PROBLEMS OF CHINESE AGRICULTURE IN 1961

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

"This material, translated under U. S. Government auspices, is distributed for scholarly uses to repository libraries under a grant/subscription arrangement with the Joint Committee on Contemporary China of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. The contents of this material in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U. S. Government or the other parties to the arrangement. Queries regarding participation in this arrangement should be addressed to the Social Science Research Council, 230 Park Avenue, New York 17, New York."

Reproduced From
Best Available Copy

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 3
FOREWORD

This publication was prepared under contract by the UNITED STATES JOINT PUBLICATIONS RESEARCH SERVICE, a federal government organization established to service the translation and research needs of the various government departments.
SUBSCRIBING REPOSITORIES

University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona

University of British Columbia
Vancouver 8, Canada

State Paper Room
British Museum
London, W.C. 1, England

Center for Chinese Studies
University of California
Berkeley 4, California

University of California
Berkeley 4, California

Government Publications Room
University of California
Los Angeles 24, California

University of Chicago Library
Chicago 37, Illinois

Librarian, East Asiatic Library
Columbia University
New York 27, New York

Wason Collection
Cornell University Library
Ithaca, New York

Council on Foreign Relations
58 East 66th Street
New York 21, New York

Duke University Library
Durham, North Carolina

The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy
Tufts University
Medford, Massachusetts

Harvard College Library
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Center for East Asian Studies
Harvard University
16 Dunster Street
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Harvard-Yenching Institute
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

University of Hawaii
Honolulu 14, Hawaii

The Hoover Institution
Stanford, California

University of Illinois Library
Urbana, Illinois

Indiana University Library
Bloomington, Indiana

State University of Iowa Library
Iowa City, Iowa

Director, East Asian Institute
Columbia University
433 West 117th Street
New York 27, New York

University of San Francisco
San Francisco 17, California

Librarian, School of Oriental and African Studies
University of London
London, W.C. 1, England

Institute for Asian Studies
Marquette University
Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin

University of Michigan Library
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Michigan State University Library
East Lansing, Michigan
Continued

University of Minnesota Library
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Ohio State University Libraries
1858 Neil Avenue
Columbus 10, Ohio

University of Oregon Library
Eugene, Oregon

Pennsylvania Military College
Chester, Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh Library
Pittsburgh 13, Penna.

Princeton University Library
Princeton, New Jersey

Purdue University Libraries
Lafayette, Indiana

University of Rochester
Rochester 20, New York

Institute of Asian Studies
St. John's University Graduate School

McKissick Memorial Library
University of South Carolina
Columbia 1, South Carolina

Seton Hall University
University College
South Orange, New Jersey

University of Southern Calif.
Library
Los Angeles 7, California

University of Texas Library
Austin 12, Texas

Alderman Library
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

Far Eastern Library
University of Washington
Seattle 5, Washington

Yale University Library
New Haven, Connecticut

Asia Library
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Research Institute, Sino-Soviet Bloc
P.O. Box 3521
Washington 7, D. C.
PROBLEMS OF CHINESE AGRICULTURE IN 1961

Communist China

The following is a translation of an unsigned article appearing in Ajia Kenkyu (Asia Studies), Tokyo, No. 250, 10 January 1961, pages 2-7.

The Three Year Battle and the Great Leap Forward came to an end in 1960. Yet it would seem that agricultural production last year, as in the previous year, brought about a slump. The "two legs" of agriculture and industry will be one of the important problems facing China's economic construction in 1961. The manner in which China maintains this balance in the course of events will bear careful observation. The slump in agriculture has had its effect on basic construction in industry in terms of investment and raw material supply. Accordingly it is not difficult to suppose that a crucial point this year for China's economic construction will be its confrontation with growth in agricultural production. And just how will this barrier be surmounted?

1. Strengthening the Two-five System

In the latter half of last year "relocating" of the cadre was undertaken once again in China. This was done to encourage the two-five system leadership program. Cadre are sent out to the first line of production where they are thrust into positions of production leadership. The two-five system leadership program was proposed by the party committee of the Hsien federated communes in Hopei Province's Wu-ch'iao Hsien. According to a paper made public by the Wu-ch'iao Hsien Committee titled Experiences with and Effectiveness of the Two-five System Leadership Program, the actual substance of the two-five system is as outlined in the following.

"Two days out of the week are given over to studies, conferences and research projects. During the other five days they join small production brigades, participating in and taking charge of production. They materially assist in the resolution of the problems of the small production brigades." (The People's Daily, 16 June 1960)

As further concrete aspects of this program, on both Monday and Tuesday the Hsien Committee, the Commune Party Committee and the General Party Branch of the Administrative District hold their respective meetings, conduct research and hold discussion meetings. On Monday the Hsien Committee conducts research. On this day the commune, administrative district
and the relocation cadre conduct joint study sessions. On Monday night
the Hsien Committee hands over to the commune the week's operations. On
Tuesday the commune collaborates with cadre of the administrative district
and draws up plans for the implementation of the week's operations on
the basis of suggestions made by the Hsien Committee.

On Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday cadre at the
three levels of hsien, commune and administrative district each join a
small basic production brigade and participate in production. In Feb-
uary of last year after this system had been promoted in Wu-ch'iiao Hsien,
it was reported that "this flower is in full bloom throughout the Hsien."

After the two-five system leadership program was implemented,
various kinds of leadership programs were devised all over China.

a. The Three-seven System Leadership Program

Since the land is extensive and communications are poor
in Kirin Province's Shuang-liao Hsien, the three-seven system
leadership program was utilized. The three classes of cadre --
hsien, commune and administrative district -- conduct study,
investigation, and allocation of work for the first three days of
a ten-day period. During the last seven days they enter the basic
level and engage in production in the production areas. Here they
take the leadership of production (People's Daily, 29 June 1960).

b. The Three-three System Leadership Program

In Shensi Province province level organizations and those
below the level of special districts have formed basic production
units out of one-third of their cadre. These participate in pro-
duction and are put in positions of leadership. Another third of
the cadre normally join in at the basic level and participate in
inspection tour operations. The remaining third of the cadre
stay with their organizations and carry on daily operations
(People's Daily, 19 November 1960).

c. The One-two-three System Leadership Program

This system is being implemented in the city of Lan-chou.
Its principal features stipulate that out of one week "they will
give over one day to studies and two days to conferences and re-
capitulation activities, and for three days they will engage in
production on the front line." This system is being widely
promoted principally in workshops, mines and enterprises (People's
Daily, 10 July 1960).

These various systems differ in form from the two-five system,
but basically they are all identical.

The two-five system leadership program has two important charac-
teristics. The first is the large number of cadre who are given field
assignments. Taking Hopei Province's Wu-ch'iiao Hsien as an example, we
see that they have established four criteria used in electing cadre for
field assignments.

a. A direct relationship is maintained with agricultural produc-
tion. Further as far as office work is concerned, 20 to 30 per-
cent of the cadre remain with their organizations, there being,
relatively, a considerable amount of leeway in the categories of
party, government and mass organization. In addition, 70 to 80 percent of the cadre who have been given field assignments are sent out to the production front lines of the agricultural villages. Of these relocated cadre, two-thirds are usually formed into supervisory units (pao-tul). (These undertake all phases of the production operations of the small production brigade.) They are separated from agency operations and specialize in exercising guidance over production. In addition to bearing the responsibility for inspection work and participation in production, two days every week they return to their agencies and hold conferences and study operations.

b. As for office work, in the relatively busy Commerce Bureau, Food Bureau and Government and Law categories roughly 30 percent of the cadre remain with their agencies. Approximately 70 percent of the cadre are given field assignments in the farming areas. Furthermore usually a third of the cadre sent on field assignments are formed into supervisory units. The other two-thirds of the cadre are not so organized, but participate in labor and inspection tours.

c. In categories where office work is extremely heavy, for instance, at radio stations, postal and telecommunication bureaus and hospitals, about 30 percent of the workers remain with their agencies, while the other 70 percent or so of the cadre -- excluding those specialists who cannot be transferred -- are given field assignments in agricultural areas. Generally these relocated cadre are not organized into supervisory units, but participate in labor-production and inspection tour activities.

d. As for the cadre of the industrial system, a minority are left to do organizational work, while the majority of the cadre are given field assignments in factories. Here they must participate in production and assume its leadership.

According to relocation plans such as the above, the number of cadre sent out to the front line of production is huge. Out of the 1,413 cadre who belong to organizations under the immediate control of Wu-ch'iao Hsien, those who have been given field assignments in basic production units number 1,000. Out of the 39 cadre of the bank of Wu-ch'iao Hsien, 30 were given field assignments in basic production units. Of the 156 cadre of Wu-ch'iao Hsien's Commerce Bureau, 36 were formed into supervisory units in agricultural areas and 99 participated in production (People's Daily, 29 August 1960).

Roughly speaking, relocated cadre account for over 70 percent of the aggregate number of organizational cadre.

The second characteristic of the two-five system leadership program is the relocated cadre's domination of the basic production units of agriculture. For example, in Hopei Province's Shang-tu Hsien, high-level cadre of all departments at the hsien level are appointed assistant secretary or assistant brigade leader of production brigades in agricultural areas. The general cadre of the hsien and commune are given the post of assistant secretary of small production brigades or assistant
brigade leader (People's Daily, 21 October 1960). Further at all six people's communes in Ch'inghai Province's Kung-ho Hsien there is one cadre who is, at the least, a member of Communist China's Hsien Committee, dispatched to the commune and in a position of leadership. A cadre of the hsien leadership class is stationed in each production brigade and is in a position of leadership. In each of the small production brigades the cadre dispatched for field work average less than two men. They are sent to participate in production guidance work (People's Daily, 3 July 1960). In the southern districts of Shansi Province approximately 16,000 relocation cadre have been appointed assistant brigade leaders of production brigades and managers of rural dining halls (People's Daily, 24 August 1960).

The two-five system leadership program is the fruit of the experience of the production leadership of Wu-ch'iao Hsien. It would seem that the Wu-ch'iao Hsien Committee began the Great Leap Forward in 1958. They devised various production guidance programs and utilized the three-seven guidance program during this period.

Under this program 70 percent of the cadre's working time was given over to participation in small production brigades and manual labor. 30 percent of his time was given to research in his organization. After this a program was adopted under which seven days out of ten were given over to field assignments, and three days were used for work in the cadre's organization. Finally in Wu-ch'iao Hsien's federated commune the present two-five system leadership program -- based on the three-seven leadership program -- was developed (People's Daily, 24 August 1960).

The government recognized this program as one which would "assure production guidance and send production unfailingy forward." To this end the government has promoted this throughout China with Hopei Province as the starting point. This is what brought about the present success of cadre relocation.

2. Living Conditions

On January first of this year The People's Daily published an editorial under the following headline: "Unite and, Relying on the Masses, Achieve New Victories for Peace in the World and Socialist Construction at Home!" In addition, the First Phase of the Red Flag exhorted in its editorial: "Let us advance under the great slogans of the general line." These two editorials are both directed against stagnation of agricultural production in 1960 and toward victory over this stagnation and the economic construction of the new year. The difference we find between these clarion calls and those of January 1960 is a question of living conditions.

The 1960 New Year's editorials sang the praises of the fruits of the previous two years' brilliant continuous leap forward. They proclaimed the new year to be one of a continuous leap forward and outlined a basic policy of economic construction that made "agriculture its basis." These became the beautiful melodies of "Open the Gates for Red", "A Room Filled with Red", and "Red Everywhere" and celebrated the future course of the continuous leap forward. The New Year's editorials of 1961, however,
abound with realistic, reliable reverberations instead of flowery appeals like those above. In place of the fine-sounding Great Leap Forward melodies the "Living Conditions of the People" are pictured as the urgent task now confronting the nation.

This is extremely important when estimating China's economic plans for 1961. Already it is thought that 1961's economic plans may be reduced because of stagnation in agricultural production in 1960. In addition, Foreign Minister Ch'en Yi himself has made it clear that 1961 is a year for adjustment. The crux of the matter is in the following: (1) the living conditions of the people; (2) the adjustment of the unbalance found in economic growth. The former is a concrete reality of the Chinese economy itself; the latter is profound self-criticism of the Great Leap Forward policy. People's Daily editorials argue: "All people's communes must dispatch their best cadre to operate and administer their communal dining halls...the proportional relationships of every sector of the national economy must be adequately adjusted." These arguments, more than mere words, convey to us a hint of the grave actualities of the Chinese economy.

Living conditions in China are the "utilization of foodstuffs in a rational way and according to plan both in the cities and in the rural area of the country. It is the producing of as many vegetables and subsidiary products as possible." It is the best operation of communal dining halls by the "best cadre". And it is "depending on the people outside of the disaster areas and arousing the benevolent feelings of the classes, economizing on clothing and food, and aiding the stricken areas." It is by these means that they intend to overcome the hardships in the disaster areas that they are faced with today. In other words, it is the act of "not lamenting affluence, only inequality."

The above are closely related to an agricultural policy to encourage production of subsidiary industry and reduce basic construction in agriculture this year. They are measures devised to weather the difficulties facing agriculture and, at the same time, raise the commune member's share of the commune revenue.