

## IX. TREMENDOUS PROGRESS IN CULTURE AND EDUCATION

In the past decade the Chinese people have scored unprecedented achievements in the field of culture in keeping with their great achievements in economic construction. Culture, education and the arts developed and flourished, particularly during the big leap forward in 1958. The literacy campaign and a mass movement encouraging the people to run schools by themselves engulfed the country and the people's cultural life became richer and more colourful. As Chairman Mao Tse-tung said: "With the upsurge in economic construction, there will inevitably appear an upsurge of cultural construction." His prediction has come true.

Education in New China is fundamentally different from old China. The new policy is: education to serve the political interests of the proletariat and education to be combined with productive labour. Guided by this correct policy China has made tremendous strides in education during the past decade. Enrolment in primary schools, middle schools and institutes of higher learning increased several fold. Literacy classes and spare-time general and technical education developed greatly. The system of combining education with productive labour and the work-while-you-study programme have been put into practice. Large numbers of cadres have been trained for socialist construction.

In 1958 the number of students in higher educational institutes reached 660,000, 5.7 times the number in 1949 and more than four times the pre-liberation peak. In that year there were 1,470,000 students in technical middle schools, 6.4 times the 1949 figure and 3.8 times the pre-liberation peak, while the students in middle schools numbered 8,520,000, 8.2 times the 1949 figure and 5.7 times as many as in the pre-liberation peak year. There were 86,400,000 primary school pupils in 1958, 3.5 times the number in 1949 and 3.6 times the pre-liberation peak. In 1958, universal primary school education was put into effect in many countries; 85 per cent of all school-age children were in school in the country as a whole.

In the ten years from 1949 to 1958, 430,000 students graduated from institutes of higher learning, more than double the total number of graduates in the 20 years before liberation. The number of graduates from engineering colleges and departments in the same period was 130,000, four times the total number of graduates in the 20 years before liberation. In ten years New China had 1,300,000 graduates from technical middle schools, more than double the total number of graduates in the 16 years before liberation.

Spare-time study for peasants, workers and other employees

developed considerably in the past decade. The literacy campaign has been popularized among the masses. During the big leap forward in 1958, in particular, industrial and mining enterprises and people's communes opened a large number of spare-time schools, with an attendance of more than 30 million. Illiteracy was wiped out among 40 million people, more than the total number in the preceding nine years. At the same time, large numbers of workers, peasants and soldiers became interested in studying Marxist-Leninist theory. A high tide of studying philosophy was set in motion by the masses.

Education in China belongs to the working people. In the past ten years, as the material life of the working people improved steadily, many more worker's children enrolled in schools. The proportion of students from worker and peasant families in the various types of schools has increased year by year. In higher educational institutes, students from worker and peasant families constituted 19 per cent of the student body in 1951. In 1958 they increased to 48 per cent of the student body. In the technical middle schools, students of worker and peasant origin accounted for 57 per cent of the students in 1951 and 77 per cent in 1958. Students from worker and peasant families constituted 51 per cent of the student body in middle schools in 1951 and 75 per cent in 1958.

In the past decade, China's science, culture and the arts, guided by the policy of "let a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend," carried on and developed the fine national traditions. Culture and science flourished. In 1957 there were 580 institutes of scientific research and more than 28,000 research and technical personnel throughout China, more than triple the number in 1952. Scientific research developed even more rapidly in the big leap forward of 1958. It became more integrated with productive labour, resulting in a mass interest in science, which in turn stimulated large numbers of working people to invent countless new devices. By the end of 1958 the number of institutes of scientific and technological research in the country increased more than 21 times and the number of research and technical personnel increased more than 51 times in comparison with pre-liberation days. In 1958, elementary scientific research bureaux were established in about half the counties and municipalities in China. Special institutes for scientific research were established by many industrial and mining enterprises. An atomic reactor of heavy water type and a cyclotron were built in 1958. The rapid development of scientific research paved the way for China to catch up with the world's advanced levels of science and technique.

The past ten years witnessed unprecedented activity in China's publishing, cinema, drama, song and dance, broadcasting and other fields of culture and art. Between 1950 and 1958, the circulation of newspapers increased from 800 million copies to 3,900 million copies, 4.9 times as many; journals increased from 35 million copies to more than 530 million copies, 15 times as many; and the number of



books published increased from 270 million to 2,390 million, 8.7 times as many. Between 1949 and 1958, the number of feature films made or dubbed in Chinese rose from 9 to 178, an increase of 20 times; the number of film projection units rose from 646 to 13,000, more than 19 times as many. There were more than 6,700 wire broadcasting stations in 1958, 21 times the 327 stations which existed in 1952. More than 5,000 of these were rural people's commune wire broadcasting stations. A broadcasting network in the countryside has thus been established in the main. Television stations were set up in Peking and Shanghai in 1958. In addition, many cultural centres, cultural stations and public libraries were established by the state as well as by the people themselves. Opera and drama have flourished.

Sports have been organized on a mass scale and the level of performance has risen considerably. All the records set in old China have been broken and higher records are constantly being set. World records were set in 16 events including weight-lifting, track and field, swimming, parachute jumping, mountain climbing, shooting and model aeroplane flying. China won the 1959 world table tennis championship for men's singles.

The past decade saw considerable development in culture and education among China's national minorities. In 1958, the national minorities had 4,240,000 pupils in primary schools, 4.5 times the number in 1951; 395,000 middle school students, 9.8 times the 1951 figure; and 22,000 students in institutes of higher learning, 10.6 times the number in 1951. By 1959, the state had helped create written languages for ten national minorities which had never had a written language before. Many national minorities now have books, journals and newspapers published in their own languages. In the seven years from 1952 to 1958, books published in national minority languages included more than 9,000 titles in more than 80 million copies. More than 30 periodicals and an equal number of newspapers were published in the languages of the national minorities throughout China in 1958. Cultural halls and stations, dramatic groups, film projection teams, libraries, book stores and wire broadcasting stations were established on a wide scale. Many national minorities now have their own writers, educators and scientific workers.

NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS (I)  
(thousands)

	<u>Institutes of higher learning</u>	<u>Technical middle schools</u>	<u>Middle schools</u>	<u>Primary schools</u>
Pre-liberation peak year	155	383	1,496	23,683
1949	117	229	1,039	24,391
1950	137	257	1,305	28,924
1951	153	383	1,568	43,154
1952	191	636	2,490	51,100
1953	212	668	2,933	51,664
1954	253	608	3,587	51,218
1955	288	537	3,900	53,126
1956	403	812	5,165	63,464
1957	441	778	6,281	64,279
1958	660	1,470	8,520	86,400

Note: A large number of agricultural middle schools and other vocational middle schools were opened in 1958, with an enrolment of two million students. The figures for students in institutes of higher learning given here and elsewhere do not include research students.

NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS (II)  
(index numbers)

	<u>Institutes of higher learning</u>	<u>Technical middle schools</u>	<u>Middle schools</u>	<u>Primary schools</u>
(1949=100)				
1952	164.1	277.7	239.7	209.5
1957	378.7	339.9	604.6	263.5
1958	566.2	642.3	820.0	354.2
(1952=100)				
1957	230.8	122.4	252.2	125.8
1958	345.1	231.2	342.2	169.1
(1957=100)				
1958	150.0	188.9	135.6	134.4
(Pre-liberation peak year=100)				
1958	426.6	384.1	569.6	364.8

NUMBER OF GRADUATES (I)  
(thousands)

	<u>Institutes of higher learning</u>	<u>Technical middle schools</u>	<u>Middle schools</u>	<u>Primary schools</u>
Pre-liberation				
peak year	25	73	326	4,633
1949	21	72	280	2,387
1950	18	75	296	2,829
1951	19	57	284	4,232
1952	32	68	221	5,942
1953	48	118	454	9,945
1954	47	169	644	10,136
1955	55	235	969	10,254
1956	63	174	939	12,287
1957	56	146	1,299	12,307
1958	72	191	1,313	16,225

NUMBER OF GRADUATES (II)  
(index numbers)

	<u>Institutes of higher learning</u>	<u>Technical middle schools</u>	<u>Middle schools</u>	<u>Primary schools</u>
(1949=100)				
1952	149.9	95.0	79.1	248.9
1957	263.1	203.6	463.5	515.7
1958	339.2	265.9	468.6	679.8
(1952=100)				
1957	175.6	214.4	586.3	207.1
1958	226.3	280.0	592.7	273.1
(1957=100)				
1958	128.9	130.6	101.1	131.8
(Pre-liberation peak year=100)				
1958	288.6	260.2	402.6	350.2



## NUMBER OF GRADUATES FROM INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING

	<u>Engi- neering</u>	<u>Agri- culture</u>	<u>Eco- nomics and finance</u>	<u>Medi- cine</u>	<u>Natural sciences</u>	<u>Peda- gogy</u>	<u>Liberal arts</u>
Pre- libera- tion peak year	4,792	2,064	2,969	1,236	1,701	3,250	2,736
1949	4,752	1,718	3,137	1,314	1,584	1,890	2,521
1950	4,711	1,477	3,305	1,391	1,468	624	2,306
1951	4,416	1,538	3,638	2,366	1,488	1,206	2,169
1952	10,213	2,361	7,263	2,636	2,215	3,077	1,676
1953	14,565	2,633	10,530	2,948	1,753	9,650	3,306
1954	15,596	3,532	6,033	4,527	802	10,551	2,683
1955	18,614	2,614	4,699	6,840	2,015	12,133	4,679
1956	22,047	3,541	4,460	5,403	3,978	17,243	4,025
1957	17,162	3,104	3,651	6,200	3,524	15,948	4,294
1958	17,499	3,513	2,349	5,393	4,645	31,595	4,131

Note: Data include only the main faculties of the institutes of higher learning. In the pre-liberation peak year series, the faculty of agriculture includes the faculty of forestry, and the faculty of pedagogy includes the faculty of physical culture.

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF GRADUATES FROM INSTITUTES OF  
HIGHER LEARNING BEFORE AND AFTER LIBERATION  
(thousands)

	<u>20 years</u> <u>before</u> <u>liberation</u> (1928-1947)	<u>10 years</u> <u>after</u> <u>liberation</u> (1949-1958)	<u>1949-1958</u> (1928-1947=100)
TOTAL	185	431	232.5
Of which:			
Engineering	32	130	408.9
Agriculture	} 13	26	} 234.9
Forestry		5	
Medicine	9	39	410.8
Natural Sciences	16	23	148.4
Pedagogy	} 21	104	} 507.0
Physical culture		3	

Note: The total number of graduates from the technical middle schools during the ten years after liberation reached 1,305,000, accounting for 238.7 per cent of the 547,000 graduates during the sixteen years (1931-1946) before liberation.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING SPARE-TIME SCHOOLS AND  
NUMBER OF THOSE NEWLY LITERATE  
(thousands)

	<u>Spare-time institute of higher learning</u>	<u>Spare-time technical middle schools</u>	<u>Spare-time middle schools</u>	<u>Spare-time primary schools</u>	<u>Newly literate</u>
1949	0.1	0.1	-	-	657
1950	0.4	0.1	-	-	1,372
1951	1.6	0.3	-	-	1,375
1952	4.1	0.7	249	1,375	656
1953	9.7	1.1	404	1,523	2,954
1954	13.2	186.0	760	2,088	2,637
1955	15.9	195.0	1,167	4,538	3,678
1956	63.8	563.0	2,236	5,195	7,434
1957	75.9	588.0	2,714	6,267	7,208
1958	150.0	-	5,000	26,000	40,000

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF NATIONAL MINORITY STUDENTS

	<u>Institutes of higher learning</u>	<u>Technical middle schools</u>	<u>Middle schools</u>	<u>Primary schools</u>
1. Absolute figures (thousands)				
1951	2	5	40	943
1952	3	19	73	1,474
1953	6	26	137	2,546
1954	8	24	160	2,465
1955	9	23	169	2,468
1956	14	33	234	3,152
1957	16	37	277	3,194
1958	22	64	395	4,240
2. Index numbers (1951=100)				
1958	1,060	1,230	979.6	499.5

Note: Research students are included in the figures for students in institutes of higher learning.



PROPORTION OF STUDENTS OF WORKER AND PEASANT ORIGIN  
TO TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS  
(percentage of total in each category)

	<u>Institutes of higher learning</u>	<u>Technical middle schools</u>	<u>Middle schools</u>
1951	19.1	56.6	51.3
1952	20.5	57.1	56.1
1953	21.9	55.9	57.7
1954	-	58.8	60.7
1955	29.0	62.0	62.2
1956	34.1	64.1	66.0
1957	36.3	66.6	69.1
1958	48.0	77.0	75.2

Note: Data for students in institutes of higher learning include research students.

PROPORTION OF FEMALE STUDENTS TO TOTAL  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS  
(percentage of total in each category)

	<u>Institutes of higher learning</u>	<u>Technical middle schools</u>	<u>Middle schools</u>	<u>Primary schools</u>
Pre-liberation peak year	17.8	21.1	20.0	25.5
1949	19.8	-	-	-
1952	23.4	24.9	23.5	32.9
1957	23.3	26.5	30.8	34.5
1958	23.3	27.0	31.3	38.5

INCREASE IN KINDERGARTENS  
(thousands)

	<u>Number of kindergartens</u>	<u>Number of children in kindergartens</u>	<u>Number of teachers</u>
1. Absolute figures			
pre-liberation			
peak year	1.3	130	2
1950	1.8	140	2
1952	6.5	424	14
1957	16.4	1,088	42
1958	695.3	29,501	1,193
2. Index numbers			
(Pre-liberation			
peak year=100)			
1958	53,400	22,700	55,700
(1950=100)			
1958	38,600	21,000	69,200

## SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND PERSONNEL (1958)

		<u>Personnel (thousands)</u>	
	<u>Number of institutes</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Of which: research &amp; technical personnel</u>
TOTAL	848	118.6	32.5
Of which:			
Basic science	170	28.3	5.9
Industry and communications	415	59.2	14.7
Agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery	134	10.8	1.2
Medical science and public health	101	12.1	2.2

Note: Data cover the institutes of natural sciences and technology under the various ministries of the Central People's Government, provinces, municipalities directly under the central authority, autonomous regions, seven municipalities and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Institutes of philosophy, social sciences, literature and the arts are not included.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISSEMINATION  
OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE  
(thousand events)

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
Lectures	13.8	629.5	214,538
Exhibitions	0.5	15.8	79.9
Films and lantern slide shows	4.5	52.4	18.9



NUMBER OF CULTURAL HALLS, PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND  
MUSEUMS

	<u>Cultural halls</u>	<u>Public libraries</u>	<u>Museums</u>
1949	896	55	21
1950	1,693	63	22
1951	2,226	66	31
1952	2,448	83	35
1953	2,441	93	49
1954	2,392	93	46
1955	2,413	96	50
1956	2,584	375	67
1957	2,748	400	72
1958	2,616	922	360

Note: Data do not include the cultural halls, public libraries and museums in the people's communes.

GROWTH OF CINEMA INDUSTRY

	<u>Number of films produced or dubbed in Chinese</u>	<u>Film pro- jection units</u>	<u>Of which:</u>	
			<u>Cinemas</u>	<u>Projection teams</u>
1. Absolute figures				
1949	9	646	596	-
1952	43	2,282	746	1,110
1957	119	9,965	1,030	6,692
1958	178	12,579	1,386	8,384
2. Index numbers (1949=100)				
1952	477.8	353.3	125.2	100.0
1957	1,322.2	1,542.6	172.8	602.9*
1958	1,977.8	1,947.2	232.6	755.3*

\*1952=100.

## NUMBER OF DRAMATIC GROUPS AND THEATRES

	<u>Dramatic groups</u>	<u>Theatres</u>
1950	1,676	1,083
1952	2,017	1,562
1957	2,808	2,358
1958	3,162	2,620

INCREASE IN CIRCULATION OF PRINTED MATTER  
(million copies)

	<u>Newspapers</u>	<u>Journals</u>	<u>Books</u>
1. Absolute figures			
1950	797.5	35.3	274.6
1952	1,609.0	204.2	785.7
1957	2,442.4	315.0	1,278.0
1958	3,912.8	532.4	2,389.3
2. Index numbers (1950=100)			
1952	201.7	578.6	286.1
1957	306.3	892.3	465.4
1958	490.6	1,508.2	870.0

Note: Data cover only the newspapers, journals and books published at special administrative region level and above.

NUMBER OF WIRE BROADCASTING STATIONS AND  
LOUDSPEAKERS

	<u>Wire broadcasting stations</u>	<u>Loudspeakers (thousands)</u>
1949	8	0.5
1950	51	2.2
1951	183	6.1
1952	327	16.2
1953	541	31.8
1954	577	47.5
1955	835	90.5
1956	1,490	515.7
1957	1,700	993.2
1958	6,772	2,987.5

POPULARIZATION OF SPORTS AMONG THE MASSES  
(end of 1958)

Number of people who fulfilled physical culture requirements under the manual labour and national defence programme - - - - -	25,570,000
Number of qualified sportsmen - - - - -	4,106,000
Number of masters of sports (end of August 1959)- - -	1,044

NUMBER OF WORLD RECORDS CREATED  
(end of August 1959)

	<u>Number of people</u>	<u>Number of events</u>	<u>Number of records</u>
TOTAL	33	16	26
Weight-lifting	3	4	11
Swimming	2	1	3
Track and field events	1	1	1
Shooting	1	1	1
Parachute jumping	15	6	7
Mountain climbing	9	1	1
Model aeroplane flying	2	2	2

Note: By August 1959, 1,362 sportsmen had broken 2,805 national records in various events. All national records made before liberation have been broken.



DEVELOPMENT OF THE CULTURE OF THE NATIONAL  
MINORITY PEOPLES

	<u>Unit</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1958</u> (1952=100)	<u>1958</u> (1957=100)
Film projection units	num- ber	155	1,097	1,559	1,005.8	142.1
Of which:						
Cinemas	do	75	136	184	245.3	135.3
Projection teams	do	61	868	1,198	1,963.9	138.0
Newspapers (in minority languages)	thou- sand	29,330	24,340	39,800	135.7	163.5
Journals (in minority languages)	do	1,690	2,440	3,600	213.5	147.7
Books (in minority languages)	do	6,610	14,620	23,880	361.1	163.4