

**far
east**

Reporter

PING PONG

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SERVES!

First-Hand Returns

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Quotes From Reporters and Visitors Cover:

"Over-all Observations" "Wages & Living Costs" "A Visit to a Commune" "Improved Rural Living" "Special Benefits for Workers & Peasants" "Revisiting Familiar Cities" "Municipal Transportation" "The New Family" "Education" "China's Scientists" "Self-sufficiency" "Self-reliance" "China and the United States" "People's Power"



SOME OF THE HEADLINES

THAT HAVE APPEARED IN THE AMERICAN PRESS
Following The Ping Pong Episode of April 1971

- "To A Returning Visitor China Is Faultlessly Clean"
- "Peking Residents Ride The Subway Just For Fun"
- "US Removes Curbs on the Use of Dollars in China Trade"
- "SanMarino Will Open Relations With China"
- "For Most of the Peasants Things Are Better"
- "Report On A Visit To China: Stability Seems To Reign"
- "2 U S Scientists Will Visit China"
- "Peking is Handsome.."
- "New Grains Help Chinese Farmers"
- "Thais Cite Own Moves Toward China"
- "Indonesia...Seeks Renewal of Relations"
- "China Producing Jet Of Own Design"
- "Canton Revisted" A Society Transformed"
- "Face Of China Remade As Greatest Revolution
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- "Peking Renews Advocacy of Revolution"
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- "Shifting World View of China Jars Australian
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- "Rural China Revisited: Change and Continuity"
- "China's ICBM Test Said To Be Closer"
- "Customers in China Getting Better Deal"
- "Revolutionary Committees Insure Discipline in China"
- "Delay Seen in Start of US - China Trading"
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- "China's 700 Million Are On The Way"
- "Peking Aiming Research At China's Special Needs"
- "Chou En-lai Calls On Smaller Nations To
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- "Record For Chinese Rice"

SOME HEADLINES (Cont)

"China Invites Opposition Party In Japan"
"Pentagon Reports Chinese Are Building Big
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"Japan Fidgets Over U S - China Trade"
"When The Dinner-Party Host Is Chou En-lai"
"9 U S Students Cross Into China"
"5 Weeks In China: A New Society and A New Man"
"Specialists Urge Ties With Peking"
"China: Mass Efforts Achieve Great Feats"
"Four Australian Laborites Off To Tour China"
"China's Foreign Policy Seeks 'United Front'"
"Chou Ties U N Seat To Taipei's Ouster"
"Chinese Student Describes Her Life As a Peasant"

The above headlines are a sample
of coverage of news about China
during May and June 1971

THOSE PING PONG SERVES SCORED FIRST-HAND RETURNS!

BY AMERICAN VISITORS AND REPORTERS

Introduction

A Fresh Flow of Information Begins. The so-called "ping pong" episode of April 1971 has helped to open up increasing lines of communication between the American public and the People's Republic of China. Members of the American table tennis team, former American correspondents in China, American scientists, students and others have been invited to come and see for themselves the facts about mainland China. Their currently publicized accounts are serving to negate some of the ignorance, prejudice and hostility which have colored news about China since the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949. No longer can Hongkong correspondents pass on as facts the understandably negative tales related by disgruntled and fee-seeking "escapees" from the mainland.

In the late forties the Committee For A democratic Far Eastern Policy sought through publications ("SPOT LIGHT" and press releases), through meetings, speakers, and national conferences to bring to the American people the truth about what was happening in China, along with analyses of Washington's hostile China policy. A nation-wide campaign for "Peace, Trade & Friendship" was also a part of its work. Beginning in the early fifties FAR EAST REPORTER has kept up a steady attempt through its publication and annual nation-wide speaking tours, to furnish factual information to offset the hostility and misinformation which the Washington authorities were feeding the American public. Individuals such as Anna Louise Strong and William Hinton and organiz-

ations such as the Friends Service Committee Likewise have been steadily bringing the correct picture of China to their fellow Americans. The reception and support given these efforts - in spite of the China Lobby, the McCarthy period and Washington's anti-China policy--attest to the fact that the Chinese people do have understanding friends among the American people.

Now, to the credit of the American news media (radio, television, newspapers, magazines) on-the-spot observations of and reactions to actual conditions in China are being given wide coverage. What a contrast are the headlines in today's press compared to those often derogatory, begrudging and misleading headlines of pre-ping pong days!

Before going on to give some of the multitude of details under these headlines it should be acknowledged that the ping pong episode did serve to make news about China more widely available to the American public. At the world table tennis tournament held in Japan in April 1971 there was an incident that initiated this euphoria about China: a member of the American team presented a gift to a member of the Chinese team - a sweat shirt on which was printed the peace symbol! - how this must have exhilarated the Chinese! - that a member of an American establishment team came to Japan prepared to make this peace gesture! Of course the Chinese are well aware of the peace movement in the United States and the role youth are playing in this movement - but what an excitement to have this personal demonstration! This presentation was reported in the American press on April 5th and on the following day came the report that China had invited the American team to visit China. There then followed days and days of American press, radio and television coverage of the visit.

Lest Americans get the impression that this invitation to the American team was something special, it is well to know that all the foreign tennis teams participating in the Japan tournament were likewise invited to visit China. It is an established policy of China to promote people-to-people relationships. As the Chinese press expressed it: "The current visit of the United

States table tennis delegation to our country will enhance the mutual understanding between people and sportsmen in China and the United States." (NCNA 4/17/71)

The American press carrying the news of the American delegation's visit and Premier Chou En-lai's reception attended by the US team members overstressed the presence of the Americans. The Chinese account put the incident in truer perspective: "Chou En-lai this afternoon met the members of the table tennis delegations of Canada, Colombia, England, Nigeria and the United States. Premier Chou, first of all, on behalf of the Chinese people and Government, extended greetings to the table tennis delegations.... He said to the Canadian friends, 'You come here from a country that recently established diplomatic relations with us, from the motherland of Dr Bethune whom the Chinese people know so well'.... When Premier Chou greeted the Colombian friends from the far coast of the ocean, he said he believed the friendship between the peoples of the two countries would continue to grow.... He congratulated the English table tennis delegation on its success in the 31st table tennis championship.... In his conversation with the Nigerian guests Premier Chou said with delight, 'Following the establishment of diplomatic relationships between our two countries, you have come from the East coast of the Atlantic to the West coast of the Pacific, and we welcome you'.... In his conversation with the US table tennis delegation, Chou En-lai said, 'Contacts between the people of China and the United States have been very frequent in the past, but later they were broken off for some time. Your visit to China on invitation has opened the door to friendly contacts between the people of the two countries. We believe that such friendly contacts will be favored and supported by the majority of the peoples.' (NCNA 4/16/71)

The Chinese character for "ping pong" is made up from the Chinese character for "soldier" whose pronunciation is "bing". The character for "ping" is "soldier" with the right leg missing. The character for "pong" has the left leg missing. How can two one-legged soldiers do anything but play a peaceful game?!



The Chinese are promoting, in many sports events, visits to and from countries all over the world; this is people-to-people diplomacy. The Table Tennis Tournament in Japan was an occasion for this expression, of relations or peace.

QUOTATIONS FROM THE AMERICAN VISITORS' REPORTS

Overall Observations

Chester Ronning, a retired Canadian diplomat, born in China and earlier worked as a missionary and educator, in May and June of 1971 was visiting China as the guest of Premier Chou En-lai. He writes "My experiences, observations and conversations during this most recent visit to this country have left me with an impression that China is undergoing a profound revolutionary transformation. I saw reforms after the first two years after Liberation from the rule of the nationalists - the end of civil war and the maintenance of law and order throughout China...the stabilization of currency.. the stabilization of the price of rice and all food grains...the distribution of land...the reeducation and re-employment for useful purposes of China's organized beggars...Any one of these reforms would have won the support of the Chinese people capable of ending the devastating effect on China of former evils. ..The present Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution is thorough-goingIt is certainly the greatest revolutionary transformation which has taken place in the history of China. It may be of the greatest revolutions in the history of mankind.....

"The ultimate goals of the Revolution have by no means been achieved. The Chinese from the Prime Minister to young enthusiasts freely admit this. China is undergoing a continuing revolution which is enthusiastically supported by the masses of the people. They are motivated by the teachings of Mao Tse-tung. They have experienced the benefits of success; they know the stimulation and satisfaction of participation and cooperation....

"I have seen the visible changes that have taken

place since I was a child in the days of the Imperial Manchus...There are even more important changes than the great visible ones. I speak of the changes in the attitudes, in the opinions, the enthusiasm, and the cooperation and the motivation of the common people.... More than seven hundred million intelligent, virile and industrious people are on the move..."(Evening Bulletin Philadelphia 5/27/71)

Mr Ronning's daughter, Audrey Topping, was born in China, is the wife of the New York Times Associate Managing Editor, and a free-lance writer in her own name. On entering China she wrote, "In walking from the Hongkong side across the railway bridge extending from the British customs in the village of Lowu to the Chinese customs in Shunchun, the contrast is startling. On the Hongkong side the railway tracks are littered with garbage and paper, while the Chinese side not only is tidy but an antiseptic smell rises from the scrubbed building to replace the earthy odors of the British side..... After a gourmet Chinese lunch we boarded an air-conditioned train to Canton. The train floor was polished to a high shine and an attendant kept walking around with a cloth to flick off any traces of dirt. At one point a great commotion was caused by a fly that had managed to slip into the train....The improvement in the attitude toward cleanliness seemed incredible to my father, Chester A Ronning, who was born in China in 1900 and who served as Canadian diplomat here from 1945 to 1951" (NYT 5/1/71)

Tilden Durdin, long a New York Times Correspondent in pre-Liberation China, wrote, "Perhaps the most important message a visitor to China gets these days is that order and stability have returned to a society that was convulsed with the purges and factionalism of the Cultural Revolution about two years ago." (Mr Durdin writing from Hongkong during the Cultural Revolution seemed to delight in tales of chaos, confusion, factionalism - all of which the Chinese authorities and the mainland newspapers reported since, as they said, A revolution is not a tea party. It is good that Mr Durdin now has the opportunity to correct his earlier seemingly hostile reporting...ed).

Mr Durdin goes on: "The country is back at work in a settled, regulated way and the importance of this for a people as diligent, frugal and ingenious as the Chinese is enormous... Irrespective of political system, progress is certain to be made." Mr Durdin also noted that "the seeming general acceptance of the present-day Maoist way of life appears more extensive than the evidence" he had found "studying the country from the distance of Hongkong" during "the last four years" had "indicated." "The seeming blue-ciaid throngs on the farms and in the cities I visited seemed cheerful and relatively at ease with their Government... The suburbs are brighter, newer and livelier; streets have been broadened, trees planted and apartments and shopping centers erected. Everyone seemed employed, men, women, and teen-agers, but the impression is given that the pace of work is generally moderate." (NYT 5/11/71)

Seymour Topping, of the New York Times, wrote, "The improvement in the physical condition of the people since the Communist take-over* in 1949 is staggering. Homes of beggars and of the starving and diseased that once were familiar are gone. The people look healthy and are obviously adequately fed and clothed..... The writer wandered unescorted down some back streets and village lanes without seeing sanitary conditions as bad as in New York ghettos. Although tremendous improvements have been wrought by the Communists, the favorable contrasts with the past are also attributable simply to a period of peace and unity. Prior to the Communist victory China had been a victim of Japanese invasion and of civil war for 27 years. Brutal living conditions resulted from the constant turmoil as well as from the shortcomings of the government of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. The great coastal cities look more drab than before because Western adornment and consumer goods have vanished and the bright lights have gone out. The cities are more typically Chinese, integrated closely with the economy of the interior, rather than dependent on foreign luxury goods." (NYT 6/25/71)

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*Mr Topping's phrase "Communist take-over" suggests at least a hang-over of Washington's refusal to acknowledge that it was a "take-over" by the Chinese people led, it is true, by the Chinese Communist Party.

"Chairman Mao, determined to reduce the gap in the living standards between city and village, has had investment in new construction spread throughout the country." (Topping 6/25/71) "Officials frankly acknowledge that the old inner cores of the cities have been neglected. 'We have given higher priority to investing in factories and suburban communities' a Foreign Ministry spokesman said." (Durdin NYT 5/11/71) "Pressure on the cities has been eased by Peking's policy of moving surplus workers and ideological unreliables, particularly students, en masse into the countryside. Almost a million, from Shanghai alone, have been shipped to the villages." (Topping NYT 6/25/71)

"In a flight over Central China the new construction a visitor observes is mainly factories and central agricultural commune buildings. Otherwise the clusters of mud and brick houses with thatched and tiled roofs that stand beside the pampered fields - vivid green rice paddies in the south, then brown wheat beyond the Yellow River - look unchanged, though the landscape is gashed with great water-conservancy projects." (Topping NYT 6/25/71)

Wages and Living Costs

"The Chinese Government has put into effect a welfare system designed to assure every family a minimum standard of living. Since the reform of the wage structure during the Cultural Revolution which began in 1966, new subsidies have become available to urban workers and peasants when their income is inadequate to feed their families.....

"The pattern of the new wage structure is said to be uniform for the country.... Foreigners have not seen recently any evidence of hunger in urban or rural areas of China they have visited.... The old incentive bonuses and overtime pay have been eliminated as having been expressions of 'revisionist thinking'. A new graduated scale of wages for urban workers has been substituted...

"Factories are grading all workers in 8 categories ranging from 24 to 108 yuan a month, with apprentices

ranging from 10 to as many as 30 yuan. The value of the yuan is 2.4 to the dollar. 'We determine the category of a worker by his total contribution to the country, including the length of service and development of skills. What is described as ideological ability of the worker is also taken into account.' Men and women receive equal pay. A worker can move up in grade but he is not demoted. Skill tests for promotion are given each year by a committee of workers....Under this system a skilled worker with long experience may be earning more than his younger department head.....

"The welfare comes into play when a worker in a lower category has a large number of dependents, and, with the common expenditures for food amounting to 10 yuan a person each month, he finds his total outlay exceeding his income. Rent in state-owned apartments is only about 3 to 4 yuan a month....

"In each region of the country a minimum per-capita income has been fixed. Around Peking the cost-of-living scale is pegged to 12-14 yuan a month per person. When family income is below the per-capita minimum, the factory where the worker is employed is required to pay a subsidy that brings it up close to the general standard. The subsidy system evidently is not over-taxed because many families have more than one person working." (Topping NYT 6/3/71)

"According to government sources, monthly wages in urban cities range from 34 yuan to about 100 yuan (about \$14 to \$45 at the going rate)....Only a relatively few technicians, managers and senior officials get salaries substantially higher than this scale. The head of a mine in Anshan was earning 108 yuan while a political chief of a big Shenyang Machine Tool Plant was getting 140 yuan. A master iron-carver in Peking who worked at his bench for 30 years was earning 100 yuan. In a Chengchow textile plant the chief engineer is paid 158 yuan while the head of the plant gets 100 yuan. If a skilled worker has a wife holding a job, family income may exceed that of the head of the factory. Specific titles - and elegant manners and fine dress - are frowned upon." (Topping NYT 6/25/71)

"In the countryside the welfare system works somewhat differently. Wages in communes are based on the share of earnings of a production team. Each peasant is awarded work points for each day's labor. When a peasant, because of low income or because of physical incapacity, cannot feed his family from his earnings and the output of his small private vegetable plot, the commune assigns him a subsidy. The money comes from a welfare fund accumulated by a 2% deduction taken annually from the total earnings of the commune." (Topping NYT 6/5/71)

"There is no personal income tax in China. Government income comes from a 6% tax levelled annually as a fee for land use and from profits accumulated by other state enterprises, such as shops... There is said to be no unemployment in China, though underemployment is reported in some areas." (Topping NYT 6/3/71)

"The material rewards for getting ahead are not great. A senior worker in a factory, for example, makes about as much as a production manager; and a member of a Revolutionary Committee that runs a large rural commune gets nothing for committee duty, only the income from the regular job he continues to do - often as a laborer. Basic material security is as certain for the ordinary man as the high-ranking.... Those able to work are assured adequate food.... Housing at little or no cost generally goes with the job, and clothing of the ordinary kind, which even high officials wear, is cheap." (Durdin NYT 5/11/71)

"An unmarried worker can bunk in the factory dormitory for less than a yuan a month. His food costs 15 yuan. A family can get living quarters, including a bedroom and kitchen facilities for 3 or 4 yuan..... New housing has been constructed for fishermen and their families who once lived in sampans by the quayside." (Topping NYT 5/22/71)

Topping writes of a worker in a factory in the Peking Experimental Chemical Works.... By going to night school he has completed six years of secondary educat-

ion which helped him qualify for his job installing and repairing machines. He earns 71 yuan (\$27.40) a month and works a 6-day 8-hour week. He and his family live well because three others also work: with two of his four children holding jobs and two in school and his wife an apprentice in a factory at 18 yuan a month (the 19-year old operates a lathe as an apprentice scale or 21 yuan and the 17-year old is earning 17 yuan as an apprentice in a food-producing plant). The family lives half a mile from the factory in a sparsely furnished apartment that has two small bed rooms, with a tiny outside balcony, a kitchen and a lavatory; for this they pay 7 yuan a month. Electricity for lighting and gas for cooking, central heating and hot water cost one (1) yuan a month. Their food comes to about 10 yuan a person. At the end of the month the family has 58 yuan to buy consumer goods or to deposit in the people's bank at 4% interest....The family eats pork or beef once a day. One meal a day is usually eaten at the clean, well-attended factory canteen. Mr. Ghou has ulcers and is able to get eggs and milk he requires...In the factory auditorium they attend showings of films, mostly propaganda pieces - comparing the bad old days under Chiang Kai-shek and landlords with their present life. An amateur troupe puts on similar stage shows, mostly Peking opera. At least half an hour and up to one hour a day is spent studying the works of Chairman Mao." (NYT 6/27/71)

A Visit To A Commune

"For this curious American the visit was a day-long glimpse into the life of a people's commune, a microcosm of the transformed rural society of Communist China.... The one visited, the Chinese-Vietnam Friendship People's Commune, north of Peking" (was) "a nearly self-contained world of 30,000 people living on about 38 square miles of flat, green fertile land....This writer found more than he expected of the traditional China he had seen in 1949.....There is the same gentle civility of people; they speak with more self-conscious dignity and pride....."

"While there is a high degree of centralized political and ideological control, the villages of the commune have considerable economic independence.

"The Chinese-Vietnamese Friendship People's Commune embraces 35 original villages organized into 6 production brigades, which in turn are divided into 95 production teams; these teams are the basic operating economic units of the commune.....The commune was created in 1958 out of 6 cooperatives to permit the concentration of a large labor force capable of reshaping the land. In 1960 5000 of the commune's total force of 19,000 workers labored for 7 months to dam the Sha River to create a reservoir. Two hundred miles of irrigation ditches were dug and pumping stations were built to give the region its first flood control system and continuing water supply in time of draught. Today the commune has rich, levelled land, with extensive fields of rice, wheat, soy beans, corn and orchards divided by tree-lined roads...

"Fine, red-brick buildings have been built to house the dairies, the pigs, the cattle and horse-breeding stations. There is a farm-tool factory in the commune, but mechanization is proceeding slowly. There are only 45 tractors and 17 trucks.... Villages are cleaner and more orderly than they were in the China of 20 or more years ago. People wear worn but adequate clothing, and they look healthier and are better educated. Looking into the faces of peasants one no longer sees eyes swollen with trachoma and open skin sores. Beggars and opium smokers are gone...."

"The production team pays each peasant in terms of work points...Earnings of the production team from sales to the State are distributed proportionally according to individual labor credits. But first the State is paid a fee for use of the land, and a local committee decides how much should be retained for reinvestment....Each person in the commune is charged one yuan a year for medical care; this includes everything except the services of the commune dentist and purchase of eye glasses which cost about 10 yuan..... There is universal education for children through three years of secondary schooling. About 6000 students are attending 35 primary schools and 2000 are in 6 secondary schools. In a class at a secondary school there were 400 students under the supervision of 30 teachers.

"The school is under the supervision of a Board of education made up of poor and lower middle class peasants....The class schedule called for seven 45 minute periods - study of Chairman Mao's works, Chinese language and literature, mathematics, agricultural biology, musical instruments and singing, Peking Opera, politics and ideology, a marching and sports period. When students leave school they must put in two years of manual labor. Then they can be selected for university training by peasants of their village.... A 35 member Revolutionary Committee controls the commune." (Topping NYT 5/20/71)

"Every peasant family is entitled to free medical attention, usually through membership in a medical collective with dues from one to two yuan a year. Children like those in urban areas are entitled to universal education generally including access to the last 3 years of secondary schooling.... (Topping NYT 5/20/71)

More On Improved Rural Living

Mr Durdin writes, "Today the beauty of China's rural landscape is, if anything, more pronounced than ever. The little villages are still there but a greater variety of crops on somewhat larger collective fields, together with newly grown trees along roads and embankments, add new homes to the color pattern. Collectivization has also evened out peasant incomes, eliminating the poor, unkempt farm and bringing an attractive neatness and uniformity to the whole countryside. New rural factories, with smoking chimneys, are an occasional blemish but not yet seriously disfiguring. What does this more pleasing visual aspect imply for the material life of the 600 hundred million peasants who are still the backbone of Chinese life and economy?"

"As of 1971, after 9 years of good harvests and the stabilization of the Communist system for rural areas, the answer must be that things are better for a large proportion of the peasants than they have been in decades. Last year's harvests were probably the best in Chinese history...."

"This writer recently visited communes near Peking, Shanghai and Canton; the individual members of the farm collectives all reported better incomes in 1970 than in many years previously. Sewing machines, radio sets, recently acquired bicycles and other items in homes attested to their purchasing power. Annual cash earnings per individual were exceedingly low - in the \$40 to \$50 range, but this represented money left to spend after food, housing and medical needs. A family with three or four workers ends the year with a sizeable package of ready cash....."

The farmer on a rural collective in the People's Republic of China has no rent to pay - he owns his own home and receives medical services, rudimentary though they often are, at nominal cost, and free schooling for his children. His work is often grueling, but he still finds time to cultivate a small private plot that usually provides a family with most of their vegetables, and with enough grain to raise several pigs and a flock of chickens.... The ration of low-priced cotton cloth is just enough for one suit of clothing, but other kinds of cloth are unrationed....The basic assurance of home and livelihood exist for all....Today's system has certainly raised the level above that of the middle class peasant...Thus the masses benefit and this is the way Mao Tse-tung planned." (Durdin NYT 5/9/71)

Social Benefits For Factory Workers and Peasants

"The State has established uniform benefits for factory workers. Each worker is guaranteed free medical service; members of his family are entitled to payment by the factory of 50% of their medical costs. In some factories....the workers have founded cooperatives to pay the additional 50% of the medical costs of family dependents; each family gets complete coverage by contributing 20 yuan, one fifth of a yuan a month; the system seems to be spreading to most factories."

"When a worker suffers an occupational accident or illness the factory pays all medical costs and his full salary....For other extended illnesses workers

get 60% to full payment of their salary according to the length of service during the first 6 months of the illness and thereafter 60%. Subsidies are available to ease family hardships....

"In the old days we were fired if we got married or had a child, but here we get 56 to 72 days of paid maternity leave and special rest periods for the first 7 months after returning to work", Mrs Chang Wen-lan, a 45-year old worker said.

Workers get one day a week off and seven days a year vacation, divided among the main festival holiday periods. Two weeks a year are granted for a husband or wife, if separated, to visit the spouse, or for married workers to visit parents who live at a considerable distance. A three day holiday is granted for marriage.

The State stipulates retirement for women workers at the age of 50 and men at 60, at 70% of their regular salary. They may, at the discretion of the factory, continue on the job at full salary.

Many Chinese grandparents at retirement prefer to live with one of their children in traditional manner, caring for the young grandchildren. The factory does permit them, if they prefer, to retain their apartments in its housing project."(Topping NYT 6/3/71)

REVISITING TWO CITIES FAMILIAR TO AMERICANS

Hangchow. There is a Chinese saying known to all who have lived in China - "Above is heaven; below are Sochow and Hangchow" - two of China's most beautiful cities. Mr Topping, writing from Hangchow, says, "This lovely garden city embracing the ethereal West Lake has been transformed into a major industrial complex" (but) "industrialisation has not polluted what the Chinese call their 'paradise on earth'....The tree-lined streets are immaculate.The factories built since the Communist take-over have been situated mainly in the wooded suburbs with surrounding vegetation intensely cultivated as screening and to absorb fumes. Some factory chimneys trail black smoke but a program is being pressed for better control.

'We are trying to deal with pollution before it becomes a serious problem....

"Hangchow remains a leading vacation mecca, but no longer only for well-to-do Chinese and foreigners..... The main stream of visitors consists of ordinary people. Thousands are bussed into Hangchow on organized tours. Family groups also travel here from near-by cities, some riding the comfortable double-deck passenger train from Shanghai. The people look relaxed and there is more color and diversity in their dress than in Canton, although they are in the uniform costume of jackets or blouses over trousers. The people stroll in the West Lake Park and Wha Kang fish lagoon beside the Pavilion of Calm Lake and Autumn Moon; they feed the foot-long red carp that swarm to the surface for food. They sip the fragrant Lung Ching green tea of the region made with the mineral water of the spa....Visitors swarm into the Six Harmony Pagoda, a russet-colored 200 feet, 13-meter tower built in the year 970 and the 1700-old Ling Ying Temple with its magnificent gilded Buddahs....The scene in Hangchow is one of tranquility and the people say 'Heaven above, Hangchow below'."(Topping 5/25/71)

Canton. Topping, assistant managing editor of the New York Times, returned May 20th, from a visit to mainland China. He had been a correspondent in China before 1949. Revisiting Canton he wrote, "On returning to this teeming southern metropolis after two decades, one finds the face of society transformed. A new Canton man has emerged....Old brawling Canton with its raucous downtown neon lights is gone. Also gone are the emaciated beggars who stood outside restaurants with outstretched palms and looked in at the banquet tables where most of the refulgent dishes were left half-consumed by the rich. Forgotten are the brothels where round-faced girls with flashing eyes and chattering bird-like voices insisted to rough foreign seamen on the civility of sipping tea ceremoniously before sex was dispensed....On broad clean streets traffic moves in a disciplined procession; there are few cars or trucks and none of them are driven by swearing argumentative drivers who once abused each other and hapless unarmed policemen. Today unarmed policemen dressed in green military tunics over blue

trousers effortlessly direct streams of bicyclists and pedicabs....In the years before the Communist take-over in 1949 shops were crammed with foreign luxury goods. Foreign businessmen still come to Canton, the international trading center, by the thousands during the official one-month fall and spring fairs. But they no longer peddle silk stockings, French wines and automobiles. The 3000 businessmen* who went home after the Spring Fair came to sell essential industrial machinery and buy raw materials."(Topping NYT 5/22/71)

MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION

"Municipal transportation everywhere is good with solid clean, Chinese-built wide-windowed trolleys and gasoline busses"..(NYT 5/11/71)

In September 1969 the New York Times reported on the building of a subway in Peking, along the site of the old city walls. In May 1971 Audrey Topping tells of its completion: "The subway was started on September 1st 1965. It was inaugurated on October first 1969 and while not yet opened for general use, since then visitors from 60 countries on five continents have ridden on it, and some 60,000 take rides every day.... 'Just for fun'. For two cents you can ride the entire 15 miles from the Military Museum station in the outskirts to Peking station and back....The fun consists of whizzing through the tunnels in a sparkling new train and looking at the 16 palatial stations, all built of different colored marble from Yunnan. No two stations are alike in lighting, construction and color: a white one, a red one, a pink one, a black one, and a cream and green one, among others....Visitors are escorted down the moving stairway, which is switched on for them, served jasmine tea in China cups and given a briefing by the subway commandant before being whisked off. The official said that 'four million of our own masses have ridden the subway and every day 60,000 people are allowed to go for a ride.' The project was started in accordance with Mao's policy of self-reliance....The project took four years and three months with army men, revolutionary cadres, technicians, and

.....
*The NYTimes(5/23/71) reported "16,000 foreign businessmen and other overseas visitors..

700 groups from 28 provinces and cities doing the work. The trains, made in Changchun, have 60-seat cars that hold 180 people...the longest trains have six cars and they travel at 50 miles an hour." (A Topping NYT 5/7/71)

The reader will please note that this construction by workers from all over China took place during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution - a period often described as "destructive chaos" by hostile or ignorant foreign correspondents!

FOOD

"According to Premier Chou En-lai China's grain output was a record 240 million metric tons, a figure foreign experts traveling in the country and observing the bumper harvests tend to accept.....The country imported 5 million tons of wheat last year but this year has contracted for only 2.5 million tons from Canada, saving about \$100 million in foreign exchange. The imports will compensate for higher priced rice shipped abroad to bring in foreign exchange and to feed such beneficiaries as North Vietnam."(Topping NYT 6/10/71)

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization estimates mainland China produced a record 100 million tons of rice in the crop year ending August 31st 1970-- and said last year's crop was 5 million above the crop a year earlier; and said that China had maintained its position as the world's 3rd largest exporter of rice, after the United States and Thailand. Ceylon was China's biggest customer, buying 310,000 tons of the estimated total of 885,000 tons during calendar year 1970. FAO put the 1969 exports at 710,000 tons."(CSM A/P 6/10/71)

China's Indigenous "Green Revolution" "Two American scientists who are completing a unique tour of Chinese Communist research establishments said today that they had become convinced that China had developed 'a lot of important scientific information of which we are unaware. The biologists are Dr Arthur W Galston of Yale University and Dr Ethan Siger, an associate professor of biology at Massachusetts Institute of Technol-

ogy. Dr Galston is a specialist in plant physiology and Dr Signer in the genetics of bacterial viruses. Dr Galston said that in the field of genetics and the promotion of plant growth, the Chinese had originated a method for mass-producing a substance known as gibberellin, which when sprayed on plants, significantly increased crop yield. He said the substance was being produced on a large scale on communes, factories and at universities." (Topping NYT 5/24/71)

"Improved varieties of grain are contributing substantially to China's 'grow more food' campaign, but officials at collective farms say that they have never heard of the development of 'miracle rice' and wheat in the outside world. They say they rely on new strains developed in their own areas for higher yields. 'We develop our own improved strains or we get new varieties by exchanging with other communes in the area'said Wu Ching-ling, a 39-year old vice-director of Machiao Commune's Revolutionary Committee. Other commune leaders outside Peking and Canton questioned by newsmen gave the same reply. Their responses seemed to indicate that China has not brought in from abroad -or at least not openly - seeds of the new high-yield rice that have been making the green revolution in countries all over Asia. The same situation seems to apply to wheat strains." (Durdin NYT 5/16/71)

"Dr Arthur Galston....speaking of his own speciality, explained the novel way in which the Chinese are using plant hormones. The substance known as gibberellins are the most important of the plant hormones, he said. They were first discovered as the product of a fungus, Gibberella Fujikuroi, which causes the 'foolish seedling' disease of rice. It stimulates rice seedlings to grow so tall that they break before seeds can form. The hormones are now widely used to stimulate plant growth in desirable ways; but the crystalline form employed in American fields is costly and its production requires special technology....Dr Galston said the Chinese have found a way to manufacture 'crude gibberellins' at each commune that needs them. The farmers then achieve a 20% increase in production by applying the hormones to barley at the time of flowering. This, he said, is 'kind of amazing'. American

farmers, he added, apply the crystalline form at the seedling stage. He photographed experimental plots in which samples of the grain stimulated by the Chinese method were towering alongside untreated samples."(NYT 5/26/71 Sullivan).

THE NEW FAMILY SYSTEM

"Peasants no longer feel the need for several sons as security for their old age. The commune provides welfare funds where needed and a coffin at death. Families with two or three children seem to be the rule in the new generations. Now agricultural production is increasing while the birth rate is dropping, because of a policy of encouraging late marriages and such birth control measures as the pill and sterilization. Abortion is also legal if both man and wife approve..... (Topping N T 6/26/71)

"Family ties remain strong and the individual household continues to be the basic social unit. Members of the Revolutionary Committee that governs Shih Ke Chuang commune chuckled and dismissed as 'inventions' stories that peasants in communes had been regimented in dormitories. The Communist Party now shares with parents the old profound loyalty of children. Ancestral grave mounds have been cleared from the countryside so that more land can be tilled; and the old family shrines have been replaced by portraits of Chairman Mao. But parents still are obviously revered, and small children, as always, are left in the care of grandparents who live with the family.....In the commune there are well-tended 'respect for aged' homes ...for the elderly who have no family or are disabled. (Topping NYT 5/30/71)

"After years of struggle against the habits of the old society...family life appears once more to have become close and intimate....Among the Chinese today there seems to be more of a feeling of kinship than in the old society. A road accident brings a swarm of helping by-standers. Before 1949 a beggar dying on the street or an injured person would often be shunned because to render aid would be the acceptance of responsibility." (Topping NYT 6/26/71)

SHOPPING

"Goods in the Shanghai stores are attractively displayed in show-cases separated by wide aisles, illuminated by fluorescent lighting. The Shanghai Store, like the Peking big Commodity Store, would compare with some in the United States....Service is excellent in the Shanghai and Peking stores, certainly faster and more efficient than in many American shops. Sales girls are taught in Communist Party indoctrination sessions to be patient and to question peasants who come in from the countryside on their needs and to advise them as to the best products.

"The Shanghai store is open seven days a week, from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM, and a special section is open from 6:00 PM to 8:00 AM to serve late-shift factory workers and peasants who bring their products into the city in the early morning hours.

"Only a few items are rationed, notably inexpensive cotton cloth at 6½ meters a person each year. But there is no rationing of more expensive wool, silk, rayon and synthetic cloth....The price structure has remained stable and there have been regular reductions in many categories of goods. Drugs were sliced 50% in price last year; and plastic items such as shoes and raincoats went down 30%....Cheap shoes, those with cloth tops and rubber soles cost 3.70 yuan. Black leather dress shoes cost 17 yuan. An inexpensive cotton tunic costs 7 yuan, with trousers priced at 6 yuan. A woman's sweater is 10 yuan. An alarm clock costs 15 yuan and a wrist watch 120 yuan. The smallest, cheapest, portable transistor receiving only medium wave was 31 yuan; a better make with additional short-wave band cost 120 Y.

"About 150,000 people each day throng through the five floors of Shanghai's big No 1 Department Store buying and looking at an array of goods of greater volume and variety than has been available since the Communist take-over in 1949. After the stern years of the Cultural Revolution the colors are brighter and the designs more varied. There are transistor radios and small

table television sets for sale, but almost all goods are basic, functional consumer items....Travelers report that similar goods and styles, varying according to regional needs, are available in urban centers throughout most of China....In village stores a much more limited selection of goods can be obtained... On sale in the village stores of Nanyen People's Commune, south of Peking, were cotton, synthetic and rayon cloth in fifty patterns, sandals, thermal jugs....All sales in department stores are for cash, and there is no installment buying." (Topping NYT 5/31/71)

"Crime does not seem to be a major problem.... The Chinese no longer accept tips and are solicitous about returning change....Revolutionary Peking operas are the backbone of virtually all theatrical production in the country. Directed by Chiang Ching, the militant wife of Mao, and a leader of the Cultural Revolution, these operas turn mainly on the theme of the struggle between the People's Liberation Army, supported by the peasantry, against the wicked landlords allied with the Chiang Kai-shek forces and the Japanese invaders in the pre-1949 period. (Topping NYT 6/26/71)

EDUCATION

China is now in the process of creating a socialist educational system. During the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution schools and universities were closed for periods of up to three years. This closing was due to the criticism of the then current education as "bourgeois"; teachers, the majority themselves the product of bourgeois education, were severely criticized as favoring students with the more privileged social and educational backgrounds, slighting students from farms and factories and stressing the getting of an education as a means to fame, fortune and position. "The educational system has been undergoing a massive reorganization. One of the aims has been to end the alleged discrimination against children from illiterate and semilliterate peasant and worker families without any formal education. Articles in the press have declared that students should be judged not only by their academic qualifications but

also by their political qualifications in which peasants and workers are said to be more advanced....Workers and peasants without any schooling were being admitted to classes in which they studied alongside much younger pupils....The introduction of workers, peasants and soldiers into Chinese schools and the lowering of academic qualifications for enrollment in universities have created problems that have been discussed in the press and provincial broadcasts. Methods advanced for closing the gap between average-to-bright students and those with little or no formal education are widely discussed with assertions that 'both groups should be helped to make progress'....A proposal that the different groups have separate classes was rejected; instead, the situation was discussed until the faculty and students reached an understanding that students of a lower educational level mostly older workers, have 'high class consciousness, a clear purpose of studying, and a diligent attitude'.... The university introduced a system of 'one helping another' by which the older workers were helped to 'cross the cultural gap'. It added that the older workers, for their part, helped the younger workers to 'raise their political awareness'." (NYT 6/27/71)

"Every professor in China, no matter how abstract and basic his field, works in 'close collusion' with some enterprise involving manual labor", Dr Galston said...."Before entering a university a student must spend three years in manual labor, or in the army."(NYT 5/26/71 Sullivan)

"The changes that have been made in primary and secondary schooling in China do not appear to be as drastic as official publicity has depicted them.... Much of the conventional teaching system remains. In the Peking No 2 secondary school, for example, mathematics, language, physics, chemistry, history, geography, physical education and public affairs - a kind of civics course - form a basic part of the curriculum....These courses are taught, so far as is possible, through the use of maxims and philosophy of Mao Tse-tung; and in addition there are separate courses in political education, basic farming and revolutionary art and culture that have political indoctrination as their main objective."(NYT Durdin 5/7/71)

"The new plan provides for five years of primary school instead of the former six, and for five years instead of six in junior and senior middle schools. Under the new plan senior middle school graduates at the age of 15 or 16 go to work in factories or on farms for a couple of years; and then, if found suitable, go on to a university for two to three years. In addition, the Maoist content of all studies, to say nothing of those courses designed to indoctrinate, is now all-embracing. The school is also more Maoist in the way students combine class studies with practical work. Each student must spend three hours a day for one month in a shop making metal and wooden chairs or performing the pains-taking task of processing tiny disks into diodes for use in precision meters transistor radios. The school produces 30,000 diodes a month for electronics plants. The factories pay 126 per diode but the money goes to the school, not the students.

"The new primary schools and senior middle schools follow a pattern similar to that of the No 2 secondary school but officials acknowledge that the new schools at both primary and secondary levels are still experimental." (Durdin NYT 5/7/71)

During the Cultural Revolution hundreds of thousands of students, (during the years 1966 through 1969 all universities were closed) were sent to villages to 'reform themselves through labor'. Audrey Topping talked with Miss Chou Yu-feng, a 21-year old student from Peking, who has been working as a peasant in a commune. Miss Chou said, 'It was difficult at first the living in Peking is higher and just climbing mountains here took the energy out of us. We couldn't tell a potato plan from a tomato plant'. "Miss Chou and eleven other members of her class came to work in the Willow Grove Commune of the Liu Ling Commune. She lives in a cave and works with the peasants in the fields...She and her fellow students looked strong and sun-tanned.....They get up each day at 6:30; they have half an hour to wash and eat before a study period from seven to eight. At eight they go to work, doing all the jobs that peasants do. Yesterday they helped to construct a horizontal

terrace; other days they weed in the fields, loosen the soil, or participate in various harvesting jobs. Lunch is at one o'clock. The main staple goods in Yen-an are millet, corn and wheat...the students also eat meat or fish twice a day plus a variety of vegetables. After lunch they rest till three o'clock and return to work until six for the evening meal. In the evening they participate in performances from the well-known Peking operas or create original shows. From 8 to 9 is a self-study period, and then an hour of relaxation before ten o'clock bed-time.

"Hsi Hwai, vice-chairman of the Yen-an Revolutionary Committee said that of the 24,000 students, more than a hundred have joined the Communist Party and about a thousand are members of the Communist Youth League. He said that the young intellectuals serve, as well as learn from, the peasants. 7,000 of them are working as scientists and 1200 are teachers or bare-foot doctors - those who are trained on first aid, sanitation and other basic health subjects. 300 have joined the People's Liberation Army, 1400 have been transferred to industry, finance and trade where they are workers or staff members. 2400 have been assigned to work with and supervise with the 13,000 who work as peasants in the fields or do other manual work." (Audrey Topping NYT 7/2/71)

CHINA'S SCIENTISTS

"A basic goal of the Cultural Revolution has been to reshape the thinking of Chinese scientists who were imbued with the traditional Western view that the quest for pure knowledge is the highest goal. The upheaval also sought to purge Chinese science of the elitism that came naturally to a community of highly trained scientists, surrounded by masses of Chinese with minimal education.

"The new policy stated that the traditionally humble workers and peasants were to be made to feel part of the research endeavor, applying to it their native ingenuity. Even the most sophisticated scientists must now spend part of their time working with such people on various projects.

"To insure that the goals of the Revolution are carried out, education and research at virtually all levels are under the controls of the Revolutionary Committees based on the 'three-in-one' principle. This principle of Chairman Mao's says that such bodies should be representatives of three areas of society: the political cadres, the workers and peasants, and the military. The chairman of the Revolutionary Committee in control, say, of a biological research institute is typically a political cadre; the vice-chairman is a biologist....

"The Chinese have enhanced their prestige with some elaborate achievements - the building of a large radio telescope, the synthesis of insulin, the orbiting of the earth satellites, and an extensive nuclear weapons program." (NYT 6/7/71 Sullivan) (Mr Sullivan neglected to note another Chinese achievement - the synthesis of benzene...ed)

"Chinese science has been radically altered in the last few years, according to two American professors who returned from China yesterday (May 25th...ed). Dr Arthur W Galston, professor of biology at Yale, said that every professor in China, no matter how abstract and basic his field, worked in 'close collaboration with some enterprise involving labor. By the same token, he said those deriving their livelihood from manual labor are being given a taste of how the 'other half' lives...

"He reported having seen in a specialized analytical laboratory, a worker who manipulated valves in a pharmaceutical plant was being given a chance to see what lay behind his daily chores. In this way Doctor Galston and his colleague Dr Ethan Signer, said ordinary labor is being given a new dignity. The two men reported the reorientation has basically altered Academia Sinica - China's National Academy of Sciences. And the same is true of education. Before entering a university a student must have spent three years in manual labor or the army, they said. The effort to glorify labor in this way is 'a little romantic' Dr Galston conceded, but both men said they were deeply impressed by Chinese science." (NYT 5/26/71 Sullivan)

"Dr C H Geoffrey Oldham of the University of Sussex in England in a recent telephone interview said he had presented various technological achievements reported from China to British specialists for assessment. They were particularly impressed, he said, by the Chinese development of a method for making nitrogen fertilizer economically without building the huge and complex plants used for this purpose in the West. The Chinese technique, he said, uses manpower extensively and sophisticated devices sparingly. Dr Arthur Galston in an interview in Shanghai last month told of a similar development in the production of gibberellin, a plant hormone used to stimulate crop growth. The Chinese, he said, had found a way to produce low-grade hormones at each commune and use it effectively in a manner unknown to the West." (NYT 6/7/71 Sullivan)

"At Peking Hospital, one of the eight major hospitals in the capital, the two biologists witnessed and were allowed to photograph the use of acupuncture to anesthetize patients in four-hour major operations. Describing the Chinese developed technique as 'remarkable', Dr Galston said that they had observed human tumors being removed while the patients remained conscious. In one operation the woman patient, at her request, was shown an ovary cyst 'as large as a baseball' immediately after it was removed from her body. The method uses traditional acupuncture needles to probe at nerve points until the patient reports adequate numbness in that section of her body, enabling the operation to begin while the patient is still conscious. Dr Galston also said that they had become convinced that Western pharmacology had much to learn from traditional Chinese medicine." (Topping NYT 5/24/71)

"The puzzles surrounding pain were spotlighted recently when Americans in China reported that they had seen operations performed on conscious patients who had not received any conventional anesthetic. In one case a woman undergoing open-heart surgery sipped orange juice and smiled at onlookers while the surgeon held her heart in his hand. Chinese doctors said that these procedures were possible because they had discovered that ac-

upuncture - the traditional Chinese medicine based on sticking needles into different parts of the body - could produce anesthesia. But they confessed that they don't understand how the technique works." (NYT Schwartz 6/5/71)

Chinese Jets. "China is producing for the first time a jet fighter of its own design, according to senior American analysts. Heretofore China had concentrated on producing planes from Soviet blue-prints.... Chinese copies of the MIG-19 fighter in recent years have been manufactured in such quantities, sources note, that China even sold some to Pakistan. But the ability to design and put into mass production what is described as essentially an all-new airplane, officials say, demonstrates a growing Chinese determination and technological competence to produce not only missiles and nuclear war-heads, but also modern conventional arms." (NYT 5/17/71 Beecher)

"The new plane, designated F-9 by American analysts, is a twin fighter, roughly based on the MIG-19 but said to be considerably advanced and different in important aspects from the Soviet aircraft. Sources say China is believed to be turning out the F-9 at a rate of about 10 a month. The F-9 is said to fly at more than twice the speed of sound - roughly 1400 miles an hour, with a combat radius of 300 to 500 miles.... that means it could fly from its home base to a battle field 300 to 400 miles away, engage in combat, and then return home without refueling. The F-9, sources say can operate at altitudes above 50,000 feet... (Beecher NYT 5/17/71)

Chinese Submarine. "China may be building its first nuclear-powered submarine, the Pentagon said.... (UPI NYT 6/8/71)

SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SELF-RELIANCE

"Since the start of the Cultural Revolution heavy emphasis has been placed on self-reliance, innovation, and local self-sufficiency. This was the slogan on every farm visited and in factories, ranging from small neighborhood workshops to large textile, steel, chemical and machine-tool plants. In the Soviet Union and other Communist countries in Europe, the emphasis is on economic centralization and specialization. In China Mao Tse-tung has opted for decentralization and local diversification. Each hsien, or county, has been given the target of becoming self-sufficient in food and light industrial products....Peking's policy is not moving China dramatically and quickly into the ranks of the advanced industrial nations. In fact, China has not yet fully entered the industrial age...Chinese officials tell you that in general the country remains backward economically and has a long way to go. Agriculture, moreover, remains the foundation of the economy despite the drive to industrialize....Nevertheless the evidence of construction, the lush, well-tended fields, the markets full of food and consumer necessities and the energy exhibited everywhere add up to the impression that the basic needs of the people are being met and the foundation is being laid for a modern industrial country.

"The central problem of the economy now seems within reach of a solution...With a short growing season of about 150 days the region of Mukden (now called Shenyang) was dependent formerly on grain imports; now it is close to self-sufficiency in grain with the introduction of wheat, corn, soyabean and vegetables. Every agricultural commune even if it used to grow speciality crops, is now seeking self-sufficiency in grain so as not to diminish the central state reserves.

"The policy of decentralization not only has compensated for the inadequacy of the transport system but has given China the capacity to absorb a strong nuclear blow without suffering total paralysis."(Topping NYT 6/27/71)

REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES

Mr Topping writes of the profound changes that have taken place...in management techniques and the style of operation of the Chinese Communist production system. Throughout the country, extending to the grass roots levels in farm communes, factories and other economic enterprises and schools, a new uniform structure of control and administration has been imposed.

"Each economic unit and school is managed by a Revolutionary Committee that insures tight political control, ideological discipline and work methods in keeping with the Maoist philosophy,..The triumvirate, all members of the Revolutionary Committee, is typical of the prevalent three-in-one combination that always includes management officials in responsible positions, representatives of the People's Liberation Army, and workers and peasants...."

Mr Topping gives an 'incident' that 'was revealing of the profound changes....At Peking's heavy electric machinery plant, Wei Ching-shen, the 50-year old chairman of the Revolutionary Committee that runs the factory, listened patiently as a young woman criticized his record. Mr Wei did not seem greatly perturbed by her unexpected outburst, although he was being interviewed by an American reporter; two management officials of the factory, (which employs 5300) were also in the room. Mr Wei, a small, gentle-looking man wearing a plain grey cap and tunic, was flanked during the interview by Mr Ma Kwei-hua, head of the 16-man army propaganda team and Miss Yeh Ya-hua, 33, a design worker who voiced the criticism of the Committee chairman...

"Mr Wei, who had been director of the factory before the establishment of the Revolutionary Committee in February 1968, confessed that before the Cultural Revolution his staff 'had been divorced from production

and the masses; we did not take part in manual labor and we had bureaucratic airs'. Mr Wei said that the 'pernicious revisionist influence of Liu Shao-chi, the former Chief of State, had influenced his factory. Material incentives and rewards had been put in command and development of technology had been emphasized rather than production. The chairman added that with the help of the workers and the army propaganda team the factory had passed through a period of struggle and criticism and now was being run completely according to Maoist doctrine... When Mr Wei was asked if he had been director of the factory before the establishment of the Revolutionary Committee Miss Yeh interrupted by saying, 'Yes, he was formerly general secretary of the Communist Party of the plant. He is now the same man physically, but he has greatly changed since the Cultural Revolution'."

In explaining the new structure Mr Topping writes "Proletarian revolutionaries unite and seize power from the handful of Party persons taking the capitalist road... Hundreds of thousands of intellectuals, students, government and Party officials and production managers are going through special schools where through manual labor and propaganda courses they are 'integrated with the masses'.... In some state establishments, such as the Peking Experimental Chemical Works, the army representative has become chairman of the Revolutionary Committee and the former plant director has been relegated to a more junior post... The 20-member Revolutionary Committee which has a standing committee of 10, nine of whom are members of the Communist Party, has put into effect the Maoist precept 'better troops and simpler administration'. The factory's administrative staff has been reduced from 500 to about 200... Other enterprises visited in a number of Chinese cities reported similar cuts in their administrative personnel.

"Touring the electrical factory this writer saw propaganda posters everywhere stressing the central theme of self-reliance and innovations. In every workshop workers proudly exhibit equipment, ranging from simple power-driven wheels, presses and lathes

that has been designed and manufactured in the plant. 'The imperialists and revisionists have imposed a boycott on us and if we wait for the State to supply us, it would take too long' one shop foreman said. An intensive effort is being made through Maoist indoctrination to obtain a creative release of energy from the workers since such material incentives as pay bonuses have been eliminated." (Topping NYT 6/2/71)

CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES

On The Government Level

The American euphoria created by the table tennis follow-up has been expressed as "ping pong diplomacy", implying changing attitudes on the governmental level. But "there has been no response from Peking to President Nixon's announcement earlier this month on the removal of restrictions affecting trade between the United States and China.... So far as travel is concerned the movement has been all one-way - from the United States to China... Peking accepted an invitation from the American table tennis team to send a Chinese team but no date has been set. There has been no indication from the Chinese as to whether they are interested in sending newsmen or others to the United States." (NYT 6/24/71) "Side-stepping a question whether he would welcome a visit by President Nixon Mr Chou said with a smile, 'Such a big question! It was said by Nixon himself that he would like to visit China and since he said that he will know himself under what circumstances he would want to visit China.'" (Topping NYT 6/23/71)

"There is no prospect for a substantial improvement in governmental relations with the United States until the Taiwan issue is resolved. Peking insists that the United States must remove its security screen from the island that is held by the Chinese Nationalist Government of Chiang Kai-shek and does not intend to compromise on its determination to liberate Taiwan and assert its complete sovereignty... The Chinese reject and shun any suggestion of a plebiscite to determine the prefer-

ences of the 12 million indigenous people of Taiwan. In a dinner conversation with the writer Premier Chou for the first time gave a hint of what Peking's attitude toward the Taiwanese and the 2 million mainlanders on Taiwan would be if the Communists took it over. He said that there would be no reprisals against the Taiwanese if they yielded to Peking's sovereignty and that their economic conditions would improve. He said unemployed mainlanders would be permitted to return to their home provinces without being subjected to discrimination....

Peking seems content to wait for an evolution of the political situation in the United States and on Taiwan itself rather than launch an armed invasion to bring the island under its rule." (Topping NYT 6/28/71)

On The People-to-People Level

As Chou En-lai told an American delegation at a reception for some of the table tennis teams in Peking: "Contacts between the people of China and the United States have been very frequent in the past, but later they were broken off for some time. Your visit to China on invitation has opened the door to friendly contacts between the people of our two countries."

When Mr Chou was asked if Chinese would be going to the United States on reciprocal visits, he said, 'I believe that day will come. Whether it comes slowly or quickly depends on efforts on both sides'. He declared that the contacts between peoples 'can surely gradually increase. We will also go there' he added. 'We must do some preparatory work. Our people did not realize beforehand that such contacts would develop so rapidly. The table tennis team is preparing to be the first to go.' He said that his Government might consider sending the Peking Opera to the United States." When asked about Americans attending the semi-annual Canton Trade Fair Mr Chou said "His Government would consider a request by American businessmen to attend'." (Topping NYT 6/23/71)

It was the United States Government that tried to erect a wall between the two countries - and even a wall around China itself! But that wall today is

crumbling - partly because Washington's major allies - all of them - refused to play along with Washington's anti-China policy, with Washington's attitude "there is no China".

On China's part there never has been any thought of a wall between our two peoples - no anti-American-people attitude, but a very definite anti-American-imperialism policy.

There can be much question and much doubt about any basic "change of heart" so far as Washington's policy toward China is concerned: the world's leading, most vicious imperialist cannot have anything but a hostile policy toward the world's greatest people's government. But the American people have it within their power to lower the barriers - political, economic, ideological - that the policy-makers in the United States continue to follow.

With all the evils of the capitalist system that today are so glaring and growing in our American society any thought that the United States "is going the way of Rome - the way of all empires" is self-defeating. Today's world is not Rome's world. Today there exists a huge socialist sector of mankind - a new kind of society - a society of great hope - a society where people's power is already demonstrating itself!

CHINA MAINTAINS HER IDEOLOGICAL STANCE

"Foreign governments are likely to find Peking's diplomats more ideologically committed than ever before. Their world outlook is drawn from the Party program adopted April 1969 which declared: 'Mao Tsetung Thought is Marxism-Leninism of the era in which imperialism is headed for its collapse and socialism is advancing to world-wide victory'.

"The ideological atmosphere is intense.... There is no convincing evidence that Premier Chou En-lai's pragmatic gestures toward non-Communist states, including the ping pong flirtation with the United States

represents any retreat from the underlying Maoist objective of world revolution. There is also no evidence of an inclination at any level toward involvement in foreign military adventures. The prime emphasis in domestic propaganda is on consolidating the Cultural Revolution and building the economy." (Topping NYT 6/25, 71)

"Ideologically Peking believes it is not possible to 'export' revolution, which must develop its own indigenous roots and energy. Once a revolution of this kind generates, however, the Chinese feel obliged to support it with propaganda, economic and technical assistance and with military equipment when the situation allows....

"While ping pong diplomacy aroused the interest of the United States the Premier has devoted more attention to consolidating relations with governments of varying political complexion in Europe, Latin America and Africa. The stated aim is to create a united front of small and medium sized nations that will resist political, economic and military prerogatives exercised by the super-powers." (Topping NYT 6/28/71)

Mr Topping also writes of 'the lengthening parade of nations marching to recognize the People's Republic.... It is expected that Peru, Tunisia, Iran, Turkey and Libya will soon follow on the heels of Austria in setting up diplomatic ties." (NYT 6/28/71)

PEOPLE'S POWER

"In China today one sees everywhere evidence of what people power - enormous numbers of men and women equipped with only primitive tools but all thinking alike and acting in concert - can accomplish....

"At the August 1st Agricultural Commune, south of Shenyang, in the Northeast, people told me an incredible story of how 50,000 peasants and soldiers labored 18 days and nights to dig a 30-mile canal that now irrigates their lands....

"Across the broad Yangtze River near Nanking there is a new two-level bridge almost ten miles long which foreign experts doubted could ever be built. It was completed in 8 years with as many as 50,000 people on a single day carrying earth in baskets on their heads." (Topping NYT 6/26/71)

"The masses of China are awake. They are intelligent, industrious and virile. They participate individually and collectively in attacking China's basic material needs - food, clothing, shelter. Their achievement is amazing. No one who has not lived here before can appreciate the almost miraculous transformation....

"The naked mountains of China have been reforested. The rice and wheat fields produce yields surpassing anything China has ever known. Industry is gaining momentum. The Chinese people are fed, clothed, sheltered. They are solving their own problems by cooperation and self-reliance....

"Even more important is the revolution which continues in the thinking of China's young people. They are excited and enthusiastic about the scientific approach advocated by Chairman Mao.....

"It is my impression that at long last the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution has succeeded in generating a profound and fundamental transformation which is rejuvenating China.

"I question whether there is any power on earth which can stop or divert the present trends. The Revolution has already gained greater momentum than that of Chinese tradition which crippled many previous attempts.

"The Revolution which enabled the Communists to establish the People's Republic of China in 1949 gave China the beginning of a genuine revolution." (Ronning NYT 6/7/71)

POSTSCRIPT

On the evening of July 15th 1971 President Nixon made a three minute broadcast to the nation to announce a communique that was being released by him and simultaneously by the Government of the People's Republic of China in Peking.

"Premier Chou En-lai and Dr Henry Kissinger, President Nixon's Assistant for National Security Affairs, held talks in Peking from July 9th to 11th 1971. Knowing of President Nixon's expressed desire to visit the People's Republic of China, Premier Chou En-lai on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China has extended an invitation to President Nixon to visit China at an appropriate date before May 1972.

"President Nixon has accepted the invitation with pleasure.

"The meeting between the leaders of China and the United States is to seek the normalization of relations between the two countries and also to exchange views on questions of concern to the two sides."

Comments followed, many describing the announcement as "startling". The announcement may have startled those who have been unaware of or have refused to admit the increasing isolation of the United States.

There are international pressures that have served to force Mr Nixon to take this step: 1) the lack of support, by its major allies, of Washington's anti-China policy; 2) the deterioration of the political situation for the United States-supported regime in South Vietnam; 3) the political situation in Australia - where that Government is being pressed to re-evaluate its policy toward China - as evidenced by the visit of the Government's Opposition party leader to China, followed by the Australian Government officially conveying to the State Department in Washington the report of the Opposition made on China's position on international issues; 4) the fact that China would inescapably be a partner in any international conference discussing the ending of the war in Indo-China; 5) the Peking support of the Seven Point Peace Plan of Hanoi and the

Revolutionary Provisional Government of South Vietnam; 6) the strength, self-reliance and fast accumulating international recognition of China.

The domestic pressures that are forcing Mr Nixon to take a step of this kind are: 1) the coming 1972 presidential election; 2) the current economic situation in the United States which could hopefully benefit from normal relations with China; 3) the American people's rapidly growing demand for an end of war in Southeast Asia.

The question arises: "Why before 'next May'?" The intervening time period allows for developments that could give Mr Nixon an "out" or a retreat - 1) in terms of the election outlook by that time; 2) in terms of what may develop in China's international relationships; 3) in terms of developments in Southeast Asia and in Japan.

The nature of the two systems represented by the United States and China - imperialism and socialism - has not changed. China maintains its socialist stance. China demands that American troops be taken out of Asia. China demands that the United States quit Taiwan. China is deeply concerned over the United States pressure on Japan for a build-up of Japan's military establishment. China is committed to support of nationalist and liberation struggles of the Asian (and other) peoples.

People all over the world can take hope from the pressures that exist to curb imperialism. This "step" taken by Mr Nixon is one dramatic piece of evidence that such pressure does exist.

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