

Leaders in Peking Hear Complaints

(EDITORS NOTE: What is life like today in Communist China? Few Westerners are permitted to enter China and they usually have little opportunity to see the countryside or talk to the average Chinese. Lately, however, increasing criticism of Red China's internal problems have been printed in publications which find their way to the outside world. In the following article, a veteran foreign correspondent cites some examples of recent complaints).

By CHARLES R. SMITH
Of the United Press International
TOKYO—One morning last June, while darkness still covered Shu Cheng County in Communist China's Anhwei Province, 50-year-old Chang Hsing-chang arose earlier than usual.

He stole quietly to headquarters of the Lofengkang People's Commune and left a letter in the crack of the door.

He returned home quickly and prepared for another day of backbreaking digging at the Hsiangkusu Reservoir, which his production team was helping build.

When commune chief Tzu Koting opened the door to his office that morning the letter fell to the ground. It was for him.

According to the official Peking People's Daily newspaper, Tzu was startled by the unsigned letter because it criticized him, his high-handed methods and commune policies.

The letter also complained of "certain" shortages.

Tzu did what any good Communist should, the People's Daily indicated. He indulged in "self-criticism" before the peasants. He "rectified" his thinking and high-handed methods. But he also "patiently explained"—and the peasants understood, said the People's Daily—the reason for the commune policies that came from the Communist party bosses in Peking.

It was only after Tzu did all this that Chang admitted he delivered the anonymous letter.

"Had we known Secretary Tzu was that serious in handling the people's letters," Chang said, "there would have been no need for me to deliver the letter under cover of darkness."

Later in the year, when the autumn harvest was getting under way across the vast China mainland, Chairman Mao Tse-tung and other Communist party leaders ended a conference in Peking with a communiqué.

It said: "The actual harvest of summer crops this year has shown a slight gain over that of last year, and the yield of autumn crops is also expected to register an increase."

This did not mean, the communiqué warned, that food shortages would end, that things would get better for the nation's 650 million people.

"Certain difficulties still exist," it said, and will continue to exist "for a period of time . . ."

The members of the Shih Chuang production brigade of the Yungnien County People's Commune in Hopei Province got the message more bluntly.

Although the brigade's production was up during the year, the members cannot expect an increase in income, food, fertilizer, equipment or supplies, said the Hopei daily newspaper and the Shih-Shih Shou-Tse (Current Affairs) magazine.

The stated reasons were the brigade's uneconomical practices, failure to follow policies



Mao, Aide

Mao Tse-tung, Red China Communist Party chief, and his top lieutenant, Liu Chao-chi, wave to people taking part in the celebration of the 13th anniversary of the Communist take-over in China.

from above, and greater needs elsewhere.

The publication of numerous such items in authoritative Red Chinese publications are significant to students of Red Chinese affairs.

Combined with information from refugees, visitors to China and other sources, they make it possible to draw some conclusions on life behind the Bamboo Curtain.

For instance, Chang's letter—and the many others like it—gives a fairly clear indication that life is hard, income is low and food is short for the peasants. Conditions are not much better in the cities.

It also can be interpreted as an indication that discontent is widespread, that authorities are permitting—perhaps even encouraging—some letting off of steam and reacting positively to criticism in some cases.

Along with this, however, has been a stringent clampdown on internal security. There has been an acknowledged shake up of Red China's internal security forces. There has been an increase in training and indoctrination of the militia, which numbers in the tens of millions and provides a ready manpower pool that can be tapped quickly by the regular army in time of need.

There also has been an increase in external security, particularly in connection with the border conflict with India and fear of subversion and invasion by Nationalist Chinese forces from nearby Formosa.

But, as far as is known here, there has been no increase in the size of the estimated 2.5 million-man regular People's Liberation army.

One authoritative paper, the Canton Nanfang Jihpao, alone has published scores of articles in recent months emphasizing the need for tight security measures to guard against subversion by Nationalist Chinese spies or sympathizers, or attack from abroad by any enemy forces.

South African Paper Forecasts Violence

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—A warning that South Africa must expect increasing racial violence and sabotage in 1963 is published in the Johannesburg Post. This weekly for nonwhites has good contacts with sources of information in the African majority.

The Post's articles remarks that the last two months of 1962 witnessed three clashes between armed Africans and white police.

"Political activities in this country have taken an alarming turn," says the Post. "There is force, and force is being met by force, and the vicious cycle spins faster and faster . . . South Africa will have to live . . . with a look over its shoulder in dark streets, with alarm at unexpected noise, with fear."

Raids Staged
South Africa's top policeman, Lt. Gen. J. M. Keesy, pledged after the three outbreaks that his forces "will move heaven and earth to wipe out the Poqo terrorists." Raids have been staged, especially in Cape Town's segregated African townships of Langa and Nyanga, which are believed to be Poqo headquarters. Poqo is an African organization with the motto "We Stand Alone."

Stiff prison sentences have been dealt saboteurs caught and convicted. A 19-year-old African got 15 years on conviction

of attempting to derail trains, although the judge said he suspected the youth had been the tool of behind-scenes forces which may have included "white inciters."

3 Movements
The Post says three underground movements dedicated to sabotage or violence appear to be active in South Africa. It lists these as:

• The National Liberation Front which says it owes allegiance to the outlawed African National Congress. It claims to have organized escape routes for political refugees and the smuggling of students and nurses out of South Africa.

• Umkonto We Skowe—the spear of the nation—also says it is loyal to the banned African National Congress. It asserts it is African-led but says it welcomes support from all races.

• Poqo—A loose terrorist organization believed to be connected with elements from the banned Pan Africanist Congress. It seems to be a right-wing group.

The post says the outlawing of the African National Congress (once headed by Nobel Peace Prize winner Albert Lutuli) and the Pan Africanist Congress (last headed by the imprisoned Robert Sobukwe) led to formation of the underground organizations.

ence explained the reasons for all this:

"The reactionary ruling classes which have been overthrown are not reconciled to their doom. They always attempt to stage a comeback."

"Meanwhile, there still exist in society bourgeois influence, the force of habit of old society and the spontaneous tendency towards capitalism among party of the small producers."

"Therefore, among the people, a small number of persons, making up only a tiny fraction of the total population, who have not yet undergone Socialist remoulding, always attempt to depart from the Socialist road and turn to the capitalist road whenever there is an opportunity."

If capitalism keeps creeping back, the Communist leaders themselves must share part of the blame. In an attempt to quiet discontent, bolster the communes and the economy, they have injected some fairly liberal doses of controlled capitalism.

This includes the encouragement of private sideline occupations by commune members, incentive programs to boost production, expansion of rural trade fairs.

The rural trade fairs, where farmers and handicraft workers are permitted to sell their privately produced goods, under supervision, are flourishing.

The youth of China have been the main target of some of the Peking regime's most spirited recent campaigns. These include a back-to-the-farm movement and a revival of birth control.

"Many young comrades are now warmly discussing the question of going to take part in agricultural production," the Chung-Kul Ching-Nien (China Youth) magazine said.

This perhaps was best illustrated by a cartoon in the June 16 issue of the Kwangming daily showing a young couple with four children, all looking miserable. A commentary about the cartoon said: "This picture reminds us that many young people, in their early 20's and because of their early marriage, have a large number of children. Every day they are tormented by household affairs. All this misery is brought about by early marriage."

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The craft crashed two days ago. It was carrying 21 men and women members of Corsican basketball teams, 3 crewmen and a 3-year-old boy.

Rescue Teams Reach Wreckage

AJACCIO, Corsica (AP)—Rescue teams reached the wreckage of a French airliner in the blizzard-swept Corsican mountains Monday and found no survivors among the 25 persons aboard.

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