

INSTITUTE OF CURRENT WORLD AFFAIRS

CHGO-28
The Chinese Trade Exhibition in Japan:
Pictorial Report

27 Lugard Road,
The Peak,
Hong Kong.

July 18, 1964.

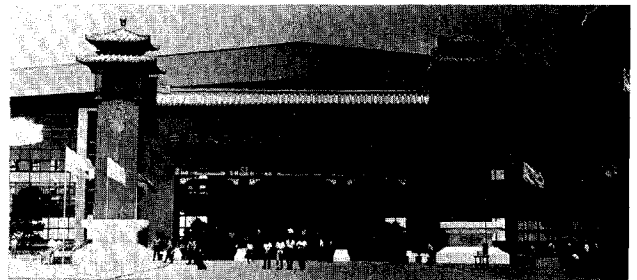
Mr. R.H. Nolte,
Institute of Current World Affairs,
366 Madison Avenue,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Nolte,

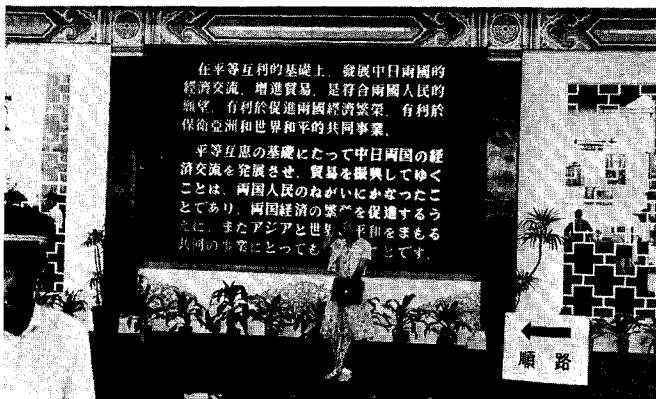
Two weeks ago I visited a trade exhibition put on by the Peoples' Republic of China in Osaka, Japan. It was no ordinary trade exhibition -- most of the goods were not for sale. Instead it was meant to show the Japanese how far industrial production has progressed in the fifteen years since the establishment of the Peoples' Republic.

Originally it was intended to stage the exhibition in three Japanese cities, Tokyo, Osaka, and Kita-kyushu City, but Prime Minister Ikeda agreed to only the first two sites. Japanese-Chinese relations are a particularly delicate subject these days. During the time of the exhibition the Nationalist Chinese re-established full diplomatic relations by sending a new ambassador to Tokyo. At the same time it was announced that the Japanese Government had agreed that the Communist Chinese could establish a permanent trade mission in Japan. It was therefore with considerable interest that I visited the exhibition.

The exhibition was held for three weeks, in the Minato Fair Grounds in Osaka. An elaborate Chinese style gateway had been constructed over the front entrance to the permanent exhibition hall.

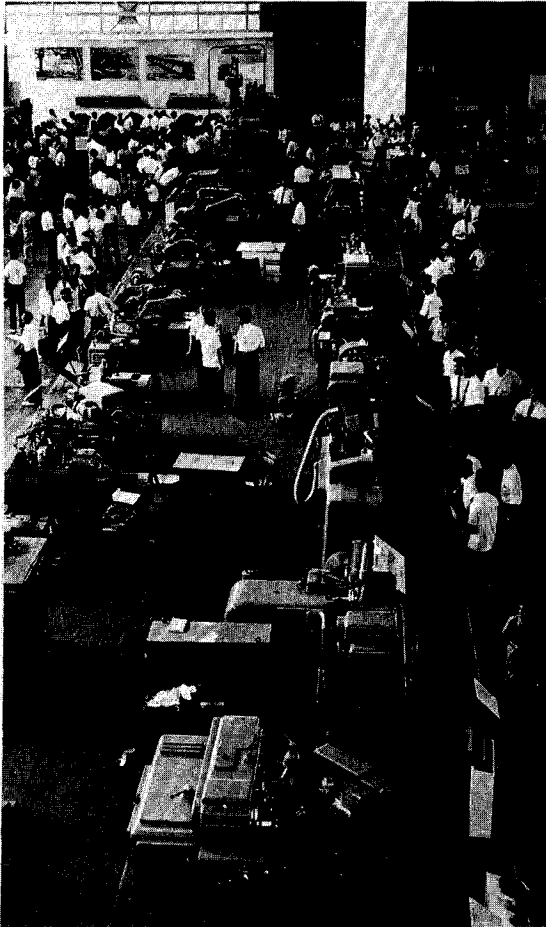


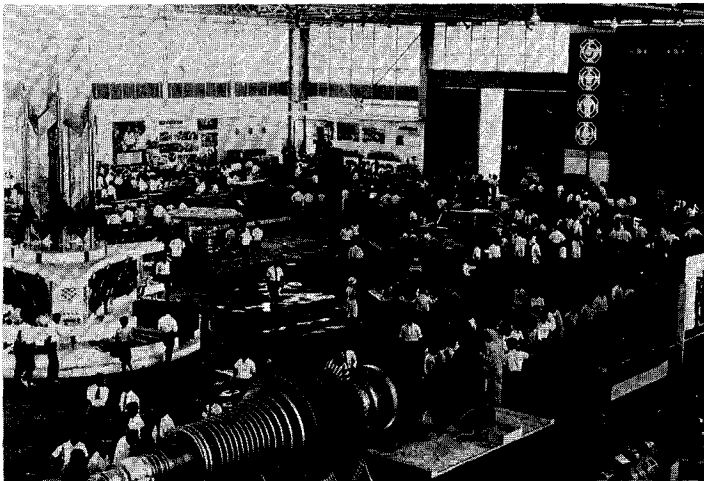
Immediately inside the entrance was a wide passage leading to a large red and gold placard which proclaimed, in both Chinese and Japanese, that "It is according to the wishes of the people of China and Japan to develop economic exchange and to increase trade, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. It is also beneficial to the promotion of our two countries economic prosperity and to the common task of safeguarding peace in Asia and the world."



On either side of the entrance passageway there were photographs showing different members of the Chinese Government meeting groups of visiting Japanese in Peking. I was perplexed by the large number of police and members of the Japanese-Chinese Friendship Association who were stationed at about fifteen feet intervals on both sides of this passage. I discovered later that a few days before my visit some "ultra-rightist" had thrown rotten eggs and tomatoes at these photographs.

The exhibition was divided into four main sections. The first was the industrial products section. Here the Japanese were most interested in the 24 machine tools, and the Chinese made car -- The Red Flag. In Tokyo I had met a Japanese who had visited the exhibition (when it was in Tokyo) in company with a Japanese machine tool expert. Apparently the expert was very favourably surprised by the advanced design techniques of all these tools. He said there was even one tool of a type which the Japanese themselves were not yet manufacturing. On the other hand it is difficult to judge the accuracy and reliability of a machine from just looking at it. One clue to accuracy is the noise which the machines make when operating. To me they sounded pretty quiet, but to the expert they had sounded fairly noisy. All in all, the Japanese expert concluded that the Chinese machine tools were about ten years behind the present Japanese level.



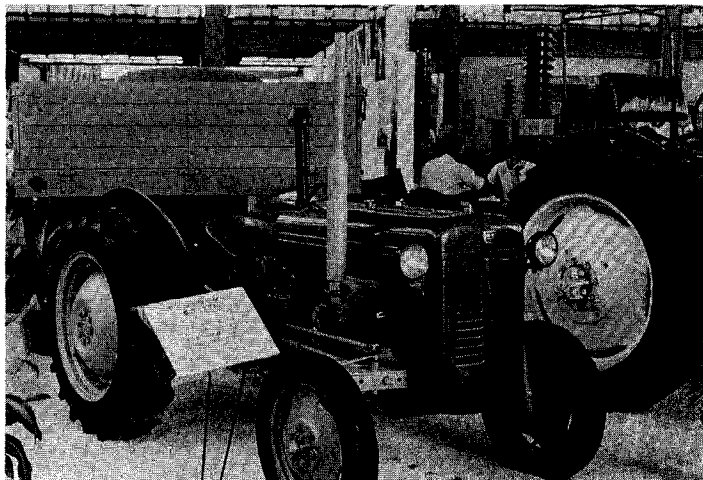


A corner of the industrial products section

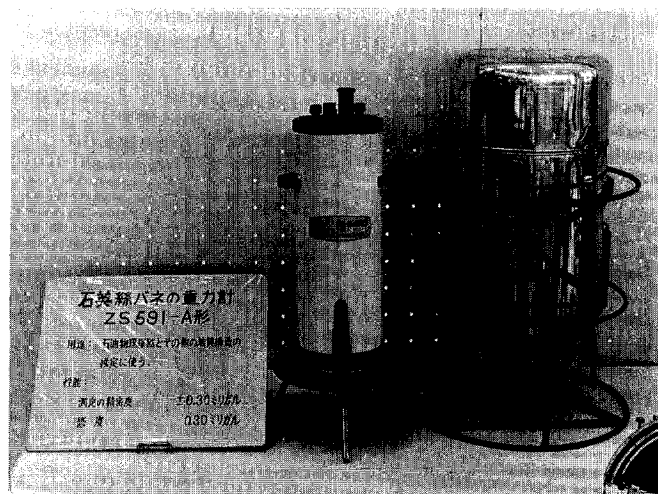
The Red Flag Car: A luxury V.I.P. car, the Red Flag is the first style of automobile to be made in China. It has 8 cylinders, automatic transmission, radio, and air conditioning. There was no indication of the annual production of these cars, nor was the market price disclosed.



Tractors and truck: In the foreground of the photograph is the "Abundant Harvest" tractor (27 H.P., 2000 rpm., weight 1400 kg., speed 5.4 - 21.2 kms/hour). Behind is the "Liberation" truck (95 H.P. weight 3,800 kms., max. speed 75 kms/hour, load 45 tons). Just visible on the right is the "Iron Ox" tractor (40 H.P. 1500 rpm., 4.88-13.86 kms/hour weight 2900 kg.).



Geophysical Instruments: The display featured various well-logging tools, a gravity meter, magnetometer, seismic geophones and transducers, all designed and manufactured in China.



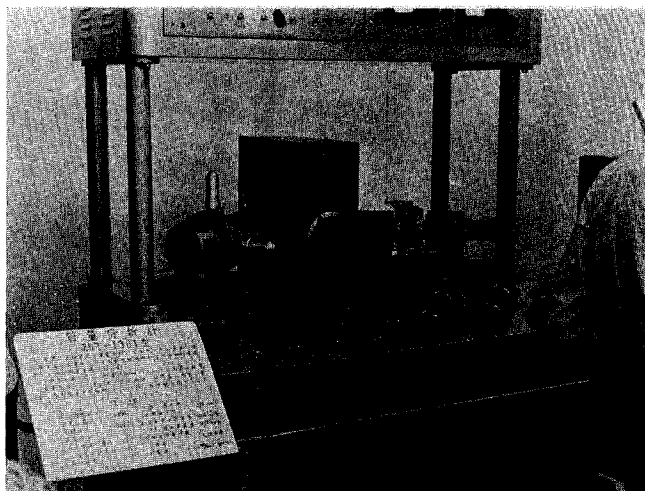
The gravity meter (above) was a quartz fibre type, and looked very similar to the American "Worden" meter, although it is about one and a half times the size of the Worden. The accuracy of this meter, ± 0.3 milligals, is not very high. In fact comparable accuracy could be obtained with pre-World War II gravity meters manufactured in the U.S.A.. However these instruments are very difficult to construct and there are very few countries in the world which manufacture them. (U.S.A., Canada, W. Germany, and Russia.) The accuracy of the Chinese instrument is sufficient for a study of the regional geology, although it is not really adequate for the detailed studies needed to define prospective oil fields. Nevertheless, the serial number on this instrument (#114) suggests that the Chinese are doing a great deal of regional gravity exploration.

(Geophysics, the journal of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, reported that in 1962 there were only 77 gravity crews operating in the non-Communist parts of the world. Therefore it seems likely that Chinese activity in gravity exploration exceeds the total amount of the rest of the non-Communist world.) The gravity meter on display was manufactured in the instrument factory of the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry.

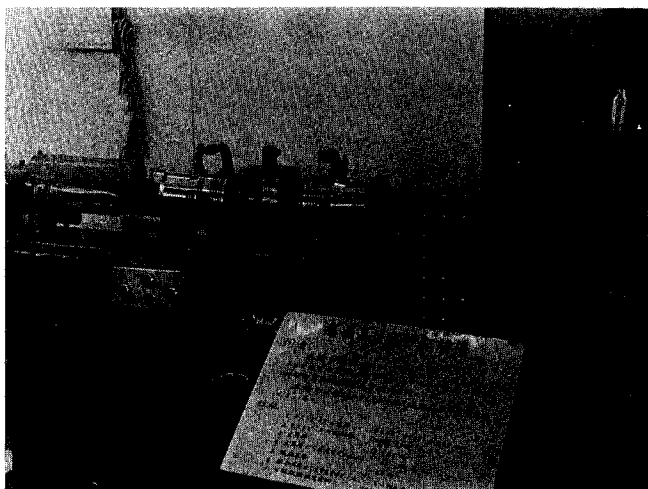


The magnetometer: A "suspended frame" type, was made at the Peking Geological Instrument factory in March 1963. Its serial number was #5. The sensitivity, ± 5 gammas, and range $\pm 25,000$ gammas, make it comparable to those made in the West.

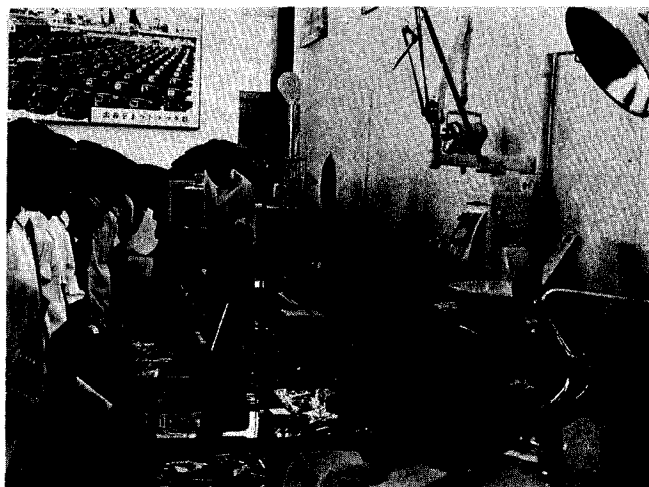
Mass Spectrometer (right):
 Range of mass numbers of
 analysed material 1 - 400
 Resolving capacity 300m/t
 Made by Peking Gas Analysis
 Instruments Factory



Left: High temperature high
 speed fatigue testing machine

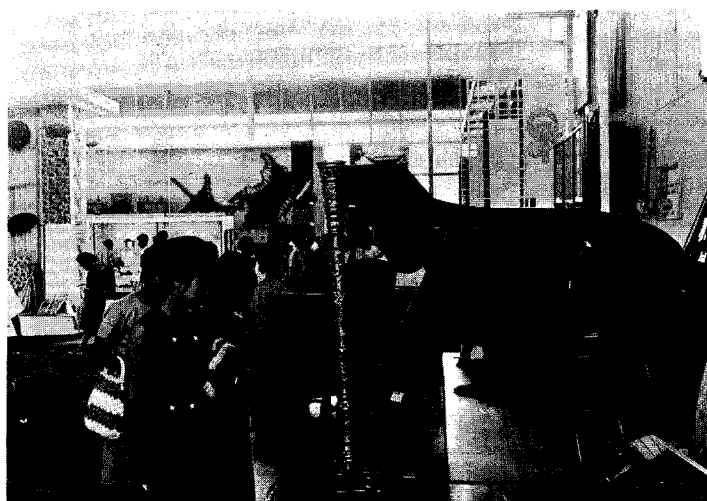
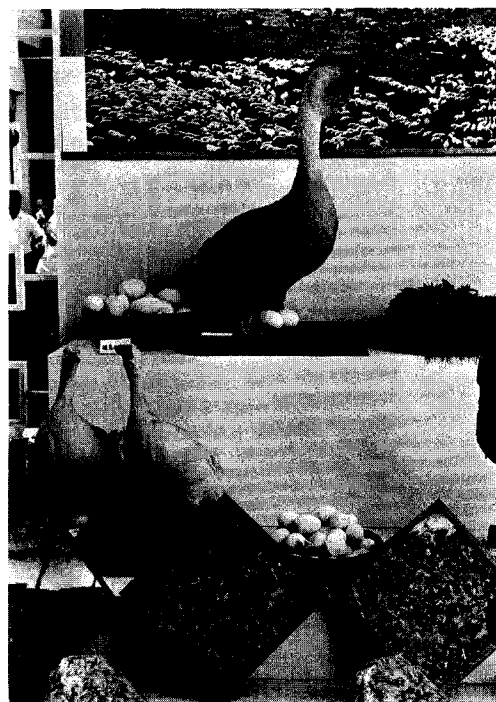


Right: A Japanese member of
 the Japan/China Friendship
 Association demonstrates the
 medical and dental equipment
 on display. The dentists
 drill is the belt driven
 steel bit type.



Left: Artificial heart and lung machine

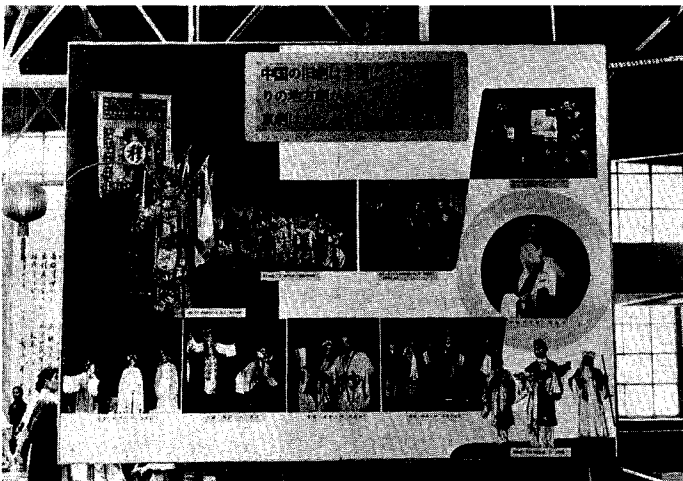
Consumer Products



There were many other displays in the industrial products section. They included several models of: the mechanization of coal mining operations; railway rolling stock; and ships. There were also scale models of the more important buildings in Peking, displays of minerals, western-style toilets, electric generators, etc..

The second section was devoted to foodstuffs and consumer products. The Japanese were not so impressed with the goods in this section and thought they compared poorly with equivalent Japanese products. Nevertheless there was a surprising variety of goods on display, ranging from grand pianos, fur coats, synthetic fabrics, television sets, cameras, radios, watches, bicycles, sewing machines, canned foods (most of which had English language labels) to wines and spirits which included Chinese brandies, champagnes, and muscatel. Among the displays of clothing were mens' shirts with labels stitched inside proclaiming in English: "Up-to-date design", and "Fashionable style".

Upstairs in the third section of the exhibition the displays were of books, scrolls, and photographs. Especially prominent was this poster depicting the use of female labour:-



Scenes from Chinese operas

The fourth and final section was devoted to the sale of some of the products on display. It was signposted "Souvenirs of your visit". This part of the exhibition was perhaps the busiest and there appeared to be a steady sale of ladies clothing, canned foods, and wines, pottery, and other Chinese handicrafts. These were all similar to the articles available in the "China Products" store in Hong Kong, in fact I saw nothing for sale which is not always available in this store.

As at most places of interest in Japan, many of the visitors came in organized groups, with a majority of them being high school students. There were a few serious observers, but during the two visits which I made I saw no other foreigner.

The exhibition confirmed that China is manufacturing a very wide range of products. There was no indication of the amount of production of each product, nor could durability be assessed. Machine tools and scientific equipment were better than most observers expected, but apart from this there were few surprises.

Yours sincerely,

C.H.G. Oldham

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