

# Communist Advances Halted By Chinese Overpopulation

By Sarah Alden

The Chinese Communists have run into a problem their Soviet comrades did not tell them about.

The population density of China, the mere number of the Chinese peoples, is the outstanding obstruction to any Communist attempts to industrialize the nation, according to Dr. Rober K. Sakai.

Sakai, an associate professor in the University Department of History, said the Chinese Communists are not confronted with the Soviet problem of labor shortage. On the contrary there is an abundance of labor and a lack of capital in the economy. In China "labor is capital," Sakai said.

The population problem is not new to China, but it came down to the Communists unsolved when they took over in 1949. The best census figures available show that the population had passed 300 million in the 18th century during the Ch'ing Dynasty (1644-1912). Population pressure was one of the causes for the collapse of the Ch'ing economy.

### Population Increase

Demographic research (population studies including birth and death rates) completed by the Communists in 1954 showed 582 million persons in China, including 26 million non-Chinese. Birth and death rate comparisons indicated a population increase of two per cent (12 million persons) a year.

If the two per cent increase remains constant, China's population will be one billion by 1980. Sakai calls this a conservative estimate. Irene Taekuber, noted for her Asian demographics, thinks the rate is increasing faster than two per cent now.

The population pressure shows up in industry and in agriculture, according to Sakai. The use of machinery in industry eliminates the need for human labor, but the laborers require food whether they work or not.

Sakai called the lack of urban housing "an unemployment problem on a non-Western scale," because the government must constantly deal with mass movements of noticeable numbers of people.

The illiterate majority of the peasants are not easily trained in industrial skills. This educational undertaking is multiplied by a population larger than Nebraska with each year's increase.

### Labor

The Communists are doing their best to utilize human labor in their attempts to modernize the economy. Sakai said heavy machinery is used only for big jobs like lifting tons of rock, but manual labor builds roads and tears down mountains. He described a road scene: "Laborers pound gravel and pebbles into the road. Swarms of peasants carry dirt in their little baskets."

Sakai thought the Communists had made "spectacular leaps in industry" since 1956. The dramatic year was 1958, when production of some goods was doubled from the 1957 figure.

The Communists have lots of ideas for maximizing manpower. They encouraged peasants to build homemade furnaces for the production of steel. But like many of their ideas, the project was abandoned the next year.

There are just too many people. Vice Premier Li Fuhui said in 1958 that of the 12 million in the yearly increase, only one million could be absorbed by industry.

Sakai pointed out that the production curve of industry must exceed the rate of population increase for the Communists to make economic progress.

### Internal Effects

The initial effects of better food, health and sanitation for the people are increased survival rates. Thus the first steps to raise the standard of living for the people even one per cent result in an increase in population, leading the Communists back to their original problem.

The dilemma in agriculture may be seen in the crowded communes of China. Here the rural populace is shoved together in communes of as many as 20,000 persons or 2000 households. Sakai thinks this system gets more food from the land at the expense of individual privacy and freedom.

There are governmental advantages when it comes to political control and education in agricultural skills, but the living conditions are bad where so many people are gathered under so few roofs, Sakai said.

The Communists might be able to balance the national economy and raise the standard of living of the Chinese people, Sakai said, if they would recognize the population problem. At present they are insisting that they have a labor shortage, an idea they borrowed from the Soviet Communists.

### Overpopulation

Karl Marx, the originator of Communist economics, argued against the theory of Richard Malthus that population tends to outgrow the available resources and means of subsistence. According to H. G. Callis, in his book "China, Confucian and Communist," Marx said there was no such thing as overpopulation.

Sakai said in 1957 it looked like the Chinese had given up the Soviet idea for their own nation. S. Chandrasekhar, editor of Population Review journal, describes China's extensive campaign for birth control in the July 1959 issue. Contraceptives were introduced on the market, clinical abortions legalized, and late marriages encouraged.

None can explain the 1958 reversal to a policy condemning birth control, Sakai said. Chandrasekhar thought the regime decided the policy was causing it to lose prestige. One economist and scholar, Dr. Ma Yin-chu, president of Peking University, continues to advocate birth control in writing and has enough prestige to get away with it, Sakai said. Ma Yin-chu says the way to increase China's poor supply of capital is not to cut down consumption, but to decrease the number of people. The Communists let him write, but pay no attention to him.

If the Communists would combine a birth control policy with their tremendous utilization of labor and commune efficiency, Sakai thinks they could overcome the population problem. Then increasing population surpluses would not eat into the economic gains made each year.

If the Soviet Union, either by example or by persuasion, does have anything to do with China's present refusal to admit a population problem, the Chinese should remember:

In 1980 the Soviet Union will have to deal with 280 million people at present growth rates; China will have to deal with one billion.

## Dairy Husbandry Memorial Grants Awarded to Four

The \$250 Chris Sanders and M. N. Lawritson Memorial scholarships for achievement in the field of dairy husbandry have been awarded to four College of Agriculture students.

The Sanders scholarships went to Ronald Meinke and John Neu, and the Lawritson scholarships were awarded to Larry Wulf and Donald Ehlers.

"The scholarships are for students who are primarily interested in the dairy industry," said Dr. Foster Owen, associate professor of dairy, at the time of making the announcement.

"Selection is based on scholarship, leadership, professional promise and interest in the dairy field."

The scholarships were established in the memory of the late Chris Sanders who served as agricultural representative for the Cooper Foundation and M. N. Lawritson who served many years as Extension dairyman.

## Famous Pianist Plans Concert

Van Cliburn, internationally known pianist, will present a concert in Omaha at 8:30 p.m. March 21 at the Music Hall of the Civic Auditorium.

The concert is sponsored by the Tuesday Musical Concert Series of Omaha, a non-profit organization active for 68 years in bringing musical concerts to Omaha during the winter months.

Single admissions are priced at \$5, \$4 and \$3. Mail orders may be sent to the Tuesday Musical Concert Series box office, Music Hall, 18th and Capitol Avenue, Omaha.

Van Cliburn, recipient of the Levintritt award before he was 20 and member of the New York Philharmonic, returned last fall from a tour of the Soviet Union under the U.S. State Department Exchange Program. New York City welcomed him with the first ticker-tape parade ever given a classical musician.

## Mohr Narrates Last Screen Tour

The last of this season's five Audubon Screen Tours featuring the color motion picture "Pastures of the Sea" will be narrated in person by Charles Mohr, Valley Forge, Pa.

The work, to be shown at 4 and 8 p.m. Friday in Love Library Auditorium, will depict the resources of the sea. Included are the antics of porpoises, harbor seals, jellyfishes, razor clams and lobsters plus scenic shots.

This year's tours were presented by the University's Extension Division and State Museum in cooperation with the National Audubon Society.

## Towne Club Monopolizes Engagement Limelight

Towne Club has an unchallenged monopoly in engagements this week as four members sport new diamonds. No pinnings were reported this week.

### Engagements

Pat O'Dell, Towne Club senior in Teachers from Lincoln to Bob Lucas, senior in Business Administration from Omaha.

Colleen Wouf, Towne Club senior in Teachers from Lincoln to Jack Hanlon, graduate student in Electrical Engineering from Morrill.

Sherrall Rezek, Towne Club senior in Teachers from Lincoln to Nick Meysenburg, Kappa Sigma senior in Mechanical Engineering from Lincoln.

Carol Jo Sherwood, Towne Club freshman in Arts and Sciences from Lincoln, to Rod Bouska, Sioux Falls, S. D.

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Since the beginning of his intellectual awareness, Man has looked upward to the outer void surrounding his planet Earth. He has watched the twinkling stars and wondered at the never-ending dance of the planets around the Sun. He has dreamed and written of the possibility of exploring outer space and speculated endlessly on what he might find could be but explore those silent spheres.

A practical beginning to these century long yearnings has already been accomplished with man-made satellites already orbiting the Earth. Now, the next stage is under way — the daring attempt to explore the Moon and the planets of our Solar System and their environments.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has assigned Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) the responsibility for the Nation's program of unmanned lunar, planetary, and interplanetary exploration. The objectives of this program are to contribute to mankind's fundamental knowledge of space and the space environment and to the development of the technology of space exploration. For the next ten years, as larger booster vehicles become available, spacecraft with ever-increasing scientific instrument payloads will be developed.

JPL will conduct the missions, utilizing these spacecraft to orbit and land on the Moon, to probe interplanetary space, and to orbit and land on the near and far planets.

Earliest of these spacecraft will be the "Ranger" series now being designed, developed and tested at JPL. The mission of this particular series will include first, exploration of the environment and later the landing of instrument capsules on the Moon.

Subsequent steps will continue a constant probing for the knowledge of what is beyond and will require all the skills, ingenuity, courage, endurance, perception and imagination that men can bring to the task.

Never before has such a wide vista of opportunity, or a greater incentive been open to men trained in all fields of modern science and engineering. Every day at JPL new problems arise, new theories are advanced, new methods tried, new materials used, and new principles discovered. Wouldn't you like to be part of this exciting activity?



Illustrated is a "Ranger" pre-test model undergoing design verification testing in one of the laboratories of JPL. Here design features are tested and proved, operational procedures developed and handling experience gained for the actual construction of the initial flight spacecraft. These spacecraft will be among the earliest pioneers in the development of space science.

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ON CAMPUS INTERVIEWS

March 2