



# **IN MEMORY OF SOONG CHING LING**

**1893-1981**

**China Reconstructs**



Soong Ching Ling in the kindergarten of the Yunnan Province Cigarette Plant in 1955.

## IN MEMORY OF SOONG CHING LING

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# The Great Life of Soong Ching Ling

**S**OONG Ching Ling, Honorary President of the People's Republic of China and Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, died on May 29, 1981, at the age of 90 according to the traditional Chinese way of calculating age. She was known throughout the world as a great patriotic, democratic, internationalist and communist fighter.

## Co-Fighter with Sun Yat-sen

While her family came from Wenchang County, Hainan Island, Guangdong Province, Soong Ching Ling herself was born on January 27, 1893 in Shanghai. She received her early education at the McTyeire School for girls in Shanghai and went to the United States at the age of 15 to study at Wesleyan College for women in Macon, Georgia, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1913. While there, she received the new national flag, which her father had sent her after the success of the 1911 Revolution, and immediately threw away the dragon flag of the Qing Dynasty to hail the birth of the republic. During her senior year she wrote an article for the college journal entitled "The Greatest Event of the 20th Century," hailing the victory of China's 1911 Revolution. The article stated that the 1911 Revolution signified the liberation of 400 million people from monarchic slavery, under which people had been deprived of life, freedom and the pursuit of happiness. Upon her return to China in 1913, she became the secretary of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the great forerunner

of the Chinese revolution, thus beginning her revolutionary career.

On October 25, 1915, she married Dr. Sun Yat-sen. In the following years she accompanied him on trips between Shanghai and Guangzhou (Canton), in order to promote the revolutionary cause. During the May 4th Movement in 1919 she worked hard to help those students who had been arrested in Beijing.

In May 1921, Dr. Sun Yat-sen took office as the Extraordinary President of the Republic of China. In the early hours of June 16, 1922, warlord Chen Jiongming turned against the revolution and surrounded and bombarded the president's office in Guangzhou. Soong Ching Ling insisted that Dr. Sun Yat-sen leave immediately, but she herself did not leave until 8 o'clock that morning. Escorted by two bodyguards and an aide-de-camp, she broke through the encirclement and was out of danger on the following evening. By that time she was in a state of exhaustion, her health seriously impaired.

In August 1922, Sun Yat-sen began a major overhaul of the Kuomintang leadership in Shanghai. Soong Ching Ling worked very effectively in the consultations on co-operation between Dr. Sun Yat-sen and the representatives of the Chinese Communist Party and during his conversations with the special envoys sent by Lenin.

In 1923, those troops loyal to Sun Yat-sen expelled Chen Jiongming from Guangzhou, and Dr. Sun and Soong Ching Ling returned to the city, where they continued the work of overhauling the Kuomintang.

In 1924 at the Kuomintang's First National Congress she helped promote the Three Major Policies introduced by Sun Yat-sen (alliance with Soviet Russia, co-operation with the Chinese Communist Party and assistance to the peasants and workers). In the manifesto of the congress they were incorporated into the original Three People's Principles, which after that were known as the new Three People's Principles.

In November 1924, Soong Ching Ling accompanied her husband north to Beijing at the invitation of military and political leaders there to solve the problems of China's reunification and construction. Sun Yat-sen died on March 12, 1925, in Beijing. After his death Soong Ching Ling made known to China and the world Dr. Sun Yat-sen's political will and dedicated herself to the great revolution of the Chinese people.

## Upholding the Three Policies

After the May 30th Incident in 1925 in Shanghai, Soong Ching Ling issued a press statement sternly protesting the atrocities of two powers, Britain and Japan. She deemed the incident as a suppression of the revolutionary spirit of the Chinese people and encouraged the Chinese citizens to shoulder the task of saving the country by uniting to resist the violence of the British police.

During the Second National Congress of the Kuomintang in January 1926, Soong Ching Ling resolutely upheld Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Three Major Policies and worked in close co-operation with the Communist Party to

carry on the struggle against the Right wing of the Kuomintang. At the congress, she was elected a member of the Executive Committee of the Kuomintang. In November of the same year, the Northern Expeditionary Army captured Wuhan in central China and the national government in Guangzhou prepared to move there. Soong Ching Ling therefore went to Wuhan and was included in the membership of a united committee, which was formed by members of the Executive Committee of the Kuomintang and of the national government in Wuhan following a meeting on December 13.

During the first six months of 1927, she ran a women's institute of political training in Hankou, Hubei Province. When Chiang Kai-shek, leader of the Kuomintang Right wing, launched a counter-revolutionary coup in Shanghai on April 12 of that year, Soong Ching Ling and many members of the Kuomintang's Left wing as well as Mao Zedong, Dong Biwu, Yun Daiying, Lin Boqu, Wu Yuzhang and other Chinese Communists issued an open message denouncing Chiang Kai-shek. On July 14, 1927, on the eve of the open betrayal of the revolution by the Kuomintang government in Wuhan headed by Wang Jingwei, Soong Ching Ling issued a statement in which she declared: "Some members of the Executive Committee of the Kuomintang are doing violence to Sun Yat-sen's ideas and ideals." Therefore, she expressed the view that she would no longer participate in executing the new policies of the Kuomintang. She stated with supreme confidence in spite of the serious crisis in the revolution: "Sun Yat-sen's Three People's Principles will eventually succeed; the revolution in China is inevitable." She also said, "There is no despair in my heart for the revolution. My disheartenment is only for the path along which some of those who had

been leading the revolution have strayed."

On August 1, 1927, Comrade Soong Ching Ling, Comrade Mao Zedong and 20 other persons issued a declaration exposing the betrayal of Chiang Kai-shek and Wang Jingwei. She supported the Nanchang Armed Uprising launched by the Chinese Communist Party on the same day. A revolutionary committee composed of Zhou Enlai and 24 others elected Soong Ching Ling to a seven-member presidium, although she was not in Nanchang during the uprising.

Soong Ching Ling left for Moscow in late August to seek a road for the Chinese revolution. Upon her departure she issued a public statement, again expounding Sun Yat-sen's Three Major Policies. She said, "The reactionary forces led by the fake leaders of the Kuomintang who have betrayed the revolution endanger the Three Major Policies"; "they are bound to fail, as they are taking the road of those who attempted to rule the people in the same way." She returned to China by way of Berlin in May 1929 to attend the state funeral of Sun Yat-sen in Nanjing. On the eve of her return to China, she issued a statement saying: "I cannot participate directly or indirectly in the work of the Kuomintang until its policies are in complete conformity with the basic principles of the late Dr. Sun Yat-sen."

### **Vs. Imperialism and Fascism**

During her stay in the Soviet Union and Europe from 1927 to 1929 and 1930 to 1931, Soong Ching Ling took an active part in the international movement against imperialism and in defence of peace. She was elected honorary chairman at two conferences of the Anti-Imperialist League held in Belgium in December 1927, and in Germany in August 1929. She subsequently became one of the principal

leaders of the world anti-fascist movement.

After returning to China in 1931, she enthusiastically supported the Chinese Communist Party's proposal to end the civil war and form a national anti-Japanese united front and resolutely opposed the capitulationist policy of Chiang Kai-shek. In an article published in Shanghai on December 19, 1931, she exposed the reactionary nature and the capitulationist activities of Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang government. She wrote: "Only a revolution based on the masses and serving them can smash the power of the warlords and politicians, shake off the yoke of imperialism and realize socialism."

On January 28, 1932, the Japanese militarists invaded Shanghai and the Kuomintang's 19th Route Army counterattacked. Soong Ching Ling raised money and set up a 300-bed hospital for the wounded patriotic soldiers. She told correspondents at that time that she would fight the Japanese invaders to the end. She declared that setting up a hospital was only her way of paying respect and giving thanks to the revolutionary fighters of the 19th Route Army, the vanguard of the anti-imperialist revolutionary armed forces who were fighting under very difficult conditions. In December of the same year, with Lu Xun, Cai Yuanpei and Yang Xingfo, she organized the China League for Civil Rights to oppose Chiang Kai-shek's fascist massacres. In elaborating the task of the league, she said, "Either the revolution will triumph in China, or imperialism will conquer and dismember China. There is no alternative. Believing in the final victory of the masses in China, I am sure that the revolution will establish its own right, establish the unity, independence and integrity of China, and the right of the masses to govern themselves. And, my conception of the China League

for Civil Rights is that it is one of the instruments which will move us towards this goal." The league protected and rescued many Communists and patriotic democrats by struggling against the Kuomintang reactionaries and made extraordinary contributions to the revolutionary cause.

On April 1 of 1933, Soong Ching Ling published a message to the Chinese people, opposing the Chiang Kai-shek government's persecution of patriots who opposed imperialism and resisted Japanese aggression, and the illegal arrest of the Communists Luo Dengxian, Liao Chengzhi and Chen Geng. She called on the Chinese people to rise up in struggle to protect the arrested revolutionaries.

In an article entitled "Unite, Chinese Workers" published in Shanghai in May 1933, Soong Ching Ling pointed out: "The Chiang Kai-shek government cannot unify China, cannot lead the armed people in a national revolutionary war against Japanese imperialism and cannot give the peasants land." She called on the people of the whole country to "unite, get organized, and struggle for China's liberation, unification and territorial integrity."

In September 1933 she convened the Far East Conference of the World Committee Against Imperialist War in Shanghai and delivered a speech in which she said, "The present era marks the birth of a new social system — socialism"; "reactionary armed forces can be confronted only with revolutionary armed forces"; "we are against imperialist war, but for a national revolutionary war waged by the people who take up arms."

### To Save the Nation

In 1934 a Six-Point Programme for Resisting Japan and Saving the Nation put forward by the Chinese Communist Party was circulated by Soong Ching Ling and other democrats over their signatures.

In 1935, as the Chinese people's efforts to resist Japan and save the nation surged in the face of increasing Japanese aggression, Soong Ching Ling fought unceasingly for the formation of an anti-Japanese national united front and for the protection of the people's democratic rights.

On August 1 of 1935, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party issued a declaration calling on the people of the entire nation to unite to end the civil war and resist Japanese aggression. Soong Ching Ling, He Xiangning, Liu Yazi, Jing Hengyi, Chen Shuren as well as Yu Youren and Sun Fo responded immediately, exerting a tremendous influence.

Shen Junru, Zou Taofen and other democrats established the All-China Federation of National Salvation Associations in Shanghai in May 1936, demanding that the Kuomintang government stop the civil war, release political prisoners, negotiate peace with the Red Army and establish a unified government of resistance against Japan. Soong Ching Ling was a member of the executive committee of the federation. When the Kuomintang government arrested Shen Junru, Zou Taofen, Li Gongpu, Sha Qianli, Shi Liang, Zhang Naiqi and Wang Zaoshi of the federation in November of that year, Soong Ching Ling issued a statement on November 26 protesting the arrest of the seven champions of democracy. She declared that the illegal arrest was the result of Japanese influence which would "further arouse the wrath and patriotic indignation of the people against them [the Japanese]." She thought that the people of the entire nation would not forgive the Kuomintang government's criminal illegal arrests of these patriots. During the trial of these seven leaders of the democratic movement, she went to the higher court in Suzhou and, following their imprison-

ment, asked the court to imprison her as well for the "crime of patriotism."

When Kuomintang generals Zhang Xueliang and Yang Hucheng, who thought China should be resisting Japanese aggression, arrested Chiang Kai-shek in the famous Xian Incident of December 12, 1936, Soong Ching Ling was among those who advocated that Chiang Kai-shek be released on the condition that he agreed to end the civil war and oppose Japanese aggression.

Along with Feng Yuxiang, He Xiangning and others, Soong Ching Ling proposed at the Third Plenary Session of the Kuomintang Central Committee in February 1937 that Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Three Major Policies of alliance with Soviet Russia, co-operation with the Chinese Communist Party and assistance to the peasants and workers be restored. She delivered a speech at the meeting, asking the Kuomintang government to end the civil war and mobilize all forces, including the Communist Party, to defend China's territorial integrity. In November of the same year, she issued a statement supporting the formation of an anti-Japanese national united front.

Soong Ching Ling initiated and organized the China Defence League in June 1938 to publicize the anti-Japanese movement among people abroad and collect medical and other supplies from around the world. To provide first aid to wounded soldiers, the league introduced medical teams organized by foreign friends to the anti-Japanese base areas set up by the Eighth Route Army and the New Fourth Army. The team led by the Canadian surgeon Dr. Norman Bethune was one of these.

After the Southern Anhui Incident in the spring of 1941, Soong Ching Ling, He Xiangning and others sent a joint message denouncing Chiang Kai-shek and demanding that he

“stop using armed force to attack the Communist Party.” After the Japanese militarists launched the Pacific War in December 1941, Soong Ching Ling arrived in Chongqing from Hongkong and immediately resumed the activities of the China Defence League. During this period, she worked in contact with George Hatem, Agnes Smedley, Edgar Snow, Rewi Alley and other foreign friends for the Chinese people’s cause of resisting Japanese aggression.

### Building a New China

Soong Ching Ling returned to Shanghai in 1945 after the victory in the anti-Japanese war. Late that year she set up the China Welfare Fund, a successor to the China Defence League established in Hongkong during the war. It continued to support progressive organizations and democratic forces and under extremely difficult conditions completed projects which were beneficial to the labouring masses. During the Liberation War, the Fund provided substantial material assistance to the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese People’s Liberation Army under the Party’s leadership. At a time when Chiang Kai-shek was continuing his anti-Communist and anti-popular civil war with the assistance of U.S. imperialism, Soong Ching Ling issued a statement in Shanghai on July 23, 1946, calling for the formation of a coalition government and urging the American people to stop the U.S. Government from giving military assistance to the Kuomintang. This statement produced wide repercussions around the world.

In 1948 a number of Kuomintang members who had broken away from that organization, including Li Jishen, He Xiangning and Feng Yuxiang, set up the Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang in Hongkong, and Soong Ching



Soong Ching Ling, late Honorary President of the People’s Republic of China.

Ling was named its Honorary Chairman.

On July 1, 1949, Soong Ching Ling published an article in Shanghai, “Salute the Chinese Communist Party,” rejoicing that the people’s victory was already in sight. She wrote, “Welcome our leader—the leader who was born in Shanghai, grew up in the mountains of Jiangxi Province, was tempered in repeated struggles under harsh conditions during the 25,000-li Long March and matured in the rural areas. Salute the Chinese Communist Party!”

In September 1949, at the invitation of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, Soong Ching Ling came to Beijing to attend the First Plenary Session of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative

Conference. She delivered an impassioned speech at the session, stating, “Let’s get down to work right now and build an independent, democratic, peaceful, strong and prosperous new China, and unite with the people of the world to bring about lasting world peace.” On September 30, she was elected a Vice-Chairman of the Central People’s Government. From that time onward, Soong Ching Ling engaged in numerous state activities as a major state leader, and Comrades Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Liu Shaoqi often exchanged views with her on major domestic and international issues.

In October 1950, Soong Ching Ling made an inspection tour of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang Provinces in northeast

China where she visited factories, rural areas and army units. She was very glad to see that the construction of the country had begun quickly after the founding of the People's Republic and that frontier defence had been strengthened. She encouraged people to continue to make progress.

### On the World Scene

As an official representative of China, Soong Ching Ling frequently took part in international activities, making outstanding contributions to the fostering of friendship among peoples, the promotion of progressive culture and the defence of world peace.

She was elected a member of the Executive Bureau of the World Peace Council at that organization's Second Congress in Warsaw on November 23, 1950.

On September 18, 1951, she was awarded the Stalin Peace Prize for 1950. She donated the entire 100,000 roubles to welfare institutions for Chinese women and children.

Early in 1952, in order to tell the world about the real conditions of the Chinese people who were struggling to build a new life so as to enhance the friendship and understanding between the people of China and other countries, she suggested that a new magazine, *China Reconstructs*, be started. For 30 years she gave it clear directives on editorial principles, the content and the launching of new language editions. In addition, she was concerned with the livelihood of the magazine's staff. She personally wrote more than 30 articles for *China Reconstructs*, which began with only one English edition. Now it is published in seven languages and is circulated in more than 140 countries and regions in the world.

On March 21, 1952, Soong Ching Ling, Guo Moruo and others initiated the convocation of the Peace Conference for the Asian and Pacific regions.

Soong Ching Ling led the Chinese delegation to that conference, which was held in Beijing in October of that year, and was elected Chairman of the Peace Liaison Committee of the Asian and Pacific Regions.

She headed a Chinese delegation to the World Peace Congress in Vienna in December 1952.

From December 16, 1955, to February 4, 1956, Soong Ching Ling visited India, Burma and Pakistan, and in August 1956 she visited Indonesia. All these visits were successful. During her visit to Pakistan, the University of Dacca conferred on her an Honorary Doctorate of Laws.

In November 1957, Comrade Soong Ching Ling accompanied Comrade Mao Zedong to the Moscow Meeting of Representatives of Communist and Workers' Parties.

In the capacity of Vice-Chairman of the People's Republic of China, Soong Ching Ling visited Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) along with Premier Zhou Enlai and Vice-Premier Chen Yi in February 1964.

### Respected National Leader

Soong Ching Ling was a respected and beloved leader of all the nationalities of China. In September 1954, she was elected Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress at the First Session of the First National People's Congress.

In December 1954, she was elected Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference at the First Session of the Second National Committee of the C.P.P.C.C.

In September 1956, at the invitation of the Party Central Committee, Soong Ching Ling attended the Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party. Addressing the congress, she said, "Without the Party's leadership, our victory would have been im-

possible." "I am convinced that in the future, socialism and communism will ultimately become the social system practised throughout the world." "Such a social system can only be realized under the leadership of the Communist Party and it will certainly be realized."

On April 27, 1959, Soong Ching Ling was re-elected a Vice-Chairman of the People's Republic of China at the First Session of the Second National People's Congress.

On November 12, 1962, Soong Ching Ling's article "Sun Yat-sen and His Co-operation With the Chinese Communist Party" was published. In the article she pointed out, "For 40 years Sun Yat-sen engaged in political struggle for the Chinese nation and the Chinese people, which reached its zenith in his late years, culminating in his decision to cooperate with the Chinese Communist Party to carry out the Chinese revolution together."

On January 3, 1965, she was re-elected a Vice-Chairman of the People's Republic of China at the First Session of the Third National People's Congress.

On November 12, 1966, at a ceremony held in the capital solemnly commemorating the centenary of the birth of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Soong Ching Ling delivered a speech entitled "Sun Yat-sen—A Staunch, Indomitable Revolutionary," describing the revolutionary life of Sun Yat-sen. She said, "We are proud of his 40 years of untiring struggle. His behest that 'We must arouse the masses of the people and unite... with those nations of the world which treat us as equals' sounds correct even to this date." "With unwavering determination in our objectives, with staunch faith in Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought, with unbounded confidence in our ability to win, we join hands to struggle with all who strive for a world without exploitation of man by man, without national oppression

and without racial discrimination."

On January 17, 1975, at the First Session of the Fourth National People's Congress and again on March 5, 1978, at the First Session of the Fifth National People's Congress, Soong Ching Ling was re-elected Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee.

### For the Women and Children

An outstanding leader of the women of China, Soong Ching Ling was always concerned with the women's work of new China. On April 25, 1953, she was elected Honorary President of the All-China Women's Federation at the First Session of the Second Executive Committee of the All-China Women's Federation. Later, at the First Session of the Third Executive Committee of the federation held in 1957 and at the Fourth National Congress of Chinese Women held in 1978, she was re-elected Honorary President of the All-China Women's Federation. Addressing the closing ceremony of the Fourth National Congress, she stressed: "Bringing up our children as the reliable successors to the revolution with meticulous care is a strategic task of the Party and the state and a noble duty of women in the new period."

Soong Ching Ling showed great concern for the healthy growth of the children of China and was their affectionate grandmother. She was Chairman of the Chinese People's National Committee in Defence of Children from its founding on November 26, 1951. She wrote articles and inscriptions on many occasions, hoping that the children would grow into a healthy new generation with rich cultural and scientific knowledge and socialist consciousness.

A forum in honor of International Children's Day (June 1) was held on May 14, 1981. Earlier she had written a letter

wishing the meeting success and explaining that she could not attend because of illness. In the letter she said: "Though I am unable to attend the meeting, my heart beats together with yours in love and concern for our children."

Soong Ching Ling was in charge of the work of the People's Relief Administration of China and the Red Cross Society of China for many years. She was elected Executive Chairman of the administration at the First Plenary Session of the Executors and Supervisors held after the organization was founded on April 29, 1950. In August of the same year, in the capacity of the founder and sponsor of the China Welfare Fund, she declared that after August 15, the China Welfare Fund would be called the China Welfare Institute. She had been the chairman of this organization since its founding.

### For Unification and Progress

Soong Ching Ling always concerned herself with those who had followed Dr. Sun Yat-sen in earlier years and with the future of Taiwan, and she sincerely expected that peace talks between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party would be conducted at an earlier date, so as to accomplish the reunification of the motherland. She made valuable contributions to this cause.

On September 29, 1979, Soong Ching Ling published an article in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, entitled "The People's Will Is Invincible." The article said, "We have taken great strides along the bright road of socialism over the past 30 years under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. The 900 million people have been unswervingly following this road. Although the road has been hard and tortuous, careerists and conspirators have

been unable to defeat the strong will of 900 million people and it is impossible for them to do so. Moreover, all these careerists and conspirators were badly battered before the iron will of the people. This has always been the case in the past and will remain so in future. I am confident that the people's will is invincible." She added, "Today, I am already over 80 years old. When I see the excellent international and domestic situation and the ship of new China sailing ahead through stormy winds and waves after overcoming the danger of being capsized, I am exuberant. Once again I see the new brightness of our motherland. I sincerely hope that the great people of our country, under the guidance of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought, will constantly enhance their unity and march towards a brighter future. I shall be happy to march forward shoulder to shoulder with everyone involved in this great and heroic cause."

On May 8, 1981, Soong Ching Ling received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Victoria University, Canada. At the awarding ceremony, Howard Petch, President of Victoria University, said that Soong Ching Ling was one of the foremost public servants and social leaders of the 20th century and that her unswerving devotion to the well-being of the Chinese people had won her a special place in the hearts of admirers around the world.

On May 15, 1981, the Political Bureau of the C.P.C. Central Committee accepted Soong Ching Ling as a full member of the Communist Party of China.

On May 16, 1981, the 18th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Fifth National People's Congress conferred on Comrade Soong Ching Ling the title, Honorary President of the People's Republic of China. □

*Released by Xinhua News Agency. Subheads are ours.*

# Salute to Comrade Soong Ching Ling

DENG YINGCHAO

I am not a poet, so cannot devote a poem to you, and not a writer, so cannot produce a polished essay. But admiration, love, respect and revolutionary reverence for you have filled my heart for over half a century, and now, as through a floodgate, they rush out like a torrent.

## Image of a Young Woman Revolutionary

I remember the winter of 1924 when you accompanied Dr. Sun Yat-sen to Tianjin on your journey to the north. You came up on the ship's deck to face the welcoming throng. I, standing among them, saw Dr. Sun, the great revolutionary forerunner and ceaseless fighter for the overthrow of the Qing dynasty monarchy and for independence, freedom and democracy in China, standing straight and firm, although age and illness already marked his face, warmly acknowledging the acclamations of the people. And on his right, I saw you — erect, slim, graceful, young, beautiful, dignified, tranquil, inspired by revolutionary ideals. As an image of a young woman revolutionary, you remained clearly in my mind from then on.

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DENG YINGCHAO is a member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Honorary Chairman of the All-China Women's Federation.

In Beijing in 1925 you walked, dressed in mourning, in the funeral procession for Dr. Sun. Through your black veil I saw that you were not in tears but firmer than ever, full of inner strength. You passed the test of dire sorrow.

In January 1926, loyally carrying forward the new Three People's Principles of Dr. Sun, you addressed the Second National Congress of the Kuomintang in Guangzhou, and made a solemn, serene, powerful declaration. In a tone strong as justice, you appealed to Kuomintang members to implement the new Three People's Principles incorporating three major policies of alliance with Russia, alliance with the Chinese Communist Party and support for the workers' and peasants' movements. You bravely condemned the right wingers in the Kuomintang who were opposed to revolution.

In 1927, when the Northern Expedition was winning victory upon victory, I met you again in Wuhan, then the revolution's capital. With He Xiangning you were working to encourage and help the revolutionary fighters. But those brief, happy times were soon ended by Chiang Kai-shek and Wang Jingwei, those criminals against the nation who were destroying revolutionary unity, splitting the revolutionary united front and selling out

the revolution. They separated and isolated us for ten years, a bitter and extraordinary decade. At first you were forced into exile abroad. Then, returning to Shanghai, you repeatedly and firmly refused to go to Nanjing to participate in the acts of the Kuomintang regime. I first led the life of the underground; then I went to the battlefronts of the revolutionary bases. Though we fought on different fronts, each persisting in the revolution at her own post and in a different way, our aim was one.

## Revolutionary Passion and Integrity

From the outbreak of the anti-Japanese war, the national traitor Chiang Kai-shek retreated step by step. Shanghai was occupied by the enemy. For the sake of freedom to serve the War of Resistance, you firmly refused to go to areas controlled by Chiang but moved to Hongkong. There you did immense and incessant work to help the Eighth Route Army and provide for the needs of the anti-Japanese bases. Because of your high international prestige, with the respect in which you were held by prominent people in many countries, everyone was eager for your personal signature on the receipts for contributions. You wore away the skin on your

fingers writing. The funds and supplies you raised were sent to our Eighth Route Army and New Fourth Army. How firm was your stand, and clear your distinction between what to love and to detest. Your revolutionary passion and, unwavering revolutionary integrity deeply encouraged the fighters and the people behind the enemy lines.

In August 1938, in order to strengthen the anti-Japanese national united front, the Party sent me to Hongkong to see you, He Xiangning and friends in various quarters. You heard from me what the Party was advocating. Then extraordinary circumstances arose, which aroused your special concern for me. You went ahead of me to Guangzhou and led me in work there. These brief and hurried encounters and joint activity with you, educated and helped me, and I shall always remember them.

After the start of the Pacific War in December 1941, you broke out of Hongkong which was enveloped in the smoke of war and had to move to Chongqing — to the extreme uneasiness of Chiang Kai-shek, that diehard chieftain of anti-communism, who was passive in national resistance but active in civil war. Feigning hospitable concern, he urged you to stay in your elder sister's house, but at the same time set up secret surveillance so you would have no freedom to go out or see friends. When, at last, I received the eagerly expected notice to come and see you, you had to hint that there were people watching and I should take care. You were surrounded by demons. We were always worried about your



Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Soong Ching Ling on board the ship that brought them from Guangzhou (Canton) to Tianjin via Japan in late 1924.

safety. Finally the brother most concerned for you arranged your stay in a house situated amid the ruins of enemy bombing, and only then were you fairly free of surveillance — within the confines of one building. Even so, we and other progressive people had few opportunities of seeing you, and were followed by secret agents when we did so — we had to be vigilant.

You towered over foggy Chongqing like a mighty tree, working with all your strength for five whole years for

national independence and people's liberation. In those five years, no obstruction or interference succeeded in severing your contact with the Party. The more the difficulties and dangers, the more you manifested your unity of views with our Party, your loyalty to the people's cause, your wisdom and fearlessness in the face of violence and threats, and your quality as our Party's close and completely trustworthy comrade-in-arms.

After the end of the anti-Japanese war in 1945 you re-

turned to Shanghai. Under Chiang Kai-shek's dictatorial control, it was difficult for you even to get a place to live. They offered you only a low, small house. This injustice was denounced at the time by progressive newspapers. So they finally had to give you another place, still very inadequate. Such treatment of you, the companion and comrade of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, leader of the Kuomintang and great forerunner of the revolution, of you whose prestige was so high at home and abroad, aroused the ire of progressive opinion.

### Always Among the People

When Shanghai was liberated in 1949 you were overjoyed, you celebrated. You said to Sister Shi Liang, "We're liberated now." And so you were, as were the people of all China. At that time, our Party suggested the convocation of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. It sent me, bearing a letter in Chairman Mao's hand, to invite you to consult on major national matters and join in the Conference. You agreed immediately and happily set off for Beijing. July 1, 1949 was the 28th anniversary of the founding of the Party. At the grand celebration meeting of the government, army and people in Shanghai, you gave a speech brimming with enthusiasm, lauding the contributions made by the Party and the great victory won.

On our way north, when we stopped briefly at Nanjing, I asked you if you wished to take time to go to the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, but you answered no, showing that the country's affairs and not personal feeling were most important to you. In your last illness you said many times, to close comrades and those working around you, that after you died you did not want to be interred in Dr. Sun's Mausoleum but in the public in-



Soong Ching Ling with Cai Chang (left) and Deng Yingchao (center) in April, 1960.

ternational cemetery in Shanghai. This demonstrated the nobility of your thinking, your rejection of any idea of elevating yourself through your husband's position and fame, your placing yourself among the people.

At the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference you were elected Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government. You also became Honorary Chairman of the All-China Women's Federation, Chairman of the Chinese National Committee in Defence of Children and Chairman of the China Welfare Institute which you yourself had founded. In your 32 years of life in the new China, your talent and

ability gained fuller play in international affairs and in many aspects of internal life. Your eminent contributions to the state and the people will shine in the rolls of history.

During the "cultural revolution" you were filled with foreboding for the country and people. The Party and the people protected you, but you were still interfered with by the counter-revolutionary clique of Lin Biao and Jiang Qing. Your heart was heavy, you could not figure out what was happening. You lived in deep seclusion. After the crushing of the gang of four, you became active again, at home and abroad. You had no feeling of complaint

against the Party, much less dissatisfaction with it, and placed yourself entirely at its disposal. You never wavered in your strong wish to join the Party.

### Heroine of People and Nation

From your youth you devoted yourself to the revolution. With regard to your marriage, you did not give way to the opposition of your whole family. Living in semi-feudal, semi-colonial old China, surrounded by such kin, exposed for long years to hostility and threats from the degenerated Kuomintang, you were able to fight on your own in the forefront of the battle. Your unyielding will, your unbreakable strength, your noble quality of remaining unsoiled amid the mire, has made you a true heroine of the people, a true heroine among women. Great revolutionary fighter! You are purer than the lotus, stronger than the pine. Comrade Zhou Enlai called you "the gem of the nation," and he was right.

Toward the end of March this year, the Party Central Committee, extremely concerned about your illness, sent me to see you on behalf of its Standing Committee. You received me one afternoon and we had a heart-to-heart talk. I asked you to patiently undergo medical treatment, and wished you a rapid recovery. I consulted you on important questions and secured your agreement. You said several times, "Don't call me 'Vice-Chairman'." I asked, "Shall I call you Comrade Ching Ling?" You smiled and nodded happily. In the manner of the old generation of revolutionaries, you kissed my hand like a loving mother. With deep feeling, I kissed yours. When we parted, I embraced you and kissed your face. I recall all this with unfading emotion. Not only did it express the revolutionary feeling between us. It reflected

your love, confidence and feeling toward the Party.

Deep in the night of May 14, your condition suddenly worsened. On the morning of the 15th, Comrade Peng Zhen and I went to see you. We told you that for several decades the Party had regarded you as a comrade, that we knew that to join the Party was your long-cherished desire, and that we would make a report to the Central Committee. You opened your eyes, looked intently at us, and answered in a faint voice,

revolutionary process since the Revolution of 1911. You are a radiant giant star of revolution that will forever shine as an exemplar for the generations to come.

You have won the admiration and respect of all peace-loving people in the world, the love of our own Party and people. You are truly worthy of being a member of the great, glorious and correct Chinese Communist Party, Honorary President of our country, and one of the founders of new China. A



May 29, 1981: Deng Yingchao (center) talks with the medical staff attending Soong Ching Ling.

"Good." That afternoon the Political Bureau met and agreed unanimously to receive you as a regular member of the Party. Simultaneously, it proposed that you be named Honorary President of the People's Republic of China. That day Comrade Deng Xiaoping went to visit and congratulate you.

That the Chinese Communist Party should have in its ranks such an outstanding stateswoman, social activist and great communist revolutionary fighter of world renown is the pride of our Party, our country, our people of all nationalities, and of all China's women.

Soong Ching Ling—your name symbolizes the 70-year

handful of highly-placed Kuomintang diehards on that isolated island, Taiwan, are frantically spreading slanders, which is all they can do, to the disgust of fair-minded people all over the world. Their vicious propaganda can only end in their reaping what they have sown, their own doom. It cannot in the least mar your great image.

Esteemed Comrade Ching Ling, you are a great patriotic, democratic, internationalist and communist fighter, a tested vanguard in defence of world peace, the beloved grandmother of all China's children and young people. I salute you with the utmost respect. □

# Call Me 'Comrade Ching Ling'

**A**BOUT 6 p.m. on May 15, 1981, just after the decision to accept Soong Ching Ling as a full member of the Communist Party of China had been unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the C.P.C. Central Committee, Song Renqiong, Member of the Secretariat and Head of the Organization Department of the Party Central Committee, and Liao Chengzhi, Vice-Chairman of the National People's

Congress Standing Committee, drove to her home to inform her of the decision.

At Soong Ching Ling's bedside, Liao Chengzhi, holding her hands, said with feeling, "I've brought you a piece of good news. The Party Central Committee has decided to accept you as a full member of the Chinese Communist Party." Soong Ching Ling nodded and smiled, although she was unable to speak. She was running a high fever.

Soong Ching Ling had contracted chronic lymphocytic

leukemia several months earlier. Her condition worsened despite meticulous medical treatment. On the evening of May 14, it suddenly took a turn for the worse, her temperature rising to 40.2 degrees centigrade. Thanks to emergency treatment, her temperature dropped slightly but still hovered between 39 and 39.4 degrees centigrade. Her condition continued to be critical.

Since her youth, Soong Ching Ling had devoted herself loyally to the cause of the Chinese people's revolution. Through-

A report by the Xinhua News Agency.



Soong Ching Ling, Liu Shaoqi, Mao Zedong, Zhu De and Zhou Enlai (from left to right) at the first meeting of the Second National People's Congress in April, 1959. Soong Ching Ling was appointed Vice-Chairman of the People's Republic of China at the meeting.

out the protracted and arduous struggles of the Chinese revolution, she had always stood firmly by the Chinese people and the Chinese Communist Party. She had made glorious contributions to the people's democratic revolution in China, and to the country's socialist revolution and construction.

### Long Desire

For a long time she had wanted to join the Chinese Communist Party. The Party, for its part, had always looked on her as a respected Communist fighter. In 1957, the Party Central Committee decided that Soong Ching Ling, together with the noted writers Guo Moruo and Shen Yanbing, (Mao Dun) should attend the Moscow Meeting of Representatives of Communist and Workers' Parties as members of the Chinese delegation headed by Mao Zedong. At the meeting, Chairman Mao told one of the then Soviet Party leaders, "Although Soong Ching Ling, Guo Morou and Shen Yanbing are not members of our Party now, we regard them just like Party comrades."

Soong Ching Ling formally tendered her application to join the Party in 1958 while Liu Shaoqi and Zhou Enlai was paying her a visit in Shanghai. Liu Shaoqi said to her, "In view of the current situation, you can play a greater role in the revolution if you stay outside the Party for the time being. Although you are not a member, we will keep you informed of all major affairs of the Party and you may take full part in them." Soong Ching Ling said she understood the Party's considerations.

From then until the start of the "cultural revolution" in 1966 leading members of the Central Committee always informed her in advance of all



Mao Zedong and Soong Ching Ling at the signing ceremony for the Manifesto adopted by the Meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties of the Socialist Countries held in Moscow in November, 1957.

important matters of the Party and the state and asked for her opinion. And she always set strict demands on herself in accordance with the requirements for a Party member.

### Wish Fulfilled

Recently, after learning that she had developed leukemia, Peng Zhen, a member of the Political Bureau of the C.P.C. Central Committee, went to see Soong Ching Ling. Peng Zhen said to her, "Although you are not a member of the Communist Party, the Party has always re-

garded you as one of its leading comrades." Soong Ching Ling was moved to tears and repeated her application for Party membership.

Later, Comrade Deng Yingchao went to see her on behalf of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau. When Deng Yingchao called her "Vice-Chairman Soong", Soong Ching Ling said with emotion, "Don't call me Vice-Chairman, call me Comrade Ching Ling."

At 3 p.m. on May 15, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee held a meeting and unanimously agreed to admit her into the Party. □

# Tribute and Farewell

LIAO CHENGZHI

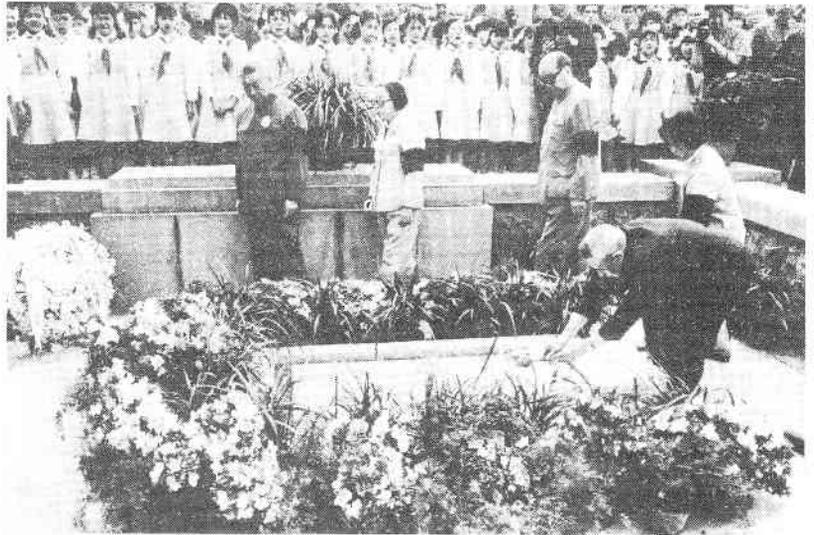
**A**T 20:18 hours on May 29, 1981, on an evening with few stars visible in the sky and a dimmed moon, the heart of this great woman ceased to beat. For more than two weeks I had continuously kept watch at Soong Ching Ling's bedside or paced the downstairs corridors of her house, praying in silence that the crushing news would not come. But life, after all, has its end, one has no say about that, and finally the end came. I could only swallow my tears. Soong Ching Ling's fighting life during the 65 years in which I had known her, like a long picture-story book, ran scene by scene through my mind.

To begin with the most recent of all, I recalled how Deng Yingchao had related to Soong Ching Ling the process by which the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party had accepted her as a Party member.

Comrade Song Renqiong and I had informed Soong Ching Ling of the unanimous decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress to name her Honorary President of the People's Republic of China. She had nodded happily and said, "Thank you, comrades."

**T**HEN, at 9 a.m. on May 20, I had quite a long talk with "Auntie" (as my sister and I had called her since our underground days in Shanghai and the time of the forming of the China Defence League in Hong-kong). She was already in

**LIAO CHENGZHI**, who knew Soong Ching Ling from his early childhood, is a Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Fifth National People's Congress and President of the China-Japan Friendship Association.



Liao Chengzhi places Soong Ching Ling's favorite flower, a yellow carnation, on her grave.

critical condition, finding it very hard to speak. But by a vast effort of will, often fighting for breath, she overcame the ravages of the fell disease and we talked for a full 20 minutes. I speak the Beijing dialect with a Guangdong accent, so she had difficulty in understanding me, and she spoke it with a Shanghai accent, which I found hard to follow. Finally, for greater comprehension, we turned to English, in which we had long been accustomed to converse.

"Auntie!"

She opened her eyes and looked at me intently,

"How do you feel?" I asked.

She began, "I'm very grateful for all you've done for me." Though it was already difficult for her to enunciate, her words were clearly intelligible. She fought for breath, several times, and repeated twice, "If anything happens to me . . .", but could not finish that sentence, though she tried.

I thought I shouldn't tire her further. "Don't worry, Auntie," I said. "We will do everything the way you wish."

A shadow of a smile crossed her fever-flushed face and she nodded again and again.

Feeling I should trouble her no longer, I pressed her hand, and she pressed mine strongly in response. "Please don't try to speak any more," I said. "Have a good rest, I'll come back to see you tomorrow."

She smiled, nodded and said, "Tomorrow . . . tomorrow . . ."

Our talk on May 20 thus ended, it was the longest and the last of her illness.

Tomorrow, tomorrow . . .

Of course I went to see her on the next day. But by then she was semi-conscious, unable to speak.

"All you've done for me," she had said. This referred, of course, to the Party's decision to accept her as a member and her appointment as honorary

head of state, which she had comprehended clearly. As for my words, "We will do everything the way you wish," they were in answer to her unfinished admonition, "If anything should happen to me. . . ." We understood each other. Unfortunately, the continued conversation we were to have had the next day did not take place.

I must explain the background and inner content of these exchanges. Before Soong Ching Ling became seriously ill, she had said several times to Sister Shen Cuizhen, the widow of Zou Taofen and to her own young woman attendant that if "anything happened" she wished to be interred in the Soong family burial plot in Shanghai, by the graves of her parents and of Li Ma, who had looked after her through thick and thin for over 50 years. She had also told Sister Shen just how to arrange her tomb and drawn a simple sketch to illustrate.

That was the meaning of "We shall do everything the way you wish." It reflected her lifelong noble spirit of wanting to share weal and woe with the laboring people which actuated the communist Comrade Soong Ching Ling.

**D**ESPITE her high status, Comrade Soong Ching Ling never sought any special privilege for herself in life. Nor did she want any after death. Some people in Taiwan predicted that she would be buried in Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum on Purple Mountain in Nanjing. In fact, she had never given any indication of such a thought, or discussed the structure of the tomb or any addition to it. In the new China, all the more, she did not want the people's funds spent for any such purpose.

All her life, she was modest and prudent. When Comrade Deng Yingchao addressed her as "Vice-Chairman", she asked her not to. But when she called her "Comrade Ching Ling", she smiled and nodded approval. □

## Press Statement by Soong Ching Ling's Relatives

**W**E have been deeply moved by the worldwide display of affection, respect and admiration for our dearly beloved Soong Ching Ling (Madame Sun Yat-sen), Honorary President of the People's Republic of China, whose passing on May 29, 1981 was an immense loss to China and the world.

In our bereavement, we deeply and sincerely thank all her friends everywhere. We particularly wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the people and government of the People's Republic of China for the many thoughtful and meticulous ways in which they cared for her and honored her, to the distinguished physicians and nurses who labored long hours to save her life and to give her relief from pain, and to her faithful staff and lifelong companions who provided so much help and solace in her illness. We wish to thank the thousands of individuals who sent in letters of concern and love, including those who offered so many suggestions for medication and therapy. We thank all the peoples and governments of the world for their moving tributes and condolences.

In token of our own love for her and the love of all of her friends, we as members of her family wish to announce that it is our intention to establish, initially in North America, a Soong Ching Ling Foundation which will serve the cause of enriching educational and cultural opportunities for youth and children—a cause that was closest to her heart. The Foundation will seek to further this cause in the spirit of international cooperation.

Members of the Family of Soong Ching Ling:

Signed:

Chinese

Paul S. Lin	孫德英
Audrey D. Chan	林達文
Paul S. Chan	孫德華
[Signature]	張家若
Vernon Victoria Tai	戴成功
Jin Bing	蔣冰
Paul T. Mu	林大光
Evan C. Kei	陳昭
Walter C. K. Chien	陳志昆
Sau Chuen H. Chuen	黃春珍
Yuen Chuen	陳菲

# "Great, Honest and Sincere"

—Recollections by Family Members



Honorary President Soong's relatives, photographed with Liao Chengzhi on May 22 when her condition seemed better.

WHEN Soong Ching Ling became seriously ill, several of her relatives came from abroad to see her. They included Pearl S. Lin and Rose S. Tchang from San Francisco, daughters of the late Sun Fo, the son of Dr. Sun Yat-sen by his first marriage, Dr. Paul T. K. Lin and his wife Eileen Chen Lin from Canada, and Walter Chee Kwon Chun and his wife Sau Chun Wong Chun from Hongkong. They kept vigil by her sickbed. Two days before her death they shared some memories of her with Chen Xiuzheng and Sun Yunshan, representing *China Reconstructs*.

**PEARL S. LIN:** When we lived in Shanghai my parents often took me and the other children to our grandmother's to have tea with her. She loved children and sometimes gave us gifts. She would always consider carefully what to give, so that it would be something each child would like. I remember treasuring a wooden doll from her. I never saw her angry or heard her scold anyone. When we

were naughty she would patiently say, "You shouldn't do that, it's wrong." From childhood, I wanted to grow up to be like my dear grandmother.

I came back to China in 1975 and again in 1979. I visited the birthplace of my grandfather, Sun Yat-sen, in Cuihong village, Guangdong, his old home in Shanghai and his mausoleum. I realize that the people's life has changed greatly from the past. They are happy and healthy, properly dressed and housed. The great majority have work. This is great progress, for it has not been easy to achieve with a population as vast as China's. I am greatly moved to see everybody working hard toward a common goal, and their concern and help for each other.

Since coming here this time, I've seen how much everyone around our grandmother — secretaries, colleagues, house staff and guards in her official residence — loves and respects her. I think it is because she has always been concerned for others.

Grandmother has carried out the behests of Grandfather Sun Yat-sen. Like his, her heart is with the Chinese people. All her life she has fought persistently for them, the children, the country and people's happiness all over the world.

**ROSE S. TCHANG:** I feel the same way. Though Grandmother was very busy, she often played with us. She treated us like daughters rather than granddaughters. Around 1930 she wrote my mother telling her that they were of the same generation, and like sisters. In this way she made us feel very close.

I left China in 1943 when I was quite small. I began writing to her only about four years ago, and the first time did not know quite what to say. She wrote a warm reply, saying that it seemed like only yesterday that I had left.

**PAUL T. K. LIN:** She has strength, tenderness, revolutionary compassion. She has never forgotten those friends, including foreign friends, who helped in the revolution 30 or 40 years ago. She even remembers trifling details about their lives. On the other hand she has always been uncompromising toward bad people, oppressors and their willing tools. If she found a friend had betrayed the people she would stop contact with him. She was the image of clarity as to what to love and what to hate. Yet she could unite a great many people including those who had committed mistakes or had shortcomings.

**EILEEN LIN:** Her greatness lies in her lifelong devotion to the strengthening of China and the well-being of the people. While remaining loyal to Dr. Sun Yat-sen's revolutionary cause, she was good at uniting all who could be united when she lived

among Kuomintang officials. My father was one of them, but she could unite with him and make him one of her close friends. He respected her highly.

In 1949 when I saw my father in Hongkong, he opened a drawer and took out a lighter and some small gifts and said, "These were given me by Madame Sun." In my father's heart she was the most honest and strongest person, the most worthy of esteem.

She showed loving concern for our whole family. When my oldest son died in an auto accident in Canada, she tried to comfort us with a letter in which she said the best way to overcome grief was to work and work. When my second son got married she cabled congratulations. When my first granddaughter was born, she expressed delight and sent a beautiful little dress. We loved her from the bottom of our hearts.

Always far-sighted, she set great store by the work of bringing up the country's children, the masters of the future. We are determined to educate our own second and third generations in her spirit — so that they may live up to the hopes



Relatives express thanks to the doctors and nurses.

of Dr. Sun, Madame Sun, Chairman Mao and Premier Zhou — and help build China into the prosperous, strong and happy country its people deserve.

**WALTER CHEE KWON CHUN:** Dr. Sun Yat-sen lived for a while in my native Hawaii, and Honolulu was one of the bases for his revolutionary activity. Wherever I have gone, overseas Chinese have recalled him and asked me to send their regards to Soong Ching Ling. They see her as a center for the forces of international peace and progress.

I remember when I was in China in 1934, because she persisted in standing for Dr. Sun Yat-sen's revolutionary ideals anyone who went to see her would be put on a blacklist. Nevertheless I always called on her when we were in Shanghai or Nanjing. Today, the times are different.

After liberation she threw her efforts into the construction of the new China. She lived through the entire historical period from the old society to today. She was like a good ship in a storm, always managing to keep a straight course. She had a great ideal and never wavered in her fight to realize it.

**SAU CHUN WONG CHUN:** I think Aunt Soong Ching Ling is one of the greatest. I first heard of her from my father who worked with Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

Whenever she knew that my husband and I were in Beijing, she would invite us to tea. And she would always be sure to have my husband Walter's favorite foods — spring rolls, fried noodles and almond curd. At a loss as to what to bring her, we were delighted when on one rare occasion she said, "Bring me some dried mangoes if you can." It was the anniversary of the China Welfare Institute and she wanted to give the staff a taste of this fruit. □



Paying last respects to Comrade Soong Ching Ling on the evening of May 29 are: Pearl S. Lin, Rose S. Tchang, Venus S. Kung Tai, Paul Kiakong Tehang, Paul T.K. Lin, Eileen Chen Lin (Chen Shu), Walter Chee Kwon Chun and Sau Chun Wong Chun.

# From Soong Ching Ling's Articles in 'China Reconstructs'

## HOPE IN THE LAND

"We set to work to reverse all the wrongs that had been done us and to build a new economic, political and social structure to serve the best interests of our people and all peoples."

*"The First Five Years", January, 1955*

"Looking back over the changes of these five years, I feel exhilarated, and proud, and humble. If others hold us in regard, it is because of the deeds of our people. They are building a present incomparably better than the past. They are building a future immeasurably better than the present."

*"Five Years Ago — and Now", January, 1957*

"The Chinese people had stood up in the world. We were moving ahead, building a new life for ourselves. The struggle was still arduous; much work remained to be done; also there was a great deal to learn. But there was hope in every corner of the land."

*"A Tradition of Truth", January, 1962*

## UNITE ALL FORCES

"The construction of socialism in an immense country such as China is a tremendous undertaking. It necessitates the pooling of every resource, and of every person's knowledge. Each party and each person has a role to play."

"Without the Communist Party, our revolution would not have succeeded; we would not have even the prospect of socialism. The Communist Party has fought and sacrificed most for these things. It is therefore loved and honored and should occupy the first place in our national life. The aim of our people today is to improve socialist democracy and to make it ever deeper and wider."

"We used guns against guns to liberate ourselves from oppression; we do not use force to solve differences among the people."

"... We must ... help the Communist Party wage a stern campaign, in its own ranks, against those deadly enemies of socialism and the welfare of our 600 million people: bureaucracy — which means separation from the masses and disregard for their interests; sec-

tarianism — which means distrusting everyone outside your own immediate group; and subjectivism — which disregards reality."

*"Our Unity Is Our Strength",  
September, 1957*

## THE PEOPLE'S EPOCH

The twentieth century is the age when man is not only expected to know the world but to *change* it. It is the age of a succession of rapid breakthroughs in key scientific fields, and the intense application of science to production processes. This has given man the power and ability to bend nature to his will, and to increase production of the necessities of life to the point where the best in livelihood can be provided for *all* the peoples, without exception. The problem this age places before man, therefore, is: Through the appropriate changes in economic system (relations of production) to release all the creative energies of the people and bring about a tremendous productive effort for the benefit of humanity in general, to be shared equally and absolutely without exploitation or discrimination of any kind.

*"China's Liberation — Sino-Soviet  
Friendship — Man's Great Leap  
into the Future", October, 1959*

## CHINA STANDS FOR PEACE

"That China is on the side of peace, yet at the same time able both to defend herself and help her neighbors, is of special interest to the other peoples of Asia."

"Only peace is in our interest, so that we may further develop our services to the people and enlarge our contribution to the welfare of the world."

"... Peace will conquer war all over the world."

*"Welfare Work and World Peace",  
January, 1952*

... During the witch-hunt period in the United States he (Edgar Snow) was maligned and few papers or magazines would publish his articles. But nothing could change his determination to bridge the gulf between the peoples of

China and America. . . . Although he did not know it then, the long talks he held with Chairman Mao in 1970, in which the leader of the Chinese people said that a dialogue with President Nixon was necessary to resolve the problems between China and the U.S.A. led to the opening of friendly contact between the Chinese and American peoples after an interruption of more than twenty years. . . . The Chinese people will always gratefully remember Edgar Snow, the tireless partisan of friendship between the Chinese and American peoples.

*"Edgar Snow — In Memoriam",  
June, 1972*

This is the militant mood in the rank and file of the world's people, and particularly among the masses of Asia, Africa and Latin

America. Theirs is a just cause; it is a matter of national urgency which every man, woman and child feels in a personal way. Therefore, it is a surging tide that is impossible to stop.

The Chinese people think the future of mankind is bright. They think their own future is bright. They feel they are in step with the times, that our hearts beat as one with the other peoples. If we are united and struggle resolutely, the people are invincible. Shoulder to shoulder, assisting one another, we can march toward a world in which all nations will be independent and equal, all peoples will enjoy democracy and social justice, and in which peace will reign as an expression of unity of man and his culture.

*"United, the People Are Invincible",  
May, 1964*

## To Comrade Soong Ching Ling

From a Poem by XIAO SAN (EMI SIAO)

I honestly don't know what to offer you:  
A bouquet of the world's biggest, most beautiful flowers?

I don't know what would be most appropriate:  
A speech elevated and solemn,  
Thanking you for all the trees  
you have planted in China and in the world,  
Expressing the love and esteem  
of our billion people and of the world's four billion?

You who from youth to old age, for decades on end,  
Were so tenacious in battle,  
So constant in loyalty and faith,  
So wholehearted in service to the people.

A true defender of world peace,  
You were welcomed at the Vienna Peace Congress,  
Respected and admired by the international celebrities,  
Extolled by poets of worldwide fame.

After your speech there, you sat in the meeting hall,  
Among us members of the Chinese delegation,  
And offered us chocolates . . .  
Modestly, unassumingly, sweetly!

We remember,  
When the Great Revolution of 1924-27 failed,  
When wolves ruled, when white terror raged,  
How you raised your voice,

And the world responded, upholding justice,  
Till finally the fiendish foes were scattered and destroyed!

To so many arduous and complex tasks,  
You devoted all your energies.  
So many welfare supplies you sent to our revered Yan'an,  
To the Anti-Japanese Military and Political College there,  
To the children in the fighting Border Regions.  
You arranged for an Indian medical team to go to the guerilla areas . . .  
You exerted yourself to the utmost, attentive to the last detail.

Through so many decades,  
Your thoughts and your deeds,  
Were fully at one with the Party and the people.

You are a pioneer among pioneer thinkers,  
Your prestige is lofty and worldwide.  
But to the Party you are an obedient daughter.  
Our Party is honored to have such a daughter!  
You are the pride of the Party and our thousand million people,  
The kind grandmother of our children,  
Beloved by China's billion people  
and the world's four billions.  
They will forever feel your warmth,  
be moved by your great heart, be inspired  
by your noble spirit!

**XIAO SAN (EMI SIAO) is a veteran Chinese revolutionary poet whose work is known in many countries.**

*Written May 20, 1981, (nine days before Soong Ching Ling's death)*

# Poets Should Sing Your Praises

— To Soong Ching Ling During Her Illness

DING LING

POETS have written of spring, of flowers in full bloom; but spring has never been so warm as you are to children; and the brightest flower must bow its head before you.

Poets have written of the frost-defying chrysanthemum, but no chrysanthemum ever weathered such storms as you, who for decades have stood erect in wind and rain.

Poets have written of the snow, and its pristine whiteness; but snow has never been so pure, so crystal-clear as you.

Wolves and jackals who have persecuted you can only falter and cringe in your presence.

Contemtable clowns who have tried to humiliate you dare not knock at your gate; furling their flags and muffling their drums, they can do nothing but mutter curses in dark corners.

Behind you stands a people that loves you, a people of hundreds of millions.

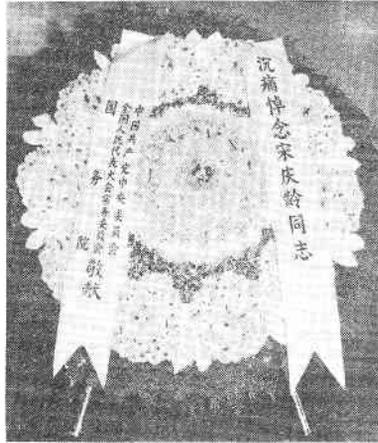
Behind you stands the Communist Party of China.

You belong to the Chinese nation, and no one dares touch a hair of your head!

WHEN usurpers seized the fruits of revolutionary victory, you stood up and sternly denounced the traitors. Your writings were read and acclaimed all over the world.

When anti-Communist countercurrents ran riot, you, unlike many others, stood on the side of the people; you upheld the truth, disdaining ties of kinship.

You were but a frail woman, without weapons, power or wealth. You are a woman great, faithful and pure, with strength



The wreath presented by the Communist Party Central Committee, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the State Council.

to crush the dens of demons and a pen that outmatches a thousand armies.

Your speech, the soft dialect of the lower Yangtze, slashes like a sword and resounds world-wide.

Some heroes, with rearing steeds and swords held high, have shaken heaven and earth.

Some heroes, proud and haughty, exhibit genius and brilliance.

Some are suave and eloquent, smooth and slick.

Some excel at conspiring, bootlicking and boasting.

But you are quiet, precise, refined, your firmness apparent in your gentleness, and your wisdom outstanding in your poise.

Some say that a deity created man, but what deity could create a soul so beautiful as yours?

YOU had no sooner left school than you went to the side of China's great pioneer,

to become a true revolutionary of the Three People's Principles.

After Sun Yat-sen died, you carried on his cause and defended his banner, battling without rest.

Since the new China was born, you have been honored with high positions, but, always modest and gentle-mannered, never put on airs.

In step with the battle drums of the people, you joined the ranks of fighters of communism. You were a defender of the Left. We have long respected you as a comrade.

TODAY, as you lie ill, the Party has made you a formal member.

Your long-cherished wish has come true; the Party welcomes such members.

We applaud, we are moved, we shout: Welcome, Comrade Soong Ching Ling! Comrade Soong Ching Ling, we welcome you!

We hear you are gravely ill. We grieve, we are distraught. We are deeply remorseful that we did not sing your praises much, much earlier. But the future is long. And your noble qualities, like a rich fragrance, will inspire poets forever. They will sing your praises. You will give greater depth, grace and splendor to their writings. For you are a poem in yourself, a poem beautiful and stirring.

Communists, people of good will, worthy poets and writers, innocent children — all bless you, and pray earnestly that your illness will leave you, that you will recover your health, to live long, long among us! May 16, 1981. □

DING LING is a Chinese revolutionary writer internationally known since the 1930s.

# The Last Day of Her Life

PAUL T. K. LIN

AT midnight the bedside telephone in our hotel room rang with an ominous urgency. My wife and I were asked to come as quickly as possible to Soong Ching Ling's residence. As many times before in the last two weeks, we sped towards the house, but this time we knew the end was near. Special white-uniformed traffic officers stood at frequent intervals along the way, directing a stream of cars that were heading for her residence through the silent streets. Suddenly, crowds began lining the road as we passed the Drum Tower and turned into the lakeshore lane leading to the house. Their anxious faces told the story. Soong Ching Ling, one of the most beloved of China's contemporary leaders, was dying.

As our car approached the compound, the guards swung open the great red portals. The familiar garden, so often graced by her quiet presence, was ablaze with lights. So was the sprawling, Chinese-style mansion. Inside we were met by the usually affable but now solemn Liao Chengzhi, a parliamentary leader and lifelong friend of Soong Ching Ling. Quickly we were briefed by Dr. Zhou Shangjue, heading the large team of distinguished medical-specialists attending Soong Ching Ling over the past few weeks. He said the inexorable terminal events of lymphocytic leukemia — massive internal hemorrhage and other complications — were taking their final toll. Despite her remarkable stamina, the end

was likely to come in a few hours.

So began our last vigil. Only a few days earlier, on May 24, Pearl Lin and Rose and Paul Tchang, who had flown in from California, had arrived in time to say, "We love you; the world loves you" to a still-conscious grandmother. Now Soong Ching Ling lay in a deep coma, her face flushed with fever but otherwise peaceful, and mercifully without any sign of pain. Would the doctors be able to perform another miracle? They had labored through many long hours and innumerable medical conferences to seek the fine-tuned balance of therapy that had already snatched her back from death several times in the past weeks. Indeed she had rallied so well that when she awoke on May 20 she felt well enough to say to the white-clad doctors and nurses, "Why are there so many of you here? I only need Dr. Gu and the nurse." But it was hoping against hope. The rapidly multiplying leucocytes in her body would finally invade and still the heroic heart of Soong Ching Ling.

Dawn came. We waited through the day, occasionally strolling through the rooms and in the garden.

HOW could the extraordinary personality upstairs and this historic place help but give rise to a flood of memories? Here was the corner armchair where she always sat when welcoming visitors, the strength, charm and dignity of her personality filling the room. We had often had tea with her

around that chair. In glassed-in wall cases and on the mantelpieces were innumerable mementoes brought by a host of friends from all over the world. Soong Ching Ling had never sought wealth or power — her greatest wealth was her friends, and her greatest power, the inspiration of her example. She was one of those rare human beings who united two great qualities — strength and tenderness, militancy and compassion. She was a redoubtable foe to all human cruelty and oppression, but to those who needed her, a generous and loyal friend through all storm and stress.

We went out into the garden and across the little stone bridge leading to the dovecotes, where the doves used to crowd around her gentle presence, as if to offer her some moments of relaxation in a busy life. We walked past the familiar willows by the stream, the lilac bushes, the treasured 183-year-old pomegranate tree, the pines and the magnolia — subtly suggestive of outer strength and inner beauty. . . .

This had been the site of the Imperial Regent's palace in the Manchu dynasty, and had once been the home of the dynasty's last emperor, Pu Yi. One was suddenly reminded that Soong Ching Ling had not only outlived them all, but traversed three turbulent eras in China's modern history — the extinction of the imperial era, the birth and abortion of the Republic founded by her husband Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and the first 32 years of the People's Republic. Never in all three eras did she flinch from combat,

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from danger or from disappointment. Never did she get so carried away by triumph as to forget the careful and modest style that was her habit. Never did she label or sit in judgment on comrades who had made mistakes. Above all, never did she go against her own conscience no matter who was in power.

**I** REMEMBER from my childhood how Chinese communities in Canada admired her as the brave and beautiful comrade-in-arms of the national hero whom they supported with all their hearts. In the quarter-century after Dr. Sun's death in 1925, they came to admire her in her own right as a beacon of revolutionary integrity in contrast to a regime that had forsaken her husband's ideals.

I recall from my college days in the United States how student spirits were buoyed by her courageous defiance of both her brother-in-law Chiang Kai-shek's reign of terror at home and the Japanese aggression from abroad, and how Chinese wholeheartedly responded to the patriotic and humanitarian appeals bearing her name as the only movements they could trust in the Kuomintang-controlled areas.

Nor did Soong Ching Ling fail the test of integrity after achieving high office in the new China she had done so much to bring into being. When during the "cultural revolution" incredibly cruel and corrupt elements tried to take over the very government of which she was a leading figure, she again played a role in resisting their tyranny. She threw her own prestige behind some whom she knew to be falsely accused by the fanatic "Left" extremists, just as she had done in an earlier era for the victims of fanatic right-wing extremists. I recall courageous letters from her written during the "cultural revolution" bitterly exposing the criminal suffering wreaked

on innocent victims that she had known. She herself would have been under direct attack had she not been protected by Premier Zhou Enlai — the same Premier Zhou who had once described her as "the gem of the nation". He had enough authority left to call in the army to protect this house and this garden and even the Shanghai graveyard of the Soong family from desecration.

**O**UR musings were interrupted towards the late afternoon when we were again summoned to Soong Ching Ling's bedside. She seemed to be holding on, and we could have another brief visit. As we again entered the room, one felt an overwhelming sense of indelicacy at invading the privacy that she treasured as much as her public life. There were her books, her writing desks — and photographs. Looking at the photographs of her two goddaughters I was suddenly aware of the acute personal deprivations that this great woman had undergone. She loved children and indeed her heart reached out to all the children of China. But she had no children of her own, having lost by miscarriage her only child with Dr. Sun in the early 1920s during the turmoil of battle. And so, she had bestowed her affections on these children of her former secretary, who are now in their early twenties.

Had she suffered moments of terrible loneliness since her husband died 56 years ago? Perhaps, but she never allowed her shattering loss to dampen her spirit of action, her optimism, her effervescent sense of humor. She enjoyed moments with friends, and wanted them to enjoy these moments. How often have I marveled at the many small but significant ways in which (very much like Zhou Enlai) she unflinchingly showed her human concern for people, despite the loftiness of her station in life. I had met her

for the first time at her other home in Shanghai in the spring of 1950. She was radiant with joy at China's liberation, which had just taken place. She speculated on the difficult but challenging road ahead to build another, a new China. Yet in the course of the dinner, she would take note of my weakness for certain kinds of sweet pastries. For 30 years since then, she never forgot to offer them to me, with that wondrous, indulgent smile of hers, whenever I visited. Nor did she ever forget that roast leg of lamb was Rewi Alley's special weakness!

**I** watched the housekeeper, secretaries and guards going about their duties. The agitation showed in their faces. All had for many years felt Soong Ching Ling's care and concern in many small ways, and they knew that a painful emptiness would descend for a time upon their lives. A few days ago, they had seen with pride how she rallied long enough to acknowledge the highest honor the nation could bestow on her as the new Honorary President of the People's Republic of China, and her 20-minute conversation with Liao Chengzhi on May 20 gave them some hope. . . .

With an awful, quiet suddenness, the moment came. It was 8:18 in the evening.

In a few minutes official cars carrying the nation's top leaders were already converging on the residence. Through the evening they came to pay their last respects, while we stood by the bier to receive their condolences.

Within half an hour the worst was confirmed to a waiting nation. Soong Ching Ling, one of the twentieth century's greatest fighters for human freedom and the rights of peoples, was dead.

A chapter in the struggle for human emancipation was closed, and another beginning. □

# Great Figure, Warm Friend

MA HAIDE (DR. GEORGE HATEM)

**M**Y awareness of Soong Ching Ling dawned in 1934, the year I arrived in Shanghai as a young doctor who knew nothing about China, the Chinese revolution, or revolution in general. Soon she came to personify for me all three of these grand concepts—a feeling I still have today, almost half a century afterwards.

My first recollection of meeting her goes back to a party, held secretly in 1934, to celebrate the October Revolution. Among the foreign friends there were Agnes Smedley and Rewi Alley. The Chinese friends there we knew only by names like Paul, John and James. There, too, was a very dignified, beautiful, calm, modest-looking woman. Later I was told she was Soong Ching Ling and I felt upset because I had behaved very informally. She had given no sign of her position, already high in China and the world—as the famed widow of Sun Yat-sen. Each time I saw her after that I felt embarrassed, and she would sometimes joke about it while I apologized. Such was my first meeting with Soong Ching Ling.

Once in that period I was called to her home to treat a badly infected finger which I lanced on the spot. Being closely watched by Kuomintang spies, she did not want to go out to the hospital. Many years later (1958), on the 20th anniversary of the founding of the China Welfare Institute, she presented me with a book published for the occasion. And she inscribed

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**MA HAIDE (DR. GEORGE HATEM)**, adviser to the Ministry of Health, born in Buffalo, N.Y., has spent nearly 50 years in the midst of the Chinese people's struggles and taken Chinese citizenship.



A photo of Soong Ching Ling which she presented to the author on August 25, 1944 to thank him for his devoted work for the International Peace Hospitals.

it, "With grateful remembrances for binding up that sore finger." That she remembered such a small service for so long was one aspect of her character. She always showed great warmth, human concern for the people around her, as for the Chinese people as a whole.

## Struggles in Old Shanghai

In Shanghai in those days of political struggles, of Kuomin-

tang terror and the fascist Blue-shirts, she lived under conditions difficult enough to reduce the average person to a nervous wreck. But I never saw any strain on her calm, resolute face. She threw her whole energy into her work, seeming truly tireless. Day and night she was available to friends and comrades, to discuss, to guide, to help. Thus, she encouraged and helped a group of foreign friends, of whom I

was one, to form a Marxist study group. It was there that I first read the *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, which made an immense impression on me, coming as I did from a worker's family which had known exploitation. My reaction was further sharpened by living in Shanghai where I saw the extreme oppression and misery of the people, many of whom died each day in the streets. I saw women huddled on the sidewalk with their babies in a chalked circle with Chinese characters saying, "This baby is for sale to keep it from starving."

The members of our study group wanted to do something to change these things. I and other sympathetic doctors went to the hospitals, including the British-run Lester Chinese Hospital and the American-run St. Luke's hospital, and helped guide the students in the clinics. We found people dying in great numbers. Quickly we realized that what they needed was not our medical care and prescriptions but food, shelter, clothing, hygiene. The medical care they were getting came much too late.

We discussed these things and told Soong Ching Ling about them. She listened with anger, combined with heartfelt concern for the plight of these people. She asked Rewi Alley, then working as a factory inspector in the International Settlement, to help me carry out a study of conditions in the chromium plating factories. We investigated about 20 of these small units. The plating was done by children, averagely aged 14. Just able to reach the top of the vats, they dipped the metal pieces in with their fingers, which became covered with ulcers that worked their way right to the bone. Thin, undernourished and with swollen bellies, they slept under the machines or in other corners of the workshop, which was filled with poisonous fumes.

We wrote all this up in a medical treatise which Soong

Ching Ling used to expose the living conditions of Chinese workers and the maltreatment of women and child labour. It was printed as *Industrial Health in Shanghai, China II: A Study of the Chromium Plating and Polishing Trade* by Drs. Read, Hatem et al. 1936, Chinese Medical Association special report series No. 6.

### Many-Sided Activity

Soong Ching Ling took the lead in many other activities. She gave guidance and inspiration to the *Voice of China*, a united front magazine first published in Shanghai in 1936 by Max and Grace Granich. Many foreign friends and comrades wrote for it, including Alley, Smedley, Shippe and Snow. With Soong Ching Ling's help, articles, posters and so on were brought to Shanghai from all over China for translation and publication. The aim was to promote the united front against fascism and Japanese imperialism, and against internal reaction.

Actually, as she had for many years, Soong Ching Ling was

working closely with the Chinese Communist Party and carrying out, in this period, its united front policy. She was already a communist in her thinking, though she had not joined the Party.

She asked us to help with many things. For example, I was asked to lend my home or clinic as a meeting place because a doctor's waiting room was a natural place for many people to come. I would be told, "On Friday afternoon don't go home between one and five o'clock." In my absence, the comrades would come to the waiting room one by one, hold a meeting, and then leave.

Soong Ching Ling was very active in trying to influence the media — both foreign and Chinese. She would invite correspondents and writers to her own house and in hot discussions, try to convince them of the correctness of the Chinese revolutionary forces, and of the corruption of the Kuomintang and its abdication in the face of Japanese aggression. Also, she conducted strong political campaigns for the release of political prisoners.

Soong Ching Ling with members of the Chinese Liberated Areas Relief Administration in Beijing, 1949. From right to left: Ma Haide, Lin Chong, Xiong Jinding, Anna Wang, Soong Ching Ling, Zeng Xianzhi, Wu Yunfu.



When a foreign couple named Noulens were jailed in Nanjing for their work in international revolutionary trade union solidarity, Soong Ching Ling asked me to visit them. Using her letter of introduction, I was allowed to talk to them as a doctor. I gave the Noulens couple news of the outside to encourage them and told them about their son, who was being cared for by Soong Ching Ling. They were held until after the outbreak of the war with Japan, when they left China.

Soong Ching Ling was also involved internationally in the defence of political prisoners through the International Labor Defence and through major world figures who came to Shanghai, like Bernard Shaw. To further this effort she conducted an enormous correspondence, and also wrote many articles for publication abroad.

The great Chinese writer Lu Xun was then developing the Left League of Woodcut Artists. It was Soong Ching Ling who introduced Agnes Smedley to help with this work.

### Help to Liberated Areas

Soong Ching Ling's influence is what convinced me that only the Communist Party and its Red Army (now the People's Liberation Army) could change China. It was with them I wanted to work. Soong Ching Ling told me that they had already left the old central revolutionary area in southeast China. I had to wait.

In 1936 a request came from the Central Committee of the Communist Party in northwest China for an honest journalist and a doctor. Soong Ching Ling chose me as the doctor, and Edgar Snow as the journalist. I accepted gladly. To this day I constantly thank her for putting me on the revolutionary road. She told me jokingly one day, "I've kept an eye on you. If you turn out badly, I'll slay you!" It was a reflection of her concern for my revolutionary upbringing.

The story of how we went to the Red Area has been written accurately by Edgar Snow in *Red Star Over China*, so needs no repeating here. During that whole period, I was with him at the front and in the rear areas. I was present at the discussions during which Chairman Mao Zedong told Snow the story of his life. I still didn't understand much, then, about the situation in the Red Army and the revolution, nor could I speak Chinese. But it was a good education to listen to the leaders telling Snow about the Chinese Communist Party's history and policies and what had happened in the Soviet area in Jiangxi province before the Long March. Much of what Chairman Mao said foreshadowed the writings in which he was to set out the principles for victory in China's forthcoming war against Japanese invasion.

During that war I worked in the International Peace Hospitals in Yan'an and Soong Ching Ling supported us through the organization she started in 1938, the China Defence League, which sent us money, doctors, medicines, equipment and X-ray machines.

Altogether, with her constant support, we organized 11 International Peace Hospitals with 42 mobile units at the fronts, and eight medical schools. Also under her influence many foreign doctors came to China, including Norman Bethune, D. Kotnis, B. K. Basu, Drs. Atal and Cholkar, and Hans Muller. With the help of the League all reached the liberated areas.

I reported regularly to Soong Ching Ling on our medical work, hospitals and pharmaceutical factories. Among the things she sent us were materials and directions for making penicillin—at that time new in the world. We could only make crude penicillin for external use, but that too was extremely valuable in the treatment of infections, for pus cavities in lungs and for osteomyelitis.

Money for these projects came from donors at home and abroad in response to appeals made through the China Defence League newsletter which reported on our activities and explained to people elsewhere how China was fighting bare-handed to oppose aggression, imperialism and the Japanese invaders.

After the war against Japan ended in 1945 I met Soong Ching Ling again in Shanghai. I returned there as representative of the Chinese Liberated Areas Relief Administration (CLARA) which was negotiating to get relief supplies from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). Soong Ching Ling was struggling against Kuomintang corruption, because of which relief supplies, instead of being distributed to the places for which they were intended including the liberated areas, were being sold on the black market or distributed to Kuomintang officials. The dishonesty, bribery and incompetence of the Kuomintang and Chiang Kai-shek were exposed to the world in this struggle.

### New China's Early Days

After liberation in 1949 I joined in the nationwide effort to eradicate prostitution and venereal disease. We first helped to close down the red light district in Beijing and to treat and educate the women there. A number of the younger ones joined our work and became excellent propagandists, able to convince others that they must be medically examined, and not hide things, because syphilis had its roots in the old society and should not be carried into socialism. We told Soong Ching Ling about the changes, and about these ardent and enthusiastic workers. She expressed pride in the liberated country, and in those women for standing up.

It was she who encouraged me to participate in a further effort to eradicate venereal

disease among the national minorities. She saw this as very important work. Our teams traveled to various minority areas, and brought groups of from 20 to 40 people to Beijing for education. The minority people were very grateful for the hundreds of doctors we trained.

When we first went to Inner Mongolia we saw practically no children. After the eradication of venereal disease, there were many. Soong Ching Ling was very interested not only in the improved health of women and children but also in the progress of the medical workers, and in the political aspects of government policy.

### Faith in the Youth

In March this year, Rewi Alley and I spent some time in Shanghai to see what was going on among the youth there. We had heard many stories about the cynicism of young intellectuals who had returned

from the countryside, about unemployed youth and those who had failed in college-entrance examinations. In fact, we saw many things very different from the impression these stories gave. In some large factories we found young people volunteering after hours to produce for their neighborhood. In a bicycle plant they were doing repairs both for other workers and for the neighborhood. In a sewing machine factory it was the same. Camera factory workers had set up small community shops for developing and printing film at cost—also in the Lei Feng spirit.

We also saw a few of the new collectively-run workshops and services of many kinds run by young men and women.

Back in Beijing we told Soong Ching Ling at her home one evening what we had seen, and also the negative stories we had heard. We felt a great deal of good work had been done that was not reported in the press, or

reported too drily. She agreed and said, "The young people of China are good, as always" and reminded us of the part youth had played in the May 4 Movement of 1919 and ever since. There was great hope for the youth, she said, and it was to them, under Communist Party leadership, that the future belonged.

Over the years in which I had the privilege and honor of being associated with Soong Ching Ling, I repeatedly expressed to her my gratitude for putting me on the right road. She was one of the great figures of the 20th century, one of the great leaders who have helped China forward from oppression, exploitation and victimization by aggressors. Her appointment as Honorary President of the People's Republic of China and her formal acceptance into the ranks of the Chinese Communist Party were a fully deserved recognition of her outstanding abilities, and her resplendent life of ceaseless labor for the future. □

# Recollections and Thoughts

REWI ALLEY

IT is with emotion that I write of Soong Ching Ling for *China Reconstructs*, the magazine which she founded and which became so much a part of her rich and varied life.

She was never one who rested on her accomplishments and the fame they brought. Ever since I first knew her in 1933, and from very long before that, she had been up and doing, feeling it her mission to carry forward in every way possible the work of the revolution in the spirit of her husband, Dr. Sun Yat-sen. All the more was this true when the Kuomintang forces betrayed all the revolution stood for in the spring of 1927. It was soon after this that I first landed in Shanghai. I had already heard

of Soong Ching Ling, and in 1929 I saw her walking up the hundreds of steps to the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum on Nanjing's Purple Mountain at the time of the re-interment of Dr. Sun's remains. And only afterwards, when I myself became involved in efforts to assist the revolution, did I get to know her, at her home in Shanghai where I was taken by the writer, Agnes Smedley.

From then on (over some years) until she left Shanghai for Hongkong at the end of 1937, in Hongkong until the end of 1941, and then in Chongqing, I was able to continue contact with her.

After 1944, I worked in north-western China, not seeing her

again until the liberation when she opened the Asian-Pacific Peace Conference of 1952 which I came to the capital to attend. For a period she lived in the Beijing house formerly used by the last pre-liberation U.S. Ambassador, John Leighton Stuart. A good deal of her time, however, was spent in her Shanghai residence on Huaihai Road, as her old home where she had lived with Sun Yat-sen had been made into a museum.

In Shanghai where much of the work of the China Welfare Institute was concentrated she kept in very close touch with it. Shanghai was very much her hometown—there she was born, there she had relatives and friends. Her mother's family

claimed as an ancestor Xu Guangqi, the Ming dynasty author of the famous encyclopedia of agriculture, *Nongzheng Quanshu*. Increasingly, however, she lived in Beijing, ultimately in converted buildings of a portion of the old She Wang Fu of Qing dynasty days, a beautiful home in a fine setting by Hou Hai, one of Beijing's lakes.

**O**FTEN when going down in winter to the southern coast of Hainan Island, I passed through Wenchang, a town with a good harbor, once Hainan's chief port. There her father was born, in a family of able Hakka trading folk originally from Meixian in Guangdong. He had gone to the United States as a ship's boy, his ability and charm causing him to be adopted by a traveler met on the voyage. After an American education, he came back to the China coast, prospered, and so was able to help financially the cause of Dr. Sun Yat-sen and the early revolutionaries.

Soong Ching Ling, second daughter of his large family, became secretary to Dr. Sun Yat-sen, who was living temporarily in exile in Japan. Dr. Sun married her on Oct. 25th, 1915 and when he went back to Guangzhou (Canton) to carry on the struggle there, she accompanied him, sharing defeats and victories in the long struggle. When the local warlord Chen Jiongming, with whom Dr. Sun had made an alliance, betrayed the cause and seized Guangzhou, Dr. Sun got out to a warship in the Pearl River. The rabble of warlord soldiers looted, burned and killed, firing into the Presidential Palace where Soong Ching Ling lived. She escaped to the streets where, to avoid being shot, she feigned death. Finally she made her way to the countryside and was able to rejoin Dr. Sun on the warship.

Sun Yat-sen fought back, and after much struggle, defeated

Chen Jiongming and was able to set up his government again. Still later, in 1924, when Feng Yuxiang took over Beijing, he invited Dr. Sun to come to talk about national unity and progress. Soong Ching Ling went also, and that was good, for Dr. Sun was ill with liver cancer, and thus she was able to be with him when he died, on March 1925, in what is now the Capital Hospital.

For Soong Ching Ling, the period between the Kuomintang takeover in Shanghai in 1927 and her departure in 1937 at the time of the Japanese invasion, was one of continuous struggle, ceaseless action. She kept up the front of a retired lady living in her late husband's home at 29 Rue Moliere in the French Concession.

**F**OR me the Shanghai of those years is full of memories of her. I shall never forget that morning in 1937 when she left Shanghai after its encirclement by the Japanese. It was a cold, gray day. She telephoned me to bring a hired car to her house, which I did. I found her standing by an open fire, beside which the two foreign ladies who were to occupy her house were having their morning coffee. Smiling and waving a pleasant goodbye to them, she walked swiftly to the taxi and got in, followed by her companion and housekeeper Li Ma, and we drove to the Nanjing Road jetty, from which a tender was to leave to join an ocean liner anchored downstream. It was quite a walk from the car to the tender, and past Japanese gendarmes, detectives and the like who stared rudely. She simply took no notice of them, but chatted and laughed as I took her arm and we went through them, she with never a tremor, completely steady.

Thus she went to Hongkong where she worked even harder. In Hongkong she formed the China Defence League which supported the New Fourth and Eighth Route armies, and be-

came Chairman of the Hongkong Promotion Committee for our Gong He (Chinese Industrial Cooperatives). Not long before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor she opened the fund-raising Gong He Exhibition and Carnival. She gave a long radio speech explaining the significance of Gong He, which went into the Hongkong press and was widely circulated (only recently a friend in Canada sent me the copy, preserved in her home).

To get out of Hongkong was about as hazardous as to leave Shanghai after the Japanese encirclement, and it was one of her co-workers in the Committee of the China Defence League, Prof. James Bertram of Wellington, New Zealand — very soon himself to become a war prisoner in Japan — who helped her onto the plane that took her to safety in Chongqing despite the fact that shells were already exploding on the airfield. There she continued with her activities as best she could. She came to visit the Gong He Cooperatives in Chengdu, and influenced many important people who came to Chongqing.

Near the end of the war with Japan, still doing all possible to assist the revolutionary forces, Soong Ching Ling set up the China Welfare Fund in Shanghai. After the liberation, the Welfare Fund changed its name to China Welfare Institute, and extended its work to Beijing where it set up the magazine *China Reconstructs*, which has since done such sterling work worldwide to bring about better understanding of China today.

**I**N 1966 on the 100th birthday of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Soong Ching Ling spoke at a mass meeting in the Great Hall of the People. In the presidium were several unusual figures, including the ex-emperor Pu Yi, and one of Dr. Sun's old bodyguards, General Morris Cohen, who had come for the occasion. Zhou Enlai spoke, and then Dong Biwu, followed by Soong Ching



Soong Ching Ling helps celebrate Rewi Alley's 80th birthday at a dinner in her home in December, 1979.

Ling's old comrade He Xiangning. Soong Ching Ling's speech was a long one, 38 pages in translated typescript. In it she said:

The knowledge we now have of why a revolution is necessary, what kind of a revolution it should be, and how it should be fought, stems from both the successes and failures of those who fought before us. They conducted themselves according to the laws of revolution they had inherited; and it was only when these broke down, not bringing the desired results, that they had to seek out new laws. They learned the hard way, but their objectives led towards ours, so we must say they were glorious in failure. . . .

The goals for which Sun Yat-sen fought have been won and surpassed. But we keep his name and spirit alive in our hearts. We are proud of his selfless struggle over forty long years. Still ringing true for us are his last words: ". . . we must arouse the masses and we must unite with those nations of the world that treat us on the basis of equality. . . ."

With unwavering belief in our objectives, with staunch faith in Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought, with unbounded confidence in our ability to win, we join hands in struggle with all who strive for a world without the exploitation of man by man, without national oppression, and without racial discrimination.

Brave words, these, well spoken by a brave woman.

**R**EADING the English transcript of that speech, I was reminded of an essay she had written, in English, while spending her four student years at the Wesleyan College for Women in Macon, Georgia, from which she had graduated more than a half century earlier in 1913, a young woman about to start out on her revolutionary career. It was about the then-recent Chinese Revolution of 1911 that overthrew the Manchu dynasty. I quote a passage:

The Revolution has established in China Liberty and Equality, those two inalienable rights of the individual which have caused the loss of so many noble and heroic

lives, but there is still Fraternity to be acquired. And it may be for China, the oldest of nations, to point the way to this fraternity. In other ways, too, China will take her place in the effort to uplift humanity. A race amounting to one quarter of the world's population, and inhabiting the largest empire of the globe, whose civilization displays so many manifestations of excellence, cannot help but be influential in the uplifting of mankind.

To this basic purpose she remained always true. Though it was only in her last days that Soong Ching Ling was made a member of the Chinese Communist Party, in thought and deed throughout her active life she had battled in the spirit of a true Chinese Communist. First she greatly inspired and supported Sun Yat-sen through the final ten years of his revolutionary life, then carried his wish forward.

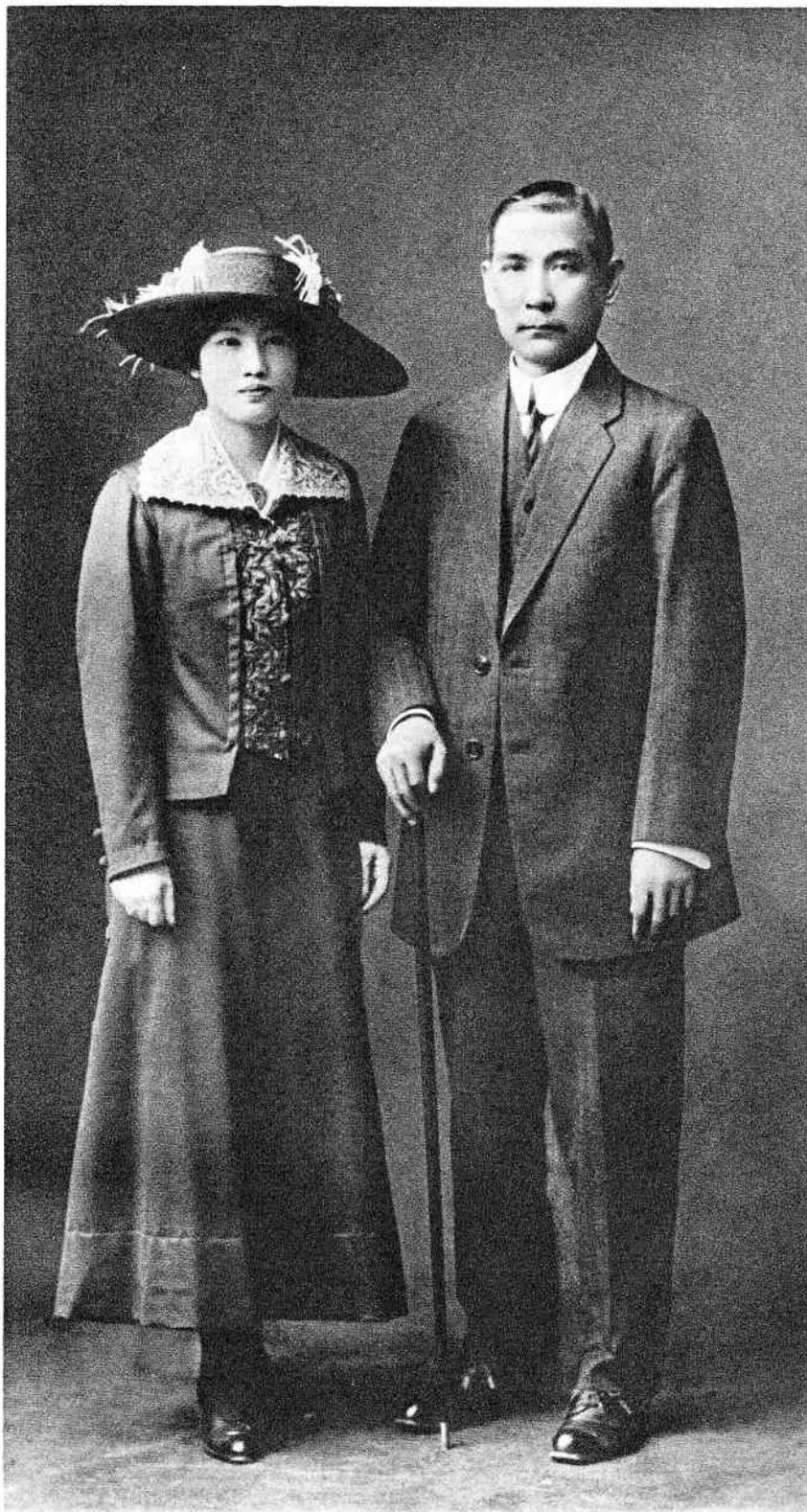
On viewing her remains after her passing, I wrote these lines:

Night, and quietly with Ma  
Haide beside me  
we stepped into the room  
where she lay  
looking down in farewell at  
the remains of this comrade  
who  
had dared much, borne  
much for the people  
she served; the winsome  
beauty  
she ever held, which made  
every  
meeting with her a memory  
to linger on,  
had gone, and in its place  
the last struggle had left the  
face  
of a fighter, strong, deter-  
mined;  
over her body lay the gold  
and red  
banner of the people's party  
she  
had fought for well, and the  
roses  
she loved bloomed around  
in sympathy. □

# The Great and Glorious Life of Soong Ching Ling



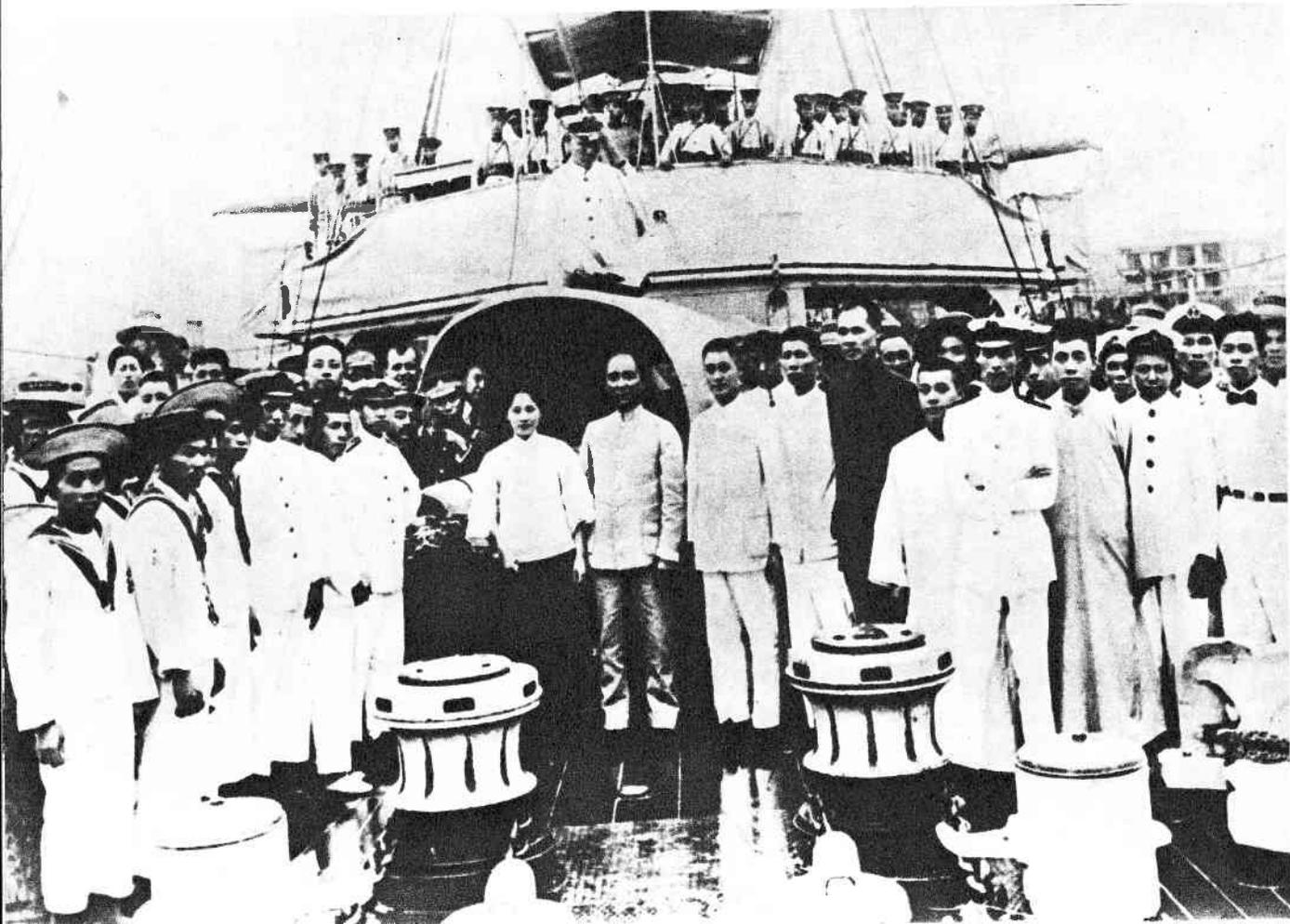
1913: Soong Ching Ling in graduation cap and gown at Wesleyan University in Macon, Georgia, U.S.A. She went there in 1908 and returned to China in 1913 with a B.A. degree.



1915: Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Soong Ching Ling in Japan shortly after their marriage.



April 1916: Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Soong Ching Ling (fifth and fourth from left, front row) at a rally in Tokyo to denounce the warlord Yuan Shikai, a Chinese representative of imperialism and feudalism. Also in the picture are Liao Zhongkai (second from left, rear row), He Xiangning (third from right, front row) and Liao Mengxing (second from left, front row). The boy in front of Dr. Sun is Liao Chengzhi.



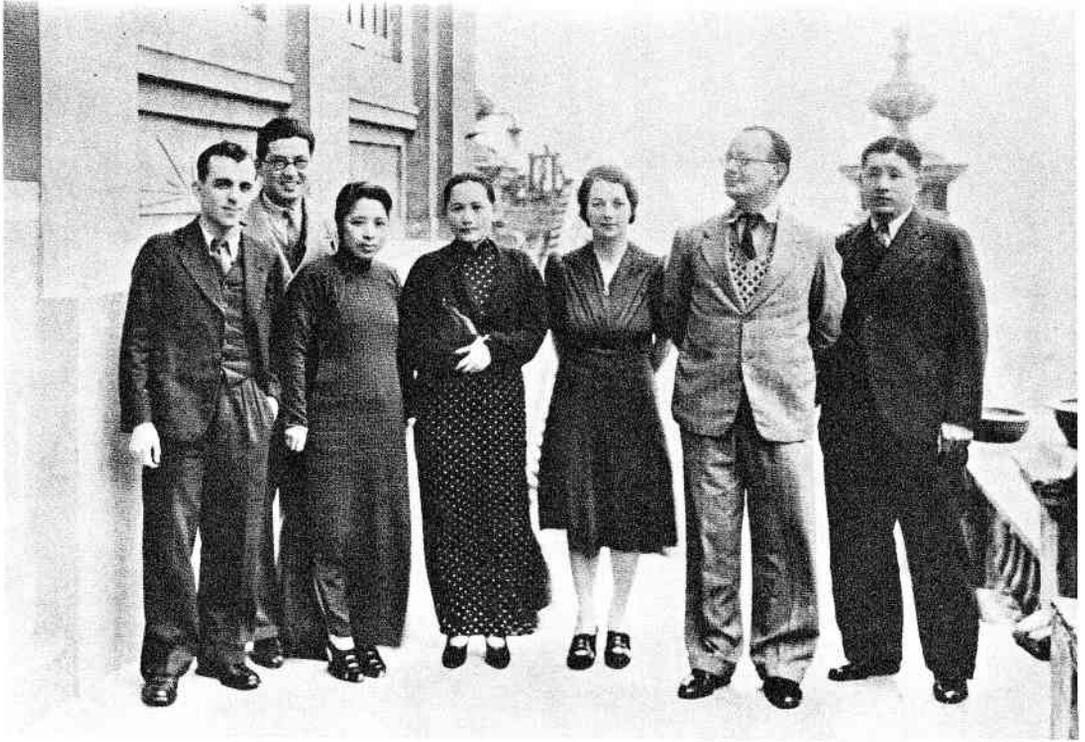


1927: Soong Ching Ling in Hankou. During this period she was active in work for the joint KMT-CCP Northern Expedition against the warlords.

Dr. Sun and Soong Ching Ling aboard the Yongfeng in August, 1923, celebrating the first anniversary of the suppression of Chen Jiongming's rebellion, when Dr. Sun had his headquarters on this warship.



On February 17, 1933, Soong Ching Ling gave a dinner at her home in honor of George Bernard Shaw. Front row from left: American journalist and writer Agnes Smedley, China's eminent educationist Cai Yuanpei, and Lu Xun, the great Chinese writer. Back row from left: Shaw, Soong Ching Ling, American journalist Harold Isaacs and modern prose writer Dr. Lin Yutang.



1938: Soong Ching Ling (center) with the Central Committee of the China Defence League in Hongkong. Others, from right to left: Liao Chengzhi, Norman France, Hilda Selwyn-Clarke, Liao Mengxing, M.C. Tang and Israel Epstein.

1939: The three Soong sisters visit a military hospital in Chongqing in 1939 during the second united front between the Communists and Kuomintang. From left to right: Meiling (Mme. Chiang Kai-shek), Ailing (Mme. H.H. Kung), Ching Ling (Mme. Sun Yat-sen).





Soong Ching Ling speaking on world peace to the First National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in November, 1951.

October, 1956, from left: Zhang Wentian, Mao Zedong, Soong Ching Ling, Zhou Enlai and Chen Yi at Zhong Nan Hai, Beijing.





Soong Ching Ling casts her ballot at the first session of the First National People's Congress in 1954. She was elected Vice-Chairman of the N.P.C. Standing Committee.



Soong Ching Ling chats with Deng Xiaoping and Luo Shuzhang at a tea party held by the National Committee of the C.P.P.C.C. on New Year's Day, 1980.



Soong Ching Ling lays a wreath at the tomb of Mahatma Gandhi during her visit to India in December, 1955.



In November 1957, Soong Ching Ling met with Mme. Kalinin (right), widow of the former President of USSR and Mme. Borodin (left), widow of a former noted Soviet advisor in China in the 1925-27 Revolution.



Soong Ching Ling with American writer Edgar Snow on December 18, 1964.

In November 1966, Soong Ching Ling met with Seimin Miyazaki (third from right, rear row), President of the Japan-China Friendship Association, and his wife. Also present were Takeo Ito (second from right, rear row), advisor to the Japanese delegation which came to China to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Taketo Makinauchi (second from right, front row), head of the delegation, and its other members.





Soong Ching Ling inspects an agricultural producers' cooperative in Yunnan province, 1955.



Soong Ching Ling dines with textile workers at their canteen during an inspection of State Cotton Mill No. 17 in Shanghai in October, 1958.



Soong Ching Ling chats with a combat hero of the Chinese People's Volunteers at Beidaihe in November, 1951.



Soong Ching Ling with children.



In January, 1962 Soong Ching Ling visits the China Reconstructs offices on the tenth anniversary of the magazine.



Soong Ching Ling congratulates the performers of the Children's Art Theatre under the China Welfare Institute after a presentation of the opera Children's Hearts in March, 1979.

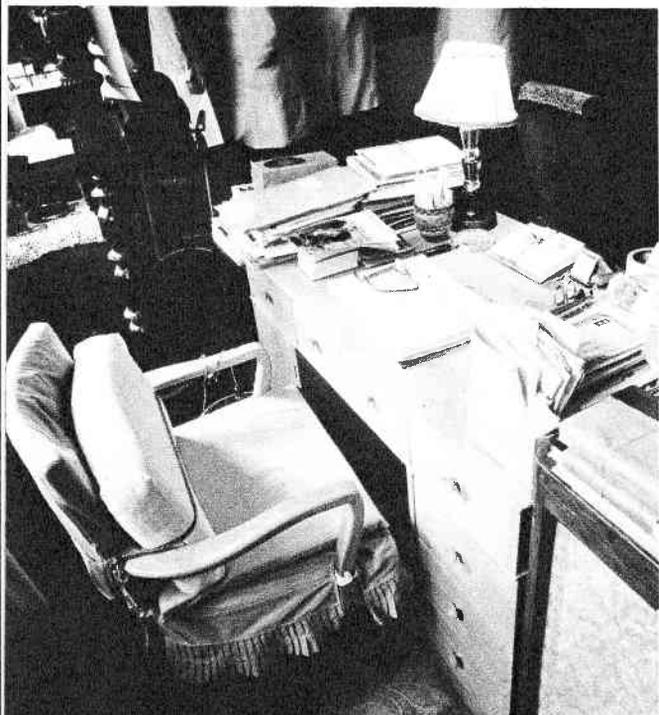


Soong Ching Ling at work.



Soong Ching Ling picking grapes in her garden.

## Honorary President Soong Ching Ling's Home



The desk in Soong Ching Ling's bedroom.



Soong Ching Ling often rested and had her meals here.

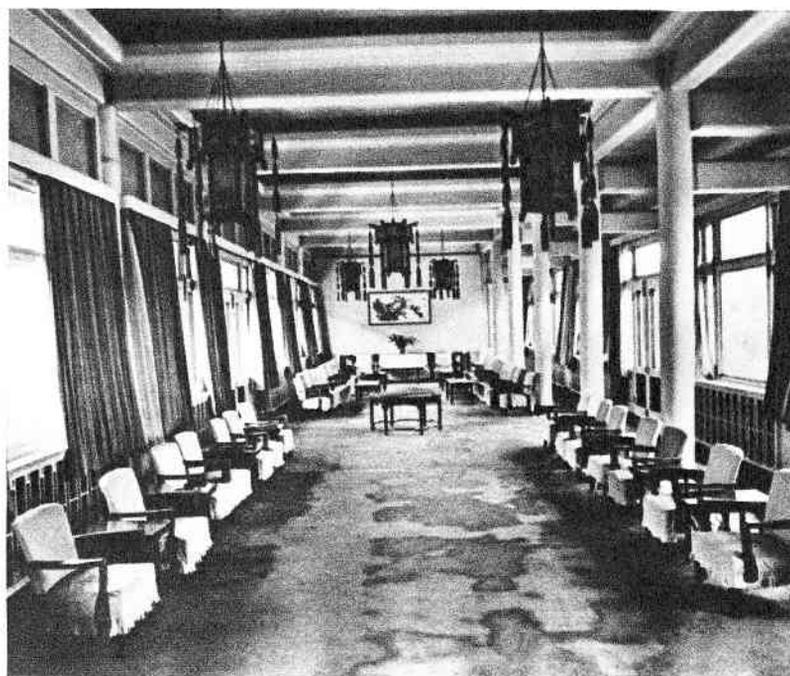
Her study.



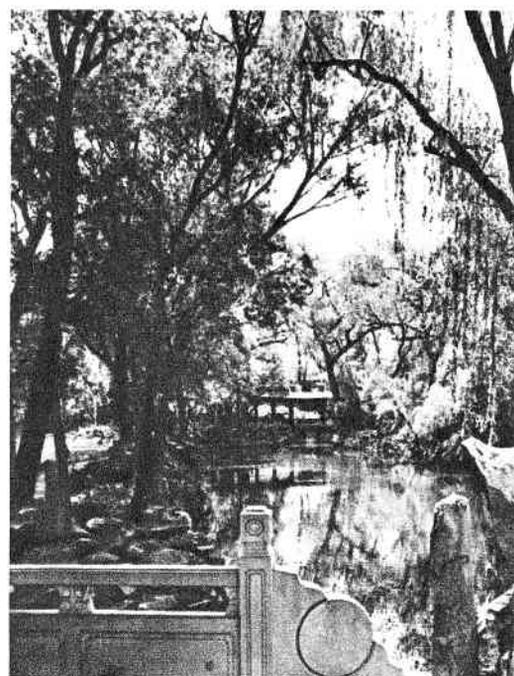


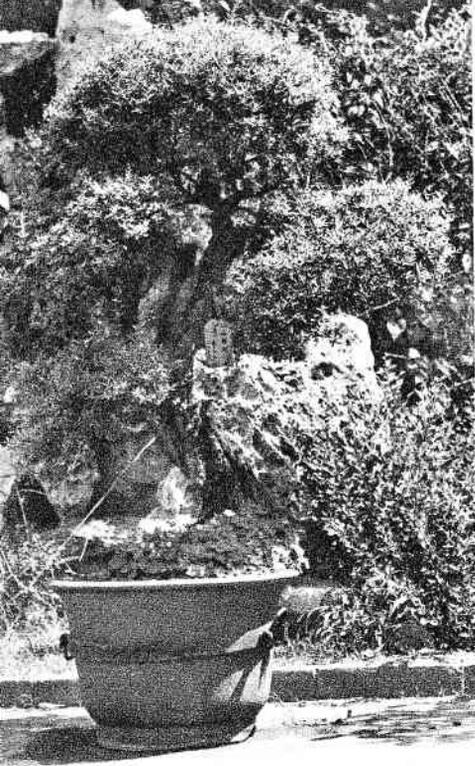
Her small reception room.

The reception hall.

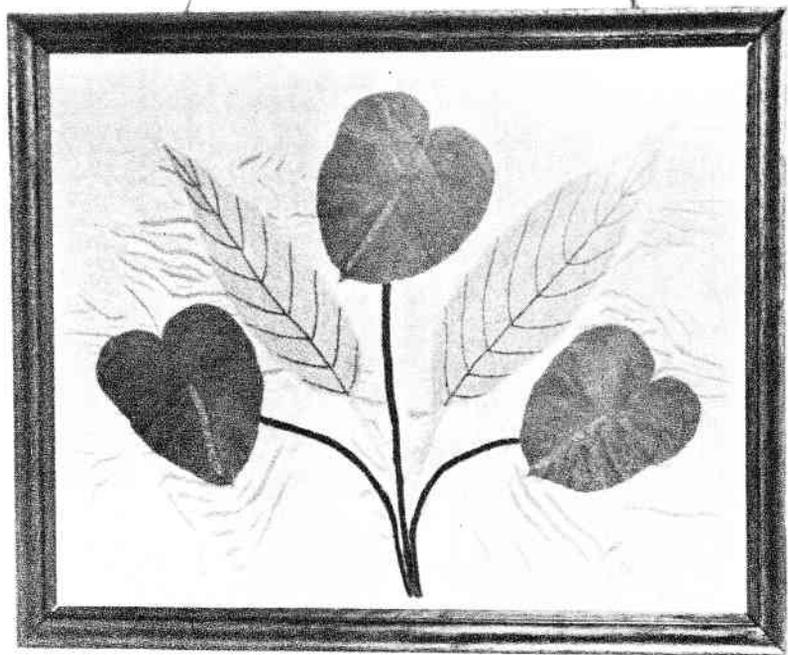


In her garden, Soong Ching Ling liked to fish in this pond.





A 200-year-old pomegranate tree, a favorite of Soong Ching Ling's.



An embroidery in Comrade Soong Ching Ling's living room made after a pattern sent by the President of the U.S.-China Friendship Association in Hawaii, a symbol of Sino-American friendship.

Soong Ching Ling's Shanghai residence at Central Huaihai Road.



# Great Internationalist Fighter

QIAN JUNRUI

**F**OR half a century, the name of Soong Ching Ling has been known throughout the world as that of a great internationalist and fighter for democracy and socialism.

In 1922, Sun Yat-sen began the arduous task of reforming the Kuomintang. Soong Ching Ling, in close touch with Lenin's special envoys to China, transmitted their opinions to Dr. Sun and thus influenced the development of Dr. Sun's new Three People's Principles—incorporating alliance with Soviet Russia, co-operation with the Chinese Communist Party and assistance to the workers and peasants.

Chiang Kai-shek and Wang Jingwei betrayed the revolution in 1927. After the failure of the August 1st Nanchang Uprising led by the Communist Party, Soong Ching Ling went to Moscow to look for the correct road for the Chinese revolution. On her departure, she said, "Only a revolution based on the masses and serving them can smash the power of the warlords and politicians, shake off the yoke of imperialism and realize socialism." Clearly, by then, she had been transformed from a revolutionary democrat into a proletarian internationalist fighter. In 1930 she went from the Soviet Union to Europe and in 1931, she returned to China.

In her years abroad, she made contacts with revolutionary movements in many countries and became active in the international movement to oppose imperialism and safeguard world peace. At the congresses



Soong Ching Ling, head of the Chinese delegation, addresses the World Peace Congress in Vienna in December, 1952.

of the World Anti-Imperialist League held in Belgium in December, 1927 and in Germany in August, 1929 she was elected honorary chairman on both occasions. In 1933 when the World Committee Against Fascism was founded in Paris, she was elected its vice-chairman (its chairman was the French writer Henri Barbusse).

**A**FTER her return to China, Soong Ching Ling plunged into the struggle to resist Japan and save the nation. She not only opposed Chiang Kai-shek's fascism, but also, shoulder to shoulder with democratic progressives at home and abroad, fought against international fascism. In May, 1933, she went with Lu Xun, Cai Yuanpei and Yang Xingfo (her colleagues in the China League for Civil Rights) to the German Consulate in Shanghai to protest Nazi violations of civil rights in Germany and their crimes against culture.

In February, 1933, George Bernard Shaw had come to China to consult Soong Ching

Ling, Lu Xun and others on the international movement against fascism and imperialism. At great risk, Soong Ching Ling received him at her home. Lu Xun, Cai Yuanpei, Agnes Smedley and some others were also invited. They discussed preparations for the Far East Conference of the World Committee Against Imperialist War scheduled for that autumn. Later, Smedley told me, "It was a very jovial and effective meeting. The occasion was filled with thought-provoking and witty remarks by Lu Xun and Bernard Shaw, two great humorists, and Soong Ching Ling's laughter. But, as the situation outside was getting extremely tense, we were getting ready to be jailed by the Chinese fascists. A taste of Chinese fascism would give us more hard evidence for our fight against international fascism. Shaw said his Fabianism would probably collapse and he would become a revolutionary if he were tried by Chinese law and jailed in a feudal prison. Upon hearing this repartee we laughed heartily. Soong Ching Ling laughed so hard she cried, and had to wipe away her tears with a handkerchief."

In September, 1933, Soong Ching Ling presided over the Far East Conference of the World Committee Against Imperialist War. At the conference held in Shanghai, which was enveloped in Chiang Kai-shek's fascist terror, she stressed, "The present epoch marks the birth of a new system of society—socialism". She said, "While the capitalists seek their salvation in war, the toiling masses seek and must seek theirs in revolution." She also declared in the speech, "reactionary armed forces can be met only by revolutionary armed forces," and "we are against imperialist

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QIAN JUNRUI is a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, adviser to the State Planning Commission and Director of the Institute of World Economy and Politics under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

wars but we are for national revolutionary war of the armed people. . . ." What forceful and resonant statements!

In the early 1930's the Chiang Kai-shek reactionaries arrested Paul and Gertrude Noulens, both outstanding fighters of the international communist movement, and tortured them cruelly. Soong Ching Ling denounced this atrocity and initiated a large-scale rescue movement, which ultimately forced Chiang Kai-shek to free the couple.

**S**OONG Ching Ling, herself in a very precarious situation in Shanghai during that period, gave no thought to her personal safety. Her only care was the safety of both Chinese and foreign comrades. She actually became the chief liaison for revolutionary friends from various countries, who came to seek asylum and carry on their revolutionary activities from the foreign concessions in Shanghai. Revolutionaries in Japan, the United States, Britain, Germany, India and Viet Nam all maintained direct or indirect contact with her. For her part, she did all she could to help them, even giving them material assistance to help tide them over daily difficulties. In this work, Lu Xun was her most capable comrade-in-arms.

In addition, there were Agnes Smedley and Chen Han-seng. Through the friendship between Lu Xun and Uchiyama, she established contacts with some Japanese revolutionaries. In the 1930's through Smedley and Chen Han-seng, she helped the American journalist Harold Isaacs publish the left-wing English-language paper *China Forum*, and later, helped Max and Grace Granich, American progressives, publish the English-language (later bilingual) *Voice of China*. During the war against Japan (1937-45) she helped Rewi Alley to organize industrial co-operatives; helped Ma Haide (Dr. George Hatem) send medicine to the revolutionary bases; and helped the

German friends to form Marxist study groups and do anti-fascist work.

Soong Ching Ling was notified in July, 1936 that the World Committee Against Fascism had decided to call a meeting in Paris on September 10 to discuss the situation in Spain. As she was not free to move about then, much less go abroad, she sent me to the Paris conference as well as to the Brussels World Anti-Aggression Conference on September 2. Before I left, she gave me this message to transmit to the conference, "The people all over the world must unite. They must fight not only against the fascism of Hitler and Mussolini, but also against the fascism of the Japanese militarists and financial tycoons, because they all are ferocious aggressors and

oppressors. In addition, they must also struggle against Chiang Kai-shek's fascism, because it oppresses people internally and sells China's territory and sovereignty to foreign powers." She added, "You must tell the conference that the struggle in China and the struggle in Europe are completely identical in aim. The two struggles are for the same cause. The people all over the world should rise to fight against fascism, oppression and exploitation."

The writer Romain Rolland and the scientist Paul Langevin presided over the Paris conference and spoke highly of Soong Ching Ling's work on many occasions. Rolland, the 1915 Nobel laureate in literature, said, "Do you think that our brilliant vice-chairman

October, 1936. Soong Ching Ling at the funeral of Lu Xun in Shanghai International Cemetery.



Soong Ching Ling is only a beautiful flower whose fragrance can be felt around the world? No! No! She is really a lion who tries to break all nets."

Wherever I went abroad, I found that Soong Ching Ling had high prestige. Progressive people all over the world knew her name, respected and loved her.

After the victory over Japan in 1945, Chiang Kai-shek, with the support of the U.S. imperialists, launched an anti-communist and anti-popular civil war. Soong Ching Ling issued a statement in Shanghai on July 23, 1946, calling for the immediate organization of a coalition government and appealing to the people of the United States to stop their government from aiding the Kuomintang militarily.

Even before liberation, Soong Ching Ling had prepared for the establishment of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association. When the association was founded, she was elected its first vice-chairman, and later became its chairman. She did a great deal of fruitful work to enhance the friendship between the peoples of China and the Soviet Union. As secretary-

general of the association, I benefited greatly from her leadership.

After 1949, she was involved in a series of international activities, through which she made outstanding contributions to international friendship, to the struggles against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism and to the defense of world peace. She was elected a member of the Executive Bureau of the World Peace Council at that organization's second congress on November 23, 1950. On September 18, 1951, she was awarded the International Stalin Peace Prize. On March 21, 1952, Soong Ching Ling, Guo Moruo and others issued the call for the Asian-Pacific Peace Conference; she led the Chinese delegation to that conference, held in Beijing in October of that year, and was elected Chairman of the Peace Liaison Committee of the Asian and Pacific Regions. In December 1952, she further headed a Chinese delegation to the World Peace Congress in Vienna.

From December 16, 1955, to February 4, 1956, she visited India, Burma and Pakistan, and in August, 1956 she visited In-

donesia. In November, 1957, she accompanied Comrade Mao Zedong to the Moscow Meeting of Representatives of Communist and Workers' Parties. In her capacity as Vice-Chairman of the People's Republic of China, in February 1964, she visited Ceylon (Sri Lanka), with Premier Zhou Enlai and Vice-Premier Chen Yi.

In her last years, she continued through correspondence and by receiving visitors her unremitting efforts to strengthen the friendship among the peoples of all countries, oppose hegemonism and safeguard world peace. She played an outstanding role in broadening contacts with the people of the United States, where she was widely respected, had many old friends in a variety of spheres and made many new ones. Thus she contributed to the restoration of normal diplomatic relations between China and the U.S.A.

For 70 years, she had fought for the independence and liberation of China and the establishment of socialism here as well as for the peace, safety, progress and happiness of all mankind. This won the wholehearted love of the Chinese people and the people of the world.

# Heroic Battler for Democracy

CHEN HAN-SENG

WHILE Sun Yat-sen was confined to Peking Union Medical College Hospital — now the Capital Hospital — in Beijing during the spring of 1925, his wife Soong Ching Ling attended him day and night. This left vacant the residence provided for them in the city, located on Tie Shizi Hutong (Iron Lion Lane). Some of the Kuomintang leaders of the time used to meet for lunch at the Suns' uninhabited house. During one of their noon discussions, I heard two of them, Zou Lou and Hu

Han-min praising Madame Sun's assiduous assistance to her husband since their marriage in 1915.

Although I already knew something of Mme. Sun, it was only in the latter part of 1927 in Moscow that I had the opportunity to meet her. I was introduced to her there by Deng Yanda, the founder of the Chinese third party — the Nong-Gong Minzhu Dang (Workers' and Farmers' Democratic Party). On a snowy day, he and I traveled to a hotel near Red

Square to meet this eminent woman.

Three years later we met again in Shanghai. Then, early in 1932, the Japanese occupied part of Shanghai and the 19th Route Army fought bravely against them. Soong Ching Ling helped to organize centers for treating wounded soldiers. Gu Shuxing, my late wife, and I were among those collecting contributions and forwarding them to Soong Ching Ling for the centers, which she frequently visited.



1948: Soong Ching Ling examines medicines and other supplies collected by the China Welfare Fund for shipment to the liberated areas under the control of the Chinese Communist Party.

During those difficult years when Chiang Kai-shek, head of the Nanjing regime, carried on a reign of terror against the Communists and other democratic elements, Soong Ching Ling organized the China League for Civil Rights, of which Lu Xun, the renowned writer, was also a leading member. The league's secretary-general, Yang Xingfo, was later assassinated by Chiang Kai-shek's secret agents.

**H**ISTORY is laden with strange phenomena. While Soong Meiling, the wife of Chiang Kai-shek, was supporting a terroristic regime against the Communists, Soong Ching Ling, her elder sister, led a group of committee members of the league to Nanjing to visit the prison where they talked with jailed Communists. Among the prisoners she visited was Fang Zhimin, a famous Chinese Red Army leader captured by Chiang's army; Fang Zhimin was later executed by the brutal "Generalissimo".

During her years in Shanghai, Soong Ching Ling helped, both openly and secretly, to save the lives of a number of Communists, as she had always opposed autocracy and militarism. I know personally of several cases in which she used her

influence to protect Communists and others who were persecuted by the Nanjing regime. She gave financial assistance to some who had to flee from Shanghai. I recall how she engaged a lawyer from Switzerland to defend the Noulens couple, who were directing the work of progressive labor unions in the Pacific region and who were arrested in Shanghai, in fact in its International Settlement (foreign administered concession). After years of strenuous argument and effort the couple was finally released. No one else in China could have had the courage and the means to so successfully defend such victims of oppression.

When my wife and I left New York after some years in the USA, and arrived by ship in Hongkong in May 1939, Soong Ching Ling and her secretary came to meet us at the dock. Soon afterwards she agreed, with Rewi Alley and Edgar Snow, to set up the International Committee for Chinese Industrial Cooperatives. She was its distinguished sponsor. I was asked to be secretary. During the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, guerrilla bases were organized under Communist leadership. In

areas behind the lines, in particular in the Party's base area in Yan'an, many cooperatives were set up to carry on small scale industrial production. As the Kuomintang government in Chongqing did not provide much financial aid, contributions to support these co-ops poured in from overseas Chinese and from other friends abroad. Unfortunately, if sent to Chongqing, contributions would not be forwarded to Yan'an and other areas in need. This was why Soong Ching Ling actively supported such a committee in Hongkong, formed to receive financial contributions from abroad and then pass them on to help the cooperative movement where the need was greatest.

**W**HEN the new People's Government was being organized in 1949, Mao Zedong and Liu Shaoqi went to visit Soong Ching Ling to personally request her to accept the post of vice-chairman. She accepted but continued to concentrate her energies on social services, particularly for children and youth. The record of the China Welfare Institute, of which she was chairman, demonstrates her high level of energy and enthusiasm for the welfare of the younger generation. There could be no better contribution to socialism than the direction for educating the youth indicated by her.

Soong Ching Ling strove throughout her life to uphold the ideals of democracy. She courageously urged and reminded those in high positions to think of the common folk. She stood for principle and loathed vested interests and personal privilege. The reign of Jiang Qing and the gang of four was a trying time for Soong Ching Ling, being the antithesis of all she stood for.

Soong Ching Ling was a heroic fighter for democracy; we must learn from her excellent example as we continue to strengthen socialist democracy in China. □

# So Great Yet So Simple

SHEN CUIZHEN

ON March 15, 1981 I went to Beijing to consult Soong Ching Ling on the burial of her long-time housekeeper, friend and associate Li Yan'e, carrying with me a sketch of the Soong family burial plot where Li Yan'e was to be interred at Soong Ching Ling's request. Unexpectedly, I found Soong Ching Ling herself seriously ill, and decided to stay.

My feelings fluctuated with the course of her illness. When her condition was stable I felt comforted; when she took a turn for the worse I worried. Then for a while there were signs of improvement and she was able to meet close friends and comrades. I rejoiced. I even developed a stubborn belief that she would recover. But reality was merciless.

On May 8 she had attended a ceremony conferring on her an honorary doctorate from the University of Victoria. Before the ceremony, people were worried about her condition and suggested that Wang Bingnan, head of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, stand in for her. At first she agreed, but later changed her mind, thinking it would be more courteous to be present herself. She insisted on making her acceptance speech in person, although she was running a fever that day and had to remain seated. But she spoke spiritedly for 20 minutes. The vigor she showed at the meeting aroused my hopes. I didn't expect that her condition would radically deteriorate in just a few days' time.

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SHEN CUIZHEN is secretary-general of the China Welfare Institute.



Soong Ching Ling with Shen Cuizhen, her friend and associate since the 1940's.

I attended her at her sickbed. There were times when she was conscious and could recognize me; but others when she was comatose. After all life is not limitless. Soong Ching Ling left us forever. I could no longer hold back my tears. My memories of her mingled with them.

I knew about her through my late husband Zou Taofen, long before I met her personally. Taofen had great faith in Dr. Sun Yat-sen. In October, 1926, he took over the magazine *Life Weekly* and, from then on, publicized the life of Sun Yat-sen and his revolutionary Three People's Principles in many issues. When the KMT rightists started viciously attacking and slandering Soong Ching Ling, Taofen used his magazine as a weapon and refuted their rumors. It was from Taofen that I learned what a spirited woman Soong Ching Ling was.

The Japanese occupied China's northeast on September 18, 1931. The KMT took an attitude of non-resistance towards the Japanese invaders, suppressing the patriotic movement at the same time. Zou Taofen and six other patriots were illegally arrested late on the night of November 22, 1936. That is what became known as the "seven gentlemen" case that created a stir at home and abroad.

Soong Ching Ling publicly protested the arrests and organized a "go to prison to save the nation" movement, in which she and other progressives demanded that the seven be released, or that they themselves should join the seven in jail. Their statement read, "Shen Junru and the other six are not China's only patriots. There are millions of patriotic Chinese. If the spirit of the Chinese does not die, China will never perish!" Her uprightness and her love for the nation and the people impressed me deeply.

Soong Ching Ling was calm, elegant, beautiful and loved by all. Her name was always linked with revolution, the Three People's Principles, justice and patriotism.

**I**N late February, 1941, Taofen was compelled to leave for Hongkong, and I followed with the children. Once Taofen said to me, after attending a meeting at Soong Ching Ling's home in Hongkong, "Madame Sun has collected a lot of relief goods

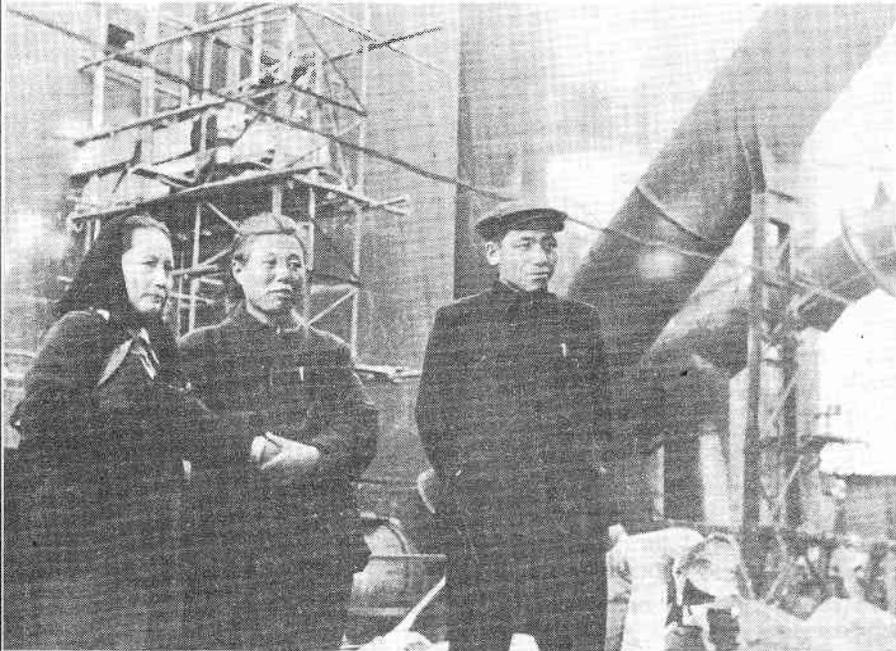
that will be sent to the liberated areas. A few people are needed to sort things out. She wants you to go too." I gladly agreed. So, with two of her women associates, Liao Mengxing, then of the China Defence League, and Ni Feijun, later a leader of the Chinese Red Cross, I went to a warehouse and took part in the work. There I met Soong Ching Ling, who shook hands with me warmly. In a very friendly and unassuming way she told me what needed to be done. She said

the liberated areas were short of food and medicines. The relief goods included clothes, daily necessities, medical supplies and equipment and canned milk. She asked us to sort them out and pack them by category, and said she would try to have them shipped to the liberated areas.

It took us only a few days; Soong Ching Ling often came to help and when we were done she took us out to dinner. Also present at the dinner was her faithful Li Yan'e (Li Ma), whom Soong Ching Ling always called Sister Li.

After the outbreak of the Pacific War, Soong Ching Ling went to Chongqing—and we lost contact for many years.

**M**Y husband Zou Taofen died in 1944. Not long after, I had surgery for breast cancer and then lived a life of seclusion in Japanese-occupied Shanghai. Comrade Ching Ling, when she came back to Shanghai after the war, learned of my troubles. As she was constantly being watched by KMT agents and had little freedom to move about without being noticed, she often sent Sister Li over with daily necessities and fruit. Once she sent a car to take me to her house for dinner. She com-



At the Anshan Iron and Steel Company in November, 1950.

Soong Ching Ling talks with peasants during her inspection of Shuangcheng county, Heilongjiang province, in October, 1950. At far left is the veteran revolutionary Comrade Lin Boqu.



forted me, "Mr. Zou has left us. Do not be too sad. Take care of yourself. Mr. Zou's writings spoke for the people and pointed a way for progressive young people to follow. He did a lot of good for the people with his pen. If you have the chance, get out of the house and do something useful in society. You can do that." Her encouragement consoled and warmed my wounded heart.

Beiping, as Beijing was then called, was liberated in January, 1949. Around June I was invited to Zhong Nan Hai to help prepare for the opening of the first National People's Political Consultative Conference. I was very happy to see Soong Ching Ling at the opening session. She had come to Beijing accompanied by Deng Yingchao, the wife of Zhou Enlai. A joyful smile hung on her face. She was devoting her energy to the realization of a new China, and with her unique talents united the progressive forces to help the cause of the Chinese Communist Party. The Party's victory, in turn, became a force motivating her own march forward.

**A**FTER the conference, Soong Ching Ling told me that now that China was liberated, the China Welfare Institute should greatly expand its work. First was the establishment of a kindergarten and I was assigned to run it. I was a bit scared, for I had never worked at a responsible post, but she encouraged me, saying that if only I loved children I was sure to be competent. That was my first real job. Then, in June, 1951, I was transferred to the Shanghai Women's Federation where I was in charge of

The last thing Soong Ching Ling wrote was this inscription for a book of Zou Taofen's Manuscripts — on May 12, 1981, the day before her illness worsened.



children's welfare work. These assignments gave me frequent contacts with Soong Ching Ling.

In the winter of 1950, with other comrades, I went on a survey tour of the Northeast with her. That was when I began to appreciate how dedicated she was to her cause and how selflessly she worked. She got up very early in the morning, spending little time on personal affairs. Most of the time she was reading documents and preparing for the survey work. Because of her poor eyesight, I was sometimes asked to read the documents to her. No matter where she went, she paid much attention to what was reported and never failed to raise questions. She did not want subordinates to take notes for her.

She was concerned about everybody. When we got to a place where rooms were scarce, I would be asked to share a flat with her. Once, when I had abdominal pains, she just sat beside me and massaged me. She was then already the vice-chairman of the state.

**N**O words can describe how much I've learned and benefited from her. She never took advantage of her leading position. She said to me many times, "We're like sisters. If you are in any difficulty, just tell me." She trusted me fully yet always expressed her reluctance to trouble me. Even when she was seriously ill, she said to me once, "We're like sisters. You have done so much for me. What shall I say?" I, already on the verge of tears, said, "Madame, since we are sisters, don't mention that. I do what I ought to do." She clasped my hand for a long time, unwilling to let go. Then she pulled my hand close to her lips and kissed it.

Early on the morning of May 22, I came to her sickbed and attended to her. When she opened her eyes and saw me, she said in broken sentences, "Sister Shen, you take a rest... Have you taken a rest?... You must take a rest." Those were her last words to me. I touched her feverish cheeks, tears rolling down my own. □

# Soong Ching Ling and Our Magazine

ISRAEL EPSTEIN

SOONG CHING LING was the founder of our magazine, *China Reconstructs*. She selected its name. For over 29 years, as Chairman of the China Welfare Institute, its publishers, she led, guided and helped our work. This she did amid her multitude of other duties, as a major leader of the People's Republic of China and of a number of nationwide social organizations.

During that period, she wrote for us 33 articles, the first in our inaugural issue in January 1952, the last in February 1981, four months before her death.

By rough classification, six of these articles dealt with the general achievements of the people in building a new China, six with friendship among the peoples and the struggle for world peace, four specifically with struggles against imperialism and for national independence and socialism, two with the achievements and aspirations of Sun Yat-sen, five with welfare, in particular that of women and children, and one with the necessity of overcoming feudal traditions. Four were memorial articles — among them one for Premier Zhou Enlai and another for Edgar Snow. Others were specially written for anniversaries of *China Reconstructs* and for the 40th anniversary of the China Welfare Institute.

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ISRAEL EPSTEIN, editor-in-chief of *China Reconstructs*, knew and worked with Soong Ching Ling over some four decades.

In addition, she wrote to us a very large number of letters, many in her own hand.

IN her article, "A Tradition of Truth", contributed to the tenth anniversary issue of *China Reconstructs*, she recalled its birth and ancestry.

Thinking of this anniversary takes me back much more than ten years. In 1938, when the Chinese people's resistance against Japanese imperialist aggression was in its most tense period, when the Chinese Communist Party was leading the way in a national resurgence of militancy to save our country and culture, the China Defence League (the predecessor organization of the China Welfare Institute which publishes *China Reconstructs*) was founded. The League was born as part of that sharp struggle for national existence, and as a participant in the global fight against fascism and militarism, for democracy, peace and the progress of man.

The internal political situation at that time was very complicated. The people wanted to follow the example of the Chinese Communist Party and its famed guerrilla bases behind the Japanese lines; to go all out in taking up arms and driving the cruel aggressor from our soil. But the Kuomintang was afraid of arming the people, and with good reason, for its suppression was no less cruel than that by the enemy.

Under these circumstances, in addition to the duties of mobilizing world sympathy for China's struggle and raising material support for the fighters at the front and behind the enemy's lines, the China Defence League felt it had a responsibility to take up the task of getting the truth about our country to the world. . . .

For example, it was through the China Defence League Newsletter that many people throughout the world first learned of the vicious

Kuomintang ambush and destruction of the Communist-led New Fourth Army headquarters in 1941, at the height of the Japanese threat to China. . . .

Throughout the war years and afterwards during the period when the Kuomintang, with the U.S. imperialists started the third civil war against the Chinese people, our organization continued this work of disseminating the true news about our country. . . .

In 1949, the Communist Party led our people to achieve their complete liberation from imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism. With our new democratic revolution completed, we embarked on the peaceful transformation to a socialist society, and from one end of our country to the other the sounds of massive socialist construction rang out.

The Chinese people had stood up in the world. We were moving ahead, building a new life for ourselves. . . .

Therefore, in 1952, the China Welfare Institute, basing itself on the tradition of spreading the truth about China to the rest of the world established by its predecessor the China Defence League, began publication of the English-language edition of *China Reconstructs*. From its first issue, the magazine has been dedicated to portraying the accomplishments of our working people, intellectuals and artists, and to explaining through facts and graphic means the policies of our People's Government. . . .

This we view as part of the contribution the Chinese people as a whole are making to the great struggle for peace and the progress of mankind. . . .

Concerning our magazine's history, more will be said on its 30th anniversary in January 1982. Besides Soong Ching Ling, it owes its existence to the late Premier Zhou Enlai. Speaking with her as early as October 1950, he suggested that, with



Soong Ching Ling, Zhou Enlai, Deng Yingchao, and Chen Yi with the staff of China Reconstructs on the 10th anniversary of its founding in January, 1962.

her long experience in building friendship between the people of different countries, she initiate a magazine to tell readers abroad about life and work in newly-liberated China. She gladly agreed and initiated the preparations, including assembly of staff. Premier Zhou, until his death in 1976, maintained warm personal interest in the magazine and on several occasions helped clarify its orientation, audience and scope.

**S**OONG CHING LING'S many articles for us covered a wide variety of subjects and reflected her activities and thinking over a broad range of national and international affairs and problems.

With particular feeling, we leaf through her letters to *China Reconstructs*. They were indicative both of her intimate concern with the magazine and of her principles and splendid character.

At all times she was against the reporting only of successes to the exclusion of problems.

In a personal letter to one of our editors in 1958, when there

was a nationwide tide of exaggeration, she commented on an account of welfare work in China being prepared for publication:

The article reached me last night.

My impression in reading it is that all the problems are solved. I think we have to say that there is still much that we have to do in welfare, since we are still in the process of building a new society and a new economic foundation. It has to be stated more definitely . . . that with all our progress we cannot cover all those in need at the moment. This is said on page 4 but it can be strengthened a bit since it gives the impression from there on to the end of the article that we can now cover everybody and every contingency.

The second suggestion is that relief is still necessary when nature runs rampant, but that the state attacks this problem in two ways, one immediate by direct relief, and the other by organizing the people to combat nature and turn disaster regions into secure and productive regions, with capacities far above their original through various projects to change nature.

In the same letter she mentioned that, for her, the period was one of agonizing illness.

I have been incapacitated by an outbreak of neurodermatitis which covers my whole body.

Sleepless nights have weakened me.

Yet it was in these circumstances, and amid her many duties, that she not only read the text but sent her comment on the very next morning.

Often she made proposals for specific articles, from one in 1952, "There should be something about India-China friendship", to another in 1975, in a note from Shanghai for "an article on the wonderful surgery done here", and many more.

**O**N her own writings, she always modestly asked for suggestions for betterment, and acknowledged useful ones with characteristic grace of spirit. "I agree to the changes made on page 4 of my article," she wrote once. It *certainly is improved*. The sentence was so involved; now it reads much better." Another time, she was angered when she heard someone had said that she would not allow even a comma of anything she wrote to be edited. She called this a "slander".

When offered honoraria for contributions, she refused. For

instance, in November 1958, "Don't send me cheques for articles."

When she asked for assistance, she acknowledged it generously, "I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart, busy as you are" (1976).

At the same time, she hated sloppy work and was sharp in pointing to avoidable errors in the magazine, particularly of fact.

Her active interest extended to circulation and subscriptions. In 1956, when going on a state visit to India, she wrote asking if there was anything she could do to help the magazine's sales.

In 1960 when circulation was entrusted to a general distributor, she expressed the opinion that a complete division from the editorial departments was undesirable. "I think," she wrote, "that our magazine does have some special problems of its own in regard to circulation

and promotion. Therefore, while in principle, I do not object to the contemplated move, still I think it should be done on the basis of establishing a good and constant liaison, and at the same time giving us a definite say in the planning and execution of circulation and promotion policies as they affect CR."

On international journeys, she made small purchases for our work. For instance, in a note from Lahore, Pakistan, on her 1956 tour of south Asia, she wrote, "Pardon penciled scrawl—a thousand things to attend to but must get this off to you. It was simply impossible to obtain nylon typewriter ribbons in all the three countries visited... However, here is a Remington ribbon... (In the 1950's Chinese typewriter ribbons were still poorly inked and did not wear well).

On holidays, anniversaries, the initiation of new editions, whenever she thought we had produced a good issue, and often when she heard favorable opinions concerning our work from her innumerable contacts at home or abroad, she would write greetings or comments to encourage us.

Besides keeping in regular contact with the magazine's leaders, she came to our office on our tenth anniversary to exchange handshakes and warm words with all our staff and asked many of them, at various times, to her own home.

Such was the painstaking approach, down-to-earth diligence and warmth of this truly great stateswoman of the contemporary age.

We shall never forget her. Her presence among us will continue. By constant effort for improvement, we shall strive to be worthy of it. □

## She Stood for the Tradition of Truth

LI BOTI

MANY years ago when I was a student in the United States, I happened upon Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's home in Cambridge, now a museum. As I paused at the gate, a slim, grey-haired man came out.

"Who are you for, Soong Ching Ling or Soong Mei-ling?" he asked.

"Soong Ching Ling," I replied immediately.

"Then you can come in and look around, free!" he said, and took me on a delightful tour of the house. He said he was grandson of "Edith with the golden hair," Longfellow's daughter mentioned in his poem "The Children's Hour."

At that time I knew that Soong Ching Ling was a great,

dedicated woman, one of the three Soong sisters of whom people said: "Soong Mei-ling loves power; Soong Ai-ling loves money, but Soong Ching Ling loves her people."

Two years later I was in Beijing working on *China Reconstructs*, the magazine which Soong Ching Ling began to publish in 1952. I came to know her as hard-working, democratic and warm-hearted as well as noble-minded.

### Creativity

After the People's Republic of China was established she felt that since the Chinese people had stood up and were building a new life, their progress should be reported to the world. She said that in doing this, the magazine should carry on the China Defence League Newsletter's tradition of truth.

Its style should be lively, contents rich and varied, and it should cater to the broadest readership. She especially stressed that the people and their creativity should be the main subject.

From time to time, she herself wrote about the glorious progress made by the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party. She was very happy about the socialist transformations in every field and described them in her articles with enthusiasm.

She was ever loyal to the conviction that only the Communist Party could save China. This was expressed in her article for the January 1963 issue of *China Reconstructs*, "Sun Yat-sen and his Co-operation with the Chinese Communist Party." She said: "After the founding of the Chinese Communist Party, he found new sources of

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LI BOTI worked as an editor in *China Reconstructs* for 28 years. She is now an editor of the new English language *China Daily* in Beijing.

strength. As early as 1919, he had had contacts with Li Dazhao and others. . . after seeing such guests, Sun Yat-sen would often remark that he considered these people as his true revolutionary comrades. He knew he could count on the clarity of their thought and their unflinching courage in battle.

"He acknowledged this publicly in a lecture on People's Welfare in 1924 when he said: 'Communism is the good friend of the Three People's Principles.'" She made it quite clear that this was also her view.

She wrote a number of articles calling for world peace and condemning imperialism.

On the eve of President Richard Nixon's visit to Beijing, she wrote for the January 1972 issue of the magazine "The Beginning of a New Era." "A year before his election, President Nixon asserted in an article: 'Any American policy toward Asia must come urgently to grips with the reality of China.' The reality of China during the past 20 years has brought about his new realization, and this must be true for many others." She went on to expound the reality of China: the people's achievements in building socialism.

### Assignments

She wrote with great feeling in a style that was clear, forceful and beautiful.

Besides writing for the magazine herself, she also did much to encourage contributors. She gave parties where she brought together statesmen, writers, artists, scientists and economists.

"I hope you will all write for *China Reconstructs*," she said. Needless to say, this brought the magazine many good articles.

She also gave us assignments. Always concerned about the oppressed, she wrote us a letter in June 1978 asking us to send reporters to Yunnan and Guangxi to report on the true

position of the refugees from Viet-Nam and report how our government was helping them to settle down.

She read the magazine carefully and told us of the issues and articles she liked. "This is to let you know how much I like 'Impressions of the USA.' It certainly gives an all-round glimpse of that country in so compact an article."

She liked a back cover painting people of the national minorities, free of their shackles, going off to work in high spirits. She pointed out our defects: the magazine tended to taper off toward the end; the printing was bad. She read the letters we got from our readers. In her visit to India in 1955, she asked people for their opinions of the magazine and listened to them intently.

I was deeply moved by a letter she wrote me in November 1972, and what she did afterwards. "I am shocked and numbed by the loss of five friends and comrades within these last three months! The latest victim is Ni Peihua who worked with us for 30 years. She died from high blood pressure, after years of illness which forced her to resign some years ago."

### Request

Although Soong Ching Ling was in ill-health then, she wrote articles commemorating Ho Hsiang-ning, her old comrade-in-arms with whom she fought together against treachery and for national salvation; for Edgar Snow and for Grace Granich, who worked on the Voice of China in the 30's. She also busied herself soliciting articles and poems. "Here is a poem by Rewi Alley in memory of Comrade Ho Hsiang-ning which please make use of in our CR magazine. I have succeeded in borrowing four pictures of Grace Granich which I promised to return soon."

"Dr Ma Hai-teh arrived with Mrs Edgar Snow and family last night from Geneva. I per-

sueded him to write an article on Edgar Snow, as they were together in Yen-an and had been friends ever since. He was sent to Geneva by our government with a team of doctors and nurses to help Ed Snow. He has kindly complied with my request, so now our In Memoriam issue on Ed Snow will be complete."

She never scolded, always encouraged. In her article commemorating Edgar Snow there was a place where the grammar was right in the first place but had been wrongly changed by us. In a letter accompanying another article she pointed this out, but still she asked us to make the necessary changes in the enclosed article. "No need to consult me, for I have full confidence in you."

I cannot remember when she ever refused us anything. I can recall one case in which we asked her to write about something, and her answer was that she was too ill to undertake it. But a few days later, to our astonishment, she sent in the article. She was always quick to respond. If we wrote her on a Saturday, we could be sure of getting her answer on Monday or Tuesday.

She was very good to people who worked with her and on occasions such as Women's Day or upon returning from visits to Shanghai she would send us gifts. In the summer of 1975, when Deng Xiaoping was put in charge of state affairs, she wrote: "Please accept this box of chocolate-coated cherries for you to celebrate all the victories we are having on many fronts."

In December 1978 when I was in hospital with a heart condition, she sent me a letter: "Have been thinking of you. . . Now that the climate is better with beautiful snowfall, hope you will soon be restored to health."

At a party given for the magazine staff in 1978, she presented us with a globe. She wanted us to make more and more friends for China throughout the world. □

# Recalling Work at Her Side

ZHANG JUE



Soong Ching Ling's secretary Zhang Jue and former China Reconstructs staff member Chen Xiuzheng read letters and cables of condolence. More than 2,000 were received in a fortnight.

**L**ETTERS and cables expressing concern and solicitude flew in thick and fast after the first official announcement of the grave illness of Honorary President Soong Ching Ling. The first letter, together with a basket of roses, came from *China Reconstructs*, which she founded in 1952 and for which she had always shown close concern. As the member of her staff responsible for her correspondence, I received and registered all these letters and cables, which stirred up many feelings and memories.

Soong Ching Ling was most solicitous about the welfare of her staff. I remember once in 1960, when she took us to her home in Shanghai, she said to me, "I regard you as one of my own people, and I'll always be your friend no matter what happens." She thought of us even in very small details. She once said there was an unoccupied room in her Shanghai home where I could live if I wished. "If you want to have your padded jacket redone, bring it to my house. I know a good tailor."

**C**HAIRMAN Soong was warm and enthusiastic towards foreign friends. During the "cultural revolution", when Edgar Snow was coming back to Beijing after a visit to Yan'an, she asked him to dinner, selecting a choice wine she had kept in store for many years and personally seeing to the menu. Snow's plane was late, and she waited for him late into the night. When Snow was seriously ill in Switzerland,

she rushed off an urgent cable expressing her concern. On hearing of his death, she stayed up until dawn to personally draft a cable of condolence. And when part of Snow's ashes were laid to rest beside Weiming Lake on the Beijing University campus, she asked me to represent her at the ceremony, as she herself was ill.

During those same years of turmoil she was much concerned about the well-being of Rewi Alley, and once wrote a letter vouching for him. Sealing it in an envelope, she asked me to take it to him, telling me to be careful on the way and to hand it to him in person. This letter would some day go into the archives, she remarked.

In those years, she had the greatest sympathy for the many old revolutionary cadres who were being persecuted and attacked. At personal risk she had letters written on her behalf to Liu Shaoqi's children. When the old cadres came to see her after their rehabilitation she gave them a warm reception. Among them were Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping and his wife Zhuo Lin, and Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Peng Zhen and his wife Zhang Jieqing.

She was also much concerned about some of her relatives who came under attack. She had me write letters of encouragement to them, and sent money to tide them over their difficulties. She did not forget her brothers and sisters abroad and often inquired about them. While drafting a cable of condolence on the death of Song Zi'an, she observed that among

her younger brothers he was the one who understood her best.

Soong Ching Ling was quick and conscientious in her daily work, and required the same of her staff. Under her guidance, and influenced by her good example, we cultivated the habit of dealing conscientiously and promptly with our job on hand and not letting things pile up.

**T**HEN came these last tense days, when under the close attention of the leaders of the Party and state doctors and nurses fought day and night to save her life, when suggestions for treatment, offers of medicine and letters of solicitude streamed in from all quarters, and when she herself struggled tenaciously against recurring bouts of her illness. Premonitions of misfortune filled me with incomparable grief. But I held my feelings in check and, taking example from her indomitable will and fighting spirit, silently went about my duties. Now that she has left us. I remember how, once, she presented me with a piece of brocade as a keepsake and said, "Keep this as a souvenir of our close cooperation."

Her kind, gentle voice keeps echoing in my ears, and in my heart. □

ZHANG JUE was one of Soong Ching Ling's secretaries.

# An Outstanding Woman of Our Time

TALITHA GERLACH

**T**RULY Soong Ching Ling was the most outstanding woman of her and our time. In China she is fondly referred to as the mother of the new Chinese nation, created by the struggles of its people to bring into existence a new social order for the benefit of all its 900 million. And today these people are determined to build and live in a new modern nation of unity and strength, respected by all others in the world.

Soong Ching Ling played an outstanding part in creating this new nation, the People's Republic of China. It was not by orders from above, but by the unceasing struggles of the people seeking a better life for all, not just a small privileged few, that this new nation came into being.

Her firm, open and fearless implementation of the principles she espoused brought crucial, dangerous and even potentially mortal enemy threats against her, but she never faltered. The well-being of her country and her people were always uppermost with her.

Soong Ching Ling was a person of keen intelligence, unshakable in her loyalty to the basic principles guiding this new nation. Always she was alert to the new opportunities, the new problems and complications, the new developments to be taken into consideration. She was always seeking truth from facts. Accordingly the programs and the projects she promoted inevitably brought real benefits for the people and for her country.

But Soong Ching Ling's outlook on life was not limited to her native country, China. She ever had in mind the suffering and needs of the people in other

parts of the world as they struggled for independence and for just peace among the nations. As an internationalist she endorsed organizations, programs and efforts to build friendship and understanding between all peoples and to defend world peace.

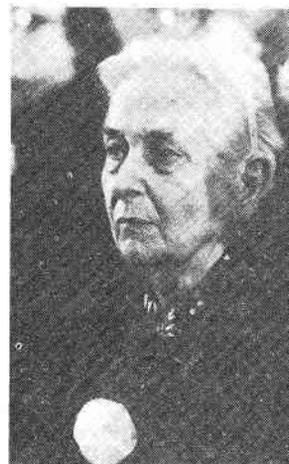
As help to the creation of a new social order, free of exploitation and oppression of the masses of people and dedicated to releasing the inherent creativity of all citizens, Soong Ching Ling devoted herself to providing more medical care, especially for women, and to extending opportunities for raising and training the new generation of children with good health, strong bodies, active minds, high morality and rich culture, so that in their adulthood they would and could guide their country and further strengthen and develop the social order of their ideals. She wanted the children in the present generation to grow into creative, dependable and responsible adults, able to provide the high quality of leadership needed to bring the Chinese people and nation ever forward, and so to provide inspiration to the people in other parts of the world.

**I**T has been my privilege to be associated with organizations set up and led by Soong Ching Ling. Immediately after the all-out Japanese military invasion of China on July 7, 1937, she headed the China Defence League. After the defeat of the Japanese, the China Defence League gradually developed into the China Welfare Institute of today with a program including a nursery, a kindergarten, the 300-bed International Peace Maternity and Child Health Hospital, the

Children's Palace providing many extra-curricular activities, the Children's Art Theatre with its own playhouse and the *Children's Epoch*, a fortnightly magazine for children. The maternity hospital fosters the combination of Chinese traditional and western medical practices and also is furthering a significant family planning program recognized by the World Health Organization as making a valuable contribution throughout the world. All these projects are located in Shanghai, while in Beijing the monthly magazine *China Reconstructs* published by the China Welfare Institute now appears in seven languages to spread knowledge world-wide about the new China and its new people.

No tribute to Soong Ching Ling would be complete without mentioning the most recent recognition she has received — the granting of her request for membership in the Chinese Communist Party and her appointment as Honorary President of the People's Republic of China. □

Talitha Gerlach at Soong Ching Ling's memorial ceremony.



# Under Her Leadership In the China Welfare Institute

CHEN WEIBO

I came to Shanghai from Shaanxi in the summer of 1947 to work for the China Welfare Fund led by Soong Ching Ling. On August 20 that year, I met her for the first time in the Fund's office, an ordinary room of less than 20 square meters into which four desks had been crammed. I felt a little tense as I was introduced to "Madame" (as the comrades in the office respectfully addressed her). After all, she was a well-known figure in China and abroad.

"Glad to have you work with us," she said, standing up to shake hands with me. Her clear voice, kind manner, and restrained but cordial smile soon put me at my ease, and I took a closer look at this far-famed woman patriot and internationalist. Gentle, soft-spoken, and looking younger than her years, she was dressed simply but with dignity. Here, in this small office, she kept in touch with all the liberated areas in China and many countries and regions abroad.

From then on, I worked under her direction for more than 30 years. Her style of work and enthusiasm for the revolution stemmed from her strong love for China and the Chinese people.

## The CWF in Shanghai

In 1946, when the Liberation War (1946-1949) broke out, the

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CHEN WEIBO is Assistant Secretary-General of the China Welfare Institute and a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

China Defence League was renamed the China Welfare Fund. Directed by Soong Ching Ling, it continued to provide substantial assistance in the form of medicine, medical equipment and other supplies to the liberated areas, mainly through the underground transport network operated by the Chinese Communist Party. She placed her hopes for the people's liberation and the creation of new China on the revolutionary struggles led by the Com-

munist Party. For future victory, she worked unsparingly.

The China Welfare Fund instituted its children's service in Shanghai in 1947 while that city was still controlled by the KMT reactionaries and its people suffered from their misrule. Three children's centers and a children's drama group were set up. I headed one of these centers. We got students to teach dozens of literacy classes organized for children who could not afford schooling. The "little teachers"

Soong Ching Ling at the 25th anniversary of the founding of the China Welfare Institute on June 15, 1963. Also present at the celebration were Zhou Enlai (sixth left), Zhu De (fourth right) and Dong Biwu (third right).



spread revolutionary ideas, taught revolutionary songs and folk dances, in line with Soong Ching Ling's instructions that the children's centers were not only to bring relief and care to the poor and the sick, but provide children with nourishment for the mind, and educate them so that they would see the future and realize that their strength lay in unity. Soong Ching Ling often came to the children's centers to read books and tell stories to the children and to encourage the "little teachers" to serve their companions well, and work in future to build a new China. She liked to watch performances by the children's theater, sitting among the children and sharing their feelings.

As chairman of the China Welfare Fund, she was modest and easy of approach. She encouraged every member of her staff (there were about a dozen



Soong Ching Ling and children of the China Welfare Institute kindergarten on Children's Day, 1958.

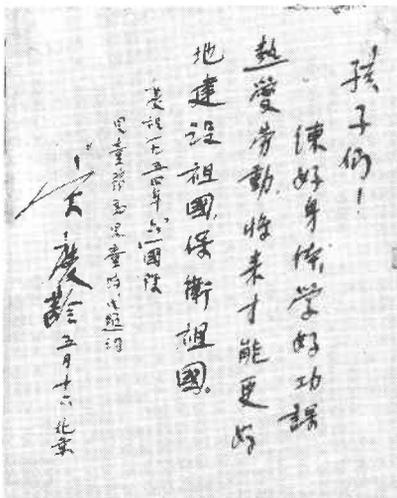
altogether in those days) to freely voice his or her opinions. To these she listened attentively. Although she herself spoke

little and never made long orations what she said was always precise and convincing. She stood for a democratic style of work, but also paid attention to efficiency. She shunned ostentation and publicity. In 1978 we planned to publish a booklet to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the China Welfare Institute (including its predecessors, the CWF and CDL). At first we chose a portrait of her, then a photo of her working in the office for the front page. Maintaining that both gave her too much prominence, she asked that they be changed. Finally we suggested a photo of her standing among children, to which she agreed.

She had high reputation abroad for her simple way of life, and for seeing that every dollar and all relief goods reached people who needed them. Therefore, foreign relief organizations and patriotic overseas Chinese entrusted to her care huge amounts of funds and goods to help the Chinese revolution.

Soong Ching Ling established a democratic and efficient working style at the China Welfare Fund. She trusted and showed concern for us, and we who





Written for the magazine "Children's Epoch" on May 16, 1954. Children,

Keep fit, study hard, love physical labor. Then you will be able to build and defend the country.  
Soong Ching Ling

worked under her in turn learned better how to serve the people.

### China Welfare Institute

Its mission of fund-raising completed with the founding of the People's Republic of China, the China Welfare Fund was re-organized by Soong Ching Ling as the China Welfare Institute, and its work brought into the orbit of state planning. Together with Premier Zhou Enlai, she worked out principles for pilot projects for mother-and-child health care and school education on the basis of the original undertakings.

In 1953 she initiated China's first children's palace in Shanghai, combining in it the educational work once done by the three children's centers. The children's health service was taken over by the International Peace Maternity and Child Health Hospital established in the same year with money from the Stalin Peace Prize awarded to Soong Ching Ling in 1951. The children's theater developed into the Children's Art Theater. In addition, a nursery and a kindergarten, and two magazines — *Children's Epoch*

and *China Reconstructs* — were set up.

In the years before her health deteriorated, she would often come to visit our projects. She took great pleasure in seeing the new-born babies in the hospital, or visiting the nursery and kindergarten to inspect the children's food and state of health. She often sent them candy and fruit. She liked to take part in the activities at the Children's Palace, and three times wrote inscriptions for the latter. She advised the children there to learn how to work and how to serve the people instead of just seeking a good time.

Soong Ching Ling gave special attention to the first group of actors and actresses of the Children's Art Theater, most of whom had either been very poor or lost their parents before liberation. She took a direct interest in the editing and printing of the magazines. *Children's Epoch* and *China Reconstructs*, often writing articles for them.

### Quality, Role, Heritage

Working with her, I was impressed by her qualities as a staunch revolutionary fighter. She had courageously broken with the KMT reactionaries who betrayed the Chinese people and their cause, and stood on the side of the Chinese Communist Party. In defiance of all opposition, she devoted her life to the Chinese democratic revolution, and to socialist revolution and construction. From her special position, she played a unique role in China's revolutionary history.

Born herself in a rich family, she disdained power and wealth. She lived simply and frugally all her life, and never put away any money for herself. But she has left a wealth of things we can learn from.

She had no children of her own, but with great love took under her wing all the children in China. She was their dearest grandmother. □

WHEN the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the China Welfare Institute was celebrated in May 1978, the poet Zhao Puchu dedicated to Soong Ching Ling a poem, whose first lines were:

Looking back forty years,  
Many were the stirring events.

Flames of wrath flaring over our land

When we resisted Japanese attack . . .

Magnificently then, Soong Ching Ling

Made public her gallant manifesto,

Unfolding the banner of the China Defence League,

Evoking a world-wide response.

The history of the China Defence League founded in 1938, which after 1945 was re-named the China Welfare Fund, has been told elsewhere. After the proclamation of the People's Republic of China, it became the China Welfare Institute, which this great woman continued to head and which publishes *China Reconstructs*.

I recall with a feeling of close bond the 1930's when I first knew Soong Ching Ling, who had been fighting since her early youth for the independence of her beloved motherland, for the freedom of the Chinese people from internal and external oppressors, for a broad world-wide united front against Fascism, for international understanding and support of her people's heroic struggle. At that time, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, trade unionists in the cities organized huge demonstrations and peasants rose in arms. They and all other progressives — students, writers, intellectuals, scientists — were subjected to ferocious persecution. The many activities of Soong

**TRUDY ROSENBERG**, who began to work with Soong Ching Ling in the 1930's and remained her friend for decades, now lives in Beijing.

# She Is Unforgettable

TRUDY ROSENBERG

Ching Ling in this period were so varied and touched on so many people and fields that new details are only now coming to light. She worked night and day unceasingly for the cause of the revolution, for the fight against fascist aggression the world over, for aid to the areas liberated by the Chinese Red Army and its successors—the Eighth Route and New Fourth Armies and finally the Chinese People's Liberation Army—and for aid to the Chinese population which supported them and to the open and underground progressive movements in reactionary-ruled areas. All this and much more she did, facing constant danger.

**L**IVING in a city such as Shanghai was then, being witnesses of the utter misery of the country and the ever-increasing resistance to exploitation, oppression and occupation by aggressors, many men and women of good will, foreign as well as Chinese, responded enthusiastically to her ardent calls for international solidarity, for mutual understanding in a peaceful world free from hunger and starvation. At various times, these foreign friends included some who had fought for the Spanish Republic or were refugees from Nazism. Some helped in Shanghai, others went to the liberated areas to give medical and other assistance.

I was one of those who volunteered to do whatever I could. In the 1930's and again

in the second half of the 1940's, in the period of the Liberation War, I helped her to maintain a number of contacts.

Once, to give only one instance, Soong Ching Ling—our “Suzi” as we used to call her during the wartime and afterwards—asked me if I would be ready to have a young woman live with me, and to care for her for some time. I did not know who she was, but understood that she was under the threat of political arrest by the Kuomintang reactionaries.

Never will I forget how, on May Day of that year, we covered the walls of our flat with red paper posters to celebrate the working peoples' festival and had as our only visitor—Soong Ching Ling. The most meaningful May Day I ever had was spent with this great, warm-hearted, intelligent, energetic and beautiful woman and with that young girl whom, after she moved elsewhere, to my regret I did not meet again.

**S**OONG CHING LING never failed to remember her friends, especially those who had cooperated with her in the years of hard struggle; she never failed to keep her friends abroad informed of the vast changes and the progress which had taken place in China. Typical comments are in letters I received from her over the many years I spent later outside China. On April 18, 1958, she wrote: “So many

wonderful changes are taking place, and one cannot help but derive great satisfaction from the rapid progress in every direction the people are making, under the correct leadership. . . . So be prepared for happy surprises in every field of endeavor.” She hoped old international friends would return to China to help build socialism. In 1960 I received a letter from her saying “I shall be very glad to welcome you for a visit to see the vast changes that have taken place in this vast motherland of mine, of ours.” The word “ours” conveys her warm feelings for China's friends and her international spirit.

So much more can be said about her and what a great force she was in making friends abroad understand China better.

Now she is no longer among us. For the Chinese people, for her countless loyal friends in all lands, this woman, with all she stood for, remains unforgettable. □

Trudy Rosenberg at Soong Ching Ling's memorial ceremony.



# Advancer of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Cause

QU WU

AS a young student I met Dr. Sun Yat-sen four times. During the May 4th Movement in 1919, I, as a representative from Shaanxi province, attended the first national conference of student representatives held in Shanghai, where I met him twice.

In November 1924, Sun, in spite of illness, left Guangzhou

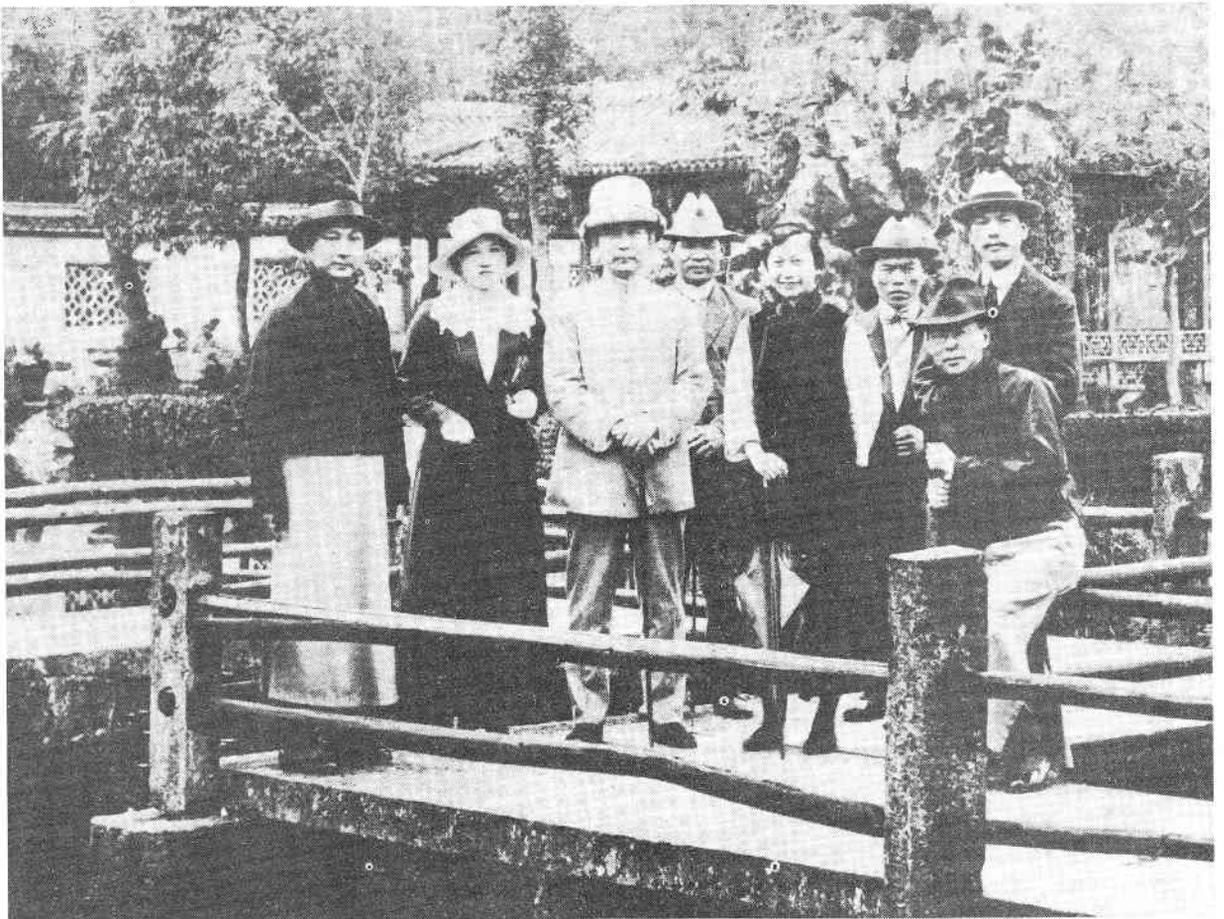
**QU WU** is a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and a Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang.

for Beijing with Soong Ching Ling. They arrived in Tianjin on December 4. Then studying at Beijing University, I rushed to see him. He appointed me as his personal representative to go to Shaanxi to publicize his proposals for convening a national congress and bringing the south and north together peacefully as stated in his declaration before going to the north.

When I returned to Beijing in late February 1925 after two months of rushing about in Xi'an and other places, I found Dr. Sun confined to bed. I ac-

companied my father-in-law Yu Youren in a call on him at his residence at No. 5 Iron Lion Lane, and I reported to him on my trip to Shaanxi. That was the last time I saw him.

It was at this meeting with Dr. Sun Yat-sen that I came to know Soong Ching Ling. She was at Dr. Sun's bedside attending him with meticulous care. She saw us to the door and clasped our hands with tears glistening in her eyes. Her face revealed her enormous anxiety. This encounter of mine with her left an unforgettable impression.



August 1916: Dr. Sun Yat-sen (third from left) and his wife Soong Ching Ling (second from left) with veteran members of the Chinese Revolutionary League in Hangzhou.

**I**N 1927 Chiang Kai-shek and Wang Jingwei turned against the revolution, breaking the revolutionary united front and creating a split between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party. The great revolution failed and the whole country was enveloped in White Terror. Soong Ching Ling expressed tremendous indignation over this betrayal and issued many statements denouncing Chiang and Wang as traitors to Dr. Sun Yat-sen's cause and enemies of the national revolution and of the people. Taking a clear-cut stand, she broke with them. In late August 1927, maintaining an unswerving faith in the revolution, she determinedly left China for the Soviet Union. By doing so, she showed her will to carry on Dr. Sun's three major policies and protested against the reactionaries headed by Chiang and Wang.

At that time I was studying at Sun Yat-sen University in Moscow. The day when Soong Ching Ling arrived we students went exultantly to the railway station to welcome her, along with representatives from the various factories in Moscow and Chinese people residing in the Soviet Union. As her train puffed toward the platform, we sent up a thunderous cheer.

**I** met her twice during her stay in Moscow. The first time I went to call on her at her residence. She expressed grief and anger over the domestic situation following the failure of the Great Revolution but she was full of confidence in the future of the revolution. The second time was at the lecture she gave at Sun Yat-sen University. She urged us students in the university named for her husband to keep in mind for ever Dr. Sun's last words and adhere to the new Three People's Principles and the three great policies. Speaking of the political situation at home, she sternly repudiated those who had betrayed Dr. Sun but were still



1929: Soong Ching Ling and daughter-in-law Chen Shuying in Beiping's Fragrant Hills at a ceremony prior to the removal of Sun Yat-sen's remains to Nanjing for the state funeral and re-burial in the Mausoleum there.

flaunting his banner to deceive the world. Her speech was constantly interrupted by enthusiastic applause.

Fifty-four years have elapsed since then, but the vivid scene of Soong Ching Ling lecturing at the Moscow Sun Yat-sen University remains fresh in my memory. From that time on, I regarded her as a faithful successor and brave defender of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and drew strength from her example.

**A**FTER the founding of the People's Republic of China I was in frequent contact with Soong Ching Ling, especially during the period when I was Vice-Director of the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. I often accompanied foreign guests to call on her at her Shanghai residence.

Sometimes we recalled the past and people we had known. Once we talked about my father-

in-law, Yu Youren, who had been Chairman of the Executive Yuan of the National Government in April 1949 on the eve of the liberation of Nanjing. At first he had intended to stay on the mainland but later he was forced to go to Taiwan. He continued to think of the mainland and his relatives and friends there.

Several years before he passed away he wrote these lines full of feeling: "The trees at Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum grow older year by year; I, Yu, who once paid respects to Dr. Sun at his tomb, am now capped with grey hair." Soong Ching Ling felt very sorry for Mr. Yu. It was Dr. Sun Yat-sen's behest to unify the motherland so it was the aim of Soong Ching Ling's struggle. She was deeply concerned about the need for Taiwan's return to the motherland. She was the most faithful follower of the behest of Dr. Sun Yat-sen. □

# Defending the People's Rights

SHI LIANG

I came to know Comrade Soong Ching Ling early in the 1930s when I was just starting out as a lawyer in Shanghai. I was deeply influenced by the China League for Civil Rights, which she sponsored together with Cai Yuanpei, Lu

Xun and Yang Xingfo. It made me realize that a worker in the field of law must take the protection of the people's rights as his or her own task and defend the freedom of assembly, speech, press and association. This plunged me into the ranks

of the patriotic and democratic movement.

After Chiang Kai-shek betrayed the revolution in 1927, Soong Ching Ling took a clear-cut stand on the side of the people. And in those long years of white terror, she resolutely supported the political stand of the Chinese Communist Party and did what she could to aid and provide cover for Chinese Communists. She repeatedly taught me that I, as a lawyer, should do more to defend revolutionaries and progressives, uphold justice and protect revolutionary forces.

September 1949: Soong Ching Ling with some of the other women delegates attending the First Plenary Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in Beijing. Front row from left: He Xiangning, Soong Ching Ling, Deng Yingchao and Shi Liang. Second row from left: Luo Shuzhang, Cai Chang and Ding Ling. Back row from left: Li Dequan, Xu Guangping, Zhang Xiaomei and Zeng Xianzhi.



## For Human Rights

I remember one day in May, 1933, I received a letter from a progressive activist named Shi Yi, asking me to defend him in court. He was being held in a police station in the French concession in Shanghai pending extradition to Nanjing, where he had been accused of political offenses by the Kuomintang government. My teachers and I represented him and got the French court to rule that he was not to be extradited. However, because of a traitor's betrayal, the Chiang Kai-shek government forcibly extradited him to Nanjing and ruthlessly executed him without public trial. Later Soong Ching Ling told me that Shi Yi was no other than Comrade Deng 'Zhongxia' (1894-1933), an important leader of the Chinese Communist Party. It was only then that I became aware of the effort she made to

SHI LIANG is a Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Chairman of the China Democratic League.

save him. Whenever I think of Comrade Deng, my heart, becomes leaden. From then on, as entrusted by Comrade Soong Ching Ling, I defended other political prisoners and rescued some progressive comrades.

Soong Ching Ling sponsored the China League for Civil Rights in Shanghai in December 1932 and herself gave leadership to the movement. That's why we lawyers succeeded in protecting some of these comrades. The human rights movement she led was a powerful support. Her political far-sightedness helped me to enhance my own understanding of the Chinese Communist Party.

### For National Salvation

After the Japanese imperialists seized China's northeast in 1931 and unleashed a military attack on Shanghai in 1932 the Kuomintang government pursued a policy of non-resistance and the fate of the Chinese nation was at stake. People throughout the country were indignant. On May 31 and June 1, 1936, a meeting in Shanghai established the All-China Federation of National Salvation Associations, and Soong Ching Ling was elected a member of its executive committee. She was at all times a staunch supporter of the National Salvation Associations, whose aims were to unite all patriotic forces, seek unity on the principles and strategy for saving the nation, safeguard China's territorial integrity and strive for national liberation. In less than half a year they launched a nationwide mass movement of profound significance.

As the patriotic movement against Japanese aggression gathered force, the Kuomintang reactionaries cracked down on it. Late on the night of Nov. 22, 1936, they arrested seven leaders of the National Salvation Associations — Shen Junru, Zhang Naiqi, Zou Taofen, Li Gongpu, Sha Qianli, Wang Zao-shi and me — and put us in



Soong Ching Ling (center) with Shi Liang (left) and He Xiangning at the 2nd session of the 2nd National People's Congress in April, 1960.

a lockup under the higher court in the city of Suzhou. I was imprisoned in a women's ward on Siqian Street. This incident created a furore throughout the country.

### She Volunteered for Prison

On the fourth day after the arrests, Soong Ching Ling, speaking as a member of our Executive Committee, issued a solemn and principled press statement pointing out that the charges against us were groundless. "Seven leaders of the National Salvation Associations have been arrested," she said, "but there are still 475 million Chinese people, whose patriotic wrath and righteous indignation cannot be suppressed. Let the Japanese militarists beware! They may cause the arrests of seven leaders, but they must still reckon with the Chinese people!"

In order to rescue us from jail, she initiated a "go to prison to save the nation" movement. People everywhere made statements and passed resolutions in support of the move-

ment, saying, "If to love the country constitutes a crime, we want to be punished together with Shen Junru and the others; if it is not a crime, we want to share freedom with them." Early in July 1937 a dozen people from the National Salvation Associations, led by Soong Ching Ling, went to Suzhou and asked the higher court to imprison them as well.

When they arrived in Suzhou, they asked to see the president of the court, who made an excuse and sent an associate to receive them. But their strong protest brought the president out to meet them. He, having no counter-argument to put forward, hemmed and hawed: "It is too hot in Suzhou. You'd better return to Shanghai early and rest!" Soong Ching Ling cut him short sternly: "We haven't come to Suzhou to enjoy the breeze, but to voluntarily enter prison." After a long confrontation the court was forced to grant Soong Ching Ling and the others permission to visit the seven in jail and see how we lived.

Their visit brought tears to my eyes. Soong Ching Ling and I embraced each other tightly. She brought me some fruit and food and repeatedly told me that I mustn't feel sorry for myself. She said that the fate of the nation was at stake, it was no crime to resist Japan, the people of the whole nation supported us and that we were sure to win our freedom.

### In and After the War

Soon, the full-scale War of Resistance to Japan broke out and great changes took place in the domestic political situation. As Soong Ching Ling campaigned busily for our release, the "go to prison to save the nation" movement came into nationwide prominence, and the Kuomintang government released us on July 31, 1937.

**I**N 1938, representing the National Salvation Associations, I took part in the meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee held on Mount Lushan. The committee was a united front one, including women from all walks of life. It had been founded after the opening of the period of the second Kuomintang-Communist co-operation and its purpose was to mobilize women to join the resistance and to protect the interests of women and children. Many progressive women like Deng Yingchao, Shen Zijiu and Liu Qingyang, took part in the work of the Women's Advisory Committee. Soong Ching Ling gave it warm praise and support to its work. In 1942 in her article "The Chinese Women's Fight for Freedom", she introduced the committee's work to the whole country.

The struggle within the committee was acute. But, influenced, supported, and promoted by Soong Ching Ling, Deng Yingchao and others, it played its due role in the great struggle for national liberation.

After the victory in the Anti-Japanese War, Soong Ching Ling opposed civil war, appealed to the American people to

stop their government from giving military aid to the Kuomintang, and stood for the immediate organization of a coalition government. It must be a real coalition government, she argued, not one formed by representatives of the Kuomintang alone. This coincided with the political aim of the China Democratic League in which I worked at that time.

### After the Liberation

Throughout her lifetime, Soong Ching Ling had faith in the majority of the people and always stood together with them. When I went to see her in Shanghai on the day after the liberation of that city in 1949, she grasped my hands and told me joyfully: "It is good to be liberated. I predicted the defeat of the Kuomintang, because it adopted a hostile attitude towards the people, opposed and oppressed them. The victory of the Communist Party is natural because the Party represents

and shows love for the people and seeks happiness for them."

Soon, Soong Ching Ling was elected vice-chairman of the Central People's Government in which I was appointed to be Minister of Justice. She lived in Shanghai then, but we met whenever she came to Beijing. Always concerned for women and children, she founded and headed the China Welfare Institute. Once she told me: "In the past, you defended many cases involving Communist Party members and other progressives. Now the country is liberated and great changes have taken place in the status of women, but, due to the influence of the feudal system and feudal ideas that have persisted for thousands of years, the position of women needs to be further improved. In your legal work, you must pay more attention to the protection of the interests of women and children and speak for them." □



January 1932: With Cai Tingkai, commander of the 19th Route Army, Soong Ching Ling visits a battlefield near Shanghai during that army's resistance to the Japanese invasion of the city.

# Freed with Soong Ching Ling's Aid

XU DEHENG

**I**N the early 1930s I was teaching at Beijing University. After the Japanese invasion of China's northeast in September 1931 came a big student movement to resist Japan and save the nation. In the autumn of 1932, Chiang Kai-shek set up the Third Gendarme Regiment under his nephew Chiang Xiaoxian and sent it to Beiping (as Beijing was then called) to put down the patriotic students and teachers. In December, I was arrested and put in the regiment's own jail, together with professors Ma Zhemin of the Beiping Normal University and Hou Wailu of Beijing University's School of Business Law.

When my wife found where we were and gave the news to the newspapers it aroused a storm of protest in the universities and among the public. We got messages of support from all over the country. On December 16, Soong Ching Ling, Cai Yuanpei, one of China's most outstanding educationists and head of the *Academia Sinica*, and Yang Xingfo, secretary-general of that institution, who were founders of the China League for Civil Rights and, respectively, its chairman, vice-chairman and secretary-general, sent a telegram to the Kuomintang government protesting its violation of law and human rights and demanding that we and other teachers and students be released.

The very day Yang Xingfo arrived in Beiping he came with my wife to visit me in prison. "We are taking part in a patriotic movement," I said. "The government doesn't fight the enemy but persecutes us patriots. If I am guilty of love for

my country I'm ready to stay in jail forever. But I am not guilty of any crime. So the government owes me an apology."

Word got around that the students of the two universities were planning to go on strike. Zhang Xueliang, known as the "Young Marshal" controlled the city at the time. Previously he had sided with Chiang Kai-shek. But now he was turning against him for passively accepting the Japanese invasion of his home base in northeast China. Zhang also feared that the situation would get out of hand if the students went on strike. So he ordered my release.

Soon after I got out of prison, Yang Xingfo asked me to join the China League for Civil Rights, and I did, immediately. A Beiping branch was set up and I was elected to its nine-member executive committee.

**D**URING those dark years Soong Ching Ling devoted herself to defending civil rights

and freeing jailed revolutionaries. Among those whose release the league won, by providing defense lawyers, were Liao Chengzhi, Chen Geng, later the Chief Commander of Taiyue military area of the Eighth Route Army, the woman writer Ding Ling and the foreign Noulens couple.

In statements and writings Soong Ching Ling sternly exposed Chiang's reign of terror, his gross violation of human rights, and the massacre of revolutionaries by his secret agents.

In 1933 these agents assassinated Yang Xingfo. Their aim was to intimidate Soong Ching Ling and Cai Yuanpei.

Soong Ching Ling, in response, issued a public statement saying, "We cannot be intimidated. On the contrary, the penalty Yang Quan (Yang Xingfo) paid for his love of liberty inspires us to fight with greater resolution until we achieve our aim." □

February 1924: Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Soong Ching Ling (fourth and third from left, front row) at a memorial ceremony for Lenin in Guangzhou.



**XU DEHENG** is a Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee and Chairman of the Jiu San Society, one of the democratic parties.

# Devotion to Women and Children

KANG KEQING

**W**HEN I was a young girl we heard many stories about Soong Ching Ling. One that circulated in 1926, when the revolutionary Northern Expedition was surging ahead against the warlords, was that she would lead an army of women soldiers across the Ganjiang

**KANG KEQING** is a member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Chairman of the All-China Women's Federation, and Vice-Chairman of the National Committee in Defence of Children.

River near my home in Jiangxi province. I wanted very much to join this army. The story turned out not to be true. But it was an indication of how the people placed their hopes in her.

After liberation in 1949 I had the chance to do women's and child-care work under her leadership. I learned much from her. The better I got to know her, the more my respect and admiration for her grew.

**W**AY back in 1913 when Soong Ching Ling was studying in the U.S., she wrote an essay entitled "Modern Chinese Women". She maintained that in order to improve the position of half of the human population, that of the other half had to be improved too. During the Northern Expedition of 1925-27 she called on the women of China to be active in the national revolution. Women were part of the nation, she pointed out, and so women's liberation was part of its revolution. In order to win freedom and equality for the whole Chinese nation, women should join it too. Her call won a wide response among women at that time.

In spring 1949, at the First National Women's Congress of China held on the eve of the liberation of the whole country, Comrade Soong Ching Ling was elected Honorary Chairman of the All-China Women's Federation. At subsequent national women's congresses she encouraged Chinese women to constantly raise their socialist consciousness, overcome the shortcomings and weaknesses the old society had left them with, and take an active part in building up the country. In 1978, despite her age she attended the Fourth National Women's Congress, and pledged to work hard with other delegates to build China into a strong, modern socialist country.



Soong Ching Ling with Yi nationality peasant women in Kunming, 1955.



Soong Ching Ling accepts honorary doctorate from the University of Victoria, May, 1981. Kang Keqing presents her with a bouquet.

Children was established, Soong Ching Ling was elected its chairman. She donated the royalties for her book *The Struggle for New China* to the committee as a fund for children's welfare. In spring 1979, ignoring her poor health, she attended the annual meeting of the committee. There she made an important speech, stressing that everyone should share the responsibility of caring for the children, and extended her cordial greetings to the child-care workers in Taiwan. "We are very concerned about the children in Taiwan," she said. "We must work hard for the early return of Taiwan and the unification of our motherland." □

**T**HROUGHOUT her life Soong Ching Ling worked in the interest of children. During the anti-Japanese war, we in the Yan'an area had to look after the children of revolutionaries who had been killed, or who were away fighting in the people's army. Conditions were very hard, and we were often short of medicines and other supplies. Soong Ching Ling managed to get medicines and materials through the enemy's blockade for the children in the liberated areas.

After the founding of the new China, the China Welfare Institute, with Soong Ching Ling as its chairman, set up, among its many subsidiary units, the Children's Art Theatre, a children's library, a nursery and kindergarten, the Shanghai Children's Palace and the magazine *Children's Epoch*, much loved by young readers. In 1951, when Soong Ching Ling received the Stalin International Peace Prize, she used the money to build the International Peace Maternity and Child Health Hospital in Shanghai.

In 1951, when the National Committee in Defence of

Soong Ching Ling at the celebration of the 70th anniversary of International Women's Day sponsored by the All-China Women's Federation on March 8, 1980.



# Help As Timely As Coal in Midwinter

SHEN QIZHEN

**D**URING China's war against Japanese aggression (1937-45) I headed the medical service of the New Fourth Army, operating along the lower Chang-jiang (Yangtze) River. Like the Eighth Route Army in the north, it was a successor to the old Chinese Red Army, and fought largely on the most perilous fronts, in the rear of the enemy. But Chiang Kai-shek, who was opposing the foreign invaders in name only while in fact trying to bring about the destruction of all Communist-led forces, kept us short of pay and equipment, including medical supplies. However, through the China Defence League, headed by Soong Ching Ling, we received

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Dr. SHEN QIZHEN is now vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Medical Science.

large quantities of medicines, instruments, blankets and other hospital needs.

Since we fought incessantly, our casualties were heavy. In many cases, we doctors had to work with makeshifts, such as instruments of bamboo. Besides the troops, the local people looked to us for treatment when ill. This made our need for supplies all the greater.

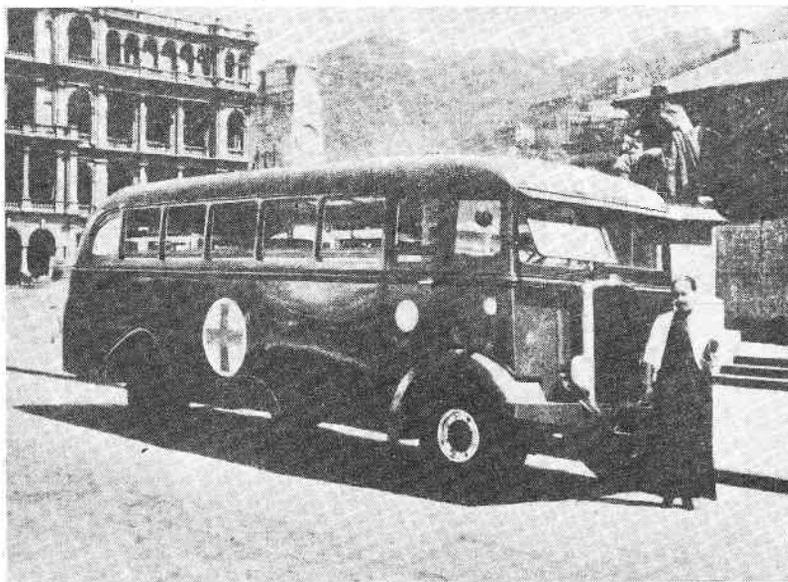
In 1938, Agnes Smedley, the American progressive writer, spent some months with our New Fourth Army. She suggested that we go for help to a group of Chinese patriots and foreign friends in Shanghai, who were working with Soong Ching Ling and the China Defence League. General Ye Ting, who commanded our army, sent me secretly through the Japanese lines to Shanghai to make

contact. I carried a letter typed by Agnes Smedley sewn into my coat, and some reels of home movie film I myself had shot, recording life and medical work in our army.

In Shanghai, only the International Settlement was not yet under Japanese occupation. There, after avoiding the surrounding enemy, I made myself known to sympathetic Americans like Talitha Gerlach, then volunteer secretary of the China Defence League group in Shanghai, (now of the China Welfare Institute) to whom I gave the film for exhibition and John B. Powell, editor of the anti-Japanese *China Weekly Review*, as well as other well-wishers, Chinese, British and of other nationalities.

With the financial and other help of these friends, access was gained to the very considerable reserves of medical supplies in Shanghai, and their secret transport through the enemy lines was organized. They included X-ray equipment, surgical instruments, a variety of drugs including the new remedy *Prontosil*, one of the most effective means of dealing with wound infections in those times. Also we moved in blankets and some educational supplies.

In 1939 I made my way with General Ye Ting himself to Hongkong, where we met Soong Ching Ling. She asked us to her apartment. She wore a dress of simple material, the strong black silk popular among the Guangdong people. Her home was frugal without a cook, and she had to invite one from the home of her brother, T.A. Soong, to make some special dishes for



1939: Soong Ching Ling in Hongkong with an ambulance presented by Sir John Thornyeroff. It was taken to Yan'an accompanied by James Bertram of New Zealand, then with the China Defence League, and medical personnel including Dr. Hans Muller, who still works in China.

us. We talked about the situation at home and abroad and about our army's needs. Later she went with me and people working in the China Defence League, to pack a large volume of supplies held ready for us in a warehouse. We worked for several days. Soon after General Ye and I returned to the army, all this material was delivered through channels arranged in Hongkong. "Aid as timely as coal to the snowbound", said our commanders and fighters.

In 1941, Chiang Kai-shek perfidiously ordered an attack on our troops as they were moving across the Changjiang (Yangtze) to fight the Japanese. This was the notorious "South Anhui Incident", in which our headquarters was destroyed, large numbers of our people were killed, General Ye Ting was captured, and the entire cause of national resistance was imperiled by the threat of a renewed all-out civil war. Soong Ching Ling, with He Xiangning and other old associates of Sun Yat-sen, issued

a declaration denouncing Chiang and demanding that he immediately halt hostilities against Communist-led forces. The China Defence League gave publicity to the event worldwide. Soong Ching Ling was eager to see someone from the New Fourth Army to learn all the facts. General Chen Yi, whom the Party had appointed acting commander of the New Fourth Army, and Comrade Liu Shaoqi, then its political director, sent me again to Hongkong to see her.

"Do we still have strength after such heavy losses", was her first question. I gave her the message from Chen Yi and Liu Shaoqi, that our army could stand, and that there was no need to worry about the whole situation—the Central Committee and Chairman Mao were still in Yan'an."

"Ah, Yan'an. . ." she said and her face lighted up. She got to work immediately assembling new supplies for our medical service. And, I remember, she said to me that as there were

many married couples working in our army they should have birth-control devices so that they should not have babies to worry about while they worked and fought. With the British secretary of the China Defence League, I went to the Hongkong birth control centre and obtained the devices.

Still later, when I followed Comrade Liu Shaoqi to Yan'an, we saw Chairman Mao and reported to him the concern and help we had received from Soong Ching Ling. He praised her very highly.

Not only did Soong Ching Ling and the China Defence League assist many resistance bases in the anti-Japanese war, but she continued her large-scale help to our liberated areas during the subsequent War of Liberation. This aid had to be given even more secretly than before. Yet so abundant was it that I remember that, in a shift of our forces in the East China military area alone, 500 men were needed to carry the medical supplies she had been instrumental in providing. □

## Fostered by Her Concern

*While Soong Ching Ling lay seriously ill, the postman delivered at least a hundred letters a day to her house, expressing appreciation and solicitude. They came from all parts of China and many other countries; they were written by people aged 7 to over 90. Below are excerpts from four of these letters, from people she had helped as children:*

### SECOND MOTHER

Now I'm already over fifty. Though I've never really seen you, I think of you as my mother. My natural mother gave me my first life, and you gave me my second.

It happened in the autumn of 1938 after the Japanese invaders occupied Wuhan. To rescue children from becoming slaves of the Japanese, you established a home for child refugees. Because both my parents were terribly ill, I was sent to the home at the age of 10. That September, we were all transported to Guangzhou. On the way I caught a cold, which turned into acute pneumonia by the time we arrived. On the second or the third morning, I felt somebody touching my forehead. I heard a voice: "Why hasn't this child been sent to hospital with such high fever?" That evening, I was moved to

the Red Cross Hospital—the best in Guangzhou. When I came to, the nurses on duty told me Madame Sun had asked them to try everything to save me. "Child," they said, "if it hadn't been for Mother Sun, you'd have been gone already."

Years later, a few of us who had studied well at the children's home were admitted to Jiaotong University. Today, I'm a teacher at the Nanchang Institute of Aeronautics. I do my best to train talented youths for the four modernizations. Thank you for giving me my second life.

KUANG YINGDONG  
Nanchang, Jiangxi province



Soong Ching Ling gives personal guidance to Wu Fan, then aged 7, at a literacy class run by the China Welfare Fund in 1947.

### THE BOY IN THE PICTURE

The photo of you teaching a boy to read evokes happy memories for me — I was that boy. The photo was taken when I was 7 years old, a pupil at Shanghai's Jiaozhou Road Primary School.

At the time, the Chiang Kai-shek government was busy with civil war and the life of the people was bitter. While appealing for an end to the war, you worked for the welfare of China's children, setting up three stations for the purpose in Shanghai, one of which was near our school.

The station put up two Quonset huts beside our playground: one was used as a clinic where we got free medical care, and the other as a reading room. Each of us was given a cup of milk and a package of fried peanuts every day. You often came to inspect the station's work.

Once, while I was in the reading room, you came and sat beside me. You asked me about the picture I was looking at, and whether I could read the words under it. I replied that I knew some but not all of them. As you taught me the new words, a foreigner took the photo.

Now I am an engineer, but I still always think of you, Mother Soong and express my heartfelt gratitude to you for your care and guidance.

WU FAN  
Chengdu, Sichuan province

### "WHEN DID YOU WASH YOUR HAIR?"

When New China was founded in 1949, I was only 3 years old, a pupil in the kindergarten run by the China Welfare Institute. You often came to see us. You were so kind to us and told us to do as our teachers said and study hard.

I was fortunate to have a chance in 1954 to accompany you on a trip to Qingdao, to the Lushan mountains, to Nanjing and Zekou with my father. Throughout the trip you gave me your love and care. During our stay in Nanjing, we had a picture taken together.

I remember that afterwards, you asked me how long it had been since I'd washed my hair, and whether I could wash by myself. I realized that my hair must be very dirty because I hadn't washed it for a long time. At the time my mother was

very busy with her work and I was too young to do it.

Now my son is already the same age as I was when I took the picture with you. I ask him to wash his hair very often and cultivate good habits of personal hygiene.

Thirty years have passed and I am now an English teacher at the Beijing Industrial College. But I still preserve the books and toys you gave me.

GUAN YIQIAN  
Beijing

### HELPED TO BE A PAINTER

I studied for many years with the painting group at the Shanghai Children's Palace run by the China Welfare Institute. I knew that you were very interested in the education of teen-agers. Now I teach painting in a middle school in Zhengzhou and also write teaching materials for the city's middle schools. My goal is to create a curriculum that will help our young people develop morally, intellectually, physically and aesthetically — goals I know you share. This is what I can do to express my thanks for your care and teaching.

XU LUN  
Zhengzhou, Henan province

Soong Ching Ling and 8-year-old Guan Yiqian in 1954.





Soong Ching Ling feeding pigeons in her home.

