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Denial
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Muslim students in Shanghai protest N-tests

PEKING, Dec. 26 (AFP) — About 100 ethnic Muslim students from China's far west Xinjiang region today protested in Shanghai against nuclear tests in their homeland, a well-informed source from Shanghai said.

In Peking, meanwhile, several hundred Muslim students who staged a similar protest on Sunday selected 30 representatives to present their demands to Chinese officials in a second day of heated meetings, student sources said.

Witnesses at the Shanghai demonstration said, the students, members of the Uyghur minority, gathered in the center of the port city with banners saying "Stop nuclear tests" and "Do not turn Xinjiang into a concentration camp."

Nuclear tests and the Chinese practice of shipping criminals to Xinjiang were two of the main issues raised by some 400 protesters Sunday in a petition submitted at Communist Party headquarters following a demonstration in the heart of Peking.

Chinese officials called meetings at the National Minorities Institute yesterday and today to explain to the students the reasons

for Peking's policies, but half of the 800 students at yesterday's meeting stormed out in anger, student sources told Agence France-Presse.

Today's meeting was calmer but sullen, the students said. Students said they had been told they would be let off with a warning this time, but if they demonstrated again, they should expect to be punished.

White House denies Shultz's departure

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (DPA) — A White House spokesman dismissed reports today that Secretary of State George Shultz is about to leave the cabinet.

"The president has the fullest confidence in his secretary of state and has expressed absolutely no intention of making any changes," spokesman Edward DeJerejian said.

DeJerejian's statement came in response to a report by Associated Press that conservative circles in the U.S. capital were predicting Shultz's departure from the administration following right-wing criticism and a resignation threat by Shultz over the planned use of lie-detector tests for government officials.

The students added that they believed the nationalities commission had intervened on their behalf.

Officials have said today the tests have had no adverse environmental or health effects, but students say it has increased incidents of cancer and leukemia.

Three times the size of France with a long border on the Soviet Union, Xinjiang is home to about 13.3 million people, half of them Muslims, the rest Han settlers.

In another development, Chinese police have mounted a national manhunt for six men after a Muslim was killed in an attack by Chinese on residents of a Muslim district in Xian, a Public Security Bureau source said today.

He said the man's funeral sparked a street demonstration by 2,000 Muslims who marched from the northwestern city's great mosque to city hall on Dec. 15 to demand police action.

Nine Han Chinese had been charged with stabbing the man to death on Dec. 13 after a gambling fight but six escaped and had fled Xian, the source said.

...ate such carnage in our ranks", the officials said.

visited her husband accompanied by their daughters Zuhra and Zehra on 11 Dec. 1985.
Arab News Dec. 26, 1985 Vol. XI No. 29 (Reuter Wirephoto)

Xinjiang students storm out of Peking meet

PEKING, Dec. 25 (AFP) — Students from the Muslim region of Xinjiang seeking greater autonomy and an end to nuclear tests in their remote homeland today stormed out of a meeting with Chinese officials here, a student source said.

About half the 800 students at the meeting held at the National Minorities Institute walked out angrily after the officials rejected their demands, and many stood in doorways calling other students to follow, said a student who attended the meeting.

Five Chinese officials, including at least one of ministerial status, spoke to the students through a Uygur-language interpreter, telling them that the nuclear tests were necessary, and that China's policies toward minorities were already "generous," the source said.

The source, who spoke Chinese with difficulty, was unable to recall the names of the officials.

The students, members of the Uygur and Kazak minorities, refused to select a representative to speak at the meeting on their behalf, telling the authorities that each person attending was a representative.

"If we choose somebody to speak for us

Moscow invites

they will put pressure on him and punish him," the student said.

Officials at the National Minorities Institute could not immediately be reached for comment.

Today's meeting was called following a protest march Sunday at which 400 Uygur students proclaimed their support for recent student demonstrators in Urumchi, the capital of Xinjiang, and presented a senior Chinese official with a petition stating their demands.

The demonstrators would not be punished this time but if they protested again, they should expect to be punished, the student quoted officials as saying.

Foreign monitoring agencies have recorded at least 27 nuclear tests in China since the first Chinese atom bomb was exploded at Lop Nor in Xinjiang in 1964.

Shevardnadze attacks U.S. stand

MOSCOW, Dec. 25 (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has accused the U.S. administration of failing to react positively to last month's Geneva summit and said U.S. allies were helping to undermine its results.

Speaking at a reception for Romanian Foreign Minister Ilie Vaduva yesterday, Shevardnadze said Moscow had taken a

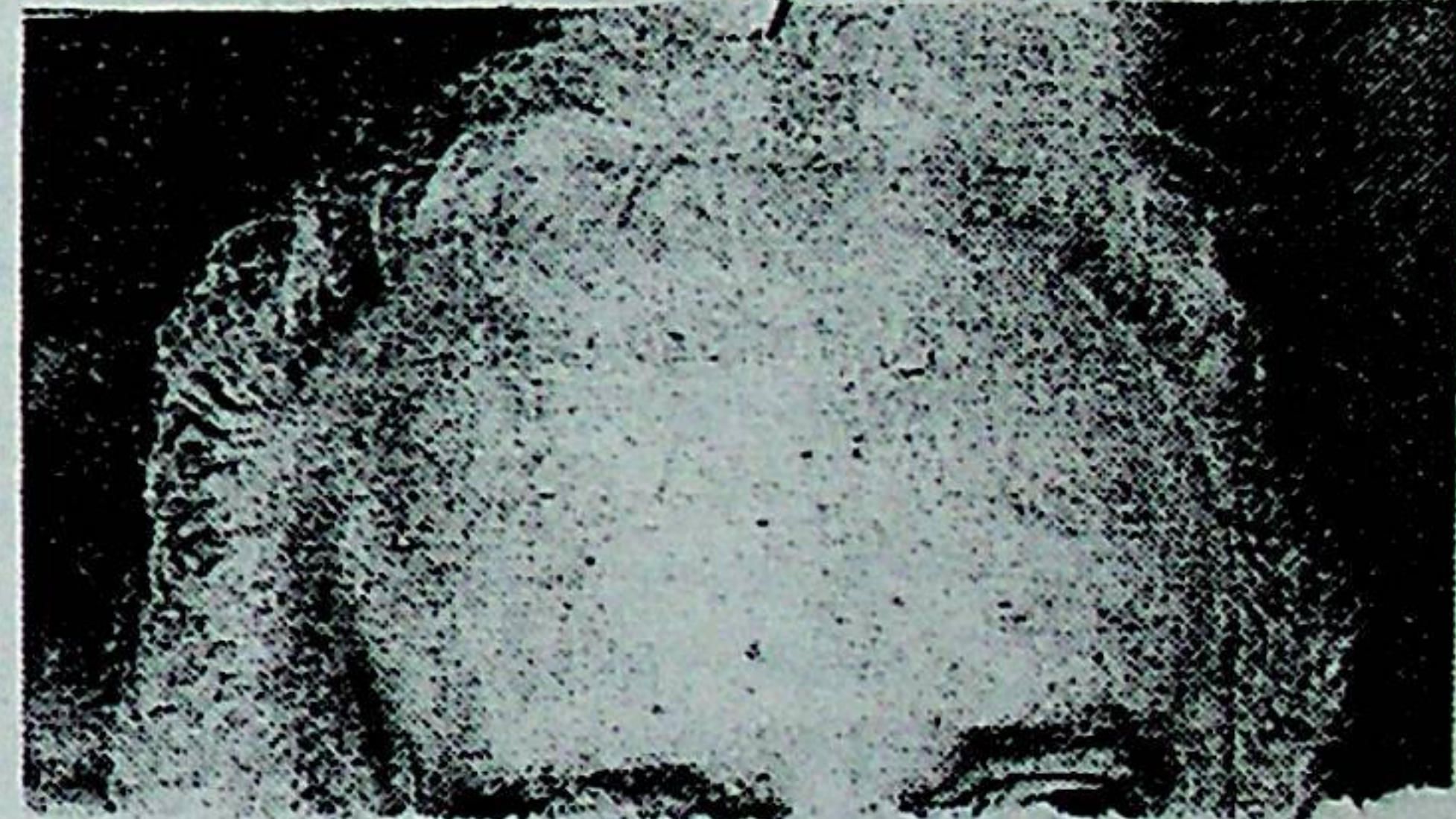
Tests have been conducted underground since 1980.

The officials cited a Foreign Ministry statement which said the tests were necessary for China's security and that they had been carried out safely, the student said.

Several students and other minority people from Xinjiang have alleged in private discussions with foreign journalists that the tests resulted in climate changes, poor fruit harvests and increased health problems.

The meeting lasted two hours, and when it adjourned the officials told students there would be another meeting tomorrow, the source said.

The vast region of Xinjiang is home to just 13.3 million people, including 46 largely Muslim minority groups whose language and customs differ greatly from those of China's Han majority.



Meeting called to view Xinjiang pupils' demands

PEKING, Dec. 24 (AFP) — The Chinese authorities have called a citywide meeting of ethnic minority students from China's far west Xinjiang autonomous region to discuss demands raised at a student protest Sunday, student sources said today.

Student sources said a reshuffle of regional leadership had occurred about two weeks ago was one of the causes of a major demonstration in Urumchi, the capital of Xinjiang.

The New China News Agency (NCNA) today reported a regional leadership reshuffle in which two members of minorities, Tomur Dawamat and Amudun Niyaz, were promoted to top government posts.

One student source described Tomur, a Uygur, as incompetent and several said they wished to elect their own, more talented leaders.

Uygur students at the National Minorities Institute said they and fellow minority students at other Peking colleges and universities had been invited to attend a meeting with a ministerial-level official on the campus tomorrow.

The students, who spoke on the condition that they not be identified, said about 500 to 600 students were expected to attend but it had yet to be announced which Chinese official would meet them.

Students who took part in Sunday's demonstration, when the protesters submitted a list of demands including an end to nuclear tests in their homeland and democratic self-rule, said the authorities had as yet taken no action against them.

NCNA described Tomur, 58, the new chairman of the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region's government as "one of the

outstanding cadres of ethnic minorities trained since the founding of the People's Republic China."

Amudun has become chairman of the standing committee of the regional People's Congress.

Western diplomats said they believed NCNA was reporting the reshuffle at this moment to counteract negative publicity generated by the students' protest.

Despite the presence of minority leaders in the government structure, true power in Xinjiang, a strategic mineral-rich region three times the size of France, continues to be held by the Communist Party, which is headed by Song Hanliang, a member of China's Han majority, analysts said.

Spark likely cause of Polish mine blast

WALBRZYCH, Poland, Dec. 24 (R) — A gas explosion which killed 18 coalminers Sunday was probably touched off by a spark from an underground train on which they were traveling, colliery sources said yesterday.

Eight other men were injured in the blast 200 meters below this grimy hillside town where flags draped with black crepe flew at halfmast to mark one of Poland's worst mine disasters in recent years.

The deaths were believed to have pushed the 1985 death toll in Polish mining accidents to over 100, despite efforts to improve safety standards.

Colliery guards said the miners were members of a volunteer maintenance crew working a Sunday overtime shift to help the pit meet its annual production target.

Accused spy pleads innocent in U.S.

Hold protest in Peking against N-tests

Ethnic Chinese urge more autonomy

PEKING, Dec. 23 (AFP) — Four hundred students from China's remote western region of Xinjiang staged a protest here yesterday, petitioning officials to increase their autonomy and to end nuclear tests in the region, participants said today.

The protesters, members of ethnic minorities studying at four Peking universities, marched around Tiananmen Square in central Peking carrying banners proclaiming their demands.

It was the latest in a series of student protests here, but was believed to be the first that criticized China's policy on minorities or nuclear arms.

After the protest, the students gathered in front of Zhongnanhai, headquarters of the Chinese Communist Party, where an official received their petition, protest participants said.

Students said they had called for an end to nuclear testing in Xinjiang and presented seven other demands, several of them dealing with increased autonomy.

The students said they had been stirred to action by recent protests in Urumqi, capital of the Xinjiang autonomous region, where they said 4,000 to 10,000 students had protested the tests and other issues two weeks ago.

An official of the student association at Xinjiang University, reached in Urumqi by telephone, confirmed that there had been a protest but said it had lasted only one day and had involved only 2,000 students.

China has carried out 30 nuclear tests in the remote desert region since it exploded its first atom bomb there in 1964. The last atmospheric test was carried out in October 1980 and tests have since been underground.

Three times the size of France, Xinjiang is home to only 13.3 million people, including 46 mostly Muslim minority groups whose language, temperament and way of life differ greatly from that of China's Han majority.

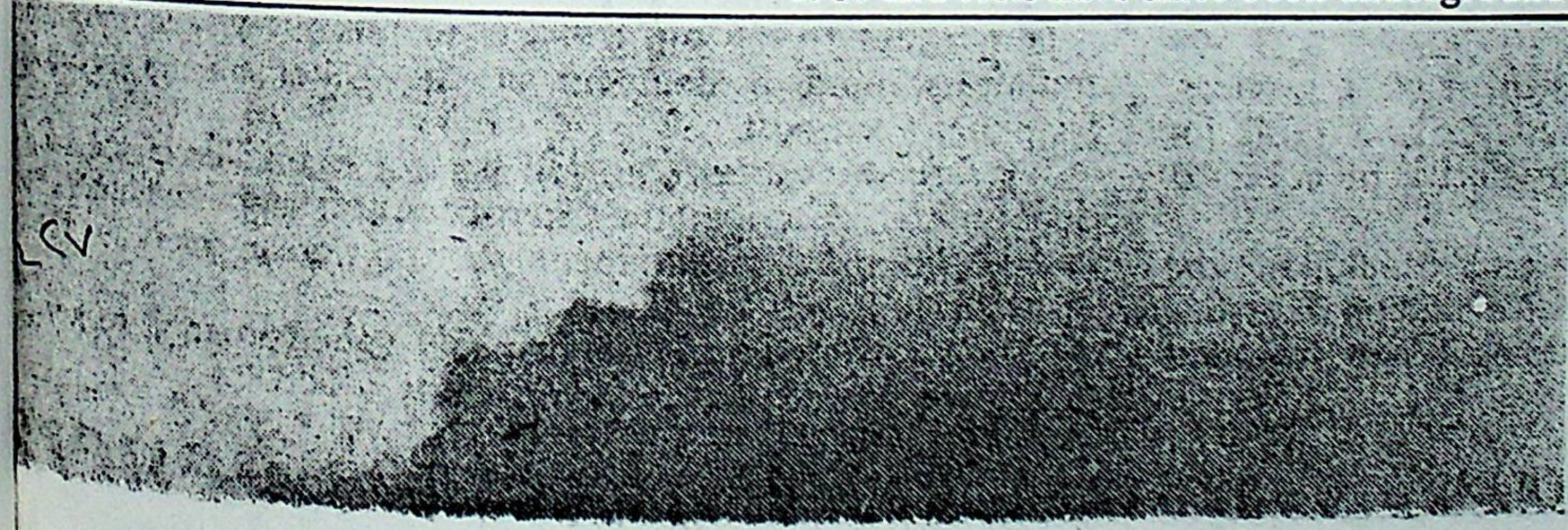
Participants in the Peking protest said they had presented their petition to the head of the United Front Department, the Communist Party office responsible for managing relations with non-party groups.

The official reportedly told them politely that their grievances would be attended to as quickly as possible. The United Front Department refused to accept reporters' inquiries about the protests.

In Urumqi, the student association official, Ma Jianhua, said Song Hanliang, party general secretary of Xinjiang, had told demonstrators there that their methods were wrong and that there would be no answer to their demands.

The Peking students said that police and university authorities had not so far taken action against the protesters, who did not heed an appeal yesterday by their college principals to return to their campuses — the National Minorities Institute, Peking University, Peking Normal University and Peking Pedagogical Institute.

Militarism



1960 10/11

Nuclear Teeth for Digest the Chinese Tiger

A ruthless drive for new weapons, forced through regardless of human cost, is increasing the menace behind the Bamboo Curtain

BY CHARLES MURPHY

ONE DAY in late 1959, John McCone, then chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, was being shown around the Soviet Union's Institute for Joint Nuclear Research in the Moscow suburb of Dubna. Here the foremost scientists and engineers of the communist world were being instructed in advanced nuclear theory and practice. Among them were a large number of Chinese. McCone's guide, a high-ranking Soviet official, confessed concern over the rapid progress of Chinese technology and the danger for Russia in continuing the collaboration. "The Chinese," the escort said bleakly, "are our future problem. Perhaps yours, too."

Several months later, in mid-1960,

the break between China and Russia became complete. Within a year or two, the Chinese were mostly gone from Dubna. What they carried home in their heads, combined with what their colleagues had "borrowed" from other sources, proved altogether enough for China's purposes. Only four years after the break, the Chinese nuclear physicists, who included many alumni of Dubna, set off a highly creditable atomic device. In 1967, they produced the far more deadly hydrogen bomb.

Even now, on the island of Zanzibar in the Indian Ocean, several hundred Chinese technicians are assembling what appears to be a missile-tracking station. A Chinese vessel bedecked with radar-tracking

and telemetry gear has been sighted and appears to be ready for a trial cruise. From these and other signs, the first full-range test of a Chinese intercontinental-range (4,000 to 6,000 miles) ballistic missile (ICBM) seems imminent. If the missile flies true, China will move up behind the United States and the Soviet Union as a nuclear super-power in the making.

Yet there is much about China that puzzles the Western mind. On the one hand, there is the nuclear giant; on the other, the still threadbare nation of 750 to 800 million people with practically no cars, buses or lorries. Her gross national product is only about £40,000 million a year—only one-tenth that of the United States, one-sixth that of Russia. Her yearly output of steel (about 18 million tons) is barely equal to that of Italy, and her total annual output of electric energy (60 thousand million kilowatt hours) would scarcely manage to keep the houses of France lit and her factories operating for five months of the year.

How, then, was China, from so meagre an industrial base, able to make such a spectacular vault into the most advanced military technologies? And what does this newfound competence bode for the future of Pacific Asia?

Answering the first question is easier than answering the second. The Asian capacity for unremitting toil and ingenious improvisation has

long been justly celebrated. China, ruined by decades of civil war and the Japanese occupation but governed after 1949 by a triumphant revolutionary group, chose to concentrate its imitative gifts on mastering Western technologies that would make it the foremost military power in Asia.

To get a fast start on the nuclear road, in 1955 she contracted with the Soviet Union for research reactors, as well as technical assistance. China also looked to Russia to provide the industrial underpinnings for her nuclear ventures. By Soviet accounting, its largess included some 400 complete factories, plus laboratories, machinery, blueprints. At least 12,500 Russian and Eastern-bloc technicians served in China, and some 7,500 Chinese technicians took advanced training in the Soviet Union.

Brain Gain. China did not enter the partnership empty-handed. Of some 200 senior physicists, chemists, mathematicians and engineers whom Peking assembled in the mid-1950s for the parallel nuclear and rocket programmes, three-quarters had been educated abroad. Nearly half came out of the best U.S. scientific and engineering schools. Dr. Tsien Hsue-shen, for example, one of the world's foremost authorities on rocketry, was the United States' unwitting gift to China. Trained in aerodynamics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the California Institute of Technology,

he was barred from U.S. programmes for alleged communist sympathies. Returning in bitterness to China in 1951, he was soon made the principal scientific adviser for the rocket programmes.

Pirating Know-how. After the 1960 break with the Soviet Union, Chinese leaders sought elsewhere to make good the technological loss. Small teams of technicians searched Europe for precision machinery to plagiarize—the newest automatic milling machines, electronically controlled lathes, grinders, measuring instruments. Once they had settled on a machine or system, they would buy one or two of each, together with an ample supply of spare parts, and arrange for shipment home. In Japan, the Chinese learned the sophisticated techniques used in the fabrication of transistors and integrated and solid-state circuitry—the electronic means for achieving light, compact circuitry for computers, as well as control systems for rocketry.

While the Red Guards rampaged across China, during the Cultural Revolution initiated by Mao Tse-tung in 1966 to keep revolutionary fervour ablaze, the army shielded most of the defence scientists in their compounds. It was the teachers in the humanities, the social scientists, the managers who were publicly humiliated and sent into the factories and paddies to toil alongside the workers.

Starting back in 1961-62, U.S.

intelligence closely watched Chinese nuclear advancement by photographic satellites and Nationalist Chinese U-2 reconnaissance flights. When the first Chinese atomic device was exploded at Lop Nor on the edge of the Gobi Desert on October 16, 1964, it was regarded as a significant achievement—but not a surprising one. The Chinese have now successfully detonated 14 different nuclear devices, the last in March this year. By June 1967, they had the H-bomb in hand—a three-megaton device (equal to three million tons of TNT), a true city-destroyer.

“The test sequence suggests that the Chinese scientists have been orderly, frugal and at times daring,” says a high U.S. Atomic Energy Commission official. “They made few mistakes.”

Explosive Power. In a remote area of China, far from Soviet bases in Outer Mongolia, the Chinese appear to be building a second major nuclear-production complex, big enough to double the current output of the U-235 used in warheads. Such an investment would give China an additional source of nuclear-warhead material far to the south of existing factories, which lie within easy striking distance of Soviet forces stationed in Outer Mongolia.

Six of the nuclear devices tested at Lop Nor were dropped from TU-16 medium-range bombers, now being produced at the rate of two or three a month in a huge factory originally equipped by the Russians at Sian in

Shensi Province.* By itself, however, the bomber force would present only a minor threat to Russia. To possess a commanding nuclear-strike power in Asia, China must also master the missile, at least of the medium (500 to 1,500 miles) and intermediate (1,500 to 3,000 miles) range—the MRBM and IRBM. Here, visibly, the Chinese technical achievement has lagged behind the nuclear.

In 1970, however, came a burst of activity. Within less than 11 months, Chinese rocket specialists fired an IRBM some 2,000 miles into the Sinkiang Desert and also put two satellites into earth orbit. China's first satellite weighed 381 pounds, the second 486 pounds. Compared to the 300,000 pounds which the U.S. Saturn V puts into orbit, these weights are trifling. But as regards China's position on the learning curve, her first satellite was 12 times heavier than the first American satellite twelve and a half years earlier.

U.S. Defence Department projections indicate that the Chinese may attain an initial strike capability with a squadron or so of ICBMs (10 to 25) as early as the mid-1970s—or

* From factories also started with Russian help and strategically dispersed across the country, China is now producing supersonic jet fighters adapted from the MIG-19 and the MIG-21, as well as helicopters and training planes. A Chinese fighter-bomber, structurally similar to the MIG-19, but larger and faster, is also in production. In addition, the Russians supplied China with a prototype missile-launching submarine. A hull, tentatively identified as that of a nuclear-attack submarine, was recently sighted under construction in a shipyard on Liaotung Peninsula, in what used to be called Manchuria.

even by next year if development is pushed on a crash basis. MRBMs are already in squadron deployment; these could reach Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines and Okinawa, as well as Outer Mongolia and the Soviet maritime provinces in Siberia. IRBMs now entering initial deployment will reach practically all of the large Russian industrial centres, including Moscow, and all of South-East Asia.

Matching Might. China's strategy at this stage is apparently aimed at meeting both the 40 to 50 Russian divisions strung out along her northern frontier and the possibility of a Russian strike to destroy the Chinese nuclear potential. It became clear as early as two years ago that the threat of Chinese nuclear rockets was beginning to worry the Russians. At that time, U.S. intelligence discovered that the anti-ballistic-missile complex around Moscow was being rapidly filled out along its eastern perimeter with radars and weapons to face likely Chinese rocket azimuths.

"The Chinese nuclear-warhead technologists are as good as the world's best," says John Foster, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defence and Director of Defence Research Engineering. But China's industrial technologies, railways, shipbuilding, vehicles and so on, are of a lower order. A full 95 per cent of China's technological base is of mediocre, even primitive, quality. In general, China is a full 15 years behind

READER'S DIGEST

Japan in technology—and Japan, investing less than one per cent of its gross national product in defence (as against China's nine to ten per cent), is widening the gap.

This excessive concentration of resources into military technology is achieved at the expense of China's long-suffering masses. Even so, the resulting economic impoverishment imposes definite limits upon her military reach. It rules out, for years to come, any credible likelihood of war across the Pacific between the United States and China. But the weapons fast coming into the hands of Peking's strategists warn the United States that its ability to curb China's revolutionary mischief-making among its allies and clients is on the wane.

Indeed, China's immediate strategy is aimed at realizing Mao's short-range goal: to make the Chinese nation master of Asia. Manifestly, China's lengthening nuclear reach means that the islands off the Chinese coast, which for a quarter of a century have offered U.S. forces sanctuaries and convenient staging areas, can no longer be taken for granted. A landing in force there in defence of an ally may soon

be unthinkable. Premier Chou En-lai has made it clear that China is determined that the United States shall give up these Asian footholds, and that the withdrawal is not to be accompanied by Japanese re-arming. Yet, for the United States to yield to Chou's demands might be to sanction the advent of China's hegemony over the western Pacific and South-East Asia.

The net result of all this is that China is no longer a "paper tiger," a power which, while capable of tenacious self-defence, has been too weak and backward to impose its will beyond its own frontiers. To the long-term Maoist goal of a Peking-supported world revolution of the "have-not" nations has now been added a fast-broadening technological base which is arming Peking's strategists with the most advanced weapons.

What makes China's transformation menacing is that the society being reshaped round these weapons is without counterpart in modern human experience: a whole third of the human mass exhorted to embrace "wars of annihilation," to savour death and sacrifice in the name of proletarian revolution.

Cool!

IT WAS a hot, humid day, and the vicar was standing at a window in the church, waiting for a wedding party. He was surprised when a frozen-food van stopped in front of the church. The driver opened the doors at the back of the van, pulled down a red-carpeted ramp, and the bride and her four bridesmaids emerged—all looking as cool and fresh as daisies. The bride's father is a frozen-food distributor.

—Doyle Gotter

Ethnic conflict in Chinese province

By Lena H. Sun
The Washington Post

Kashgar, China — On the dusty, sandy roads in China's westernmost city, the language that is heard most often above the jingle of the bells on the donkeys is not Chinese but Uighur, a mixture of Turkish and Persian.

Five times a day, the call of the muezzin pierces the air and the donkey carts are tethered as their drivers, heeding the call to the faithful, head for nearby mosques.

Here in China's strategic northwestern province of Xinjiang, 60 miles from the Soviet border, the presence of the Uighurs (pronounced way-gurs), a Turkic people of Moslem faith, is clearly felt.

In fact, the Uighurs, who make up 80 percent of this city's 180,000 population, have more in common with their brethren on the other side of the border than with their comrades in Peking, 3,500 miles to the east.

Xinjiang, China's largest province, is home to 40 of China's 55 minority groups, which together make up only 6.7 percent of the country's population. In Xinjiang, the Uighurs are the dominant majority, constituting almost half of the region's 13 million people.

Relations between the minorities and the Han Chinese, who make up the vast majority of the country's population, have historically been uneasy here. The Han Chinese are named for the Han dynasty that laid the foundation for the Chinese empire more than 2,000 years ago.

For decades the Peking government has been sending Han Chinese to outlying regions like this one to develop the areas economically and assimilate the minorities into Chinese culture.

In recent years, however, the government has moved to ease tensions between the Han Chinese and other ethnic groups by guaranteeing the rights of members of minority groups. Today the minorities have equal rights under the law and within the Communist Party.

But despite these efforts, by August, 1981, relations between Chinese and Uighurs in Xinjiang had deteriorated so badly that China's most powerful leader, Deng Xiaoping, traveled from Peking to Xinjiang to help mediate the political infighting between Chinese and Uighur members of the provincial ruling committee, diplomats said then.

According to the September, 1981, issue of the Hong Kong Communist magazine Cheng Ming, Deng discovered an "unsteady situation." The magazine said Uighur dissidents had planned a province-wide uprising against Chinese rule, using the slogan, "We want self-rule and don't want to be dominated."

Peking's response to the infighting and ethnic group demands was to replace the Communist Party leader with Gen. Wang Enmao in November, 1981.

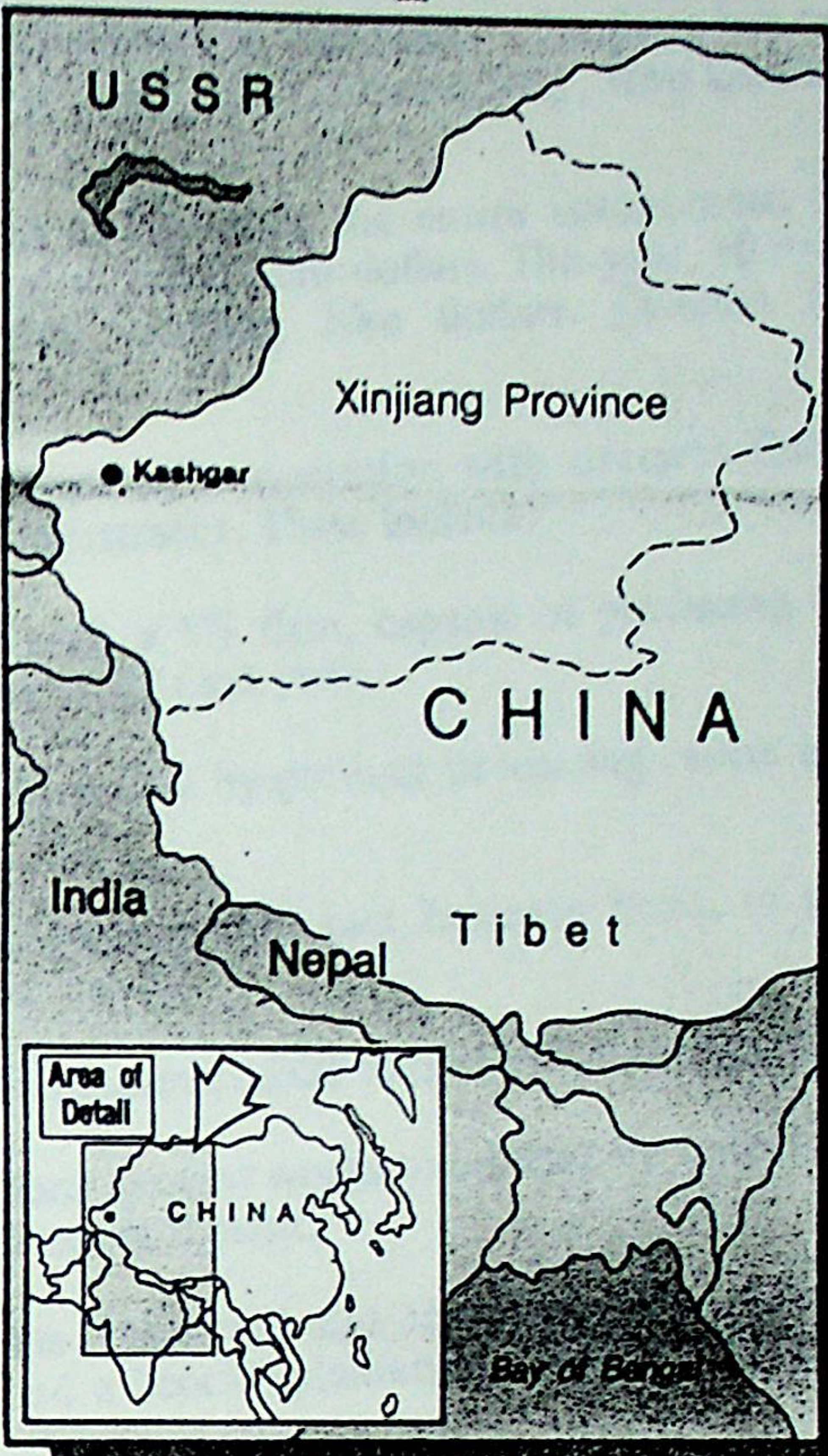
Wang had helped bring the region under Communist control after the party came to power in 1949, and his moderate and pragmatic policies reportedly have earned him support among the people.

Now, as Xinjiang prepares to tackle an ambitious modernization plan to transform China's wild west into China's California by the end of the 21st Century, much of its success will hinge on its leaders' ability to achieve ethnic unity and political stability.

The easing of tensions on the Sino-Soviet border in recent years and the reopening of two border posts in Xinjiang for the resumption of trade between the two countries has also allowed the region's leaders to devote more energy and time to internal stability.

In a recent interview, Wang, the province's top political and military leader, described relations between the Han Chinese and the minorities as "very good," a marked improvement from 1982, when he noted that there were still "serious problems."

Although local residents said there has been no more of the violence that pitted Uighurs against Chinese in 1980 and 1981 in at least two Xinjiang cities, there is a feeling of wariness. "Small frictions," caused by misunderstandings over customs and traditions and the inability to communicate, are common, local residents said.



Newsday Map/Tom Redmond

On a recent Sunday, a group of about 20 Han Chinese youths crowded in front of one store, some smoking cigarettes, all listening to western pop music blaring from a large cassette recorder. Not a single non-Chinese went near them. Instead, they steered clear of the group, some even crossing to the other side of the street to do their shopping.

The misunderstanding and prejudices are particularly common among the younger generations of Han Chinese and Uighurs. There have been instances, for example, when young Han Chinese intentionally have stood in front of praying Uighurs to offend them.

"The Chinese youths who do this look down upon the Uighurs. They do this because they like to pretend that the Uighurs are kowtowing to them," one source said.

When Uighurs are in a funeral procession, it is considered a sign of respect for approaching cyclists to dismount, but many younger Han Chinese either do not know better or choose not to, the source said.

Accentuating tensions are the frustrations felt by many Han Chinese, many of them skilled workers and technicians sent from China's larger coastal cities, such as Shanghai, to help provide the needed personnel for Xinjiang's economy.

They have a hard time adapting to the harsher conditions of life here, Chinese sources said. In addition, they often become frustrated professionally because they are cut off from the latest information in their specialties.

In 1980 and 1981, there were clashes caused by unrest among the former residents of Shanghai who had been sent to the region in the 1950s and who were demanding to return to their native homes.

When authorities refused, about 10,000 demonstrated in Aksu, 250 miles northeast of Kashgar. Government offices were taken over and officials attacked before order was restored.

Although all of China's different national minorities are equal under the law, they usually have a much lower standard of living than the Han Chinese.

"Yes, in reality there are still disparities [between the Han and the minorities] because they are not equal economically," said Wang. "And where there are disparities [in income], there will be friction." //

BBC - London April 3, 85

XINJIANG'S CO-OPERATION WITH ABROAD Xinjiang has established relations of economic co-operation with Japan, USA, France, Italy, West Germany, Australia, Kuwait

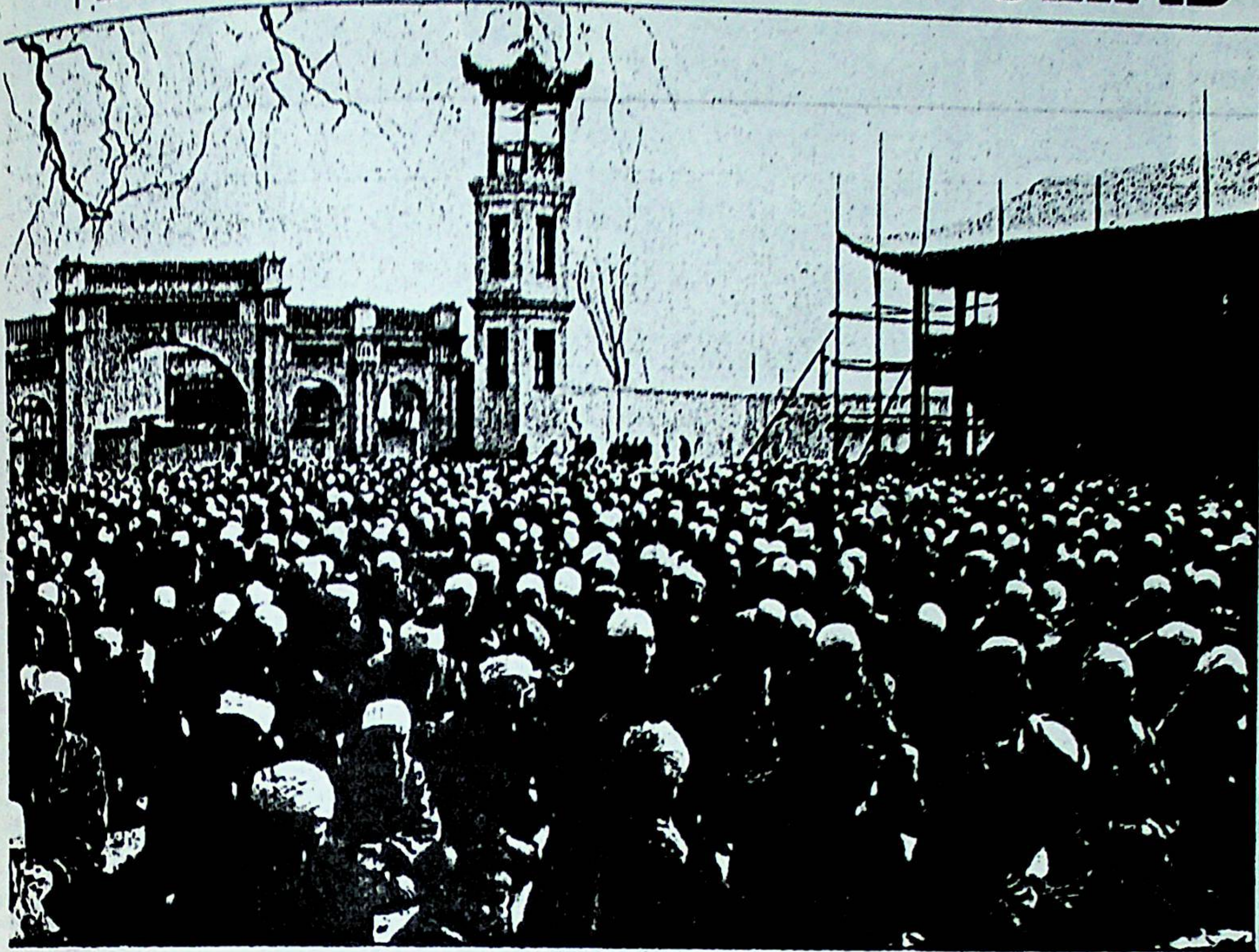
and Hongkong. By the end of last year, the entire autonomous region had started 14 projects with foreign capital totalling 60m dollars. This year, 10 more projects have been started with foreign capital totalling 50m dollars. (Xinhua in Chinese 0031 gmt 22 Mar 85)

Xinjiang will start 12 projects in co-operation with overseas firms this year, involving 50m US dollars in foreign investment. These include:

- A joint cotton venture with a US firm, capable of producing 4,070,000 m of yarn a year; it will start operations early next year.
- A Chinese-Canadian joint animal by-product processing centre in the southern Junggar basin.
- A joint pharmaceutical venture with two Japanese firms, to produce 52 tons of ammoniated glycyrrhizic acid a year.
- A Chinese-US factory to process 10,000 tons of potatoes annually.
- Expansion of the Xinjiang cement works to increase its annual output by 700,000 tons, through import of Japanese equipment.

The autonomous region will also co-operate with Japanese and American firms in building a vineyard and a licorice plantation. (Xinhua in English 0640 gmt 23 Mar 85)

CHINA BENDS BUT THERE ARE WALLS STILL TO CLIMB



IPA Picture Library

The 14 million Muslims in China have a long history. However, though ethnically Chinese, their insistence on a separate identity has led to tension — and the current regime's relaxation on religion has only served to focus attention on economic and social disparities

● In Urumqi, capital of the Uighur region of Xinjiang, they set their watches to the same time as Beijing, although by the sun the time difference between these two towns, 2,500km distant, is 2 hours. "Autonomy" has its limits — in the People's Republic of China a distant province peopled by Muslims cannot be allowed to set the rhythm of life by the sun.

The similarities however end there. Urumqi is a different world to Beijing. Colours, odours, customs, food, clothing and even landscape, in fact everything there invokes a different culture, different traditions, a different origin. Situated in the far reaches of China, Urumqi is identified by its rugged hills and moon-like landscape of rock and sand dunes. Tent-dwelling Kazakhs tend their livestock in the foothills while the more settled Uighurs — also of Turkish origin — plough fields and harvest wheat for the unleavened loaves eaten by Central Asian Muslims. In the town itself, mosques are dotted between almost every street of low, whitewashed mudbrick houses. Veiled women in bright-coloured dresses walk the streets. On Sundays a huge bazaar

is conducted under the canvas awnings, there the aroma of grilled mutton and spices fills the air and camels, yaks and donkeys are traded for skeins of human hair or a set of sheep skulls.

From the upheavals of the "giant leap forward," through the frenzy of the Cultural Revolution to the excesses of the Gang of Four, Islam in China has survived and retained something of its stubborn vitality. Most of the 14 million Muslims who now live in China belong to the Turkish minorities that inhabit the country's remote north-west, on the border with the Soviet Union, but very little is known about them. Indeed, no such major community of Muslims has been so little known as that of China.

Although subject to controversy, it is believed that Islam's most trodden entrance to China was along the "Silk Road", by way of Turkestan, during the 7th-10th century CE. This thoroughfare of history was traversed by Muslim merchants, backed by their armies. It has been recently acknowledged by historians of the Far East that included among the Chinese prisoners captured in the Arab invasion of Chinese Turkestan in 751 CE (134 AH) were papermak-

ers, whose skills and knowhow were utilised by the Muslims. By 850 CE (236 AH), Samarkand, the capital of Turkestan, had become the major distributor of paper in the East. Subsequently, paper distribution extended to Egypt and then, via Spain and Italy, into Germany in 1390 CE (792 AH), just prior to the "Gutenberg Revolution" — the beginnings of the printing industry in the West.

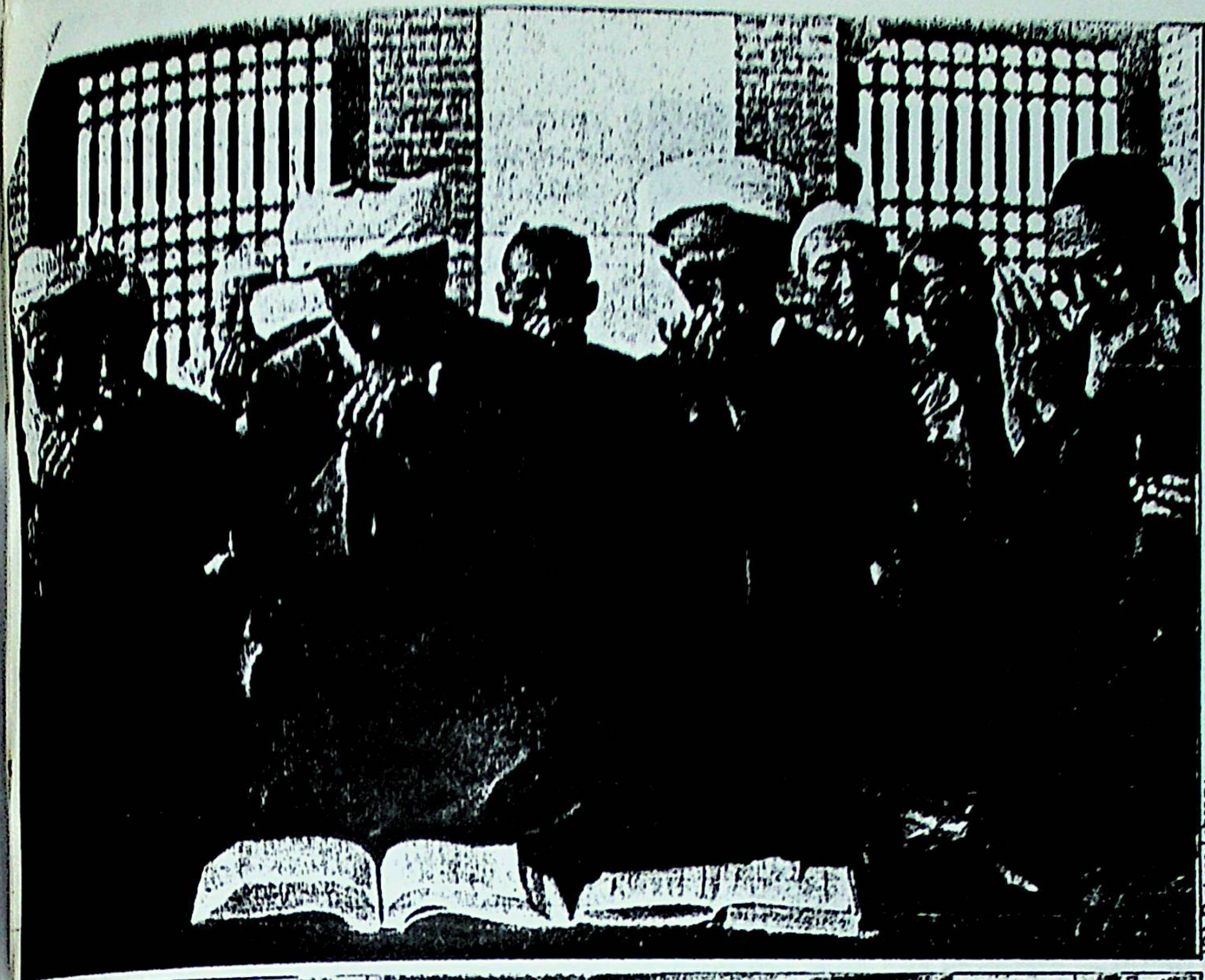
A far more numerous and important group of Asian Muslims arrived in China in the early 13th century. From 1219 CE, when Genghis Khan launched his western campaign, until the capture of Baghdad in 1258 CE (656 AH), the Mongols conquered vast regions of West Asia which were largely inhabited by Muslims. Tens of thousands of them were sent eastwards to China, mostly as soldiers and civil servants. The social and political pressures on the Muslims led to some superficial assimilation.

Having become ethnically Chinese (through intermarriage), these Muslims adopted the Chinese language and Chinese dress. Mosques were built in the style of pagodas, the muezzin making the call to prayer inside the courtyard. Knowledge of Arabic was confined to the imams or "akhunds," although as with other non-Arabs the use of Arabic greetings became a Muslim shibboleth. Nevertheless, observance of ritual and dietary laws ensured that Chinese Muslims retained a separate identity as a religious community.

The Muslims in China enjoyed their greatest respect and achieved their highest honours during the reign of Kubla Khan (1215-1294 CE), several of them becoming his ministers. By the end of his reign, they occupied almost all the leading positions in the army.

During the Yuan dynasty (1279-1368 CE — 678-770 AH), Muslims made important contributions to Chinese society. For example, Fon-Lein helped encourage Chinese trade and was one of the richest traders in China, the owner of 80 boats. In the field of science they distinguished themselves in pharmacy, astronomy and as fabricators of the cannon, and also introduced the Persian language. The most well-known Muslim scientist was Tcha Ma Lou Ting, who invented the "wan-nien-li" calendar which was selected as the official calendar in China in 1281 CE (680 AH).

With the decline of the Mongol dynasty, the Muslims lost their political and social standing. Under the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911 CE — 770-1330 AH) they were subjected to persecution, and five major Muslim rebellions against the Qing in the west-



Chinese Muslims at prayer: since 1976 the communist regime has liberalised its policy on religion

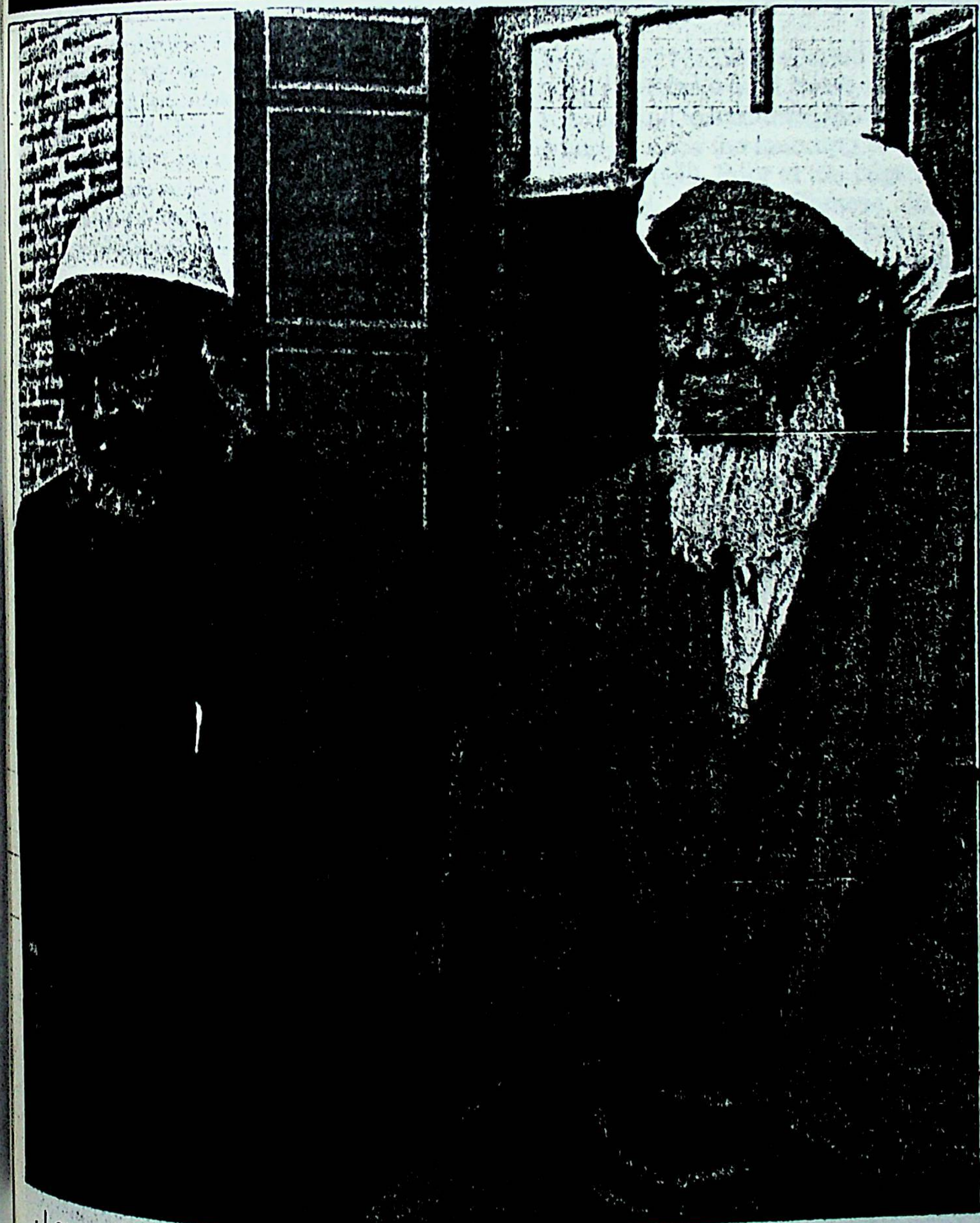
Ma-Zhugying led a revolt against the central government in Xinjiang in 1930 and for a period of six months maintained a degree of local independence.

Commenting on the volatile relationship between the Muslims and the Han Chinese (the ethnic Chinese), Professor Israel notes: "Islam has been characterised through the ages by the attempt to retain its identity as a religious minority while adopting many of the outward forms of the surrounding Chinese culture. Only when tension between two divergent aims has become too great has the Muslim community broken out into rebellion and warfare against its Chinese overlords."

The estrangement between Islam and Confucianism is more tangible and concrete than the abstract doctrinal differences between Islam and Christianity. After all, the Chinese know no God, no Prophet and no holy book. The traditional view that a Chinese was "Confucian in office, Taoist in retirement and Buddhist as death approached" summarises the guiltless practicality and eclecticism characteristic of the Chinese attitude to religion. Consequently the Cultural Revolution, which caused great damage by its open hostility towards religion and Muslim culture — leading to the defection of 30,000 Muslims — only magnified and gave cohesion to deep-rooted views held by the Han Chinese on religion.

The recent liberal attitude of the ever-pragmatic Deng Xiaoping regime towards autonomy in Xinjiang is viewed with extreme caution. For a start, Xinjiang has experienced a greater military presence (totally of Han origin) than any other province in China. In 1953, 92 per cent of the population of Xinjiang — an area of 1,647,240 square km — was Muslim while Hans numbered only 8 per cent. Today, of the population of 18.3 million, the Muslim population is only 59.9 per cent compared to the 40.2 per cent of the Hans. This rapid increase of the Han population is due to the inflow of technicians, engineers, administrative and political officials, who now outnumber the criminals exiled in former times to the uncongenial surroundings of Xinjiang. These newcomers dominate most of the important jobs in the economic and political spheres.

In the field of education, the percentage of non-Han students never reaches 60 per cent which is the percentage of minority nationals in the population of the region. In primary education Muslims are 52 per cent of the total, and only 32.5 per cent in secondary educa-



ern and northern provinces occurred in about a century, the most notable taking place in the 1860s and 1870s in Yunnan province. The tradition of resistance against Chinese central govern-

ments continued into the 20th century when for about 40 years the clan of Mao Bufang maintained a largely autonomous government in Qinghai province, complete with its own military forces.

tion. Moreover, because both primary and secondary education is in their own language and not Chinese, Muslims face further handicaps which they must surmount to climb the social ladder. In fact the Muslim students who do go to university have to do a one-year course to perfect their Chinese.

In a recent article in the *People's Daily*, the newspaper hastened to note that of the 47 members of the permanent Committee of Congress of the People of Xinjiang, 28 came from minority groups. Of the 667 delegates of the region in the first session of the sixth National Congress, 355 represented the Urumqi population and other minorities. The reality is that most of these functions only have an honorary importance. Moreover, in the apparatus of the party, the situation is noticeably different — out of 15 members of the permanent committee at the regional level, only five are non-Hans. Asked about this, a Han official said: "The organisation of the party is not directed by the minority nations." The party committee in Xinjiang numbers around 25,000 Muslims out of a total of 50,000 members.

It is with religion that Chinese policies have been most moderate. At the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1976 there were 1,400 mosques in Xinjiang; today there are 12,000 places of worship. The rights of religious practice were re-established after the third plenum in December 1978. Since then, 20,000 Muslims attended the Friday prayers in the Id Ah Mosque at Kashgar, the biggest in China, and for Eid el Kabir and the festivities celebrating the end of Ramadan the number of worshippers was 50,000.

Taking advantage of this increased governmental flexibility, the Islamic Association of the region was re-established in 1980. The 2,800 imams are paid by the government, which spent 300,000 yuans (\$275,000) to this end in 1980-83. In addition, 200,000 Muslim books, including 8,000 copies of the Quran, were printed in Xinjiang in 1983; meanwhile, two-thirds of those prosecuted for religious reasons were rehabilitated after the Cultural Revolution. It should be noted however that the religious movements are an additional attraction for China's lucrative tourist trade, which means that the atheist state pays for the upkeep of the mosques and their imams. The price that imams have to pay is large groups of foreign and Chinese tourists wandering among the faithful.

One of the most spectacular signs of the new religious fervour and of the greater tolerance of the government is the huge increase in the number of pilgrims to Makkah. *Beijing Review* of



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Islam in China has survived — along with its stubborn vitality

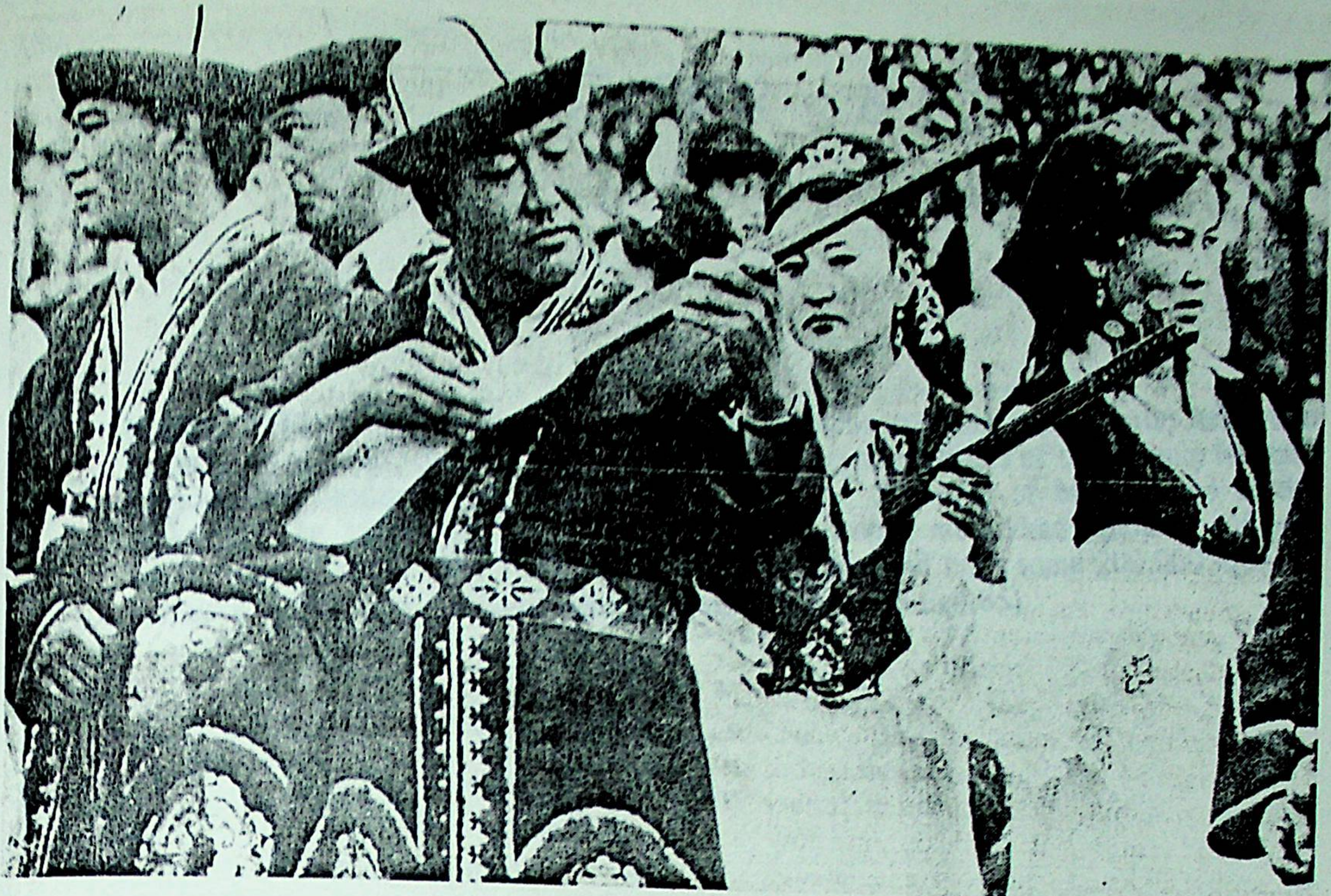
September 17, 1984 reported that some 1,000 Muslims would travel to Makkah that autumn, constituting the largest pilgrimage since the founding of the new China in 1949. Prior to the pilgrimage, organised by the Chinese Islamic Association, it was reported that a delegation of 48 members, including imams, mullahs and Islamic scholars and headed by Ilyas Shen Xianxi, vice-president of the association, went to Makkah in late August. The journal added that these pilgrims were delegates to the National People's Congress and members of the National Committee of Chinese People's Consultative Conference, and that they also visited Kuwait after the pilgrimage at the invitation of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Islamic Affairs.

What is noteworthy about the recent pilgrimage is that the Chinese constitution forbids "foreign control" of religion, so relations with believers in the outside world is one of the most delicate issues. In fact, some believe that it was outside support that kept Islam going during the Cultural Revolution — certainly the only religion with no substantial outside contact. Taoism (Confucianism) appears to be in serious decline. One means by which the Chinese government keeps track of the level of "foreign control" is through the Islamic Association, which according to Imam Hang Shengui of Xinjiang's Doug Guan Mosque "acts as a bridge through which the government keeps in touch with Muslim affairs and opinions, and its policy is conveyed to believers." Given that the Chinese Islamic Association works closely with the State Commission for Nationalities Affairs, all aspects of religious "autonomy" have to

be sanctioned by this government body — and in the special case of the pilgrims, all of them had to be vetted by this body and a large minority were selected by them.

There is no denying that many freedoms have been granted to Muslims by the present policy of liberalisation in China. In Xinjiang, the Islamic lifestyle once again obliterates all but the most official level of Chinese influence: soldiers of the People's Liberation Army and that of the Han Chinese appointed to senior local positions. Ironically the freedom in the religious sphere has heightened the apparent economic and social disproportion between Muslims and the Han Chinese. Although there are glaring headlines in the *People's Daily* about plans to make the northwest a "great development area" in the coming century — and about the advantages it would bring for Muslims — the reality once again is much more sober. For example in the oil town of Karamay, a massive investment project, it was revealed that 80 per cent of the population is Hans who have recently been encouraged by the government to migrate there. In a town of 117,000 inhabitants — over half of whom are employed directly or indirectly in oil — all the technicians, engineers and managers are Hans.

With 14 million Muslims along the border with the Soviet Union, and festering dissent in Tibet, it has been the growing political significance of these minority groups that has forced a more liberal attitude from the government, and all the signs are that they will want more autonomy. For the world's largest atheist country, religion is likely to continue to present problems.



The Kirgiz: The tones of the komuz from cradle to grave.

Qu Weibo

THE KIRGIZ OF THE FAR WEST BORDER

ABOUT 110,000 people of the Kirgiz (Kirghiz) nationality live within China's borders. The majority of them are in the Kizilsu Kirgiz autonomous prefecture which embraces a large area at the westernmost tip of China in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, and some also live in and around cities like Khotan, Kashgar and Aksu. A large Kirgiz population lives on the other side of the Soviet border.

The Kirgiz live a nomadic life, traveling the year round with their white felt tents and herds of cattle and sheep about the Pamir highlands and the Tianshan and Kunlun mountains. One group of their forefathers originated in the region west of Lake Baikal in the Soviet Union; another, which merged with these, was under the rule of the Turkic Khanate, and the language the Kirgiz adopted is Turkic. They became a distinct nationality in the 14th century and moved to their present highland areas in the 15th century under pressure of attacks from Genghis Khan and the Mongol forces. They were known in Chinese history by many names.

They are distinguished for their music and their traditional oral

literature. One of their most distinctive instruments is the komuz, a small, unfretted type of three-stringed lute. Practically everyone can play it from childhood on, and songs to its accompaniment are one of the chief expressions of the people's joys, sorrows, griefs and anger. As the Kirgiz saying goes, "You are born to the sound of the komuz, live your life to its melodies, and it accompanies you to your grave."

One such instrument was presented to the Chinese court during the Tang dynasty (618-907), apparently came into use, and from there traveled to Japan. According to Japanese books, it is still used in Japan.

THE Kirgiz have a rich collection of traditional songs, lullabies, wedding songs, melodies for bidding guests farewell, herding songs, and even the "Swing Song", one of their most popular recreations. Since liberation in 1949 many new songs have been created reflecting the optimism of the present. Here are the words of one:

*The fire-red sun sets in the west,
Many-colored clouds rise above the*

*snow-topped mountains.
Riding home from work,
The horsewomen forget their
tiredness.*

THE Kirgiz national epic *Manas* is one of China's three great nationality epics, the other two being the Tibetans' *Gesar* and Mongolians' *Janger*. Through the long, involved ballad of the ancient hero *Manas* and his descendants, the story tells how the Kirgiz nationality was formed and unified, and about life and social conditions in the middle ages. An investigation in 1964 found only 70 people in the Kizilsu prefecture who could sing the whole thing. Now written down, its eight parts total 200,000 lines of words.

Plans are being made for publication, to the great satisfaction of international scholars. Scholars in France have already signed contracts with Chinese research institutes for lectures and exchange of findings, and in Japan specialists are engaged and ready to begin their research. This epic story has relevance to not only the Kirgiz but to the entire histories of eastern and central Asia. □

CHINA RECONSTRUCTS

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Urumqi Military Region completes border defence construction (Excerpts) After two years of hard work, the vast number of commanders and fighters of the Urumqi Military Region have fulfilled, one year ahead of schedule, the tasks of building the border defence. . . In 1983 and 1984 they built and revamped more than 1,000 km of high roads, erected more than 3,000 km of telephone lines and built some 200,000 sq.m. of barracks. . . (Urumqi, Xinjiang regional service 1300 gmt 8 Feb 85)

tourism

The Zanzibar Revolutionary government has said that it is taking steps to publicise Zanzibar in foreign countries in order to attract more tourists. The ministry of maritime affairs, tourism and forest has said a plan has been drawn up for reviving historical sites and having tourist attractions on the islands. The ministry said discussions between the government and a French company going on for the construction of a tourist village at Mangapwani in Zanzibar.

The ministry has also contacted the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation so that the corporation may continue with oil research on the islands. Oil exploration over the past 10 months has shown that there are signs of oil in Zanzibar. Oil exploration in Zanzibar began in 1956 when a British company began operations in Zanzibar and Pemba islands. However, research had shown that existing oil is not sufficient to start the commercialisation of oil.

Eastern Turkistan trade

The Chinese government has permitted the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region of Eastern Turkistan to conduct border trade with the Kirghiz and Kazakh republics under Soviet rule. The main items of trade comprise cotton, cotton yarn and cloth, woollen fabrics, carpets, liquorice roots, raisins and melons.

• Ethiopia and Egypt have signed a one-year trade agreement. Ethiopia would export \$14m worth fresh and frozen meat and \$6m worth coffee and sugar in return for metals, fertilisers, medicines and building material etc.

• N Yemen has signed a contract with the Indian Road Construction Co Ltd to improve and asphalt a 32km road at a cost of 59.3m riyals.

Israel and the Prophecies of the Holy Qur'an by 'Ali Akbar

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in Zaire

Following negotiations with the Tamman group, which takes its name from its owner, an Israeli businessman, has agreed to invest in Zaire a sum of the order of 400m US dollars for the period 1985/1986. It is the largest investment in Zaire since the country's independence. The Tamman group will take a 40% share in Air-Zaire, the Compagnie Maritime Zairoise and the DCMP which thus become joint enterprises in which the state holds 60 per cent of the capital. The group will also participate in the areas of timber, agro-industry, energy, pharmaceuticals and telecommunications.

Zaire's partners from the Arab world, who had promised an investment of 600m US dollars, were only able to donate a quarter of the promised capital, that is 150m dollars. The interest taken by the Tamman group in the areas of pharmaceuticals, particularly in the local production of drugs, is in line with the concern of the Zairean authorities to search for solutions to health problems in the framework of the programme which Marshal Mobutu has drawn up for his third seven-year term centred on social development.

Mexico-Israel agreement

A memorandum involving increased purchases of Israeli products by Mexico - increasing Israel's exports by up to 100m dollars a year - was signed at the end of a three-day visit to Mexico by Israel's energy and infrastructure minister, Moshe Shahal.

Immigration to Israel

In 1984 18,766 people entered Israel, 13% up on 1983, the Tel Aviv newspaper 'Ha'aretz' reported on 6 January; of those, 7,354 had been airlifted from Ethiopia and only 345 came from the USSR, compared with 390 in 1983.

Romania to boost population

Romania's population stood a 22,687,374 on 1 January and the natural population growth rate has increased from 3.9 per thousand in 1983 to 5.2 per thousand in 1984. In order to double the growth rate as soon as possible, responsible authorities are to take steps to strengthen the family and improve health care.

• An Arab (Francophone) African seminar held in Dakar, Senegal has decided to establish an Arab African Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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