that they had completely fulfilled their duty as scientists if they selected a subject in their own field of learning and studied it to the best of their ability. This meant, in the end, that everyone could do exactly what he liked and no one was responsible for anything. They never realised the simple fact that, in the last analysis, they relied entirely

upon the peasants and workers for their research funds, nor did they feel under the least obligation to the labouring masses.

In order to secure an all-round improvement in the work and life of the Chinese people, scientific research must be directed to meet the needs of agriculture, industry and public health.

What, then, shall we take as the new direction of our scientific development in order to modify our policies for scientific research and achieve our aim? Firstly, by uniting theory with practice we must direct science along lines that actually serve the masses of peasants and workers. Secondly, we must organise our collective scientific efforts to solve the most urgent and vital problems that are confronting us. And thirdly, we must train a large number of new scientific workers in preparation for the construction of a modern and industrial China.

These three tasks can only be achieved through nation-wide and long-term planning. The Soviet Union is the sole country in the world where the advancement and popularisation of science has been carried out in a planned and successful manner. J. D. Bernal, Professor of Physics at the University of London, wrote in his book *The Freedom of Necessity*:—

“For the science of the future, socially directed planning will be an absolute necessity; the type of that planning we can see already in the Soviet Union. It was only through the conscious application of Marxist theory that it was possible to build, on the narrow foundations of czarist science, the vast integrated and vital organism of modern Soviet science. In a genera-

tion, a nation of illiterates is becoming a nation of scientists, and this has been proved both in peace and in war."

China, a predominantly agricultural country, is even more backward in industrial production, mass education and general living conditions today than Russia was before the October Revolution. It will be, therefore, an extremely difficult task to raise production step by step, to eliminate illiteracy and to construct a new China. However, the People's Government has stressed the importance of advancing learning in general, and of developing scientific research in particular. Although Taiwan is yet to be liberated and we are still facing economic difficulties in 1950, our government's budget covering expenditure in scientific research has already doubled the KMT government's pre-war allocations for scientific research.

The government formed a new Academy of Sciences last October by combining and further expanding the old Academia Sinica in Nanking and the National Academy of Peking. In the half-year since then, the 24 national research institutes under those two academies have been reorganised and amalgamated into 16 research institutes. Each institute now has its own particular sphere of responsibility and has been assigned its role in the nation's overall construction programme.

In physics, for example, the two former institutes, one in Peking and the other in Nanking, had never in the past differentiated their work. Now they have been reorganised into two new institutes. One is called the Institute of Modern Physics, specialising in the study of such broad, fundamental subjects as atomic energy and cosmic rays. The second, the Institute of Applied Physics, will mainly devote its energy to optical research.

It has already manufactured optical parts for 500 microscopes and 200 theodolites. It maintains a department for designing and grinding optical lenses. In the future, it will co-operate closely with optical lens manufacturers in order to ensure an adequate national supply of optical instruments. The Institute of Applied Physics has also devised a new method for making quartz piezoelectric crystals for frequency stabilisation in radio broadcasting.

Similar readjustments have been made in the field of biological research in order to eradicate former duplication and effect an efficient division of labour. Shanghai and Peking used to have five different biological institutes that worked independently in their separate but overlapping fields. Now these five organisations have been amalgamated into three institutes, each with its own clearly-defined sphere of responsibility. The first is the Institute of Experimental Biology in Shanghai devoted to the study of embryology, cytology and physiology by means of physical and chemical principles. The second is the Institute of Hydro-Biology, also in Shanghai, specialising in the study of fish and other aquatic life. This Institute recently established two experimental stations; one at Tsingtao to study marine biology, and the other on Tai Lake at Wusih in Kiangsu Province, to study fresh-water fish. The third of the new biological organisations is the Institute of Systematic Botany, located in Peking, which will co-ordinate the work of Chinese plant taxonomists who are engaged in the study of China's flora. Special emphasis will be placed on the study of economic plants, such as medical herbs, pasture grass and plants which yield latex for making rubber. Two scientists from this Institute have been sent to Mukden and Harbin to help the Northeast provinces to set up their botanical institutes.

The other research institutes are also adapting their programmes to the agricultural, industrial and medical needs of the country. The Institute of Organic Chemistry in Shanghai, for example, has helped the East China Bureau of Agriculture and Water Conservancy in the preparation of an organic mercuric fungicide which will destroy spores that attach cotton and wheat. The Institute of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, located also in Shanghai, helped the People's Medical Company to develop a process for crystalising heat-resistant penicillin. The Institute of Geology at Nanking has sent field teams to Northeast China and West Hupeh to prospect for iron and coal. The Peking Institute of Geo-physics is giving a short half-year post-graduate course to train a staff of experts who will later go to Northeast China to search for new mineral deposits.

Science in China is no longer something that is detached and stands aloof from the general public. It has been harnessed for the benefit of the farmlands and factories—thus linking theory with practice; even though the fundamental aspect of research is never forgotten in the planning.

To show how effectively theory and practice may work together, we will cite an example. The southern part of Hopei Province and the northern part of Honan Province, which are now incorporated into the newly-formed Pingyuan Province, comprise one of the most important cotton-producing areas of China. For some years, an estimated 1,500,000 acres of cotton land in this region have been heavily infested with cotton aphid (aphid *gossypii* glover), known as the melon aphid in America and Europe. This pest reduced crop yields by about one-third. In the past, entomologists believed that this cotton aphid lived above the ground on some host plant throughout the year.

After Peking's liberation, the North China People's Government invited Dr. Chu Hung-fu, of the Institute of Zoology, and his assistants to go to the infested district to make a study of these parasites. After months of travel and research in Honan and Hopei provinces, they discovered that although the cotton aphid can exist on more than 120 kinds of host plants in North China, it generally lives during the winter on a kind of weed called *Ixeris Chinensis Versicolor*.

In winter, the aphid does not live above ground, but clings to roots five or six inches below the earth. It is only in March or April that the aphid comes out of the soil and migrates to the young cotton plant at the first opportunity. Now that the life-cycle of this parasite is known, the possibilities of exterminating the cotton aphid become greatly enhanced. The Academy of Sciences, in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture, has launched a fierce campaign against this pest. Prevention measures are being tested in the Hopei-Honan area, and if found successful, will be later tried in other parts of China.

But the Academy of Sciences of China and its component institutes are incapable of advancing science in China by itself alone. Only through the co-ordinated efforts of all ministries, universities and other scientific institutions, acting under the guidance of a systematic long-range plan, can this aim be achieved.

The Central People's Government is now devoting great energy to the task of organising Chinese scientists. In July, 1949, the government convened a preparatory meeting in Peking to draw up plans for an All-China Conference of Scientific Workers. Since early last December, many ministries of the Government have held national conferences to discuss such subjects as food pro-

duction, steel production, soil conservancy, fuel, fisheries, etc. Specialists from all sections of the country met at these conferences to work out detailed plans for their future work.

When the KMT government was in power, such meetings of scientists and other specialists merely resulted in a batch of resolutions that were never carried out. The situation is entirely different today. Now these conferences are not convened until careful preparatory work has been completed. Only proposals that can be put into effect are placed on the agenda. After the meeting, its resolutions and decisions are quickly and efficiently carried out. For instance, at the end of last February, a group of geologists was called to Peking. It required only two weeks to map out the 1950 programme and allocate responsibility for the field work in various regions to different scientific units. Six weeks after the meeting closed, 80 geologists were en route to Northeast, Northwest and Central China to study the geological structure of these areas and to prospect for iron, coal, oil and non-ferrous minerals.

In addition to encouraging the systematic and collective advancement of science, the People's Government is also doing much to popularise scientific knowledge among the masses. The Bureau of Popular Science, under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, staged a large popular science exhibition in Peking during the lunar New Year holidays which attracted an attendance of more than 100,000 in 12 days. The government has mobilised scientific workers to launch many new technical journals, to give lectures and broadcasts popularising science, and to go to the factories and the countryside to learn first-hand about the practical problems that need solution.

The advancement of science in China presents us with still another urgent task—the training of scientific cadres. For instance, the reconstruction of Northeast China is well under way now, only a year and a half after its complete liberation. But in every field we are confronted with a shortage of well-trained scientific workers as well as technicians and engineers. There is hardly one specialist with a medium or high level of technical training to every 200 ordinary workers. Even though the Northeast government is trying to remedy this situation by securing the services of specialists from all parts of China, the shortage cannot be entirely overcome in view of the limited number of such experts in China. After Taiwan is liberated, the whole nation will immediately embark on large-scale reconstruction programmes and then the demand for scientific and technical personnel will be even more acute.

Therefore, the government is drawing up plans to establish many new educational centres in the near future, and it lays great stress on the need to expand the scientific departments in our existing universities and colleges. The government also plans to set up extensive educational facilities in the field of popular science. In addition to preparing for a nation-wide campaign to eradicate illiteracy, the Ministry of Education of the Central People's Government is planning to open many workers' and peasants' schools, offering short courses in science and technology.

As the *Common Programme* of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference declared, the love of science is one of the five virtues which every patriotic Chinese should cultivate. To love science means that one must acquire a scientific approach to all problems. In dealing with any matter, whether it is one's own

purely personal affairs or that of national administration, such as the restoration of communications, the stabilisation of commodity prices, etc.—things must be regarded from a scientific viewpoint, and must be dealt with in a scientific way.

Science in China is like a transplanted fruit tree. It languished in the unfavourable climate of the past. But now the climate has changed for the better and the soil has become fertile. Therefore, it will soon strike deep roots, and in due time it will burst into beautiful blossom and bear magnificent fruits.

THE CHINESE FILM INDUSTRY

by

TSAI CHU-SHENG*

It was in 1904 that the imperialists first introduced their "movies" into China. From then until the victory of the Liberation War, they were free to exploit this industry and art with the connivance of the warlord and Kuomintang governments, almost entirely in their own interests as a source of profits and a medium of cultural penetration and propaganda. Those progressives who wanted to free this new art in China and direct it to the service of the people had to wage a bitter struggle both against the tainted products imported from the imperialist countries and against the ruthless persecution and censorship of Hollywood's and Wall Street's puppets in China. Only the establishment of the People's Republic has created the necessary conditions for the development of a people's cinema, and the eradication of imperialist influences in China's motion picture industry.

Within a few years of the first moving picture being shown in Shanghai, American and Chinese businessmen began to organise a film industry on Chinese soil. From 1915 to 1931, film companies began operations in 13

* Tsai Chu-sheng, well-known film director, is the head of the Art Committee of the Bureau of Cinematographic Art of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

different cities, with Hongkong and Shanghai as the main centres. The artistic standard of the 300 films produced in this period, however, was extremely low.

The May Fourth Movement of 1919 gave fresh impetus to the development of China's modern revolutionary culture, but, while contemporary Chinese literature rapidly developed an anti-feudal and anti-imperialist revolutionary spirit, the motion pictures remained strongly imbued with feudal and compradore ideas. With few exceptions, most contemporary Chinese movies were ideological poison. Most were a hodge-podge of superstitious and often indecent stories about supernatural beings. The producers were unscrupulous profit-seekers. Nearly all the script-writers were old-style *literati* or authors of so-called "modern plays" dramatising the banal incidents of bourgeois life. Progressive literary workers bitterly criticised such films, but the reactionary warlord and KMT governments encouraged them.

In 1931, the Japanese began their invasion of China's Northeastern provinces. This new national crisis, together with the widespread economic distress, intensified the popular demand for resistance. The film workers were finally roused from their cosy dreams of 'art for art's sake' to a realisation of their social responsibilities.

Guns of Japanese invaders thundered inside Shanghai itself, then the film centre of China, when in January, 1932, the patriotic 19th Route Army resisted the Japanese attempt to seize that city. The people of Shanghai rose to the occasion. The film workers toiled with their fellow-citizens to support the army's rear services, and cared for or entertained the troops and wounded. They produced war newsreels.

In this struggle they established new contacts with the progressive literary workers, who acquainted them with the achievements of Soviet films and Marxist-Leninist artistic theories. Eisenstein's *Cruiser Potemkin* had been exhibited in China as early as 1926. His ideas on montage were eagerly discussed. China's leading film workers began to promote the ideals of the new cultural movement in the sphere of the cinema. Their activities were like a stream of fresh air in the fetid atmosphere of a sewer. More and more film workers discarded their old viewpoints and turned to face reality and artistic problems in a revolutionary spirit. Those who defended feudal and reactionary ideas, or the theory of 'art for art's sake', found themselves more and more discredited.

The new films attempted not only to expose the corruption of the reactionary KMT regime but also to show the people how to fight against feudalism and imperialism. It was natural that the KMT dictatorship should answer this new development in the film world with fresh repressions. New censorship regulations were put into force. A "Society for the Extermination of Communists in the Film Industry" was formed and staffed with secret agents.

The progressive pictures, however, were enthusiastically supported by the public. They gained the recognition of the international cultural world. *Song of the Fishermen*, dealing with exploitation in the fisheries, was awarded a prize at the first Soviet Film Festival in 1934. It was noteworthy for the lyrical beauty of its music and photography. Among other outstanding productions, *The Tragedy of Two Students*, *Three Modern Girls*, *The Stray Lamb*, *Escape*, *New Women*, *The March of the Youths*, *Goddess of Liberty*, *Street Angels*, *City Nights*, *At the Crossroads*, *The Spring Silkworm* and *The Torrent* deserve

particular mention. At this time the technical level of the industry had also greatly improved.

These films marked the first upsurge of the progressive movement in the Chinese cinema. Their titles are indicative of the new social themes that they dealt with. They strengthened the ideological basis for mobilisation of the people in the War of Resistance against Japan. They pioneered the road of the future struggle of China's cinematographic artists.

When the Anti-Japanese War broke out on July 7, 1937, all progressive film workers mobilised themselves for war work. They left Shanghai for Hankow and then Chungking when the army withdrew.

Films became a vital weapon on the cultural front against the invaders. Despite the usual wartime difficulties, memorable productions came from the studios. *In Defence of Our Land*, *Baptism of Fire*, *Storm over the Desert*, *My Native Town Beyond the Clouds*, *Long Live the Nation* and *The Special War Album* documentaries enjoyed nation-wide popularity. *The Heroic Defence of Paoshan City*, *The Little Cantonese*, *A Brilliant Future* and *The Nation Roars*, produced by our film workers in Hongkong, also found a wide and appreciative audience among the masses.

In 1941, the Japanese fascists extended their aggression to Southeast Asia. Their occupation of Hongkong, then China's main link with the rest of the world, seriously affected supplies for the film industry. The most telling blow against the film workers, however, was administered at this time by the KMT reactionaries. Their anti-democratic activities culminated in the shameless attack on the Communist-led New Fourth Army in 1941 when thousands of its personnel were butchered south of the

Yangtse River. The KMT reactionaries now openly admitted their policy of "passive resistance to the Japanese and active offensive against the Communists." Progressive film workers were hounded from their posts and the film industry, as part of the patriotic movement was brought to a virtual standstill in KMT-controlled territory.

On the other hand, since the autumn of 1938, Yen-an, headquarters of the people's Anti-Japanese Revolutionary War, had become a new centre of film activity. In spite of the KMT blockade, the film workers here managed to improvise a studio, and in the spring of 1939 released their first documentary—*Yenan And The 8th Route Army*. This was followed by many other successes such as *The First Session of the Yen-an City Council*, *The Revolutionary Festival of October*, *The Border Regions' Industrial Exhibitions* and *Coordination of Production and Struggle*.

With the defeat of the Japanese fascists in 1945, Shanghai, Nanking, Changchun and other big cities again became film production centres. Although the KMT took over practically all the companies, the progressive film workers, drawing on experience gained during their wartime struggles, still managed to produce what the reactionaries labelled "seditious propaganda." Despite severe restrictions, they set up or supported private companies with a core of talented artists and directors. Their films checked, at least in part, the flood of decadent trash that poured in from Hollywood.

The outstanding films of this period include *The River Flows East (Tears of the Yangtse)* that bitingly contrasts the struggle of the people during the Anti-Japanese War with the selfish and corrupt life of the KMT high officials. *The Ode on Three Women* tells of the coming together in the revolution of three women from different social strata, a worker, an intellectual and a woman of the upper

classes. *The Peasant Hsiang Lin's Wife*, based on a story by Lu Hsun, shows the wretched life of women under the old regime. *On the Sungari River, Long is the Journey, All the Families Celebrate, The Inn*, (a Chinese version of Gorky's *Lower Depths*) and *A Promising World* all brought crucial social issues to the attention of their audiences.

These achievements met with new repressions by the KMT. Over 30 film workers were put on the black list and, if they had not escaped in time, would have been executed with other progressive intellectuals before Shanghai's liberation.

The nation-wide victory of the PLA has at last made possible a large-scale development of China's film industry in the service of the people. The centres of the industry have passed into the people's hands. The Changchun Film Co., owned and run by the puppet Manchukuo government, was one of the first to be taken over by the People's Government. In 1947-48 it released nine documentary films. The Central Motion Picture Co., a KMT concern, was taken over when Peking was liberated in January 1949. Two more companies have since been formed. The Northeast Film Co. of Changchun has already produced *Three Years of the Liberation War in the Northeast*, a documentary; *The Bridge*, a feature film of railway rehabilitation; *Back to Our Own Army*, a story of how a peasant conscript of the KMT finally joins the PLA; *Daughters of China*, a stirring tale of anti-Japanese girls guerrilla fighters, *Warriors in White*, whose theme is the women of the medical corps; *The Invisible Front* that describes the unmasking of KMT spies; *Chao Yih-man*, a tale of the Resistance and *Brightness*, an episode in power-plant rehabilitation. The Peking Film Co. has produced the documentaries of the decisive *Huaihai Cam-*

paign and *The Victorious Crossing of the Yangtse*. With the liberation of Shanghai in May, 1949, five more KMT companies were made public property and amalgamated into the New Shanghai Film Production Co., which is now working on several new films.

The Bureau of Cinematographic Art of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs now supervises all film companies in the Northeast, Peking and Shanghai as well as the 55 mobile documentary film units, and is responsible for the distribution of films throughout China. All film workers are now working under its leadership for the creation of a people's film industry. Private film companies, however, also receive encouragement and help from the Bureau and by agreement have retained the services of a number of gifted artists and directors.

The year 1950 is an important one for the new film industry of China. As the result of the nation-wide victory, a great number of artists and technicians can now be released from the army. At present over 3,000 people are directly engaged in the making of new pictures in the three state-owned studios in the Northeast, Peking and Shanghai. They will produce this year 26 full-length features, 17 documentary films, one technicolour feature film, 48 newsreels, 40 reprints of Soviet films with Chinese dialogue dubbed in and 36 reprints of Soviet educational films with Chinese subtitles and dubbed dialogues. In addition, it is estimated that private companies in Hong-kong and Shanghai will be able to produce about 50 new films as well as a number of Chinese reprints of Soviet films. This year the state-owned enterprises plan to organise more mobile exhibiting units for the rural areas and to establish factories for processing films and to provide the growing industry with equipment.

At a time when many difficulties still face this young industry as a result of the prolonged war, the fulfilment of this programme, modest though it may appear, will constitute a severe test of the courage and resourcefulness of Chinese film workers. But the Chinese film industry has embarked on its new destiny with confidence and vigour. It is systematically eliminating the evil heritage of the past and mobilising its forces for the future. In the past, imports of decadent and poisonous Hollywood propaganda almost stifled China's film industry on its own soil. Previously, the overwhelming proportion of films shown in China were U.S.-made. With power in the hands of the people, the influences of U.S. film propaganda will be stamped out. Unsuitable U.S. films will be replaced by Chinese productions and those from the U.S.S.R. and other friendly countries.

A special publicity committee has been established to popularise the best Soviet films so that the Chinese masses may know and enjoy them. Such Soviet films as *Lenin in October* and *Lenin in 1918* had a great influence in China during the War of Resistance against Japan. In the immediate postwar period, *The Stone Flower* captivated Chinese audiences with its freshness and its brilliance of colour. But the reactionaries restricted the showing of Soviet Films. Since the revolutionary victory, Soviet films, particularly *The Young Guard*, *The Common Soldier*, *Song of Siberia* and *The Country Teacher* have enjoyed a wide popularity. The first two of these inspired many young people to join the China New Democratic Youth League.

KMT rule, by its oppression and stifling censorship, deprived film workers of creative freedom. They were forced to present the revolutionary message of their films in a roundabout way so as to by-pass the censorship.

Their films had a certain positive influence, but much was still needed before works of a high ideological content and great artistic value could be produced. Reactionary restrictions isolated the film workers from the masses to a certain extent and the subject matter of their productions was almost wholly limited to themes from urban life. It is, therefore, little wonder that the city populations formed their main audience.

Today the cinema is faced with a widened horizon. The establishment of the People's Government has necessitated a fundamental change in its outlook and creative methods. A film industry must be created for China that fully serves the interests of all its people and that speaks out clearly and truthfully on the burning questions of the day.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung, brilliant leader of the Chinese people, foresaw these problems many years ago. As early as 1942 in the discussions on literature at Yen-an, he pointed out the way to solve them. He called on all art and literary workers to take the standpoint of the proletariat and try to make their work serve the workers, peasants and soldiers who form over 90 per cent of the Chinese population. He called on them to go unconditionally to the masses and join them in their struggles for democracy and a better world, to study Marxism-Leninism and from this viewpoint observe the world and society.

Faced with new historic tasks, the cinematographic workers are intensifying their efforts to study and practise Marxism-Leninism and to master and apply the teachings of Mao Tse-tung and the lessons of Soviet cinematographic art. They have gone out to learn from the people by taking a direct part in their daily life. Their latest films have, with a new forthrightness and realism, dealt with the central themes of the War of Liberation and national

reconstruction. They have brought new understanding to the masses and inspired them with fresh revolutionary fervour as China advances to accomplish its great new historic tasks.

PUBLICATIONS ON CHINA

	STANDARD EDITION	POPULAR EDITION
On People's Democratic Dictatorship (By Mao Tse-tung) ..	US\$0.15	US\$0.10
On The Party (By Liu Shao-chi)	0.50	0.30
China's Youth March Forward .	0.30	0.20
The Chinese People's Liberation Army	0.30	0.20
The Common Program And Other Documents Of The First Plenary Session Of The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference	0.15	0.10
The Trade Union Law	0.10	0.05
The Agrarian Reform Law	0.15	0.10
The Marriage Law	0.10	0.05
The First Year Of Victory	0.30	0.20
Internationalism And Nationalism (By Liu Shao-chi)	0.15	0.10

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