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Premier Li Keqiang and Indian Prime Minister Modi Attend Regional Forum

Zhang Min

The First Forum of Leaders of the Regions of China and India, co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA), was held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on May 15. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi gave addresses.

Premier Li expressed his congratulations on the launching of the Forum. China had made tremendous achievements since reform and opening up, based in large part on fully mobilizing the initiatives of both central and local governments. The Forum had a good theme, namely, “Smart City, Smart Living”.

As two developing countries with



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang addressing the forum

the largest populations, both China and India had great growth potential. Developing exchanges and coopera-

tion between their local governments to fully tap the wisdom of the two peoples would enable them to realize smart liv-



ing. The launching of the Forum was of historic significance and a good start to practical cooperation between the local governments that would activate the great vitality and potential of the two countries.

Prime Minister Modi said, the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of State/Provincial Leaders' Forum was the first agreement on cooperation at local government level the Indian Government had signed with another country, and was a significant event in bilateral relations. The Indian side attached great importance to it and was willing to discuss new opportunities for exchanges and cooperation between localities to elevate bilateral relations to new heights.

About 180 representatives from two municipalities directly under the Central Government, four provinces and four cities of China, and two states and four cities of India attended the Forum. They had in-depth discussions on sustainable urbanization and the role of localities in promoting a closer China-

India partnership. During the Forum, the CPAFFC and the Ministry of External Affairs of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Provincial/State Leaders' Forum, thus institutionalizing the exchanges.

Sichuan Province with Karnataka State, Chongqing with Chennai, Qingdao with Hyderabad, and Dunhuang with Aurangabad signed agreements on the establishment of friendship-city/province (state) relations, becoming the third batch of localities to sign such agreements between the two countries.

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin addressed the opening ceremony, saying the steady development of China-India

friendship-city relations and growing practical cooperation between various localities meant the Forum was being held at the perfect time. It would elevate the exchanges and cooperation between localities of the two countries to new heights. The CPAFFC would, as always, strengthen communication with Indian local governments to build a platform for expanding local exchanges and make joint efforts to promote com-



Indian Prime Minister Modi delivering a speech



Opening Ceremony of American Flying Tiger Guilin Heritage Park Held

Li Sanghua, Ba Cuicui, Jin Hanghang

On March 28, Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong attended the opening of the Flying Tiger Guilin Heritage Park in Guilin, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region whose construction started in July 2011.

Located at the former site of Yang Tang Airport, it has such historical relics as the Command Post Cave, Observing Stone of General Chennault, and aircraft bunkers. It is the only existing command post of the Flying Tigers in China. The American

Flying Tigers Historical Organization donated over 300 historic items, such as military uniforms, medals, and photos.



Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong and other distinguished guests visiting the exhibition of the American Flying Tiger Guilin Heritage Park

Over 300 Chinese and American guests were present at the opening ceremony, including Secretary Peng Qing-

hua of the CPC Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Regional Committee, Deputy Secretary General Jiang Xiaojuan

mon development through resource-sharing and complementing each other's advantages.

Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat State, said the launching of the Forum provided a rare historical opportunity for India-China exchanges at the local level. Indian states were paying high attention to developing friendly relations with China and were

willing to strengthen contacts and boost practical cooperation in all areas.

Among other attendees who spoke at the Forum were Beijing Mayor Wang Anshun, Chongqing Mayor Huang Qifan, Shandong Governor Guo Shuqing, Guangdong Governor Zhu Xiaodan, Sichuan Executive Vice Governor Wang Ning, Gansu Vice Governor Xia Hongmin, Qingdao Mayor Zhang Xinqi,

Chengdu Vice Mayor Liu Shoucheng, Kunming Vice Mayor Yang Bi, Dunhuang Mayor Jia Taibin, Chief Minister of Gujarat State Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister of Maharashtra State Devendra Fadnavis, Mayor of Ahmedabad Meenaxiben Patel, Mayor of Chennai Saidai Sa. Duraisamy, Acting Mayor of New Delhi Dharam Pal, and Municipal Administrator of Hyderabad Mr. Gopal. ■

of the State Council, Vice Minister Lu Xin of Education, Vice Minister Chen Gaihu of the State Ethnic Affairs Commission, Vice Minister Tan Tianxing of the State Council Overseas Chinese Affairs Office, Assistant Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguang, CPAFFC Vice President Xie Yuan, Secretary Zhao Leqin of the CPC Guilin Municipal Committee, Mayor Zhou Jiabin of Guilin, Chairman James Whitehead of the American Flying Tigers Historical Organization (FTHO) and Honorary FTTHO President Florence Fang, US Consul General in Guangzhou Jennifer Galt, Air Attaché Michael Marble of the US Embassy in China, 91-year-old Flying Tiger veteran J.V. Vinyard, General Chennault's daughter Cynthia Chennault and granddaughter Nell Calloway.

In her meeting with the key members of the US delegation before the opening ceremony, Vice Premier Liu said 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the Victory of the World's Anti-Fascist War and the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

Fighting side by side, China and the U.S. made great contributions to the final victory. The heroic deeds of the Flying Tigers and other aid-China American personages would always be remembered. "Though tremendous changes have taken place in the international situation, we are still faced with many common challenges. The cooperation between China and the U.S. is not only in the interests of the two peoples, but also bears important significance to the world peace and development."

CPAFFC Vice President Xie Yuan said: "The completion and the opening of the Flying Tiger Guilin Heritage Park is the best tribute to the history of

Chinese and American peoples fighting together against brutality and for justice and peace. The Chinese people will forever remember the valuable contributions made by the people of the world including the U.S. to the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. We shall work together to carry forward the spirit of cooperation and contribute to the building of a new model of China-US major country relationship."

Gen. Whitehead: "By dedicating the Flying Tiger Heritage Park, we are honoring the joint friendship of Americans and Chinese forged during the darkest days of WWII. The cooperative spirit is vital to the development of our bilateral relationship. The Chinese people have never forgotten the Flying Tigers, nor have the Flying Tigers forgotten the sacrifices made by the Chinese people."

He expressed gratitude to all lev-



CPAFFC Vice President Xie Yuan meeting with J. Vinyard, a Flying Tiger veteran

els of the Chinese governments for their great support to the project over the past nine years and hoped many Americans and Chinese would visit the heritage park to learn about and cherish the history and friendship between the two countries. He quoted from CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin's speech on the Chinese dream of happiness and peace, "The dream of peace is also the dream of the world. Working with joined hands to transcend the differences of civilizations is the only choice for us to realize our dreams."

After the opening ceremony, Chinese and American guests toured the park. ■

The entrance of the American Flying Tiger Guilin Heritage Park



My Friendship with the Flying Tigers

Jiang Yingshan

“I believe I owe a debt to the Chinese people... It’s so huge there’s no way I can pay it back.” This is what Flying Tigers pilot Glen Beneda said to his family time and again.

I have been working in the CPAFFC for over 10 years now, and my feelings for the Flying Tigers have deepened over time. I had heard of its WWII exploits as a child and I knew it was led by General Claire Chennault. I first came into direct contact with the organization in October 2002, less than three months after I joined the CPAFFC, when I was assigned to receive Rosemary Simrall and Nell Calloway, respectively the daughter and granddaughter of General Chennault during their visit to China. Though the visit lasted only five days, Rosemary’s eyes and chin, which looked so much like the photographs I had seen of General Chennault, and Nell’s southern American accent left a deep impression on me. Since then, Nell and I have occasionally exchanged emails and MSN dialogues, and even made phone calls. This constant contact has not only helped enhance my understanding of the Flying Tigers and General Chennault, but also deepened my feelings for this American family that has such a profound relationship with China.

Entrusted by the Chinese Government, the CPAFFC invited over 110 American World War II veterans and their families to visit China in the early autumn of 2005 to participate in the



Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong speaking at the opening ceremony

commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. Rosemary and her family were among them.

When visiting the Palace Museum in Beijing, the 77-year-old Rosemary had to use a wheelchair as she had some trouble walking. I helped maneuver her up and down the wheelchair ramps. On level ground, I sometimes pushed her round and round just for fun. At such times, we felt like members of the same family. For the rest of the visit, she would introduce me as her “Chinese grandson”, and so I had an “American granny” for the first time.

Flying Tigers veteran Glen Beneda was also among those invited. On May 6, 1944, Glen’s plane was hit by Japanese gunfire and crashed into a lake in Jianli County, Hubei Province. The 19-year-old pilot parachuted down and was rescued by local peasants, who then risked their lives to keep him away from the searching Japanese.

They managed to get him to the headquarters of the Fifth Division of the New Fourth Army headed by Li Xiannian. Undergoing 60 days of hardships and dangers, Glen Beneda was able to return safely to the American air base. In the process, he developed a profound friendship with Li Xiannian.

Sixty years later, during his visit to China, Glen Beneda, for the first time, met Li Xiaolin, daughter of Li Xiannian and then a Vice President of the CPAFFC, and many Chinese peasants who had taken part in his rescue as well as their children and grandchildren while revisiting Jianli County. Hundreds of people from different parts of the country came to see this American veteran pilot who had helped China in its resistance war.

It was a warm and moving scene when Glen and his rescuers were moved to tears as they embraced each other. A friendship renewed after six decades, which then created in Li Xiaolin’s mind the idea of filming a documentary about the story of Beneda and cooperation between China and the United States during WWII. This even-

tually appeared as *Touching the Tigers*.

For the filming, in October 2010, Glen defied nine heart bypass operations to visit China again with his family and see again those who had saved him. I accompanied the 11-member Beneda family on its visit to Beijing, Hubei and Shanghai. Taking into consideration of Glen's health conditions, we arranged for a doctor from the Beijing Hospital to accompany the delegation throughout the visit. It was also arranged for Glen and his wife to visit the site of the Headquarters of the Fifth Division of the New Fourth Army in Dawu County, instead of Jianli County that was further away. Three days after Glen returned home, he passed away.

Today, I still clearly remember that weekend five years ago when I looked at the unknown phone number of an incoming call on my mobile phone, wondering if I should accept the call. It was from Edward, the eldest son, informing me of the sad news. He consoled me, saying that his father's passing was a natural cause of old age, not because of the travel fatigue from his last China visit. Glen and other members of his family said many times that Glen's life had been given by the Chinese people and that without the Chinese military and civilians who risked their lives to save him, neither he nor his family could have enjoyed the happy life of the subsequent 60 years or so.

According to his last wishes, his widow Elinor and his two sons came to China and placed part of his ashes in the memorial park of the former residence of Li Xiannian in Hong'an County, Hubei Province in May 2011. At the ceremony, I, for the first time,

sang both the Chinese and US national anthems before a large number of Chinese and foreign guests as a way to bid him farewell. After the ceremony, Elinor came over to me. With tears in her eyes, she held my hands for quite a while. I had gained another "American granny".

Time flies. Now we are in 2015, the 70th anniversary of war victory.

The CPAFFC mounted an exhibition *For Justice and Peace — Photo Exhibition on China-US Cooperation in World War II* in Washington DC on June 24. The 94 photos on display were arranged in four parts, namely, *China and the United States in a Fight Against Fascism*, *Americans the Chinese Define as Heroes*, *The Friendship the Chinese and American Soldiers and Peoples Shared*, and *Salute to Friendship*, vividly representing the history of the military and civilians of the two countries fighting the enemy shoulder to shoulder and the profound friendship forged during the process.

When attending a recep-



General Chennault's daughter Rosemary and Flying Tiger pilot Glen Beneda at the reception marking the 60th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression

tion at the exhibition, Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong who was in the United State to chair the Sixth Round of China-US High-Level Consultation

The writer of the article taking part in mounting the exhibition



on People-to-People Exchanges said it would never be forgotten that over 70 years ago, a large number of American young pilots, with passion and sense of justice, came to China to join the unbending Chinese people to build a new Great Wall resisting Japanese aggression. According to incomplete statistics, during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, about 250,000 Chinese military and civilians took part in various actions to rescue American soldiers and many thousands died as a result; among the 18,000 American airmen aiding China in its resistance war, 2,193 Flying Tigers pilots died, but more than 200 escaped death with the help of Chinese military and civilians. American war veterans visiting the exhibition suggested that more of their compatriots should visit the exhibition so as to learn the unknown history of cooperation between China and the United States during WWII.

Looking at these photos at the exhibition, recalling different scenes in the documentary *Touching the Tigers*, and remembering the little things I shared with Rosemary and Glen Beneda during their visits in China, many thoughts and feelings passed through my mind. Though both of them have passed away, their smiling faces, the expression in their eyes, their love of China still touches me deeply.

I am fortunate to have chosen the path of people-to-people diplomacy, for along this path there are numerous such moving stories about people's friendship. In those days, to uphold justice and peace, a group of young Americans resolutely traveled to a country about which they probably knew little, where they fought fascist aggression together with the Chinese people. Today, it is my belief in making friends for the country, my high respect for the Flying Tigers and also my profound friendship with the families of General Chennault and Glen Beneda that make me determined to continue to do a good job and contribute something to the cause of people-to-people friendship. ■



Chen Yuan, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC and President of the CRFA, reading out President Xi Jinping's message of congratulations

Seventy years ago, a war broke out, engulfing around two billion people of more than 80 countries and regions, and causing an unprecedented catastrophe in human civilization. In this life-and-death struggle between justice and evil, the world anti-fascist forces including China and the Soviet Union fought shoulder to shoulder and finally won victory.

Both China and the Soviet Union made indelible historic contributions to the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War through great national sacrifices universally acknowledged. The Soviet army and people fought courageously in the main European theater under extreme conditions, beating back the German invaders and finally capturing Berlin, creating miracles one after another in the history of war. On the main battlefield of the anti-fascist war in the East, the unyielding Chinese army and people waged an extremely hard and bitter struggle against Japanese ag-

gressors, during which millions laid down their lives and wrote a glorious chapter in the valiant struggle.

Seventy years later, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin reached consensus to solemnly celebrate the 70th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War and the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression to remember the past and further the Sino-Russian strategic partnership of cooperation and friendship between the two peoples.

Accordingly, the China-Russia Friendship Association (CRFA) organized a series of activities this year. In early May, Chen Yuan, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and President of the CRFA, paid a goodwill visit to Russia, the second since assuming office last year.

On the morning of May 5, the

CRFA President Chen Yuan in Russia for Activities Marking 70th Anniversary of Victory of World Anti-Fascist War

Zheng Chen

CRFA and the Russia-China Friendship Association (RCFA) jointly held a commemorative meeting to review history, look into the future and cherish peace in the building of the Russian Academy of Sciences. CRFA President Chen addressed the meeting, and he and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor V. Morgulov respectively read out messages of congratulations from the two State leaders.

President Xi said it was of great importance that, 70 years on, “we jointly commemorate this great victory and cherish the memory of those Chinese and Russian martyrs who heroically sacrificed their lives to uphold justice, light and freedom. By marking the great victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and Russia’s Great Patriotic War we mean to remember history, honor the memory of the martyrs, cherish peace and create the future. To remember history is not to continue hatred, but to create a better future of lasting peace.”

He expressed the hope that this commemorative meeting would consolidate the traditional friendship cemented with blood and lives between the Chinese and Russian people, and that the people of China, Russia and

other countries would work together to create a better future of national rejuvenation and peace and progress of humanity.

President Putin said the Russian people would never forget the brave Chinese brothers who laid down their precious lives to win the common victory over fascism, and the Chinese people would always remember the officers and soldiers of the Soviet Army

who died in helping China fighting against Japanese aggressors.

It was unacceptable to distort history and glorify Nazis and their accomplices, for such behaviors were not only immoral, but dangerous, and would result in fresh conflicts and violence in the world. The present commemorative meeting would help the people of the world face up to history, remember the martyrs, cultivate patriotism and hu-

Military parade in Red Square



manism in young people, and enhance people's friendship.

Also speaking at the meeting were Chinese Ambassador to Russia Li Hui, CPAFFC Vice President Xie Yuan, Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Morgulov, and representatives of experts, scholars and war veterans of both countries. They recalled the brilliant history of the army and people of the two countries fighting the enemy side by side, stressed the importance of peace and stability to human development and progress, and expressed their wishes to work with joint efforts to promote development. Their heart-felt sincerity touched all present.

In Russia, an annual military parade is held on May 9, Victory Day, in Red Square. The Soviet army troops paraded before Stalin and other Soviet Party and government leaders, and carrying with them the blessings of their loved ones went straight to the Western front. They beat back the invaders and launched counter-offensives until winning final victory.

This year, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945), the parade was held on a much grander scale and was attended by President Xi Jinping and over 20 other leaders of countries and regions and heads of international organizations, with the participation of an honor guard of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) and military units from India, Mongolia and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The fact that CRFA President Chen Yuan watched the parade as an honored guest shows the respect the

Russian side has for him, the recognition of the contributions he has made to promoting China-Russia practical cooperation over the years, and the great importance it attaches to people-to-people friendship between China and Russia.

Chen Yuan said after the parade that he was fortunate to have witnessed this important historical moment and that President Xi's attendance and PLA honor guard's participation all reflected the extraordinary strategic partnership as well as high political and military mutual trust between the two countries. China's support for Russia in its celebration would inject new vitality into uplifting the level of bilateral cooperation.

Chen Yuan's visit to Russia, from a non-governmental perspective, passed the message of peace and friendship and consolidated the social and public support for bilateral relations, while at the same time set off a warm atmosphere for Chinese

President Xi Jinping's visit to Russia. Whether attending the commemorative meeting, or watching military parade at the Red Square, we saw from the faces of everyone we came into contact — veterans who had fought in the war or children who spontaneously saluted the veterans — their gratitude and happiness for today's peaceful life.

Past experience can serve as a guide for the future. It is to create a better future that we review history. As peace and development remain the main themes of our times, China and Russia should work together to safeguard peace and promote development. Only thus can they live up to the service and sacrifice of the martyrs; can the aims of the UN Charter "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to humankind" be truly reflected and the better future of "live together in peace with one another as good neighbors" be realized at an early date. ■

The commemorative meeting in session



Chinese and Russian Artists Commemorate 70th Anniversary of Victory of World Anti-Fascist War

Yao Youchao

A large-scale song and dance drama *Victory in 1945* made its debut in Moscow on May 26. It was sponsored by the China-Russia Friendship Association (CRFA) and jointly presented by the China Coal Mine Art Troupe (CCMAT) and the Russian Alexandrov Red Flag Song and Dance Ensemble.

Seventy years ago, the Soviet Union and China won victory in their Great Patriotic War and War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. Many sons and daughters of the Chinese nation fought dauntlessly, while lots of friends from the Soviet Union sacrificed their lives in the Anti-Japanese War.

On the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Victory of the World Anti-Fascist War, commemorating these war heroes not only demonstrates the traditional friendship between China and Russia, but also serves as a powerful impetus to world peace and stability.

In early 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping said at the Sochi Winter Olympics that he and President Vladimir Putin had decided to co-organize activities to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of victory.

To carry out the decision made by



Tan Zhonghui guarding the tomb of Captain G. Kulishenko

the heads of the two countries, further develop Sino-Russian relations and strengthen cultural and art exchanges, the CRFA decided that a special song and dance drama be produced for the occasion.

The drama, with “Keeping Watch on the Home, Standing Guard for Peace and Singing Praises of Heroes and Sublime” as the main themes, tells the touching story of Gregory Kulishenko, Captain of a Soviet bomber squadron, who died a hero’s death in a mission when assisting China fighting Japanese invaders, and Tan Zhonghui, a Chinese woman worker, and her son, who have guarded his tomb for over five decades.

The show presents a grand picture of the Chinese and Russian people supporting each other and fighting side by side against invaders.

Chinese and Russian artists selected classic songs about majestic historical events or about soul-stirring legendary heroes to express the feelings of the times. The drama opened with a scene of a jubilant wedding in China, but as Japanese bombers suddenly attacked, houses were destroyed and people started to flee. Then came the first song and dance. With expressive dance movements, young performers vividly depicted the miserable plight of people who were forced to leave their homes

to head for northeast China. The song *On The Songhua River* sung by Mou Xuanfu, Deputy Head of the CCMAT, took the audience back to those heart-rending times. When the dancers called out: “Mum and Dad, when can we happily get together?”, emotion poured out, bringing the song to its climax.

The Sacred War, a song of the Great Patriotic War popular with both the Chinese and Russian people, was jointly performed by artists of the two countries in a new form. It best commemorates the history of WWII. In late June 1941, Germany launched a blitzkrieg on the Soviet Union. The Soviet army rose in defense but suffered repeated setbacks and heavy casualties. Numerous cities and villages were destroyed by the German artillery fire, and hundreds of big and medium-sized cities fell into the enemy’s hands.

At this critical moment, Alexander Vasilievich Alexandrov, first director of the Red Flag Song and Dance

Ensemble, wrote *The Sacred War* overnight to inspire the fighting spirit of the Soviet people. The song soon rang throughout the country. Soviet soldiers fought bravely and tenaciously and held back the enemy’s attack, and finally launched an offensive for final victory.

Artists of both countries were very creative in the production of this drama. The members of the Red Flag Song and Dance Ensemble stood in a square formation, while the dancers of the CCMAT, with the help of multimedia technology, played the Soviet soldiers who came off from the memorial reliefs at the Red Square, holding high the red flag and finally planting it on the Reich Chancellery in Berlin.

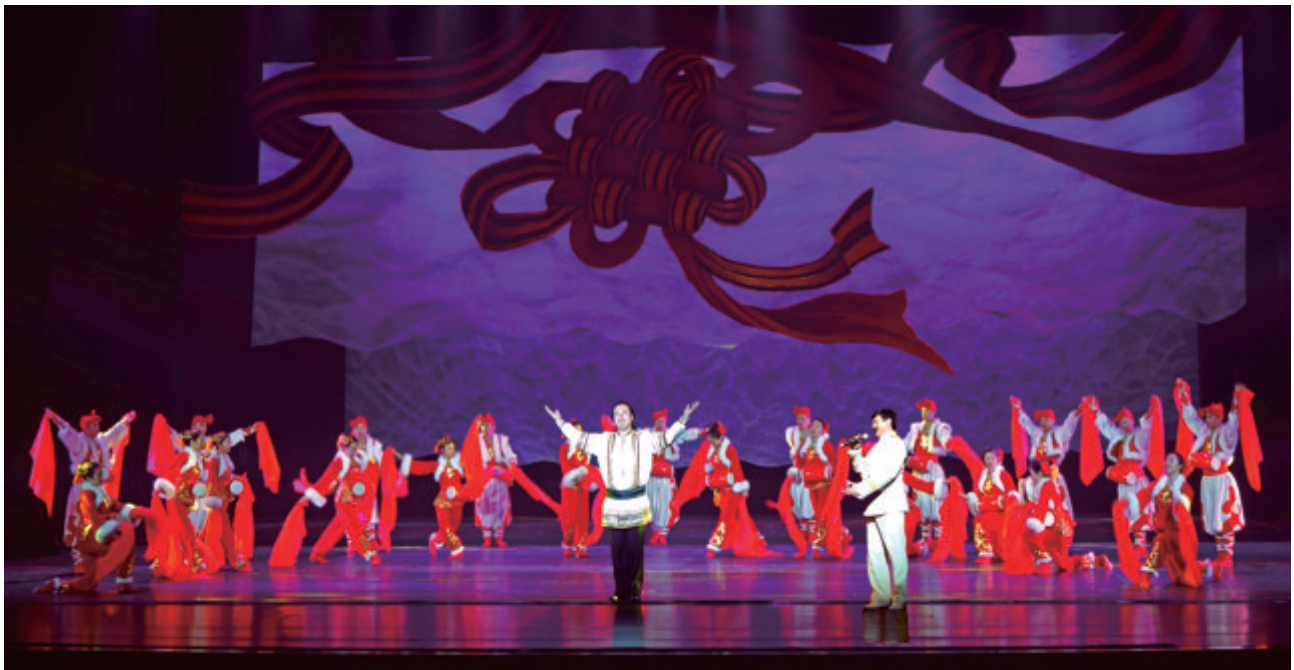
With concise and clear body language, the dancers presented the cruelty of war and the triumph of justice.

With multimedia technology, precious historical images blended with the stage performance and the intro-

duction of various forms of performing arts such as vocal music, dance, ballad singing, drama, recitation, acrobatics, sand animation, instrumental music performance, etc. produced a spectacular effect.

The Russian Army Theatre with a capacity of about two thousand seats was packed on the evening of May 26. The audience responded warmly and applauded enthusiastically, and many were moved to tears when watching the drama being unfolded. Many of them were reluctant to leave after the performance.

Having watched the show, Li Hui, Chinese Ambassador to Russia, spoke highly of it, saying that the drama, through songs and dances reflected the support the people of China and Russia gave each other during the war and depicted the unity between the people and the army of the two countries in fighting the enemy and the fraternal friendship between them. ■



Some Thoughts on a Report Written 70 Years Ago

Richard Frey Jr. (Germany)

This is a report my father, Dr. Richard Frey, wrote to the China Aid Council in the United States in March 1945 to seek international assistance for the military and civilians of the border area. It was written after he started to work in Yan'an after leaving the Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei anti-Japanese front, a place he would never forget all his life.

In this report, he gave a personal account of the conditions and the medical treatment and teaching at the Bethune Medical School between the end of 1941 and the end of 1944, showing the extreme shortage of doctors and medicines and teaching materials and teaching tools in the medical school.

He also wrote about the heroism of the Eighth Route Army officers and soldiers and exposed the brutal crimes committed by the Japanese invaders.

A year later, Dr. Frey received several batches of medicine, medical equipment, medical textbooks and other materials from other countries, which, to some extent, eased the shortage in an area devastated during the eight years of anti-Japanese war.

On the occasion of commemorating the 70th anniversary of the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, *Voice of Friendship* is publishing excerpts of the report,



The writer of the article with his father at the Great Wall in Beijing in the early 1970s

the Chinese version of which has been translated by Ms. Zhang Lizhen of the Editorial Board. I would like to express my thanks to Editor-in-Chief Wang Hong and Ms. Zhang. I also wish to take this opportunity to commemorate this memorable day together with my late father.

It has been 70 years since the Chinese people won the war. However, we should never forget that time when China fought for independence, freedom and justice, and this protracted and cruel war that not only brought untold sufferings to the Chinese people but also to the people of Japan.

Regrettably, the Japanese government has still not yet deeply reflected on its history of aggression, although the people of China, as well as other Asian countries have been more than generous in their attitude to a nation that had committed war atrocities, especially when we compare it with the post-war punishment European countries meted out to Germany. Both Chinese and Japanese people and scholars should ask the question: why does the Japanese government takes such an attitude towards past aggression?

Three generations of the Frey family suffered persecution during the Nazi occupation. Since the end of WWII, successive German governments on assuming power have publicly made clear that the first item on the agenda is to bear the historical responsibility and take it as a lesson for society so as to prevent history from repeating itself. This has been fully shown from the famous kneeling down by German Chancellor Willy Brandt at a Warsaw memorial in 1970 to the present German President Joachim Gauck's remarks: "It still holds true that there is no German identity without Auschwitz. Remembering the Holocaust remains a matter for every citizen of Germany." In Germany today, we can see the xenophobia of ultra-Right groups and

resurgent neo-Nazism. When they do anything unconstitutional, apart from government intervention, more people and civic groups will organize themselves spontaneously to oppose their wrongful acts.

Also in Austria, a book *Memory* in commemoration of those persecuted by the Nazis during WWII will be published by the National Fund this year. *Cherishing the Memory of My Father*, an article I wrote last year to mark the 10th anniversary of his death and published in *Voice of Friendship*, together with a number of historic photos will be included in the book. Austrian President Heinz Fischer specially wrote an article recalling the life of Dr. Frey for the book.

History is about past events. It exists whether you acknowledge it or not. Only by recognizing facts and history can there be peace and a bright future of peaceful coexistence among the world's people and neighboring countries, especially for later generations of countries that suffered humiliation.

It is the aspirations of both the Chinese and Japanese people to build a new-type relationship between neighbors featuring peace, mutual assistance and win-win result. Arms expansion, forming alliance and confrontation, which are politicians' shortsighted views of the moment, offer no way out.

May China and Japan maintain a good-neighborly relationship of lasting friendship!

Written on June 20, 2015



Dr. Richard Frey preparing lessons with the typewriter of the late Canadian doctor Norman Bethune

Before finally leaving occupied territory I had paid two visits to the Border Region. In the summer of 1940 I paid a short visit to East Hopei (Hebei) and helped to treat some wounded. In the summer of 1941 I wished to go to work in the liberated area but couldn't proceed as a Japanese offensive was in progress. I finally left the occupied area in December 1941.

After I left Peiping I went to P'inghsi (Pingxi) headquarters. I stayed at the P'inghsi headquarters for a week or two and then went on to Chin-Cha-Chi (Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei) headquarters. Here General Nieh asked me to teach at Bethune Medical School and so after about a week at headquarters I went back there. At that time the school was at Ko Kung, a big village about 25 miles from the front where I stayed altogether for about three years. When I arrived the total of teachers, nurses, workers and students approximated a thousand. In the same village

was the main International Peace Hospital. After staying there for about two weeks to get acquainted with the situation I was asked to start teaching the advanced class.

The background of the class was below that of the average western student. The average was only middle school standard, but since they had had three years of study and practical work before the advanced class started it was possible to do advanced work with them. Teaching was very difficult at first as my Chinese at that time was not good. I had to write everything out and have translated all the words I did not know. As a result it took about eight hours to prepare one hour's lecture and I had six lectures per week. Because the school had never been able to get any new books, they knew little of recent developments, nothing about sulfa drugs and little about atabrine, etc. To begin my course, therefore, I concentrated on recent developments in medicine.

At that time the ordinary course for army doctors and surgeons lasted two years with an additional six months of practical work. There were also courses for pharmacists and dispensers and one-year courses for nurses whose primary school background was even lower than that of the medical students. It was necessary therefore to give special pre-medical training. There were classes in anatomy, physiology, histology, pathology, bacteriology, clinical diagnosis, and pharmacology and also a few courses in chemistry, physics and mathematics. On the average each subject was taught from 50 to 150 hours. Regular medical and

A Report on Medical Conditions in Chin-Cha-Chi Border Region

March 1945, Yan'an

(Excerpts)

Dr. Richard Frey (Austria)

surgical training carried courses on eye, ear, nose and throat diseases, on skin and venereal diseases, and there were a few on obstetrics and gynecology. Only the advanced class had any pediatrics.

The work of the school is made difficult by its very limited budget which means a shortage of simple materials like paper and ink for both students and teachers and also a shortage of books. The latest book is a 1940 Review of Medicine. Most of the books were published in 1935 or 1936. Because there were no modern medical journals, I have been translating while in Yanan some articles from recent American journals and sending them out. Though the school has a fair number of elementary books they are irreplaceable and thus have to be kept hidden away most of the time. They are taken out only when specially needed because of the difficulty in hiding books securely if there is a sudden Japanese attack.

New students come to the school with absolutely no knowledge of medicine but after two or three years they have a fairly good idea of all the important subjects. Teaching is concentrated on what will have practical value. Diseases not found in North China are not taught. Those found are taught

very thoroughly. A great deal of time is spent on malaria, typhoid, relapsing fever, and war surgery. After graduating from school, students are sent to the front or to one of the sub-district hospitals where they work another six months under the supervision of qualified doctors.

Medical work is very much limited on account of a shortage of instruments and medicines. Even simple

things like stethoscopes and thermometers are so scarce that some doctors have trained themselves to work without a stethoscope. Every two months each doctor gets a copy of a journal put out by the medical advisory committee of the Border Region. This journal is mimeographed and contains articles on current subjects and methods of overcoming difficulties. It is mostly written by the teachers at the school.

Indian doctor Dwarkanath Kotnis who had come to assist the Chinese people in its war of resistance died of illness in 1942. The photo shows, from left, his wife Guo Qinglan, his son Yinhua, Dr. Frey, Yin Xipeng, Chen Qiyuan, and Jiang Yizhen paying last respects.





Dr. Frey giving medical treatment to an Eighth Route Army soldier at the front in 1942

When I first arrived at the school, Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis was still superintendent. Under his supervision a number of more or less well-trained surgeons were graduated. His attitude towards work and his friendship and understanding for his Chinese friends as well as his hatred of the Japanese made an unforgettable impression on all those who met him. Unfortunately he died in December 1942, from an attack of epilepsy and left his wife, (a former PUMC nurse) and a small baby. His death was a great loss, not only to the school, but to the entire Eighth Route Army. He did magnificent work and saved many lives.

The staff members of the school are all educated doctors or surgeons and most of them take part in the practical work of the hospital. Although the International Peace Hospital is the best equipped and staffed of the entire region, its equipment is worse than anyone would suspect. The instruments

brought by Dr. Bethune in 1938, still in use, are practically the only ones available. Medicine is for the most part locally manufactured.

The IPH does not look like a hospital but like ordinary village houses. There are five sets of wards: medical, surgical, infectious diseases, obstetric, and eye. The patients lie on kangas. There is a laboratory with three microscopes (shared with the school) but equipment is very scarce. For example there

is a shortage of dyes, and, recently, it has become virtually impossible to get new supplies from occupied territory. There are also an operating room, a dental office and an OPD. The outpatient department which gives both treatment and medicine free handles about 100 patients per day. There is an X-ray but no generator, and it can thus be used only at the nearest arsenal. Even then, operation with an interrupter from a direct current dynamo is not very reliable.

Most of the medical patients have malaria, relapsing fever, gastroenteritis or intestinal disturbances while the surgical department handles all kinds of wounds. The kinds and numbers of operations are limited by the instruments available. Cotton, gauze, and even catgut are all made locally.

Every year I went to the front for two or three months on a tour of inspection and so obtained an opportunity to see the conditions under which

Bethune Medical School students have to work after graduation. It really takes a good doctor to work under the conditions at the front with no laboratory, no X-ray, and usually not even a stethoscope or thermometers. In spite of all these difficulties they usually manage to make correct diagnoses. The doctors at the front are all very eager to study and learn and during each trip I spent a considerable time teaching and lecturing.

Besides a shortage of instruments and apparatus, there is also very little medicine. For example most of the people have malaria every year. With a total population of 19,000,000, there are only 30 to 50 lbs. of quinine available.

During the past two years we have been experimenting with other methods of malaria treatment and have come to the conclusion that quinine, even in sufficient amounts, is not an adequate treatment for chronic malaria. On the other hand, we have found that old Chinese methods, used for centuries, have some effect and so we have made considerable use of acupuncture. We use an ordinary needle, disinfect the skin and prick it in selected places. We have been able to prevent most attacks and have saved hundreds of pounds of quinine. Both civilians and soldiers have been taught these methods and quite a number of peasants are now able to give treatment to their neighbors in the absence of doctors.

Acupuncture is done two or three hours before the attack. Pricks about 2 mm. deep are made between the seventh cervical vertebra and the first dorsal and between the 6th and 7th dorsal vertebrae. After pricking the skin the

place is massaged and one or two drops of blood squeezed out. Checking this method by microscopic examination we found that, after acupuncture the parasites disappear from the blood or definitely decrease in number in about 70% of the patients. At the same time there was also a certain increase in white blood cells. This is the outline of one method but there are other Chinese methods which have had some effect.

The results of this nervous irritation method stimulated me to make further investigation of similar treatments and during my stay at the school I worked on the problem for two years. The work, based on the theories suggested in Speransky's *A Basis for the Theory of Medicine*, often had astonishing results and hard to explain by ordinary theories. For example, I treated some cases of gastric ulcer by an injection of novocaine as sympathetic lumbar block. Patients who had been vomiting blood for a number of years were cured by this treatment and up to the time I left the school, about two years after the treatment, there had been no relapses. By injecting novocaine into the tissue surrounding the kidney we treated three cases of Reynaud's disease, which cleared up entirely. The gangrene stopped spreading and all three cases recovered losing only some minor functional ability. Two cases of allergic dermatitis have also been treated effectively by this method.

Another method is spinal pumping. Spinal fluid is drawn out and pumped in ten to twenty times and finally 10 to 12 cc. withdrawn. This method has been effectively used in two cases of epilepsy where it not only prevented the onset of the fit but also

brought about an amelioration of the attacks. Attacks which used to last one or two hours after treatment lasted only five to ten minutes. Surgical diseases like ulcers of the leg and affection of the lower abdomen have been treated by the lumbar block method with some success. This treatment was also effective in cases of neuralgia. Because of conditions at the front, research work cannot be well systematized. With offensives once or twice a year you do not often see patients again. Though there were some failures, this kind of irritation treatment seems to have a definite future and I hope to be able to do some more work on it at Yen-an.

The lack of supplies has been overcome to some extent by our own drug factories in Chin-Cha-Chi which have been able to produce limited amounts of such drugs as bicarbonate of soda, sodium sulphate, magnesium sulphate, etc. as well as various Chinese herb medicines. We have not been able to produce any sulfa drugs and they cannot be obtained at all.

At the front many wounds become infected because of a lack of even simple drugs like iodine and mercurochrome. The most seriously wounded get septicæmia which is treated with intravenous rivanol, mercurochrome or dye preparations. We are

certainly losing many men from a lack of sulfa drugs. Operations are difficult at the front because of a lack of haemostats. A regiment usually has only three or four and these are often old and rusty. We have not been able to make them locally. Amputations have to be performed sometimes with a carpenter's saw and an ordinary knife. Sterilization is not very effective because we can use only the type of steamer employed for making Chinese bread. Locally made instruments comprise scissors, knives and dissection forceps. Because we have no X-ray equipment many fracture cases cannot regain the use of their limbs and thus the proportion of cripples is high. The only methods for treating fractures are Thomas splints, plaster of Paris, and, more recently, skeletal traction.

At the front I took part in several engagements and had an opportunity to check the work of field units. When

Dr. Frey test firing a small steel cannon captured from the Japanese at the front



attacking enemy forts it is usually possible to find a sheltered spot two or three miles from the fighting to which the wounded can be brought for treatment. Local peasants carry back both the wounded and the dead from the front. As there are no roads, stretchers are the only method of transport except for the lightly wounded who can sometimes ride. In the engagements in which I took part most of the wounds were the results of hand grenade or bayonet wounds and there was hand-to-hand fighting. Because of a lack of cartridges the army prefers close range fighting. All these wounds were badly infected and, since there were no sulfa drugs, convalescence was protracted. On a very few occasions I was able to give blood transfusions but only because I carried a microscope with me. There was no plasma and the only way of treating shock was by saline injection. There was not enough glucose and even the salt was locally made.

It was usually possible to give treatment within one to six hours but, the lack of instruments made it almost impossible to save abdominal cases. Surgery was mostly debridement, extraction of foreign bodies, and amputations. We have been trying to find ways of saving abdominal cases but there are not enough haemostats, no microscopes and no quick ways of getting patients out of shock. Doctors and first aid men at the front not only have to do medical work but also often have to join in the fighting. A considerable number have been killed. There have been several instances when doctors have stayed with the wounded trying to save them from the enemy and finally have committed suicide to save themselves from cap-

ture. Most people prefer suicide to capture because of the bad treatment of prisoners.

At the front I treated a number of poison gas casualties. One time the enemy used some kind of corrosive gas but I saw the wounded soon enough to prevent ulceration of the skin and the lung lesions therefore healed up pretty fast. Since our troops have practically no protection against gas the enemy of course uses it. All that can be provided is face gauze with charcoal and lime in it, but this is not very effective.

During 1943 we had a big enemy “mopping-up” campaign. We had to break up the school and hospital entirely. The patients were hidden in caves in the mountains and the students were distributed among the local population. I myself was moving with a non-fighting unit composed of teachers and medical workers. The Japanese were attacking the entire Pei Yueh region in the longest and cruelest campaign ever experienced in Chin-Cha-Chi. The local population suffered especially. Not only were houses burned and animals and food carried off or destroyed but many women were raped, and every kind of atrocity was inflicted on the population. Babies were thrown into boiling water and enemy doctors vivisectioned pregnant women. There were definite proofs of cannibalism — eat-



Dr. Frey and Michael Lindsay in the border area in 1942

ing hearts and livers. (I personally interviewed several peasants and soldiers who had escaped.)

During this mopping-up campaign, conditions were difficult for a nonfighting unit but we had only one or two casualties. The entire hospital moved into the mountains. The patients were divided into small groups with a doctor and a few nurses in charge of each. The patients were mostly hidden in caves and provided with some rifles and hand grenades. The doctors and nurses had to give the patients ordinary treatment and defend them. The caves were mostly on steep mountain sides where the enemy did not often dare attack them. In some cases the enemy used gas against them (smoke gas) but without success. One doctor was awarded the title of hero for his magnificent work. By day he treated his patients, helped nurses prepare food and he carried it to the caves. At night he kept watch on the mountain peak or stayed by the telephone to get news of the enemy. Several times when he got news he managed to notify all the patients and nurses though the caves were

miles apart involving continuous mountain climbing. In one case the Japanese discovered a cave with two wounded patients and a nurse. They sent a puppet to demand surrender but the nurse said, "We have a rifle with five rounds of ammunition and hand grenades. If you try to get in we will use them." The Japs forced puppets to attack but none escaped alive. Finally in the evening the enemy went away.

The unit I was with always managed to avoid the enemy though we were one of their special objectives but we were bombed once or twice. Once in the Shen Hsien Mountains we were surrounded by ten thousand enemy troops. We managed to get out at night passing within 50 meters of the enemy at one place.

During this mopping-up campaign the hospital service was naturally more

or less limited to changing dressings and giving medicines. Each hospital had an operating unit so that urgent cases could be operated on.

During this campaign students were distributed among the local population. They were given some medicine with which they could treat the people who in turn were responsible for their safety. All the members of the schools and the hospital stayed within a radius of 50 miles and we could therefore get together again quite quickly when the campaign was victoriously ended. Even during the campaign we managed to keep contact with groups of students and to continue some discussions with an occasional lecture. In previous "mopping-ups" the school had travelled together as a unit and teaching had been continued, but this time conditions were too difficult.

In the autumn of 1944, after nearly three years of work, I left Chin-Cha-Chi and took one month to make a 700-mile journey.

Conversations with the leaders of the Eighth Route Army and in the cave city of Yen-an have made a deep impression on me. Although life in Yen-an is different from life at the front I find it very interesting. Still I hope to be back at the front soon. In the meantime I am lecturing at the medical school here and brushing up my rusty medical knowledge by reading new American journal. These are personal gifts of American doctors and other friends such as those of the China Defense League and China Aid Council who have been here on visits and taken an interest in our work.

At present I am spending most of my time in culturing penicillin. ■

Dr. Frey (at the back) with his students at the Bethune Medical School



The China Campaign Committee: 1937-1945

Dr. Jenny Clegg (The United Kingdom)

The China Campaign Committee rallied the British people in solidarity with China's struggle Against Japanese aggression throughout the years of 1937-1945. Set up in the autumn of 1937, its chair was Victor Gollancz, with Dorothy Woodman as secretary, and the Labour politician, Lord Listowel, as President. My father, a recent graduate of the London School of Economics, who had been following developments in China since the age of 16, swiftly joined. In early 1938 became National Organiser. With the esteemed academic and Quaker, Margery Fry, serving as vice-Chair, the CCC took shape.

The CCC was formed amidst a wave of public outrage as newsreels of the horrific bombing and destruction of the Japanese caused great humanitarian concern throughout Britain. Labour MP, Philip Noel-Baker described the atmosphere during four nights of open air meetings on the streets of Derby in September 1937: "I found that the Chinese war was the only subject that reduced a street full of people, from children to grey beards, to a silence in which you could have heard a pin drop".

There were a number of groups involved in calling for relief of distress in China and for the government to take action to deter Japan from continuing its aggression. Within the CCC, those who had stood up for China's independence, namely, the Friends of the Chinese People (FOCP), joined with those who had been organising in the defence of peace, especially the Union

of Democratic Control (UDC) and the International Peace Council (IPC). Victor Gollancz's Left Book Club, which had just published Edgar Snow's *Red Star over China*, and rapidly sold over 100,000 copies would also play a pivotal role. Whilst the FOCP, set up in 1935 by the British section of the League Against Imperialism (LAI) was relatively short lived, and the IPC also newly formed in 1936 to oppose the growing drift to war in Europe, the UDC, set up after the end of WW1 to oppose secrecy in diplomacy and international treaties, was better established with a base amongst the left wing of the Labour and Liberal parties.

The CCC was flooded with demands for speakers from peace groups, women's groups, churches, trade union and local political party branches. Reaction soon developed into acts of solidarity with China's cause, growing first from the trade union grassroots. During the winter months of 1937/8, dockers in Southampton, Middlesbrough and London took spontaneous action, refusing to handle Japanese cargoes. The CCC gave support. When the *Haruna Maru* departed from London without its cargo, this was a victory for the dockers' action. But it cost them their pay and a few, even their jobs.

Despite considerable sympathy for China across the House of Commons, appeasement tendencies within the government remained strong. The CCC joined the call for an international boycott of Japanese goods, campaign-

ing for the British government to embargo arms and finance for Japan and give aid to China. From late 1937, a consumer boycott of Japanese silk stockings was to be one of its main activities. The campaign had a popular appeal and spread widely as it mobilised women and gained the support of the British Cooperative movement. There were letters in the press—local, national and in women's weekly magazines; there were lobbies of Parliament; a march to the Japanese embassy; rallies in Trafalgar Square; and under the pressure, five major London stores declared themselves in favour of a boycott. February 1938 saw CCC's first China Week marked by 60 meetings, 80 poster parades in London alone and 200 in the country, with thousands of leaflets distributed. All these activities evidently had a deterrent effect as imports of Japanese silk clearly declined in value in 1938.

Another key strand of the CCC's activities was relief work. Aid for medical and other purposes was sent to Chinese Red Cross and the China Defence League in Hong Kong. Together with the IPC, the CCC helped in the establishment of the International Peace Hospitals in the liberated areas in July 1938. There were five in all, including the well-known Bethune International Peace Hospital. Through a China medical aid committee set up under Lord Horder, the CCC helped to arrange for refugee doctors, who had served the anti-fascist cause in Spain, to be sent

China to assist the Chinese Red Cross military medical services. The CCC also raised funds to support the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives and the Bailie schools set up by Rewi Alley,

News of CPC-KMT united resistance, with victories of both sides reported widely by the CCC, gave great hope to the peace and anti-fascist movements in Britain, stiffening their opposition to appeasement. Wuhan became the new “Madrid” and, with China fighting on, the demand for CCC speakers was ceaseless. Between September 1937 and March 1940, it organised nearly three thousand meetings and distributed over one million leaflets calling for Aid China. The consumer boycott reached a peak in February 1939 and a “China Sunday” in July 1939, which gained support from the churches, was to be the most publicised of all the CCC events. Both Mme Sun Yatsen and Mao Zedong sent messages at this time.

With the outbreak of war in Europe in September 1939, the CCC remained active although the boycott campaign, for example, could not be maintained. Even though Britain itself was now at war, the influence of appeasement in the government continued. When the Burma Road was closed for three months in July 1940, there was a public outcry: trades councils and Labour Party branches passed protest resolutions and, despite air raids — the Battle of Britain had started — within two weeks, a CCC petition demanding that the government open the road had gained some half a million supporters. Before the three months was up, the figure had risen to over one and a quarter million.

The CCC worked within a diverse milieu, with branches up and down the

country.

It built support among peace activists and humanitarians; committed anti-fascists, anti-imperialists and Communists; Labour and Liberal party members; trade unionists, women’s organisations, and those with a passion for Chinese culture. At the same time, it was highly successful in reaching out across the political spectrum and beyond, to religious, business and cultural groups.

The CCC issued numerous pamphlets, papers and reports; it organised weekend schools and held important conferences; and there was even a 10-week study programme on China. It built up contacts in Holland, Belgium, France, the US, Indonesia, Australia, and South Africa, becoming a world centre for the collection and distribution of information about the Aid China movement.

The defence of Chinese culture — the qualities of the old and the emergence of the new — played an important part in the campaigning. Exhibitions, plays and films were constant features of the CCC’s work. So was the effort to counter popular perceptions of the Chinese as a race of laundrymen and chop suey waiters, promoting instead images of Chinese pilots, technicians and liberated women.

Following the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbour and Hong Kong, the call on the CCC for speakers and information reached another peak. With Britain now in the Asian theatre of war and China an ally, the government had to commit more seriously to aid. A British United Aid to China Fund (BUACF), chaired by Lady Stafford Cripps was formed. It represented a coalition of religious, business and humanitarian or-

ganisations, and with backing from the Labour movement, the trade unions and the cooperative movement, it was able to raise considerable funds. The CCC joined forces to assist the fundraising but continued its own campaigning to spread news of the situation in China, including information about the 8th Route Army, whilst calling for the end of extra-territoriality, including the return of Hong Kong to China.

With around 150 local committees, the BUACF offered a structure which allowed the CCC to reach a wider audience: around one million people saw the CCC’s travelling exhibition on China between October 1942 and March 1944. However, the BUACF was not good at upholding United Front principles, and despite being a non-political body, channelled the bulk of funding to the Chinese government. Within the BUACF, the CCC endeavoured to see that funds went to both the KMT and CPC sides. However, the difficulties were compounded by the KMT blockade of the Liberated Areas, and between 1941 and 1944, it was particularly difficult to get aid through to the International Peace Hospitals and the industrial cooperatives in the Liberated Areas.

For activists like my father, the war in Asia was a war of liberation and the victory of the Allies in 1945 was not the end of it. The CCC continued up to 1949 to publish information about the unfolding events in China, lobbying politicians to prepare to recognise the establishment of the PRC.

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Dr. Jenny Clegg is Vice-President of Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding.

20th Anniversary of Sino-Japanese Joint Project of Rebuilding Old Nanjing City Wall Marked

Shen Haiting

On the morning of May 15, a commemorative meeting marking the 20th anniversary of the launching of the China-Japan cooperative project of rebuilding the old city wall of Nanjing was held to “remember history, safeguard peace, enhance friendship and jointly create a better future”.

It was jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), the Jiangsu Provincial People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (JPPAFFC) and the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA) of Japan. CPAFFC Vice President Lin Yi, JPPAFFC President Wu Xijun, Nanjing Vice Mayor Chu Yonghong, and JCFA Vice President Tetsuo Sakai delivered speeches.

Over 400 people, including delegations of JCFA Headquarters and local branches, friendly personages and representatives of various circles of both countries, university students in Nanjing, and about 100 Japanese university students were present at the meeting, which also marked the 70th anniversary of the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

It was 20 years ago that Ikuo Hirayama, then JCFA President, together with the Chinese side initiated the project of rebuilding the old city wall of Nanjing — partly destroyed by Japanese invaders in 1937-8 — with the aims of preserving and restoring cultur-



al relics and historical sites, healing the wounds of war and aspiring for lasting peace.

In her speech, Lin Yi expressed thanks to personages of various circles for their long-term painstaking efforts and hard work for the project. It had not only restored a war-torn cultural heritage but had built a great wall of peace and friendship in the hearts of both peoples.

Lin said: “The year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the victory of the world’s anti-fascist war and the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. In recent years, Sino-Japanese relations have followed a tortuous path, from which we have drawn profound lessons. To pro-

perly address historical issues and other problems concerning the political base of Sino-Japanese relations is the key to maintaining long-term stable bilateral ties.”

She hoped that through recalling the past the people of the two countries, especially youth, would better understand the importance of peace to both countries, become involved in the cause of Sino-Japanese friendship and make unremitting efforts for the lofty goal of peaceful coexistence, mutually beneficial cooperation, common development and lasting friendship.

Tetsuo Sakai said 1995 was the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The then Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama

released the “Murayama Statement” based on a Cabinet decision, expressing deep remorse and profound regret to the people of China, Korea and other Asian countries for the tremendous disasters and unbearable wartime sufferings Japan had caused. “The Murayama Statement” and JCFA President Hirayama’s initiative on rebuilding the old city wall of Nanjing were just right for marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the war.

The “Abe Statement”, to be delivered on August 15 this year on the occasion of the 70th anniversary, would surely attract world attention. The Japanese people expected it would inherit wholly the spirit of the “Murayama Statement” as all previous Japanese prime ministers had done, and hoped the meeting between the heads of state of Japan and China would be continued smoothly.

Wu Xijun and Chu Yonghong said the significance of the joint project went far beyond protection of cultural heritage in the shape of the Nanjing old city wall; more importantly, it had raised people’s consciousness, enabled them to have a better understanding of the practical significance of “The past not forgotten is a guide for the future” and affirmed their will and resolve to cherish peace and oppose war.

They pointed out that peace, development, cooperation and win-win were an irreversible trend of the times, and they called on people to treasure the Sino-Japanese friendly and cooperative relations forged over the years by personages of the two countries. They hoped that the younger generation would learn about the unusual his-

tory of Nanjing’s old city wall, form a correct view of history and work to realize the long-cherished wish of lasting friendship and cooperation between China and Japan.

Chinese and Japanese student representatives said at the meeting that the past 20 years since the launching of the initiative of rebuilding Nanjing’s old city wall had seen many twists and turns in Sino-Japanese relations. In that time, a new generation of young people had emerged, and to deepen mutual understanding between the youth was a guarantee for friendship and peace between the two countries. They pledged that they would take this commemoration activity to work together to create a better future of the two countries.

In the afternoon, the delegations of JCFA headquarters and local branches and Japanese friendly personages, totaling over 100 people, braved rain to visit the Memorial Hall for Compatri-

ots Killed in the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Forces of Aggression, where they laid wreaths and stood in silent tribute to the victims.

Tetsuo Sakai said they had studied the history of that period before coming to China. But, they learned more about it after visiting the Memorial Hall. He himself had some knowledge about the history of that period. As Japanese war veterans under pressure would not talk about their experiences in the war after returning to Japan and were reticent about the facts of aggression, the younger generation in Japan knew little about the history. The JCFA should play its role and let the Japanese people, especially young people know the true facts about the Nanjing massacre so as to prevent the historical tragedy from repeating itself again.

He wrote on the guestbook: “Lasting Japan-China friendship and perpetual world peace.” ■

Friends from the Japan-China Friendship Association standing in silent tribute at the Memorial Hall for Compatriots Killed in the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Forces of Aggression



Songs in Praise of Victory and Peace

Chuan You

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Victory of the World Anti-Fascist War, the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA) held a concert, featuring songs of the former Soviet Union, in Chengdu on May 8. Among some 400 Chinese and foreign attendees were a goodwill delegation from New Zealand led by Mr. Bill Willmott, Cobi Yanovsky, Deputy Consul General of Israel to Chengdu, as well as Russian, American, British, French, Danish, Ukrainian, Kazakhstani, Canadian, Peruvian, Australian, Ugandan and Zambian people living and working in Sichuan.

In her speech before the concert, SIFA President Luo Yubin said, "Today is the 70th anniversary of Victory in the world anti-fascist war. The havoc of war

brought horrible disaster to the world's people. China and the Soviet Union as the main battlefields in Asia and Europe, respectively, made great contributions to final victory.

"The Soviet Union sent an air force volunteer team to China to aid China (against the invading Japanese). More than 200 pilots lost their lives." The team leader Kulishenko actually perished in Sichuan (now Wanxian County of Chongqing) in 1939 after



shooting down six Japanese warplanes.

She went on: "It is to remember history, recollect the memory of the martyrs, cherish peace and create the future that we solemnly commemorate this anniversary today so as to work hand in hand to safeguard the fruits of that victory and ensure world peace."

At the concert, Chengdu High-Tech District Xiaojiahe Community Chorus, Chengdu Russian Folk Song Chorus and the Art College Choir of Sichuan University sang with great passion the songs of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union and Russian folk songs including *Sacred War*; *The Song of Young Communist Leaguers*; *Bravely, Comrades, Keep Step*; *Katyu-sha*, as well as the Chinese song *Song of the Guerrillas*, the Italian song *Bella Ciao* and some Ukrainian and New Zealand songs. The songs of the Patriotic War of the Soviet Union are deeply



loved by the Chinese people. When the melody of *Katyusha* rose, people in the audience and the choruses on the stage sang together. It was such a stirring scene.

Foreign friends who have watched the performance spoke highly of the concert. Mr. Bill Willmott, an old friend of the Chinese people who is now over 80, said that the concert took him back to the days of the resistance war when he had lived in Chengdu and experienced the bombing of Huaxiba by Japanese airplanes and he deeply felt the tremendous sufferings Japanese invaders had brought to the Chinese people.

New Zealand had also participated in the Pacific War against the Japanese militarists and made sacrifices. The people of both New Zealand and China shouldered the responsibility to educate their younger generation not to forget history and to work together to safeguard world peace.

Mrs. Delf, a judicial assistant from Oregon whose father had been born in Yibin, Sichuan, had also endured the anti-Japanese war. She was especially deeply touched by the passionate singing of *Sacred War* performed by Sichuan university students.

The concert was staged after more than four months of preparation and rehearsal. As a people-to-people cultural exchange activity of Sichuan Province, it has helped to deepen friendship between the people of Sichuan and those of other countries. ■

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin Attends 10th Jeju Forum

Qing Boming

At the invitation of Moon Taeyoung, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity, and Won Hee-ryong, Governor of Jeju Province in the Republic of Korea, a CPAFFC delegation led by its president Li Xiaolin paid a visit from May 19 to 21. The delegation attended the 10th Jeju Forum, where Li Xiaolin delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony.

Also speaking at the opening ceremony were former Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, former Australian Prime

Minister John Howard, former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark and former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda.

During the visit, Li met with Yasuo Fukuda and Jeju Governor Won Hee-ryong respectively and exchanged views on China-Japan relations and people-to-people interactions, and developing friendly cooperation and friendship-city relations between Chinese provinces and cities and Jeju Province.

More than 3,000 delegates attended the forum that had the theme of “Towards a New Asia of Trust and Harmony”. ■



CAFA Delegation Visits Seychelles and Zimbabwe

Huang Xiaowei

A delegation of the Chinese-African People's Friendship Association (CAPFA) led by its president Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit paid a goodwill visit to the Seychelles and Zimbabwe from May 1 to 8 at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Transport of the Seychelles and the Zimbabwe-China Friendship Association (ZCFA).

In the Seychelles, Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit met with Vice President Danny Faure; Joel Morgan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Transport; Vincent Meriton, Designated Minister for Community Development, Social Affairs and Sports; Jacqueline Moustache-Belle, Mayor of Victoria; and Marco Francis, Chairperson of the Seychelles

Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Vice President Faure, on behalf of President James Michel, welcomed the Chinese visitors. He thanked China for its generous assistance to his country in many areas, for always standing together with the Seychelles and for its important contributions to its economic and social development.

He expressed his happiness to see China speaking up for the interests of developing, small and medium-sized

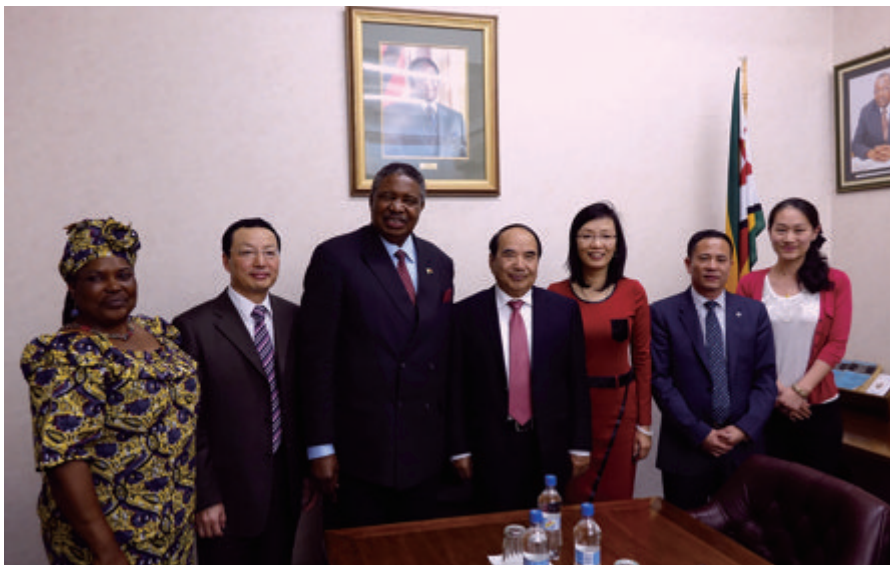


Danny Faure, Vice President of the Seychelles with CAPFA President Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit

countries in the international arena and said that the "Chinese dream" put forward by President Xi Jinping was an inspiration to Africa. He noted that, currently, China is deepening its reform, strictly strengthening Party discipline and making great efforts to eliminate factors hindering development, providing valuable lessons for African countries. Meanwhile, the Seychelles would continue to uphold its ideals and principles to press for the development of various undertakings.

Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit spoke highly of the achievements in the development of China-Seychelles relationship and said, "China is now faced with many new problems and challenges in its fast development. The 'four comprehensives' strategic blueprint, namely comprehensively building a moderately prosperous society, comprehensively

Zimbabwean Vice President Phelekezela Mphoko meeting with the delegation



deepening reform, comprehensively implementing the rule of law and comprehensively strengthening Party discipline laid down by CPC General Secretary Xi Jinping aims to further the country's reform and opening up, elevate its construction of socialist modernization to a new level and maintain its economic development momentum."

China would like to share its development experiences with African countries so as to achieve common development, he added.

Minister Vincent Meriton said, people-to-people contacts and local government exchanges between the two countries have injected vitality into bilateral relations. The Seychelles might be a small country, but the mayor of Victoria City, nation's capital, was chairperson of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

His country hoped to become a link between Africa and China and further boost exchanges and cooperation in the fields of business, trade, tourism and local governments between the two sides.

Foreign Minister Joel Morgan said the Seychelles would actively coordinate activities under the strategic framework of the Belt and Road Initiatives put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping, and further promote people-to-people intercommunication so that Seychelles-China friendship would extend from government to the level of common people.

In Zimbabwe, Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit met with Vice Presidents Phelekezela Mphoko and Emmerson Mnangagwa, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Mabel Chinomona

and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing G. S. Mlilo, and together with Parliamentary Speaker Jacob Mudenda and Foreign Minister

Simbarashe Mumbengegwi, attended the reception marking the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Zimbabwe and China and had a working meeting with the ZCFA.

Both Vice Presidents said the friendship between Zimbabwe and China had a long history. As early as the 1960s, the Chinese Government and people rendered precious moral support and material aid to the Zimbabwean people in their struggle for national liberation and independence. In fact, Zimbabwe and China announced the establishment of diplomatic relations on the day of Zimbabwe's independence.

Over the past 35 years, China had given Zimbabwe great support. The two countries were all-weather partners, and the two peoples were good friends, partners and brothers. Zimbabwe was willing to make concerted efforts with China to further bilateral relations.

They said, China had made remarkable achievements in its economic construction, and Zimbabwe, as a young country, hoped to learn from



CAPFA President Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit and his party attending the reception marking the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Zimbabwe

Chinese experiences in governance of the country, as well as economic, educational and cultural development.

The friendship associations of the two countries serve as a good platform for the two peoples to share experience, which was very useful for enhancing friendship and boosting cooperation. The Zimbabwean side welcomed more Chinese enterprises to invest and do business in the country, particularly in agriculture, farm produce processing and infrastructure.

Deputy Speaker Mabel Chinomona said the Zimbabwean National Assembly hoped to learn from China's experience in reform and opening up and promote legislative cooperation between the two countries.

Addressing the reception marking the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations, Foreign Minister Simbarashe Mumbengegwi said that many Zimbabwean ministers and government officials had studied in China, and that they applied what they had learnt to their country's economic construction and special economic zones manage-

ment, thus fulfilling the country's plan of social and economic transition.

Mandi Chimene, Acting President of the ZCFA and Manicaland Provincial Affairs Minister, said that with the CAPFA's help, the ZCFA has carried out a series of personnel exchanges with China, which had strengthened its own capacity building and more effectively promoted mutual understanding and friendship between the people of Zimbabwe and China.

She hoped that the ZCFA would continue to receive support from the CAPFA, the people of the two countries would reap real benefits from bilateral cooperation, and the friendship between Zimbabwe and China would pass on from generation to generation.

Abdul'ahat Abudulrixit expressed on various occasions his satisfaction with the smooth development of China-Zimbabwe relations, saying China would develop its relations with African countries on the principle of "sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith" put forward by President Xi Jinping, and contribute to the development of Africa within its capacity.

In terms of people-to-people relations between China and African countries, the CAPFA was willing to carry out in-depth exchanges at all levels and in various fields to enhance mutual understanding, solidifying the popular support base for China-Africa friendship so as to lay a solid foundation for further development. He also briefed on the Second Forum on China-Africa Local Government Cooperation to be held in China in August this year and extended an invitation to attend to Zimbabwean local governments. ■

A Trip to Morocco

Ai Lin



The seminar in session

Inited by Dr. Mohammed Khalil, President of the Morocco China Friendship and Exchanges Association (MCFEA), a CPAFFC working group led by Hu Jianhuai, Inspector of the Department of Asian and African Affairs, visited Morocco from May 24 to 28.

It attended the Economic and Trade Seminar with the theme of "Promoting Chinese Investment in Morocco" organized by the MCFEA, the Moroccan Ministry of Industry and the Moroccan Investment Development Agency (MIDA). Also present at the seminar were a 10-member Chinese delegation headed by Tan Zhigui, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Shaoxing Municipal People's Congress and President

of the Shaoxing Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and a dozen entrepreneurs from Shanghai, Shandong and Hunan Province.

MIDA CEO Mr. Hamid Ben Elafdil stressed Morocco's unique geographical location and said that a number of free trade agreements signed with the United States and Europe provided the country with a strong investment potential, which could meet the needs of Chinese enterprises for development. He welcomed Chinese enterprises to invest in Morocco, which was willing to help China expand its business in Europe, the United States and Africa so that both sides would benefit in their economic and trade coopera-

tion.

Chinese Ambassador to Morocco Sun Shuzhong introduced Morocco's national conditions, how to avoid investment risks as well as the relationship between China and Morocco. He said: "Morocco gained national independence in 1956 and established diplomatic relations with China in 1958. Since then, they have firmly supported each other in bilateral and multilateral affairs. This is reflected in their political mutual trust, people-to-people, cultural and arts exchanges, and other fields.

"As time goes on, bilateral economic and trade cooperation has become an urgent need of economic development. Today, against the backdrop of globalization and the 'new normal' of China's industry, Chinese enterprises, especially private enterprises need to look for new overseas markets.

"At present, favorable factors for Chinese enterprises to carry out economic and trade exchanges with Morocco include its political stability and the country's strong inclusiveness, not to mention its advantages in production costs, high productivity, a relatively lower level of religion influence, rich resources in tourism, agriculture and phosphate mineral. Its automobile, aviation and electronic industries are areas suitable for Chinese enterprises to invest.

"Morocco is located at the juncture between Europe and Africa. Its main port of Tangier, which is only 14 kilometers from Spain, handles 20% of the world total container throughput, 40% of which are Chinese com-

modities. Morocco has signed free trade agreements with 56 countries. Chinese textiles can enter the bonded area qualifying for various tax reductions and exemptions. Recently, Morocco has put forward the 2014-2022 Industrial Development Strategy which coincides with China's Belt and Road Initiatives. It hopes to attract Chinese enterprises to invest in Morocco and regulate the cooperation modal in the form of law and agreement."

On behalf of the CPAFFC and the China-Arab Friendship Association, Hu Jianhuai thanked the Moroccan side. He pointed out that it was the Silk Road that had connected Morocco with China long ago, and that Ibn Battuta, a famous Moroccan navigator, came to China along the Maritime Silk Road. He welcomed Morocco to participate in the construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road.

"The CPAFFC attaches great importance to cooperation with the people of all countries of the world, including Arab countries. The China-Arab Friendship Association, founded in 2001, has hosted the China-Arab Friendship Conference and the China-Arab Towns Forum, as well as various bilateral and multilateral activities in such areas as culture, academics, tourism, economy and trade, youth, and local government exchanges. The CPAFFC is willing to strengthen cooperation with the MCFEA, the Moroccan Ministry of Industry and the MIDA, promote exchanges of visits between Chinese and Moroccan en-

trepreneurs and institutionalize the China-Morocco Economic and Trade Seminar."

MCFEA President Khalil said Morocco hoped to enhance its relations, especially in economic and trade areas, with China, and that both countries had strong desire to work together for the development of Africa by making good use of Morocco's status as the gateway to the continent. It was high time Morocco became an important link on the Belt and Road initiated by China and that Morocco would serve as a bridge for the goods manufactured in Morocco with Chinese investment to be transported to Europe and other parts of Africa including the Maghrib countries.

Under the leadership of King Mohammed VI, the good momentum of Morocco's revitalization would also become a driving force for investors all over the world, especially those from China. The MCFEA would continue to promote friendly exchanges in the economic and trade, cultural, tourism, arts, sports and other areas and hoped to achieve mutually beneficial and win-win result through bilateral exchanges, he said.

After the seminar, the Moroccan side arranged for the participants to visit sci-tech cities, free trade areas and other facilities in Rabat, Tangier and Casablanca. Entrepreneurs of the two countries and heads of relevant organizations had discussions on cooperation in bilateral trade and investment. The delegation from Shaoxing explored the possibility of establishing friendship-city relations with a relevant city in Morocco. ■

Flowering Friendship Between Two Cities

Zhao Zhengxu

Xi'an of China and Chinju (Jinju) of the Republic of Korea are famous ancient capitals of their respective countries with a long history and culture heritage. It happens that both take the pomegranate flower as their symbol. In 2007, the "Spring of the Pomegranate Flower" — a friendly exchange program with folk cultural and art performances as the main focus — was launched by Xi'an. Since then, it has become an annual event held alternately in Xi'an and Chinju, its opening ceremony broadcast live in the two countries via satellite. In 2015, it was held for the eighth time as a symbol of friendship between the two cities.

Held on April 18, the opening evening party with a Silk Road theme, contained an art show of intangible cultural heritage, a photo exhibition on Xi'an and a football match between the Chinese and Korean youth.

At the opening ceremony, Korean artists performed the classic song and dance item *Arirang*, sand animation, traditional national music, Chinju sword dance and the dynamic hip-hop dance, while Chinese performers staged a large-scale dance *Poem of the Silk Road* which artistically represented how ancient China spread friendship and culture to the world through the land and maritime Silk Road, and a Chinese folk dance *Lady Lan Huahua* showing the life of people on the Loess Plateau of China.

The Spring of Pomegranate Flower provided the Korean audience with



In 2012, Shaanxi Fuping Opera Troupe performing the local opera *The Legend of White Snake* at the Fifth Spring of the Pomegranate Flower

an excellent opportunity to have close contact with Xi'an and better understanding of the Chinese culture. On the bank of the beautiful Namgang River in Chinju, craftsmen from Xi'an took turns to show their unique skills — shadow puppet carving, mask painting, peach-stone carving, paper cutting and Chinese knot making.

The Pomegranate Flower Cup friendship football match was held between the Youth Football Team of Zhidan County, Yan'an City of Shaanxi Province and the Chinju Youth Football Team at the Chinju Sports Center. The Zhidan team 2 to 1. Zhidan County, with a population of less than 150,000, is the first county in China to run a pilot school football program, and the sport has become very popular among

the young. Young players of the Zhidan Football Team traveling to the ROK to compete and swap experience with their Chinju counterparts is in line with the theme of "training of football players starting at an early age and cultivating friendship among the younger generation".

During the Spring of Pomegranate Flower, the Xi'an Broadcast and Television Station and the Seo Kyung Cable Television Co., Ltd. signed a long-term cooperation agreement. They will co-produce a film *Passion for Home* to introduce the development history of Farmer Paintings in Huxian County and love stories between young people of the two countries.

All the eight events have been extensively reported by Korean local

newspapers, broadcast and TV stations, and Chinese central and local media. Several channels of the Seo Kyung Cable Television ran a 24-hour rolling coverage this time. *Busan Daily* also did some follow-up reporting. Xi'an Broadcast and Television Station, Xi'an Network and Le TV provided a live broadcast of the opening ceremony and the youth football match. Several news programs of CCTV ran serial reports of the activity.

The Spring of Pomegranate Flower, through cultural and art exchanges, has opened a new gateway to friendly cooperation between Xi'an and Chinju, which has brought about exchanges and cooperation in all areas including economy and trade, culture, tourism and transportation. The event is developing to promote in-depth bilateral cooperation, development of cultural industry and win-win and all-win cooperation. Xi'an Broadcast and Television Station and the Seo Kyung Cable Television agreed on co-hosting a large-scale China-Korea concert in Xi'an in September 2015. Seo Kyung Travel Service Co., Ltd. and Shaanxi New World Air Travel Service Co., Ltd. signed a tourism cooperation agreement.

Hui Yi, head of Xi'an Broadcast and Television Station, said: "We should take traditional culture as an entry point to carry out external exchanges and let things from China serve as ties linking Xi'an with the world. In the future, we will carry out further cooperation in developing cultural industry projects and turn the Spring of Pomegranate Flower into a famous brand of exchanges with other countries so as to contribute to the construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt." ■

First 2015 Batch of Japanese University Students Visits China

Liu Lisha

Invited by the CPAFFC, a 98-member delegation of Japanese University Students headed by Kiichiro Onodera, Executive Director of the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA), paid a visit to Nanjing, Suzhou, Shanghai and Beijing from May 14 to 20, taking part in the activity marking the 20th anniversary of the launching of the project for restoration of the old Nanjing city wall, and had exchanges with Chinese university students.

The delegation was broadly representative with its members coming from 39 colleges and universities in 21 metropolises and prefectures of Japan. About half of them were visiting China for the first time.

Participating in the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the

China-Japan joint project of rebuilding the old Nanjing city wall to remember history, carry forward friendship and look into the future.

The visit was scheduled in close coordination with the activity marking the 20th anniversary of rebuilding the old city wall of Nanjing. The purpose of the project was to heal the psychological trauma caused by war and arouse people's aspiration for China-Japan friendship and world peace through the joint efforts of the two countries to rebuild war-destroyed cultural relics. At the commemorative meeting on May 15, CPAFFC Vice President Lin Yi said that "to review the past, create the future, remember history and never wage war again" was the common aspiration of the people of the two countries. She

Japanese students at the Hanshan Temple in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province



encouraged the youth of both sides to review history to ensure that peace and friendship became deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples, especially the young, so that they would involve themselves in the cause of China-Japan friendship with unremitting efforts to realize the goal of peaceful coexistence, mutually beneficial cooperation, common development and lasting friendship.

Through the activity, members of the delegation came to know about the unusual history of rebuilding the old city wall of Nanjing, experienced the fine tradition of friendship between the people of the two countries and realized the importance and urgency of improving bilateral relations. University students of the two countries said it would be a starting point to learn from history, carry forward friendship and work together to create a better future for both countries.

Exchanges with Chinese universities have enhanced understanding and friendship between the youth of the two countries. The delegation visited three famous local universities, namely Nanjing University, Southeast Univer-

sity and Soochow University. Through discussions on special topics, cultural and art performances and one-to-one interaction, deep friendships were forged. The exchange activities were carefully designed to present a full picture of Chinese students' campus life and their desire for mutual learning and friendship. Members of the Japanese delegation said they would never forget the Chinese peers they had met. These exchanges helped remove the prejudice against and misunderstanding about China they had formed through media, and reap a precious friendship.

They would share what they had seen and heard during the visit with their relatives and friends after returning home and hoped they would become a bridge of friendship between the two countries in future.

Interviewed by several central and local media including CCTV, the People's Daily Online, China Radio International and the Jiangsu Broadcasting Corporation, the Japanese students talked about what they thought and understood about Japan-China relations, shared touching stories of their personal contacts with Chinese people and

expressed their firm belief in friendship between the two countries.

When asked about their impressions of the visit, Tomomitsu Takai, a student at Okayama University, said he had come to understand the importance of knowing about history and communication between the youth of the two countries. Kaito Murata, a student from Kansai University, said, what had impressed him most was that the Chinese people he saw were completely different from what he had seen on Japanese TV, and he also found that students of the two countries were very much alike. Chieko Hara, a student of Saga University who had studied in China for a year, said she had once again experienced the friendliness of the Chinese people and had grown fonder of China. Tsukasa Nono, a junior from Ritsumeikan University who used after-school hours to organize student exchanges between Japan and China, said that, on the flight to Beijing, they had experienced much turbulence. A student got so frightened that she kept trembling. At this moment, a Chinese woman passenger sitting next to her reached out and held the student's hand, comforting her in Chinese "Don't worry. It's Ok." He felt the friendliness and warmth of the Chinese people from this gesture.

Japanese students said that through the visit, they had not only come to understand the importance of looking squarely at history and the urgency for improving Japan-China relations, but also seen a real and objective China and formed deep friendship with their Chinese peers.

They pledged that, in future, they would contribute their bit to the cause of Japan-China friendship. ■

The Japanese university students at the farewell party hosted by the CJFA



Delegation of Space Camp Turkey Orbits China

Ai Lin

A five-member delegation led by Mr. Scott Woodham, General Manager of the Space Camp Turkey, visited China from April 26 to May 4 at the invitation of the CPAFFC. In Beijing, Lin Yi, Vice President of the CPAFFC, hosted a welcome luncheon attended by Turkish Ambassador Mr. Ali Murat Ersoy. The delegation toured Chengdu, Guilin and Shanghai and also visited Chengdu Guangya School and the Shanghai Aerospace Enthusiast's Center.

Lin Yi thanked Space Camp Turkey for offering scholarships to China since 2009 and arranging for Chinese students to participate in the international space camp in Turkey through the CPAFFC. This year, the CPAFFC will send 17 students from Hubei Province to take part in the summer camp.

The CPAFFC attaches importance to developing the friendly relations with Turkey. It has long maintained frequent exchanges with the Turkish Chinese Friendship Association, the Turkish Chinese Women's Friendship & Culture Association and Space Camp Turkey. These organizations have become important channels for advancing bilateral friendly relations.

Mr. Woodham thanked the CPAFFC for its warm hospitality and thoughtful arrangements. He said his organization had long-term cooperation with NASA of the U.S. in training youngsters between the age of nine and

15 from various countries and providing them with a platform for communication. He expressed the hope that by participating in the camp's activities, the teenagers would enhance friendship, learn to respect each other and understand the cultural diversity of the world.

Space Camp Turkey wished to strengthen cooperation with the CPAFFC and work together with it to promote international youth exchanges, he added.

Ambassador Ersoy said that cooperation between the CPAFFC and Turkish Chinese Friendship Association, Turkish Chinese Women's Friendship & Culture Association and Space Camp Turkey played a positive role in increasing bilateral friendly exchanges. The Turkish Embassy in China would continue to cooperate with the CPAFFC to further expand the work on the establishment of friendship-city relations and cultural exchanges between

the two countries.

During its visit in Chengdu, the delegation exchanged views with the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries on the construction of economic zones. As Space Camp Turkey was founded by the Aegean Free Zone in Izmir, Mr. Woodham expressed the willingness to actively promote experience-sharing between the zone and Sichuan Province.

In Guilin, Ning Song, Deputy Director of the city's Foreign Affairs Office, briefed the delegation on the friendship-city exchanges between Guilin and Murat Pasha of Turkey. Mr. Woodham said he welcomed the Guilin city delegation to visit Izmir when it is next in Turkey to conduct exchanges with its friendship city Murat Pasha to discuss cooperation in space knowledge education for young people ■

The delegation visiting the Shanghai Aerospace Enthusiast's Center



A Special Workshop

“To Promote Friendship — Be A Friend”

William Lee (The United States)

A workshop with three consecutive sessions, two hours each, was thoughtfully designed by Stephen Smuin, Christopher Fiorentini, and William Lee — all from the S.F. Bay Area — near Stanford University.

First session was scheduled on July 1 morning; second session on July 1 afternoon; and the third on July 2 afternoon. The International Child Art Foundation’s 2015 WCF (World Children’s Festival), held at The Ellipse in Washington DC, was hosting hundreds of international students, family members, teachers, and friends, to celebrate creativity, diversity, and unity.

This special workshop “To Promote Friendship — Be A Friend” was designed to inspire twenty some “invited students” — age 11 to 13, representing as many different countries and cultures as possible, competent in English, and serious about learning more about friendships together, and how to promote friendships in their lives ahead.

The first session was designed to create joy, optimism, and comfort zone among the participating students from these many different countries, cultures, and backgrounds. Stephen Smuin and Chris Fiorentini have the magic personalities to win the hearts and minds of the young international students, and encourage them to open



up and try to find magic qualities in each other and discover the enlightening power in group collaboration. They employ artistic games that are imaginative, interesting, and enjoyable. They try to encourage new awareness, new, openness, curiosity, and confidence in these young “aspiring minds”.

The second session was devoted to brainstorming. What is friendship? Why friendship? How initiated? How nurtured? How sustained? How important? Personal words to describe personal knowledge and experiences. Learn different values, traditions, and expressions from different friends. Opinions? Feelings? Ideas? Explore the opposites of friendship. Think of peace, war, love, hate. What can we all agree on? What do we all essentially

want? What’s not being done? What can we, 20 young international students do together that’s meaningful on this rare occasion? Can we use our cameras to capture some insights?

The third session was the real Challenge: What realistically can our 20 young students do about it? How about at least putting forth our feelings and our hopes in writing and signing together a declaration: A Declaration of Interdependence (on this July 4th week, known for the Declaration of Independence in US history) and propose the need for an international institution on friendship (and introduce the word Friendshipology)? The students were to be divided into two groups after basic wording was agreed upon. One group was to focus on refining the statement, the more art-inclined, to design a logo and the document layout. All 20 participants were to sign the declaration and finally present the pen to Dr. Ashfaq Ishaq, who founded ICAF and created the World Children’s Festivals, 20 some years ago.

William Lee had special fans designed and produced for students, teachers, and families to take home as souvenirs. One side states “To Promote Friendship — Be a Friend”. The opposite face has “10 Dos and 10 Don’ts”. This is William’s 4-F Project — Fans For Fanning Friendship. ■

China's Last Emperor Shares His Post-Liberation Life Story with Foreign Guests

Tang Mingxin

In the early years after the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Western world generally hostile to the socialist system, adopted a policy of economic blockade and military encirclement seeking to strangle New China. It also spread all kinds of rumors and slanders. Thus, how to tell the world the truth about New China was a historical mission of great urgency.

It was under the personal care and guidance of Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai and other leaders of the older generation that people-to-people diplomacy with Chinese characteristics emerged. The meetings China's Last Emperor, Aisin Gioro Puyi (February 7, 1906 – October 17, 1967), had with personages from other countries, and the sharing of his post-liberation life story with them, played an important role.

“Emperor Craze” Wins China a Good Image

In October 1959 when the whole nation was celebrating the 10th anniversary of the People's Republic, came a piece of breaking news that made big headlines. At the proposal of Chairman Mao Zedong, and with the approval of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the release of Puyi under a special amnesty was announced by President Liu



Chairman Mao Zedong meeting with Puyi

Shaoqi. For a time, Puyi became the focus of people's attention. Friendly personages of various countries who were concerned about New China and its development asked to meet him.

Politicians and media came especially to China for meetings and interviews with Puyi, resulting in much publicity. It might be said that there was a momentary “emperor craze”. During the period between 1960 and 1967, I acted as his interpreter in dozens of meetings with delegations from Europe and Latin America.

In July 1964, during a meeting with a delegation of Argentine Congressmen, one member hesitantly noted

that, in many countries in the world, the day when the feudalist system was overthrown and history turned over a new leaf, the last monarch (king or emperor) was sent to the guillotine and ended up in the dustbin of history; then why, he asked Puyi, did the Chinese Government not execute you, but instead gave you a new life?

Puyi said that it was a good question. He told them that when he was jailed in Khabarovsk by the Soviet Red Army or later repatriated to the Fushun War Criminals Management Center in China's northeast, his greatest fear was that he would sooner or later be executed for high treason. He said that, in

August 1946 when testifying at the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, exposing the crimes of inhuman atrocities committed by Japanese militarists in China's northeast, he didn't want to consider his own guilt.

Later during rehabilitation, he came to recognize the crimes he had committed, so he would have to make thorough self-criticism so as to be able to embark on a new life. A leader in the Fushun War Criminals Management Center told him that, in transforming the world, the Communist Party, first of all, would remold people. At the Eighth National Congress of the CPC and other meetings, Chairman Mao said many times that the CPC should unite all the forces that could be united and turn negative factors into positive ones in jointly striving to build a prosperous strong socialist New China.

What Mao said made a great impression and warmed his heart, as he realized that he was not totally incorrigible, but he could even do his bit for the construction of the new society.

In his other meetings with foreign guests, Puyi talked about his personal experiences from being an emperor to becoming an ordinary citizen, the humiliation China had suffered in its modern history and the earthshaking changes in the country since the people became masters of the country after the founding of New China. His briefings not only eliminated, to a great extent, the influence exerted on those foreign friends by the Western media's overwhelming distorted propaganda about China, but also helped them learn more about the Chinese Government's policies and New China; even those who had been skeptics had to express admira-

tion.

After returning home, some of them made reports to the parliaments and governments of their countries about what they had seen and heard in China, and some wrote articles in newspapers and magazines praising New China and advocating developing relations with it. In all those reports and articles, there was always a part about meetings with Puyi. I remember clearly that during that period I often received feedback from foreign friends from afar. A Chilean journalist sent his reports on his impressions of China, one with an eye-catching headline "The Last Emperor Helps Win More Friends for New China".

From Repentance for Inhumanity to Rebirth

In 1960, I accompanied a delegation of Bolivian Congressmen in its informal discussion with Puyi. A leftist congressman spoke first. He said straight forwardly, "In other countries people pass different judgments on you. We'd like to know how you have managed to come all the way to today and how you look at your whole life." Puyi thought for a little while and then answered, he had gone through a process from "loss of humanity" to "resurrection of human nature".

In December 1908 when he was only two-and-a-half years old, he was enthroned, being carried by his father. He was so frightened that he cried without cease, which was regarded by the imperial court as a bad omen that his life would be full of ordeals. It was a superstitious conjecture, but the prophecy unexpectedly came true. Puyi remembered clearly that in his child-

hood when he began to learn to read, the first lesson was teachings of the sages in *The Three-Character Classic*, with the first sentence being "Men at their birth are naturally good" which talks innate human nature. However, it was only after he had painfully reproached and repented the grave sins he had committed to the country and nation and thoroughly cast off his old self and taken on a new self that he really understood the principles of how to "conduct oneself".

In 1965, when Puyi met a delegation of the Peruvian-Chinese Cultural Institute (PCCI), Antonio Fernandez Arce, a renown Peruvian journalist and leader of the PCCI, said, "To remold the last emperor into a citizen seems a fiction to us. But New China led by Chairman Mao has done it, which we admire greatly." He hoped Puyi would write about his history so as to let the people around the world know how China's last emperor "turned from a devil into a man" as the Chinese people often put it, thus enhancing understanding of New China.

At the meeting, Puyi reflected on himself by quoting an ancient Chinese maxim "cultivate oneself, put family in order, govern the State, and pacify the world", saying only by cultivating his own moral character first could he then proceed to the other requirements to bring peace to the country and happiness to the people.

But what he, the last emperor, had done was just the opposite which had brought tremendous disasters and sufferings for the nation and his family. Puyi said he felt happy for the latter half of his life after rebirth, because first, he had become a citizen earning

his own living, was no longer a social parasite, and had cast off the shadow of shameful life; secondly, he had become master of his own destiny and no longer a puppet manipulated by others, much less an initiator of evil bringing disasters to the Chinese people; thirdly, now he had a really warm and loving family of his own.

Loving Care From Chairman Mao and Premier Zhou

At a meeting with a delegation of Peruvian journalists in September 1965, the head of the delegation asked Puyi “How is your relationship with Chinese leaders Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai?” Puyi said, Chairman Mao and Premier Zhou took meticulous care of him. Every meeting with them would enlighten him profoundly, which he would remember all his life.

The first experience he had of Chinese leaders’ care was in May 1956 when his uncle Zaitao and three sisters came to visit him in the Fushun War Criminals Management Center. It turned out that, when Zaitao, an elected deputy to the National People’s Congress (NPC), attended the NPC meeting in 1954, Premier Zhou introduced him to Chairman Mao. The latter shook hands and said, “I have learnt that Puyi has been doing well and made good progress. Why don’t you visit him? Now, the Chinese people have stood up and become the masters of the country, of whom the Manchu people as well as your Aisin Gioro family are also included.” Premier Zhou added “To stand up and be the master of the country means that the people of all ethnic groups should throw themselves into the cause of socialist construction of

the country. As to Puyi, he should thoroughly remold himself, make a clean break with his past and become a useful member of the new society.”

What his uncle had said touched Puyi who said, it had never occurred to him that the two top Chinese leaders would show so much concern for an imprisoned criminal like him and encourage him to cast off his old self and turn over a new leaf. When thinking of himself spending days on scheming against others, he felt so ashamed that he wished he could sink through the ground. Ever since then, having lifted the heavy burden off his mind, to work hard to reform himself became the goal of his life.

Puyi then recalled the banquet permeated with warmth that Chairman Mao and Premier Zhou held for him in 1964. Chairman Mao asked him how he was going on with his life and how he felt about being an ordinary citizen. Puyi told the Chairman that he had started a new life. In March 1960, he began to work in the Beijing Botanical Garden of the Institute of Botany under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

In his work he learnt gardening — sowing, watering, applying fertilizer, and tending flowers. Under his care, the flowers and plants grew exuberantly. He was praised for his work and began to taste the happiness of serving the people and society. He took part in the parade in the Tiananmen Square, supporting the Japanese people in their opposition to the Japan-US Security Treaty. Marching amongst the massive parading contingents, he felt that he had finally joined the ranks of the people and was proud to fight for peace and justice.

In November 1960, he was very

excited when he received the citizenship certificate enabling him to exercise his right to vote. He shared a pride of being the master of the country with 650 million of his fellows. In short, he realized the profound nature of Chairman Mao’s teaching — cast off his old self and make a fresh start in life.

Chairman Mao said humorously, you had been China’s emperor and now you began a new life, but many people didn’t believe it. They said that the Communist Party was simply a “great scourge” for it adopted the practice of sharing properties and wives. Puyi said, “Since the second half of 1956, many foreign friends and journalists have interviewed me. In recent years more and more personages in other countries want to meet me. So, I am preparing to write a book to let the world know the two entirely different experiences in my life and great changes in China.”

Premier Zhou voiced his approval and said that he should relate the transformation from an emperor to a citizen.

Chairman Mao and Premier Zhou showed great care for Puyi and also instructed to send doctors to treat his illness. During the turbulent years of the “cultural revolution”, Chairman Mao gave a special instruction to protect him, saying “We are all his subjects. He should live better than we.” This saved him from further attacks by the red guards.

The author once worked as a deputy director general of the Department of American and Oceanian Affairs of the CPAFFC, secretary general of the China-Latin America Friendship Association and was also Chinese ambassador to Bolivia and Uruguay.

A Life Dedicated to China

—In Memory of My Old Friend Israel Epstein

Chen Yixin

Not long ago, with a feeling of nostalgia that is quite common to the over-80's, I went to the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum at No. 62, Changyang Road. I entered a tea house and sat at a table by the window. The afternoon sun spread its rays on the table. This took me back to a 28 years to such an afternoon with sunshine on the table. Israel Epstein and I were having coffee together. He told me about his family.

I thought to myself, my respected old friend was born on April 20, 1915, so he would have been 100 years old today. Though he is gone, his voice and look often appear in my mind. He was of medium build, with his brown hair turning gray. His round face beaming with amiability and his eyes alive with wisdom always gave people a sense of intimacy.

“In the place and time in which history placed me, I can think of nothing better and more meaningful than to have witnessed and linked myself with the revolution of the Chinese people. I love China and the Chinese people. China is my home. This love has linked my work and life with the fate of China.” These passionate words of his often ring in my ears, and the years between 1987 and 2005 when we developed a close friendship flashed before my eyes like a film.

A Veteran War Correspondent's Speech



**Israel Epstein with the writer in
Shanghai**

I met Epstein in March 1987 at the International Symposium on “Snow-Smedley-Strong” and other International Friends in Shanghai. Edgar Snow, Agnes Smedley and Anna Louise Strong were excellent American writers. As secretary-general of the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, I was in charge of receiving honored guests and scholars to the symposium. Israel Epstein was one of them. Those who did not know him always took him as a foreign guest and an international friend from his appearance. Then he would correct them saying: “No, I'm not a foreigner.

I am a Chinese.” There was pride in his voice and his Chinese pronunciation with a strong foreign accent induced laughter, which also made him laugh.

At the symposium, Epstein gave a speech entitled *Edgar Snow, Agnes Smedley and Anna Louise Strong and Their Relationship with Madame Soong Ching Ling in Shanghai*. As a veteran war correspondent, he also told the young people of his experiences of reporting at the frontline of China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression between 1933 and 1944. In the winter of 1933, the head of the *Peking & Tientsin Times* handed Epstein a book and asked him to write a review. It was *Far Eastern Front* written by Edgar Snow, then a well-known journalist and a professor of Yenching University. Epstein was impressed by the book. He made a trip to Beijing to visit Snow and the two became like-minded friends who often got together at weekends. Later on, through Snow, Epstein got to know Agnes Smedley and other progressive personages and joined the ranks of international friends. His association with Snow greatly influenced the course of his life.

With the outbreak of the full-scale Anti-Japanese War in 1937, Epstein, a correspondent of the American news agency United Press, went to Shanghai, Nanjing, Wuhan, Guangzhou and other places to cover the war. When reporting on anti-Japanese activities

for national salvation, he learned the song *The March of the Volunteers*. The heroic and stirring resistance put up by the Chinese people against Japanese aggressors left a deep impression. Soon, the Lugouqiao (Marco Polo Bridge) Incident occurred. Epstein's parents moved to the United States, but he stayed in China as the war was intensifying. In the decades that followed, China was the only topic Epstein wrote about. He went to the battle front in Tai'erzhuang in April 1938, and in 1939 published his first book *People's War* in London, providing factual account of the heroic deeds of the Chinese people in their fight against Japanese aggression. He, together with Snow, helped patriots and revolutionaries in the occupied zone to go to the revolutionary base area. In May 1937, Deng Yingchao (wife of Zhou Enlai) came to Beijing to seek treatment for tuberculosis. In July, when the Marco Polo Bridge Incident took place, Snow escorted her to Tianjin where he found Epstein and asked him to assist her to return to Xi'an. In 1938, Epstein for the first time met Madame Soong Ching Ling (one of the three famous Soong sisters) whom he had been admiring for some time. Soon after, Madame Soong invited him to join the China Defense League committed to wartime medical relief and international communication. Epstein was in charge of editing and publishing the English fortnightly *China Defense League Newsletter*, telling the world how the Chinese people fought against Japanese aggressors. In May 1944, a group of Chinese and foreign journalists, breaking through the ruling Kuomintang's blockade line, visited Northern Shaanxi. Epstein in-

terviewed Mao Zedong, Zhu De, Zhou Enlai and other leaders and filed more than a dozen reports on Chinese people's resistance war under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) that circulated the world.

When I first met him, Epstein was 72. But he still had a good memory. He talked about what he had seen in 1938 at the frontline after China's victorious battle of Tai'erzhuang — burgeoning willow trees cut down by machinegun fire, stinking corpses, Chinese soldiers repairing the houses, Japanese tanks disabled and abandoned, etc.

His speech on the *Nationwide War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and Its Spirit* touched and educated all present, and received hearty applause.

I shook hands with him after the meeting, thanking him for his inspiring speech for the young people in Shanghai who knew little of the past. I had seen a photo of Epstein taken in Tai'erzhuang after China's victory there in a book published in 1947. In April 1938, Epstein went to the battle front for the first time. He witnessed Chinese officers and soldiers fighting courageously under heavy Japanese fire and successfully repelling repeated

Japanese attacks. The caption of the photo reads: "Foreign journalist Epstein loaded with the spoils of war putting up his hands as if in surrender". So I said to him jokingly: "Do you remember your funny look then?" He burst out laughing, "Yes, of course. I stood on a stone mill in front of a thatched house, wearing a helmet posing like this." He raised his hands in imitation of Japanese surrender. "I was really very happy and excited. The Chinese people had won!"

On the sidelines of the meeting, Epstein asked me if I could accompany him to visit the old site of the Ohel Moshe Synagogue. I readily agreed, for I knew that during the Second World War, more than 20,000 Jewish refugees had lived in Changyang Road, Huoshan Road, Gaoyang Road and other places in the Hongkou District of Shanghai and that the synagogue had been the place where they gathered and found support to develop quickly in their new

In March 1987, Epstein and his wife Huang Huanbi (L.1) with Deng Yuzhi (middle), Meng Bo (R. 2) and the writer of the article (R.1) in Shanghai





Epstein posing as a surrendered Japanese soldier

environment. They set up schools and hospitals and opened stores and factories, sowing the seeds of hope and persisting in the anti-Fascist struggle through various organized activities. Shanghai became the warmest and safest haven for them in the Far East. Many of them stayed for many years after the war.

We sat at a table by the window in a tea house. The afternoon sun shone on the table through the window. We chatted while enjoying a cup of coffee.

Epstein told me, his first name “Israel” was the same as the country of Israel and Epstein was a common surname among Jewish people. He was born on April 20, 1915 in Poland. In 1917, his parents took the two-year-old Epstein to Harbin, China from Japan, and soon they moved to Tianjin. When he was old enough, he went to a school run by British and American missionaries in Tianjin. This was then a trading port controlled by foreigners.

Four-fifths of the city was foreign concessions while Chinese were crammed into a small area foreigners called Chinatown.

“I do not like national oppression and discrimination,” he said. “My parents taught me to oppose discrimination, whether it was directed against us or anyone else.” This enlightenment of “All men are born equal” enabled Epstein to always look at China where he lived and its people with a sympathetic eye and finally led him to plunge into the people’s revolution of this country.

After a moment of silence, I said: “I have learned that your aunt was killed by the Nazis during WWII and this sad and painful experience seems to have enhanced your feelings of ethnicity.” He stopped for a while and then said: “My family background was roughly this: Grandfather David Epstein, I was told, started life, as a young student of Jewish holy scriptures but became a forwarding agent at the Vilna (Vilnius) railway station in Lithuania, then ruled by the Russian Tsar. He married Haya-Kraina Bayer, from a family of publishers of Hebrew prayer books and Talmudic texts used in many countries. Shipping these books worldwide broadened his contacts and knowledge since he had to write addresses and bills of lading in several languages. From letters received he learned something of events abroad. Though his income never exceeded the lower-middle level, he gained enough respect to become the gabbai (Elder) of a neighborhood synagogue. This status was symbolized on public occasions by a silk top hat, which impressively crowned his small height.

“My father Lazar and his sister Rebecca, had outstanding mental energy, and grew into revolutionaries against the Tsar. Their organization was the Bund, or Jewish Labor Alliance.

“Dad, drawn in by an early teacher, served his party from the age of 12 or so. Tiny and humpbacked, he was not the type to be suspected of carrying secret revolutionary messages, which he did. Able and warm-hearted Aunt Rebecca, too, was a lifelong activist. She became a labor union functionary and, for a time in Paris, took courses at the Sorbonne.

“Ultimately, she was murdered — buried alive, by the Nazis in the killing field of Ponary near Vilnius. One believes that, even in line for grisly death, in circumstances designed to denude victims of all human dignity before the end, she stood as straight as her hunched back would allow, and helped others.

“Grandmother Haya-Kraina showed her mettle whenever the Tsarist gendarmes came to search the house for evidence against her son and daughter. She would hide incriminating papers where they could not find them. When her children were jailed, she would stride, head held high, with a basket of food to whatever prison they were held in.

“In the Bund organization, my father had been my mother’s superior. Much more tempered than she, though only five years older, he had already been tested in the 1905 revolution against Tsarist autocracy, undergone the first of his five arrests, and traveled secretly as a Bund delegate to London.

“Yet China’s realities were beginning to impinge on me, not from what I read but from direct evidence. Already

before my teens, amidst the country's surrounding internecine wars and famines, I saw gaunt, ragged refugees flooding into Tianjin. Some begging tearfully for food, some offering to sell their children because it was better for them be slaves than die of hunger. On a never-to-be-forgotten winter morning, while going to school I came upon a boy of twelve or so, my own age then, who was crouching stiff and dead in a doorway where he had tried vainly to seek shelter from the freezing night wind.

"So, drop by drop in my young mind, events and attitudes in China and abroad appeared in mutual linkage. I was learning to take sides, and be confident despite reverses."

Though it was our first meeting, we had a heart-to-heart conversation as if old friends who had not seen each other for a long time.

"Soong Ching Ling Is My Most Sincere Friend for Life"

From then on we had more opportunities to see each other. We had exchanges at international symposiums held in Shanghai, or when I invited him to give lectures for the youth in Shanghai or to visit the newly-opened Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum, or I made special trips to see him at his home in Beijing.

In December 1992, the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SPAFFC) and the Shanghai Society for People's Friendship Studies decided to co-host an activity in commemoration of the centenary of the birth of Agnes Smedley and I was one of those in charge of

the preparations. When drawing up the list of guest speakers, the first person that came to my mind was Epstein. He happily accepted the invitation and said that, having spoken about Snow, Smedley and Strong and their association with Soong Ching Ling in Shanghai at the previous symposium (held in March 1987), this time, apart from talking about Smedley, he would also focus on his friendship with Soong Ching Ling.

I was glad he chose this topic. In her magnificent life, Soong Ching Ling made many Chinese and foreign friends, among whom the most intimate and special was Epstein, referred to as "my most trusted friend and comrade" by her. In her letter to Epstein dated May 25, 1978, Soong Ching Ling wrote: "Thanks to your sincere and all-out efforts, your able pen gained for us the aid and understanding for our work

and the people's cause."

Epstein recalled his friendship with her, starting from the summer of 1951 when he received an invitation from Soong Ching Ling and boarded a ship in the U.S. to cross the Atlantic Ocean to come to New China.

It was a long and arduous journey. The Danish liner they boarded used to sail in the waters near China before WWII. A shipping company, a joint venture of New China and New Poland, bought it and named it *People's Friendship*. As harbors controlled by Western countries refused to provide fuel, fresh water and food for this ship from socialist countries, it had to follow a zigzag route and reached Tianjin in 49 days. During the long journey, the crew and the passengers helped each other and eked out the food supply. And when there was no fresh wa-

Soong Ching Ling with the Central Committee of the China Defense League in Hong Kong in 1938. From left: Israel Epstein, Deng Wenzhao, Liao Mengxing, Soong Ching Ling, Hilda Selwyn-Clarke, Norman France, and Liao Chengzhi.



ter, canvas troughs were put up to catch rain water for drinking. In the last few days when the liner was navigating in the waters near the Korean peninsula where a fierce war was going on, American fighter planes, flying low for reconnaissance often roared overhead in an intimidating way. When Epstein and his wife Elsie stepped off the train from Tianjin in Beijing they were handed one of Soong Ching Ling's calling cards on which she had written, "Welcome home!" in her familiar, firm script. These words brought tears to their eyes.

In over four decades that followed, Epstein became an able assistant of Soong Ching Ling in her work of building a bridge of friendship between China and other countries through international communications and her chosen biographer. According to incomplete statistics, Mme. Soong had written to her friends more than 800 letters, of which over 200 were to Epstein. This fully showed the profound friendship between them.

In her lifetime, Mme. Soong had turned down many offers to write her biography. In her later years, after thinking it over, she decided to ask Epstein to take on the task. This not only showed her trust, but also her approval of his matter-of-fact writing. She also recognized his ability to grasp the current political situation. After retirement, Epstein lived a fulfilling life. He was active at functions of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, various symposiums on Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Soong Ching Ling and in keeping contact with international friends. He wished to minimize general social

occasions so as to leave him more time for writing, and for a while he even left home and found himself a quiet room in the former residence of Mme. Soong concentrating on writing her biography.

During that period when he got ill and was hospitalized, he would ask his wife to bring a computer to the ward so he could write whenever his condition allowed. He knew the heavy responsibility placed on him and lived up to the expectations of Mme. Soong. With amazing willpower and at advanced age, he worked diligently for 10 years to complete the task entrusted by Mme. Soong. In 1992, *Woman in World History — Soong Ching Ling* was published. In writing this biography, he did serious research and verified every historical fact. It is a biography of Soong Ching Ling, as well as a book of side-lights on the history of China's modern revolution.

"A Priceless Treasure I Have Collected"

In the 18 years of my contact with Epstein, the most unforgettable time was when I accepted his invitation and visited him at his home on June 19, 2001.

I went to Beijing to take part in the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the China Society for People's Friendship Studies and its second council meeting. When the meeting concluded, Epstein said to me: "Mr. Chen, if you are free, would you like to have a cup of tea at my home tonight?" To be a guest in such a respected old friend's home was a most welcome opportunity. I nodded my acceptance.

I arrived at the Beijing Friendship Hotel by car and informed the

guard that I was visiting apartment 62932, where Epstein lived. In the twilight I saw in the distance an elderly man waiting before the entrance of an apartment building. No doubt, that was Epstein. He shook hands with me and showed me into the room where his wife Huang Huanbi was busy making tea. A lithograph of Chairman Mao Zedong hung high on the living room wall was most eye-catching. The picture frame was old with age and the paper had turned yellow. "This is a priceless treasure in my life. Chairman Mao gave it to me in Yan'an," said he to me, his eyes behind his glasses had an extremely soft look. I raised my head to look at the portrait and saw Mao's vigorous autograph still clear. The portrait had been well kept for over half a century. It had traveled to the United State with Epstein and been kept intact in the 1950s when McCarthyism reigned.

The lithograph brought Epstein's mind back to the hard and difficult times several decades before.

A lithograph signed by Mao Zedong for Epstein (1944)



He told me, influenced by his family, he had favorable impression of the 20th century Chinese revolution when he was about ten years old. Later he learned about the Communist Party of China (CPC) and also the Long March.

“I got to know Ye Jianying and Bo Gu (Qin Bangxian), representatives of the Eighth Route Army, in Nanjing and Zhou Enlai and other comrades in Wuhan. They were full of vigor and vitality in an ancient country China. Despite the hardships they have endured in the long years of civil war, they were still confident in the revolution they have been making...”

He then talked about his meeting with Soong Ching Ling in 1938 and his work assisting the War of Resistance and the people’s revolution under her leadership since, as well as his visit to Yan’an and the Shanxi-Suiyuan Anti-Japanese Base Area with the delegation of Chinese and foreign journalists in 1944.

In his study there was a large photo of a vast gathering of soldiers and other revolutionaries in Yan’an greeting the opening of the “second front” in World War II — the Great Counter-Offensive against Hitler in Western Europe. The large number of people in the photo is spectacular. In the photo, Epstein stands between Sanzo Nosaka, leader of the Communist Party of Japan, and Dr. Ma Haide (George Hatem).

Epstein took out a few black-cover notebooks from a drawer, the paper of which had turned yellow, but clearly visible were the notes taken in English with beautiful handwriting. Epstein was

29 when he visited Yan’an where he interviewed Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Zhu De, Ye Jianying, He Long, Deng Fa, Xu Teli, Chen Yi, Nie Rongzhen, Wang Zhen, Tan Zheng, Luo Guibo, Li Feng and others.

The photo and the notebooks took him back to the days in Yan’an. He said, sympathetic or unsympathetic, the members of the Chinese and foreign journalists delegation noticed the difference between Yan’an and Chongqing, and knew that “Tomorrow’s China will emerge from Yan’an”. Epstein was convinced that a New China would be born under the leadership of the CPC. He held this idea before going to Yan’an and the trip reaffirmed his conviction.

He paused for a while and then showed me round the large living room, where on display were art and craft articles including Chinese porcelain he had collected over the years and paintings and calligraphic works given

to him by friends. All this showed his fondness of Chinese culture. Especially eye-catching in the room was a tall bookshelf along the wall. It was filled with Chinese and foreign books, from the English version of *Das Kapital* to the English version of *Selected Works of Mao Zedong* he had helped to finalize, as well as books on politics, economy, history and culture and books such as *People’s War*, *The Unfinished Revolution in China*, *From Opium War to Liberation* that he had written.

Since he got to know the CPC, he had become one of those foreigners who unswervingly dedicated their lives to the Chinese revolution. In 1951, when he and his wife Elsie returned from the United States to China at the invitation of Soong Ching Ling, he felt he was coming home. Ever since then, he had never left his “home”. He was naturalized in China in 1957 and joined the CPC in 1964. He for decades shared weal and woe and stood by a

Mao Zedong (R.1, back row) meeting with foreign journalists in Yan’an in 1944. Second from right in the front row is Epstein.



common fate with the Chinese people, the Chinese revolution and the CPC.

In the period of reform and opening up, Epstein, being a member of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), actively participated in the deliberation and administration of State affairs. After his retirement, he still took part in many social activities, serving as vice president of the China Society for People's Friendship Studies, a member of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC National Committee, vice chairman of the China Welfare Institute and China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, and editor-in-chief emeritus of *China Today*.

Of his family life, I know that he had profound feelings for his wife Elsie. She had been born in a working family in Britain. They met in Hong Kong in 1939 when they both participated in an activity supporting China in its War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. Both were taken into Japanese detention camp and escaped, and later went to Chongqing. He fell in love with this tall and warm-hearted British lady who was a few years older than him and they soon married. In 1951, they came back to China together from America and joined the editorial board as English language experts in preparation and launching the English language magazine *China Reconstructs*. They settled down in Beijing and adopted two Chinese children. During the "cultural revolution", they received unjust treatment and imprisonment. When in jail what they worried about most was their two children, who then were taken care of by a Chinese nanny. Not

until the spring of 1973 did they reunite with their children. Unfortunately, Elsie passed away in 1984. The passing of his beloved wife brought great sadness to Epstein. In his memoir he wrote a poem in praise of her and expressing his profound memory of her.

The elderly Epstein was left alone. His friends who concerned about his later life helped him find a new partner, thus, Ms. Huang Huanbi came into his life. She kept house, took good care of him in every way and served as his assistant, making contact with the outside world and accompanying him when he attended social functions. She attended him when he was hospitalized and would often go back home to prepare tasty meals to take to the hospital. She deserves the credit for Epstein's recovery from several illnesses.

Epstein lived in a big family in late life. During weekdays, apart from reading and writing, he would go out in a wheelchair pushed by his wife at the river side in fine days, while at weekend they would enjoy the happiness of family reunion when their children and grandchildren in Beijing came to visit them.

On my departure, he held my hand and walked me to the entrance. We gripped each other's hands tightly as we said goodbye. The car started and rolled away. When I looked back, I saw him and his wife still standing at the entrance in the darkness of the night.

Splendid Late Life

The following year, that is, 2002, Epstein had colon cancer surgery. Advanced in age, he was far frailer than before, but he was always active and optimistic about life. In 2004, at

the age of 89, he, with amazing willpower, completed *My China Eye — Memoirs of a Jew and a Journalist*. The 300,000-word Chinese version of the book was translated by senior translators Shen Suru, Jia Zongyi and Qian Yurun, and published by the New World Press. In the last chapter *Evensong*, he said that his memoir would end there. "If I live for another 10 years, I would like to write a new epilogue." "In the place and time in which history found me, I can think of nothing better and more meaningful than to have witnessed and linked myself with the revolution of the Chinese people".

Whenever I read these words, I always say in my heart: "My dear friend, though you had not lived to a hundred years, you had written a brilliant chapter in your limited life. And to you, the evening of your life was also splendid."

On April 25, 2005, his 90th birthday, I sent a telegram to him from Shanghai expressing my warm congratulations. I never expected that just a month later on May 26, he left us forever. Upon learning the sad news, in the name of the Shanghai Society for People's Friendship Studies, I sent a message of condolences to his wife Huang Huanbi to express my deep grief.

Written in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Israel Epstein

April 20, 2015

The author is Vice President of the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.