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FOREWORD

Every year, Radio Beijing receives more than 100,000 letters from listeners in well over 100 countries and regions all over the world. They express their friendly feelings towards the Chinese people and raise all kinds of questions, hoping to know more about China. In order to meet our listeners' demands and to promote mutual understanding, Radio Beijing now inaugurates this book series *Windows on China*.

With our listeners throughout the world as its readers, *Windows on China* mainly covers basic facts about China, progress in her modernization drive, China's guiding principles and policies, her glorious history and culture, tourist attractions as well as social customs and life styles. Some of the listeners' questions will be answered in this publication. We also publish articles, letters and photographs in connection with contacts between Radio Beijing and the listeners.

It is our sincere hope that this small publication will be your faithful friend.

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The Successful Fulfilment of China's Sixth Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development

China's Sixth Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development covered the period between 1981 and 1985. Through the joint efforts of the people of all nationalities of the country, the targets set by the plan were fulfilled ahead of time or overfulfilled by and large in industrial and agricultural production, communications and transportation, capital construction, technical renovation, domestic and foreign trade, education, science and culture as well as the improvement of the people's living standards. Profound changes have taken place in the country's economic and social fields.

Over those five years, the total output value of China's industry and agriculture increased at an average annual rate of 11 percent; the average annual growth rate of the country's GNP reached 30 percent. This rate greatly surpassed those of the previous five-year plans except the First Five-Year Plan which registered a similar increase rate. It was faster than the growth rate in many other countries during the same period. Agriculture, in particular, experienced the most brisk period of development ever since New China was founded. During the 28 years between 1953 and 1980, the annual increase rate of the total output value of agriculture averaged 3.5

percent, the annual increase rate of the First Five-Year Plan period was 5.1 percent whereas that of the Sixth Five-Year Plan reached 8.1 percent, far greater than those of the previous five-year plans.

Over the past five years, the output of some major products which have an important bearing on the national economy and people's livelihood increased considerably. (See the attached list)

During the Sixth Five-Year Plan period, the national revenue took a turn for the better. Towards the end of the Fifth Five-Year Plan period, the country ran into serious financial deficits. In the Sixth Five-Year Plan period, China began economic readjustment and reforms, taking measures to expand production and circulation and to achieve better economic results. Starting from 1983, the domestic revenue began to increase. By 1985, the total annual income had reached 189.2 billion yuan (RMB). The revenue and expenditure were balanced.

Scientific, technological, educational and cultural undertakings flourished. In the five years, 33,000 important results were achieved in scientific research. In 1980, there were 1.14 million students in universities and colleges. The figure rose to 1.70 million in 1985. New development took place in such fields as general education, vocational education, various training courses for adults as well as literature, arts, journalism, publishing, radio, film, television, public health and sports.

Economic, trade and technological exchanges with other countries have opened up new horizons. China has further opened to the outside world in scale and depth than what she did under the previous five-year plans. During the Sixth Five-Year Plan period, import and ex-

port reached 230 billion US dollars, which doubled the figure of the previous five-year plan. Altogether, more than 10,000 technical items were introduced from abroad in the past five years. By introducing technology from abroad and running joint ventures and cooperative projects, many enterprises and trades have remarkably raised their technical and managerial levels.

Over the past five years, the income of the urban and rural population increased (with price-rising factors deducted). The peasants' per capita income increased at an average annual rate of 13.7 percent while the per capita income of the workers' families in cities and towns increased at an average annual rate of 6.9 percent. More than 35 million people were newly employed in cities and towns. The people have more money to spend. They have better food and are looking for more fashions in clothing. In addition, there have been substantial increases in the sales of durable goods, especially television sets, washing machines, radio-recorders, refrigerators and other household electrical appliances.

The above-mentioned achievements and changes indicate that during the Sixth Five-Year Plan period, some of the economic problems which the country had been unable to tackle for many years were solved to a considerable extent. Take agriculture for example. In the past, China's agriculture used to develop at a slow pace. From 1953 to 1978, the grain output increased only five million tons a year on the average. The cotton output stagnated from 1965 to 1978. For a long time, it had been a stern problem for the government to provide adequate food for the people. Now China has become self-sufficient in grain and more than self-

A Comparative Table of the and Agricultural Products Under

Item	First	Second
Grain (10,000 tons)	90,809	82,100
Cotton (10,000 tons)	684.3	629.1
Edible Oil (10,000 tons)	2,227	1,463.2
Meats (10,000 tons)	738.5	194
Cloth (100 million metres)	251	251.2
Chemical Fabrics (10,000 tons)	0.02	3.8
Sugar (10,000 tons)	372	317
TV (10,000 sets)	0	1.6
Tape-recorder (10,000 sets)	0.1	8.3
Camera (10,000 sets)	0.01	38.9
Family-size Washing Machine(10,000 sets)	0	0
Family-size Refrigerator (10,000 sets)	0.2	1.2
Coal (100 million tons)	4.9	15.3
Crude Oil (100 million tons)	0.05	0.2
Electrical Power (100 million kwh)	684	2,230
Steel (10,000 tons)	1,667	5,590
Steel Products (10,000 tons)	1,264	3,667
Cement (10,000 tons)	2,623	4,943
Automobiles (10,000 units)	0.97	7.15

Output of Some Major Industrial China's First Six Five-Year Plans

Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth
109.181	131,535	152,649	185,309
1,140.1	1,146.7	1,118.5	2,161.1
377.2	2,135.2	2,736.9	6,026.2
1,192.5	797	4,684.6	7,309.4
376.6	429.6	556.4	725
33.2	70.3	139.7	327
714	845	1,081	1,857
2.4	40.6	480.7	4,441.2
4.8	10.4	104.6	3,046.8
20.7	47.6	126.1	535.3
0	0	26.4	2,208.3
3	5.5	15.5	228
13	21.1	29	36.4
0.97	2.8	4.97	5.4
4,414	8,222	12,657	17,727
6,577	11,494	14,758	20,291
4,533	7,722	10,520	15,695
9,143	18,771	32,135	55,183
24.2	58	81.8	136.7

sufficient in cotton. This is something of great significance. Another example is the market supply. With the exception of the early 1950's, the supply of goods used to fall short of the demand in both urban and rural areas. Many commodities had to be rationed and supplied by coupons. During the Sixth Five-Year Plan period, the substantial increases in industrial and agricultural production lifted the strains on the supply of consumer goods. China has abandoned the ration system for the supply of consumer goods except grain and edible oil. For a long time, China's agriculture, light industry and heavy industry had been seriously out of proportion, which had severely hindered the steady development of China's national economy and the betterment of the people's living standards. As a result of readjustment and reforms over the past five years, agriculture and light industry have taken up a larger proportion in the gross output value of industry and agriculture. The three sectors are developing in a more proportionate way. The ratio of accumulation in 1978 was as high as 36.5 percent, but it dropped to 30 percent on the average in the past five years. The significant readjustment of the ratio among the different economic sectors has played and will continue to play an extremely important role in promoting and ensuring a sustained and sound development of China's economy.

· Cities and Countryside ·

China's Coastal Cities Opened to the Outside World

China's current principle for economic development is "to open to the outside world and invigorate the domestic economy." An important step taken in this direction is China's policy decision to further open its 14 coastal cities.

They are Dalian, Qinhuangdao, Tianjin, Yantai, Qingdao, Lianyungang, Nantong, Shanghai, Ningbo, Wenzhou, Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Zhanjiang and Beihai. These coastal cities boast better industrial foundations and technical personnel that facilitate economic and technological cooperation and exchanges with other countries. Connected with the four special economic zones — Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Shantou and Xiamen as well as Hainan Island, these port cities constitute the front line of China's endeavour of opening to the outside world. Running from the north to the south, the front line along the coast serves as an example for the hinterland in absorbing advanced technology, spreading experience in scientific management, transmitting economic information and training personnel. The port cities can also help the hinterland in those aspects.

To further open these cities to the outside world means, among other things: first, to raise their status in foreign-related business activities, giving them more freedom than the other cities to make their own decisions; second, to offer preferential treatment to foreign

personages, overseas Chinese, compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan as well as to their companies or enterprises that come to invest or run factories in these cities.

Since China adopted the policy of opening to the outside world, the investment conditions in the country have been improving steadily. Most of the 14 open cities are accessible by air. Construction of airports are well under way in Beihai and Wenzhou. The central government has taken positive measures to help these cities develop their communications facilities, allocating special funds to build communication trunk lines in order to improve communication services in these cities. Now, modern hotels and restaurants have been built in the open cities. These cities have also expanded their ports and harbours, thus enhancing their handling capacities.

Rapid progress has been made in absorbing foreign capital in these cities since they were opened to the outside world. According to data released by the State Statistics Bureau, in the first six months of 1985 alone, the 14 coastal cities took up 384 items of foreign investment. Guangzhou, Shanghai, Tianjin and Dalian where there are sound investment conditions and infrastructures are the top four cities in attracting foreign investment and running joint-venture projects.

Over the past six years, the city of Guangzhou has signed more than 10,000 economic and technological contracts, including over 200 production lines and 17,000 odd units of equipment which are up to the international standard of the early 1980's. All these have helped renovate the city's major industrial equipment and de-

velop a lot of new products. For example, the household electrical appliances industry in Guangzhou could only produce electric irons, electric fans and other ordinary products. Now, by importing equipment and stepping up technical renovation, Guangzhou can make different types of electric cookers, refrigerators, electric heaters, double-cylinder washing machines and other high-class durable goods. The city has become one of the major production centres of household electrical appliances in China.

Shanghai has been known as the "Golden Zone" among China's open cities. Its unique features have attracted many foreign investors. A continuous stream of businessmen from other countries are coming to the city for negotiations. Up to now, Shanghai has signed over 800 contracts for the introduction of advanced technology and equipment from abroad. Obsolete equipment and old-fashioned technology have been the major obstacles to the growth of Shanghai's traditional industry. In recent years, all trades in Shanghai have aimed at the advanced techniques of their foreign counterparts and taken in new technology and equipment in a planned way to renovate food, knitting, textile, machinery, plastics, printing and metallurgical industries. This has brought about satisfactory results. The knitting industry in Shanghai has renovated 18,000 units of equipment through learning new technology. One-fifth of the trade's facilities are up to international standards. The solely foreign-funded enterprises and the joint-venture projects are becoming the windows for absorbing new technology and fresh experience for management.

The City of Beijing

Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China. It is situated in the northernmost part of the North China Plain. Not far to its northwest is the broad Inner Mongolian Plateau, to its east is the vast Bohai Sea and to its west are the rolling ranges of the Taihang Mountains. The ancients said that Beijing was like the dragon and tiger crouching among mountains and waters. Because of its imposing features, Beijing was called "Heavenly Mansion" and "Divine Capital".

The first recorded name of Beijing is "Ji". As early as the Warring States Period (475—221 B.C.), Ji was the capital of Yan, one of the seven powerful kingdoms at the time. Ji was then a commercial centre and an important military stronghold in the north. It was the predecessor of present-day Beijing.

Since Beijing has a history of more than 2,000 years and it served as the capital city for hundreds of years, there are many cultural ruins and relics left over from the past dynasties. Pavilions, halls and pagodas can be seen among hills and woods while gardens and palaces are hidden behind willows.

In fact, the city of Beijing itself is a large historical relic. Right in the city centre stands the Forbidden City (now also called the Palace Museum) which is a large architectural complex in traditional Chinese style. It is said that it consists of more than 9,000 bays of palace buildings. All the majestic palaces are marked

by sculptured pillars and painted beams. The construction of the Forbidden City began in the fourth year of the reign of Yong Le during the Ming Dynasty (1406). Twenty-four emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties lived here. Near the front gate of the Forbidden City and on the east side of Tian'anmen Gate is the Taimiao (Supreme Ancestral Temple) which is now known as the Working People's Palace of Culture while on the west side is the Shejitan (Altar of Land and Grain) which is now called Zhongshan Park. Farther away from the Forbidden City, there are four sacrificial places for the emperors, namely, Tiantan (Altar of Heaven) to the south, Ditan (Altar of Earth) to the north, Ritan (Altar of the Sun) to the east and Yuctan (Altar of the Moon) to the west. There are also famous imperial gardens around the city such as the Yiheyuan (the Summer Palace), Beihai (North Lake) and Jingshan (Prospect Hill).

The Yiheyuan is located on the northwestern outskirts of Beijing, covering an area of 290 hectares. The park is famous for its picturesque scenery. Especially noteworthy is its multitude of magnificent halls, towers, galleries, pavilions, kiosks and bridges scattered around hills and lakes. They have earned the park a world-wide reputation. Other spots such as the Great Wall in the northwest and the Ming Tombs are also world-famous places of interest.

Today, these well-preserved masterpieces of ancient architecture have been opened to the public, attracting thousands upon thousands of visitors from home and abroad every day.

Beijing became the country's political and cultural