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cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 August, 1984

Dear Sir Denis,

Thank you for your letter of 25 July about the revised arrangements for the Tenth Anniversary reception of the Great Britain China Centre. I am grateful for the renewed invitation.

As your staff have, I understand, discussed with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my programme for 23 October has unfortunately already been rendered very full by President Mitterrand's State Visit. I am therefore very sorry that I will not be able to attend your reception. I gather that Sir Geoffrey Howe will be writing to you shortly to confirm that he will be able to attend. He will certainly carry my own best wishes for the future success of the Centre. I am sure it will continue to play a valuable and expanding role in promoting understanding and exchange between Britain and China under your Chairmanship, on which I warmly congratulate you.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Sir D. Hamilton, DSO TD.

ea.



GCPC

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 August, 1984

Dear David,

GH
pre type
A.

Great Britain China Centre (GBCC)

Charles Powell wrote on 1 August about Sir Denis Hamilton's invitation to the Prime Minister to attend the Tenth Anniversary reception of the GBCC on 23 October. I apologise for this late reply.

We have discussed the invitation informally with the GBCC. They appreciated the Prime Minister's timetable difficulties and declared themselves willing to move the reception to a date which would suit her better. However, I understand that in practice the GBCC have found that this would prove impossible without considerable disruption. They are therefore content that the Foreign Secretary (who has already accepted an invitation in principle, and will be writing to Sir D Hamilton to confirm his acceptance on his return from leave) should be the principal guest from HMG; they are not therefore expecting a positive response from the Prime Minister. For our part, although there remains some uncertainty about the probable state of UK-China relations at the time of the reception, we believe that the Prime Minister's absence could not conceivably do any political damage. In the circumstances, we therefore see no necessity for her to make even a brief appearance on what will clearly be a very busy day.

/ I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Sir D Hamilton.

Yours Sincerely,
Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

David Barclay Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM

Reference

PM

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Sir D Hamilton DSO TD
 Chairman
 Great Britain-China Centre
 15 Belgrave Square
 London SW1X 8PS

CAVEAT

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for your letter of 25 July about the revised arrangements for the Tenth Anniversary reception of the Great Britain China Centre. I am grateful for the renewed invitation.

As your staff have, I understand, discussed with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my programme for 23 October has unfortunately already been rendered very full by President Mitterrand's State Visit. I therefore ^{in response} ~~regret~~ ^{very sorry} that I will not be able to attend your reception. ~~I hope this will not cause undue disappointment.~~ I gather that Sir Geoffrey Howe will be writing to you shortly to confirm that he will be able to attend. He will certainly carry my own best wishes for the future success of the Centre. I am sure it will continue to play a valuable and expanding role in promoting understanding and exchange between Britain and China under your Chairmanship, on which I warmly congratulate you.

Enclosures—flag(s).....



File
CCPC
[Signature]

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 August 1984

Great Britain and China Centre

Peter Ricketts' letter of 29 June offered further advice on whether the Prime Minister should attend the Tenth Anniversary Reception of the Great Britain and China Centre once the Centre had set a firm date for the event.

I now enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Sir Denis Hamilton saying that the date has been fixed for 23 October.

It would not be at all easy for the Prime Minister to attend a reception on that day. As you will be aware, it falls during President Mitterrand's State Visit and there is a State Banquet at Buckingham Palace that evening. On the other hand, if the negotiations over Hong Kong have been successfully concluded - and the results of the Secretary of State's recent visit suggest that they will be - there will no doubt be a strong political case for the Prime Minister to make at the least a brief appearance.

I should be grateful for further advice, bearing in mind the difficulties for the Prime Minister to attend.

BFI

C D Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

[Signature]



THE GREAT BRITAIN - CHINA CENTRE

15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS
telephone: 01-235 6696/9216

ccpk
President
The Lord Trevelyan KG GCMG CIE OBE

25 July 1984

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

£300 Mrs
Dear Prime Minister

You will remember that I wrote to you in March about the Great Britain - China Centre's Tenth Anniversary celebration. For a variety of reasons we did not hold the reception in July and the date is now fixed for Tuesday October 23rd at 6.30 pm at the Royal Festival Hall.

I appreciate the kind remarks you made in your letter of 4th April about the Centre's work and the importance of maintaining the best possible relations with China. I realise that it is too early to ask you for a firm commitment but hope that the date of our reception can be noted in your diary. We would be delighted if you could be present on the occasion.

Since I wrote to you last I have been elevated to the position of Chairman of the Centre's Executive Committee.

Yours very sincerely
Denis Hamilton

Sir Denis Hamilton
Chairman

Relatras
China

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cc/PC

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16
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CDP
29/6



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 June 1984

Dear Charles,

Great Britain-China Centre

In my letter of 2 April I promised you further advice in June on whether it would be desirable for the Prime Minister to accept the invitation from Sir Denis Hamilton to attend the tenth anniversary reception of the Great Britain-China Centre. It was expected then that this would be held during the summer. However, the Centre is now planning to postpone it until around October when the Chinese Ambassador will be back from leave. I understand that Sir D Hamilton will be writing again to the Prime Minister once a firm decision on dates has been taken, probably next month. We shall of course consider then what further advice we might offer.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

P F Ricketts
Private Secretary

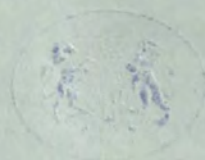
C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

China : Sino-British Relations 177.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH





10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 April 1984

Dear Sir Denis.

Thank you for your letter of 19 March and for the invitation to your proposed reception to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Great Britain-China Centre.

I have the highest regard for the valuable work done by the Centre. As you know, we are working hard with the Chinese to achieve a satisfactory outcome to the Hong Kong negotiations, and it is important that these negotiations should take place against a background of the best possible relations with China.

Unfortunately I do not think that I can give you a commitment at this stage to attending a reception in July. I doubt whether I shall be able to take a decision until the month of June at the earliest. But I shall keep your invitation in mind, and hope that you will be able to put up with a degree of uncertainty for the time being.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Sir Denis Hamilton, D.S.O., T.D.

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6



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 April 1984

*Type letter pl.**A.C. 2/4.**Dear John,*Great Britain - China Centre

Thank you for your letter of 27 March.

In normal circumstances we might wish to recommend that the Prime Minister should consider marking the Government's approval of the Great Britain - China Centre, whose activities and aims we strongly support, by attending the reception to celebrate its tenth anniversary. It might also be desirable for her to attend as a signal of support for contacts with China if, at the same time, discussions with the Chinese over Hong Kong were going particularly well. But we cannot tell at this stage whether this is likely to be the case. Nor would it be advisable for the Prime Minister to go out of her way to attend a reception of this sort if the Hong Kong discussions were in difficulties. We agree, therefore, that it would be wise for the Prime Minister to avoid making any commitment now on whether or not she can attend the reception.

It is difficult to foresee precisely when a decision will be possible. The likelihood is that we shall not be able to offer a firm recommendation until June. We shall arrange to have the papers brought up then so that we can offer you further advice.

/ I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister to
/ Sir Denis Hamilton. I am also returning the enclosures
to your letter, as you asked.

*Yours ever,**Peter Ricketts*(P F Ricketts)
Private SecretaryA J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: ~~minute~~/letter/teleletter/despatch/note
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: Sir Denis Hamilton DSO TD
The Great Britain - China Centre
15 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8PS

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 19 March and for the invitation to your proposed reception to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Great Britain - China Centre.

CAVEAT.....

I have the highest regard for the valuable work done by the Centre, ~~in developing relations with China~~. As you know we are working hard with the Chinese to achieve a satisfactory outcome to the Hong Kong negotiations, and it is important that these negotiations should take place against a background of the best possible relations with China, ~~on a broad front~~.

Unfortunately I do not think that I can give you a commitment at this stage to attending a reception in July.

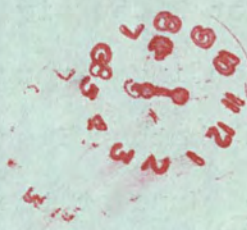
I doubt whether I shall be

Enclosures—flag(s).....

able to ^{take a decision} / until the month of June at the earliest. ^{but} your invitation ~~However~~ I shall keep / in mind, and hope that you will be able to put up with a degree of uncertainty for the time being.

Handwritten signature
2/4

China
Sino-Brit
Relations
May 79



12 APR 1984



10 DOWNING STREET

MR. RICKETTS, FCO

Please could you return
enclosures with your advice.
Thanks.

With the compliments of

Garden Rooms

27 March 1984

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 March 1984

GREAT BRITAIN/CHINA CENTRE

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Sir Denis Hamilton asking whether Mrs. Thatcher would attend a reception in July to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Great Britain/China Centre.

BF
I should be grateful for advice. My own view is that the Prime Minister should not commit herself now to attending what is clearly intended to be a fairly major celebration of Anglo/Chinese relations. Depending on the progress made in the Hong Kong negotiations, this could be embarrassing at the time. We could perhaps tell Sir Denis Hamilton that the Prime Minister could make no commitment until very much nearer the time and that he should make his arrangements in the knowledge that she might not be able to attend. (We would explain informally the reason for this).

A. J. COLES

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

E. COLES

The attached letter from Sir Denis Hamilton invites the Prime Minister to look in at a Reception in July to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Great Britain-China Centre.

As you know, July is a very busy month. On Monday, 16 July, the Prime Minister attends one of her regular Plowden Group dinners, and is, coincidentally, free beforehand. Alternative dates are almost impossible, as there are so many receptions that month.

Perhaps we could have another word when you have received FCO advice.

CR.

26 March, 1984.



Enclosures sent to Fco -
to be returned with their advice.

Acted 26/3

THE GREAT BRITAIN - CHINA CENTRE

15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS
telephone: 01-235 6696/9216

President

The Lord Trevelyan KG GCMG CIE OBE

Vice President

Sir Harold Thompson CBE FRS

Chairman

Sir John Addis KCMG

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street,
London SW1.

26
19 March 1984

Dear Prime Minister

I am one of the Vice Chairmen of the Executive Committee of the Great Britain - China Centre which is celebrating its tenth Anniversary this year. We are planning to celebrate the event by holding a reception in July, and it would add immeasurably to the importance and pleasure of the event if you could be present. As I am sure you will appreciate, the Chinese would see your presence as an indication of the extreme importance which the British Government should and, I hope, does, attach to developing relations with China and to a satisfactory outcome to the Hong Kong negotiations. And quite apart from the diplomatic aspect, we intend to make the occasion as enjoyable as possible and to invite all those people who are active in all areas of Sino-British relations.

We have not yet decided on a date for the reception, which would probably start at 6 p.m. as I wanted to sound you out first as to whether you would be willing to come, and what dates would suit you best. The Centre was officially opened on the 16 July, 1974 by Jim Callaghan and the then Chinese Ambassador, and it would be very nice if we could hold the reception on or about that date somewhere in the Whitehall area.

Over the past ten years the Great Britain - China Centre has done a great deal of work to further contacts between Britain and China in a wide range of subjects. The staff of the Centre lecture on all aspects of China and the Centre's staff give advice to anyone who needs information on China. All this is done on an absurdly low budget. I know that the Executive Committee, staff and members of the Centre would be delighted if you would attend the reception as an indication of the Government's appreciation of the Centre's work.

We have been most unfortunate in losing our founders, who were all great men - Malcolm McDonald, Sir John Addis, Sir John Keswick and Professor Sir Harold Thompson, sadly, have all died recently and Lord Trevelyan, our present President, has been very ill for a long time. Hence my signature - I only qualify because, as you remember, I sponsored the Chinese Exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1973. We are in touch with several leading men and women who are authorities on Chinese affairs to form the next generation. Your presence, even for 15 minutes, would be a great boost.

Yours very sincerely

Denis Hamitho



**THE
GREAT BRITAIN-CHINA
CENTRE**

15 Belgrave Square

London, SW1X 8PG

The Great Britain-China Centre

The Great Britain-China Centre was opened in July 1974 by the then Foreign Secretary, Mr James Callaghan. Its predecessor, the Great Britain-China Committee cooperated with the "Times Newspapers" to organise the highly successful exhibition of Chinese Archaeological finds at the Royal Academy in 1973. The profits from the exhibition were used to set up the Centre and also an Educational Trust Fund.

What the Centre does

The Centre is a non-political organization which exists to promote closer cultural, social, scientific, medical, educational and other contacts between Britain and China, and to encourage mutual knowledge and understanding.

A major part of our work is the organization of visits by small specialist delegations and individuals to and from China. Over the past years these have included such diverse fields as metal corrosion and protection, journalism, ballet and music, fine arts, forestry, agricultural engineering, occupational medicine. Although our delegations are not primarily involved in trade, by the nature of the fields covered, opportunities for trade have arisen from these visits. The Centre occasionally arranges small-scale exhibitions.

As direct contacts between the two countries increase, the Centre's staff find that they are giving an increasing amount of advice both to individuals and organizations on most aspects of China, ranging from recent political and social developments to information on professional organizations. There is considerable demand from schools and from other educational establishments, professional bodies, women's organizations and the media for the Centre to provide speakers on various aspects of China.

Membership of the Centre

Membership of the Centre is open to British subjects who share its aims. Corporate membership is open to British firms and other organizations with similar interests. A subscription is charged for membership which is at the discretion of the Executive Committee of the Great Britain-China Centre. Talks on many different aspects of Chinese current affairs, society and history are held at the Centre at regular intervals for members. Members are also given the opportunity to meet each other on a social basis. A Newsletter "Britain-China" is published three times a year for distribution to members, carrying reports of incoming and outgoing delegations, full accounts of lectures held at the Centre, details of exchanges between Britain and China and other information of interest.

Administration of the Centre

The Centre is an independent organization supported by Her Majesty's Government, Her Majesty's Opposition, by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, The British Council, The Royal Society, the Universities and other bodies with similar aims and interests. The Centre is governed by an Executive Committee which includes representatives of the above bodies and is run by a small permanent staff which includes Chinese speakers. The Centre receives an annual grant-in-aid from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

Where the Centre is

The Great Britain-China Centre, 15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG (telephone nos. 01-235 6696 and 01-235 9216), is on the northwest corner of Belgrave Square near the junction with Halkin Place. It is about five minutes walk from Hyde Park Corner and Knightsbridge stations on the Piccadilly line and ten minutes from Victoria station. Bus numbers 9, 14, 19, 22, 30, 52, 52A, 73, 74 and 137 all run along Knightsbridge.

Executive Committee

President

The Lord Trevelyan K.G., G.C.M.G., C.I.E., O.B.E.

Vice President:

Professor Sir Harold Thompson C.B.E., F.R.S.

Chairman:

To be appointed.

Vice Chairmen:

Sir John Buckley F.R.S.A.

Sir Denis Hamilton D.S.O.

Mr Brian Hook

Honorary Treasurer:

Sir John Buckley F.R.S.A.

A full list of Committee Members is available on request. It includes Members of Parliament, representatives of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, The British Council, The British Academy, The Royal Society, the Department of Education and Science and representatives of academic, cultural and commercial circles.

Centre Staff

Director:

Miss Elizabeth Wright M.A.

Deputy Director:

Ms Penny Brooke B.A., Dip.Chin.

Personal Assistant:

Miss Annabel Youngson B.Sc.

Britain-China

Newsletter of the Great Britain - China Centre
15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG



Newsletter No. 24

Autumn/Winter 1983

DEATH OF SIR HAROLD THOMPSON

The sudden death of Sir Harold Thompson, Vice President of the Great Britain-China Centre on the 31 December 1983 ended the year on a very sad note both for his family and for all those who knew him. Aged 75 when he died Sir Harold had played a very active role in fields as diverse as chemical research, university administration, China and football.

He gained a first class Natural Science (Chemistry) degree from Trinity College, Oxford, and after a period of research in Germany was granted a Phil.D (Berlin). He then returned to Oxford to continue an unbroken career there at St John's College. From 1964-75 he was Professor of Chemistry at Oxford University and subsequently Emeritus Professor. He was one of the pioneers in the field of infra-red spectroscopy and his contributions to research in that field were immense. During the Second World War he carried out chemical research for the Ministry of Supply and the Ministry of Aircraft Production, and after the war he continued to serve on the Scientific Advisory Council and the Medical Research Council. He published innumerable papers in his field of expertise.

He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1946, was twice a Vice President and concurrently Foreign Secretary from 1965-1971. It was in his capacity as an officer of the Royal Society that he made his first two visits to China in 1962 and 1974. Sir Harold was one of the founding members of the Great Britain-China Committee and became Chairman of the Centre in 1974 when it was set up and held the post until 1980, when he became its Vice President. He was Chairman of the Great Britain-China Educational Trust from 1974 until his death. In 1979 he visited China with a small group from the Centre's Executive Committee which had a meeting with Deng Xiaoping. Although his interests in science and football took up a great deal of his time and frequently took him abroad he was a most conscientious Chairman of the Centre and was always ready to give sound, shrewd advice to the Centre's staff. He was an excellent host at receptions held at the Centre, although one sometimes had the impression that the Chinese were somewhat confused by the many professional hats which he wore, and the way that football got honourable mention in all his speeches! He was delighted to be able to combine his love for football with his interest in China by arranging for a British First Division Football Team, West Bromwich Albion, to visit China in 1978. A former Oxford Blue, he was devoted to the game and was Chairman of the Football Association from 1976 for five years. He held strong views on many aspects of the game, including football hooligans. He also did sterling work on the Executive Committee of the British Council from 1966-1980. In recognition of his services to Britain he was awarded the CBE in 1959 and a knighthood in 1968. Many other countries also honoured him, including France, with the Légion d'Honneur and the German Federal Republic, with the Grand Service Cross.

Like so many Yorkshiremen he was a county chauvinist, and exhibited many of those characteristics of which the people of Yorkshire are so proud – hard-headedness, shrewdness, strong opinions, financial acumen and a well-developed sense of humour. Whilst he had a tendency to squash faint-hearted opposition he respected those who stood up to him. He frequently exhibited a gloom and pessimism that was both unconvincing and endearing and which one could never take very seriously. He had driving energy that kept him going through the onset of his illness. But above all he was a man of enormous integrity who will be much missed.

Elizabeth Wright

VISIT TO BRITAIN BY A CHINESE PRINTMAKER

A report by Richard Riley, Co-Director of the Manchester Print Workshop

Professor Li Hongren and Mr Wang Hongjian of the Central Academy of Fine Art, Peking arrived in Britain on 26 June for a three month visit at the invitation of the Great Britain-China Centre. The main purpose of the visit was for Professor Li, a practitioner and lecturer in the art of stone lithography, to spend two months at Manchester Print Workshop familiarising himself with modern printmaking techniques. Mr Wang, an art historian, accompanied him in the capacity of interpreter.

Manchester Print Workshop was founded in 1976 with the aim of providing printmaking facilities of a high standard for artists in the North-west of England. Housed in large premises belonging to the University of Salford the workshop specialises in the areas of silkscreen, lithography, etching and process photography. Over the years there has been

assistance from the Arts Council and North-west Arts in the way of capital funding, but there has never been any revenue funding; income has been derived from editioning fine prints and general commercial printing.

For the past eighteen months the workshop has been run by Steve Barraclough and myself, both of us practising artists who specialise in different fields of printmaking: Steve in etching and direct lithography, whilst silkscreen is my speciality.

It had originally been planned for two practising artists to visit the workshop, Professor Li and Mr Wang Weixin. Unfortunately as neither spoke English it was decided that Mr Wang would have to be replaced by the English speaking Mr Wang Hongjian. Professor Li then had the whole workshop and our technical assistance to himself as we had decided to close the workshop for normal business and concentrate solely on the Chinese visit. Professor Li took his visit very seriously, wanting to take home as much practical information as possible, especially in the areas involving photo mechanical processes which were completely new to him.

The workshop is housed just off the main campus of Salford University and though we have no attachment to the University other than occupying one of their buildings we have always maintained good relations with them and tried to keep them well informed of any major new steps we might be undertaking. They were extremely interested in the visit of Professor Li, and finding accommodation in a hall of residence proved no problem at all. The rooms provided were approximately fifteen minutes walk from the workshop, a walk which was routed through Peel Park, Salford, and this was to be the inspiration for Professor Li's first print – a screenprint in five colours incorporating photo mechanical stencil-making processes finished at the end of the second week.

Throughout their stay Mr Wang kept a detailed journal and Professor Li a sketchbook containing quick sketches, notes on various processes with illustrations, and finished drawings and watercolours. Ideas for prints would be jotted down in this book, and as a finished piece of work in its own right the sketchbook was of immense interest to us, displaying the versatility and inquisitive nature of Professor Li. He also photographed anything and everything. It was a constant source of amusement and amazement that any of Professor Li's photographs ever actually came out as he never appeared to check the camera shutter speed or aperture setting but just pointed the camera at whatever he was interested in and pressed the release button. This would frequently be when he was in a moving vehicle or under the most adverse lighting conditions, and yet he had few failures.

Professor Li was eager to see as much as possible regarding the workings and appreciation of the visual arts in this country. He and Mr Wang had already had a busy week in London visiting galleries, colleges and studios prior to joining us in Manchester. In the North-west they saw the Manchester Polytechnic Fine Art Degree Show and were able to have a look round the printmaking department, and made other visits to Salford Art Gallery, Rochdale Art Gallery, Manchester City Gallery and in particular the Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester where they spent a full day being shown a good cross-section of the collection which is particularly strong on watercolours and fine prints.

We felt it would be of great interest for Professor Li to visit Scotland and see the print workshops of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow, all of which receive very generous revenue funding from the Scottish Arts Council and which therefore have been able to develop and flourish accordingly. This funding policy was to prove very difficult for Professor Li and Mr Wang to comprehend, and though we were to spend a great deal of time discussing the policy of the Arts Council towards the funding of print workshops in England as opposed to the Scottish Arts Council's policy towards funding their own workshops, it is understandably difficult to understand and it was clear that they returned to China confused by the whole issue.

Even so the week we spent in Scotland was extremely worthwhile. We hired a minibus and accompanied by Steve's girlfriend Gill and my wife Stephanie set off for the Lake District on a trip designed not only to be informative but to enable Professor Li and Mr Wang to see as much of the countryside of northern Britain as possible. For the first two weeks of their visit to Manchester we had been blessed with the best possible weather, but on that first day out we ran into a terrific thunderstorm accompanied by violent fork lightning. Seated in the minibus overlooking Ullswater with the hills around us surrounded by black clouds and mist it was a dramatic introduction for Professor Li and Mr Wang to the extremes of English weather, and fortunately it was the last we were to encounter.

Our round trip was to take in a visit to Glasgow which was virtually completely closed due to a Scottish public holiday we were unaware of; consequently of our proposed itinerary we were only able to include the Charles Rene Mackintosh exterior of Glasgow School of Art, after which we drove further north and spent the second night in Balloch, a small town on the southern shore of Loch Lomond.

On day three we crossed the country to Edinburgh, visiting Edinburgh Print Workshop, the Print Workshop Gallery, the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and the Botanical Gardens, as well as exploring the city itself. Then on up towards Aberdeen stopping off for two nights eight miles north of Montrose by the National Nature Reserve of St Cymys, a beautiful and deserted stretch of coastline which in August is home to a variety of rare sea birds. We only planned one night here but Professor Li was very excited by the land and seascapes from which he made many drawings and watercolours. Close by was the tiny fishing village of Johnshaven and a drawing of the harbour here was to be Professor Li's first lithograph on our return to the workshop.

In Aberdeen itself we visited the impressive City Gallery and lastly the Peacock Printmakers Workshop. This workshop had almost completed the move into larger premises, it is extremely well equipped and has provided a focal point for artists within the area for nearly ten years. From here we began our journey home, stopping for one more night at Bannockburn outside Stirling.

By the time we had returned from Scotland Professor Li's command of English was so much improved that Mr Wang was able to go off on his own to visit the Manchester galleries, leaving us with Professor Li to get through the working day with very few major translation problems. Professor Li now felt he must really get on with making prints and he worked very hard. Though he would frequently work on well into the night, towards the end of his stay he became somewhat agitated at not having produced enough work nor collected enough information, but in reality this was far from being the case.

As Professor Li had nearly thirty years' working knowledge of the process of stone lithography, it would have appeared that here we could teach him nothing he would not have already encountered. It transpired however that he had always used a crayon drawing technique, either working directly on to the stone or, if working from life, using a transfer paper. Steve was able to introduce Professor Li to the litho wash technique he was himself interested in using, and this was to culminate in perhaps the best piece of work produced during his visit, a three colour stone litho depicting a landscape from the Lake District. A copy of this print was purchased for the print collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum at the end of the three month visit.

In all Professor Li produced ten different prints during his stay at the workshop, three of which were outstanding. Some by Professor Li's own standards were not successful and some were made to explore new processes. It was quite an achievement in the time he had.

Professor Li was a delightful person to work with, possessing a disarmingly curious nature. Everyone he met warmed to him immediately and our two month collaboration was not only extremely beneficial to us but very enjoyable.

Our last meeting with Professor Li and Mr Wang was at the Great Britain-China Centre on 16 September, just two weeks after they had returned to London from Manchester, during which time they had been introduced to suppliers of both fine art and commercial printing materials. Professor Li was giving a short talk and showing works by himself and other artists from the Department of Graphic Arts, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Peking. Amongst a small select audience were two representatives from the Print Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum, who after the talk negotiated with Professor Li to purchase two of his prints for their collection. It was a good way in which to round off the visit and very pleasing for us that one of the two prints had been produced in the time spent at the workshop.

CENTRE LECTURES

A JOURNEY TO TIBET by Penny Brooke

6 September 1983

Penny Brooke, Deputy Director of the Centre, visited Tibet for one week in July as a leader of a tour arranged by Voyages Jules Verne. She talked about her impressions of Tibet and the state of tourism there and showed slides of the places visited. The Deputy Director has written a report of her visit which follows:

Tibet has become more accessible to the tourist in the last couple of years and now large agencies such as Voyages Jules Verne organise four to five tours each year. The tourist season in Tibet lasts from April to September and groups always have to be small, with a maximum of a dozen people. The tourist pays a premium for the privilege of visiting Tibet, for the rarity value but also for the cost of better communications and better food than is normally available. The week in Tibet is always part of a longer tour of China, incorporating other tourist centres. In our case our motley international group (amongst the ten of us there were British, Brazilian and German tourists) visited Peking, Xi'an, Chengdu and Guangzhou, as well as Tibet.

Since I went at rather short notice I was not able to read many books on Tibet before I left, and I felt this lack of background particularly when it came to the history of Tibetan Buddhism. Another potential problem I had been warned of was altitude sickness. Flying straight in to a height of around 12,000 feet above sea level allows the body no time to adapt and some people suffer considerably for the first few days as a result. A little research into the subject led me to the drug Diamox (acetazolamide) which counteracts alkalosis, the chemical reaction which causes most of the symptoms of altitude sickness. I took this for a few days before and during my visit to the high plateau and had very little difficulty in adapting to the altitude. (A minor side effect of Diamox, an occasional "fizzy" feeling in the fingers and toes is no problem, once one realises the cause.)

It is an exciting moment taking off in a small Ilyushin 18 from Chengdu, heading due west over inhospitable and seemingly endless ranges of snowy peaks. It is even more exciting when the aeroplane finds its way down into a broad valley to land apparently in the middle of nowhere. The airport is in fact a two and a half hour drive away from Lhasa along a bumpy gravel road. We finally came to rest at the Lhasa Guest House, run by the China Travel Service, where most tourists stay. It is in a compound next to large army barracks some kilometres away from the centre of the town. The accommodation is in separate villas which are reasonably comfortable but with the bedrooms interlocking with the bathroom innermost, requiring complex ablution arrangements. There is a modern central dining room where the cuisine is as varied as the local conditions allow:—there are some fresh vegetables available but no fresh fruit and a lot of tinned food is brought in specially for the tourists to supplement the diet. Local yoghurt on sale in the market is delicious.

All arrangements in Tibet were made by the China Travel Service. Their guides are all Han Chinese, although some of their office staff are Tibetan who help out with interpretation on visits to Tibetan families. One of the tourist minibus drivers was Tibetan and always looked more cheerful and healthy than the others. The Chinese guides I met regarded Tibet as very much a hardship post as it was difficult for them to adapt to the climate, altitude and local customs. The guides are not accompanied by their families but get leave to return home for several months each winter when Tibet is

closed to tourists. The job must be boring for the guides as the standard tourist programme varies very little from week to week, with the same sites seen, probably on exactly the same day, each week. However, I have not heard Chinese guides in other parts complain about the inevitable repetitive nature of their work. This does not mean to say that the guides were unconscientious in their task of introducing the history and background of the famous buildings we visited and they also had a working knowledge of Buddhism and Tibetan history albeit reflecting a Sinocentric view. We were given three rules of behaviour for foreign tourists: we were not to display pictures of the Dalai Lama in public; not to buy precious metal objects or antiques; not to give sweets to children.

Our first visit in Lhasa was to the most holy building in Tibet, the Jokhang Temple, which is at the very centre of the city, the hub of the three sacred circuits (which must always be followed in a clockwise direction). The temple is the object of pilgrims and is also visited daily by devout residents of Lhasa, who make a circuit of the shrines inside, adding yak butter to the innumerable lamps and leaving offerings of grain, money, white scarves or even hairpins. The paving stones at the entrance are highly polished by the devout who can be seen prostrating themselves before the Temple all day long. A privilege reserved for the foreigner is a visit to the roof to have a closer look at the beautifully decorated walls, doors and roofs covered in gold. From here one gets splendid views of Lhasa, with its flat roofed buildings, the thriving market surrounding the Jokhang and in the distance the Potala dominating the whole valley.

We spent a happy morning wandering around the market on the eighth day of the Tibetan month, a holy day, when the streets are busier than usual. A variety of goods were on sale; carpets, clothing, food and all kinds of haberdashery. The items which attracted us were orange-painted wooden tea bowls, unbound Tibetan prayer books printed from woodblocks, cotton printed Buddhist hangings and the bales of juniper branches sold to be burnt around the Sacred Way, its fragrance adding another dimension to the visual excitement of the scene. There was even a Chinese dentist with his wares laid out and drill ready for action.

We made a visit to a Tibetan family in Lhasa where we had our first opportunity to try the famous Tibetan beverages of yak butter tea and *chang* (beer), and our first chance to talk to Tibetans, although this had to be done through double interpretation, English-Chinese-Tibetan and back. The wife was the wage-earner in the family, working as a builder earning 80 yuan per month. She was a Party member but her retired husband was a practising Buddhist as was their adopted daughter. We discovered that half of her monthly income was spent on yak butter which comes from the pasturelands far away to the north and costs 4.70 yuan per jin (half a kilo). The family uses two jin a week in the kitchen and an additional amount is used by the husband for religious offerings.

Other visits we made in Lhasa before setting off west were to the Norbulinka, former summer residence of the Dalai Lamas, the Sera Monastery and a Temple called the Palaloubu. The Palaloubu is situated on the side of Iron Hill and is partly a cave in the rock of the hill. This shrine had been severely damaged during the Cultural Revolution but had recently been renovated privately by two monk brothers after their release from seventeen years' imprisonment. Here we saw an enormous amount of *tsampa*, made of ground barley, being prepared to be given to worshippers visiting the temple on the holy 8th of the month. The restored temple was obviously enjoying a renaissance of religious activity.

On our fourth day in Tibet we set off in our minibus for Shigatse, nine and a half hours and 380 kilometres away – a stunning drive in more than one sense. We went over passes up to 17,000 feet, regaled with wonderful panoramas of distant mountains, the turquoise-coloured salt Lake Yamdok and glaciers tipping down towards us. At rest-stops a closer look at the apparently barren ground revealed the jewel-like flowers and moss-like humps of tiny alpine plants. Birds of prey swept across the sky and the lake teemed with water fowl.

In Shigatse we saw the market and the Hospital of Tibetan Medicine and had a ride in a yak skin boat, but the high point was our tour of the Tashilhumpo Monastery. The monastery is the seat of the Panchen Lama who lives in Peking and has a family there. He returned for a visit to Shigatse in 1982 for the first time in twenty odd years. The building is one of 23 in Tibet which are now under State protection, and it is now well kept. But it is more than a museum as it is the home of about 600 monks including some young ones although the majority are older. It took two hours to tour the major shrines and halls of the Tashilhumpo and as usual we ended up on the roof, this time just in time to see the gong being struck by a yellow-capped monk, calling the monks to prayer as a rainbow coloured the sky behind. We were able to listen in to both the exoteric and esoteric chanting, to us an other-worldly but most impressive music.

Back in Lhasa our final visit was to the building most well-known to outsiders – the Potala Palace, which is as impressive to visit as one imagines. Of its thousands of rooms we visited the holiest part, the Red Palace, where the Dalai Lamas resided and many have their tombs and where there are the richest murals and treasures. Many Tibetans visit too, laying white scarves and other offerings in every shrine and in the rooms once inhabited by the Fourteenth Dalai Lama. In the Privy Council Room there are even robes sitting upright on the throne, as if the body inside had evaporated and the clothes were left in the shape of the person. These robes seemed to symbolise the Potala itself which is now a museum and no longer a working institution.

20 September 1983

Wang Shixiang, Senior Research Fellow of the Institute for Research into Ancient Texts and Committee Member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference gave a lecture on the subject of classic Chinese furniture. The lecture took the form of a discursive introduction to sixteen or so examples of the impressive and now highly regarded hardwood furniture of the Ming dynasty, a subject on which he is acknowledged as China's leading expert (and enthusiast!). This furniture, executed in expensive imported hardwoods such as *huali* and *zitan*, names which continue to defy reduction to neat western or scientific botanical equivalents and are best left untranslated, was one of the most important of the craft products of Suzhou from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. It was exported from Suzhou to north China along the Grand Canal, and one of Mr Wang's many vivid insights into his collecting activities on behalf of the Palace Museum was the information that villages along the Grand Canal remained until this century repositories of this fine furniture.

The pieces illustrated in the lecture came largely from the collection of the Palace Museum, Peking, which Mr Wang has played a significant part in forming, and also from his personal collection, which had been first described to an astonished western art world in 'The China Daily' of 11 December 1981. Astonishment turned to amazement in the course of Mr Wang's lecture, as it dawned on specialists that this personal collection of over eighty pieces not only surpassed by some distance those collections, such as that of the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Nelson Gallery Kansas City and the Philadelphia Museum which have hitherto been thought outstanding, but contained objects of a type and quality unsuspected in the West.

Interspersing his erudite exposition of each object's dimensions, noteworthy features, dating and possible origin with amusing anecdotes about the circumstances in which they were acquired, Mr Wang's talk, delivered in a fluent and idiomatic English, was of great interest to the specialist and to those whose first introduction to Chinese furniture history this was. A particular feature of his research over the past thirty years has been the recovery of the difficult *shuyu*, the arcane technical jargon of the Chinese cabinetmaker. Picturesque but precise terminology for the different elements making up a piece of furniture was introduced; the 'hunchback stretcher', graphically describing one type of structural support raised in the middle, the 'short fellow' for a small vertical pillar. It is one of Wang Shixiang's major achievements, after long study and discussion with practising craftsmen in Peking, Suzhou and elsewhere, to have recorded this body of terminology, a glossary of which will form an invaluable part of his book on classic Chinese furniture, due to be published by Wenwu Chubanshe in 1984, with a possible English language edition to appear subsequently.

The "simplicity, restraint and strength" (to quote the lecturer himself) of Ming period furniture were amply displayed in the pieces shown. The audience was treated to an array of square stools (ingeniously convertible into a sedan chair by fitting poles to the feet), round stools with their elegant carving simulating the leather and metal studs of the drums which were their original prototypes, benches in the more modest form of elm wood used by those unable to afford the costly *huali* or *zitan*. We saw folding stools, one of the earliest forms of raised seat in the Chinese transition from a floor-living culture to one using high furniture, and a low chair of the type known as a 'lamphanger', from the resemblance its proportions bear to those of the typical rural oil lamp. Mr. Wang recalled how, on first coming across this chair he had thought to ask the old lady using it why this style had such short legs, only to be told that it made it that much easier to wash your feet! Perhaps the single most spectacular item shown was one of the set of four chairs from Mr Wang's own collection which he referred to with justifiable pride as 'the king of chairs'. Made from *zitan* wood of a wonderfully rich and deep brown, almost black in places, it is of massive proportions, 108.5 cms in height, with a broad seat narrowing from 75.8 cms at the front to 61 cms at the back. The form is that of a square backed armchair, with all the members being of a circular cross section. The construction of the legs shows particular affinities with the type of detailing seen in architectural woodwork but very rare in furniture carpentry, and this was one feature which led Mr Wang to argue in favour of a very early date for this set. Even more convincing evidence is provided by the backrest, exquisitely carved with a round medallion of flowers in a style very similar to that seen on Chinese carved lacquer of the early fifteenth century. These unique survivors from the brilliant early period of Ming cabinetmaking are not only unparalleled in Chinese collections, they are of a type and quality hitherto unsuspected in the West.

Mr Wang answered a variety of questions from his interested audience, on differing styles in north and south China, on the types of furniture used in garden pavilions, and on distinctions between court and provincial tastes. He explained the situation, surprising to the British furniture historian, whereby not a single Chinese cabinetmaker's name has come down to us from the Ming dynasty, though objects inscribed by their owners are known. His closing remarks on the difficulty of finding good furniture in the countryside today, where farming families still look on the sale of furniture as being tantamount to an admission that they are financially ruined, could only make one glad that his efforts have already preserved for China's museums and for the world so much of this marvellous heritage of great craftsmanship in wood.

There follows a report on Mr Wang's visit written by Craig Clunas of the Far Eastern Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum who organised the visit.

Wang Shixiang, China's leading scholar in the fields of lacquer and furniture history visited Britain from 11 to 28 September 1983. The visit was at the invitation of the Victoria and Albert Museum and was made possible by grants from the Universities' China Committee in London and the Great Britain-China Educational Trust.

Mr Wang is a Senior Research Fellow of the Institute of Research into Ancient Texts (*Gu Wenxian Yanjiushi*), as well as a committee member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. It is really only in the last ten years that he has begun to publish regularly on topics in lacquer and furniture history, though he has been researching (and collecting) for over thirty. It was the relatively good level of collections of this type of material in Britain, as well as Mr Wang's fluent command of English, which led the V & A's Far Eastern Department to feel that it would be a worthwhile venture for both sides to arrange a visit.

Wang Shixiang visited and commented on the collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum, the British Museum, the Ashmolean, the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh and the Fitzwilliam Museum. Curators at all of these institutions certainly benefited from his experience and from his evaluation of objects in the collections, and several 'problem pieces' would now seem to have been laid to rest. It was felt that British collections of Ming lacquer (Mr Wang shared his colleagues' relative lack of interest in Qing objects) were on the whole richer than those in the United States. The Royal Scottish Museum collection proved particularly interesting in that it showed how good early objects were being acquired there at a time when the London institutions were perhaps over-impressed by pieces with dubious imperial Qianlong provenances.

Mr Wang gave three lectures, or rather one very long lecture in three sections, on examples of Chinese furniture in Chinese collections, principally his own and that of the Palace Museum. On 20 September the Great Britain-China Centre heard 'Chairs', on 22 September the Furniture History Society heard 'Tables' and at the British Association for Chinese Studies' Conference on 24 September those members who were present were treated to 'Couches, Cupboards and Miscellaneous Pieces', which last category turned out to include such rarities as a foot massage stool and an exquisite Ming hardwood sugar cane presser. All these lectures were well attended, with the Furniture History Society in particular being able to turn out well over a hundred members, whose enthusiastic response and technically informed questioning showed that it is possible for a visitor from China with a good command of English to break out of the China-ghetto and reach a wider audience.

Wang Shixiang's recent work on lacquer has culminated in the publication of a book *Xiu Shi Lu Jie Shuo* 'A Commentary on Xiu Shi Lu' earlier this year. The *Xiu Shi Lu* ('Lacquer Records') is a unique late Ming craftsman's treatise on most technical and artistic aspects of the craft, written in particularly arcane and allusive style. Mr Wang has worked for thirty or so years to produce a translation and commentary, which gives us for the first time a view of Ming lacquer arts from the insider's standpoint. No new work on the subject will be possible without taking account of its conclusion. An amusing account of how the book came to be written and of the personal vicissitudes suffered by its author appears in the magazine *Dushu* 1983. The other major work, now in the hands of the Wenwu Chubanshe, is a comprehensive work on Ming hardwood furniture. As those present at Wang Shixiang's lectures will realise, one of his major achievements is the recovery of a taxonomy of Chinese furniture, categorising it in the way it was categorised at the time of its manufacture. He has also, by his work with living craftsmen, recorded much of the *shuyu*, the technical jargon of the Chinese cabinetmaker, which he has been able to relate to actual objects and to the often obscure passages on furniture in Ming literary sources. This book will again raise the study of Chinese furniture well above the level where it presently rests, and it is likely that an English language edition will be produced to spread the message more widely.

The visit was judged a success on all counts. Mr Wang's senior position allowed him to speak with some authority on the policy of the Bureau of Cultural Properties (*Wen Wu Ju*) with regard to such visits. He was frank in the view that the only areas in which British collections of Chinese art were good enough to merit serious study in the future were the Dunhuang material at the BM, and Chinese export art, which some younger scholars were beginning to be interested in. There is therefore little in it for the Bureau (though much in it for British institutions) in trips such as his, and it may be that the Bureau would expect a clear commitment to some recompense in the form of lecture fees before sanctioning more visits. Mr Wang accepted that a command of English was a *sine qua non* for any lengthy stay in Britain, but reiterated the view that Chinese scholars will continue to expect the institution which invites them to take care of all arrangements down to the details of eating and travelling.

From the V & A's point of view, the considerable administration involved in applying for funds and arranging accommodation etc proved to be well worth it. Much was learned, and Mr Wang's affable personality made him the ideal guest, but such a project would only be entertained again in the case of a Chinese scholar personally known to one of its curators as likely to benefit from and contribute to study of British collections.

11 October 1983

Scott Meek, of the National Film Archive, visited China in the summer of 1983 at the invitation of the China Film Archive. A second retrospective season of Chinese cinema is to be held at the National Film Theatre early in 1985. Tony Rayns' programme on Chinese cinema was recently screened on Channel Four, and he joined Scott Meek in Peking to view films at the China Film Archive for inclusion in the retrospective season. They viewed six films a day for a week and have probably now seen more Chinese films than most of the Archive's staff. As yet there is nobody in China fully qualified to talk about Chinese film history.

Scott Meek spoke first on the historical background of cinema in China. The first film from the West was shown in China in 1895. Footage was taken of Shanghai in 1896 and films were first shown in Peking in 1902. Apparently the first film show put on for the Empress Dowager did not go smoothly, as the projector exploded. This unfortunate incident may have affected the official attitude to films for some time.

The first actual productions were made in Peking around 1905, mostly of Peking Opera, but Shanghai eventually became the centre of film production, the Hollywood of China. Almost all the early cinema theatres in China were then in the Treaty Ports and films from the West totally dominated the scene as China became a huge market for foreign films. Even when films were made about China, China was rarely used as a location so, for example, a film on the Boxer Rebellion was shot in Brighton. It was very difficult for Chinese film-makers to compete with foreign productions. In 1921 140 Chinese film companies were registered but in 1922 there were only twelve left; all the others had gone bankrupt. However, in 1922 the Mingxing Film Company was established which was to last up to the Japanese invasion of 1937.

No films from before 1922 survive. A 1922 comedy called "Romance of a Fruit Pedlar" is the earliest film which can still be seen. The Mingxing Company developed much of the new talent in Chinese cinema and its influence was immense as many of the people who worked for it dominated the next thirty to forty years of film-making. Mingxing made a variety of films, comedy shorts, gory features, sentimental melodramas and a martial arts serial which was a best seller. In 1929 the first sound-on-disc feature was made and films continued to be made without a fully synchronised soundtrack until 1933/4. The Lianhua Company, set up in 1930, joined Mingxing as a leading company during this period.

In the thirties the policy of the Chinese Communist Party was to put left-wingers into the film studios in order to keep an eye on what was going on and to influence the type of films being made. These were generally young people with an art school or theatre background who were very enthusiastic. The feeling of camaraderie of these young film-makers often comes out in the films they made. Chinese cinema moved away from fantasy towards the reality of the people on the streets. Films were no longer afraid to tackle such subjects as poverty and prostitution. Films with characters and situations with which the public could identify were very popular so it made commercial sense for the studios to allow them to be made. Strict censorship created problems for the film companies and it even happened that one studio produced films at both ends of the political spectrum, offending both the Left and the Right.

During the Japanese occupation of Shanghai, the film-makers who stayed had to make films of pure entertainment although occasionally a general patriotic statement could be made under the cloak of a genre film. After the War many of the younger film-makers returned to Shanghai and in the forties a series of left-wing films were produced, the finest of which was "Crows and Sparrows", which ran into trouble with the censors and was not completed under after Liberation.

After the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949 the cinema became a state industry with the last five independent companies being nationalised in 1953. Now a different kind of film was demanded. Up until then films had been confrontational, tackling what was wrong with society. Now films had to show how terrible things had been in the old days and how wonderful they were now. A rigidity was imposed on the subject matter which always included a comparison of the bleak past and sunny present. During the Hundred Flowers Campaign a more flexible attitude to subject matter appeared with satirical comedies on the petty corruption of officials and so on, but these films disappeared soon after they were made. During the Great Leap Forward the studios were asked to increase production like any other industry and at least doubled their output. Many of these films are only significant in reflecting the period, such as the film entitled "Hero brand pens catch up with Parker in three weeks".

In the early 1960s Chinese cinema began to be influenced by the ultra-leftist line. Characters, especially heroes and villains, became more and more stereotyped and precise technical regulations were drawn up on the number of close-ups the hero should have or type of shot allowed for the villain. The people who made films in the thirties and forties and had created the film industry were persecuted and fewer and fewer films were made until only Model Revolutionary Operas remained.

Chinese cinema since the Fall of the Gang of Four has been struggling to create something new. The older generation is now too old, the middle generation is missing and the young generation has no knowledge of world cinema and little of their own country's cinema history. A young director is somebody in their fifties now. The urge to modernise has fed a tendency to pick up the less interesting aspects of modern cinema – for example the excessive use of zoom shots. But people are also willing to take greater chances with scripts and films are being made which confront today's issues.

Tony Rayns spoke next on the aesthetics of Chinese films – what makes a Chinese film Chinese. Cinema is classified as a literary art in China. This in part reflects the historical circumstances of the birth of cinema there. The majority of people in the early days had worked or continued to work in theatre. The film industry early on was not stable enough to afford a career of itself and China never really developed much coherent film theory. Also a high proportion of

Chinese films are adaptations from other media, particularly from novels and theatre. In fact adaptations are the norm rather than the exception. Two of the four recent films to be shown in November this year at the London Film Festival are literary adaptations.

Another characteristic of Chinese films is that they have resisted conforming to specific conventions. Western-style genres – such as the thriller, comedy, musical and so on – have never crystallised. Also Chinese films do not seem as homogenous as Western films. A film may shift from drama to documentary to lyrical interlude to song sequence without any definite prevailing idiom. The sense of time is often different from ours with films spanning decades with characters hardly showing their age. Characters are not always rounded in the Western sense; they tend to be types defined by their age, class background or political attitude.

Many of these characteristics can be traced to other Chinese art forms. For example, in literature there is often a mixture of idioms, the storyline is broken, characters disappear and reappear, scenes and events are self-contained and there is less need for continuity. There are also clear influences from the stage, in particular from the modern tradition of Western-style spoken drama (*huaju*) which grew up after the May 4th Movement. One can also see the influence of Chinese poetry in lyrical interludes and in the close correlation between a person's mood and the weather or the natural landscape. The matching-up of the environment with a character's state of mind was originally a Daoist convention.

Politics has been of great importance in the development of Chinese cinema. Communist Party guidance began with infiltration into the film studios in the thirties which led to the production of more films treating the social issues of the day such as poverty, inflation, hunger, abuse of women and crime. After the Communist victory Soviet Stalinist influence dominated the 1950s. The new guidelines on how Communist art should be created imposed models of behaviour and stereotypes in a way that was alien to those who had worked in the preceding period. The Cultural Revolution period was even more proscriptive.

Nowadays direct national policy in cinema is flexible and studios are free to produce what they want. However, the ten-year gap caused by the Cultural Revolution has meant that many film-makers are confused about what they should be doing. There is also a degree of self-censorship in that directors do not have to use their imagination and think about the kind of films they would most like to make. This kind of mental defeat will have to be overcome to enable the present and future of Chinese cinema to be discussed freely, frankly and usefully.

LITERATURE AND POLITICS IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA by Yang Xianyi

15 November 1983

Yang Xianyi, Editor-in-Chief of *Chinese Literature* studied at Merton College, Oxford before the Second World War and, together with his wife Gladys, is a noted translator of Chinese literary works into English. He admitted that although he agreed to lecture on the above subject with initial blitheness he realised on sober reflection that it was a very sensitive subject, particularly at the present time. However, Mr Yang said that as his sympathies were with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) he felt that he could safely tackle the subject. Although Yang Xianyi started his lecture by saying that he did not want to go back into China's literary history, but wished to concentrate on the last four to five years, he did explain the progress of China's literary history since Lu Xun, and, indeed, this was vital to a fuller understanding of very recent attitudes towards literature. He pointed out that in the 1930s Lu Xun wrote a speech on the divergent ways of literature and politics, and wrote that writers and politicians always had divergent views, with the former always criticising the society of the time and the latter wanting writers to conform to the current line. This has always been so in a class society, and although Mr Yang pointed out that China is moving towards socialism, this will take a long time, and whilst the transition period lasts there will always be differences of opinion about literature between writers and politicians.

Yang Xianyi digressed to talk about the career of Zhou Yang. This was necessary in the light of the current campaign in China to criticise the concept of 'alienation' and cultural contamination. Zhou Yang was one of the leading cultural spokesmen of the government in the early days after 1949. He has always been in the cultural limelight and any statement made by him on cultural trends is taken very seriously. Like all intellectuals during the Cultural Revolution Zhou Yang got into serious trouble (as Yang Xianyi said, at that period simply being able to read was enough to get one into trouble!), but after his rehabilitation he again became spokesman on cultural affairs. As an Adviser to the Propaganda Department of the CCP Zhou Yang is in a sensitive position. In March this year the centenary of Karl Marx's death was celebrated, and at it Zhou Yang made a significant speech in which he summed up the situation in Chinese literature since 1949. He condemned the radical thinking of the Cultural Revolution when literature was not seen as a complex art form, but was merely seen as part of the superstructure, the cogs and wheels of a machine, with its purpose merely to serve Party policy. Those who wrote during that period were either branded as Rightists, or if they were dogmatic in their writings they were condemned by others as political sycophants. Zhou Yang did not agree with the assertion made by some people that there has been no good literature written since 1949. He felt that people should be given enough freedom to write what they liked providing that they conform to the two basic principles of being pro-socialist and pro-China. But the part of his speech that was to cause Zhou Yang some difficulty six months later was his reference to alienation and humanism, both subjects which have been of great interest to young people in China in recent years.

Zhou Yang made a public self-criticism in November this year in which he said that he had not distinguished between bourgeois humanism and socialist humanism (the latter is acceptable), and should have expanded his views on alienation, which is to be expected in a capitalist society, but not in a socialist society. Yang Xianyi himself said that the feeling of alienation of the young was not only not surprising, but was quite natural, and is to be expected in any society. After the cataclysmic Cultural Revolution many young people and intellectuals felt lost and wondered whether what the Party was telling them was true. They were beginning to lose faith in communism and ask themselves whether every person should not work for himself – a sort of social darwinism. They were asking whether perhaps a belief in human values might be enough in society. In his speech of recantation Zhou Yang said that as communists they should strive for a more genuine humanism than had been advocated previously. Yang Xianyi drew attention to the hypocritical humanism of the rich who only give money to the poor as long as it does not detract from their own comfortable life-style.

Yang Xianyi developed the idea of alienation and said that a class society creates a government and laws which lead to restrictions and distortions. This gives rise to the contradiction between the individual and society. In the ideal socialist or communist society, when everyone is equal, the individual and the state are in harmony, but as yet China is still in a state of transition. Yang Xianyi felt that the aim should be to lessen the contradiction between the individual and society and felt that in China at present an effort is being made to do this. One could argue that Britain is more culturally developed than China, and the people enjoy greater intellectual freedom, but the Chinese feel that economic advance will lead to cultural advance. Mr Yang felt that the Party's criticism of Zhou Yang was not without reason and Zhou Yang himself had admitted that he had not analysed the situation in China in sufficient depth, and his earlier speech might have led young people to lose hope in socialism. The Party would have to educate the young to bring them back into line. Apart from the problem of internal scepticism another aspect of cultural contamination comes from outside China with, for example, the smuggling in of pornographic material and 'video nasties'.

Having discussed generally the political climate in the literary field Mr Yang then went on to discuss some concrete examples of recent controversial writings. As he said, the literary scene in China has been very lively over the past few years. He cited Bai Hua's film script 'Bitter Love' (Kulian). Bai Hua was a member of the People's Liberation Army and it was there that the most bitter criticism was to be heard. The story centres on a overseas Chinese artist who returns to China to give what he can to his motherland, but is treated appallingly badly during the Cultural Revolution. The question which is asked is "You love your country, but does it love you?". The Taiwanese made considerable capital out of this to show up the horrors of communism. Yang Xianyi felt that Bai Hua was rightly criticised as the film was far too emotional, one-sided and simplistic. He felt that one could not say that simply because the Gang of Four emerged from the Party then the Party was, by definition, beyond redemption. The situation was more complex than that. He also felt that one could not negate everything that Mao said simply because of the Cultural Revolution, but it was quite understandable that writers should indulge in outbursts against the Cultural Revolution. But Mr Yang felt that no matter what a writer felt or had suffered he had a responsibility to society and should be prepared to criticise himself if his views were incorrect. On the other hand just because a writer had made a mistake he should not be ostracised, which is what some dogmatists had advocated should happen to Bai Hua.

Yang Xianyi discussed another film script called 'Wei Ni Ganbei' (I drink to you) which drew attention to nepotism and 'backdoorism' in China and came to the conclusion that the only way to survive in China was to fight for yourself. Although it was written with feeling it could not be made into a film as the ideology was wrong and it was too pessimistic. The female author was well versed in Marxism and Leninism and quoted them to back up her arguments in the prolonged debate about the film script. Another controversial work was by Dai Houying, a teacher at Fudan University, Shanghai. She herself had been a Red Guard and had been involved in the maltreatment of intellectuals at that time. Eventually she fell in love with a poet who had been put under her surveillance and who subsequently committed suicide. Because of this she repented of her ways and wrote a novel called 'Ren, Ah Ren!' (Ah, Humanity!), which showed talent and was well-written. In the novel she says that people must recapture their human values, lost during the Cultural Revolution, because people no longer trust one another. She was criticised for not having distinguished between bourgeois humanism and socialist humanism. However, the criticism in this case was not very successful, and the book became a runaway best-seller, having overcome the initial difficulty of finding a publishing house prepared to take it on.

But the point which Yang Xianyi made was that although many writers are criticised they are at least still free to write and are not despatched to Reform-through-Labour camps as would have happened previously. There is much more discussion all round. When the Party feels that someone is writing something against the Party line then it uses criticism as a means or a weapon to analyse the matter and come to some sort of understanding. Although some people may not be happy about political interference in literature in China it is felt to be inevitable. Living in society, if one is not influenced by one particular side then one will be influenced by another. Criticism and self-criticism in a healthy atmosphere can be productive. On the question of political dissenters Mr Yang pointed out that the situation was different from that of the USSR, as in China many writers had been on the side of the Revolution and indeed had been pioneers of it. They were in favour of socialism, so it was unlikely that they would dissent. Finally, he felt that art and literature should serve politics as long as they are not too dogmatic. Society can move forward faster if there is some consensus on ideas, with some unity of thinking.

During the question period Yang Xianyi admitted that books that are politically correct are not generally best-sellers. He also said that because all the provincial publishing houses decide for themselves what they are going to publish there may be four or more translations of one novel, such as Forsyth's 'The Dogs of War', and innumerable translations of Agatha Christie. He agreed that the standard of literary criticism was not high. It is not something that has been developed as a technique and there is little literary criticism in the western sense. When asked about techniques in writing Mr Yang said that the young liked experimental writing and a number of people had

experimented with "stream of consciousness", but that the traditionalists did not like it, nor any other styles which they felt were not immediately comprehensible. When asked why people did not simply buy a printing press and print their own works Yang Xianyi said that the government controlled the supply of paper. In general he felt that at present there was little literature and very few films which could really be considered to be of high quality.

This lecture was organised jointly with the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and held in their lecture theatre.

Royal Society News

Visits from China under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) agreement:

A Nuclear Technology delegation from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), led by Professor Zheng Linsheng from the Institute of High Energy Physics, CAS, visited Britain from 4-25 September to study the general application of nuclear techniques to life sciences. They visited the Universities of Surrey, Birmingham, Aberdeen and Edinburgh, the Scottish Universities Research and Reactor Centre at East Kilbride, Harwell and other places of specialist interest.

A Photo-Electronic Image Device group led by Professor She Yongzheng, Director of the Laboratory of Photo-Electronic Image Devices at the Changchun Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics visited Britain from 4-18 September. They attended the Eighth Symposium on Photo-Electronic Image Devices and visited other research laboratories around the country.

A Mechanical Engineering delegation led by Professor Zhang Zuomei, Deputy Director of the Changchun Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics, visited Britain from 27 November - 4 December. They visited the Universities of London (Imperial College), Leeds, Sheffield, the National Engineering Laboratory at East Kilbride and the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory, GEC Power Engineering in Whetstone.

Dr Tang Wenguo (Shanghai Institute of Technical Physics): To attend the Fourier Transform Spectroscopy Conference, Durham, 4-18 September.

Professor Deng Guofan and Professor Liu Youqiao (Institute of Zoology, CAS, Peking): For a visit to the Natural History Museum, London, 18 September - 18 December.

Visits to China under the Chinese Academy of Sciences agreement:

Dr M Cable (Sheffield University): Glass Technology, 1-24 September.
Professor R K S Wood, FRS (Imperial College, London): Plant Pathology, 1-22 September.

Dr J E Simpson (Cambridge University): Fluid Mechanics, 8-29 September.
Dr R Freeman FRS and Dr K A McLaughlan (Oxford University): Physical Chemistry, 18 September - 1 October.

Professor A Hewish FRS (Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge): Radio Astronomy, 15 September - 6 October.

Dr Julia Higgins (Imperial College, London): Polymers, 20 September - 4 October.

Professor G K Batchelor FRS (Cambridge University): Fluid Mechanics, 16-30 October.

Professor W T Dean (University College, Cardiff): Geology, 25 October - 13 November.

Visit from China under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences:

Dr Hu Guoyang (Institute of Oncology, Peking): To work at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London and the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester Area Health Authority, 30 October for three months.

Visits to China under the Memorandum of Understanding with the China Association for Science and Technology:

Dr D R Hall (Hull University): Lasers and Laser Systems, 6-30 September.

Dr J E Sharpe (Queen Mary College, London): Coal Fired Turbines, 8-29 September.

Mr W J Perkins (National Institute for Medical Research): Bioengineering, 20-29 October.

Visit from China under the Memorandum of Understanding with the China Association for Science and Technology:

A Plant Protection delegation led by Professor Shen Qiyi, Secretary General, China Association for Science and Technology and President of the Chinese Society of Plant Protection, visited Britain from 20 November - 18 December. They attended the Tenth International Congress of Plant Protection in Brighton, visited several research stations around the country, Wye College and the University of Cambridge.

Ex-agreement visits:

Dr B Johns (Reading University): Oceanography, 1-30 September.

Dr B F Windley (Leicester University): Geology, 4-15 September.

Professor J T Stuart FRS (Imperial College, London): Fluid Mechanics, 12 September - 10 October.

Dr W Y Liang (Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge): Semiconductors, 14 September - 29 October.

Dr D J Thompson (Science and Engineering Research Council, Daresbury): High Energy Physics, October for two weeks.

Professor R K Bullough (Manchester University): Mathematics, 6 November - 15 December.

Visits to China funded by British Petroleum:

Dr K Coe (Exeter University): Petrology, 2-15 September.

Dr S Brassell and Mrs A Gowar (Bristol University): Geochemistry, 9-23 October.

Dr W D Dover (University College, London): Offshore Engineering, 10 November - 4 December.

Visit from China funded by British Petroleum:

Dr Fu Jiamo and Mrs Xu Fenfang (Guiyang Institute of Geochemistry): To work at the School of Chemistry, Bristol University, 27 November for three months.

The following visits have recently taken place:

To China:

Lord Oram, Opposition Front Bench Spokesman on Overseas Aid visited China for three weeks to study cooperatives.

Mr John Finney, President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, Mr Walter Bor, Architect, and Mr Michael Safier of the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, visited Peking, Shanghai, Suzhou, Chengdu and Xi'an to give lectures to members of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Construction and Environmental Protection and to members of local Urban Planning Bureaux. Their lectures covered various subjects including town planning in Britain, new towns, London and planning methodology.

Michael Swan, a writer of English Language textbooks visited the Shanghai Jiaotong University for one month to run an English for Special Purposes course.

Three lecturers in English Language ran a course in Lanzhou to upgrade the skills of teachers of English.

Professor K J Miller, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Sheffield University.

Dr R D Hay, School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia.

Dr R A Buchanan, Centre for the History of Technology, Science and Society, University of Bath.

Mr P H Thompson, Production Designer.

Dr C R L Friend, Department of Geology and Physical Sciences, Oxford Polytechnic.

Professor Sir Denys Wilkinson, Vice Chancellor, University of Sussex.

Professor E J King, formerly Professor of Education, Kings College, London.

Dr D Gough, Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge University.

Mr R S Medlock, Past President, Institute of Measurement and Control.

Mr J Highley, NCB Coal Research Establishment.

Professor A M Neville, Vice Chancellor, University of Dundee.

Mr J B Butcher, Electronics Centre, Middlesex Polytechnic.

Professor D H Sansome, Department of Production Technology, University of Aston.

Professor C E Turner, Mechanical Engineering Department, Imperial College, London.

To Britain:

A Drama Education Study Group led by Mme Ruan Ruoshan, Vice President of the Central Academy of Drama, spent three weeks in Britain to investigate the traditional heritage and present conditions of British theatre arts and to observe the principles and methods of British drama education. They visited Birmingham, Stratford-upon-Avon, Leeds and London.

Yang Xianyi, Translator and Chief Editor of *Chinese Literature* spent a month in Britain accompanied by his wife, Gladys Yang. They visited London, Oxford and Leeds.

Xu Zhuang, Deputy Director of the China Film Archive and Mme Wu Meixian also of the Archive came to Britain for three weeks to view British films at the National Film Archive of the British Film Institute, from which a season of British films will be chosen to be shown in China in 1984.

Professor Wu Ningkun, Professor of English and Vice President of the Peking Society for English Literature. He visited Departments of English at the Universities of Stirling, Lancaster and East Anglia. He also visited the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, Stratford and Oxford.

Mr Hu Jianmin of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music came to Britain to attend the Maria Korchinska International Harp Competition.

A delegation of five professors from the North China Institute of Water Conservancy and Power spent three weeks visiting British universities, polytechnics and engineering equipment manufacturers. The visit concluded in the signature of a partnership agreement with the Department of Engineering of Warwick University.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific and Technical Cooperation a programme was arranged for a group of plant physiologists led by Mme Gan Xiaosong, Senior Agronomist and Deputy Director of the Research, Planning and Management Department of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

The following visits have recently taken place under the British Academy/Social Science Research Council exchange scheme with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS).

To Britain:

Mr Liu Cunkuan and Mr Xu Yuebiao, Institute of Modern History: Sino-British Relations (9 October for four months).

Mr Gao Dizhen, Mr Chen Yuanxie and Mr Zhang Guangrui, Institute of Finance and Trade Economics: Commerce economics, accounting and tourism economics (22 October for three weeks)

Mr Ren Jishen and Mr Li Zerui, Institute of Law: Legal aspects of oil exploration and exploitation (30 October for one month)

A delegation of four led by Mr Wang Changyun, Director, Foreign Affairs Bureau visited Britain from 20 November for ten days to widen their understanding of the British academic structure and to discuss the working of the Agreement with the British Academy. They visited the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Birmingham and London. One of the members of the delegation, Miss Deng Junbing, stayed on for another two weeks and visited Glasgow, Manchester and York.

Other British Visitors to China

September

Mr Evelyn de Rothschild, Chairman of N M Rothschild & Sons Ltd, and his party met with Vice Premier Tian Jiyun in Peking. In his speech, Mr Tian said he hoped that the banks of China and Britain would exchange experience and strengthen monetary cooperation.

Mr A J Farrington, Senior Assistant Keeper of the India Office Library and Records visited China on his return from a conference in Japan. He visited the National Library of China and the State Archive Bureau.

Mr R Snowdon, Commercial Executive Far East, from Wellworthy Ltd of Lymington, Hants visited China for two weeks as the British Standards Institution (BSI) expert on internal combustion engine components in a programme arranged by the China Association for Standardisation. He visited Peking, Suzhou, Shanghai and Hangzhou as part of the BSI protocol agreement. (The British Standards Institution/China Association for Standardisation five year agreement was set up four years ago, not eighteen months ago, as was reported in Newsletter No 23).

A delegation from the Royal College of Defence Studies led by its Commandant, Admiral Sir William Pillar KCB, visited China for five days at the invitation of the Chinese Ministry of National Defence. The delegation visited a military academy and army units in Peking, a shipyard and a commune in Shanghai, and toured sites of historical interest. Xiao Ke, Vice Minister of National Defence, hosted a banquet to welcome the delegation, which was the fourth group from the Royal College to visit China.

Colina MacDougall, Tony Robinson and Mark Baker of 'The Financial Times' visited China in a programme arranged by the 'Guangming Daily'. They visited Peking, Tianjin, Chengdu, Chongqing, Zhanjiang and Guangzhou. In Peking they met with Fei Xiaotong, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and China's best known sociologist and anthropologist, who briefed them on recent changes in China's rural economy and on the developments in Suzhou. The group also met State Councillor Bo Yibo and the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Zhou Nan. 'The Financial Times' produces an annual supplement on China.

Dr R Roberts led a delegation from the Department of Trade and Industry to China at the invitation of the State Science and Technology Commission (SSTC) to sign an Agreed Minute reviewing and continuing the cooperation established by the Science and Technology Agreement of 1978. This was a return visit for the visit of the SSTC to Britain in December 1981.

Britain's Ray Crabb and John Cain came fifth and seventh in the Peking International Marathon in September with times of 2:23.42 and 2:24.24 respectively. The winner was Ron Allen Tabb of the USA who clocked a time of 2:18.51.

Professor Norman Blacklock, Head of the Department of Urology, University of Manchester, visited China for two weeks at the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences to give lectures and to discuss a joint research project.

A group of 37 doctors led by Mr G J Hadfield, Vice President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England visited China from 4-17 September. They visited hospitals, medical colleges and research institutes and sites of interest in Peking, Xi'an, Nanjing, Suzhou and Shanghai.

October

Mr James Coltart, Chairman of the Thomson Foundation, led a group to China at the invitation of the 'China Daily' newspaper. Whilst in China Mr and Mrs Coltart and Mr Michael Gorman, a Trustee of the Thomson Foundation and General Manager of the 'Bangkok Post' met with Yu Wen, Deputy Head of the Propaganda Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and with Deng Liqun, Member of the Secretariat and Head of the Propaganda Department, who gave a dinner in their honour. They were also given a lunch by Huang Hua, Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee. Mr Coltart expressed his appreciation for the role 'China Daily' has played in promoting mutual understanding between the people of China and the rest of the world, while his hosts thanked the Thomson Foundation for its help with ways of improving their newspaper.

Mr Ian Hume, President of the Wales-China Friendship Society led a five-member delegation to China at the invitation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. Mr Liang Geng, Vice President of the Association gave a dinner in their honour. The delegation toured Xi'an, Kunming, Xishuangbanna and Guangzhou.

Mr K D Park, lecturer and consultant at the Fluid Power Centre of the School of Engineering, University of Bath, spent two weeks in China as the British Standards Institution's expert on standards for fluid power systems. He visited Peking, Xi'an and Shanghai.

A goodwill delegation from Coventry led by the Mayor, Mr Joe Thompson, visited Jinan, the capital of China's Shandong Province, to sign an agreement on the establishment of friendship ties between Coventry and Jinan. The delegation visited factories, shops, hospitals, welfare facilities and rural areas and exchanged information on industrial production, city construction, environmental protection, commerce, trade, culture and education. Before they left China the delegation also visited Peking.

Mr Jack Page MP, Vice President of the Interparliamentary Union and Mrs Page visited China at the invitation of the Chinese People's Institute for Foreign Affairs. They were met and feted in Peking by Hao Deqing Member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

Mr Peter Jones, Lord Mayor of Sheffield, and Mr David Blunkett, Leader of the Borough Council of Sheffield signed an agreement of friendship with Zhang Jianzhong, Mayor of Anshan, and Xu Xi, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the City People's Congress. The delegation from Britain were invited by the government of Anshan for a three-day visit. They toured the Anshan Iron and Steel Company and other industrial, educational, cultural and scientific establishments. They also exchanged information on industrial production, urban construction, environmental protection, scientific research, culture and education.

Mr T H Beven, Chairman of Barclays Bank plc led a delegation to China at the invitation of the Bank of China. In Peking the delegation met with Chen Muhua, State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, who discussed trade and economic relations between Britain and China. She said that the volume of bilateral trade in the first eight months of this year had been greater than in the corresponding period of 1982.

Mr Peter Mauger, Associate Fellow at the University of Warwick visited China on a Leverhulme Scholarship to investigate developments in technical and vocational education. His programme was arranged by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and included visits to teacher training colleges, schools and other relevant institutions in Peking, Guangzhou and Hainan Island.

Lord Rhodes led a delegation of four parliamentarians to China at the invitation of the Chinese People's Institute for Foreign Affairs. They visited Peking, where they met with the new Minister of Textile Industry, Mme Wu Wenying; Chengdu and Wuhan where Lord Rhodes discussed the proposed twinning of Wuhan and Manchester.

Dr David Astley, Officer in Charge of the Vegetable Gene Bank of the National Vegetable Research Station visited China from 26 October - 17 November under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Memorandum of Understanding at the invitation of the Genetic Resource Centre, near Peking. He went to learn about the Chinese methods of intercropping and other work carried out there and to give advice on, amongst other things, seed collection techniques.

Mr David Griffiths, a Hong Kong-based British runner began his 55-day, 3,750 kilometre solo charity run from Peking to Hong Kong on 25 October. Mr Griffiths, General Manager of the Jubilee Sports Centre in Hong Kong, is running to raise funds for disabled Chinese athletes to participate in the Olympic Games for the disabled next June in the United States. Mr Griffiths was seen off by Li Delu, Vice President of the Chinese Sports Association for the Disabled (CSAD) and Harry Fang Sinyang, a representative of the Hong Kong sponsors for the run. Also present were Qian Xinzong, President of the Red Cross Society of China and the CSAD, Lu Jindong, Vice Minister of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission.

A group from the Policy Division of the Inland Revenue visited China from 22-31 October at the invitation of the Tax Bureau, Ministry of Finance to hold talks on a double taxation agreement.

A team from the Royal Signals Radar Establishment led by Dr K Browning, visited China at the invitation of the State Meteorology Bureau for discussions on radar and satellite meteorology.

Brigadier Bethridge and party made a military liaison visit at the invitation of the People's Liberation Army and the Chinese Artillery School from 7-23 November.

Professor Gordon Conway, Director of the Centre for Environmental Technology, Imperial College, led a delegation at the invitation of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Construction and Environmental Protection under the Science and Technology Agreement. The environmental delegation visited China from 17-29 October.

November

Mr D G Spickernell, Director General of the British Standards Institution (BSI), Miss G M Ashworth, Director Public Affairs and Mr J Leeming, Under-Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry (Quality and Education Division) visited China in a programme arranged by the China Association for Standardisation (CAS). They visited Guangzhou, Peking and Kunming to discuss, amongst other things, the general content of the 1984 protocol and the renewal of the five-year cooperation agreement between the BSI and CAS.

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, led a delegation to Peking and was feted by Tang Ke, Minister of the Petroleum Industry. They discussed energy related issues with Mr Tang and with Qin Wencai, President of the China National Offshore Oil Corporation, Gao Yangwen, Minister of Coal, and Li Daigeng, Vice Minister of Water Resources and Electric Power. They also met with Vice Premier Li Peng, who expressed the hope that there would be more and better cooperation between Britain and China in the exploration, saving and efficient use of energy.

Lord Cockfield, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Lady Cockfield met with Vice Premier Wan Li in Peking and discussed the prospects for the expansion of trade, economic and technical cooperation between Britain and China. Lord Cockfield also held talks with State Councillor Chen Muhua, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, and with leading members of other Chinese economic departments.

Dr Elizabeth Frankland Moore, President of the Sino-British Fellowship Trust was met and feted in Peking by Kang Keqing, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee and President of the All-China Women's Federation. Also present were Dr Ma Haide (George Hatem), Adviser to the Ministry of Public Health and Wang Bingnan, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

A Space Delegation led by Mr L J Robinson visited China at the invitation of the Ministry of Space Industry. They visited Peking and Shanghai to see their counterparts and to discuss space science and technology.

A delegation of five from British Telecom International (BTI), the international arm of British Telecom, led by Mr Mike Morris, Chief Operating Officer, visited China at the invitation of the Chinese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. They visited Peking, Guilin and Guangzhou to review existing services and to discuss the development of new services between the two countries. This was the first BTI-led delegation although they built on earlier contacts and visits with British Telecom.

December

The Archbishop of Canterbury Robert A K Runcie visited China at the invitation of the China Christian Council and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. A delegation from the British Council of Churches led by the Archbishop and the Reverend Dr Philip Morgan, General Secretary of the British Council of Churches (BCC) visited at the same time. The twenty members of the delegation represented the member churches of the BCC. The Archbishop visited Shanghai, Hangzhou, Xi'an and Peking and was accompanied on his tour by Zhao Fusan, Vice Chairman of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement Committee of the Protestant Churches of China. The Archbishop was scheduled to meet religious leaders, attend services, preach sermons and make speeches at public meetings.

Mr A G Manzie, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry, led a delegation to China to discuss the construction of the Guangdong Nuclear Power Plant. They also discussed investment and loans for this project, the selling of electricity and supply of equipment. The delegation met with Vice Premier Li Peng.

Other Chinese Visitors to Britain

September

His Excellency Tang Ke, Minister of Petroleum Industry, led a delegation of five to Britain at the invitation of Her Majesty's Government. During their 12-day visit they visited the Department of Energy and met the Rt Hon Peter Walker MP, Secretary of State for Energy who was also host at a Government lunch given at Lancaster House in honour of Mr Tang Ke. The delegation spent several days in Scotland, visiting the Aberdeen Petroleum Club, the University of Aberdeen, Shell UK Exploration and Production, the Fulmar Production Platform, Aberdeen Service Company (North Sea) Ltd, the Department of Energy, the Forties Bravo Production Platform, Glenfiddich Distillery, and they attended the opening ceremony of "Offshore Europe '83".

Two Chinese booksellers from Guoji Shudian arrived in Britain for a six month training programme based at Burchell and Martin Limited, Library Suppliers, of Birmingham. The two booksellers were particularly interested in the humanities and social sciences and learnt about the British book trade, management and distribution of books.

A three-member delegation from the Chinese YMCA led by Li Shoubao (Li Shou-pao), General Secretary of the National Committee YMCAs of China visited Britain as part of a European tour. Their programme in Britain was arranged by the National Council of YMCAs and took them to London, Sheffield, Bristol, Bath, Cardiff, Glasgow and Edinburgh where they met YMCA staff and members and joined in YMCA activities. They also visited City Planning Departments, hospitals, churches and other institutions. A dinner was given in their honour at the YMCA Indian Student Hostel and they were received at Lambeth Palace by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative, Mr Terry Waite.

Miss Liang Ning, a mezzo-soprano, and Mr Fu Haijing, a baritone from the Central Conservatory of Music, Peking were among seventeen singers chosen from an original entry of 82 to take part in the quarter finals of the Benson and Hedges Gold Award for Singers held in London. Both singers got through to the final concert, held at the Royal Opera House on 2 October where they came fourth and second respectively.

China won both the women's singles and doubles titles in the English Masters Badminton Tournament in Warrington. Britain won the mixed doubles. In the women's singles Chen Ruizhen beat Helen Troke and in the doubles Chen Ruizhen and Zheng Jian collected the title when Gillian Gilks and Gillian Clark withdrew due to injury.

Mr Wang Shixiang, Senior Research Fellow of the Institute for Research into Ancient Texts and China's leading scholar in the fields of lacquer and furniture history visited Britain from 11-28 September at the invitation of the Victoria and Albert Museum. (See report in this newsletter.)

October

A delegation of seven from the China Meteorological Bureau led by Professor Zhang Jijia visited Britain from 9 - 23 October at the invitation of Professor J T Houghton FRS, Director General of the Meteorological Office, Bracknell. The delegation was interested in numerical weather prediction and studied arrangements in the Meteorological Office for central forecasting, public services, computing, telecommunications, climatology, cloud physics, satellite meteorology and instrument development. The delegation also visited the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts and were given a Reception at the Chinese Embassy.

A delegation from the Operations Department of the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) led by Lu Baoshi, Deputy Director of the Operations Department visited Britain from 16 - 26 October in a programme arranged by the Central Office of Information. They visited various companies in London, Southampton, Sunbury on Thames, Edinburgh and Aberdeen concerned with aspects of oil pollution and effluent and discussed the responsibilities in this field between Government and private companies.

Du Daozheng, Editor-in-Chief, led a five-member delegation from the 'Guangming Daily' in a programme arranged by the Central Office of Information. The delegation wanted to acquaint itself with various aspects of life in Britain, with particular reference to agriculture, education and pollution control. They were given an official lunch by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office hosted by Mr D M Day CMG, Chief Clerk, and visited the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford, Shenley Court Comprehensive School, Birmingham, IML plc, the University of Birmingham, the 'Wolverhampton Express and Star' newspaper, Telford Development Corporation, Watford College of Agriculture, Thames Water Authority, Beckton Sewage Treatment Works, the Department of the Environment and 'The Financial Times'.

A delegation from the Tractor Research Institute, Luoyang, led by Mr Kong Depeng visited Britain for three weeks. Their programme of visits was arranged by the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering where they spent several days. The delegation also visited various firms producing agricultural machinery in Coventry, Worthing, Northampton, Huddersfield, Basildon and Edinburgh.

Zhang Tingshan, Deputy Director of the Sichuan Science and Technology Commission led a delegation to Britain. Their programme was arranged by the Central Office of Information. They visited the Department of the Environment, the Health and Safety Executive, National Coal Board Research Establishment, the North West Water Authority, Thames Water Authority, the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, and firms in London, Stevenage, Cambridge, Manchester and Ellesmere Port to learn about river management, sewage disposal and treatment, and air and water pollution control.

A delegation of six specialists in the field of Special Education led by Xu Hang, Deputy Director of the Education Department, Jiangsu Province, visited Britain in a programme arranged by the Overseas Development Administration. The delegation visited Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester and London to gather information and exchange ideas in the field of teacher training in special education for children with visual, hearing and mental handicaps. They visited the Department of Education and Science, the Department of Health and Social Security, universities, schools, the Royal National Institute for the Blind and other specialist institutions.

A Hydrography Study Team of three from the Shanghai Ocean Shipping Company visited Britain for three weeks at the invitation of the Royal Navy.

November

Gan Xiaosong, Senior Agronomist and Deputy Director of the Research, Planning and Management Department of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences led a plant physiology delegation of four to Britain under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Memorandum of Understanding. Amongst other places they visited Rothamsted Experimental Station, the Universities of Loughborough, Nottingham, Birmingham, Reading and Edinburgh and the National Vegetable Research Station.

Yu Wei, Deputy Director-General of the State Statistical Bureau led a five-member delegation to Britain at the invitation of the Government Statistical Service. The delegation visited the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and were given an official lunch hosted by Sir John Boreham, Director of the CSO; H M Customs and Excise, Business Statistics Office in Newport; Inland Revenue and the Department of Trade and Industry.

A 'microbiological disaster' delegation from the State Science and Technology Commission led by Jin Zuxun, Director of the Sichuan Grain Storage Research Institute, visited Britain from 13 November - 4 December in a programme arranged by the Central Office of Information. They visited research institutes in London, Slough, Berkhamstead, Bracknell, Norwich, Bristol, Newcastle, Durham, Guildford and Reading to discuss entomology, toxicology, microbiology and veterinary entomology.

A Chinese film delegation led by Xu Sangchu, President of the Shanghai Film Studio visited Britain to attend the 27th London Film Festival. Four Chinese films, 'Legend of Tianyun Mountain', 'My Memories of Old Beijing', 'Rickshaw Boy' and 'Neighbours' were shown at the Film Festival and two of the Directors, Xie Jin and Wu Yigong, were present to answer questions on the films they had directed. Following the showing in London 'My Memories of Old Beijing' was also shown in Bristol, Dundee, Lancaster and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

A delegation of five led by Chai Wenqi, Director of the National Environmental Monitoring Centre visited Britain in a programme arranged by the Central Office of Information in conjunction with the Department of the Environment. They visited various organisations including the Department of the Environment, Water Authorities Association, Thames Water Authority and Environmental Health Departments in London, Manchester, Warrington, Salford, Stevenage and Cambridge for discussions on environmental pollution monitoring and control.

A delegation of six from the Chinese Bureau of Nuclear Fuels led by Zhang Peiling, Chief Engineer, visited Britain from 6-16 November at the invitation of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.

A Study Team from the Ministry of Aviation visited Britain from 14-25 November at the invitation of the Ministry of Defence to visit the Empire Test Pilot's School.

December

The Deputy Director of the Geological Bureau, Ministry of Coal Industry, Wang Wenshou, led a delegation of five to Britain in a programme arranged by the Central Office of Information. They visited the Universities of Sheffield, Newcastle and London (Royal School of Mines, Imperial College), an opencast mine in Leeds and various firms to discuss and inspect geophysical equipment.

Mr He Songgui, Mayor of Jinan, led a delegation of five to Britain in return for a visit in October to Jinan by the Coventry City Council delegation to pursue twinning links. The delegation spent three days in London and were given an official reception by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office hosted by Mr Alan Donald CMG, Assistant Under-Secretary of State. In Coventry they visited firms, housing estates, the 'Coventry Evening Telegraph', Warwick University, Lanchester Polytechnic, schools and hospitals.

A four-member Chinese gymnastics team took part in the annual Coca Cola International Gymnastics Tournament in London. Xu Jinglei, 15, won the women's individual all-round title, two gold medals and one bronze in the individual events.

Conferences

Two international geological symposia were held in September, one in Peking on Pre-Cambrian Crustal Evolution and the other in Tianjin on late Pre-Cambrian Geology. The 150 participants from seventeen countries, including Britain, were given a banquet hosted by State Councillor Fang Yi and by the Ministry of Geology and Minerals. The geologists reviewed new developments in the study of the evolution of pre-cambrian crustal tectonics and discussed the relationship between pre-cambrian crustal evolution and metallogeny (ore-forming processes). Those at the Peking Symposium made field studies in the eastern part of Hebei Province, Tai Mountain in Shandong Province, and Xinyang and Dengfeng in Henan Province. At the Tianjin Symposium it was decided to carry out further field studies in Scotland in 1985.

A four-day international symposium, sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was held in Nanjing in October to discuss the boundaries between the Cambrian and Ordovician periods and the Ordovician and Silurian periods. These geological periods date back 570 million to 400 million years. After the symposium the geologists visited Hebei, Zhejiang and Hubei Provinces, conducting field studies and inspecting stratigraphic sections there.

A two-day conference marking the 40th anniversary of the Chinese Society of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering was held in Peking in November attended by 33 specialists and scholars from naval architecture and marine engineering societies from six countries including Britain. The participants were met by State Councillor Fang Yi who expressed the hope that academic exchanges and technical cooperation would improve in the years ahead.

A fifteen-day Study Cycle on postal services in medium-sized towns was held in Suzhou, in November, sponsored jointly by the Chinese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and the Universal Postal Union. The Study Cycle, the first of its kind to be held in China, was set up to explore ways of improving postal services administration and was scheduled as part of the United Nations 1983 World Communications Year. Britain was represented amongst the 25 specialists from sixteen countries, who also visited postal administration centres in Suzhou, Wuxi and Shanghai.

The Peking International Symposium on Fracture Mechanics was held in November, co-sponsored by the Chinese Society of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics and the Chinese Society of Aeronautics and Astronautics. 170 participants from twelve countries including Britain attended the four-day symposium to discuss research on fracture mechanics.

An international symposium on University Laboratory and Instruments Management was held for four days in November in Shanghai. Seventy professors and experts from Australia, Britain, the United States, Hong Kong and forty Chinese universities attended to discuss laboratory experiments, management of large precision instruments, technical consultancy services and training of laboratory personnel. The opening speech was made by Professor Xie Xide, President of Fudan University and Chairman of the symposium which was held according to an agreement between the Chinese government, the United Nations Development Programme and UNESCO.

China's 'Great Wall' dry, white wine was awarded a silver medal at the 14th International Wine and Spirit Competition in London in October, the first Chinese wine to win an international award in the past seventy years. 815 wines, spirits and liqueurs from 33 countries were entered in the competition.

A traditional Chinese garden will be built in Liverpool for the International Garden Festival to be held from 2 May - 14 October 1984. The garden to be exhibited in Liverpool will be called the 'Yanxiu Garden' and will be partly modelled on the imperial 'garden within a garden' in Peking's Beihai Park which was built in 1757. It will represent the typical garden style of North China and will be exhibited in the hope of promoting exchanges in horticulture between China and other countries. The Landscape Architecture Company of the China Construction Engineering Corporation is in charge of the construction.

Yuan Shiyun, Associate Professor of English at the Shanghai Foreign Languages Institute won a special prize in this year's English Speaking Union's English Language Competition for her paper on 'Pressure-cooking of English Grammar for Adult Learners', a method she has developed to help Chinese scientists to read science journals and books in English. The annual competition at which entrants must submit a 4000 word research paper on a variety of subjects is sponsored by the BBC, the British Council, Longman Group Ltd, Macmillan Ltd, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press and Linguaphone Institute Limited.

Dr Joseph Needham author of the 20-volume 'Science and Civilization in China' was awarded a first class natural science award by the Chinese State Science and Technology Commission on 29 November, by Chen Zhaoyuan, the Chinese Ambassador to Britain. This award is the highest governmental award given for outstanding achievements in the natural sciences in China and can be awarded to foreigners who have made achievements conducive to the development of science and technology in China. Dr Needham is the first foreign scholar to receive the award. He was also given an Honorary Doctorate and the title of Honorary Professor by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

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
CHINA

Swan Hellenic commenced Art Treasure Tours to China in 1981 in association with The Friends of the Tate Gallery who have been organising successful tours to China since 1975. Each tour is accompanied by a Tour Director and Guest Lecturer.

If you would like to have details of the programme for 1984/5 please write to the address noted below:

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Britain-China

Newsletter of the Great Britain - China Centre
22 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BU



Newsletter No. 22

Spring 1983

The Great Britain-China Centre will be leaving its present premises at the end of June or early July and will be moving to 15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS. Further details will be sent to all members nearer the time.

CENTRE LECTURES

SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE by John Gittings

12 January 1983

In his talk, Mr Gittings reviewed the past relationship between China and the USSR and the legacy left by Mao. He also examined the problems which remain at issue between China and the USSR, and the internal and external factors which will determine the progress of any rapprochement. The lecture was illustrated by slides which showed the change of style in the propaganda posters over the years, reflecting China's changing attitude to the USSR, the USA and the Third World.

Mr Gittings began by setting the scene in August 1946 with a description by Anna Louise Strong. "It was a simple but delicious meal that Mrs Mao set before us, much of it from the ripe tomatoes, onions, beans and peppers from their hillside garden. For dessert there was 'eight treasures rice', but in this case the rice was flavoured with four things: peanuts, walnuts, plums from the Chairman's garden and dates from the Date Garden (further up the valley)." Mao outlined his view of how the various parts of the world fitted together and used matchboxes and wine cups to show the three-bloc idea: The USSR and the USA at either end with China and the rest of the world in between. "Chairman Mao laughingly illustrated his point with the tea-cups and little white wine cups on the table, placing a big cup for American imperialism and surrounding it with a circle of little white wine cups for the American people, with a long zigzag line filled up with matchboxes and cigarettes to represent other countries all separating American imperialism from the Soviet Union, a big cup at the other side". At this time China was attempting to win freedom of action and to establish an independent foreign policy; they have only now managed to become independent.

From December 1949, Mao spent two months in Russia to negotiate a new Sino-Soviet alliance. "In 1950 I argued with Stalin in Moscow for two months. We argued about the Treaty of Mutual Assistance and Alliance, about the Chinese Changchun railway, about the joint-stock companies, about the border question. Our attitude was like this: 'If I disagree with your proposal I shall struggle against it. But if you really insist, then I shall accept it'. This was because we took into account the interests of socialism as a whole." Mr Gittings felt that Mao did not really want to give in to Stalin but that it had to be a finely judged situation and it would have been a mistake to push the point too far. China began to lean towards the USSR, buying military and political support in order to gain survival.

Hostility between the United States and the USSR by 1949 had reached a point where neither side could accept China having relations with both sides. Since the Americans did not seem to be interested in a settlement, China's only other alternative was to lean towards the Soviet Union. Various efforts had been made (eg the Huang Hua - Leighton Stuart contacts) to come to a peaceful solution but there was no ideological affinity between the USA and China and the Americans were not really interested in a settlement. In 1955/6 someone in the Washington State Department drafted a formula to solve the problem of Taiwan between China and the USA but while the formula was satisfactory it was not put on the table until 1972 when Nixon went to China. In the mid-1950s the US rejected all China's proposals at the ambassadorial talks for better relations. The abortive formula is recorded in Kissinger's Memoirs: "Taiwan, as expected, provided the most difficult issue. We needed a formula acknowledging the unity of China, which was the one point on which Taipei and Peking agreed, without supporting the claim of either. I finally put forward the American position on Taiwan as follows: 'The United States acknowledges that all Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Straits maintain there is but one China. The United States government does not challenge that position'. I do not think anything I did or said impressed Chou (Zhou Enlai) as much as this ambiguous formula with which both sides were able to live for nearly a decade. (In fairness I must say that I adapted it from a State Department planning document for negotiations, which aborted in the fifties.)"

Mr Gittings felt that China's attempt to find an equilibrium between the super powers was doomed in the 1950s. China was suspicious of the dialogue between the USSR and the USA. China was still dependent on the Soviet Union, and the Americans were not prepared to deal with the Chinese. The Chinese at first hoped that Moscow would listen to them more if they continued to support Soviet leadership. As Mao said in November 1957, "We must have a leader. The CCP is not worthy of this function.... China has not even a quarter of a sputnik, whereas the Soviet Union has two" (and the US, he added, has not even launched a potato). But China hoped to overcome her own weakness and vulnerability to threats from both sides. It was with this in mind that the Great Leap Forward was proposed. This was an attempt to catch up, to be taken seriously and to show the rest of the world that China was a force to be reckoned with. Iron and steel, as well as socialism, was emphasised, as shown in the quotation from the Red Flag (16.10.58), "The US aggressors bully us because we have too little iron and steel.... The US aggressors bully us because we have too little machinery. This calls for even greater efforts on our part.... The US aggressors insist on a policy of blockade and embargo against our country. This helps our country build with greater and faster results.... the US aggressors (are our) teachers by negative example.... The Tito group also deserves to be called a very good teacher by negative example."

After the final Sino-Soviet split in 1963, an irrational element began to creep into Mao's view of the Soviet Union. The USSR began to be characterised as revisionist and more dangerous than the USA; more dangerous because it was more recent as a super power. As Mao said, "We must keep our banner spotless, not drag it through the Russian mud". Not all his colleagues agreed, proposing limited joint action with Moscow to support Vietnam in 1966. (They included Deng Xiaoping.)

China also began to question her relation to the rest of the world and in particular the Third World. Mr Gittings showed a series of the slides depicting these changing attitudes. The image of Chinese-African friendship on the poster hoardings in Peking in the late 1960s was a large black gun being presented to a huge African fighter. During the 1970s this was replaced by a picture of a large red glossy tractor being gratefully received by visiting African peasants. Other posters showed the USA as the imperialist enemy and the Soviet Union as a socialist imperialist enemy. One poster combined the two themes with a fist larger than a face and the USSR and the USA being crushed into dust. Another denounced British imperialism over the disturbances in Hong Kong in 1967. World unity 1980 version replaced the gun by a cine camera. Taiwan 1970 version showed worker, peasant and soldier soaring across the Straits to liberate the island, while a 1980 version gave a different, more contemplative view with people looking wistful and waving.

In 1971 United States conditions finally ripened for a settlement with China which Peking would have accepted in the mid 1950s, but US-China normalisation was not completed till 1978. Only then could there be a new beginning of detente between China and the USSR. The obstacles are still enormous. 1. China had to explore to the full the potential for further development of relations with the USA. (Reagan's attitude on Taiwan demonstrates that a limit has now been reached.) 2. After so many years, the USSR has to convince itself that it is worthwhile making a real gesture to China, such as removing troops from the border, and that is what everyone is waiting for now. 3. Domestically, Chinese policies have changed so that the ideological question of the Sino-Soviet dispute has now become secondary. 4. The anti-Soviet hang-up of the legacy of Mao has finally faded. It is because these four elements are now present in the situation - external and internal factors combined - that the first cautious steps to improve Sino-Soviet relations can finally be undertaken.

China is also prepared now to talk realistically about the difficulties of having an independent foreign policy, "....the world became a complete entity as soon as capitalism took shape and every country became, willingly or unwillingly, an inseparable part of this world.... This is a process which cannot be resisted and which can also be extraordinarily painful. From the mid 19th century onwards, China deteriorated from being a great country with an ancient civilisation into a semi-colony.... For fully 109 years.... China had no independent foreign policy of its own.... It is not easy for an oppressed nation to recover its independence....the implementation of an independent foreign policy is in itself a course of struggle." (Red Flag 1.11.82).

NB The slides Mr Gittings showed were from the collection of modern Chinese popular art set up by the Chinese Visual Aids Project at the Polytechnic of Central London. The Project is happy to make its collection of over 600 posters and other material available for research, teaching and publication. Details from the Chinese Visual Aids Project, The Polytechnic of Central London, School of Languages, 9/18 Euston Centre, London NW1 3ET. (Telephone 01-486 5811)

An essay by John Gittings covering the subject of his lecture is included in *Superpowers in Collision*, Chomsky, Steel, Gittings, (Penguin Books, 1982).

CHINA AFTER THE TEMPEST by Tsai Chin

Tuesday 1st February 1983

Tsai Chin returned to China in the autumn of 1981 to teach drama at the Central Drama Institute in Peking. The culmination of her stay was her production of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' through which she shared with the students new ideas and techniques in western theatre as well as her knowledge of the Chinese dramatic tradition. Showing slides to illustrate her lecture, Tsai Chin talked about the time she spent in China, focusing particularly on Chinese theatre today and her experience of directing China's up-and-coming young actors.

Tsai Chin began by giving her reasons for returning to China. Her first reason was a professional one — to direct and teach modern theatre at the Central School of Dramatic Art where she subsequently directed 'The Tempest'. The second reason was a semi-personal and semi-professional one, to go as her father's daughter. Her father, Zhou Xinfang, was one of China's most eminent and innovative Peking Opera artists, and suffered greatly during the Cultural Revolution. The third reason was to reconnect with her roots, to confront the past and to come to terms with it. Tsai Chin spent six months in China, five in Peking and one month in Shanghai where she lived as a child. Apart from directing 'The Tempest' she also gave lectures on western theatre to theatre people — Peking Opera stars as well as modern theatre people, which she found an enormous challenge. She also paid respects to her father's contemporaries in the artistic community and met Wang Guangmei, Liu Shaoqi's wife, who Tsai Chin portrayed in 1971 in Granada Television's production 'A Subject of Struggle', about the Cultural Revolution. She also went to the theatre as often as she could and even managed to fit in a course on Chinese history.

Tsai Chin explained the different types of theatre in China. Modern theatre is called 'huaju' - spoken drama - while the traditional is a synthesis of all the performing arts — singing, reciting, acting, fighting and dancing. Modern theatre, which started in 1907, made quite an impact in China because they had had the traditional theatre for so long. By the 1930s China had its own dramatists, Cao Yu being the most famous of these, and by the 1950s modern drama reached its height. The Moscow Art Theatre came to China and taught them the Stanislavsky method and started productions of Chekhov, with the famous production in 1954 of 'Uncle Vanya'. Tsai Chin used to spend her childhood sitting in the theatre watching Peking Opera and blames the lowering of standards on the Cultural Revolution, when only eight plays were allowed to be performed. These were the 'yangban xi' (model operas), a mixture of Peking Opera, ballet and melodramatic acting. Consequently the young people were left with little idea of any kind of theatre, let alone Peking Opera. Peking Opera is a type of theatre which involves audience participation — the audience and actors have an enormous intimacy and the audience must understand the conventions in order to appreciate the opera. Since the young people missed all this tradition during the ten years of the Cultural Revolution, they could not understand who was who on stage or appreciate the dramatic techniques. Now most of the great Peking Opera actors are dead. Some of them died a natural death and others disappeared during the Cultural Revolution. The middle-aged actors who could have been great had their careers interrupted. Now they all looked tired on the stage and dispirited because ten crucial years have been taken away. The young actors are fresh and have enormous energy but they have lost the tradition of discipline that makes a great Peking Opera actor, and because the great actors have gone, they have no standards to measure up to. Tsai Chin felt that if matters could be managed correctly, one or two great actors may emerge in about ten years time.

Going round the regional theatres, Tsai Chin found all the worst kinds of influence creeping in. She thought this was because the Chinese theatre people have not visited the west and therefore do not have a yardstick with which to measure the good and bad aspects of western theatre. So they are often choosing the worst aspects — beautiful embroidered costumes are being replaced by gaudy sequins, giving an unintentional pantomime air to a play. Tsai Chin's pet hate is the use of the microphone. She said that she found them everywhere, even in the very small theatres, and even used in opera. She felt that in ten years time the actors will have no vocal technique at all, since they do not have to project their voices when using microphones.

On the cheerful side, she found that many plays have been revived and the government is trying to encourage a revival of different genres of Chinese theatre. One of these is 'kunqu' which is apparently a very difficult genre and in order to save it they put on a festival of 'kunqu' and gathered up all the old actors to perform it so that they could record it, before the tradition died with these old actors. Another revival from the 1950s is 'Teahouse' (Chaguan) by Lao She but because it is a revival, all the young girls are played by the same, now old, girls who first played it in the 1950s! But they at least understand the tradition. Tsai Chin talked about a production of 'Sunrise' by Cao Yu in which the leading female is a modern day courtesan, a very subtle character. The young Chinese actresses now find it difficult to play her because they have no knowledge of this type of person. However, Tsai Chin felt that the Chinese Youth Theatre were doing some very good work, performing the works of many new playwrights - plays concerning unemployment, love and marriage. One play, 'Ming yue chu zhao ren', 'Bright moon reflected for the first time on man', was directed, written and acted completely by women. Only the designer was a man (and he apologised for this!). Tsai Chin was also pleased to note that they did not use microphones. Another play that impressed her was Lu Xun's 'The True Story Of Ah Q'.

Before the Cultural Revolution many plays by Ibsen, Shaw, Oscar Wilde, Shakespeare, Ostrovsky, Gorky and Molière had been performed and since the Cultural Revolution some Molière, Ostrovsky, O'Neill, Goldoni, Sartre, Beaumarchais, Brecht and a lot Shakespeare have been staged. The Chinese have not yet tried the theatre of the absurd but the authorities are looking into this. Tsai Chin thinks that it is important that they see a lot of world theatre so that they can value their own Peking Opera and also be able to introduce what is good from the west into their drama.

The Central Academy of Dramatic Arts, where Tsai Chin taught for five months, is one of the two main academies devoted to modern drama. It is considered a university, so the actor who comes out is awarded a BA. Tsai Chin taught 31 4th year students there. These 31 were chosen from 4000 applicants and they were the first group of students to be enrolled after the Cultural Revolution. They were aged between 20 and 29. Tsai Chin found them very formal and so got them to sit on the carpet and take their shoes off. This sort of thing had never been done before! When the students performed they were very tense and melodramatic, posing and doing all kinds of 'vocal somersaults.' Tsai Chin thought that this had a lot to do with the Stanislavsky method. She found that they were all very concerned about the theory of acting rather than the acting itself, and spent hours writing up the sub-texts. They were very surprised when Tsai Chin started teaching them directly. She found that one of the consequences of their tenseness was that the women's voices became very high-pitched. So Tsai Chin's first intention was to get the female voices down in pitch. They did a lot of relaxation exercises, and concentration, relaxation and imagination games — all very surprising to the students since no teacher had ever rolled around on the floor or touched her students before! The other teachers were supposed to join in these exercises but most hid themselves away.

Tsai Chin chose 'The Tempest' because Shakespeare was very popular and the students wanted to do it. It also has many supernumerary parts — enough for all 31 students — and the play structure was similar to that of Peking Opera, scenes instead of acts. Tsai Chin also found the theme of the play significant. It is about a lesson in forgiveness and coming to terms with tragedy, relevant to the Chinese artistic community, many of whom had spent nine years in solitary confinement. However the faculty considered 'The Tempest' to be a play of colonization, and there is apparently scholastic evidence to substantiate this belief. They did not want Caliban to be made a monster but Tsai Chin agreed with this view since she has always sympathised with the character of Caliban. Tsai Chin wanted the production to be as simple as possible and would not let her designer see the BBC production of 'The Tempest'. She felt that they all had to work at the play from their imagination to make it fresh — the resulting costumes were very successful but the set was less so, partly because the designer would not go to rehearsals. Tsai Chin had quite a struggle to prevent the use of blond wigs, beards and chest hair! She borrowed the notion of colour from Peking Opera for the costumes. In Peking Opera, colour is associated with rank. Yellow is the emperor's colour, red signifies marriage. So when Miranda and Ferdinand were married they put on red things and the Chinese audience immediately knew what had happened. The good people all wore blue, which is a healing colour, and Antonio wore purple, which to the West is a royal colour. The costumes were all very basic, the men wore trousers, boots, jerkin and blouse to give them freedom of movement. The clowns had a stylised make-up which was a combination of the western clown's face and of Peking Opera, symbolised by a patch; square, round or triangle. Caliban wore the triangle.

Tsai Chin's unhappiest day of her whole career as a director was the day of the casting for the play. She usually gives a party after the casting because that is the happiest time when everybody is going to work together. On this occasion the party was a wake. The casting of the play for the 4th year students was critical. If they did not get good parts then they would be assigned for life to mediocre companies with no chance of progressing even if their talent developed. There was nothing Tsai Chin could do about it although she did talk to the authorities. They were aware of the problem and say that it will change in the future.

During the rehearsal period Tsai Chin asked her students to improvise on the characters. They acted out the scenes when Prospero tells Miranda how they arrived on the island, and they also acted out the future with Miranda and Ferdinand as old people telling their grandchildren how they met. For a long time they did not use the script and acted out everything possible so they had a definite history, rather than writing it down. Tsai Chin also wanted her students to have real feeling for the play and so she made them act out fights etc. Prospero controlled Caliban by tying him up in a rope and Prospero made Ferdinand carry chairs up and down stage, so that in the real production he knew what it was like to carry logs. While they were improvising without the script, Miranda and Ferdinand came to the part where she had to ask him "Dost thou love me?". Things came to a halt because the Chinese will never say that in front of anybody. The students were used to having the script to protect them and were not used to exposing themselves in this way and taking risks.

The next stage in the rehearsals came when Tsai Chin would not let the students move at all. If they wanted to move, they had to have a good reason for it. At first the students were very confused but finally learnt that the combination of freedom and restraint meant that the smallest movement had enormous significance.

There were three reactions to Tsai Chin's production of 'The Tempest'. Some people did not like it, others liked it but did not know why they liked it and others liked it for its qualities such as the techniques borrowed from Peking Opera. One reviewer said that out of all Shakespeare's plays this one was the most ethnic and argued that people do Shakespeare not because they are interested in Elizabethans, but because they are interested in what Shakespeare has to say. Tsai Chin felt that this tied in with the Chinese trying to make Peking Opera more modernized and trying to make western plays more related to Chinese culture. In this way, Tsai Chin felt very rewarded.

CHINESE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STUDY AND THE USE OF LESS COMMON METALS

by Professor J. Nutting

Thursday 3rd March 1983

Professor Nutting has visited China on three occasions. In 1979 he was deputy leader of a Mission from The Metals Society, London, which was invited by the Chinese Ministry of Metallurgical Industry to advise the Chinese on the direction they should take in their metallurgical education and in industry. Professor Nutting then spent a month in China in 1981 together with his wife; she taught English whilst he taught Metallurgy at the North East Technical Institute in Shenyang. His most recent visit was in November 1982 when he led a group of 45 to a Conference on the "Less Common Metals" which was held in Hangzhou. The meeting was jointly organised by the Chinese Society of Metals and The Metals Society in Great Britain and brought together a team of international experts in special areas of Metallurgy.

In his talk Professor Nutting discussed the recent changes in the structure of Government in China with particular relevance to the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry. He talked about the way the Chinese are developing and exploiting their resources of the less common metals.

China produces some 35×10^6 tonnes of steel/annum; that is to say just over twice as much as the U.K. However, on a per capita basis British production of steel is about seven times that of China. However, with the less common metals these ratios are somewhat different. Chinese consumption of titanium is only 2.5gms/capita/annum as opposed to a value of 30gms/capita/annum for EEC countries. These statistics would indicate that whilst China is not as sophisticated, metallurgically, as major European countries, it should not be looked upon as a backward country. It also has to be remembered that China has great reserves of many metals of both the common and less common varieties and all that is needed are improvements in metallurgical education and organisation in order to exploit these possibilities.

Prior to 1982 the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry was controlled by a Minister who was assisted by 24 Deputy Ministers (with an average age of 75) having responsibility for a special area of Metallurgy. After reorganisation in 1982 the number of Deputy Ministers was reduced to 4 (with an average age of 65). Each of these Deputy Ministers has a wide responsibility for areas such as education, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, and special projects which include the development of extraction and refining processes for the less common metals.

Metallurgical education in China is supported by two bodies - the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry. There are special universities particularly devoted to Metallurgical education; for example the Peking University for Iron and Steel and the North East Technical Institute in Shenyang. The educational approach is very different from that in Great Britain for it has come to China from Germany of the 19th Century via Russia of the 20th Century. The system is very specialised and students are encouraged to study specific topics such as ironmaking, steelmaking and heat treatment. The students then look for jobs in these areas and if they are not successful they find it difficult to transfer and so meet the needs of a rapidly changing industrial society. In Britain students are given a general metallurgical education which enables them to work in any area. Recently educational missions from China have visited Britain to become better acquainted with the British approach.

As in Britain metallurgical research is linked with metallurgical education, but the Chinese dependence upon academic research is far less than in Britain. Metallurgical research is chiefly carried out in special Institutes supported by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Academia Sinica) and The Ministry of Metallurgical Industry. If problems arise in a metallurgical factory they may be solved by the local "trouble shooting" laboratory. But in many cases these problems are referred to the central Ministry and they are then farmed out to the appropriate Research Institute. The Institute then makes its findings known to the Ministry and these, in turn, go back to the factory. There is a lack of direct contact between the factory and the Research Institute and this is not beneficial to the solving of problems. The research programmes of the laboratories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences are linked to industrial needs as, for example, the work of the Non-ferrous Metals Institute in Shenyang, but the transfer of technology from these Institutes to industry is a difficult process. However, it is from the Institutes of the Academy that China maintains its links with the world community of Science and Engineering.

The Chinese Society of Metals is the equivalent of The Metals Society in Britain and fulfills the same role in the dissemination of knowledge through the publication of monthly journals, e.g. and the publication of monographs. To judge by the references given their authors are well read in the British and American literature.

The interchange of scientists and engineers within a metallurgical framework is arranged by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry, but personal links are now developing and it is from these links that undergraduate and postgraduate exchanges are being started.

The less common metals may be defined as those other than iron and steel, copper, zinc, lead, tin, nickel and aluminium. China is the chief source of tungsten, supplying about half the world demand. However, there are extensive deposits of this metal in many other parts of the world and therefore in order to maintain its share of the market China has to pursue an aggressive pricing policy. The other major group of less common metals found in China are the rare earths. It has become an aphorism to say that the rare earths are not rare in China. However, the ore bodies are somewhat different from those found in other parts of the world and consequently the Chinese have had to develop special extraction and refining processes for dealing with them. There are now ten plants in China producing rare earths and some 200 products derived from them. The presence of these rare earths has perhaps distorted the development of Chinese metallurgy. In almost

every Institute there is a programme of research on rare earths with particular emphasis upon their role as minor alloying elements for the addition to more conventional alloys.

Less common metals such as molybdenum, vanadium, niobium and tantalum are now being produced in China, although the exact amounts are difficult to assess. Vanadium is found in association with iron ores as is titanium, and new extraction processes are being developed for dealing with the complex ore bodies. Many of these ores are found in Inner Mongolia and transport to these remote areas is difficult. The fact that there are sources of niobium in China is of considerable commercial and strategic significance, since the major source of niobium is in South America.

On the south China coast the beach sands are being exploited for the production of titanium and zirconium, whilst on one of the offshore islands there are deposits of cobalt minerals. China has a plentiful supply of the precious metals - silver, gold and platinum - and these metals are now being sold through the London market. There is a special research institute for these metals in Kunming, Yunnan province, close to the source of the ore bodies. Other less common metals found and being extracted in China are beryllium, rubidium, caesium, indium, germanium and rhenium. It could well be asked what metals do the Chinese not possess? The major deficiency would appear to be chromium and the Chinese government must be faced with an interesting moral problem - should it import chromium from South Africa or Russia, the two major chromium exporting nations?

In exploiting their natural metallic resources the Chinese need help in the development of extraction processes from complex and unusual ore bodies and provision of mining and mineral processing equipment and they are looking for partners to start joint ventures with them. However, the trading conditions proposed have not been entirely satisfactory to the western "mining houses". The indications are, however, that by the end of this century China will have become one of the major suppliers of less common metals to the rest of the world but that these metals will be sold chiefly as primary products rather than sophisticated alloys or even semi-finished products. In this respect the Chinese will be following the well established patterns of metal trading that have been characteristic of Australia, Canada and South Africa.

THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN FOR THE ONE-CHILD FAMILY: POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION by Dr Deborah Davis-Friedmann

16th March 1983

Dr Deborah Davis-Friedmann, Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Yale University, was one of the first American sociologists to do field work in China in 1978. In her lecture on the current policy, which is aiming to persuade couples to limit their families to only one child in an attempt to control the population, Dr Davis-Friedmann discussed the economic, social and political implications of the campaign, and its chances of long term success.

I. Demographic Background

Dr Davis-Friedmann began by examining a table of demographic trends in China from John Aird's "Recent Demographic Developments" in *China Under the Four Modernizations Part 1* (US Congress Joint Econ. Comm., August 1982)

Demographic Trends in China

	Annual Average Population (in millions)	Total Births (in millions)	Net Increase Rate (per 1000 people)
1949	536.3		
1950	546.8	20.0	18.8
1955	608.6	20.6	19.7
1960	NA	13.3	NA (possibly negative)
1965	715.7 (DDF Estimate)	28.1	NA
1970	814.4	27.0	27.1
1975	911.9	21.0	17.12
1980	976.7	18.0	11.9

Dr Davis-Friedmann explained that Mr Aird's figures had come close to what other people had found in surveys but that they still had to be treated with caution. The first point she made was the enormous increase in the size of the population from 536 million in 1949 to 976 million in 1980. The actual rate of increase in terms of total births and net increase rate has been very irregular and the actual birth rate shows dramatic ups and downs. There is a lack of good data for the years of the Great Leap Forward 1958-62. The Great Leap Forward had a devastating effect on the population in the short term. In 1961 there was a net decrease in the population increase with 40 million deaths and 13-15 million births. In 1963 there was a rebound with a peak year of 30 million births. Dr Davis-Friedmann felt that this was a response on the part of mothers to a return to good times. Another more long term consequence of the Great Leap Forward disaster was a very irregular pattern of growth 1956-64. Thus in the three years prior to the Great Leap Forward (1956-58) there had been 61 million births and in the three years following (1962-64) there were 81 million births. These latter three years in particular have had an

enormous effect by presenting all social institutions with an extraordinary increase of demand after a previous period of decreased pressure.

For understanding the current one-child campaign, however, the key demographic shift is not 1962-64, but the longer period 1962-71. In this decade there were 267 million births and 66 million deaths which leaves a staggering net increase in the population of 200 million. It is these 200 million which are the target of the current campaign; the vast number of people who have to be accommodated in full-time jobs and homes, putting an enormous pressure on the various institutions in society. This is why since 1978 there have been extreme measures culminating in the current campaign for the one-child family.

Dr Davis-Friedmann then examined some Chinese figures showing projections for a population of 1127 million for the year 2000. Dr Davis-Friedmann thought that this was an unrealistic goal.

II Summary of the Campaign

The campaign for the one-child family began in 1978 and it is expected to go on until 1999. The target is those people who were born between 1956 and 1977 with a particular emphasis on those born in 1962-71. In the spring of 1978 the ideas were put together for the current campaign and by summer there were the beginnings of the administrative apparatus. In late 1978 the campaign was put into action. By summer 1980 the government was steadily implementing the policy throughout China and by summer 1981 it was a top priority. The culmination of the current campaign will be a Family Planning Law in 1985. Up until then it will merely have been stated that it is the obligation and duty of every citizen to limit his family size. After 1985 it will be made more formally legalistic.

Several steps were taken between 1978 and 1983 in an attempt to enforce the current campaign. A system of individual incentives and punishments has been set up aimed at families and administrators, though the target is the individual family. These incentives and punishments vary between the urban and rural areas. In the urban areas there are four major incentives. The first is a monthly subsidy of 5 rmb if the family limits itself to one child. The family will also be offered more housing space: room for a family of four, instead of three. The child will be given priority in day care and early education facilities, and the mother will be entitled to longer maternity leave. Dr Davis-Friedmann thought that priority in day care institutions would be the major incentive. There is a shortage of space in day care institutions with a considerable pecking order. Longer maternity leave is also quite an incentive: this will be increased from 56 to 90 days and may even be as long as 6 months in some cases, which is likely to be the longest vacation any woman will have in her working life in China. She thought that the increase in housing space would be insignificant but that the priority for housing space would be important.

In the rural areas there are also a variety of economic incentives. The one child is entitled to an adult grain ration, a family gets the private plot of a family of four and all contraceptives are free. If a family of one child agrees to sterilization they receive 300 rmb in cash, 45 rmb for special food and 100 kg of glutinous rice. In general these rural incentives are weaker than those offered to urban families and particularly for rural families where the first born is a girl, the "rewards" cannot possibly compensate for the loss of a son as a major family breadwinner.

The penalties for having a second child are even stronger than the incentives. In the urban areas the mother and father get a 10% reduction in pay; they have to pay all the hospital fees which are free otherwise; the mother does not get paid leave; the child receives no subsidized grain ration and they are put at the bottom of the list for day care, with very little chance of getting in at all because of the shortage of places. In many rural areas families must sell more grain to the State at a low price; they are not allowed a private plot, which is serious and results in loss of income; and they have to pay 200-300 rmb to the State in cash.

On the administrative side, the implementation of the campaign works to a large extent on a quota system. In an area with, for instance, 50 families it might be decided that there should be a quota of ten births for that year. People who have been married the longest and have no children are put at the top of the quota list. If they do not succeed in having a child in that year, they are put to the bottom of the list again. There have been reports of people trading their birth quotas. Late marriage has also been proposed, for couples to marry at 24 and 26 rather than 20 and 22. Another policy has been to punish leaders in charge of this work or health units for overshooting quotas but it remains to be seen how effective this is.

There are a number of exemptions from the policy of the one-child family. Parents are allowed to have another child if the first child was born with a non-hereditary birth defect. If a couple has tried for years to have a child, failed, adopted a child and then the wife becomes pregnant, she is allowed to keep the child. Similarly in a marriage where one spouse had previously been married with children, the couple are allowed to have a child of their own. In many rural areas, there has also been *de facto* permission for families whose first born is a girl, to have a second child without penalty.

Dr Davis-Friedmann also examined the differences between this campaign and the three previous ones of 1953-1957, 1962-1966 and 1969-1975. She felt that the current campaign was far more stringent and better organised and coordinated with the medical profession than the other three. In the past there had been a lot of medical resistance to the problems of contraception and abortion. Previous campaigns had contained propaganda on the bad impact of having lots of children, which had not really convinced anyone anyway. This campaign contains no information of this type. Better forms of contraception are being used nowadays. The current campaign is also far more punitive than past campaigns. However, Dr Davis-Friedmann was also struck by the parallels as well as by the differences between the campaigns. The use of quotas, the use of public contracts, widespread home visits, and the heavy use of public censure are techniques that have all been used before.

III Implications of the Campaign

Finally, Dr Davis-Friedmann discussed the implications of a successful campaign (ie if 85% of families have only one child). First of all there would be a change in the dependency ratio: a drop-off in the numbers of children will mean, in the short term, less of a call for expensive education. There will also be a disturbing sex ratio change. It has been predicted that

in 1990 there will be 15 million more females than males of a marriageable age. This will have an impact on marriage arrangements. Alternatively, if female infanticide carries on unchecked then there will be the possibility of too few women. Statistically, approximately 50% of the population will not have sons. Parents may have to invest more in girls and put pressure on work places to hire women but this has got a long way to go. At the moment there are many discriminations against women at work. New relationships in the family may also develop. Children generally take on the role of giving support to their parents and taking care of them in old age. The State intervenes if there are no children to look after the elderly but this is not as satisfactory as having children. If there is only one child there is bound to be a great intensification of the parent/child relationship. Parents may pin all their hopes and aspirations on the one child and Dr Davis-Friedmann felt that the strain on the child in the short term may be untenable. She also felt that the reduction of children in the family might lead to a stronger husband/wife bond; parents may turn to each other for companionship when they no longer have children as an emotional source. Alternatively, the bond may worsen if there are no children to look after. Children will also be affected by the lack of sibling rivalry.

Dr Davis-Friedmann felt that if the campaign were to be 85% successful, then the potential to transform society would be as dramatic as land reform. However, even in the short term the government has had to rely heavily on coercive measures and the campaign is not built on a ground swell of popularity. As a result she felt that there is a definite risk of alienating a large portion of the population and that resistance to the one-child family campaign may significantly alter both the stringent quota of only one child and the punitive methods currently employed.

Other News

Departure of His Excellency, Mr Ke Hua

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II received Ke Hua, Chinese Ambassador to Britain and his wife in Buckingham Palace on 16th March to mark the end of his posting to Britain. On 8th March Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs gave a farewell dinner in honour of Ke Hua and praised the friendly relations between China and Britain and hoped the relationship would develop. The Great Britain - China Centre gave a farewell luncheon in honour of His Excellency Ke Hua and Mme Zhang Ming on 22nd February hosted by Sir Harold Thompson CBE FRS, Vice President of the Centre. The Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr George Thomas MP, the Rt Hon Edward Heath, Mr Peter Rees MP, Minister of State for Trade, Field Marshall Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of Staff and other senior officials also gave farewell parties in honour of His Excellency Ke Hua. In turn the Chinese Ambassador gave a farewell dinner on 7th March at which more than 100 guests, including Sir Geoffrey Howe, Sir Keith Joseph and Field Marshall Bramall, were present. The Ambassador and Mme Zhang Ming left Britain on 22nd March.

Arrival of the new Chinese Ambassador

The new Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Zhaoyuan arrived in Britain on 22nd April. Mr Chen was, in the past, Ambassador to Burma, to Spain and to India. From 1980-82 he was Head of the Second Department of Asian Affairs of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is accompanied by his wife Mme Ma Lansen.

Concert

Lu Siqing, a thirteen year old violinist studying at the Yehudi Menuhin School gave a performance of Bruch's Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor opus 26 in January at the Fairfield Hall accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Bell Educational Trust in China

The External Services Unit of the Bell Educational Trust has recently signed a four year contract with the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Fisheries to take responsibility for English language teaching at two new centres established by the Ministry in China. The centres, at the Peking Forestry College and the Central China Agricultural College in Wuhan, have been set up to service a large project, funded by the World Bank, to provide postgraduate training in English for Chinese lecturers in the field of agriculture and related disciplines. The Bell Educational Trust's role will be to provide the academic management, equipment and teachers for the centres preparing Chinese personnel for study overseas. A major responsibility will be to provide counterpart training so that Chinese teachers of English can take over responsibility for the project after three years. The first team of teachers, which includes a Director of studies and a teacher trainer, will be travelling to China in May to start the teaching programme in June. The second team will be going to Peking in October to begin teaching in November. At the same time two groups of ten Chinese teachers will attend an intensive teacher training course at Bell College in Saffron Walden. In the second and third years of the project the number of expatriate teachers will be reduced as the Chinese teachers are ready to take their place. In the fourth year of operation the Trust will send a teaching advisor to each centre to ensure a smooth transfer of responsibility to the Chinese staff. The success of the Trust in winning the contract against mainly American competition owes much to the support of the British Council in London, Washington and Peking and to long-standing cooperation with the Chinese Embassy in London. The Trust has been providing language training for Chinese graduates at its schools in Norwich and Saffron Walden since 1973.

British Council News

The following visits have recently taken place:

To Britain:

A Meteorological Navigation Study Group led by Mr Li Yishi, Director of the Navigation Department of the Shanghai Ship and Shipping Research Institute visited Britain from 9th-23rd January. The Meteorological Office organised visits to various branches for one week and in the second week visits were made to the Ports Meteorological Office Southampton, the London Weather Centre, the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences and Ocean Routes Europe Ltd.

A University Administration Study Group led by Mr Huang Tianxiang, Director of the First Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education visited Britain from 20th February-6th March. The group visited the Council for National Academic Awards, Ealing College of Higher Education, Oxford and Leeds Polytechnics and the Universities of Bath, Lancaster, Oxford, Sheffield and Surrey.

Mr Ma Shiyi and Mr Pang Yongxiang from Peking University Library visited Britain from 18th-30th March to look at procedures for book purchase by university libraries. Peking University Library will be responsible for coordinating book orders under the World Bank's education programme in China. They visited university libraries at Loughborough, Sheffield and London, The British Library Lending Division and Science Reference Division and also visited bookshops, publishers and shipping agents.

Mme Liu Dailin from the Central Radio and Television University arrived at the end of March for a five-month visit. She spent two months on an English course in Folkestone before a two-month attachment to the English by Radio and TV Department of the BBC. In August she will participate in the BBC Summer School on Television Presentation.

To China:

Three-month English language courses are being run by lecturers from the British Council from March onwards in three institutions: Shanxi Medical College, Taiyuan; Hebei Teachers' University, Shijiazhuang; Chemical Technology Institute, Shanghai. Another lecturer ran an English Seminar at the Peking Languages Institute from 10th-31st March.

Professor A Cameron of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Imperial College London visited China from 20th February-27th March to give lectures on tribology at Qinghua University and other institutions.

Martin Isepp, Head of Music Staff and Jane Glover, Music Director, both of Glyndebourne Touring Opera visited Peking from 20th February-9th March. They gave classes to the musicians of the Central Opera Company and gave lectures there and at the Central Conservatory on many aspects of opera from the training of opera singers and the selection of operas to the organisation of rehearsal and performance schedules. It is hoped that Glyndebourne Touring Opera will visit China in 1986.

Dr Donald Mitchell, Chairman of Faber Music Ltd visited China from 28th February-12th March to give lectures on the life and music of Benjamin Britten. He also made presentations to various institutions in China of music scores by Britten given by the Britten Estate of which Dr Mitchell is a Trustee.

Professor H T Dickinson of the Department of History at Edinburgh University visited China from 19th March-25th April to run a course on British History at the University of Nanjing for postgraduate students all over China.

Dr J G Kyle of the University of Bristol School of Education Research Unit visited China for three weeks in April to lecture on the education of the deaf and to look at schools for the deaf in China. He visited the Society of the Deaf and Dumb, Peking Teachers' University and the Institute of Psychology.

The Report of the Nature Conservation Delegation to China 4-24 April 1982 is now available from the Centre. Please send us a 21p stamp for postage if you would like a copy.

Royal Society News

Visits from China under the Chinese Academy of Sciences agreement quota:

Dr Chen Jinyong (Changchun Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics): Visit to SERC Daresbury Laboratory, 30 January for 3 months.

Dr Shen Qing (Institute of Mechanics): Research in rarefied gas dynamics at Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, Cambridge University, 2 January for 6 months.

Professor Jiang Shiyang (Peking Observatory): Research on faint object spectrophotograph at Department of Physics, Durham University, 16 January for 5 months.

Dr Xu Yuanze (Institute of Chemistry, Peking): Attendance at 'Rheology in Crude Oil Production' Conference at Imperial College and subsidiary visits, 10-24 April.

Mr Fan Shude (Shanghai Institute of Entomology): Attendance at Commonwealth Institute of Entomology course on applied taxonomy of insects and mites of agricultural importance, 10 April-5 June.

Ex-agreement visit:

Professor Li Peizi (Institute of Acoustics): Research at the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research, Southampton University, extension of stay for six months from March.

Visits to China under the Chinese Academy of Sciences agreement quota:

Dr J L Finney (Birkbeck College, London): Crystallography, 6-20 March.

Professor C A R Hoare FRS (Oxford University) and Professor C B Jones (Manchester University): Computing, 2-23 April.

Dr A Cornish-Bowden (Birmingham University): Biochemistry, 3-24 April.

Ex-agreement visits:

Dr D H Cushing FRS: Oceanography, 16 March-12 April.

Dr M J Goodyer (Southampton University): Aeronautics, 19 March-10 April.

Professor A L Cullen FRS (University College London): Electrical Engineering, 27 March-10 May.

Professor A N Schofield (Cambridge University): Soil Mechanics, 29 March-13 April.

Dr R S Bray (Imperial College Field Station): Parasitology, and Professor Elizabeth Canning (Imperial College): Protozoology, 21 April-9 May.

Professor D G Kendall FRS (Cambridge University) and Professor D Williams (University College Swansea): Mathematics, 27 April-3 June.

Other British Visitors to China

January

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP, Secretary of State for Industry was met and feted by Wan Li, acting Premier of the State Council, in Peking. They discussed opportunities for bilateral trade and cooperation in coal mining, offshore oil exploration and power industry. Also present on this occasion were Jia Shi, Vice Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, and Sir Percy Cradock, British Ambassador to China. Mr Jenkin also held talks with Chen Muhua, State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, on bilateral economic cooperation. Mme Chen hosted a banquet in honour of Mr Jenkin and his party in Peking and said in her toast that "China and Britain enjoy a very sound relationship in political, economic and cultural fields and our economic cooperation and trade relations are even closer". Mr Jenkin said that Britain was willing and able to help China in communications, port modernisation, aviation, construction, agricultural science and the technical transformation of existing enterprises.

Mr Terry Waite was met and feted by Wang Bingnan, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and Zhao Fusan, Vice Chairman of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement Committee of the Protestant Churches of China, in Peking. Mr Waite was in China to make arrangements for the visit to China in December of the Archbishop of Canterbury at the invitation of the CPAFFC and the China Christian Council. Mr Waite also toured Xi'an, Suzhou, Hangzhou and Shanghai.

February

Wang Bingnan met and feted the Rt Rev Michael Mann, Dean of Windsor, and Mrs Mann in Peking. The Rev and Mrs Mann also visited Xi'an, Shanghai and Suzhou. In Peking they visited Chongwanmen Church and Rev Mann had a two hour meeting with Zhao Fusan in which they discussed Churches in Britain, China's all round implementation of the policy for freedom of religious belief and the present religious activities in China.

England's Youth Badminton team won its women's matches 3-2 while losing the men's 2-4 at Changsha to the Hunan Provincial Youth Badminton team. The English team arrived in Changsha after participating in an invitation tournament in Shaoguan, Guangdong Province, where the Chinese players won all seven titles.

March

Gu Dachun, Vice President of the All China Federation of Trade Unions met and feted a delegation from the Trades Union Congress, led by Mr Len Murray, in the Great Hall of the People. The delegation was invited by the All China Federation of Trade Unions and the two sides gave accounts of the trade union activities of their respective countries and exchanged views on developing friendly relations between Chinese and British trade unions. The delegation was also met by Vice Premier Wan Li who said that he hoped to see further development of economic cooperation and trade between the two countries. Present on this occasion were Chen Yu, Advisor to the All China Federation of Trade Unions and Sir Percy Cradock, British Ambassador to China. The delegation also visited Shanghai and Xi'an where they met Chinese workers and trade union officials.

Nancy Worcester led a women's delegation from the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding to China where they were met and feted by Kang Keqing, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and President of the All China Women's Federation. Huang Ganying, Vice President of the Women's Federation was also present.

A delegation led by Mr M G Manzie, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Industry visited China to discuss the building of a nuclear power plant in Guangdong Province, the first of its kind to be jointly built by Chinese and overseas firms. The nuclear power plant is to be constructed by the Guangdong Power Company, Hong Kong's China Light and Power Company and other firms. The Chinese delegation at the talks was led by Li Peng, Vice Minister of Water Resources and Electric Power. The British delegation were met by State Councillor Gu Mu who said that "the construction of the nuclear power plant will benefit the economic development of both Guangdong and Hong Kong and will be conducive to Sino-British cooperation in other fields."

April

Mr Ken Coates, Director of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, who went to China at the invitation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries met with State Councillor Ji Pengfei in Peking. The Foundation was initiated by Bertrand Russell with the aim of establishing a permanent organisation working for the peace movement. Mr Coates was also met and feted by Wang Bingnan.

Sir Frederic Bennett MP, Vice President of the Western European Union led a delegation from the General Affairs Committee of the Assembly of the Western European Union to China at the invitation of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA). Members of Parliament from six countries took part, including Lord Hughes, Lord Reay and Mr James Hill MP from Britain. The delegation was given a banquet by Hao Deqing, President of CPIFA and also had a meeting with Premier Zhao Ziyang.

Other Chinese Visitors to Britain

January

Five Chinese editors arrived in Britain for a six-month training programme arranged for them by The Publishers Association. The editors came from the Shanghai Translation Publishing House, the Popular Science Publishing House, Scientia Sinica Publishing House, 'Chinese Literature' magazine and the Publishers Association of China. The trainees were seconded to various British publishing firms after an introductory week of briefings in London. The Publishers Association also arranged monthly seminars for the editors on different aspects of the book trade.

February

Mr Wang Guangzhong, Acting Governor of Liaoning Province led a delegation from Liaoning invited to Britain by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Their programme was organised by the Central

Office of Information and included visits to textile, truck, cycle and machine tools factories in Birmingham, Nottingham, Leeds, Halifax and Bradford. They visited a farm near York and were shown housing and redevelopment in Sheffield where the Lord Mayor gave a civic banquet in honour of the delegation. In London they had a meeting with Mr Peter Rees QC MP, Minister for Trade and were guests at a luncheon given by Lord Belstead, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

March

A delegation from Heilongjiang Province led by Mr Hou Jie, Deputy Governor of the Province visited Britain at the invitation of The 48 Group of British Traders with China. They made visits to companies with special interest in Heilongjiang's foreign trade in London, King's Lynn, Leicester, Bradford and Manchester.

Her Excellency Madame Chen Muhua, State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade visited Britain at the invitation of Her Majesty's Government to hold talks on economic cooperation and trade development between Britain and China. She was accompanied by Mr Gan Ziyu, Vice Minister of the State Planning Commission and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade. She had meetings with the Rt Hon Lord Cockfield, Secretary of State for Trade, the Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP Secretary of State for Industry, the Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP Secretary of State for Energy and also called on the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street. Lord Cockfield gave a reception and a dinner at Lancaster House in honour of Mme Chen. The Sino-British Trade Council gave a luncheon hosted by Lord Nelson. Mme Chen and her party visited the port of Felixstowe and various industrial enterprises in the North of England. In Manchester they attended a concert given by the Hallé Orchestra and saw a performance of "La Fille Mal Gardée" by the Royal Ballet in London.

Three Chinese men and six women players were listed among the top eight seeds for the singles events at the All-England Badminton Championships. Last year China won the women's singles and doubles titles for the first time. China's six pairs of men and women players were also listed among the top eight seeds in three doubles events. In the competition, Zhang Ailing of China won the women's singles title of 1983 after all the non-Chinese players were knocked out of the quarter finals. China's Luan Jin also won the men's singles title, beating the defending champion Morten Frost of Denmark. This is the first time that China has won this title. Xu Rong and Wu Jianqiu won the women's doubles title after beating the defending champions Lin Ying and Wu Dixi.

China sent six athletes to compete in the 11th World Cross Country Championships held in Britain on 20th March. The Chinese team was led by Lou Dapeng, Secretary for International Affairs of the Chinese Track and Field Association. The team only took part in the men's senior group competition.

A seven member team from the Chongqing Acrobatic Troupe visited Britain at the invitation of Roberto Germains, Manager of the British Noel Gay Artists Ltd and John Fisher, a producer with the BBC TV network. The team performed its famed "leather strap" item for television.

April

Four Chinese divers competed in the Sino-British-American diving meet held in London in April at the invitation of the British Amateur Swimming Association. China won top honours in the men's and women's high board contest while the USA and Britain took the men's and women's springboard gold medals.

Six young Chinese musicians took part in the first Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition held in Folkestone. They formed the youngest group China has ever sent to an International music contest and were led by Professor Wang Zhenshan of the Central Conservatory of Music. They were accompanied by Wu Zuqiang, Head of the Central Conservatory of Music who was invited to be a member of the jury. Thirteen year old Wang Xiaodong won the first prize of £2,500 and a silver medal in the junior section. China also won second, third and fifth prizes in the junior section and took fourth place in the senior section. Leland Chen from Taiwan won first prize and Tasmin Little of Britain won third prize in the senior section. Fifty violinists from nineteen countries participated in the ten-day competition which was sponsored by Orion Insurance.

Two Chinese Gymnasts participated in the 13th Daily Mirror International Gymnastics Tournament in London.

An exhibition of 600 books published by Pitman Ltd opened for eight days in the Tianjin Foreign Languages Bookstore. Subjects included medicine, biology, management, commerce, economics, mathematics, engineering technology, computer science, education and linguistics. Present at the opening ceremony were Mr Ian Pringle, Manager of Pitman's export department and leaders of the China National Publications Import and Export Corporation, which sponsored the exhibition. Similar exhibitions were held simultaneously in Zhengzhou, Guiyang and Nanchang.

The 1983 China International Tourism conference was held in Peking at the beginning of March, attended by nearly 1,000 tourism officials from 45 countries and regions including Mr L J Lickorish, Director General of the British Tourist Authority who spoke on the growth of international tourism in the last ten years. The conference was the first of its kind held in China.

Sir Shridath Ramphal, British Commonwealth Secretary General and Mr John Small, Deputy Secretary General took part in the Peking South-South Conference in Peking in April to discuss ways of breaking the stalemate in North-South negotiations and establishing a new international economic order. In his speech to the conference Sir Shridath proposed that a third world secretariat be set up to coordinate the Third World initiative and promote the North-South dialogue. Sir Shridath Ramphal and Mr John Small also met with Xie Li, Secretary General of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs.

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