

Background to the Great Leap Forward
in Iron and Steel

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Industrialization—The Mass Way

by CHU CHI-LIN

A national conference of secretaries of Communist Party provincial committees in charge of industrial work was convened in Peking from October 4 to November 14. It reviewed and summed up the experiences of the nationwide mass movement in industry which hinges on steel-making and discussed the future progress of small, native-style production units in industry.

THE conference assessed the mass movement to involve the whole population in running industry—with steel-making as the pivot—as one of immense political significance as well as economic value and affirmed it to be the correct road to the industrialization of China at top speed. When the peasants start to build industry on a large scale in the rural and mountain areas throughout the country, they are creating favourable conditions for the elimination of differences between industry and agriculture, town and countryside. The nationwide steel-making campaign is also tempering the people of the whole nation in many respects.

The mass movement in industry began to spread far and wide in September of this year and its impact was immediately felt in terms of tremendous boosts in production. It is now gathering momentum in big, modern enterprises as well as in small, native-style production units.

Spotlight on Steel

In September and October alone, 60 million people took part in the sector of industry characterized by small, native-style production. Several million native-style iron-smelting and steel-making furnaces, small factories and workshops were built. These small units have become an important part of China's industry. In October the small, native-style furnaces dotting the countryside turned out 6.5 times as much steel as in September. Their output accounted for 49 per cent of the national steel total in October as compared with only 14 per cent in September.

The mass movement in big, modern enterprises that is still spreading and developing throughout the country, has also shot production forward amazingly. Many of these plants have instituted a system of work in which employees in the plants participate in productive labour, the workers participate in daily management and everybody contributes to the changing of outmoded regulations. In other plants, the workers are taking part in technical designing, planning and other fields of management. As a result of the mass movement, a revolutionary change in the management of these enterprises is being effected.

Thanks to the mass campaign, outstanding victories were scored on the iron and steel front. Total output of steel was less than 5 million tons in the first eight months

of this year. By November 20, however, it soared to 8.92 million tons—83.4 per cent of this year's production goal of 10.7 million tons. This spurt ahead not only ensured the fulfilment of this year's target, but paved the way for still greater leaps next year. By the end of October, China's annual steel-making capacity had increased by 18.55 million tons.

Mass participation in running industry has convinced many people that industry is no mystery. In a short period of time, about 10 million people have been trained as technicians and workers in iron-smelting and steel-making. A few months ago many of these people had never seen an iron or steel plant and could not tell iron ore from any other ores. Encouraged by their experience, they are no longer awed by the idea of running industry and have become bolder in their thinking and their actions.

Similarly, the workers in big, modern plants have cast aside outmoded conventions and regulations, and have performed a great number of technical and production wonders. They are now doing things they thought were impossible. The sky is the limit is now literally true.

Steel Spurs Other Industries

The conference of secretaries also discussed another aspect of the mass movement—the pivotal role of steel-making. This means that steel stimulates and goesad other branches of the economy to catch up with it. Giving top priority to steel will temporarily affect certain other branches, but, what is more important is that the rapid advance in steel will also stimulate production in many other branches—such as iron, coal, transport and others. Basic branches of the economy are being accelerated while those branches that may be adversely affected for a while by the priority to steel are of secondary importance. Moreover, these secondary branches, too, will eventually shoot ahead to still bigger developments in the wake of the progress in steel.

Led and stimulated by steel, transport, communications and many other industries have taken giant strides forward too. By the end of October, the engineering industry produced complete equipment for 7,601 blast furnaces each with a volume of over three cubic metres, complete equipment for more than 4,400 open hearth furnaces, electric furnaces and converters and 36,872 blowers. It supplied the metallurgical industry with equipment that has an annual production capacity of over 30 million tons of steel and the same amount of iron. Coal output in October reached 70.21 million tons, three times the output in September. Power output increased from 2,570 million kwh. in September to 2,750 million kwh. in October. The output of the chemical, petroleum, non-ferrous metals, cement and timber industries have all been

stimulated by steel while light industry will also advance at a rate surpassing that of previous years.

Another subject discussed at the conference was the small, native-style industries run by the masses. The simultaneous development of large, medium and small enterprises and the integration of native and foreign methods of production, concluded the conference, is an important component of China's industrialization policy. Therefore, the running of small, native-style industries by the masses is not a temporary measure. It will spread to all branches of industry.

During the First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957), China built many big, modern enterprises which form the core of her industry and are playing an important role in her national construction. More will be built in the future.

However, China is a vast country with more than 600 million people. To develop industry at a high speed and build it in every part of the nation, it is not enough to rely only on the big, modern enterprises. The entire nation, especially the 500 million peasants, have to be mobilized to build and run industries. It is necessary, therefore, to develop very many small, native-style production units. Experience has proved that when the peasants take part in running industries, their achievements are unlimited.

Popularization and Elevation

Small, native-style industrial production will naturally change in the course of development. Some will become medium-sized or even big enterprises, some will remain small and others may be eliminated entirely. Changes will also be effected in the equipment and production techniques, and manual labour will gradually give way to semi-mechanization and full mechanization. It would

be a mistake to remain satisfied with the present status of small, native-style production without advancement and progress.

The relationship between popularization and elevation—two aspects of the mass movement—is well illustrated by the nationwide drive to produce iron and steel by native methods. At the start, when the masses had not yet mastered the necessary technical knowledge and the resources of iron ore were not known in detail, the accent was on technique and the quantity of output. That was the period of popularization. Now, more than two months later, a huge number of workers are familiar with the preliminary smelting technique, the distribution of iron resources are better known and the output has attained considerable proportions. The time has ripened for elevation. The small and native-style furnaces will, therefore, be gradually led to form integrated iron and steel centres using both native and foreign production methods. When this is accomplished throughout the country, the movement will be elevated to a higher stage.

The point is that when native methods are improved, they are not necessarily backward. Foreign methods, on the other hand, are not all advanced without modifications. Combined foreign and native methods of production are one of the goals of China's technical revolution. It is quite likely that this integration of production processes can create the most advanced production techniques in the world, just as the co-operation of Chinese traditional medicine and the Western medicine can lead China's medical science to peak levels.

The popular Chinese saying now is that small, native-style industry and big, modern industry each represents one leg and to move ahead a person has to use both legs. But the mass movement is the key in all industrial enterprises—the motive force for both legs.

The Korean People Struggle for the Peaceful Unification of Their Motherland

by **NAM IL**

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THE peaceful unification of Korea is the most ardent national aspiration of our people and one of the fundamental tasks of our revolution at the present time.

Thanks to the armed forces of the great Soviet Union, Korea freed herself from the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism. A broad road for the building of a powerful, prosperous, democratic, free and independent country was thus opened for the people of Korea.

But owing to the aggressive policy of the U.S. imperialists and the policy of their lackey, the Syngman Rhee clique, which betrays the country and the nation,

today, thirteen years and more after liberation, our country has still not been united.

Division of Korea by the U.S. Aggressors

The Korean nation has a single, common ancestry and used to lead an integrated economic and cultural life. But today its territory is divided in two, the north and the south, and the people in south Korea, under the forcible occupation of the U.S. imperialists, are suffering hunger and poverty.

If there were no aggression by the U.S. imperialists, and if they and the Syngman Rhee clique had accepted