

**GLIMPSES OF  
PEOPLE'S CHINA**

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PEKING CHINA**

## PREFACE

*Ever since China became a land of New Democracy, following the triumph of the revolution, there has been a constant stream of visitors from all parts of the world to this country to see for themselves how things are going under the people's rule.*

*In the spring of 1953, trade union leaders from twenty countries and representatives of the World Federation of Trade Unions came to China, at the invitation of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, to attend the May Day celebrations and the Seventh All-China Congress of Trade Unions. During their brief stay, they visited factories and farms, schools and institutions, construction sites in cities and villages; they talked with workers, peasants, intellectuals, the young and the old, men, women and children.*

*The following is a collection of radio speeches made by delegates from countries of Southeast Asia and by Louis Saillant, General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions, and a poem written by Rewi Alley of New Zealand.*

*As the purpose of this booklet is to give the delegates' impressions of People's China, it is thought advisable to omit those parts of the speeches which do not directly concern this country. Where no title is available, the editor has ventured to give one that reflects the general idea of the speech.*

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# CHINA'S THREE REALITIES

Louis Saillant

*General Secretary*

*The World Federation of Trade Unions*

After its Seventh Congress, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions gave me the opportunity to make a study tour of several areas of China.

For me, this tour was of great interest and I am grateful to the All-China Federation of Trade Unions for having given me this chance to become better acquainted with China and its people.



On this tour I was able to come into direct contact with the realities of People's China. There are three kinds of reality that have strongly impressed me: political, economic and social. These realities together present a vivid picture of the intense activity going on in present-day China.

What is the dominant political reality? The adherence by the Chinese people to the policy of the Central Government, to the policy defined by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. The fact is that the people of China regard the Cen-

tral Government of the People's Republic of China not as *a* government, but as *their* government. And this is true of the worker as much as of the peasant, of the intellectual, of the merchant as much as of the patriot among the national bourgeoisie.

What is one to think of China's economic reality? The process of industrialization has been launched on a very large scale. To fulfil high production quotas and to evolve new production methods is the goal of nation-wide emulation campaigns that one encounters in all spheres of production. China today is successfully changing her economic basis in a magnificent display of creative and constructive effort by all the living forces within the nation.

What can one say of the social reality? I could speak on this topic for a long time. Yesterday, that is, before the triumph of the people's revolution, social reality in China was characterized by the absence of social gains. The inability of the government organs to solve the most elementary social problems was matched by the opposition to popular demands on the part of the ruling class. This is no longer so today. Social services for children, for women, for men, for old workers, are developing at ever-increasing speed.

These are the political, economic and social realities of People's China, realities for which this old country deserves to be called "New China."

We have seen these realities. We have listened to men and women, young and old, telling us of their new life. We have studied carefully every one of the replies made to our questions.

By "we" I mean the delegates of the trade unions of some twenty countries who went on this tour.

This group of delegates was characterized not only by its multi-national composition; it also included representatives of national trade union organizations in India, Burma and Indonesia not affiliated with the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The diversity of opinions represented made this meeting of delegates a great experience in itself. It was an experience of jointly studying an event as formidable as the transformation of China, a semi-feudal and oppressed country only yesterday, into a country that is modernizing itself, that is in the vanguard of the struggle, waged by the peoples of the world in defence of peace against imperialism, because it has become free and independent.

This group of trade union delegates has been unanimous in admitting the tremendous will with which the Chinese people are building a new life leading them towards socialism.

How was this unanimity in admitting and appreciating such a fact possible?

It was possible because truth is an irresistible force and facts are eloquent and convincing.

The old miner in Fushun, the textile worker in Shanghai, the peasant and the teacher in the small village of Pa Chiao were not engaging in oratory when they answered our questions. They were giving us the facts. They were asking us to verify their claims, immediately, on the spot.

They explained to us: "Before the people's revolution, we were over-exploited, humiliated and

robbed seven days a week. That is all over with us now, and neither we nor our children will ever know such circumstances again." One of them told us: "At last, we occupy the place in society that befits a human being. We had nothing before . . . here is what we have now." And one of them showed us his farm tools, and the other his land: "Here are our plans for tomorrow!" And yet another spoke to us of a municipal plan of social construction and service which will make possible immediate industrial development.

Why should the trade union delegations, invited by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, not have been unanimous in admitting this simple, though highly demonstrative, truth: that great attention is being paid to the solution of problems concerning the children and education, housing and public health? The worker is assured labour safety at his factory. Yesterday, the factory to him was hell. Now, he works joyfully, striving to do still better.

Old workers are now assured a comfortable life in homes for the aged, especially reserved for them. Our Chinese comrades have told us that greater numbers of such homes are needed and will be built.

There is no unemployment in China. What do you think of this, you, workers of India who are unemployed by the million?

The Chinese people no longer know the atrocious evil of going hungry, of being daily gnawed by hunger. What do you think of this, workers of the Southeast Asian countries where millions are under-



nourished, knowing only long days without joy, years of hunger?

In People's China, the trade unions are endowed with extensive rights but also great responsibilities, both of which are recognized by the state. Trade unions play an active role at the very core of the new society. What do you think of this, workers of Japan, you who have experienced brutal police intervention, the exploiters' constant manoeuvres against your trade unions, their constant attacks against your trade union rights which are inseparable from your democratic rights?

The Chinese people stand as much for peace as for their national independence. They are united in a single force behind their Government which expresses their will to peace.

These people sing and shout openly and publicly their love of peace. They have proclaimed their active support of all those in the world who effectively and sincerely defend peace. What do you think of this, you peoples of Asia and Australasia, inhabitants of countries where to be an ardent peace partisan is a crime in the eyes of governments that obey the orders of imperialism?

Since we made this tour of China we have come to understand better why the imperialists and remnant feudal elements are dissatisfied with the changes that this vast country is undergoing.

In the old days, they were able to humiliate and enslave China as a nation. Up to only a few years ago, they scandalously exploited the Chinese people. To reap bigger and bigger profits they worked out

new plans for making their mastery absolute. They fostered corruption. They found traitors inside the country to help them in their despicable plots.

Today, this situation has been definitively removed. The Chinese people have become the masters of their own destiny. Never again will they be humiliated and scoffed at. On the contrary, they are feared.

These are the rightful objectives which the peoples who are still slaves to imperialist law and the colonial yoke wish to attain. These peoples have every reason to want to attain such objectives. At present, the Chinese people as a whole are helping them by proving that it is possible to end all this odious, unbearable imperialist exploitation, to end the enslavement by feudal lords.

Finally, we must admit yet another thing: that in China the strength of proletarian internationalism is developing, thanks to the power of a patriotism that is of the purest and healthiest kind.

We have admired the Chinese people for their deep-rooted friendship for the Soviet Union. We have also seen the sincerity of their generous feelings towards the peoples of all countries with whom they desire to have nothing but friendly and fraternal ties.

These are the conclusions that I have drawn from my tour of China, from my contacts with its people.

Such is People's China.

# VICTORY FOR PEACE

**Bang Tai Uk**

*President of the Miners' Union of the Federation of  
Trade Unions of Korea*

The May First parade in Peking, in celebration of International Labour Day, was on a gigantic scale. More than 500,000 people — workers, peasants, government employees, students and ordinary citizens — took part in this magnificent demonstration. During the short time we were in China, we had many opportunities to see how the



Chinese people were enjoying a happy life under the leadership of their Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, and how they have rallied round this leadership. We were moved by the love for peace the Chinese people displayed, no less than by their determination to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea. We were also impressed by the inexhaustible fighting spirit they showed for the successful accomplishment of their historic first five-year economic construction plan.

On that May 1, columns after columns of people

were streaming past Tien An Men Square, holding aloft colourful flags symbolizing their love for peace and the unity and solidarity of the labouring people throughout the world. They were carrying along portraits of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the leaders of the Soviet Union, Korea and the other People's Democracies. The marching columns were reviewed by Chairman Mao from the rostrum on Tien An Men while the people poured their great affection and admiration out for him. A column of 7,000 Young Pioneers, gaily marching past with a poster inscribed "Always Ready," released doves in great numbers.

The workers' columns held up posters on which was written: "Let's make every effort to improve our work!" "Carry out the patriotic labour emulation!" "Learn from advanced Soviet experience!" "Fulfil and over-fulfil the 1953 state plan for economic construction!" They also carried charts showing production targets, charts and models illustrating both their new achievements in industrial production and the strength of unity in their ranks. Peasants carried posters showing their endeavour to produce more food and demonstrating agricultural production achievements and record harvests. The students in the parade expressed their determination to study Marxism-Leninism and advanced scientific technique in order to serve their country better.

What we saw during the May Day parade in Peking gave us a clear picture of the power that is New China with her 500 million people. In particular, we realized all the more clearly that the People's Republic of China, giving the blood of her best

sons and daughters to the Korean people's war of liberation, possesses immeasurable strength and monolithic stability. This knowledge bolsters up our faith in the ultimate victory of the camp of peace, democracy and socialism and of the peace-loving people in the whole world.

Apart from the May Day celebrations, we also had the opportunity to attend the Seventh All-China Congress of Trade Unions. This Congress, attended by 800 delegates from all parts of China, had great significance. Also present were more than 105 trade union delegates from 20 countries.

The Seventh All-China Congress of Trade Unions met as China was launching her historic first five-year plan which will transform the country from an agricultural into an industrial one on the road to socialism. The Congress proved not only that the Chinese working class movement is entering upon a new era, an era of struggling for the country's industrialization; it also was a tremendous factor in strengthening working class unity and solidarity throughout the world and in consolidating the camp of peace, democracy and socialism. New China's achievements in various spheres of construction since the victorious conclusion of the people's revolution constitute a source of inspiration and encouragement to the Asian countries, particularly the people of the colonial, semi-colonial and capitalist countries, in their struggle for national liberation.

The Chinese working class and the Chinese people as a whole have, under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Communist Party, not

only defeated the domestic and foreign reactionary forces, but also scored many brilliant successes in the sphere of national construction. Through their joint effort, they brought about in the past four years the restoration and development of the national economy and carried out many social reforms. The result is that China presents a greatly changed picture. One needs only to glance at the output of a few major industries to understand this.

As compared with 1949, the production of pig iron in 1952 had increased 7.64 times, that of steel 8.46 times, of crude oil 3.58 times and of electrolytic copper 10.2 times. With few exceptions, the level of China's industries has surpassed the peak reached before the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression. In the production of daily necessities, output of cotton yarn has increased twofold, of cotton cloth 2.87 times. Agriculture has also remarkably progressed. In 1952, the gross yield of grain reached the highest level ever registered in the history of China, totalling 163,750,000 tons. Raw cotton output in the same year came to 1,290,000 tons, or double that of 1949. Progress has also been rapid in the development of the railways and other means of transportation, of posts and tele-communications, water conservancy and commerce, as well as of culture, education and public health.

There has been a steady rise in the people's purchasing power as a result of the rapid restoration and development of the nation's economy and the attainment of financial and economic stability throughout the country. Together with their ma-

terial life, the people's cultural life has also steadily improved. This is borne out by what we saw at the railway repair shop at Changhsintien and in Liangchia Village, on the outskirts of Peking. When we visited the former, we learned that the workers now have five times as many new living quarters as they had under Kuomintang rule. Besides, the plant recently set up a library, a nursery, an over-night rest-home and a technical school. In 1952, wages increased 3.15 times over what they were under the Kuomintang when workers often were starving, with nothing to eat but soya bean cakes and thin rice gruel. Now they have good rice and wheat flour for their staple food. Every worker is able to buy new furniture for his home.

In the three years since land reform, the peasants of Liangchia Village which we visited have shown great spirit in agricultural production. They have turned dry fields into watered land; they have helped each other working the waterwheels to irrigate their fields so that grain production has increased. Seven new classrooms have been added to the primary school in the village. A peasant in the village by the name of Li Chung, who was a farm hand under the Kuomintang, was treated like a beast of burden. It mattered little whether he was suffering cold or hunger, he had to toil all the year round. And yet, his three children died of starvation. In the land reform, he was given land and built himself a house. He was also financially able to clothe his family adequately and buy sufficient bedding for them. The

family now eats rice and white-flour steamed bread daily and is leading a happy life.

These are but two examples, typical of the drastic changes from a life of grinding misery that have come over China's millions. They give us sufficient insight into the happiness of China's workers and peasants who ascribe this happiness and well-being, with heartfelt gratitude, to Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Communist Party in whom they place their complete trust.

The Chinese working class and the Chinese people as a whole are now struggling to implement the three directives laid down by Chairman Mao Tse-tung: *e.g.*, to strengthen the struggle to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea; to carry out the first five-year plan of national construction; and to convene the All-China People's Congress. The first five-year plan is of vital importance to China. The plan lays emphasis on the development of the country's industry, particularly heavy industry, to transform China from a backward, agricultural country into a modern, industrial one so that China will gradually advance towards a strong socialist society. The plan is unanimously and whole-heartedly supported not only by the labouring people throughout the country, but also by all the peace-loving people in the world. The rapid development of China's industry will be a significant contribution to the cause of world peace.

In order to fulfil the first five-year plan, many factories and mines throughout China have carried out emulation drives for increased production and economy. Many have fulfilled or even over-fulfilled



production plans for the first quarter of the first year of the five-year plan.

The victory of the Chinese people means also victory for the Korean people. The victory of the Korean people means victory for the world camp of peace and democracy.