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far
east

Reporter

Historical Perspective
CHINA AND THE OLYMPICS

By
Phillip K. Shinnick



CHINA'S CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SPORTS ACTIVITIES

The variety of sports in the People's Republic of China and China's world-wide sports relationships are demonstrated by the following news-items listings of some of the international matches reported during ten weeks of 1978 - from April 8th through June 16th.

Archery

French archery team in Peking & Shanghai
Chinese archery team in Romania

Acrobatics

A Chinese team in Burma
A Chinese team in Singapore

Badminton

The 3rd Asian Badminton championships in Peking
Participants: Bangdadesh Burma, Cambodia India Hongkong Laos Malaysia Nepal Pakistan Sri Lanka Singapore Thailand China
Organizations represented: The World Badminton Federation The Asian Badminton Confederation The African Badminton Confederation The All Indonesia Badminton Union The Japanese Badminton Association Korea Tanzania

Basketball

Chinese Men's team in Japan
Cameroon Women's team in Peking
Chinese Women's team in Mexico
Chinese Women's team in the Dominican Republic
Chinese men's team in North Korea
Men's team from Figi in Peking

Chess

Malaysia team in China

Cycling

Secretary-General of the International Amateur Cycling Federation visits China

Dancing & Singing

Chinese group in Somalia
Turkish group in Peking

Football

Chinese team in Peru
Chinese team in Colombia
Chinese team in Venezuela
Italian Milan Inter Football team in China
Chinese team in Jugo-slavia

Gymnastics

Thailand delegation in China
Korean delegation in China
Chinese team in Canada
International Gymnastics Tournament in China
June 1978 Canada North Korea Egypt Japan
Romania France

CHINA AND THE OLYMPICS HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By
Dr Phillip K Shinnick

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CHINA AND THE OLYMPICS
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By
Dr Phillip K Shinnick

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Mr Shinnick is currently active in various mass sports, including road running seeing this now popular sport as an opportunity to promote understanding of and friendship with China. He is also on the Executive Committee of Sport For The People, and on the Editorial Review Board of the Journal of Sport and Social Issues.

Some Historical Background on Sport
And Physical Culture in China

Pre-Liberation: The pre-revolutionary history in China is a history of the aristocracy enjoying sport and physical culture as the fruit of class privilege. A form of football (soccer) can be traced as far back as the 16th century B.C. with other recent documented participation in the Tang (618-907 A.D.) and Sung (960-1179 A.D.) Dynasties. One particular painting shows Emperor Taitso (Sung) kicking a ball with his ministers. Religious monasteries taught martial arts, but ultimately sport and physical culture was a tool of the ruling class with control and discipline as the orders of the day.

The peasants had their sport and maintained some semblance of their own culture, but on the whole, the exploitation and oppression of the peasants took its toll in ill health. This peasant physical suffering and bad health is a well-documented fact in personal journals of people and in recent memories of the Chinese.

When sport did come to the peasants, which it did to some degree, it was through the patronizing consent of the aristocrats.

In the late 19th, early 20th century, German and Japanese instructors incorporated physical drills in the military schools (T'i ts'ao); physical education became a government requirement in the schools and the first physical education school opened in 1904 staffed by Japanese instructors. Sport, through the promotion of good health, became the tool of the bourgeois against the Ch'ing dynasty in 1911.

The Young Men's Christian Association introduced middle class sport and bourgeois values to China in the form of basketball (1896), and baseball (1907). The YWCA established the first physical training school for women.

The YMCA helped with the proliferation of sporting associations (The China National Amateur Athletic Federation - CNAAF), competitions (the Far Eastern Championship Games and the National Athletic Meets) and sports (volleyball, track and field, tennis). The CNAAF became recognized by the International Olympic Committee and sent teams to the 1932, 1936 and 1948 Olympic Games. But, again the general level of participation was small (even though the YMCA ran a "School of Physical Education of the Association College of China") because the number of students in school was very small in comparison to overall population. In 1911, 102,767 students attended school out of a potential of 33 million.

As the world economic system expanded, sport became a cultural hegemonous activity between the bourgeois of different countries dominated by capitalist countries and designed to promote class values, and maintain colonial relations.

In 1930, the YMCA organized the Far Eastern Championship Games and as a sports official said, "In this connection, it is our object to develop Oriental athletes to the point where they may enter the International Olympic Contests..."

Under Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalist Government, sport and physical culture continued to develop along bourgeois lines; those who were lucky enough to go to school received physical education (elitist), women did not participate as much as men (sexist) and elites practiced sport in preparation for the Olympic Games.

Juxtaposed to Chiang Kai-shek's bribery-ridden U.S.-supported government, was Mao Tse.

tung's revolutionary army based among the peasants, introducing sport and physical culture to the oppressed.

A precursor to the Chinese Communist party, the New People's Study Society, participated in physical culture or as Mao, in his own words said:

We also became ardent physical culturalists. In the winter holidays we tramped through the fields, up and down mountains, along city walls, and across the streams and rivers. If it rained we took off our shirts and called it a rain bath. When the sun was hot we also doffed shirts and called it a sun bath. In the spring winds we shouted that this was a new sport called "wind bathing". We slept in the open when frost was already falling and even in November, swam in the cold rivers. All this went on under the title of "body training". Perhaps it helped much to build the physique which I was to need so badly later on in my many marches back and forth across South China, and on the Long March back from Kiangsi to the Northwest.

(From Edgar Snow's Red Star Over China p. 147)

In 1943, 1200 athletes came to a sports tournament in Yen-an; the Red Army soldiers competed in local tournaments in broad jumping, high jumping, running, wall-scaling, rope climbing, rope skipping, grenade throwing and marksmanship, and a Yen-an New Sports Institute was organized to study sport theory.

After-Liberation: 1949 How greatly different is the people's China from pre-Liberation China! , and nowhere is the difference more visible than in the field of sport. Ralph and Nancy Lapwood,

in their book Through the Chinese Revolution (1954) tell about the profound change in Yenching University students' attitude toward exercise in 1951 and 1952. "For thirty years the University administration had struggled against the old scholars' attitude - that manual labor was undignified, exercise a waste of time, and defeat in sport a loss of face. Students, being urged to play football, are said to have retorted "If you need to have that ball kicked about, you can pay coolies to do it". They write that "the new government was aware that the wide-spread ill health of students was partly due to poor physique, and began to attack the problem. Discussion began between the Ministry of Education and the representatives of the University. "The Ministry proposed that faculty and students should adopt a '50-1-8' system by which students should endeavor,

1. not to exceed 50 hours work each week;
2. take one hour's exercise each day; and
3. get eight hours sleep each night.

Department heads were to obtain the cooperation of all teachers to insure that the total demands on a student's time, including laboratories and meetings should not exceed fifty hours. Students themselves took over the planning of most of the games, and for the first time our playing fields were used to their full capacity. Between four and six every afternoon men and women students could be seen practicing volleyball, softball, basketball, track and field sports. In winter, hundreds turned out each day to skate, and in summer, nearly everyone went off to swim. Country dancing and morning exercises became popular... Each day at 7:15 A.M. we saw, from our house, the gathering of the women students for physical jerks to radio directions. Even the ancient gymnasium servants with bound feet turned out,

though 'jerks' hardly described their cautious and gentle motions. Radio directions followed a scheme of ten exercises for which complete instructions with diagrams had already been published in the newspapers. The diagrams appeared a little later on a set of forty postage stamps put out in June 1952...the aim was to familiarize the whole of China's population with the campaign for physical culture".

The new revolutionary government understood how elitist sport was a tool used against the oppressed. Sport and physical training had been a weapon of the feudal nobility for military training, to contain the peasants, and (internationally) was being promoted for nationalistic bourgeois value and profit. The Olympic Games became a showcase for world imperialist power and class cultural hegemony reaching its most extreme pomposity during the 1936 Nazi Olympics as bourgeois facism reached its strength. Sport and physical culture had been a part of the elitist Chinese educational system, and revolutionary change was needed.

The revolutionary government stressed physical exercise among young children in the morning with after school sports, but at the same time, universal education became the goal and thus sport and physical culture became more than just among the elite children in school.

Mao emphasized systematic exercise for all people twice a day and defined physical culture as "the method employed by human beings in order to prolong their life and develop their bodies in a uniform manner". The younger years of a young person's life should be spent in strong exercise to build up the body and in later middle school years, balancing the intellectual and physical aspects of development. Mao further stated "Whenever feasible, physical

culture and sports of all kinds should be encouraged, such as physical exercises, ball games, running, mountain climbing, swimming, and traditional Chinese Taichi boxing". There is little doubt of the importance that the new revolutionary government paid to health and the Central Committee of the Communist Party in 1954 took as a task: strengthen the work of popularizing sport among the people -- a political task to improve health.

Under the influence of the Soviet Union, the new government set up physical culture institutes, began financing sports, and opened up opportunities for women's participation. Manuals were translated advocating training, based upon scientific principles, extensive body movement and health. A "labor defense" system flourished in the early 1950's stressing fitness for socialist construction and mass participation. Sport in factories and communes with exercise periods being broadcasted many times throughout the day became common.

The All-China Athletic Federation* and the Physical Culture and Sports Commission set forth four principles in approaching physical culture and sport. Politics should take command under the leadership of the communist party; physical culture must serve productive labor and the building of national defense; the adherence to the mass line

*The All-China Athletic Federation is the name used in correspondence with the IOC but other titles have been used in literature such as All-China Federation of Sport and Athletes, and the All-China Sports Federation.

and mass campaigns; and the integration of popular participation in sport and specialized training for athletes. The Physical Culture and Sports Commission came directly under the Communist Party with the All-China Athletics Federation as the mass organization under the Physical Culture and Sports Commission. The ACAF has provincial branches in particular sports and coordinates matches in individual sports during international competitions. In factories, the Trade Union is responsible for organizing sport and Trade Union organizations above the city level have sport departments with officers to promote sport in the Trade Union.

There are more than 1,600 Spare Time Sports Schools with 170,000 students with spare time coach, regular coaches and full time administrators. These schools are for after school children between the ages of 7 - 17 and they train 3 - 6 days a week for 2 - 3 hours per session. Institutes for Physical Culture are in many cities which train teachers, athletes, coaches and other personnel for secondary schools and Spare Time Sport Schools.

The Cultural Revolution continued to stress class struggle to overcome bourgeois rights and privileges. Sport, historically, had been inseparable from bourgeois rights, material incentives and a compliant class bureaucracy which pushed the tendency toward "championitis", a win-first attitude with primary emphasis on trophies and technique with no real effort to develop a mass approach. The Revolutionary Committee rose to power (1967-1970) during the Cultural Revolution, combining delegates of mass organizations with old party revolutionaries and local People's Liberation Army representatives at the various county, provincial and national levels. At the factories, the

Revolutionary Committees, three in one combination, (managers, technicians and regular workers) promoted production and developed new ways for the construction of socialism.

The start and finish of the Cultural Revolution can be typified by Mao Tse-tung's historical swim down the Yangtze River when he was 73. Since his first Yangtzeplunge in 1956 over 100 million people learned to swim and his 1966 swim again was a catalyst for millions to swim and do physical culture. The 1971 ping-pong diplomacy signaled the return to normal international sport relations. Important in the Cultural Revolution was the challenge to bureaucrats to develop physical culture and sport among the people through increased efforts (not to be satisfied with continuing the old societies' ways and to join the Olympic and Asian Games).



China's Relations To The International Olympics
Committee (I. O. C.)

As mentioned, the first athletic federation (The China National Amateur Athletic Federation CNAAF) was recognized by the International Olympic Committee (I.O.C.) and China sent teams to the 1932, 1936 and 1948 Olympic Games.

After-Liberation: Two of the Chinese I.O.C. members (C.T.Wang and H.H. Kung) went to Taiwan and one (S.Y.Tung) remained in China. In 1952 controversy arose over Olympic membership jurisdiction, involving the question of Taiwan's status.

In February 1952, the All-China Athletic Federation (the new name for the CNAAF) informed the I.O.C. that the People's Republic of China wished to participate in the Olympic Games at Helsinki. The I.O.C. at first said that China was not a member of enough international sport organizations, but finally decided to admit both China and Taiwan to the Games. The Nationalist regime on Taiwan, wanting recognition as representing all of China, disliked the decision and withdrew from the I.O.C. The People's Republic of China protested the I.O.C.'s including for discussion, at its 47th meeting, "the so-called question of recognizing the All-China Athletic Federation as China's Olympic Committee" and also protested the I.O.C. invitation to the Nationalists block on Taiwan to send athletes to participate in the 15th Olympic Games.

A China team attended the 15th Olympic Games at Helsinki, but was unable to compete due to "late-arrival". But, they did host a reception for one hundred athletes from sixteen countries and held exhibitions in swimming and soccer - thus making their presence as world athletes known.

In 1954, the annual meeting of the I.O.C. held in Athens, recognized by a vote of 23 to 21, the All-China Athletic Federation of the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.) as the sole representative of China. However, the then president of the I.O.C., Avery Brundage, on his own, added the name of Taiwan to the list of recognized countries. The P.R.C. delegation protested. The Taiwan regime, on its part, said they would never enter competition if mainland China were allowed to compete and they called for the ousting of the P.R.C. (I find no evidence that the I.O.C. voted on the Taiwan membership).

In 1955 the Taiwan Nationalists said they wished to compete. The P.R.C., on the other hand, asked that the recognition of Taiwan be withdrawn.

To meet the situation of jurisdictions and participations of mainland China and the Taiwan Province, the P.R.C. offered to pay for the expenses of Taiwan and Macao athletes at the preliminary qualifications meets for the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne.

China held preliminary trials in Peking for the 1956 Melbourne Games; two thousand athletes participated and ninety-two qualified.

Political Action on the Part of the I.O.C.

Meanwhile, the I.O.C. was labelling Taiwan as "Formosa China" and the P.R.C. as "Peking China" on the Melbourne Games literature. China protested, but was prepared to work out a settle-

ment, offering to have the Taiwan athletes compete under the P.R.C. But the I.O.C. remained firm in its designations of the two. China then withdrew from the Games, issuing the following statement:

"...The Chinese Olympic Committee has consistently notified the I.O.C. that Taiwan is a province of China... The Executive Board of the I.O.C. has taken further steps of unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of the Chinese people, unscrupulously changing the name of our country...The Chinese athletes will not participate in the 16th Olympic Games until this matter is settled." (Nov. 6, 1956)

In 1959 the I.O.C., in spite of the maneuvering of Mr. Brundage, made clear that they did not consider Taiwan as representing all of China by a vote of 48 to 7; but they did consider Taiwan as a single entry, as Taiwan, not using the name "Republic of China", thus dropping the word "China" in Taiwan's designation.

Avery Brundage's Political Role in the I.O.C.

Avery Brundage, a wealthy American business man, was President of the I.O.C.; he was powerful because of his business standing, his wealth, and his interest in China as the owner of one of the world's largest art collections (reportedly worth fifty million dollars). Under his leadership the I.O.C. became a cultural (sports) oligarchy much like the financial oligarchy of which he was a part. In addition, he was an anti-communist nationalist. Speaking in Madison Square Garden at a meeting of the pro-Nazi American German Bund, Brundage said,

"We, too, if we wish to preserve our institutions, must stamp our communism. We, too, must take steps to arrest the decline of patriotism".

"Our institutions" and "patriotism" to Mr. Brundage meant monopoly, competition, profit and colonial exploitation. On the issue of Taiwan he ignored the Cairo and Potsdam Declarations which undid Japan's colonial control of Taiwan (from 1895 to 1945) and restored that island province to China, its rightful owner. Attempting to evaporate China's ownership, he claimed that the people on Taiwan were "neither Chinese nor Japanese" trying to negate the fact that in 1958 the eight million inhabitants of Taiwan were of Han nationality (having begun to arrive in Taiwan in the 2nd century AD, with formal Chinese administration established in the middle of the 13th century) and the rest of the inhabitants, 200,000 of them, of Koashan minority nationality. As spokesman for the United States policy, Mr Brundage was using the I.O.C. as a political tool for American colonialism.

Mr. Brundage also tried to give the People's Republic of China a new name, designating her as the "Democratic People's Republic of China" (How many names of places and areas of the world are the products of colonialism and chauvinism, for example, the "Far" East, the "Middle" East. See how the African peoples are discarding imperialist names for their countries).

In 1952, membership of the People's Republic of China in the International Amateur Athletic Federation was shelved for two years because of direct intervention by Mr. Brundage - again in the interests of U.S. relations with Taiwan.



The Political Role of the United States in the I.O.C.

China's international relationships have been subjected to the pressures of United States' China policy; first, the out-and-out anti-P.R.C. policy, then the "two-China" policy, and currently, the two-faced U.S. China policy. This isolation, containment and hesitation policy of the United States has had its impact on the actions of international sports associations in their relationships with the P.R.C.

For example, in 1952 the International Football Federation (FIFA) recognized the All-China Athletic Federation and stipulated "Only one association shall be recognized in each country". But, the United States participated in railroading parliamentary proceedings in the 30th and 31st sessions (1953-1954) of the FIFA, forcing its acceptance of the two-China policy, thus helping the effort to legalize the United States pro-Taiwan policy.

A resolution was introduced in the United States Congress calling for the barring of China from participation in the 1960 Squaw Valley Olympic Winter Games, and if Taiwan was barred, the United States would withdraw. The House

voted to prohibit the use of any U.S. Army personnel or equipment at this 1960 Games at Squaw Valley if the name "Republic of China" were not used for Taiwan. Sports can be used to bolster colonialism! The American Legion threatened to withdraw aid, adding its clout to U.S. policy. Henry Cabot Lodge, U.S. representative at the United Nations, added his pressure asking the I.O.C. to reverse its decision about Taiwan, threatening to pull the U.S. out of the Olympic Games.

The I.O.C. continued to insist that Taiwan drop the word "China" but Brundage prevailed, saying that Taiwan would be able to compete, using the argument that the invitation to them had been extended in 1954 before they were expelled and saying that everything would be all right if Taiwan changed the name of their Olympic Committee from "Chinese Nationalist Olympic Committee" to "Olympic Committee of the Republic of China".

As a result, until Canada took a strong stand in the 1976 Olympic Games, Taiwan continued to compete - in 1964, 1968, and 1972 as the Republic of China.

The United States Olympic Committee tries to influence public opinion by the false assertion that China does not wish to compete in the Olympics. This effort not only tries to hide China's principled political criticism of I.O.C. political manipulations, but it also runs contrary to the fact that in 1975 the All China Athletic Federation applied for re-admission to the I.O.C.

China's Reactions to Political Manipulations by the I.O.C.

In response to the political decisions of the I.O.C., China has made protests on numerous

occasions including resigning from the I.O.C. and other international sports associations. China has also attempted to include Taiwanese athletes, as early as 1956, on the Chinese team and did so again in 1959 at the First National Games in China, in 1965 for the Second National Games, and in 1975 at the Third National Games. The Third National Games had a contingency of 279 athletes and physical culture workers from Taiwan province. These athletes came from Canada, Switzerland, Germany the United States, Japan and other places to mainland China for participation in sport. China has also helped organize a separate international sports association which was anti-imperialist and promoted mutual respect and friendship, GANEFO*

China severed relations with the I.O.C. on August 19th, 1958 on the basis of the I.O.C.'s violation of its own recognition of the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of China and on the basis of the I.O.C.'s (at the same time) recognizing Taiwan's Amateur Athletic Association. China also resigned from other international sports associations - swimming, basketball, track and field, weight lifting, shooting, wrestling, cycling and tennis. Many of these associations now recognize China in their associations, even though the I.O.C. still has not included China in the Olympic Games.

When China withdrew from the International Soccer Federation (FIFA) in 1954, she made the following statement:

"Our normal contacts and relations with international sports organizations will not be hampered by the shameless tricks played by a handful of imperialist elements in the international sports circle who follow the reactionary policies of the United States".

In spite of the hindrances to China in the I.O.C. world of sport and in spite of Washington's anti-China policy which attempted to hinder the new China politically and economically, China was steadily establishing herself as a political, economic and cultural factor in the international world. Her impressive participation as a creative but non-dominating country at the 1955 Bandung Conference was one of the high points of the Conference. As the Indonesia Antara News Agency expressed it -

"It is generally conceded that the attitude of the Chinese Premier (Chou En-lai) contributed much to the success of the conference. The Chinese delegate time and again proved to be prepared to meet his counterpart halfway, or even much farther".

The emerging countries of the world saw China as a supporting ally and relations with China as an alternative to subservient relations with the imperialist world.

The emerging world (of which the new China was a part) could have its own international sport activities and associations - as was demonstrated by the Games of the New Emerging Forces (GANEF0) held in Indonesia in November 1963.

Games of the New Emerging Forces (GANEF0)

GANEF0 - this great sports meet of 3000 athletes from 57 countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and socialist countries - was a move to establish an anti-imperialist, anti-colonial sports force; it recognized the potential political clout it could generate; it was an association, socialist in nature, a challenge to the international hegemony of imperialist culture and politics. The then president of Indonesia, Sukarno, frankly stated the nature of the new emerging force to the National Front Organization after the I.O.C.

banned Indonesia from the Olympics indefinitely after Indonesia refused visas to the Taiwan team to the IV Asian Games.

"...Quit the I.O.C....Organize as fast as possible the Games of the new emerging force - Asia, Africa, Latin America and socialist countries...Therefore, let us now work for a sports association on the basis of politics; let us create a sports association on the basis of the new emerging forces".

Sukarno again joined politics and sport in addressing the GANEF0 conference in Djarkarta during the Games.

The International Olympic Committee have proved to be openly an imperialist tool. They (are) said to have sports without politics in the Olympic Games, to have them only among nations who are not communist, who are not against imperialism, colonialism...When they excluded Communist China, is that not politics? When they are not friendly to North Korea, is this not politics?...sports have something to do with politics. Indonesia proposes now to mix sports with politics, and let us now establish the Games of the New Emerging Forces, the GANEF0...against the Old Established Order.

The emerging countries from now on would no longer be stifled by the cultures of the imperialist countries. The multi-national countries at the Games began to deepen their appreciation of their own and of each other's cultures; art and handicraft exhibitions which the various teams brought

with them, and cultural tours during the days of the Games became a prelude to cultural independence.

GANEF0 was an excellent example of Mao Tse tung's "You pick up a rock to hurl at the enemy, but drop it on your own feet". The I.O.C. was used as a rock aimed at China - but the thrower was hit by GANEF0, a stunning blow to imperialism.

Indonesia moved toward progressive social change after the GANEF0 Games, nationalizing rubber and oil controlled by U.S. firms and pushed through land reform attempting to establish a new order. The old order fought back and a military coup followed with a bloodbath of communist party members in 1965 (many Asian scholars say it was through C.I.A. support). Viet Nam escalated; and China was portrayed to the American people as a country looking for new territory. The Bandung Conference was an answer to U.S. propaganda. In 1966 the executive committee of GANEF0 held the First Asian GANEF0 with 2,000 athletes and 17 countries competing. The Asian GANEF0 coincided with the I.O.C. sponsored Asian Games. Ni Chih-chin came within 1/2 inch of breaking the world record in the high jump at the Asian GANEF0 which he later tied, and two world records in weight lifting were broken. The next Asian GANEF0 to be held in Peking were canceled because of the Cultural Revolution (1966-1968).

The friction that conditions China's relations with the I.O.C. stems from the nature of the political use that has been made of the I.O.C. It has been a tool of Washington's China policy, specifically on the question of Taiwan. Also, I.O.C. sports practices have reflected imperialist culture, such as racism, elitism, win-at-all-costs, and some anti-communism.

Toward The Normalization of China's International Sporting Relations

International Normalization: Two events signaled the return of China to the International sport scene,

- a. The 1971 31st World Table Tennis Championship in Japan, and
- b. The Ping-Pong Tour to the U.S. in 1971.

The purpose of the participation of China was to strengthen unity and friendship between the peoples of various countries and open up the road to resuming friendly exchanges between the Chinese and other people, especially the U.S.

About the same time as the ping-pong diplomacy, negotiations were started for the inclusion of China into the I.O.C.-sponsored Asian Games where ground work was laid for the participation of China in the I.O.C.-sponsored Asian Games which were to be held in Iran in 1974. Iran made it clear that they wanted China, not Taiwan, to represent all of China. By an overwhelming margin the Asian Games Federation agreed and, after years of negotiations with international sports federations, displaced Taiwan as representing China.

Wu Chan, speaking for the All-China Athletic Federation, said:

"As you know, this is our first time in the Asian Games, so our knowledge of standards is limited. Many Asian countries have advanced players. Ours are not so advanced. Our purpose is to learn from our Asian friends. We were told that during these competitions we should remember the slogan; 'friendship first, competition second'."

This competition was the first normal international sporting event since 1954 for China. China did very well - 57 medals just behind Japan in overall performance. Shih Tien-shu, an interpreter said about the Games,

"Winning does not last but briefly. In China we have a saying: Winning is not the most important thing. It is the friendship. You can see the results on the scoreboard or hear them on the radio, and then they are gone, but friendship strikes the root in the hearts of people. In China, sports is a very good bridge for people to improve their health. Some people want to make money out of sports. This is not sportsmanship. It is not sports".

The U.S. and China signed the Shanghai Communique on February 28, 1972, the year after the ping-pong diplomacy. Both the U.S. and China stated that progress toward the normalization of relations between China and the U.S. is in the interest of all countries. (The U.S. did not challenge the position that there is but one China and that Taiwan is a part of China. It reaffirms its interest in a peaceful settlement) In relation to sport, both sides agreed "that it is desirable to broaden the understanding between the two peoples. To this end, they discussed specific areas in such fields as sciences, technology, culture, sports and journalism, in which people-to-people contacts and exchanges would be mutually beneficial".

Since the Cultural Revolution athletes and officials from China have been visiting countries in friendly matches in many sport as well as performing cultural exhibitions. In a recent

World Table Tennis Championship in Bucharest, China won the men's team title, the women's title and the men's doubles. At the 1977 World Cup in volleyball, the women's team finished fourth (they were 14th in 1974), the men's team was fifth (they were 15th in 1974) and both the men and women's teams were runners up in the World Youth Volleyball Championship. The men won the Asian Basketball Championship which qualified them for the 1978 World Basketball Championship. In soccer China won the Peking International Friendship Football Tournament and split games with a number of professional teams in the U.S. including the New Jersey Cosmos*.

Normalization of China's Domestic Sports

Domestic Normalization: Contrary to the popular opinion in the U.S. general production during the Cultural Revolution did not decline. However, cultural events, such as sports, fluctuated. The National Games in 1975 may have been a turning point for the normalization of domestic Chinese sport. Each day of the Games over 200,000 people went to the stadium and sporting grounds to watch the exhibitions. Sixty-two national records, sixty-four junior records, and three world records were broken and two equaled at the Games. There were national minority sports such as see-saw with horseback riders from Mongolia and the Tai traditional "water splashing". A 279 person team from Taiwan province participated.

National sports meets and tournaments have flourished, as for example, the 1978 Table Tennis Tournament held in Foochow, Fukien Province. Over one hundred teams from twenty-nine provinces, municipalities, autonomous regions and the People's Liberation Army were entered, totaling four hundred and sixty-two participants.

*See inside front & back
sports

covers for current international
relations

The Fifth National People's Congress (1978) revising earlier constitutions, states (in Article 52) "The State encourages and assists the creative endeavors of citizens engaged in science, education, literature, art, journalism, publishing, public health, sports and other cultural work" thus recognizing sport as an integral part of the citizens' activities in building their society. Also emphasized is the struggle in the super-structure against bourgeois politics and support for proletarian politics, which for sport means a fight against an elite system with special heroes, competition first, trophies, championism, elitism, and individualism.

Sport does not develop out of the sky and after the Cultural Revolution construction of sports facilities accelerated. Gymnasium building techniques progressed rapidly with new structures built in Peking, Shanghai, Shenyang, Foochow, Nanking, Hangchow, Nanning and Huhehot. The sports multi-purpose arena in Shanghai is an engineering marvel. It should be added that not all sports competitions are held in cities. Many national championships are held in factories and exhibitions given in the countryside. In the National Games 30% of the contests were in factories, mines, communes, army units, universities and middle schools, railroad stations, and research institutes. Concern for health was never absent from sport activity all the way from the concern of specialists to barefoot doctors.

In sports, as in other areas, the general line translates to going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism. Women have historically been discriminated against; a Tibetan serf named Phanthog is a symbol of the new physical possibilities for women; in this case, in the sport of mountain climbing.

Phanthog is the first Chinese woman to scale the world's highest peak, Qomolangma, from its north side. She had previously broken the altitude record in 1955 and climbed peak after peak surpassing her record and as she said, "I have seen from my own experience that only socialism opens the broad road to complete emancipation for us, the working women of all nationalities". Thirty-six women marched shoulder to shoulder with the men on the expedition, carrying their share of scientific and climbing equipment. Sixteen Chinese women broke the world altitude record set in 1961.

China is committed to maintaining her own approach to sport, but at the same time, learning from advanced foreign experience. Or as a popular saying goes: "In technique and style, we shall apply the principle of letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend, and overcome weak points by learning from each others' strong point so as to achieve a common advance". As Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping expressed it when greeting the Badminton players:

"Through competition we can learn from each other and make common progress, and, what is more important, promote mutual understanding and friendship between the people and the sportsman of all countries". (April 22 1978)

In 1973, the National Physical Fitness Standards were passed by the State Council going into effect in December of 1977. In January, 1978 a physical fitness training award ceremony in Peking brought 1800 representatives of students and teachers from 126 schools in Peking's 19 city districts and surrounding suburban counties. Some 213,000 primary and middle school children

had passed the tests. Today, China's physical fitness training program is carried out in schools, factories, mines, government organizations, industrial enterprises, rural communes, and army units. Its aim is to develop speed, stamina, agility and all-around fitness. The trainees are divided into four age groups: 10 - 12; 13 - 15; 16 - 17; and 18 and above. Track and field, gymnastics, sprints, middle distance running, high jump, long jump and throwing events are compulsory. Swimming and ice skating are optional.

A twenty-three year program has been worked out to make China one of the most advanced sport and physical culture countries before the end of the century. An immediate goal is that all Chinese people will have physical culture as part of their everyday life by the year 1985. Mass participation is to be encouraged during the next three years in factories, villages and among young people. Physical culture is to be widespread among rural and urban areas, sports facilities brought up-to-date, the people's health substantially improved, "skills greatly raised and first-rate sports teams in evidence". Chinese sports people are urged to advance world standards in most events "in the not too distant future". Or, as Chairman Hua has said: "Combine popularization with elevation and endeavor to develop physical culture". And Vice-Chairman Yeh said: "Train hard, build up physique and scale the heights of world sports".

American Athletes' Reaction To Competing With Chinese Athletes

Even American athletes, bred in the "American way" in sports have recognized something different as they have competed with Chinese teams.

Graham Steenhoven who went to China in 1971 as leader of the United States Table Tennis team wrote, "Our team played in Peking and Shanghai and we also practiced with the Chinese players. They were very helpful and not at all secretive about their techniques". He goes on to indicate the impact of China's sports ideas on American. "The Chinese ping-pong team came to the United States with the agreement that it would be a people-to-people thing. We could have charged any amount for tickets in Detroit but the price was one to three dollars; this was about a third of the regular price for an event in Cobo Hall... We were asked to take the Chinese team to places like Reno and Las Vegas for astronomical prices; instead we played at the University of Michigan, the University of Maryland, in a Chrysler stamping plant, and in the United Nations for charity.

In May 1976 four American athletes toured China, performing in three Chinese cities. Irving Kintisch, track and field coach at Columbia University, explains how the idea of "friendship first" was a radical departure from the traditional American view of athletic meets.

"When we first heard this slogan in San Francisco I couldn't believe it. This was so contrary to the American way of thinking - 'competition first', 'win at any cost', 'nice guys finish last', 'winning isn't everything, its the only thing'. I'm quoting all the so-called great coaches...There had been an item in the New York Times by a psychologist

who warned the athletes not to accept the friendship first slogan because it would detract from their performance, they would become depressed, every negative thing he could possibly think of was going to happen. Well, just the opposite was the truth. There was a great deal of friendship exhibited. After practice the Chinese and Americans would get together through interpreters and discuss their particular events. We didn't keep score, we didn't play anthems, we didn't give out medals. We learned that we could compete and do well and the Chinese learned a little bit about losing. There's a Mao proverb that in losing you have certain strengths, in winning you have certain weaknesses, and together you both go forward. This is so true".

(From New China, Jan.1976)

China sees sports as involving the masses - not just athletes who can afford the time and equipment, not just audiences who can afford the time and price for attendance at sports events.

"Friendship" between athletes, rather than personal and national rivalry. "Competition"? yes, but not cut-throat competition; rather competition for mutual improvement, helping each other develop better skills, seeing sports competition not limited to "athletics" but as fostering the all-around development of the individual, engendering the fullest physical, intellectual and moral potential.

The Current Movement To Admit China To The Olympics

Before the 1972 Montreal Olympics, the All-China Athletic Federation sent a communique to the I.O.C.

"It is learnt that the 78th International Olympics Committee (I.O.C.) Session and the 21st Olympic Games will soon be held in Montreal, Canada. The All-China Athletic Federation (The Chinese Olympic Committee) reiterates that the All-China Athletic Federation is the sole legitimate national organization governing sports on the entire territory of China (including Taiwan Province). Only the All-China Athletic Federation is entitled to represent China in the I.O.C. International Olympic movement and other international sport organizations. The usurption of China's representation by the Chiang clique is entirely illegal. The I.O.C. must not allow the Chiang clique so-called sport organization to participate in the coming I.O.C. Session and Olympic Games activities"

In the 1972 Montreal Olympics, the Taiwan athletes were not admitted because they had passports which said "The Republic of China" and the government of Canada only recognized one representative of China, "The People's Republic of China". The I.O.C. raised a bit of protest and said that Canada was putting politics into the Olympics.

A movement started in 1975 to admit China to the Olympics headed by Iran, Albania, Iraq, Morocco, Ethiopia, Somalia, Zambia, Yugoslavia, Japan and eight other countries who "urged the

Olympic Movement to accept China's application." The Supreme Council of Sports in Africa and the I.O.C. affiliated Asian Games also urged the acceptance of China in the Olympics. The I.O.C. has a stipulation that if a country is accepted by five recognized international sports federations then they are eligible for membership. In 1974 China belonged to nine international sports federations. The I.O.C. claimed that China was introducing politics by their adherence to the principle that the People's Republic of China is the sole Chinese representative. The I.O.C. ignored the political maneuvers of Avery Brundage to subvert the wishes of the general body of the I.O.C. on the China issue.

The U.S. China People's Friendship Association (U.S.C.P.F.A) has launched a major campaign for normalization of relations with China, making "China one of the Olympics" a part of normalization. At road races in Illinois, New Jersey and other states, petitions have been circulated by U.S. C.P.F.A. and sent to the U.S. Olympic representatives supporting inclusion of China in the Olympics. T-shirts with "Friendship first, competition second" on the front and "Admit China to the 1980 Olympics" can be seen on runners, particularly on the East coast. When the Chinese soccer team came to the U.S. in the fall of 1977, friendly leaflets and signs were distributed at the stadium throughout the U.S. at the Chinese-American matches. At the Meadowlands in New Jersey, at the Sports Center, Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance was personally given a support leaflet at a reception after a Cosmos-Chinese soccer match. Special blocks of tickets have been bought by the U.S. C.P.F.A. at ping-pong matches, women's basketball games, and Wu Shu demonstrations.

The U.S.C.P.F.A formed an "AD HOC Committee to admit China to the 1980 Olympics". This is part of the normalization effort and to show China's socialist policy of mass participation in sport to the U.S. This Committee publishes a newsletter and coordinates nationwide activities on the "China and Olympics" campaign. Speakers have lectured throughout the U.S. through the coordination of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The U.S.C.P.F.A has held special meetings on the China and Olympic issue at their national, regional and local meetings and has distributed films on sport in China.

WHY CHINA IN THE OLYMPICS?

China, as a sports-loving country, should rightfully participate in the international I.O.C. activities. China, with its philosophy of "friendship first, competition second" adds a new, a creative dimension to sports relationships. China, with its concept of physical culture and sports promoting the people's productive activities - doing away with the traditional separation between work and leisure - presents a principled challenge to the concepts and practices of bourgeois society.



SOURCES AND REFERENCES

On the Subjects:

"Sports & Physical Culture
In The People's Republic
Of China"

and

"China and the Olympics
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A Listing of over Fifty (50)
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Handball

Chinese Army team in Romania

Congolese women's team in China

Small-bore Pistol & Rifle Shooting

Chinese marksmen at International Meet in
Yugo-slavia

Speed Skating

Chinese Men's and Women's teams in Japan

Swimming

Chinese team in Tunisia

Table Tennis

Chinese team in Australia

Chinese team in Japan

Jugo-slavia men's & women's teams in Peking

Volleyball

Japanese women's team in China

West German team in China

Cameroon men's team in China

Chinese men's team in Morocco

Federal Republic of Germany men's team
in China

United States women's team in Peking

International Tournament in China

Brazil Canada Japan Mexico China

Weight Lifting

Chinese team in Wales

Chinese team in England

Chinese team in France

West German team in China

Chinese team in the Philippines

Wusu

Chinese team in Botswana

Ethiopian Sports Committee delegatin in China

Chinese troupe in Rwanda

Chinese team to Iraq Arab Yemen Syria

Chinese Sports delegation May 1978 visited

Mexico Venezuela Ecudor Peru Chile

Argentina

International Olympics Committee Vice-President

J A Samaranch visits China

Bangkok Asian Games Meet December 1978

China prepares her teams: Track & Field Tennis

Swimming Diving Water polo Weightlifting

Gymnastics Football Basketball Volleyball

Table Tennis Badminton Shooting Archery

Fencing Cycling Wrestling Hockey Yatching