

NEW KOREA



MONTHLY
JOURNAL

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OCTOBER

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MONTHLY JOURNAL

Published by FOREIGN LANGUAGES PUBLISHING HOUSE
Pyongyang

October 1957

CONTENTS

Elections Crowned with Victory 3

On the Eve of the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution 6

How Our Chemical Industry Has Grown 9

NAMGOONG MAN: The Yalu River 13

BALWANT GARGI: Heroic Korea 16

KIM CHANG MIN: South Korean "National Assembly"

CHOI MYUNG IK: An Impressive Man 29

Thirty Years of Dancing 33

LI BYUNG NAM: Free Medical Service in Korea 36

In the Korean Press 39

JUN JAI KYUNG: Stars Will Keep Shining 41

PAK MOON WON: Fine Arts of United Silla 44

Research Work of Korean Scientists 47

New Book 49

In The News 50

Front Cover: A Girl Picking Grapes
Photo by Kim Jeom Yung

Back Cover: Crooked Pine (In the garden of Bongoong Museum)
Painted by Kim Ei Ho

Printed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Elections Crowned with Victory

THE elections to the D.P.R.K. Supreme People's Assembly on August 27 were a brilliant victory for the Korean people.

According to the announcement released by the Central Election Committee, 99.99 per cent of the electorate went to the polls and 99.92 per cent of them voted for the candidates registered in the respective constituencies.

DEMONSTRATION OF SOLID UNITY

The elections were of great historic significance for the further strengthening of the people's power which the Korean people founded at their own will and defended with their blood from the invasion of the enemy, as well as for the promotion of the peaceful unification of the country and the socialist construction in the northern part of the country, which are the immediate tasks of the revolution in Korea.

No wonder, therefore, electors vied with each other in going to the polls, and voted for the candidates they had nominated, thereby once again demonstrating the unity and solidarity of the Party, Government and the people.

Great enthusiasm and unanimity marked the election day throughout the country. Towns and villages were gaily bedecked, and merry crowds of people were seen everywhere. Festivity was in the air!

In Sub-constituency No. 8 of Sadong, Pyongyang, voters came to the polling station early in the morning. Some one thousand voters, all in their holiday best, were waiting in line at 6 a.m., the time when voting was to begin. Voting proceeded in a gay atmosphere: outside the polling station people were singing and dancing to celebrate the occasion. The voting was all finished by 10:40.

In the Moonduk Constituency, the electorate showed their high political enthusiasm. Here all the voters went to the polls, and all of them voted in favor of the candidate, Premier Kim Il Sung.

The Moonduk Constituency was not the only place where people displayed their high political enthusiasm. Everywhere in the northern part of the country, towns, farm villages, fishing villages, out-of-the-way places, people demonstrated their complete confidence in the Workers' Party and the people's government. A. Stroganov, a member of the Soviet Journalist Delegation which was then visiting Korea, wrote in his article:

"We Soviet journalists saw Anjoo coal miners and people in Moonduk County going to the polls to

ZINC WORKS OF THE NAMPO REFINERY OPENED

Photo by Kim Eun Joo

The war-damaged zinc works of the Nampo Refinery was put into commission on August 10.

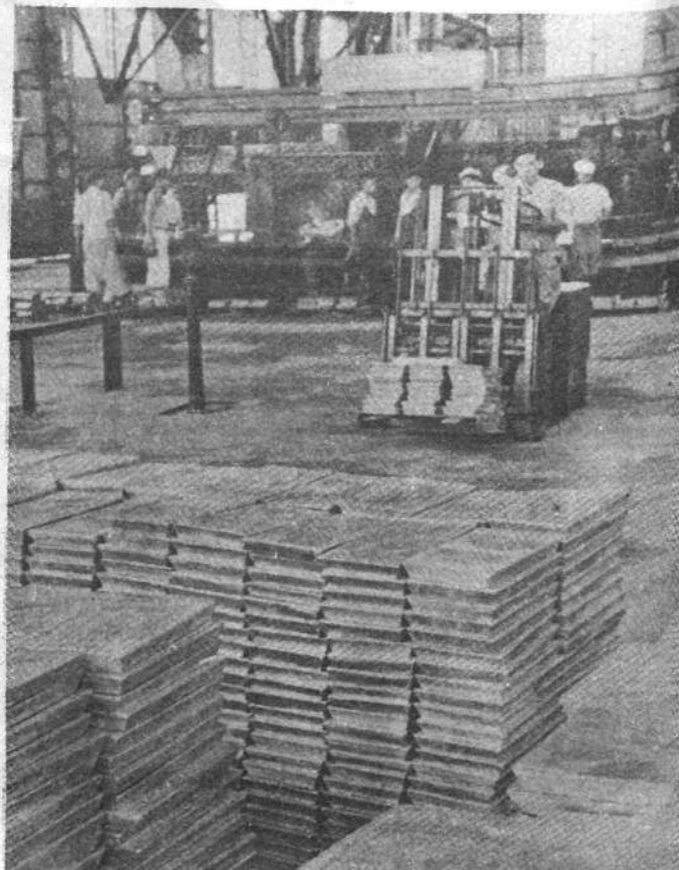
The works has been rehabilitated and expanded thanks to the patriotic labour struggle of our workers as well as to the help rendered by the Soviet specialists. The restoration of the works was carried out with a part of the Soviet people's one billion ruble gift to the Korean people.

The new works is equipped with up-to-date machinery along with the health establishments and safety devices. Its production capacity is three times as great as that under the Japanese rule.

Expansion work will continue, and by 1958 the works will double in size compared with the present.

Present at the opening ceremony were: Premier Kim Il Sung, Vice-Premier Jung Il Ryong, Vice-Premier Jung Joon Taik, Minister of Metal Industry Kang Yung Chang and other leaders of the Party, Government and social organizations.

Photos:
Above — Premier Kim Il Sung cutting the tape at the ceremony
Below — A view of the zinc works



elect Premier Kim Il Sung, their faces beaming with joy; we witnessed how unanimously the voters in East Pyongyang cast their votes for 25-year-old girl weaver Joo Byong Sun, and the voters in Soonchun County elected Yeun Chi Il, manager of the Samryong Agricultural Co-op.... Everywhere we went we could see enhanced political enthusiasm of the builders of socialism. They are all heroes and fighters."

Mr. Kenzo Saikawa, head of the Japanese Economic Mission then visiting Korea, said:

"First of all, I was struck by the free and gay atmosphere of today's elections. I visited several polling stations. The elections in Korea were fully democratic. Candidates were nominated through public discussions and the voters had full understanding of the significance of their elections. It was, I think, for this reason that the voters enthusiastically took part in the elections." He went on, "In every polling station we visited, we were kindly received. We were so moved that we joined in the dancing with the Korean voters."

All the voters, singing their freedom with joy and pride of being the citizens of the liberated Korea, took part in the elections to their supreme state organ.

Premier Kim Il Sung and other 214 patriots representing all social strata in our country were elected to the Supreme People's Assembly.

TRIUMPH OF PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

The victory of the Korean people in the recent elections is of great significance.

The firmness and the great vitality of the people's power as well as the indestructible unity and might of the Korean people united closely around the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K. headed by Premier Kim Il Sung were once again demonstrated.

The victory in the recent elections signifies the triumph of the people's democratic system which constitutes the foundation of the firm unity and solidarity of the Korean people, and, at the same time, it serves to demonstrate the superiority of the socialist democracy.

For some time the people all over the country had strenuously striven for increased production and economization with their enhanced patriotic awakening.

This testifies to the fact that our people's power, based on the firm worker-peasant al-

liance, maintains bonds of kinship with the people from whom it derives its inexhaustible might. At each stage in its progress, the people's power has met with credit the aspiration and desire of the masses of people.

Great changes are now taking place in Korea.

Only twelve years ago, the Korean people, deprived of their sovereignty, were in a state of slavery. In the colonial, semi-feudal society, poverty and non-rights were forced upon them.

But now the Korean people are the masters of their land. They live in a prosperous socialist society, enjoying freedom and a happy life.

Were it not for the people's power, the Korean people would beyond all doubt be living like slaves.

Ho Chang Sun, a citizen of Kaesong with his 30 years' career as a worker under the Japanese imperialist and Syngman Rhee rule, looking back on those grim years, said:

"Now I'm living a worthy life in this wonderful society. Today, on election day I'm even more firmly convinced that tomorrow will be still happier. I'm determined to do whatever I can to support the people's power."

In this way, through the elections the Korean people displayed to the full their affection for the people's power and the people's democratic system and their determination to defend them.

Victory in the recent elections also signifies a triumph for the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K. which enjoys the full support of the people.

In the post-war days, for example, the people have positively implemented the basic line of the Workers' Party of Korea for the priority growth of heavy industry along with the rapid development of light industry and agriculture. As a result, the living standard of the people, which had greatly deteriorated in the war, has been improved considerably in the short space of time following the truce. Heavy industry, which suffered the worst damage in the war, has been rebuilt, and the firm foundation for the all-round development of Korea's national economy has been laid.

The industry in the northern part of the country, now free from colonial dependence, is self-supporting.

The policy in relation to the rapid progress

of agriculture and agricultural co-operation has also borne fruit.

Agricultural output has already exceeded by far the pre-liberation level, and the pre-war harvest record was already broken.

As for the agricultural co-operatives, by the end of June this year, 85.5 per cent of the total peasant households were embraced in the agricultural co-operatives.

The status of Korean peasants has undergone marked change — from private tillers to the glorious co-op members, namely, socialist labourers.

THE BRIGHT MORROW

In four to five years, Korea will be changed into a developed industrial-agricultural country. By that time the question of clothing, food and dwelling will be solved.

During the period of the First Five-Year Plan, which started this year, in the northern part of the country, it is envisaged that the annual output of power will reach 9.5 billion k.w.h.; coal, ten million tons; cement, over two million tons; chemical fertilizer, over 600,000 tons; grain, over 3.7 million tons; fish catch, over 600,000 tons; and every person will get seventeen metres of cloth a year. Housing construction will also be carried on on a large scale. More than 200,000 modern dwelling houses will be built in the rural areas.

Korean working people, looking forward to the bright tomorrow, are now engaged in the successful implementation of their tasks of the first year of the current Five-Year Plan. Production targets set in the beginning of the year are already beaten in many branches.

In the meanwhile, thanks to the correct policy of the Party and the Government with regard to sciences, literature and art, Korea's sciences, national culture and arts are efflorescing.

Now gigantic headway towards socialism is being made in all fields of the Korean people's life.

Through their experience the Korean people are convinced that the Workers' Party of Korea and the people's power are the ardent champions of their vital interests and the inspirers of their struggle for peace and a happy life.

At the employees' meeting at the Hwanghai Iron Works called on August 31 to celebrate the victory in the recent elections, a stove-

setter Jang Soo Yong said:

"My experience in every-day life has convinced me that the Workers' Party of Korea and the people's power are leading the people to a bright future, and that the more we strengthen the people's power the happier will be our life. I'm proud of my happy life today... All the workers are provided by the people's power with every opportunity to learn while working for a better life. We are promised a still brighter tomorrow. All of us workers will work ever harder for increased production."

As was confirmed in the recent elections, the unity of the Party, Government and people is firm and unbreakable. The unity and solidarity of the Korean people are derived from the community of their interests. Moreover, unity and solidarity have been further consolidated in the struggle against the enemy at home and abroad, against all shades of the old and degenerated which attempted to impede the advance of the people. No force whatever would undermine the unity of the people.

The American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique continue to scheme to provoke another war in Korea with their aim of enslaving the Korean people. But whatever manoeuvre they may resort to, they cannot frighten the Korean people who defeated the armed invasion of the American imperialists in the Korean war. The Korean people who are firmly united are ready to smash every intrigue of the enemy.

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The domestic and international situation at present is developing in our favor.

Rapid progress of productive forces in our country, the further strengthening of political-moral unity of the Korean people, the rise of anti-American and anti-Syngman Rhee tone in South Korea, and aggravation of the crisis of colonial rule — all this indicates that the revolutionary tide in Korea are surging up and that the force of Socialism is constantly growing, while contradictions between imperialist powers are becoming acute.

It is with such an enhanced political zeal that the Korean people are greeting the Fortieth Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and are working hard to fulfil and overfulfil the tasks of the national economic plan of this year, the first year of the First Five-Year Plan.

On the Eve of the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution

THE KOREAN people, together with all progressive mankind, are making nation-wide preparations for marking the 40th Anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution, which ushered in a new era in human history and brought about a radical change in the international labour movement as well as in the national liberation movement of the oppressed peoples.

In the dark days when the Korean people went through every hardship and privation under the yoke of colonial rule of Japanese imperialism, the roar of cannons of the October Revolution threw a ray of hope on the future of the Korean people as it did on that of other peoples.

Encouraged by the idea of the great October, the patriots of our country, standing firmly on the conviction that final victory would be theirs, and led by the staunch Communists, waged a dauntless struggle for the freedom and independence of their fatherland against the Japanese imperialist invaders.

The mighty and powerful Soviet Army — glorious son of the October — liberated the Korean people from the yoke of the Japanese imperialists at the cost of their own blood. And the Soviet people, in defence of the rights and interests of the Korean people, have given disinterested support, both morally and materially, to the Korean people who are struggling for the peaceful unification and independence of the country and building up socialism in the northern part of the Republic.

The Korean people, through their personal experience, appreciate the true meaning of the friendship and solidarity with the Soviet people. They regard it as their sacred duty to further strengthen and develop the friendly ties with the Soviet people.

Preparations in our country for the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution are another striking demonstration of the friendship and unity between the Korean and Soviet peoples.

The Presidium of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea adopted last February a decision calling for the observance by the Korean people of the 40th Anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution. The decision emphasized that on this occa-

sion the entire Korean people with the working class in the van should hold higher the banner of all-conquering Marxism-Leninism and should study the experiences of the Soviet Union. Furthermore, it stressed that the international friendship and unity with the peoples of the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and other socialist countries, should be strengthened in every way.

A committee with Kim Chang Man, Vice-Chairman of the C.C., Workers' Party of Korea, as chairman was formed for the purpose of preparing for the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution.

In the meantime, the Central Committee of the United Democratic Fatherland Front and many other political and social organizations such as the Democratic Party of North Korea, the Chundo-Kyo Chungwoo Party, the Korean Federation of Trade Unions, the Democratic Youth League, the Union of Democratic Women and the Korea-Soviet Cultural Society had each adopted its own decision on preparations for marking the October Revolution.

In honour of the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution, working people in the cities and villages, upholding the decisions of the historic Third Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea on the promotion of peaceful unification of the country and socialist construction in the northern part of the Republic, are intensifying the patriotic movement for increased production and are bent on fulfilling and overfulfilling the plans of the national economy for 1957, the first year of the First Five-Year Plan. Workers of all factories and enterprises held meetings and adopted resolutions for increased production, and have already set out to bring their resolutions to successful realization.

Up to the end of June this year, 166 factories and enterprises joined in the emulation campaign for increased production. Among them were Kim Chaik Iron Works, Kangsun Steel Plant, Hwanghai Iron Works, Heungnam Fertilizer Factory, Sungheung Mine and Aoji Coal Mine and many others. The workers are making every effort to surpass the original targets set early in the year. The output of pig iron will be increased by 20,000 tons over

the original plan, ingot by 33,000 tons, steel slabs by 20,000 tons, coal by 79,000 tons, chemical fertilizer by 28,500 tons, cement by more than 81,000 tons, electric power by 496,850,000 kwh. Besides, the workers decided to economize manpower by 56,000 working days and electric power by 220,357,000 kwh.

The resolution, adopted at a rally of the workers of the Hwanghai Iron Works in connection with the 40th Anniversary of the great October Revolution, reads in part: "To mark the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution with greater labour success we are resolved:

1. To shorten by two months the fulfilment of the 1957 production targets which called for an increase of 15.7 per cent over the assigned quotas.
2. To raise the general targets by 32.3 per cent."

Having taken part in the emulation for increased production in honour of the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution with a pledge to deliver 20,000 tons of pig iron and 30,000 tons of coke over and above the targets set early in the year, the workers of the Kim Chaik Iron Works, through their creative initiative, raised the efficiency of blast furnace to the level of the advanced countries. The colliers of the Aoji Coal Mine are now staging a movement for 100 metre hewing a month by relying upon the method of high-speed drilling introduced by the initiative of Kim Chaik Hyun, Hero of Labour.

In this way the Korean working class is greeting the great holiday of the working people. Preparing for the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution, the Korean people are studying harder the rich experiences of the Soviet Union. They are well aware of the enormous achievements attained by the Soviet Union after the October Revolution and her decisive role in the international communist movement and the correctness of the Soviet foreign policy.

The committee for the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution and the Korea-Soviet Cultural Society are organizing a series of lectures, speeches and discussions on the historic significance of the October Socialist Revolution, the influences it exerted on the Korean revolution and the magnificent achievements gained by the Soviet people in the Communist construction. And seminars and scientific gatherings are

being held for the purpose of studying the achievements of the Soviet people in the fields of science, technology, culture and arts, and of creatively adapting them to the conditions in Korea.

In factories and enterprises and in other organs in Pyongyang, lectures are being delivered under such topics as "The achievements and the experiences of the Soviet Union are living models for the peoples of all countries who are striving for socialism," "Let's honour the 40th Anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution with overfulfilment of the plan of national economy for 1957," "The organizational and ideological unity and solidarity of the Workers' Party of Korea is the guarantee for the success of Korean revolution", etc. Besides, short-term scientific seminars have been organized by the Pyongyang City Committee of the Korea-Soviet Cultural Society, and a seminar on "The general characteristics of the recent development of physics in the Soviet Union" has already been held three times. For the purpose of giving workers elementary knowledge on science, courses have been set up in the production establishments in Pyongyang, where, on the basis of the advanced natural science of the Soviet Union, natural science is taught in easy language.

Lectures of this kind are being held widely in all parts of our Republic.

The scientific workers of our country are summing up the achievements accomplished during the past half century after the October Revolution, and are faithfully upholding the purity of Marxism-Leninism — an ideological task assigned to them. They are also holding discussions and lectures on scientific subjects in order to study more profoundly from a theoretical point of view the influences of the October Revolution upon our national movement for liberation and the problems concerning the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea, a Party guided in its activities by Marxism-Leninism.

The Academy of Sciences of the D.P.R.K. is preparing a collection* of writings to honour the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution, which will contain some 20 papers on various subjects. The book will deal with the heroism of the Russian working class displayed in the course of the struggle for socialism, the international significance of the October Socialist Revolution and the conditions in our country that were developed

under the influence of the October Revolution. Included in the book are "Introduction into Korea of Marxism-Leninism and New Development of the Labour Movement in Korea under the Influence of the Great October Socialist Revolution", "The Great October Socialist Revolution and the Korean Peasants' Movement in its First Stage", "The Importance of the Experiences of Socialist Industrialization in the Soviet Union for the Economic Construction in the Transition Period of Our Country", "The Historic Significance of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. in Establishing and Developing the State System of the D.P.R.K.", "The Development of Soviet Philology and its Influence Upon the Development of Korean Philology after Liberation", "Marxism-Leninism Creatively Applied by the Workers' Party of Korea in the Korean Revolution." The collection will also contain papers dealing with the subjects of engineering, medical science, chemistry, physics, mathematics, etc.

The Academy of Sciences and the State Central Liberation Struggle Museum have been collecting and rearranging the data on the historical relations between the October Revolution and the national struggle of the Korean people for liberation.

In the field of literature and art, writers and artists, with a high degree of enthusiasm, are turning out new creations to honour the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution. Already more than 60 works have been completed. Among them are Han Sul Ya's *Portrait of Lenin*, Pak Tai Yung's short story *Love* dealing with the Korean-Soviet friendship as its main theme, Kim Soon Suk's poems *Great Love, Great Benefit* and others.

Theatres throughout the country are also preparing for commemorative performances to mark the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution. The State Theatre is to stage N. Pagodin's drama *The Tolling of the Kremlin Bell*, Suh Man Il's play *Family* and Pak Tai Yung's play *A Place So Far, Yet So Near*; and the State Art Theatre is to present Pak Se Yung's opera *Eight Fairies in Diamond Mountains*.

In the realm of cinema, it is expected that "*Dawn in the East*", a joint production of Korean and Soviet studios, and many other news films will come out. In addition to this, Soviet film festivals will be held at some 130 places in the country.

Exhibitions will hold an important place in the commemoration programme of the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution. In Pyongyang and provincial centres, at units of the People's Army and large enterprises there will be numerous exhibitions depicting the Korean people's struggle for the national liberation under the banner of the October, the historic achievements attained by the Soviet people after the Revolution, and the achievements in the socialist construction in the northern part of our Republic. These exhibitions will also be organized into mobile units. In addition, there are exhibitions showing the aid given to us by the Soviet Union in the period of post-war reconstruction, and the consolidation and development of friendship between Korea and the Soviet Union, an exhibition in connection with the 12th Anniversary of August 15 Liberation, exhibitions of paintings, photos and handicraft works made by Korean and Soviet artists.

A great number of new publications will be issued to greet the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution. Among them are the records of the Comintern on the Korean revolution, works by Lenin on the Eastern problems, pamphlets on the Korea-Soviet friendship, to name a few. And in order to publish by 1960 *Complete Works of Lenin*, a committee for translation and publication of Lenin's complete works has been formed.

The commemoration of the anniversary will be made an occasion for promoting further the cultural exchange between Korea and the Soviet Union. Soviet cultural workers, artists, sports teams, etc., will visit our country during the festival.

Through these nation-wide preparations the Korean people are once again manifesting gratitude towards the great Soviet Union, their liberator and selfless supporter. They are resolved to strengthen and develop ever further the traditional friendship with the Soviet people.

The nation-wide movement in our country to prepare for the commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution serves to prompt the march of the Korean people in the struggle for the socialist construction in the northern part of the Republic and the peaceful unification of the fatherland.

The Korean people find a spring of strength for their final victory in the great idea of the October.

How Our Chemical Industry Has Grown

Li Chun Ho, Minister of Chemical Industry of the D.P.R.K., gave an interview to a correspondent of this journal on questions related to the development of our chemical industry. Below we publish the Minister's replies.

Question: What were the conditions of our chemical industry in the period of peaceful construction after liberation?

Answer: When we were liberated on August 15, 1945, our chemical industry had to go through a most difficult stage. Like other branches of industry the chemical industry was also tainted with an extreme, colonial lopsidedness. To make matters worse, the defeated Japanese destroyed many factories and burnt technical records.

However, the working people in North Korea, who had become the masters of the country, admirably overcame all difficulties, such as the lack of technique, shortage of materials, etc. Under the correct guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea and the people's power, the chemical industry was rapidly rehabilitated and developed. Consequently the gross output of chemical industry in 1947 had already increased 1.5 times compared with that in 1946, in 1948 about 2.2 times and in 1949 about 3.1 times. The breakdown on major products in 1949 runs: output of chemical fertilizer increased 400,000 tons, about 2.5 times the 1946 figure; carbide about 3.2 times; and cement about 5.4 times. As a result we were able to export large quantities of some chemical products to foreign countries after the domestic needs were met.

But owing to the war provoked by the U.S. imperialists almost all chemical factories including the Heungnam Fertilizer Plant was razed to the ground. Consequently, between 1951 and 1953, the production of some chemical products including fertilizer was discontinued.

Q: What results did the chemical industry achieve during the Post-War Three-Year Plan period?

A: The economic policy of the Workers' Party of Korea after the war called for a priority development of heavy industry simultaneous-

ly with the progress of light industry and agriculture.

In line with this policy, the Government of the D.P.R.K. paid special attention to the rapid rehabilitation and development of chemical industry, because the chemical industry occupies an important position in the rapid development of heavy industry along with light industry and agriculture, and at the same time, conduces to the improvement of the people's living standards.

In the Three-Year Plan period the Government allotted over 13 per cent of the total industrial investment to the chemical industry. The plan was overfulfilled by 10.5 per cent in capital construction and by 22.4 per cent in production.

One of the primary tasks of the chemical industry in the Three-Year Plan period was to produce chemical fertilizer and agricultural chemicals for the increased production of grain which is the keynote of the development of the rural economy. Seen from this point of view, it was quite right that stress was laid on the rapid reconstruction of chemical factories including the Heungnam Fertilizer Plant. As a result the Soonchun Nitro-lime Fertilizer Factory and Bongoong Chemical Factory began to produce nitro-lime fertilizer already in 1954. The Heungnam Fertilizer Plant produced about 200,000 tons of chemical fertilizer in 1956, and the Bongoong Chemical Factory is now producing several thousand tons of hexachloran annually.

In this way chemical fertilizer and insecticides were made available for farmers after 1954, which helped to raise crop yields in 1956, 24 per cent above the level of 1953, and 8 per cent above that of the pre-war year 1949.

Another important task set before the chemical industry was to rapidly produce ce-

ment, slate, slaked lime and other building materials which were urgently required in large quantities for the reconstruction of the war-ravaged factories, enterprises, roads, bridges, irrigation systems, schools, hospitals, theatres and other cultural, educational and public health establishments along with dwelling houses. This task also was successfully fulfilled. Five cement factories of Ko-moosan, Chunnai-ri, Seungho-ri, Haijoo and Madong were put into operation in a short span of time after the war. In 1956, about 600,000 tons of cement were produced, which meant 11 per cent over the figure of 1949. Slate and slaked lime also were produced on a large scale.

In the Three-Year Plan period, over 40 kinds of important chemical products including hydrochloric acid, caustic soda, carbonate sodium, bleaching powder and so on were produced. This was useful not only for the promotion of chemical industry itself but also for the development of textile, food processing and glass manufacturing industries, etc.

The production of carbide was expanded. This was of great significance for the reconstruction of national economy. The output of carbide in 1956 grew about three times that of 1954. The uses of carbide, as you know, are not confined to manufacturing nitro-lime fertilizer, acetylene black, etc. It will play an important role in the development of the organic-synthetic industry in our country.

The pharmaceutical industry in our country which was founded only after liberation has been rapidly restored and expanded in the post-war days. Consequently many kinds of medical supplies for which we mainly depended upon imports in the pre-liberation days are being produced to meet the popular demands. Various kinds of injections, medicines, plasters and salves, preparations of inorganic or organic synthesis — all these have played an important role in public health work.

The above are the results attained in our chemical industry during the post-war Three-Year Plan period. In brief, the gross output of chemical industry in 1956 grew four times that of 1953.

Q.: What factors, do you think, contributed to the rapid rehabilitation and development of the chemical industry in the Three-Year Plan period?

A.: That's a reasonable question. And the answer is quite simple.

First of all, the correct economic policy of the Workers' Party of Korea should be mentioned. As you know, it is the supreme principle of activity of the Workers' Party of Korea to pay constant attention to the stabilization and enhancement of the people's living standards. And it is a self-evident truth that the economic policy of the Marxist-Leninist Party displays its might in the course of its execution under the complicated situation. There is no need to expatiate on this point. The figures of production in this period tell eloquently of it; the fuel industry in 1956 grew seven times that of 1953; power generation three times; building materials ten times; metallurgical industry fourteen times; machine-building and metal-working industries three times. As for the textile industry, it increased 3.2 times as compared with 1949. Thanks to the economic policy of the Party for the increased production of daily necessities, the output of consumer goods in 1956 exceeded two times the pre-war level. As for the rural economy, I've already explained it. In a word, the gross industrial output in 1956 (the individual enterprises included) exceeded 1.8 times the figure of the pre-war year 1949.

The national income in 1956 increased to 146 per cent as compared with the pre-war year. And the average wages of workers were raised to 158 per cent compared with that of 1953, while the price index declined to 54.1 per cent. As a result, by the end of 1956 the real income of workers and office employees surpassed the level of the pre-war year.

Secondly, mention should be made of the patriotic struggle of the entire workers in the chemical industry along with the material and technical aid of the people of the Soviet Union and People's Democracies. The people of the fraternal countries have kept rendering disinterested aid for the reconstruction of our country since the war. As for the chemical industry, many factories are now under construction with the material and technical aid of the fraternal people: the ammonium nitrite factory which will constitute part of the Heungnam Fertilizer Plant and the Shinmadong Cement Mill are now being constructed with the aid of the Soviet people; the Soonchun Pharmaceutical Factory is under construction with the aid of the Rumanian people; and a dye-making factory is

to be constructed with the aid of the Hungarian people.

Lastly, the creative enthusiasm of our chemical workers in the struggle of building our chemical industry cannot be overlooked. They have devoted themselves to their given tasks.

Q.: Can you tell me something about the chemical industry in South Korea?

A.: Yes, I think it is necessary to mention the ruin of chemical industry in South Korea. The U.S. imperialists who occupy South Korea have made frantic efforts to destroy the existing enterprises with the intention of converting South Korea into a market for dumping their surplus goods and into a source of raw materials. As a result, South Korea is forced to depend exclusively on the U.S. and other countries for their chemical needs. Chemical fertilizers are all imported, and 80 per cent of cement is brought in from outside. The case of chemical fertilizer alone is sufficient to show the notorious policy of the American imperialists and the traitorous Syngman Rhee clique.

In South Korea, industrial goods are sold at high prices, while agricultural products are procured at low prices due to the malicious scheme of the U.S. imperialists. Recently it was made known that the price index of the agricultural products in South Korea went up 279 times compared with 1947, while the prices of imported fertilizers grew 539 times. The Syngman Rhee regime plundered the best quality rice of the peasants, to hand it over to their masters — the American imperialists — and forced the farmers to buy the U.S. agricultural surplus and fertilizer at high prices.

Q.: What are the prospects of our chemical industry?

A.: In answering your question I shall refer to the First Five-Year Plan.

Last April, at the Third Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, a series of political and economic matters for promoting the peaceful unification and independence of the fatherland were discussed along with the socialist construction in the northern part of the country. And the Congress set forth the basic lines of the First Five-Year Plan.

The basic tasks envisaged in the First Five-Year Plan are to consolidate further the foundations of the socialist economy in the northern part of the Republic and to solve,

first of all, the questions of food, clothing and housing of the population.

To consolidate the foundations of socialist economy means, viewed from the point of the development of productive forces, that every branch of our national economy must be equipped with up-to-date facilities for establishing a foundation of socialist industrialization. It also means the complete elimination of the colonial lopsidedness and backwardness.

These great tasks can be realized only by carrying out the economic policy of the Party which adheres to a priority development of the heavy industry with the simultaneous development of light industry and agriculture.

In accordance with the basic lines mapped out by the Third Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, we the chemical workers have prepared control figures for the First Five-Year Plan. These figures tell of the vast prospects of our chemical industry.

It is the first and foremost task of the chemical industry to provide more chemical fertilizers and insecticides for the rapid development of agriculture, speed up the production of synthetic fibre including vinylon. Plans are also laid for increasing to the maximum the production of building materials including cement for large-scale construction, and for expanding markedly the pharmaceutical industry.

By the end of the First Five-Year Plan period the gross output of chemical fertilizers is expected to grow 3.5 times that of 1956. The output of ammonium sulphate will reach 250,000 tons this year, and it will grow 2.3 times that of 1956 by the end of the Five-Year Plan period. An ammonium nitrite factory with the annual capacity of producing 136,000 tons is to be commissioned in 1958. The output of nitro-lime and ammonium chloride will be steadily increased. Also 150,000 tons of superphosphate will be produced annually by 1961. Besides, liquid ammonia, potash fertilizer and micro fertilizer also will be produced in the near future.

The Five-Year Plan period will see a marked development in the production of agricultural chemicals — hexachloran, D.D.T., barium chloride, formalin and di-chlor benzol.

The rapid growth of the production of chemical fertilizers and agricultural chemicals will make a great contribution to the

development of our agriculture. And it will be greatly conducive to the further strengthening of political alliance between the working class and peasantry, which is a source of the unconquerable might of the people's democratic system.

We shall continue on a larger scale production of carbide. From carbide synthetic fibre—vinylon and vinyl chloride — will be manufactured. The research work on this subject is being carried on successfully by Dr. Li Seung Ki. Soon the results of the research work are to be industrialized. Then a large quantity of fabrics will be produced for satisfying the popular demand.

Next, a large scale production of caustic soda is envisaged. It is important for promoting the development of chemical industry and light industry. The production capacity of caustic soda at the Bongoong Chemical Factory will grow over four times the 1956 level during the Five-Year Plan period.

For the development of our industries, it is also important to develop rapidly the organic-chemical as well as plastic industry with coal as raw material. It is envisaged in the plan to rehabilitate and expand the facilities for producing methanol, light oil, creosote oil, acid oil, solid paraffin, low temperature pitch, etc.

The capacity of the establishments for producing formalin will be doubled compared with the pre-war years. Along with this, insulators, acid-proof materials, packings and other various kinds of electric appliances, auto-parts and machine accessories will be produced on a large scale.

During the First Five-Year Plan period a large dye-making factory is to be set up, which will produce nearly 900 tons of sulphide dyestuffs along with many kinds of by-products, such as sodium thiosulfate, phthalic anhydride, benzoic acid soda, etc. About 200 kinds of chemicals and chemical reagents are to be produced during the period. All these will be of great significance for the technical development of every branch of the national economy.

The pharmaceutical industry will make great progress in the First Five-Year Plan period. The output of various kinds of medical preparations is to grow 3.5 times over 1956. Injections, aspirins, sulfa drugs, such as sulfathiazol and sulfaguanidine, phtharazole, medicines for tuberculosis, sterilizers, anaesthetics and other synthetic chemicals will be produced. Special mention should also be made of the large scale production of Galenov's preparations made from herbs in Korea, and new production of antibiotics. Needless to say, all this serves to promote greatly public health.

As for the production of building materials the prospects are also very bright, but I shall limit myself to pointing out only one thing.

In the First Five-Year Plan period over two million tons of cement will be turned out annually. This ranks with the per capita production of the advanced countries of the world.

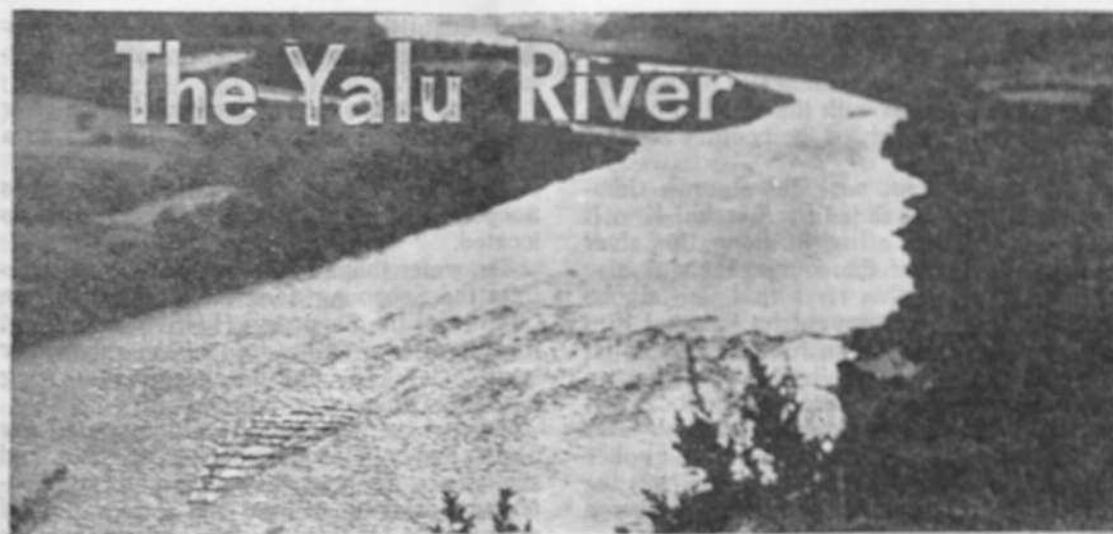
All this shows how vast and gigantic our construction program is. In this period the thatched huts of peasants will be gradually replaced by brick or adobe houses in the rural districts. Accordingly, the demand for such building materials will become ever greater. However, stress is laid not only on the quantity but also on the quality of these building materials.

This is the outline of the prospect of our chemical industry.

Q.: Do you have anything to add personally in connection with the prospect of our chemical industry?

A.: Yes, it is my belief that we shall be always victorious under the correct guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea. Already in the first half of this year our chemical workers have overfulfilled their state assignments by 12 per cent. I do not doubt that our endeavour for peaceful construction will promote the peaceful unification of the country.

It is my earnest desire that the country's unification should be realized as early as possible so that we may share with the people in South Korea our precious revolutionary achievements and the results attained in the peaceful construction.



NAMGOONG MAN

ONE NEVER experiences the mysterious feeling of eternity or the feeling of solemnity more keenly than when he stands before the sublime beauty of nature.

This feeling of eternity and solemnity is what you experience when you follow the endless flow of the Yalu, the greatest, longest river of Korea.

This is not only because the river flows in such powerful torrents and winds through such a vast territory.

Needless to say, the mighty current of the Yalu enhances our pride. But the real charm of the Yalu lies in the variety of superb views it presents. Rising from the sacred peaks of the Baikdo Mountain, the river runs through thick virgin forests, washes with its crystal clear water the countless number of beautiful azaleas blossoming on its shores, meanders through the picturesque mountain villages, conveying the epics of the happy, peaceful life of this industrious people, until it joins the boundless expanse of the Yellow Sea. And this is why the people of this land are so proud of this river.

Springing from the steep peak of Mt. Baikdo towering above the northern plateau of the peninsula, the Yalu runs at varied tempo, in rushing torrents at one time and gently and peacefully at another, through the deep valleys of the Machunryung Mountain Ranges, the Kaima Plateau, the Rangrim and Kangnam Mountain Ranges. When it flows

gently, its mirror-like surface reflects the gallant figures of the dandy deer, and when it falls in cascades, thousands of rosary jades crash with a thunderous sound. Who could describe the majestic beauty of the Yalu in all its variety!

The Yalu has many tributaries — the Huchun, Changjin, Poojun, Tokro, Choongman, Samgyo and others — ranging from 120 to 260 k.m. in length. These affluents further enrich the Yalu and enable it to excel all the other rivers of the country in the volume of water as well as in other ways.

This abundance of water and the swift current of the river provide it with bountiful hydro-power resources.

The Soopoong Hydro-power Plant, the hydroelectric centre of Korea, the Changjin, the Poojun, the Huchun hydro-power plants — all these are gifts of nature presented by the rich, swift current of the Yalu.

There is another aspect which must not be overlooked.

The mountains and plateaus along the Yalu are clad in thick virgin forests. Now the age-old forests of the Baikdo Mountain Range are awakened from their long slumber and are sending to our construction sites huge logs measuring several arms round.

The Woosan and Daiyoodong Mines, gold deposits ranking among the richest of the world, are also situated in this area.

The eternal flow of the Yalu! Numerous

traditions and historical events have been connected with it from time immemorial.

Time and again the clear water of the river was dyed in crimson with the blood of patriotic people who fought for the country against enemies.

In the not distant past, the staunch Communists of Korea headed by Marshal Kim Il Sung waged stern struggle along this river for the liberation of the country. It was also in an area along this river that the famous Bocheonbo battle was fought by Marshal Kim Il Sung's partisan unit. In June 1937, Marshal Kim Il Sung's partisan unit marched upon Bocheonbo, crossing the Yalu from the Manchurian shore, and returned in triumph after annihilating the Japanese garrison and police stationed in the town, thus inspiring the entire Korean people towards the sacred struggle for national liberation.

The endless flow of the Yalu carries one's thoughts to the remote past, to the age of Kokuryo Dynasty (1st century B. C.-7th century A. D.).

It was in the area along the upper reaches of the Yalu that King Dongmyung, or Ko Choo Mong, founded the Kokuryo Dynasty in 57 B. C. It was also on the Yalu that the brilliant Kokuryo general Eulji Moonduk dealt a fatal blow to the enemy of one million strong after deceiving them into a critical strait.

For a long time Kokuryo's star was in the ascendant and its culture formed the backbone of the ancient Far Eastern culture, exerting influences not only upon Paikche and Silla but also upon Japan.

One feels as if the murmur and roar of the Yalu are relating these historical events of ages past.

Columns on columns of rafts go floating down from Bocheonbo to Hesun, from where they are sent to mills and construction sites.

Hesun, which was a desolate mountainous town walled with steep hills, is now prospering as the heart of the newly born province of Ryanggang and a centre of efflorescing culture. New mills and enterprises, public buildings and dwelling houses, schools and hospitals, theatres and cinema houses are arising in this city which is also famous for timber.

The Yalu River flows with its tributaries of Huchun and Changjin from Hesun to Choonggangjin. From Choonggangjin the river runs southward, then eastward and again westward, and reaches Manpo.

Manpo's timber industry is famous. Here

large quantities of lumber and veneer are produced and sent to construction sites by railway or river.

Manpo stands face to face across the river with the Chinese town Tsian, and acts as a go-between in friendly contacts with China.

After passing Chosan, the Yalu reaches Soopoong, where our hydro-power centre is located.

The water thunders down in great cascades from the Soopoong dam, and the roar of the turbines of the Soopoong Hydro-Power Plant run by the pressure of this mighty water spreads far and wide like a triumphal song of giants conquering nature.

During the war, the U.S. imperialist air pirates poured down a hail of bombs and shells here. Their barbarous bombing of Soopoong not only aroused the indignation of our people but also that of the peoples throughout the world. Our valiant workers heroically defended the power plant at the risk of their lives and our anti-air barrage routed the enemy planes. Thanks to this courageous fight the power plant never once stopped its electricity supply.

Following the war the power plant has been fully rehabilitated with Soviet aid, and it is now being equipped with up-to-date technique.

If one goes some distance down the river from Soopoong, the Chungsoo Workers' District catches his eye. This is where the Chungsoo Chemical Factory is situated.

The undulating hills and plateaus along the Yalu consist mostly of limestone strata.

The whitish mountains covered with evergreen trees and dotted with yellow and crimson foliage present a picturesque landscape peculiar to the Yalu River basin. And it is from the limestone of these whitish mountains that the Chungsoo Chemical Factory produces carbide. Besides, the factory is also extracting chemical fibre. In the future, the artificial fabrics made from limestone will serve to meet the extensive demand of our people. Now a research group headed by Academician Li Seung Ki is carrying on preparatory work for the industrialization of the production of this fibre. One cannot think without deep emotion of the fact that the production of chemical fabrics from stone is realized in our country, which was a backward colonial country only 12 years ago.

At Chungsoo the rapids and valleys come to an end, and vast plains stretch eastwards.

The river now flows gently and boat songs float out over the countryside. Boats hoist their sails in fair wind and engine boats plough the waves at full speed.

Golden waves of grain dance in the fields. Every year witnesses rich harvests on the Ryongchun Plains — the vast, fertile plains watered by the Yalu, where the sun rises from the field and sinks into the sea.

The joyous songs of co-operative labour ringing across these broad plains are a happy contrast to the cursed past.

The miserable past! Had there ever been a time when our toiling peasants had their own land? Never! For the tenants and hired farm hands every passing day was a succession of misfortunes and sufferings. And many of them quit their dear old homes and went to North-east China to find a means of livelihood, carrying their scanty belongings and crossing the waters of the Yalu with bitter tears in their eyes.

*Dusk has fallen on the Yalu River,
The road is lost in mist and clouds.
Where are you going, lonely wayfarer
With that tiny bundle on your back?*

*When spring tints the waters with green,
Then speed your return to the homeland!*
These lines vividly convey the heartrending sorrows of the people bidding farewell to their dear ones who were setting out on long journey to a strange land, leaving behind the native land where their ancestors lie buried.

All this has now become a thing of the past. The peasants are enjoying a happy life in the large families of agricultural cooperatives. Every autumn, year after year, happy bumper crop songs ring through the fertile co-operative fields watered by the Yalu.

Winding around Wihwado, the river reaches the walled city of Euiju.

On the northwest hill of the walled city, which was once called Ryongman, there stands the Tonggoonjung Pavilion casting its shadow on the green waters of the river. This pavilion was built during the Kokuryo Dynasty, more than a thousand years ago, as a command post for drilling the valorous soldiers of Kokuryo. Hence the name Tonggoonjung (military commanding pavilion).

During the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-98), a historical event took place at the Tonggoonjung Pavilion. There, King Sunjo and Prime Minister Ryoo Sung Ryong, who had taken refuge in Euiju, met General Li Ju-sung, commander of the Ming forces which came to

help Korea.

The Ming army of 50,000 strong crossed the Yalu. Together with them, our regular army and people's volunteers routed the Japanese invading forces and won brilliant victories.

In memory of the help rendered by the Chinese brothers, the Korean people called the bank at which the Chinese troops landed "Chungmaryang," and the name comes down to this day.

The chronicle of international friendship on the Yalu River is not confined to this.

The valiant Soviet troops that liberated Korea from the Japanese imperialists came across the Yalu River as well as from the sea.

In the last war the Chinese People's Volunteers crossed this river in order to assist the Korean people with their very blood in the just struggle for routing the enemy, the U.S. imperialist aggressors who invaded our country. The Korean and Chinese peoples, living close to each other across the Yalu River, sharing their bitters and sweets, won brilliant victories in the common struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and firmly defended peace in Asia.

The Yalu flows on, passing the old city of Euiju and watering the vast Kwangsung plains.

Beautiful passenger boats fly to and fro, fluttering flags of five different colours. Dark coloured steamships head toward Shinuijoo with full cargoes.

There are a number of machine-building plants in the Yalu River basin. The Rakwon and Bookjoong Machine Plants are two of them. The former mainly turns out hot-bulb engines, with which most of the engine boats running on the Yalu River are equipped.

The river grows remarkably broader as it approaches Shinuijoo — an industrial centre facing the Yellow Sea.

A woolen textile mill, a pulp mill, a paper mill and a number of other enterprises are running in full blast in the city day and night.

Shinuijoo is a gateway on the international traffic line. Pyongyang-Moscow and Pyongyang-Peking through-trains cross the Yalu River bridge here for the mainland with loud piercing whistles, as if proud of their goodwill missions.

From time immemorial on down through ages the Yalu, which today echoes the powerful songs of socialist construction, flows on like the blood of eternal youth.

Heroic Korea

BALWANT GARGI
Indian writer



Balwant Gargi

I T was a hot summer of 1950 when the news of Korean war reached my village. There was a big gathering of peasants. Many placards, posters and speeches on the heroic fighters of Korea. Peasants in big turbans and old women bustled about and clustered around a poster displaying a Korean mother with a child. An old woman asked, "What is Korea?"

A fat farmer scratched his thick beard and said, "Why, mother, it is a city in England."

A thin lean peasant, who hated the British, scornfully remarked, "Fat fool! Everything for you is England. Dear man, Korea is in Germany."

The village headman aired his knowledge, "Nonsense! You're all ignorant. Korea is not in Germany, but in America."

A young peasant who was working in the peace movement came forward and said, "Korea is not in America. It is America which is in Korea."

The old peasant woman looked puzzled, "How is it? I don't understand."

The peasant explained, "Old mother, the American soldiers are butchering the sons and daughters of Korea."

"Where is Korea?"

An old school teacher brought a weather beaten map and all searched for Korea. It looked like a dangling sleeve of China.

For most of the Indians, Korean people were like Chinese people. From Ind'a to see Korea was like looking through the wrong end of telescope. It looked so small, so distant, so far. But slowly the writers, poets, and the peace workers carried the message of the Korean people to distant villages. Korea became a symbol of heroic fight for one's land, a slogan, an idea.

The peasants gathered in the evening in the village square after supper and chatted while they smoked hookah passing its stem from mouth to mouth. They talked about weather, crops, flood in rivers, the theft of a cow, Nehru's speech on China, etc., and also about Korea. The fat village money-lender pulled at his hookah, belched loudly and said, "How can Korea fight against America! Two bulls can fight. But a squirrel cannot charge an elephant. America is large and strong and mighty. It will just crush Korea into powder."

The postman coughed and said, "But it is over six months and Korea is fighting."

The money-lender scratched his big belly and said, "The cat is only playing with mouse. In one leap it will gobble Korea."

An old peasant who had fought in Burma under the American said, "I know the Americans. They always push other people forward to fight. Never themselves. Poor people can fight even being hungry. But an American cannot even load his rifle without two bottles of wine. Korea is small no doubt and America big, but Korean people are fighting for their land and Americans for profit. One is fight for their land and other with bombs for dollars. One can lay one's life for one's motherland but it is difficult to give one's head for dollars. Mark my word. Blood will win, not dollars!"

The prophecy of the old man came true. Korean people won. As one of the characters in "Rice Shoots" remarked, it was not only the people of Korea that fought but its rivers, mountains, lakes, trees—all fought and drove out the enemy.

Of late Korea-Indian Cultural Society was

formed in Pyongyang. And Sharma and myself are here today as the result of this bond of friendship between our two countries.

During my short stay in Pyongyang I got hundreds of impressions. I have gone about in the streets, met vegetable-sellers and flower girls, watched peasant women with children on their back, strolled on the Moranbong Hill and seen the lovely view of the river and the valley. I have met writers, artists, film workers, opera singers and theatre men. How can I record a hundred thousand impressions, millions of fleeting images that each day brings to me? What to choose? What to say? The bravery of the Korean people — the whole world knows about it. Economic prosperity and equality of right of the people? The press has written a lot about it. Young buildings standing side by side with old ruins, fresh crops of maize and millet swaying in fields, Taedong River flowing in its majestic beauty... All are symbols of life and peace for which Korea has fought.

I salute Korea!

In Search of a Heroine

Kim Bong Sang was discussing with me his plan of taking me to one of the cotton factories. Some of the women, labour heroines, had fought in the war and were now working in the factory.

It was afternoon and my room was drowsy with the heavy oppressive heat which forebode impending rain. I asked Kim if he would like to have a cup of tea before we went out.

He shouted for the maid servant. A middle-aged woman came in. She brought hot water, cleaned the table, and arranged cups while we discussed our programme.

With me, taking tea is a ritual. The water must boil at a proper temperature and tea-leaves brew rightly and tea be poured out steaming hot. Kim passed on my instructions to the woman who followed them minutely. After she had laid the table and turned to leave, Kim said to me, "She is from South Korea."

"How do you know?"

"From her dialect. She comes from Seoul, my town. I recognize her accent."

Suddenly I got curious about this woman who had come from South Korea. Why had she migrated to the North? When did she come over to Pyongyang?

She had been working in my room, dusting my table, washing my clothes and bringing tea to me every morning.

I had never looked at her with a serious thought. Now I looked at her with a serious thought. Now I looked at her as she stood hearing Kim's questions. She was about forty . . . maybe a little more, maybe a little less. Difficult to tell the age of a Korean woman. Her hair was done smoothly in a knob; crow-foot marks lined the corners of her eyes and mouth. She spoke softly opening her mouth in a pout which was quite pleasant. When she smiled her three front teeth mounted in gold shone.

Many Korean women have gold fillings — an Asiatic habit. My mother also had two gold nails in her front teeth.

Kim turned to me and said that she had come to the North in 1949, just before the war. In Seoul she was a housewife, and her husband a clerk in an office.

"Where was she during the war?" I enquired.

"On the battle field." She replied as she picked up the cups.

I asked her to let the cups be, and put questions straight to her while Kim translated them.

"Did you fight at the front?"

"Yes."

"How many years did you fight?"

"For three years—as long as the war lasted."

"Why did you join the war?"

"Well . . . I . . . did not choose. The war came to our house and we had to fight. My husband and I offered our services. All men and women fought. I joined the women's corps."

"Did men and women fight side by side or were there armies of women fighting on a different front?"

"Men and women fought together."

"On which front did you fight?"

"On the eastern front."

"Did you march into South Korea?"

"Yes, deep so far as Rakdong River."

"On which front did your husband fight?"

"As soon as the war broke out we were separated from each other. I heard he was killed."

I was silent for a minute. I did not want to put any further questions. Standing by the side of the table, she looked at me from a

slight angle. I thought she was uncomfortable. I got up and requested her to sit in the chair. "Thank you. I am not at all tired."

I gently led her to the sofa and made her sit. She raised her eyes in gratitude.

I poured tea leaves and boiling water and stirred the kettle. She got up and said, "No no, I will pour for you."

I insisted, "Allow me to prepare a cup of tea for you."

She said, "You are very kind."

Her teeth gleamed and the gold fillings shone. I changed the topic and asked her, "Why have you put gold in your teeth?"

"They were broken when I was tortured in jail."

"Were you captured during the war?"

"No, I was arrested in 1948 when I and my husband opposed the separate election in South Korea."

"Why did you oppose the election?"

"Because I thought that was a step to separate the two halves of Korea permanently. I did not like that..."

"How did you escape?"

"The government found no proof against us. After some months we were released and then we escaped to North Korea. Though I was born in Seoul... What a lovely city... Beautiful landscape. But I could not live there. It was degrading."

"Who gave you this political consciousness?"

"Life." She said briefly and as she laughed she hid her teeth with the back of her hand.

I filled another cup and said, "Please drink. You are a brave Korean woman!"

She burst out laughing and said, "There are thousands and thousands of people like me. I am no exception."

During the war so many Korean women took rifles and fought. No military badges or ribbons of victory were given to them. The Government decided, it would have to offer millions of gold medals!

Now when it is peace and you walk down the street and meet the people, maybe you find the bus conductor who is selling you a ticket was the heroine on Kum-Kang Bridge, the usher in the theatre the router of the Twentyfourth Division, the shop assistant in a store the heroine who gave 1,000 grams of her blood to wounded soldiers...

One has not to go in search of a heroine in Korea. She is right around you!

The Dividing Line

A four kilometre wide strip girdles the waist of Korea. This is the demarcation line. This invisible line passes through Viet-Nam, Kashmir, Greece, Palestine, Germany... and many other places in the world where nationalities and countries are unnaturally cut and divided by the imperialists.

In the two kilometre wide belt on the North Korean side of the line grow corn and rice. Peasants come up to the last bit of their land to till, sow, plant and reap, though they are not allowed to stay in this area which has been turned into a neutral zone. In the two kilometres in the southern zone grow weeds and wild bushes through which the wind whistles furiously. No Korean peasant is to be seen there; only American soldiers. Beyond the neutral zone south-wards, for four kilometres, no Korean is allowed to come. In all, a six kilometre wide piece of land lies waste which the American boys are guarding.

I visited the house where peace agreement was signed between the halves of Korea. The house was constructed in three days. Korean boys had planted a big figure of a Dove on the crown of the house. The American general had objected to the Dove which was removed at his insistence. The American General, Mr. Harrison, had sat at one table, at the other the North Korean representative, and on the central small green table had been piled documents and papers of both parties. On the 27th of July, 1953 at Panmunjom the demarcation line was drawn. In the readjustment, the 38th parallel was hitched a bit towards the south on its western end and moved a little up north on its eastern wing.

My friend P. N. Sharma, the photo-correspondent, Suh Man Il, the Korean poet, and a few others crossed a thin stream, and went up a small mound where is stationed the personnel of the four commissions — Polish, Czechoslovak, Swedish and Swiss. Near the hedge stands a sign with the words "Military Demarcation Line". On one side is the hut of the North Korean guards. Beneath its gabled roof are niches where pigeons have made their nests. The pet birds cut capers in the air flying about on both sides and return to their perch in the evening.

A commanding officer who spoke English in

a sing-song accent, pointing to a wire apparatus, said, "This is the telephone line. — the only connection with South Korea. If we have to exchange some words with their commanding guard we speak to them in Korean but the reply comes in English. Is it not funny? Why should the Koreans lose their own tongue? We don't understand. When a nation loses its language it loses its self-respect, a sign of the worst type of slavery."

"Who guards the other end?"

"Americans. We never see a Korean face. In fact this war was between Korea and America. We saw only American jet fighters and bombers and a horde of American soldiers. They would not trust the South Koreans because many of them walked to us and joined us to fight against them."

We came down the steps and passed the huts of the four commissions.

At a little distance was a small cabin. Two American soldiers sat fiddling with an electric apparatus and some wires. Sharma, I and Korean friends stood in the mellow sun, looking around the valley. One of the American soldiers came out and stood reclining against the cabin wall, shielding his eyes from the sun with his hand and looking at us with a scowl. On his left arm was inscribed U.S. — symbol of the American way of thinking. When an American says something it means "U.S." say. His allies have to echo the voice of the master which is the voice of "U.S. all."

We sauntered up and down the mound talking about war and peace. That has been the history of man—peace and war, war and peace. In the past when war broke at one point it was a local affair. Today science has mastered space. A drop of fire at one place soon bursts into a world conflagration. No more it remains the concern of one country only, but involves the entire world in its flames.

Suh Man Il, who has the face of a child and the wisdom of an old man, blinked his chinky eyes and said, "Some men do not seem to learn anything from history. From the South still rise slogans 'March North! March North!' These slogans are meant to drive again the Korean people to hell. Just now there is famine in the South. We offered them 15,000 tons of rice as a gift. But they have spurned it. The Syngman Rhee official clique says, 'We won't accept red

rice! But our rice is white like milk. One should never reject food.'

He grew sad, and his face became soggy and swollen like a lump of leavened dough. His hands locked behind, he slowly walked up to the edge of the mound and looked beyond the hills—South Korea where people speak his language and read his poems. He had received anonymous letters from some of his readers. What a beautiful land! What glorious hills... fields... he had sung many songs in praise of his land which now lay divided. What a colossal waste of human power and creative energy to hold the two halves separate! On both sides the same songs were sung by the fishermen and farmers. The same lullabies were crooned by mothers. The same customs, manners, dress and habits, and the same language. How long could the enemy keep the two halves divided?

The valley was dressed in green of all shades: light green, yellow green, bottle green, parrot green, grape green, laughing green... all merged into each other. Nature is bountiful. No amount of destruction seems to run its fountain dry. After fires and bombs, which singed its face, the earth was again smiling.

Ripe corn swayed on one side, and high weeds moaned on the other side.

Old Ties

There is an old saying, "Those who sleep well, wake up well." Asia has slumbered for centuries and now has woken up with a giant yawn. In the resurgent Asia we find a new born brotherhood and common ties of culture and philosophy which had been snapped during centuries of isolation. The imperialists had erected walls higher than the Himalayas and segregated one country from another. Of late these walls have crumbled. Asian countries can talk to each other across nations as peasants talk to each other in a field across a wicker fence.

The face of a man in anger and arrogance becomes ugly, so does the face of a nation when it assumes the character of an imperialist power. The face of a bakery girl in London is simple. The face of a miner in Birmingham is sooty. But the face of the British imperialism in India was ugly. The face of a

flower girl in Tokyo is beautiful. The face of a pearl diver of Japan is brave. But the face of that Japan which trampled Korea and exploited it for thirty-six years was ugly. India and Korea both have seen the ugly face of imperialism. Both have suffered under foreign rule for years and years. The imperialists not only demanded the corn of our fields, the wealth of our land, but robbed us of our national culture and smothered our language.

When a nation passes through struggle and suffering, it refines its sensibilities and makes it conscious of the degradation of slavery and value of freedom and peace. After years of struggle we have emerged free nations.

It is good to breathe as free people and feel that bond of culture and friendship between us which had been forgotten centuries ago.

Cultural exchanges between India and Korea started in the 4th century when Ahdo, Mallananda, and several Buddhist monks from India brought the milk of human brotherhood and peace to Korea. In the subsequent years (7th century) the King of the Unified Silla sent scholars Aryavarma, Hyeyup, Hyunjo, to study in Indian temples and monasteries while Indian monks visited the Silla kingdom to reciprocate.

In the 8th century a Silla monk Hyecho toured India and Central Asia for ten years visiting over thirty kingdoms, meeting Indian scholars and artists and philosophers and has left behind a rich volume "Journey Through India" full of descriptions of life and social customs of those times.

After the 15th century when the Li Dynasty replaced the Koryu Dynasty and western penetration into the eastern world started there was little contact left between our two countries.

But the cultural ties are not like seasonal streams that flood in rains and are dry in winter. Cultural ties sometimes disappear in the sub-soil and run underground for centuries through the jungle of dark history only to burst out again. When we think cultural ties are broken they are only lying dormant, waiting only for the contact switch.

While travelling in Korea I saw a large bronze temple bell with Om, the ancient Hindu word for the primal sound, the voice

of god, inscribed on it in Sanskrit letters. Relics of old sculpture and motives of the 7th century Hindu architecture are found in many Korean temples and caves.

The gold-crowns and coronets and jewelry of the Silla period, the plastic art of the Three Kingdoms, the cave-murals of Koku-ryo tombs show high craftsmanship and art full of the beauty and power of detail and line, a feature of the ancient Asiatic art.

I met a middle-aged scholar in Kaesong who had read Kalidas' plays. A university professor told me that he had translated Tagore's *Crescent Moon* and was busy in completing a collection of his poems in Korean. In the Kim Il Sung University I met students who had read stories of Mulk Raj Anand, Krishan Chander, K. Abhas, and of Amrita Pritam. Han Sul Ya has recorded his "On the Equator" of India, Suh Man Il has written a book on India. Indian writers and poets have celebrated the brave Korean people's struggle and fight for peace in their poems, stories and plays. Even far flung village poets in Punjab and Bengal have written about the Yalu River and the heroes of hill No. 351. Photographs on Korean life were exhibited by the Indo-Korean Cultural Society and Korean music played in its meetings. Photographic exhibition of India was opened the other day in Pyongyang in commemoration of 100th anniversary of 1857--Indian first fight for independence.

These are little seeds that we have sown in our countries, seeds of friendship and goodwill. I hope they will sprout into mighty trees with strong roots and branches.

I say good-bye to my friends. Many people have come to see me off with flowers. I shall remember Pyongyang, my rambles on Moran-bong Hill, strolls by the riverside, and the busy market place where women sell vegetables and handicraft wares. I think of hundreds of my friends, chance acquaintance with whom I talked with no language, the chubby-faced boy who came to receive me at Shinui-joo station, the girls who sang *Toraji*, boys who clinked their glasses for Korea and India's friendship in a wayside restaurant, and the peasant mother who gave me a bowl of milk...

South Korean "National Assembly"

KIM CHANG MIN

THE AMERICAN imperialists are talking noisily about the "progress of democracy" in South Korea through their propaganda machines and "United Nations Commission for Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea" which serves them in carrying out their aggressive policy under the name of "democracy" and "representative system".

But it is common knowledge that the American imperialists are intensifying in South Korea their policy of colonial enslavement and fortifying military bases, and that there exist lawlessness and fascist terror — the direct opposite of democracy — such as rarely met with anywhere.

Such state of affairs in South Korea has totally refuted the propaganda of the American imperialists. The deceptive and anti-popular character of "free elections" of American-brand in South Korea and of the South Korean "National Assembly" has been brought to light.

FRAUD AND TRICKERY

So Sun Kyu, member of the South Korean "National Assembly," told a U.P. correspondent on August 18 last year:

"Recording on the tickets is done in public and tabulation of returns in secrecy. In the last elections, voters were forced to show their ballots to plain-clothes men before casting them, and tabulation of returns were conducted in top secrecy so that policemen and government officials could concoct returns."

It is noteworthy that now even among the ruling elements of South Korea, who used to extol their elections conducted under the direction of the American imperialists as being "democratic" and "free", there are voices openly criticizing the deceptive and anti-popular character of the elections.

The more the American imperialists intensify their colonial enslavement policy in South Korea, the more violent means the Syngman Rhee clique employ in the elections.

In their first elections of May 10, 1948 violence was the chief means and in the subsequent elections all manner of outrageous means were employed — violence, threat, fraud and trickery.

Their first elections to the "National Assembly" were conducted under the direction of the U.S. Military Government and with the help of armed forces, police and terrorists. A state of semi-emergency was proclaimed all over South Korea forty days before the elections, people were strictly forbidden to hold any assembly, and curfew was enforced. And on April 19, they issued an unheard-of notorious order: "Nobody except policemen is allowed to stand on the street."

Such were the conditions in which the elections to the "National Assembly" were conducted. And even according to the doctored figures of the American Military Government submitted to the "United Nations Commission" 416 were killed and 858 were injured in the elections.

This fact alone is enough to show the outrageous suppression of the people in the elections.

They resorted to more vicious terrorist violence in the subsequent elections of May 30, 1950 and May 20, 1954.

In addition to the terrorist violence, such fraud and trickery as voting by proxy, voting in a bunch, bogus voting and fabrication of returns — called "technical methods" in South Korea — were also employed to concoct "wins."

Such outrageous acts of the Syngman Rhee clique, the henchmen of the American imperialists, are beyond the imagination of sober-minded people.

In rural areas and in some urban districts, policemen and Syngman Rhee's agents forced voters to entrust their voting to them. The Syngman Rhee clique worked out "ghost" voters' lists, registering great numbers of non-existent voters. Another heinous practice of Syngman Rhee in elections is the fabrication of returns by replacing, after voting is over, the ballot-box or ballots inside it with those they have prepared themselves.

It was chiefly in the districts where opposition parties were influential that the Syngman Rhee clique employed such "technical methods."

The anti-popular nature of the South Korean "National Assembly" brought into being by means of such fraud and trickery is

all the more vividly revealed in its composition.

The "National Assembly" formed as a result of the "elections" of May 10, 1948 comprised 198 members: 84 landlords or 42.4 per cent of the total members, 32 capitalists or 16.6 per cent, 43 pro-American officials accounting for 21.7 per cent, nine reactionary men of culture, six religious men and other 24 Syngman Rhee's followers. Workers and peasants were not represented in the "National Assembly".

The similar composition was seen in the "National Assembly" elected in 1950 and 1954.

The present "National Assembly" formed through the "elections" of May 20, 1954 is composed of 203 members: 79 capitalists (39 per cent of the total members), 21 landlords (10.4 per cent), 54 government officials (26.7 per cent), 13 office employees (6.5 per cent), five religious men (2.5 per cent), three retired soldiers (1.5 per cent), ten confirmed terrorists (5 per cent) and 18 professionals (8.4 per cent).

In this "National Assembly", too, there is no representative of workers and peasants.

The only difference in composition of the present "National Assembly" and the previous ones is the decrease of landlords and the increase of capitalists.

The change in the composition is the result of the change in the status of the former landlords who now manage enterprises formerly owned by the Japanese. In the "agrarian reform" of 1950, landlords got funds from Syngman Rhee's government in compensation for their sale of land, with which they bought their present enterprises.

As is seen here, pro-American elements, compradors and reactionary landlords make up the absolute majority in the South Korean "National Assembly."

It is not fortuitous, therefore, that the South Korean "National Assembly" has since its inauguration been taking the treacherous path of submitting to the will of the American imperialists and Syngman Rhee.

The Syngman Rhee clique, who are only interested in the maximum exploitation and oppression of the people, have placed all the political rights, economic arteries and mineral wealth in South Korea at the disposal of the American imperialists who are pursuing a war policy.

The Syngman Rhee clique, always kowtowing to the dictates of the American imperialists, are carrying out a treacherous policy.

Everybody knows that the agreements and treaties the Syngman Rhee clique have concluded with the United States, such as the "ROK-U.S. Agreement on Initial Financial and Property Settlement," "ROK-U.S. Agreement on Economic Aid," "ROK-U.S. Mutual Defence Pact," and the "ROK-U.S. Treaty of Friendship, Trade and Navigation" are designed for subjugating the southern part of Korea to the American imperialists politically, economically and militarily.

The South Korean "National Assembly" legally guarantees Syngman Rhee's unconditional obedience to the dictates of the American imperialists, by sanctioning such treacherous treaties and agreements.

Moreover, the South Korean "National Assembly" passed on November 30, 1948 a bill requesting continued stationing of the U.S. army in South Korea, at the time when the entire Korean people were demanding the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea for the peaceful unification of the country.

After the truce in Korea, it sanctioned the stationing of the U.S. army in South Korea, passed a resolution for forcing the withdrawal of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and for the abrogation of the Korean Armistice Agreement.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K. have time and again put forward reasonable proposals for the restoration of economic and cultural contacts, travel of citizens and exchange of letters between the two parts of Korea, for settling the Korean question by the Koreans themselves and for the realization of the peaceful unification of the country, and have consistently worked along this line. But the South Korean "National Assembly" has been keeping silence on our proposals. Such attitude of the South Korean "National Assembly" serves to show that it is in the service of the U.S. imperialists in pursuing the policy of splitting our nation, enslaving our people and provoking war.

The South Korean "National Assembly", furthermore, has taken a number of measures to deprive the South Korean people of their democratic rights and to suppress their demands.

A number of notorious laws and regulations such as "State Peace Regulations,"

"National Defence Regulations," "Law on Agrarian Reform," "Law on the Land Acquisition Tax" and "Labour Regulations" were designed to give the Syngman Rhee clique a free hand to oppress and expropriate the people through fascist tyranny.

FEUD AND DISSENSIONS

Fascist dictator Syngman Rhee does not reign supreme over the South Korean "National Assembly." There are feud and dissensions among the "National Assembly" members.

Let us take a look at party affiliation of the 203 members and at their political activities.

Syngman Rhee's Liberal Party holds 132 seats, the pro-American Democratic Party, the strongest opponent of Syngman Rhee, 44 seats, and the other 27 seats are held by small parties or persons without party affiliation.

Once the Liberal Party held 137 seats in the "National Assembly", one more than the two-thirds required in amending the Constitution. But after the "Vice-Presidential" elections of May 1956 when Li Ki Boong, chairman of the Central Committee of the Liberal Party and the chairman of the "National Assembly", was defeated by Chang Myen of the opposition Democratic Party, some "National Assembly" members belonging to the Liberal Party seceded from the party. The Syngman Rhee group, therefore, can hardly secure a two-thirds vote in the "National Assembly."

Some of the Assembly members without party affiliation or belonging to small parties vacillate in the middle of the road, sometimes opposing Syngman Rhee, and, sometimes supporting him, as they do not have any political views of their own. And even some Assembly members belonging to the Liberal Party oppose the fascist arbitrariness of Syngman Rhee.

Such state of affairs in the "National Assembly" means that Syngman Rhee cannot maintain his control over it, unless he resorts to outrageous means.

RHEE'S DESIGN DISCLOSED

In November 1954, Syngman Rhee asked the "National Assembly" to amend the Constitution. His bill of amendment to the Constitution was to forbid anybody except himself to run more than twice for President.

In putting forward the bill he was sure he could obtain a two-thirds vote as his Liberal Party held 137 seats out of 203. But he was mistaken. His bill was put to the vote on November 27, and was rejected. He got 135 votes in favor of amendment.

Syngman Rhee, however, came out with the fantastic assertion that two-thirds of 203 meant 135.3333... and, therefore, 135 was approximately two-thirds of 203, when they reckoned fractions of 0.5 and over as a unit and cut away the rest.

Two days later, he asked the "National Assembly" to examine his claim. Such an outrageous act enraged the Assembly members of opposition parties, who boycotted the examination and walked out.

Availing himself of the walk-out, Syngman Rhee forced the Assembly members from his Liberal Party to pass the amendment.

Since then the "counting fractions of 0.5 and over as a whole number and disregarding the rest", the method forcibly employed by Syngman Rhee in railroading through his bill, has become a synonym among the South Koreans for outrageousness and absurd obstinacy.

Last year, the South Korean "National Assembly" was in plenary session for more than 200 days, discussing several hundred bills submitted by Syngman Rhee's government for examination. But what with all the repeated adjournments, walk-outs, violence and disputes, most of the items on agenda were never settled.

Recently, some South Korean "National Assembly" members have come out with the demand for the peaceful unification of the country, in opposition to Syngman Rhee's clamour for "march north to unify the country." Others formed the "Committee for the Struggle in Defence of National Sovereignty" against the fascist dictatorship of Syngman Rhee. On March 9 this year, in the South Korean "National Assembly" voices were raised demanding the Syngman Rhee's government, which was busily engaged in armaments expansion and strengthening police terrorist system, to cut military and police expenditure.

Now the Syngman Rhee clique are preparing another underhand design to hold elections to "National Assembly" in May 1958. Syngman Rhee's Liberal Party and his government, South Korean newspapers reported, jointly submitted to the "National Assembly"

a bill for revising the "regulations for the elections to the National Assembly." According to the bill, a candidate has to deposit 500,000 hwan with the Syngman Rhee's government, when he is registered.

It goes without saying that it is one of the manoeuvres aimed at preventing workers, peasants and salaried men who constitute the absolute majority of the population as well as medium and small enterprisers from running as a candidate for election.

The bill also envisaged a restriction on the nomination of candidates. The purpose of the restriction is to deprive all except Syngman Rhee's followers and pro-American elements of the opportunity of running for the elections, and, especially, to prevent the candidature of members of opposition parties.

That the Syngman Rhee clique have been preparing an underhand scheme for the elections to the "National Assembly" next year has recently been disclosed. According to the dispatch of the South Korean *Hapdong Tongshin* of August 7 from Seoul, the headquarters of the Liberal Party had addressed heads of organization departments of all levels of lower party bodies on what they call "programme of expanding party influence." To expand party influence, the lower bodies of the Liberal Party were instructed to appoint activists of the Liberal Party the chiefs of state-owned enterprises, public organizations, water utilization associations, industrial associations, etc.

All South Korean papers and publications carried sensational reports of the instructions. And now the government and opposition parties are in sharp dispute over what the latter call "desperate underhand scheme of the Liberal Party."

A spokesman of the opposition Democratic Party, Jo Zai Chun, was reported by the South Korean *Tongyang Tongshin* of August 7, as having stated:

"The aim of the Liberal Party in making monopoly of all enterprises and associations is to convert public organizations into a tool for their political interest. Their crime of squeezing the fruits of people's labour has now become ever more heinous. From their scheme of disrupting other parties, one can judge for himself who was behind the shooting of Vice-President Chang Myen and many

other incidents." «Vice-President Chang Myen (Democratic Party) was shot on July 28, 1956. In the court it was disclosed by the confessions of the accused that the Syngman Rhee clique and police were behind the attempted assassination.»

Greatly upset at the leaking out of their secret "programme", the top level of the Liberal Party called to account Im Chul Ho who was in charge of the party organizational affairs. The leading members of the Liberal Party impudently said they knew nothing about the instruction.

From these facts we can easily foretell that the next elections to the "National Assembly" in South Korea will be conducted in an atmosphere of more outrageous violence, fraud and trickery.

This is the true colours of the "democratic elections" or the "progress of representative system" in South Korea which the propaganda machines hired by the U.S. imperialists are noisily talking about.

The South Korean people who have first-hand experience of the fascist, terrorist rule of the American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique will never again be duped by their propaganda. Moreover, the more outrageous the arbitrariness of the American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique becomes, the more resolute will be the fight of the people for democratic rights and freedom.

South Korean people are longing for the democratic system in the northern part of the country.

The recent elections to the Supreme People's Assembly in the northern part of the country on August 27, again convinced the South Korean people that such elections are the only genuine popular elections which are possible only under the people's democratic system where the people are the masters of their country.

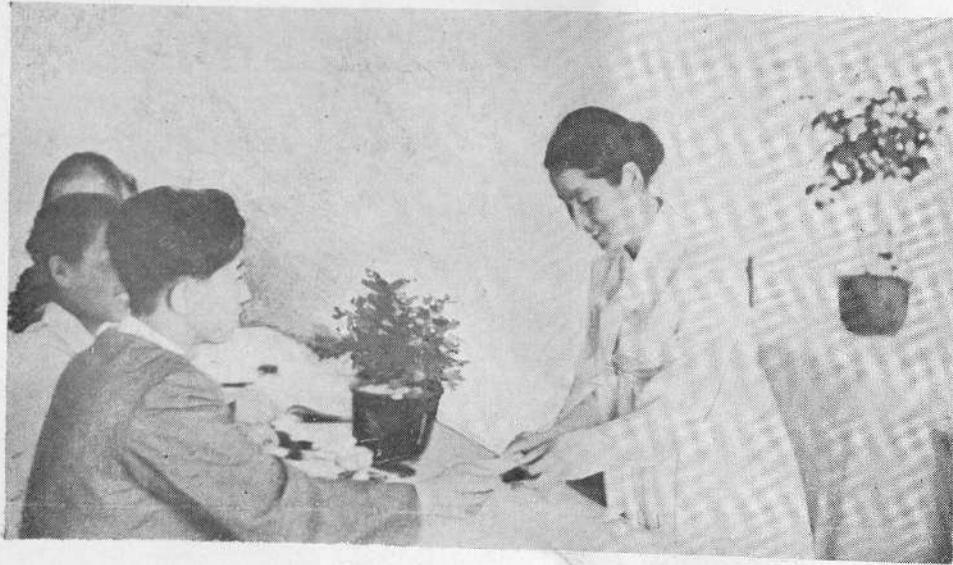
South Korean people are firmly convinced that, although their fight against the tyranny of the American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique is arduous, there is no power capable of crushing the united force of the people and that their fight is making for the promotion of the peaceful unification of the country.



ON ELECTION DAY

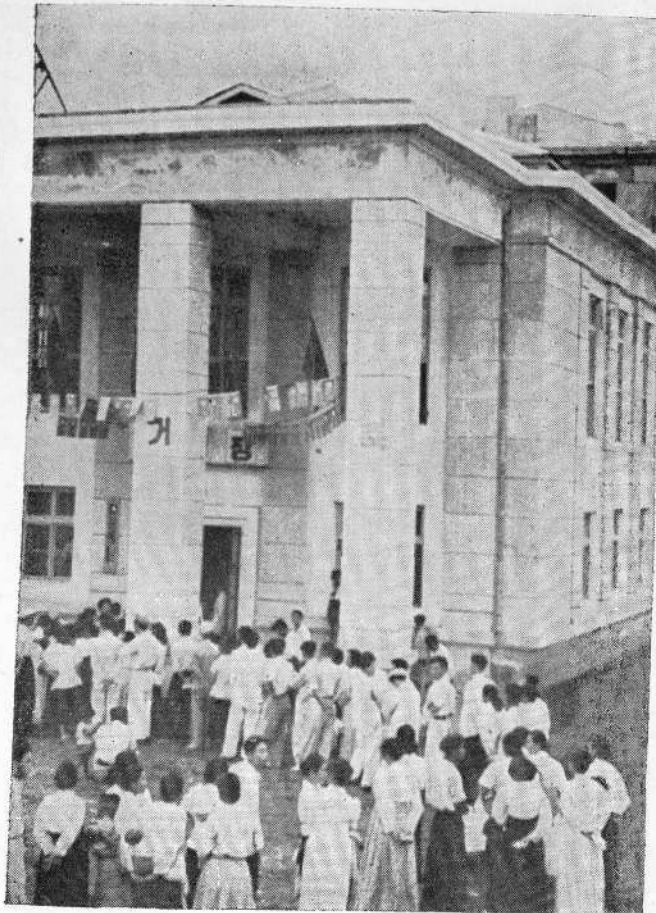
In the morning of August 27, Premier Kim Il Sung, Pak Jung Ai and Kim Chang Man, Vice-Chairmen of the C.C., Workers' Party of Korea, Li Jong Ok, Chairman of the State Planning Commission, and Li Il Kyung, Director of the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the C.C., Workers' Party of Korea, went to polling station No. 3, Nampo Constituency, South Pyongan Province, where Ryoo Hyun Kyoo, a smelter of the Nampo Refinery, was put up as a candidate for the Supreme People's Assembly.

Photo: Premier Kim Il Sung and other Party and government leaders welcomed by the local people on their way to the polling station



At six a.m. sharp, voting began

Voters waiting for their turns in one of the polling stations, East District, Pyongyang



CONFIDENCE IN PEOPLE'S POWER

Elections to the Supreme People's Assembly, on August 27, were held in a free and gay atmosphere. This was one of gala days. Everyone was in a festive mood. From the early hours voters formed long lines waiting for the polling stations to open.

People celebrating the election day at polling station No. 15, Chilsung-moon Constituency, Pyongyang



Members of the Chungryong Agricultural Co-op, Keumtan-ri village, Seungho County, South Pyongan Province, on their way to the polling station.

People from every walk of life — workers, peasants, intellectuals, office employees, merchants, businessmen, religious men — all cast their precious votes to strengthen the people's power.

99.99 per cent of the total voters went to the polls and 99.92 per cent of them voted for the candidates.

An out-door celebration of the elections at the Namdai-moon Gate, Kaesong





Chorus of the music circle members of the Pyongyang Central Printing Shop

MERRY TIME AFTER WORK

Photo by Kim Jum Yung

The working people in our country, under the people's power, enjoy fully their rest after work—in singing, dancing and some other activities. Some sort of amateur circles are organized in every factory, farming or fishing village.

Their simple art expressions are true reflection of the life, joy and optimism of the working people.



Pyongyang Tobacco Factory dance circle members rehearsing the "Toraji Dance"

"Smelters' Dance" by the dance circle members of the Hwanghai Iron Works



The peasants of Ryongbook-ri, Moonduk County, South Pyongan Province, doing the "Threshing Dance" to the accompaniment of peasant music

An Impressive Man

CHOI MYUNG IK

WITH THE expectation of finding a man of striking features, I, a writer, called on An Dal Soo, Chairman of the Sangryong Agricultural Co-operative Managerial Board in Suhwon-ri, Byuksung County, South Hwanghai Province. But I was a little disappointed in my expectation.

He was a stout, sawed-off looking man, always quiet. He came and went noiselessly, and when he was in the office he appeared to be buried in an avalanche of work.

The tip of his nose was a dark purplish colour, the mark of a frostbite, which he had gotten at the time of his partisan struggle in Koowol Mountain during the temporary retreat in the Korean war. He still complains of the swelling and numbing of his hands and feet in winter.

"Are you in, Comrade Chairman?" With this an old man burst into the room. He looked to be about eighty, not a single black hair on his head. Even his mustache was snow white.

"Come in, please have a seat, Grandpa! Everything all right?"

Paying no attention to the greetings of An Dal Soo the old man poured out his complaints.

"The roof of my house leaks. What shall I do? Even with a sprinkling of rain it leaks these days. Imagine how it will be when the rainy season sets in?"

"I'm sorry to hear that. But I will try to do something about it."

"What can you do about so many holes in a tin roof?"

"Don't worry, Grandpa. I will fix those holes for you."

"What do you mean? Are you going to solder those rotten places?"

"No, Grandpa. I'll cut up some worn rubber shoes into small pieces like these, then set fire to the strips and..."

"Well, it's not too clear to me, but you're an old hand. So I trust you. I must be off now."

I was fascinated by his simple trust. The chairman mumbled, "I must find some worn-out rubber shoes."

A young voice was heard from outside. "Father, are you in?"

Mr. An answered and went out. No sooner had he returned than other voice, young woman's voice this time, called, "Father!" He answered and obligingly went out again. A little later a young man called, "Father!" The chairman went out and did not come back for some time.

I asked the book-keeper, who was busy with his abacus, if the chairman had many children.

"No, not many. Just two small girls," was the answer.

"Just two? Then, who were those young people who called him 'father'?"

"Oh, that! He is 'father' to all the Youth League members here," the book-keeper answered not even raising his head, as if there was nothing strange about that.

I sensed that this "father" was not a simple "village father," but something more than that to the young people here. The white haired old man was not the chairman's grandfather nor uncle, but he brought his individual complaints to An Dal Soo as he would to his own son.

Curious about all this I went out to learn more. The chairman was in a cattle shed feeding dog meat to some 20 oxen. This gives them strength to pull ploughs and levellers in paddies. A young man was thrusting handfuls of chopped meat into the open mouth of an ox, holding its tongue with one hand.

"After several days that dull look in its eyes will be gone." The chairman told the young people with a pat on the back of the ox.

I noticed a torn rubber shoe peeping out of his pocket. Even a rare fountain-pen in the pocket of a fellow writer would not catch my eye like that.

**

The farm land here, which lies along the coast, is level but not so fertile. Most of it is reclaimed land. In places it is still overgrown with weeds. And the sandy land drinks up water like a sponge. People used to call this place "Jinhwang-cho" (Fallow-waste land).

Some 20 years ago a Japanese Development Company bought up this land for a mere song and set up the so-called Settlers' Village. The poor peasants driven from the southern provinces to this place by order of the Japanese Governor General were ground down without mercy.

An Dal Soo was also brought here by the Japanese from a district of far away Taegu. But the land was sterile, so few people remained to till it. After liberation the land reform was effected, a stretch of land reclaimed and the village took on new life. But the war broke out. Able-bodied young men joined the army. So farm hands were short. Hundreds of villagers were killed during the enemy's occupation and not a few people were taken away by the enemy. Moreover the enemy had looted the village of foodstuffs. Right after the truce no cattle were to be seen in the village. Only one or two cats were mewling about.

The prosperous life of the peasants which began following the land reform, as was the case with the peasants of every part of the Republic, was uprooted. The villagers were faced with the shortage of work hands, draft animals and food.

The enemy's wanton murder, arson and pillage brought, above all, acute shortage of man-power. And the remaining farmers shifted into the status of poor peasantry.

Under these conditions the Sangryong Agricultural Co-operative came into existence on the initiative of An Dal Soo. Such circumstances, we might say, hastened the birth of the cooperative.

In the second year after its birth, the co-operative succeeded in relieving foodless peasants and by the third year, 1956, all the member households owned at least one cow.

All this is very commendable. But that is not all. Great stress is laid on the education of the people and on the welfare of each member.

I made my way to Yepoon's house. She was sixteen years old. She seemed a bit nervous at meeting a stranger, but upon hearing that I was a good friend of the co-operative chairman, she gladly showed me into her room.

On the wall of her tiny but neat room were many "nail-hooks", not for hanging dresses but for pamphlets, such as "Manual of Cold-Bed Seedlings", "How to Raise Pigs", "Pioneers News", "Children's Pictorial", and her note-books, etc.

A small desk set against the wall was littered with an ink bottle, pen, and pencils, a tooth-brush, soap case, a hand-mirror, woolen yarn and knitting needles.

With the girl's permission I peeped behind the curtain that was hanging from the wall, where I found her work clothes splashed with mud, and several sacks of rice.

"Whose rice is this?" I asked.

"Mine, of course," was the answer.

"You mean to say you, a young girl, earned all this?"

"Why not? I'm a full co-op member," she said with pride, which induced me to ask another question:

"Well, is this all that you've earned?"

"Oh, no. Out of my share I've paid off the grain loan, bought myself some dresses, put aside enough for my own food and this is left over! Just now I sold one bushel to the procurement office and bought myself something."

She then showed me a length of dress material and a map of Korea.

Spreading out the map, she studied it a little while. Presently pointing to a spot with her finger, she looked up at me and asked:

"This is Pyongyang, isn't it?"

"Yes, that's right."

"And this is Haejoo?"

I nodded.

"It looks like a long way to Pyongyang," she said.

"Haven't you ever been to Pyongyang?"

"No," she shook her head, and said proudly, "but I saw our Premier."

"Is that so? When?"

"When he was here last month. He told us orphans that from now on we must begin to study. As you know we were orphans and had no chance of getting education. The Premier asked the co-op chairman to see that we go to school."

"So you are going to school?" I asked.

Then she produced a piece of flowered cloth from underneath her bed, and said, "I bought this for a book wrapper. I'll use it when I go to school!"

She turned her eyes again to the map and put her plump little fingers on the map as if she wanted to measure the distance from Haejoo to Pyongyang. This little gesture showed how she longed for Pyongyang—the capital.

Yepoon was the only daughter of a widow, her father having died in her childhood. The

mother and the daughter, moved here and there and finally came to this village. Having no land, their life was in straitened circumstances. But when the agricultural co-op was organized in 1954, the widow was admitted into it on the motion of Chairman An Dal Soo. Thus their living became secure. But, unfortunately, the mother died shortly afterwards. The co-op chairman, I was told, made all the arrangements for her burial himself. After the burial the chairman proposed to the members to take care of Yepoon who was left a helpless orphan. He did not want the little girl to be a burden to any one. He wanted her to build an independent life as far as possible.

The co-op had already adopted several other sons and daughters, I was told.

I visited another family which was living in a single room next to the main gate. To my surprise, I found Chairman An Dal Soo sitting in the room. He held a baby wrapped in a quilt on his lap, resting his big hand on the baby's head.

"Oh, it's you! Come in, please."

He greeted me with a somewhat surprised look. Then he handed over the baby to the young couple sitting next to him and said:

"Its temperature is not so high. But why on earth did you take the baby to the market in this strong wind? Nothing strange about the baby having a cough. Do you think a husband and wife should go together to buy a bottle of sesame oil?"

"Where do you think I went? I went to the Ri (village) People's Committee on co-op business," retorted the young wife, flaring up.

"I know that, of course. But, couldn't you go alone to the market from the Ri People's Committee? What's the use of taking the whole family to buy a bottle of sesame oil?" Turning to me, he continued: "I simply can't understand the mind of youth these days," he chuckled.

"Chairman An," I interrupted him, feeling this was the time. "I am just from the Yepoon's. She told me all about this young couple Min Chang Sik and his wife here. Now, I want to hear your own story, Comrade Chairman. It's already getting dark and you've probably finished the day's work. Now, tell me something about yourself."

Taking a deep breath, he said slowly:

"Well, first I'll tell you a story which I'll never forget in my life. I was born in the

vicinity of Taegu, Kyungsang Province. When I was nine years old, I worked as a servant of a rich family with the hope of getting a taste of rice.

"When I was twelve years old, the rice harvest was good even on the unirrigated paddy fields which my father tenanted. My elder brother and I discussed with father about what we should do. Though it was a good year not much would be left, if we gave half of the crop to the landlord and paid off the ten bags of rice we had borrowed since the previous autumn and five more as interest. It would be well, we thought, if we paid back ten bags first. We reckoned that by selling fire-wood in the market we could pay back the remaining five bags of interest in cash.

Things would be much better if we could pass the winter without buying high-priced provisions and borrowing grain from the landlord at fabulous interest. So it was decided that father should have a talk with the landlord and settle matters.

In the field the tenants were busy threshing. After finishing packing rice my father went up to the landlord and asked him if he would mind receiving the interest in cash a few months later as we had discussed. But the landlord flatly refused, demanding that loans must be cleared off right away. However, my father kept pleading with him. Then, before he realized what was happening the landlord's long-stem pipe cracked down on my father's head. He shouted:

"None of your nonsense! I told you rice and I mean rice."

Blood was flowing down from my father's head. My father put some tobacco dust on the wound, then tied it up with a handkerchief. He was raging: "For the past ten years I tilled your lean land to increase your fortune. Not a single grain of rice was unpaid for the interest you charged me for your grain loans. It's also I who fed your family, I'd say. Don't ever get the idea your big family lives in such comfort because you're such a fine man. It's we tenants who fed you and dressed you. Then, how dare you hit me? I said I'd repay the five bags of rice in cash a few months later, if you agree. Did I say I wouldn't repay? You bastard! I am already in my fifties and, as you see, I have grown-up sons. How dare you hit me and spill my blood in the face of my own children? You swine! You black-hearted scoundrel! I will show you what I will do with you."

He swung the landlord high and flung him on the ground. Then he tore the rice-bags which he packed with my elder brother, and scattered the grain all over the ground. Fury was not the word to describe my father! Just imagine the tenant throwing a landlord who was well-protected by the cold-blooded Japs! Other tenants advised my father to disappear immediately. Then they emptied their pockets to give some money for my father.

My father and my elder brother disappeared, I didn't know where. Soon there arrived a bunch of policemen on motorcycles and bicycles followed by a doctor and nurses. After the landlord was taken to the hospital, they drove out my helpless family from the landlord's out-house. They wouldn't let us taking anything. It was difficult to remain in the village. So we moved to some strange village, where we managed somehow to rent a barn of some peasant. It was in winter when my mother gave birth to a baby. In the room there was no fire. The air was sharp and cold. The thin, tattered quilt was the only thing to warm the mother and baby.

My mother died four months later. So only three of us remained of my family, I, thirteen years old, my sister, nine years old, and the baby. Leaving the baby to my sister's care I went every day to mountains to collect firewood. With whatever I happened to earn, I bought some rice or millet and got some persimmons for the baby. We squeezed out the juice from persimmons, which served as milk for the baby. My sister and I sipped gruel.

But I couldn't get even this small money everyday. When there was nothing to eat, the baby cried all night. I'd try to amuse him, rocking him in my arms or on my back, but no use. The crying gnawed at my heart. How often I burst into tears! My little sister would wake up and cry with me in the lightless, cold room. It happened so often. But who was there to look after us three helpless orphans?...

At this point, our friend An Dal Soo stopped for a while. I heard a low sob.

I myself also brushed tears away with my handkerchief. An's eyes, too, glistened with tears. Two little rivulets trickled down the cheeks of the young but still girlish woman, who sat nursing her child. The young husband Min Chang Sik, sitting beside her, had his hand over his eyes. This young couple—twenty-two-year-old husband and nineteen-

year-old wife—must have been reminded of their wretched past. They were orphaned in their childhood. But, today, they are leading a happy life, bringing up their first lovely daughter. More than twenty bags of rice are piled in the side-room. They are planning to build their own house right after the autumn harvest. A hope-filled future lies before them.

But the heart-rending story of our friend An Dal Soo, chairman of their co-op and their "father", was by no means a story of a stranger, but their own! The bitter life they experienced in their childhood!

The baby coughed slightly once or twice, then started crying.

"Pass her to me." An held the baby in his arms and, putting a hand on the back of its head, said: "All right! All right!"

He tried to humor the baby by making a funny noise with his lips, saying: "Now, now, that's enough. You've nothing to cry about. You're born in our Republic and growing up in the warm bosom of our Workers' Party! Let me look at your face... Let me see your big smile... that's all right..."

Giving back the baby to her young mother, he continued:

"Let's go back to my story. Who'd look after us at that time? Pitiful children like us had no one to turn for help. But, I don't think it was because our people were pitiless and hard. But, how is it today? There's the Party for us. There's the Government of the Republic for us. Agricultural co-ops have been organized in every nook and corner of the country. The peasants enjoy a good life, tilling their own land, thanks to the Land Reform. Yes, the situation is entirely different today. There are agricultural co-ops. Anyone who wants to work can till the land and enjoy the fruits of his labour. Yes, our Party has opened up a new way for us!"

Could this be a simple political argument? No! His story is born of his own life, present and past. From his experience he has come to the conclusion that his better life cannot be secure without the Party and the people's government.

I failed to pick up anything characteristic in his countenance, behaviour, speech or habits with which I could depict his individuality or appearance. But, I returned with a feeling of happiness of having met a marvelous man, which pleased me more than anything characteristic.

CHOI SEUNG HI Thirty Years of Dancing

"This is the thirtieth year of my dancing career. For thirty long years I have been dancing without a break. When I look back on those years, naturally many memories come to my mind.

"Before liberation, under the Japanese rule, I was unable to attain the object of my ambition. Only after the liberation of Korea was I able to realize all my cherished dreams.

"It is a great honour and pride for me that I was born as a daughter of this beautiful land of ours so that I could devote myself to the creative art of dancing midst the affection and encouragement of the people and the deep concern of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic."

These were the words of Choi Seung Hi, the world renowned Korean dancer and People's Artist of the D.P.R.K.

She is celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of her dancing career.

Choi Seung Hi, the pride of the Korean people, has accomplished much in the development of Korean national dances with her creative energies under the correct cultural policy of the Party and the Government of the Republic after liberation. And numerous young dancers have come from her studio.

From the very first days of her career, it has been her wish and dream to develop the classical Korean dance. Even in the adverse conditions existing under the Japanese colonial rule, which tried to wipe out every trace of the Korean culture, she made every effort to explore and develop the Korean dancing traditions. Also she spared no effort to learn



Choi Seung Hi

the dancing arts of foreign countries in order to enrich the Korean dance.

Already in the years of 1929-1933 such dances as "Kum Moo" (sword dance), "Seung Moo" (monk dance), "Yungsan Moo" (mountain spirit dance), "Poongnyun-ka" (song of harvest), and "Zeukheung Moo" (an impromptu) were created by her.

These works were followed by another set of her choreographic creations. "Sukkool-am's Bosal" (goddess of mercy in Sukkool Grotto), "Jangko Choom" (Korean drum dance) were some of her works in this period. With such repertoire she toured

extensively Japan and China, receiving high acclamation wherever she danced.

But her great dream of creating the Korean national ballet never faded from her mind but became more intense. During the three years (1937-1940) she toured various countries of Europe and North and South America introducing Korean folk dances.

While she was abroad she studied and learned the dances of different peoples and their classical ballet.

Reminiscing those days Choi Seung Hi said:

"... In Paris and in New York I saw many ballets. Then I wondered when the Korean national ballet could be put on the world stage! I dreamed many dreams about the future of Korean dancing." After a pause as if to call back those days, she continued, "Had not the torch of the great October Socialist Revolution beamed the people of Korea, had there

not been the revolutionary, patriotic fighters of Korea and the patriotic struggles of anti-Japanese partisans, there would have been no liberation of Korea and no realization of my dreams..."

Indeed, only with the liberation of Korea by the great Soviet Army on the 15th of August, 1945 and the correct policies on culture and art of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic was it possible for her to display fully her creative talent. For the first time her efforts began to bear fruit.

It was September 1946, when the Choi Seung Hi Dancing Studio was established. Ever since then she has been devoting all her energies to carrying forward Korean dances and training young dancers.

In the period of peaceful construction she arranged many new dances which express artistically the gratitude and respect the people entertain towards the revolutionary leaders of Korea. Among these were "A Dedication to Marshal Kim Il Sung", "Song of Liberation", "Banya-Wolsung Serenade",



Choi Seung Hi's "Bodhisattva in Sukkool-am Cave" (1937)

"Over the Roaring Waves", "Dance of Elegant Lady", etc.

Her creative maturity was clearly exhibited in these works. Particularly her "Song of Liberation" marked an epoch in the development of Korean dancing art. Here she successfully combined the traditional Korean dance with modern one.

The "Banya-Wolsung Serenade" was first such work to appear in the field of the Korean dance. It was a dance drama of three acts with the peasants' struggle against the feudal lords of the Silla Kingdom (from around 1st to 10th century) as its theme.

During the severe years of the Fatherland Liberation War against the American invaders (June 1950-July 1953) overcoming all difficulties she continued her work. "Korean Mother" and "Song of Peace" are her masterpieces of that time. Her works encouraged the people, served to inspire patriotism, enkindle hatred against the enemy and instill the firm conviction of victory. Particularly her dance drama "Korean Mother", which depicted the sorrow and spirit of revenge of a Korean mother who lost her only son by the enemy bombing, won the Peace Prize and the First Prize at the Third World Youth and Students Festival held in Berlin in 1951.

The "Friendly Ties of People" and "Song of Peace" are based on dances of the fraternal peoples. These works contributed much to the further strengthening of friendship between the people of Korea and peoples of the fraternal countries.

In her post-war works are seen her full maturity of creativeness. Many outstanding dances were produced in this period. Particularly, mention should be made of her national ballets "The Tale of Sado Fortress" and "Under the Serene Sky", in which her artistic achievements gained through her long career came into play.

"Tale of Sado Fortress" is based on the epical story of the Korean people's fight against the Japanese invaders who attacked the Sado Fortress on the east coast during the Silla dynasty. This dance drama portrays the beautiful love between a fishman's son and a princess in the sacred war against the alien foes. And it projects our ancestors' ceaseless struggle to defend their homeland. This has been performed in many fraternal countries and highly acclaimed as a dance

truly representing the traditions of Korean dancing art.

The people's patriotic struggle and their creative life through the periods of peaceful construction, Fatherland Liberation War, and post-war reconstruction were staged in her national ballet "Under the Serene Sky." It was well received by the people. In this ballet she depicts the heroic struggle of the people and their happy life in a lofty ideological, artistic projection. Every technique was employed to portray a wide range of life. And the ballet impressed people deeply with the expressions of love and

affection to the Party and Government and with the flaming aspirations of the people for reconstruction of the fatherland.

She has contributed much through her dancing to promoting friendship and cultural exchanges between the Korean people and the fraternal peoples. She and her dance troupe have gone abroad several times. In 1947 she and her daughter An Sung Hi appeared before the First World Youth and Students Festival in Prague, and then the Second Festival in Budapest in 1949. In November of the same year she appeared before the Asian Women's Conference held in Peking. She toured the Soviet Union in 1950, which was followed by her participation in the Third and Fourth World Youth Festivals. Then she visited China, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Mongolia. And recently from September 1956 to January 1957, she again toured the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Rumania, Albania, and Czechoslovakia, and attended the Sixth World Youth and Students Festival held in Moscow this summer.

Choi Seung Hi has contributed so much to training young dancers. Hundreds of young dancers who came from her studio are working in various professional organizations, schools and amateur art circles.

Choi Seung Hi — a gifted choreographer, superb dancer and renowned educator — has been devoting her entire life to the deve-



Choi Seung Hi in the ballet, "Tale of Sado Fortress" (1956)

lopment of the Korean dance. On several occasions she was decorated by the State. In August 1955, she was awarded the highest artistic honour of the D.P.R.K. — the title of the People's Artiste. Recently the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly awarded her the Order of National Flag, First Class, in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of her dancing career.

Reflecting on her well-earned honours in her long career and looking ahead to her future plans Choi Seung Hi had this to say:

"I shall not rest satisfied with the little success attained through my career. But I will devote all my energies and abilities to the further development of Korean dancing on the basis of what has been achieved in the past.

"I am thinking along these lines. First, I want to explore the traditions left by our ancestors in order to inherit and develop further our national classic dance. And I want to adapt the good points of Soviet Union and other advanced countries in order to create a brilliant national ballet which will be enjoyed by generations to come.

"Secondly, I wish to complete as soon as possible my writings on systematic manual on Korean dances

"Lastly, I will devote all my energies to training many dancers who will be far superior to me."

Free Medical Service in Korea

LI BYUNG NAM

Minister of Public Health

IN OUR country the Government renders free medical service to every citizen.

When one is admitted to any hospital, the entire expenses of hospitalization including food and medicines are free regardless of the patient's occupation and social standing.

Patients receive drugs, blood transfusion, various tests, X-ray, radiotherapy, and physical treatment without charge.

All the latest achievements in medical science are in the service of the people.

For the patients who need no hospitalization out-patient service is made available.

For out-patient treatment service too, patients are covered by Government expenses for diagnosis and treatment. No charge are made for gauze, bandage and plasters, first-aid injections, various medical tests and examinations which they receive. Free surgical operations, X-ray and radiotherapy, dental work are provided for them. Free assistance is given to expectant mothers. Doctor's visits to patients at home are arranged during working hour. In this case the expenses are not charged upon the patients. However, for the working men and women who are entitled to the benefits of social insurance the medicine charges are paid in full and sixty per cent for their family members, by the social insurance funds. Incidentally, all factory and office workers and technical personnel in our country are entitled to social insurance benefits.

For patients who are suffering from epidemics or who have been exposed to contagious diseases, immediate attention is given to them and medicines are administered. In such cases the government bears all the expenses regardless of whether or not they are covered by social insurance.

The same applies to cases of malaria, distoma and venereal disease.

When a doctor makes a home-call after hospital hours, the patients pay the doctor only fifty won. Here, too, the social insurance pays in full if the patient is covered by it and

sixty per cent if the patient is his family member.

For an epidemic patient the fee for a doctor's visit is covered by the government.

First-aid stations are set up in cities and towns. They are provided with several ambulances and operate on a 24 hour basis.

Korean people enjoyed no such benefits under the Japanese rule, and today such benefits are unknown to the people in South Korea.

It was only after the establishment of people's power which regards the improvement of people's welfare as its supreme task that the Koreans have had free medical service.

Free health service is not only a concern of the Government; it constitutes one of the basic rights of the people of the D.P.R.K.

Above we dwelt on the therapeutical phase of our medical work, but another very important aspect of the public health program is the prophylactic measures. It goes without saying that this means the enhancement of the level of public health. Means are constantly sought to eliminate the causes of diseases, to effect hygienic reforms of working places, to keep air, water and environment in the residential quarters sanitary, to provide healthful food, clothing and houses, to elevate the general level of hygienics, and to render specialized medical service to the population.

Great achievements have been registered in this connection in the recent years, especially since the truce.

As industrial establishments are being mechanized particular attention has been paid to safety devices, including those for the prevention of poisoning and contraction of diseases. And every effort is made to further perfect safety and preventive devices.

Many factories and plants maintain hospitals or clinics, while first-aid stations or dispensaries are set up at places of work. Doctors make regular check-ups on the sanitary conditions of workshops as well as on workers, and if a worker is found to

be in need of treatment, it is given him immediately.

In this way accidents and occupational diseases of workers have been greatly reduced.

In the construction of towns and villages a strict observance of sanitary regulations are enforced. Water works and the sewerage system are being improved and foodstuff factories and public catering establishments must meet strict hygienic requirements.

Large scale work has been started to enable the people to raise their own knowledge of hygienics and organize themselves for reforming their environment and improving their health.

The Government is also directing attention to popular physical culture, and encourages and helps to form sports organizations.

Medical establishments conduct regularly medical check-ups in factories, schools and communities to detect any symptom of sickness, and when found such cases are sent for immediate treatment.

Doctors and doctor's assistants are assigned to take charge of communities and factories for general health work. Every day they make a round of their districts or factories to give medical assistance and disseminate knowledge on hygienics. They call on sick people at their homes, register expectant mothers and give them necessary assistance until delivery; register infants under three years old and give them regular check-ups to see that they are growing healthily.

With our ever developing national economy and the improvement of material and cultural standards of the people, it is more necessary than ever to take prophylactic measures in order to cope with diseases in the early stage. This is not only an important government policy but the noble duty of the population.

Because in Korea the state power is in the hands of the people and in the service of the people, the public health work constitutes the business of the people themselves and, at the same time, one of the basic duties of the Government.

Prophylactic measures and free medical service are steadily improving public health work in the country. And people are taking an active part in the public health work.

As a result, cholera and smallpox disappeared long ago in our country, enteric fever has practically been eliminated and

other serious epidemics have also been remarkably diminished.

The proportion of chronic and other diseases and the mortality rate among the population are decreasing year after year.

But in our prophylactic program there still remains much to be done. But every effort is being made to correct our defects and improve our work, to reduce the death rate by eliminating infectious disease and sharply cutting down cases of other maladies.

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The increase of medical facilities in hospitals and clinics and the growing number of doctors and medical personnel in our country make it possible to give free, universal medical service.

The people's power has directed much attention to the expansion of public health establishments and the training of medical personnel. Especially, in the post-war days, priority is given to the rehabilitation and expansion of public health establishments. By the end of 1956, the last year of the Three-Year Plan, pre-war level was surpassed by far both in the equipment and the number of medical personnel. The number of hospitals and clinics at the end of 1956 was 1.6 times greater than in the pre-war year 1949, or 21 times the pre-liberation year, while the number of beds increased 2.7 times compared with the pre-war days, or 16 times compared with the pre-liberation days. We have now 2.6 times as many doctors, doctor's assistants and midwives working in the state medical establishments as in the pre-war days, or 23.1 times as many as in the pre-liberation time.

At the time Korea was liberated, over ninety per cent of the public health establishments were in cities, and, therefore, not available for the rural people.

But now many hospitals and clinics have been built in rural areas. As of the end of 1956, in the countryside there were 61.6 times as many hospitals and clinics as in the pre-liberation days, and 24.1 times as many beds, and 29.8 times as many medical centres.

Korean people are now engaged in the implementation of the tasks of the First Five-Year Plan for socialist industrialization.

By the end of 1961, the last year of the First Five-Year Plan, Korea will be changed from an agricultural country into a self-supporting industrial-agricultural country, and

the people's living standards will be further improved.

Based on the solid foundation of the growing national economy, public health work will continue to grow so as to meet the medical needs of the people.

By the end of 1961, we shall have 1.5 times as many beds as in 1956, and about 2.7 times as many doctors. Out-patient treatment will be available on an average of seven times a year for each person.

And by 1966, the last year of second five-year plan, the question of public health establishments and medical personnel will be solved in the main.

Free medical service in our country is of great significance for the development of medical science. The Government has been paying special attention to medical experts. A good material and cultural living is ensured them. Doctors, therefore, like scientists, can devote all their energy to the correct diagnosis and treatment of patients and to prevention of diseases.

Public health workers not only serve the people, treat patients and prevent diseases. They also propagate knowledge on hygienics among the people. Mutual respect and affection constitute the basis of the relations between doctors and the people.

The first and foremost task of medical workers is to pay close attention to the hygienic condition of the population. Any outbreak of disease should be discovered and treated in its early stage. And study on the prevention of disease should be pursued.

Medical workers regard it as their supreme duty to pay greater attention to the effective cure and prevention of the most common diseases which cause misery and pain to the people. Medical research work in Korea centers on the general health of the inhabitants, national traits, and any changes of health conditions followed by the enhancement of living standards. This is very important for the improvement of public health work.

The Government renders active support to medical scientists in their research work. They are provided with all materials and medicines necessary for their research.

If a doctor has to treat in-patients or out-patients at their expense, few people can afford medical attention. Nor can the doctor pursue his research work on medical treatment.

But the situation in our country is quite different.

Take lung operation for instance. For this operation a transfusion of over 3,000 c.c's of blood is necessary. This costs a patient too much. In our country, if a patient needs a lung operation it is done at government expense. Doctors, therefore, can conduct their research work without any obstacles.

To ensure success of research work, the Government provides every necessary condition. Instead of conducting research work individually in a restricted scope, medical workers are engaged in joint research work with the government help. This is of great importance for training young medical workers into specialized and skilled ones. And we have trained many specialists in a short space of time.

Achievements and experiences gained in research work, therefore, are no monopoly of any individual or institution, but available for all medical workers and for the people to be adapted instantly to practical uses.

Of course, then, to promote the advancement of medical knowledge numerous discussions and conferences are held by medical workers.

Today Korea has reached world level in medical science for chest and brain surgeries.

Such a success is attributable to the measures taken by the people's government for the development of medical science and to the energetic work of our medical personnel.

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This is a brief account of free medical service in Korea and some of the successes attained in this connection. There is, however, much yet to be desired to meet the requirements of the population. Especially in the field of prophylaxis.

But within ten to fifteen years, with the development of our national economy, we shall have a sufficient number of fully-equipped, well-staffed health institutions, doctors, pharmacists, and public health workers. And enough medical instruments, supplies and medicines will be produced to meet the needs of the people.

We can then render better, more effective medical and health service to the people, living up to the expectations of the state and the people. To translate this into practice Korean public health workers are making every effort.

IN THE KOREAN PRESS

Peace and Friendship

The Sixth World Youth and Students Festival held in Moscow from July 28 to August 11 was not only a happy occasion for the world youth but also for the peace-loving people of the world. The Korean people heard the voice of "peace and friendship" ringing out from every street and square of Moscow. And through these simple words did the Korean people sense once more the common wish and hope of the peoples of the world.

The *Rodong Shinmoon* wrote editorially on the Moscow Festival:

"The Moscow Youth and Students Festival testified to the fact that world youth, irrespective of political views, creed, or nationality, can unite for peace which is the most urgent question before mankind. And it showed that negotiations in good faith will lead to a common ground and people can live in peace. These were, the Korean people believe, the most outstanding achievements of the Moscow Festival."

The Festival showed one common wish of the world youth who value peace more than anything else and hope to work and study in peace.

Emphasizing the fact that the Festival was held in Moscow—the heart of world peace, the *Choso Chinsun* wrote: "No doubt all the Festival participants have witnessed the burning desire for peace of the Soviet people and their Government. And no doubt they have experienced personally the noble wish of the Soviet people who want to live with all the peoples of the world in peace and friendship."

Indeed, no question is more important than that of promoting mutual trust and benefit in order to preserve and consolidate world peace by eliminating international tension.

True Kinship

The press reported that there has been a severe flood in South Korea which is under American occupation.

According to the figures released by the South Korean publications, 30,390 houses were inundated or swept away, 85,469 jung-

For this very reason, the foes of world peace and human civilization are scheming to cast dark clouds of distrust and animosity, and hinder mutual contacts.

The *New York Herald Tribune* is a case in point. Several Western publications joined the New York paper in a smear campaign to discredit the Festival. They branded the Youth Art and Athletic Festival as a sort of "Communist propaganda." And the U.S. ruling circles threatened those American youth participants in the Festival when they projected a trip to the People's Republic of China.

Those schemes and threats, however, failed to disturb the atmosphere of the Festival and to stop those American youth from going to China with the one wish to further develop friendship with Chinese youth.

These points were made abundantly clear in the paper *Minjoo Chungnyun* (Democratic Youth) which said:

"There exist no obstacles which can block the path of friendship of world youth who cherish peace and their future."

Indeed the Moscow Festival was a milestone in the cause of strengthening further cooperation among the world youth and their organizations of different political views and belief. And it made a great contribution to the cause of world peace.

Publications of our country reflecting these views said that the entire Korean people rejoice over the radiant success the Moscow Festival achieved. The hearts of the honest-minded people of the world will continue to beat with the heart of Moscow as during the Festival. No force on earth is able to hinder the most powerful thing of our time—peace and friendship.

bo of fields were flooded, and some 74,000 victims were roaming the streets. This year's flood in South Korea, the South Korean press reported, was one of the worst ever experienced in South Korea.

In order to relieve the sufferings of the

South Korean flood victims, the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea offered to the Red Cross Society of South Korea materials and supplies worth 20 million won in D.P.R.K. currency. This was an expression of true kinship of the people of the D.P.R.K. towards their fellow countrymen in South Korea.

Commenting on this expression of the people to help the flood victims in South Korea, the *Minjoo Chosun* stated:

"Whenever the people in the northern half of the Republic achieve a new success, they sincerely wish to share it with their compatriots in South Korea. For the last twelve years not for a single moment did we forget our suffering brothers and sisters in South Korea. In the past we proposed to South Korea to share our abundant electricity, to let South Korean fishermen fish in our waters, and in the summer 1955 we proposed to send relief materials to the flood victims. And in May this year the Government of the D.P.R.K. adopted a decision to make a gift of 100,000 suk of rice to South Korea to help the foodless peasants. All these were noble expressions of true kinship of our people to aid our suffering people in the southern half."

The weather has been very abnormal this year throughout the country. While in the North good crops are expected, agriculture in the South has suffered so much from floods and droughts, and the indications are that the harvest will be very poor. For South Korea to suffer from such calamities is not without reasons. The *Nongmin Shinmoon* justly stated in its editorial:

"Following a war policy, the American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique have appropriated every year enormous sums for military expenditure. And the South Korean peasants bore the brunt of the burden. The American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique took away forcibly grain and properties from the farmers while they did not expend even a penny to improve the countryside. The Syngman Rhee puppet regime earmarked for flood control only 0.04 per cent of the total budget of this year. Even this little a-

mount was turned to military purposes. Nothing has been planned to improve the irrigation systems and prevent calamities, and the South Korean peasants were exposed to damage and loss from every flood and drought, big and small."

Despite the suffering of so many people in South Korea, the American invaders and Syngman Rhee clique sit idly by, taking no measures to relieve the people of the hardships. Moreover, they brazenly ignore the offer of the people in the northern half of the Republic to help their kinsfolk in South Korea.

Commenting on the South Korean flood victims, the *Rodong Shinmoon* stated:

"We cannot leave the South Korean flood victims to suffer more. They are our brothers and sisters whom we cannot forget even a moment."

And the *Jokook Junsun* (Fatherland Front) wrote:

"The relief supplies, the true expression of kinship, should reach the victims without further delay. This is the demand of our national conscience and the demand of our noble national morality."

Every publication in the northern half of the Republic noted the people's deep concern for the South Korean victims and the wish of the people to see their relief materials, which they are sending with deep affection, reach them soon. On this the *Rodong Shinmoon* in its editorial entitled "An Expression of Deep Kinship" wrote:

"Today people in a friendly spirit help another when a disaster has befallen them regardless of the distance that separates the peoples and nations. Then it is more unthinkable that we would just watch the sufferings of our fellow countrymen with folded arms. And how could they refuse to accept and distribute materials which we are forwarding to the flood victims? It is their national duty and obligation as a Red Cross Society for the South Korean Red Cross Society to receive the relief supplies from the D.P.R.K. Red Cross Society and distribute them among the flood victims."

The Stars Will Keep Shining

JUN JAI KYUNG

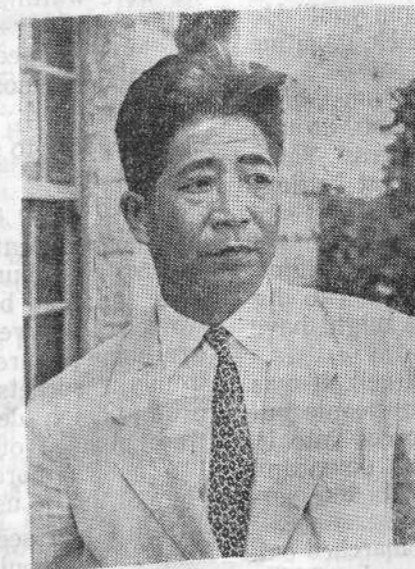
This is a true story written by a former war correspondent captured by the U.S. army during the Fatherland Liberation War. The author spent 34 months, from October 1950 to August 1953, in the American P.O.W. Camp — the 20th century human slaughterhouse. In the camp he was disabled and contracted malignant diseases. After the truce he repatriated to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Now he works as an associate editor of the "Korean Literature". The following is a portion of the first part of his book "Stars Will Keep Shining".

ON THE 2nd of October 1950, I was captured by the American army near Chungjoo.

I had been assigned to cover the war front, but unfortunately, just before the Rakdong River crossing of our People's Army, my left leg was injured in an automobile accident while I was en route to Sangak, South Kyungsang Province. I was unable to witness the historical crossing of the river executed by our Army on the 31st of August, but had to lie in a field hospital at Koryung. While I was waiting for the wounds to heal after the operation, out of the blue an order reached us, "Retreat!" This was the 25th of September.

The enemy had already reached Sungju, blocking our retreat. We had to go over the Choopong-ryung Pass. Our truck kept to the mountain roads. Passing through Keumchun which was in flames, we reached Yungdong. Since no day-time travel was possible we rested there in the daytime and were to start again in the evening. But the enemy by then had reached Yungdong, so we had to detour Moojoo, North Chulla Province to reach Taijun by way of Keumsan.

At last we arrived in Taijun. It was the final day for all our forces and organizations to evacuate the city. At nightfall a long line



The author, Jun Jai Kyung

of 40-50 trucks, jeeps and cars crossed the Keumkang River, tanks leading the way. We were to proceed to Choonchun through Choongjoo and Wonjoo. But before we had covered one kilometer after crossing the Keumkang River the whole line stopped. Soon every vehicle burst into flames and all took refuge in the mountains. Evidently the enemy around Chochiwon had been waiting for us. We found we were surrounded by the enemy. From then on our life-and-death march began.

Dragging my wounded leg I wandered around the mountains for a couple of

days. I was about to cross the Chungjoo-Chochiwon highway, when suddenly a group of American soldiers appeared. I, together with three other wounded, was captured by them.

A shameful day it was! Only yesterday we were fighting American troops — the unforgivable enemy of the Korean people, the ugly enemy of world peace and the Vandals of the present age. But we had become prisoners of the American imperialist army. The first thing they did was to give us a good beating. We were taken to an assembly center by the roadside where we were made to sit down with both hands over our head. That night we were taken to an American P.O.W. camp in Chungjoo.

The camp in Chungjoo had originally been a prison. Part of it was destroyed and what was left of it had no doors. The whole place was heavily guarded by the American and the puppet army M.Ps.

Prisoners numbered about 1,000. Each of them was thoroughly searched before being taken to the cells. They searched us for valuables. All our belongings had been taken away at the temporary P.O.W. center, but we were ordered to produce every article we had on us. Lighters, fountain pens, even one or two cigarettes were taken away.

"Do you have a watch?" Came an abrupt question in broken Korean by the American M.P. who was searching me. To this I only shook my head. Evidently he was expecting to find a watch on me. "God Damn you!" He said when he could not find any. He gave me a good punch.

Another American M.P. — he must have been a lighter collector — walked around clinking his long string of lighters. There were some twenty of them on that string. But it seemed his love for lighters was not satisfied. He asked everyone, "Hey, you got a lighter?" Behind the American M.Ps. followed the puppet policemen who tried to dig out any left-overs the Americans might have missed.

After dark we were taken to a cell. It was hardly big enough to hold ten people but more than 50 prisoners were forced into it. Of course, no one was able to sit down and we spent night standing, packed like sardines.

At the crack of dawn we were marched out. We had hoped they would give us breakfast, but nothing of the kind. We were to work—pick up bricks from the bombed out buildings and pile them up in a certain place. Of course, no tools were given to us so we had to dig them up with our hands and carry them on our backs. We had hardly expected them to make P.O.Ws work like that, but they acted as if it were the proper thing to work us without giving anything to eat.

If any one of us fell from exhaustion or hunger he was struck with the gun butt.

"Hurry up! Get a move on there!"

They kept shouting no matter how fast we tried to work. One of them had a Japanese sword, and struck us right and left with it.

At sunset we were told to assemble for a meal. An American junior officer said:

"Since this is an assembly center we don't

have to provide you with food. But today you will be given something to eat. There may be some who will not get anything but they should not complain. You will get enough to eat when you go to Pusan." Then he began to portion out the food. It was a little ball of rice with a dash of salt. Before one half of us got some the rice was all gone.

Afterwards we were crowded into that narrow cell again. There were more people than the previous night, so you could imagine how it was.

On the following morning we were again called out to line up on the camp ground. We were told they would send us to Pusan as soon as trucks came to pick us up. While we were waiting a tall American Captain—a C.I.C. officer—came up and picked about one hundred people from the P.O.Ws. Those picked were mostly not too young. The American said:

"I'm going to show you how cruel the Communists are."

He led us to a little hill behind the camp. When we went up to that little hill we witnessed an inhuman, appalling sight. There were the dead bodies of fifteen men and six women. They were all naked. It was indeed a gruesome picture. The eye balls had been torn from the sockets. Particularly, the bodies of dead women defied description. Their eyes were plucked out, their breasts cut off and the bodies bore marks of branding. He showed this to us as an "act of Communists."

But I had seen many such sights in this war — in Seoul, in Inchun, in Soowon and in many other places. Who else besides the human slaughters — the American imperialist army and Syngman Rhee clique — would commit such cold blooded murder? We prisoners just stood looking at the bodies without uttering a word. Hatred against the criminals — the American imperialists and their hireling Syngman Rhee clique — was boiling in us. The American Captain evidently thought that all this was having the desired effect. He continued in an animated tone: "This is what you — I mean your leaders — did when they had to evacuate Chungjoo. But this isn't the only beastly act they committed. I can show you many more such scenes. I hope you will remember what you have seen here today while you live in the U.N. P.O.W. camp."

Perhaps he would have continued endless-

ly, had it not been for an unexpected incident. A prisoner stepped up to the mutilated body of a woman, and kept looking at it. He touched the body, turned it over as if he was examining it. An American guard rushed at him and gave him a vicious kick.

Turning around, the Korean prisoner faced the American Captain and said in fluent English:

"Captain! You say the Communists did this?" The Korean repeated in a trembling voice. "Are you sure the Communists did this?"

"Of course! Why do you ask that?" the American Captain answered with a calm air.

"You're liar! This is my wife's body. She and I were doctors. We both volunteered to go to the front. We were separated a few days ago when our retreat was blocked by your army. No matter how you mutilated her body, I could recognize my wife. Now you're trying to make me believe that Communists committed such inhuman crime. I'm telling you here and now it's you, none other than you who did this. Only you..."

The guard kept beating him while he was talking. Then the Captain stopped the guard, saying:

"That's enough. Let him have a good look at his wife's body."

The Korean prisoner was helped up by the American guards and stood beside his wife's body. As the American guards stepped back two shots rang out. The Korean doctor sank to the ground facing his beloved wife. He and his wife came out to fight the American invaders and it was the Americans who committed such bloodthirsty crimes.

The American gentleman — the American Captain — putting back his revolver with which he murdered our comrade, shouted:

"He was a crazy man. It quite often happens that one loses his mind when he is captured."

However, his words fooled no one. It was clear to every one that they had tried to put up a "stop thief" show. We all knew we would face many such dirty tricks and all forms of barbarism in P.O.W. life.

Eventually 20 large trucks arrived to take us. Seventy prisoners were loaded on each truck and we left Chungjoo for Taegu. We were told the trains would take us to Pusan from there.

It was very rough ride. The constant bomb-

ings had made the road worse and many bridges were destroyed. But the trucks were driven at full speed, tossing the prisoners into mid air. And it seemed a great game for them to give us a rough ride. On each truck were two American soldiers. However, they did not ride with prisoners in the back of the car. They sat with the drivers. A light machine gun was installed in each truck and trained on the preceding car. The trucks drove at intervals of ten metres.

We prisoners could not help remembering only a short two months ago we had come down this road in pursuit of the fleeing enemy. But today we were being driven down this road towards P.O.W. camps of the enemy.

Shortly after we passed Boeun, all of a sudden, our truck made a very sharp curve. As we were tossed into one corner somehow, to our horror, two of the prisoners fell out of the truck. The following truck shot at those two, then rained bullets on us. Two were killed and three were wounded. We couldn't do much for the wounded since the truck was so crowded. All we could do was to tear off our shirts and bandage the wounds.

When the trucks stopped at Keumchun for a short rest two enemy soldiers came up where we were riding. They picked up the two dead prisoners and threw them out as though they were dumping out some old junk. When those two were shot it did not pain us too much as death by enemy bullets is a common thing in war. But when those two bodies hit the ground with a heavy thud, a sharp pain shot through our hearts.

A group of the puppet ROK army soldiers was marching by, but they stopped when they saw us. After bowing several times — they were evidently asking for something from their masters — they climbed up to our trucks. They wanted to see our feet. Every piece of footwear that was wearable was removed. Some of them had several pairs of shoes and boots each.

At last we reached the Rakdong River. The trucks crossed the temporary bridge to reach Waikwan where I had spent two anxious weeks waiting for the news that our forces had crossed the River and were marching towards Taegu and Pusan. That was only a month and half ago. But now....!

The Rakdong River was flowing silently onward toward the evening sun.

Fine Arts of United Silla

PAK MOON WON

SILLA is a kingdom which was formed in the 1st century B.C. in the southeastern part of the Korean peninsula (present North and South Kyungsang Provinces). It annexed the other two kingdoms in the peninsula — Kokuryo and Paikche — and achieved the task of unification in A.D. 668 and then drove away the foreign army from Korea. The Silla Dynasty lasted till 935.

The period of the formation and development of United Silla was one of great advance in our history — in political, cultural and economic development as well as in the formation of the nation. It was a period when sculpture, architecture and applied arts with



Eleven-faced Avalokitesvara

Buddhist arts as their keynote attained the highest pitch. In particular, Silla's sculpture registered such a great development that it is customary to mention Kokuryo's mural, Silla's sculpture, Koryu's porcelain and Li Dynasty's painting when one speaks of the fine arts of Korea.

Of course, the finest works of arts of United Silla coming down to our time are not confined to Buddhist images. We can cite a good many

noteworthy works, such as sculptural pieces in tombs, temple buildings and pagodas. But, of all these the Buddhist image is regarded as representative, because it holds the central place in the Buddhist arts and because all genres are not separate or independent ones but form an art ensemble with the Buddhist image — the object of worship — as the nucleus.

After annexing Kokuryo and Paikche and thus unifying the Korean peninsula, Silla encouraged Buddhism in every way as the state religion, as a means of consolidating its own ruling power and overcoming the class contradictions which were becoming acute. At that time Buddhist culture was in full maturity in China — the then Tang Dynasty — which had been a military ally of Silla from the time of the unification.

Prior to the unification, in the early period when the Three Kingdoms were opposed to one another, Silla was the most backward of the three countries, politically, economically and culturally.

It was in 372 A.D. that Buddhism was introduced into Korea — into Kokuryo through the northern part of China. In 384 it spread rapidly and found its way to Paikche. In the case of Silla, it was brought from Kokuryo much later, in the latter part of the 5th century, and secretly at that; and it was not until the 6th century that Buddhism was approved by state law.

However, Silla, which lagged farthest behind, rapidly increased its political and economic strength from the 6th century and conducted direct cultural exchange with Tang. In this course it caught up with Kokuryo and Paikche and finally unified the Three Kingdoms under a single rule.

After the unification Silla inherited and developed all that was best in the culture of the Three Kingdoms and built up its brilliant Buddhist culture in the 8th century.

SUKKOOOL-AM CAVE

One of the most typical of the Buddhist arts of United Silla is Sukkool-am (Stone Cave), which was built in the middle of the 8th century, according to records. As its name

shows, Sukkool-am is a small stone cave containing images of Sakyamuni — the object of worship — and his ten disciples, the Bodhisattvas, as well as the Four Deva Kings and the Vadjira guardians.

In China, from the time of Northern Wei to the time of Sui and Tang, it was much in fashion to make caves in mountains and carve stones into Buddhist images. In Silla there was no suitable rock mountains to make such a stone cave. So, Silla built an artificial grotto of granite and enshrined Buddhist image in it. Sukkool-am, the Stone Cave of Silla built in this way, is no match for the Chinese caves in scale, but it holds its own place in the history of fine arts of the world for the unique craftsmanship with which the granite blocks were handled in building the cave, for the high artistic value of its Buddhist images and for their harmonious composition. This is a masterpiece of world historic value, a good example of harmony between architecture and sculpture, of unity in the execution of the sculptural pieces and of co-ordination between art and science.

Sukkool-am is situated at Tohamsan Hill in the vicinity of Kyungjoo, the old capital of Silla. One who visits the cave is fascinated by the beautiful benign features of Buddha bathed in the rays of the sun rising from the east sea. Thus the artists of Silla who built this cave sought harmony between art and nature. It is so devised that one who enters the cave chamber, passing by the imposing figures of the Two Devas carved on either side of the entrance, may involuntarily look up at the merciful and dignified figure of Buddha resting at the centre of the frontal side of the round chamber. The composition of the whole chamber shows an excellent symmetrical harmony centring around the image of Buddha.

The image of Buddha is surrounded by the figures of his disciples carved in relief on the rounded wall. With all their different characteristic gestures and movements, these relief figures are set in such a way that one is led to the centre, to the image of Buddha, without realizing it. When one stands before the seated, crosslegged figure of Buddha, executed in a triangular composition, he is struck by its dynamic stability. Here the frontal symmetrical balance, which is noticeable in most of the ancient sculptural



Buddha in Sukkool-am Cave

works, is not kept in motionless, mechanical fixity. The different poses of the two arms and the lines of the robe falling in eloquent flow give ample sense of movement to this motionless pose. In other words, there is motion in stillness, and stillness in motion. The execution of this image shows an ideal perfection of sculptural beauty, and it is free from schematism in any aspect. Here we see a perfect harmony of realistic and decorative methods.

The nimbus of this image of Buddha is not attached directly to the back of the head but to the wall behind it. But when one draws close to the image, the original nimbus disappears and the round stone on the ceiling plays the role of the halo. Thus, in building this image every attention was paid for giving the feeling of delicate rhythm and flow to the sense of sight.

On the wall behind the image of Buddha, there is a relief of the Eleven-faced Avalokitesvara. And there are seven relief figures on either side. The variety of the poses of these 15 relief figures, their unassuming attitude,



Sakya pagoda in the yard of Boolgooksa Temple, Kyungjoo

their mass balance and the craftsmanship are really wonderful. The rough, stiff surface of granite gives the impression of soft smoothness.

Let us now look at the Eleven-faced Avalokitesvara. This Kwaneum, representing a person who is said to have attained the power of giving happiness to people by overcoming 11 kinds of hardships, is depicted here as a person charming, graceful and at the same time dignified. Resting on a lotus flower, the Kwaneum holds a jar with its left hand, and the train of its robe with the right hand. This movement of hands and arms as well as the flow of the lines of the robe give variety to the vertical lines of the figure, causing slight, gentle waves.

The architectural art of Sukkool-am shows the highest attainment of science and art at that time. For instance, the ceiling of the cave chamber is a cupola built of finely cut granite blocks. This cupola, which is excellent from dynamical point of view, symbolizes the vault of heaven in accordance with the ancient oriental conception of the "round heaven and square earth."

At the centre of this cupola there is a round stone with lotus flower decorations which plays the role of the halo as we mentioned before. This round stone cracked into three parts long time ago. There is an interesting legend related to this. According to Samgook Yoosa (Anecdotes of Three Kingdoms), Kim Dai Sung who must have been the architect who supervised the construction of the cave had great trouble in placing this round stone there. Every time he tried to put a finely cut granite stone on the ceiling, it suddenly cracked into three pieces and fell. One day, driven to despair, he fell asleep there. While he was asleep, a god came down and placed the stone for him. From this legend we can see what painstaking efforts our artists of that time made in constructing the Sukkool-am.

TABO PAGODA

In the vicinity of Sukkool-am there is the Boolgook-sa Temple, which was built simultaneously with the cave in 751. This huge temple is famous for its unique construction plan and the exquisiteness of its accessory buildings. During the Imjin Patriotic War (1592) this temple was devastated by the Japanese aggressors, and all its wooden buildings were reduced to ashes and were rebuilt later. But the stone buildings remain as they were.

Let us notice here only Tabo Pagoda and Sakya Pagoda, the most widely-known and the best pair of the Silla pagodas. These two pagodas, standing in the compound of the Boolgook-sa Temple face to face form a good contrast.

Tabo Pagoda is unique in form and composition. There is no pagoda of this type either in China or Japan. It has a square base, on which stand four pillars supporting a storey with railings on all four sides. On the next storey with an octangular railing, rests another storey with pillars from which an annulated spire rises. In building this extremely complicated pagoda the artist displayed his skill to the utmost, handling the stone material as skilfully as if it were wooden material. Though the pagoda is mathematically well-proportioned, the general effect is soft, colourful and rather feminine.

In contrast to Tabo Pagoda, the Sakya Pagoda, a three-storied stone pagoda, gives

the impression of masculine beauty. Where the Tabo Pagoda is somewhat ornamental and bears the imprint of dexterousness, the Sakya Pagoda has the beauty of simple, dignified balance. Where the former is represented in a fantastic, unusual form for a pagoda, the latter follows the conventional, academic form reaching the highest level.

The Sakya Pagoda is also known as Mooyung (shadowless) Pagoda owing to a legend in connection with it.

BELL AND MONUMENT

Then there are bronze bells, and roof tiles and bricks, to cite other types of Buddhist art works worthy of particular mention.

The opus magnum of Silla bells is the bell of the Bongduk-sa Temple, which was cast in 775. This is widely known as the most beautiful bell in the world.

The bells are generally classified into two categories: bells with clappers like most of the western bells and bells which are rung by striking from outside like most of the eastern bells. The bell of the Bongduk-sa Temple belongs to the latter category. For beautiful shape, size, relief work and lovely sound, this bell has no equal.

This bell also has an sad, old story concerning the delicate trailing note of its toll. The legend runs that the artisan who made the bell failed repeatedly in casting it until some mother offered her only daughter as a sacrifice. So, it is said whenever the bell tolls, the poor child cries, "Ehmile.. Ehmile..", reproaching her mother who gave her as the sacrifice.

The flower pattern adorning the surface of this bell and the floating fairies cast in relief on it are the perfection of grace and beauty.

As for sculptured antefixes with human

figures on them, a fragment of an antefix with the relief figure of one of the four Deva kings, unearthed from the site of the four Deva King Temple, has been preserved to this day. This is a terra cotta — hard-baked clayware with a glaze coated surface. Though it is a fragment, excellent craftsmanship of that time is shown in this.

Besides these works of Buddhist sculpture, mention must be made lastly of the sculpture on monuments, particularly the Monument to Kim Choon Choo or King Taijong Mooryul — a monarch of Silla who was on the throne at the time of the unification of the Three Kingdoms.

On the base carved in the shape of a tortoise with a long neck, originally there stood the body of the monument bearing an epitaph lauding the deeds of the King. At the top of this there was a monument crown in the shape of dragon. Of these three parts, the body of the monument is now lost.

The base, giving an excellently realistic depiction of the characteristic features of the tortoise while maintaining its decorative quality, is enough to strike the art historians at home and abroad.

Though the style of this monument is after the monuments of Tang at that time, the artist who created this did not stop at imitation but made it even better than those of Tang, thus fully demonstrating the original, gifted craftsmanship of the Silla artisans.

We have introduced above some relics representative of the fine arts of United Silla.

The Korean people take due pride in the art heritage of United Silla, which formed a golden age of arts in our history, inheriting and developing all that was best in the artistic traditions in the preceding period, absorbing and assimilating advanced culture and thus further enriching the traditions.

Research Work of Korean Scientists

AS THE national economic plan is being successfully carried out, research work at the eight scientific institutes of the Academy of Sciences are making headway in our country.

According to the 1957-58 scientific research plans many problems will be solved in relation to the carrying out of the national economic plan; for instance, the problems of raising rapidly technical level, making

KOREAN-INDIAN TRADE ARRANGEMENT

Letters on trade were exchanged between the Korean Trade Delegation and the State Trading Corporation of India in New Delhi on August 19.

According to these letters, Korea will export cement, steel, zinc, glass, ammonium sulphate, carbide and other chemical products to India.

India will supply Korea with raw cotton, cotton yarn, textiles, jute goods, salt, vegetable oil, chemical products, machines and tools.

A Korean bank delegation will go to India to discuss a payment agreement, and a representative of the Korean state trading organization will be sent to New Delhi.

KOREA-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS

Korea-Soviet Agreements on exchange of experts to render technical and other assistance and on the technical education of both Korean and Soviet experts and workers were recently signed in Moscow.

The agreements envisage simplification of the procedure for the exchange of experts, lowering of the expenses for the exchange of experts and simplification of the procedure of payments.

And a protocol providing for the technical aid of the Soviet Union to Korea in expanding nitrogenous fertilizer establishment in the Heungnam Fertilizer Plant was also signed.

KOREAN DELEGATION TO THE SIXTH WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS RETURNED

Some hundred thousand youth and students of Pyongyang warmly welcomed the Korean delegation to the Sixth World Festival of Youth and Students at a rally held on August 25.

The Korean delegation made great contributions to the cause of peace and to the strengthening of friendship among peoples.

Young Korean artists won 16

gold, 19 silver and three bronze medals at the Festival.

And two gold, one silver and ten bronze medals were awarded to the Korean musical compositions, photographs and works of fine arts.

Korean sportsmen won five gold, eight silver and eight bronze medals.

INDONESIAN YOUTH DELEGATION VISITS KOREA

An Indonesian Youth Delegation, composed of 21 members with Imam Sardju, a Peasant Union leader in the West Java region, as the head, returning from the Sixth World Youth and Student Festival came to Korea on August 25.

The Delegation was warmly welcomed by the leaders of the C. C. of the Korean Democratic Youth League and youth and students in Pyongyang.

During their stay in Korea, they met Korean youth and students in various localities, and inspected scenic spots, places of historic interest and economic construction. Premier Kim Il Sung received them.

FRENCH ARTISTS VISIT KOREA

French composer Philippe Gerard, Madame Phillippe and film producer Victor Merenda came to Korea on August 18. They were members of the Panel of Jury at the Sixth World Youth and Student Festival.

During their five days' stay in Korea, they inspected rehabilitation and construction of Pyongyang and other cities. They also visited scenic spots and places of historic interest.

SOVIET JOURNALISTS IN KOREA

On August 13, a group of the Soviet journalists composed of eight members headed by I. S. Pustovalov, editor in charge of industry, transport and commerce of the *Pravda*, arrived in Korea at the invitation of the Press Department, Foreign Ministry, and the Korean Journalists' Union.

During their one month's stay in Korea they visited principal cities including Pyongyang as well as factories, enterprises and rural villages. They met many journalists and working people.

EDUCATORS FROM FRATERNAL COUNTRIES IN KOREA

A group of 14 educators from the fraternal countries of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania, Mongolia and German Democratic Republic who are in charge of the bringing up of Korean war orphans in their respective countries visited Korea around the beginning of August at the invitation of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

During their forty days' stay they inspected the results the Korean working people achieved in every branch of the national economy. They also visited Diamond Mountains and other beauty spots, places of historic interest, educational and cultural establishments. They watched the mass rally celebrating the twelfth anniversary of the August 15 Liberation in Pyongyang.

RELIEF GOODS FOR FLOOD VICTIMS IN SOUTH KOREA

During the month of August South Korea suffered greatly from flood caused by a typhoon.

According to the figures released on August 28 by the "Security Bureau" of the Syngman Rhee puppet government, the amount of damage reached 24.3 billion hwan and victims numbered 1,138 in total, of which 215 were dead, 882 injured and others were missing. And many other flood sufferers were reduced to beggary.

In consideration of the situation, the Red Cross Society of the D.P.R.K. decided to send 20 million won worth of relief goods such as rice, building timber, textiles and medicine to the flood victims in South Korea. And on August 9, Li Byung Nam chairman of the C. C. of the Korean Red Cross Society, sent letter to Son Chang Hwan, president of the South Korean Red Cross Society, notifying him of the decision.

RELIEF FUND FOR THE FLOOD SUFFERERS IN VIETNAM

With deep sympathy for the flood sufferers in the northern regions of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, the Government of the D.P.R.K. sent a 50,000 ruble gift for them through the Vietnamese Government.



KOREAN YOUNG ARTISTS AND ATHLETES BACK FROM THE MOSCOW FESTIVAL

The Korean youth delegates who participated in the Sixth World Youth and Student Festival returned from Moscow amid the rousing welcome of the people. To honour the occasion, the young artistes gave two performances in Pyongyang on August 30 and 31, while an athletic meet was held at the Moranbong Stadium on September 1.

Photos:

Above — Women performers who won a gold medal in the Moscow Festival

Below — Women volleyball match between the Festival team and the Ministry of Home and Foreign Trade team

