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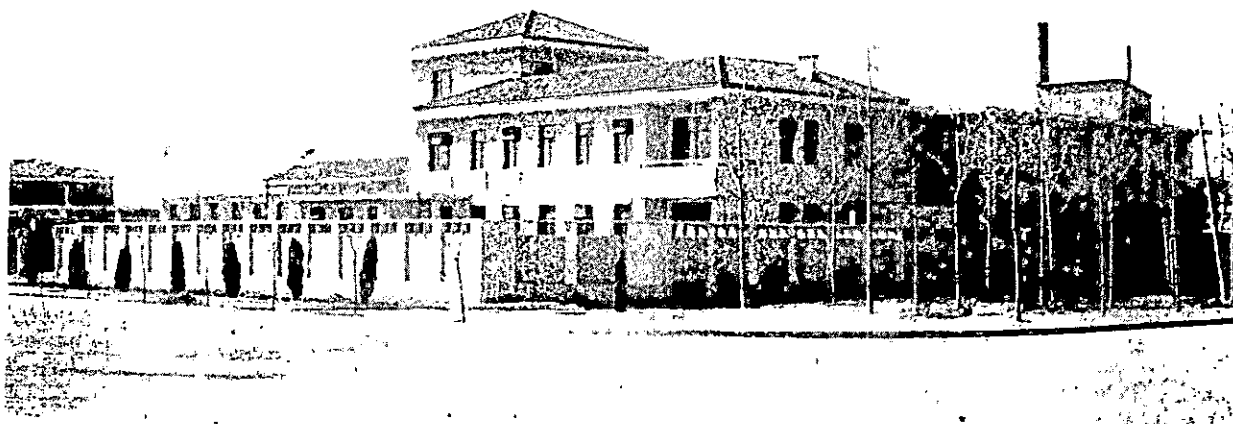
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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



POST REPORT

AUGUST 1974



United States Liaison Office -- Guanghai Lu 17, Peking

PREFACE

Our experience in Peking, or at least the Peking of the 1970's, spans less than a year. Some of the questions you may have about long term residence here can only be answered as our time and experience increase. The US Liaison Office's first months, while intense and full of interest, have in many ways been atypical. The very newness of the USLO and the historical context within which it has been established have been a major source of excitement and challenge to those serving here so far.

Cover: Gate of Heavenly Peace, facing
Tien An Men Square

*This is the official post report prepared at the post.
Any other information you receive covering the facts
as set forth herein is to be regarded as unofficial
information.*

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People's Republic of China

THE HOST COUNTRY

AREA, GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE

Occupying a landmass of about 3.7 million square miles, the People's Republic of China (PRC) is the third largest country in the world after the USSR and Canada. It shares common borders with North Korea, the USSR, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Laos, and North Vietnam. Hong Kong and Macao are situated on the PRC's southern coast.

Two-thirds of China's area is mountainous or semi-desert; only about one-tenth is cultivated. Ninety percent of the people live on one-sixth of the land, primarily in the fertile plains and deltas of the east. The country lies almost entirely in the Temperate Zone. Only portions of the southernmost area--the provinces of Yunnan and Kwangtung and the Chuang autonomous region of Kwangsi--lie within the tropics. Monsoonal climate is a major influence in the south, but the north and west have a typical continental climate.

Selected climatic data for representative cities occupying comparable locations in China and the United States are as follows:

Location	Mean Temp. Jan.	(F°) July	Mean Annual Precip. (Inches)
Harbin	-1	72	19
St. Paul	12	72	27
Peking	23	80	24
Philadelphia	32	76	44
Wuhan	40	86	50
New Orleans	55	83	57
Canton	56	84	64
Miami	68	82	66

During summer, warm moist maritime air masses bring heavy rains to eastern China and hot, humid summer weather is typical. Winter offers a sharp contrast when very cold and dry Siberian air masses dominate and often penetrate--though greatly modified--even to the southern provinces. Little precipitation falls during the colder months; clear days with low temperatures and very

low humidities are common. During late winter and spring, strong north winds sweep across North China, and hazy days caused by dust storms are common.

Peking's spring is mostly dry, with many periods of strong winds. In July and August the weather turns hot and humid--very much like Washington, D.C. Autumn is the best time of year with many warm and pleasant clear days and little wind. Winter, lasting from December to mid-March, is cold, dry, and windy, with occasional snowfalls beginning in February.

POPULATION

Nearly one-fourth of all people in the world live in the People's Republic of China. The number is speculative because official population data have not been announced for more than a decade. Estimates of the total population, therefore, vary widely--from 750 million to nearly 900 million--but the generally accepted figure is around 850 million.

Population density varies strikingly, with the greatest contrasts being between the eastern and western halves of the country. The high mountains, plateaus, and arid basins of the Tibetan Highlands and the Sinkiang-Mongolia Region comprise slightly more than 50% of China's area, but contain only about 5% of the total population, and large areas are uninhabited. In the eastern half of China, population densities generally range upward from 130 per square mile. Major areas with excesses of 520 persons per square mile coincide with level-to-rolling alluvial plains on which intensive agriculture is centered.

Most inhabitants of mainland China are of Mongoloid stock, and ethnic distinctions are largely linguistic rather than racial. The Han comprise nearly 95% of the population; the remaining 5%--about 50 groups--are termed "minority nationalities" by Peking. Although non-Han peoples are relatively few in number, they are politically significant; most inhabit strategic frontier territory, and some have religious or ethnic ties with groups in adjoining nations. The traditional prepon-

derance of non-Han groups in western China, however, is lessening because Han Chinese have entered these remote regions in increasing numbers since 1950.

Although unified by tradition, written language, and many cultural traits, the Han Chinese speak several unintelligible tongues. Most Han Chinese use the northern dialect, or one of its variants, commonly called Mandarin; a national vernacular based on this dialect is being popularized.

Religion in China has almost ceased to exist, but recently a few churches have been permitted to reopen and a number of temples have been restored. Basically, however, China is a highly puritanical, Communist state.

The impact of ideology is pervasive, dictating both artistic expression and social behavior.

Dress for the average Chinese is plain, generally being blue or grey trousers topped by a shirt in summer and a tunic in winter, standard for both men and women. Chinese cuisine, however, remains among the best and most varied in the world.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Party

All political power is held by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP); authority is concentrated, with a few veteran leaders in the Politburo of the CCP Central Committee the most influential. Of these leaders, Mao Tse-tung clearly has been paramount for more than 3 decades. Recently some effort has been made to introduce younger leaders into senior leadership positions.

The Chinese Communist Party not only is the largest Communist party in the world, but also dominates all sectors of national society. Party committees exist in virtually every locality and institution in the nation, and party members are assigned to key leadership positions in all organizations--the government bureaucracy, the army, and mass organizations. This comprehensive system of interlocking directorates is designed to serve as the chain of command from the party in Peking and to ensure that the party will predominate.

Membership. Party membership expanded rapidly after 1949. By 1966, membership was reported at 22 million, 90% joining after 1949. The most recent figure, revealed at the Tenth Party Congress in August of 1973, is 28 million. This growth has changed the character of the party. In 1949 it was

egalitarian, loosely knit, and held together by the common bonds of its guerrilla experience. As it grew and brought in disparate elements, it adopted an increasingly rigid bureaucratic organization to manage and discipline its membership.

Party Organization. The CCP holds strong central controls and unified policies throughout China by its internal discipline and its penetration of every type of activity. There are no truly independent social or political organizations.

Administration of party policies throughout the country is in the hands of a few hundred thousand "senior party cadres." Members who joined before 1949 quickly established a seniority principle of advancement, securing for themselves most of the "senior party member" posts. As a result, a division was created between old and new cadres, with the latter favoring advancement on the basis of education and ability.

Organizational problems multiplied after 1949, and lower-level cadres began to use their party positions for personal advantage, ignoring or modifying unpopular directives. Developing out of all this were--in the modern American vernacular--anti-establishment fights, a credibility gap, and a distinct generation gap.

Cultural Revolution. Mao exploited these intra-party strains when he launched the Cultural Revolution in 1966. He encouraged youth in and out of the Party to challenge the authority and leadership of the establishment, and young people were the main engine of his revolution.

In August 1966, schools were closed everywhere and students were instructed to organize into groups known as "Red Guards." Mao then issued a call that they "seize power" throughout the country. Most party and government leaders were relieved of responsibility by early 1967, and their organizations effectively dismantled.

In 1967, the Red Guards were ordered into economic institutions--factories, farms, mines, and stores--to take over from the established leadership. The situation quickly became chaotic, however, and the army, the only nationwide organization to remain intact after the party and government organizations were virtually paralyzed, was ordered to reestablish order and control throughout the country. By mid-1967, it had taken over civil administration in response to the political vacuum that had been created by the dismantling of the party and government.

Mao launched the Cultural Revolution to rekindle the revolutionary fervor of his regime and of Chinese society. The destructive phase of the movement was accomplished rather quickly, but the constructive phase, the rebuilding and revitalizing of the party structure and governmental administrative machinery, proved time-consuming. New government organs known as Revolutionary Committees were set up in late 1967 and 1968 to exercise administrative control in government offices and production units at all levels. Communist Party reconstruction, however, was not initiated until the Ninth Party Congress in April 1969.

By the end of 1971, party committees were reorganized in all 29 provinces of China, although lower level party bodies were still not functioning in some localities. The Tenth Party Congress in August 1973 marked the recovery of party primacy in domestic politics, though strains still remain, as seen in the current campaign to criticize Lin Biao and Confucius.

After lengthy periods of self-criticism and ideological reeducation, many of the "old cadres" have been rehabilitated and appointed to leadership positions on the new party and government organs. The young people were ordered back to school and work in 1968.

Government Structure

The government has always been clearly subordinate to the party in China, its role being to implement policies determined in party councils. The primary instruments of state power are the State Council and a legislative-type body, the National People's Congress. The State Council, a super-cabinet, directs the bureaucracy.

The Cultural Revolution in varying degrees disrupted and hampered central government agencies, however, and well over half the ministers were removed from office. Nevertheless, government ministries and other organs managed to function throughout the Cultural Revolution. Channels of communication from Peking to ministerial branch offices throughout the provinces generally remained open, in contrast to the organizational breakdown suffered by the party.

The National People's Congress (NPC), though theoretically controlling all legislative and executive powers of the state, serves mainly to disseminate and propagate regime policies. Statutorily required to meet every 4 years, there have been only three National People's Congresses since 1949, the last in 1964. An average of 2500 delegates

attend each congress, representing all classes, nationalities, and sections of China.

One of Chairman Mao's main complaints in 1966 was that his bureaucracy had grown excessively large and unwieldy. A major effort is now underway to streamline and simplify the government, by a merging of ministries and by reducing manpower levels by almost one-half.

At the provincial level and below, government affairs are now handled by the Revolutionary Committees formed during the Cultural Revolution.

People's Liberation Army

Leaders in Peking have consistently stressed the special status of the 2.8-million-man People's Liberation Army (PLA). Before the Cultural Revolution, party membership in the PLA was close to 1 million, and discharged veterans were an important source for replenishing civilian cadre ranks.

The stabilizing force of the army helped maintain the political machinery during the Cultural Revolution. When the regime moved toward restoration of administrative order and rebuilding of the party, the army remained the principal cohesive force in China, with its nationwide system of command and control.

The army has now been moved out of its civilian caretaking role, and civilian leaders have returned to control of the political machinery. Some military men retain positions on party and government organs, but care has been taken to stress that the administration of China will always be primarily a civilian affair in accordance with Mao's principle that "the Party must control the gun."

Mass Organizations

Before the Cultural Revolution, the party also used mass organizations such as the Young Communist League, the Women's Federation, and the labor unions as a transmission belt for policy directives. Disrupted by the Cultural Revolution, these organizations are being slowly rebuilt throughout the provinces.

ARTS, SCIENCE, AND EDUCATION

The civilization which took shape in the Yellow River Valley of North China in the second millennium B.C. eventually came to dominate all of East Asia, including Japan, Korea, and Viet-Nam. The products of that civilization--from the ideographic Chinese

character to chopsticks--bear the unmistakable stamp of a unique "Chineseness." Moreover, the Chinese have the longest continuous historical and cultural tradition of any nation on earth. Since 1949, however, every aspect of traditional Chinese life in the People's Republic has undergone profound transformation. The impact of Marxism-Leninism on the cultural life of the nation is particularly striking. Writers, composers, artists, artisans, and performers today invariably follow "the revolutionary line in literature and the arts."

The dominant figure on the literary scene in the People's Republic today has been dead for nearly 40 years. He was the short story writer and essayist, Lu Hsun. Though he turned to Marxism only late in life, Lu Hsun in his writings attacked the old society with biting satire and strong images. For this reason, the government, which prints and sells his works in large volume, now acclaims him as a great revolutionary as well as a great writer. His best known work, both in China and the West, is the short novel True Story of Ah Q.

Apart from Lu Hsun, certain other works of literature from China's past continue to enjoy a favorable reputation. The novels Water Margin (Pearl Buck's translation is titled All Men Are Brothers) and The Scholars fall under this heading. But many of the Chinese classics, and especially Confucius, are quoted only in order to be refuted or debunked. As for current literary production, it is often collectively created and always overwhelmingly ideological. The leading poet of the People's Republic is Chairman Mao himself, and strangely enough, his poetry is firmly in the classical tradition.

Peking Opera dates from the Mongol Dynasty. Today, the traditional figures of Ts'ao Ts'ao and the Monkey King in lavish costumes and vivid makeup, have yielded the stage to the more prosaically outfitted heroes and heroines of the class struggle. However, many elements of the old art form remain--stylized gestures, piercing nasal singing voice, fight scenes full of acrobatic tumbling, and an orchestra of traditional instruments just offstage on the right. An innovation of Modern Revolutionary Peking Opera is the elaboration of extremely realistic stage sets, complete with rippling water courses, suns that rise and set, and rain or snow storms on command.

The generally anonymous authors of revolutionary operas draw their inspiration primarily from the Anti-Japanese War of Resistance and the Chinese Civil War, though post-1949 themes such as the struggle be-

tween the two lines in an agricultural commune are also used. Among the better known recent productions are the Red Lantern and Taking Tiger Mountain by Strategy. Repertory companies throughout China perform Peking Operas as well as other regional variations on the operatic forum. Tickets for these and all other public performances are inexpensive, but performances are not regularly scheduled and distribution of tickets is centrally controlled.

Closely related to Peking Opera in theme, setting, and special effects is Revolutionary Ballet, which combines the gesturing and cameo techniques of Peking Opera with Western-inspired toe dancing. An orchestra and chorus provide the musical accompaniment. White-Haired Girl and Red Detachment of Women are the best-known examples and the latter has been performed outside China.

Most large cities have symphony orchestras and musical associations which train instrumentalists and singers and stage public performances. Army units, factories, and communes also have amateur music groups. Concert music in the Western style is limited to such recent pieces as the East is Red and the Yellow River Piano Concerto. Traditional music exhibits more variety. Players of the ch'in, the p'i p'a, the erh hu, and other Chinese instruments achieve a high level of musicianship. Folk music survives in a slightly altered form, with lyrics extolling the party and the Chairman. Passages from operas and ballets, together with songs and symphonic pieces, are a staple of radio and television broadcasts and take the place of the hit parade.

Other forms of entertainment for the public include performances by acrobats like the Shenyang troupe which toured the United States, and variety shows featuring wu shu (martial arts), magicians, and stand-up comedians.

Every province of China has a Historical Museum which serves as a repository for art objects of local provenance. Exceptionally beautiful and important pieces have emerged in recent years from archaeological digs throughout the country. The best of these pieces are sent up from the provinces to the Peking Historical Museum, which unfortunately has not been open to the public since the Cultural Revolution. The Palace Museum in the former Forbidden City, which is open to the public, houses some of the treasures of the Ch'ing Dynasty imperial collections.

Chinese art objects such as ceramics, scrolls, stone carvings, and hardwood furniture are easily found, but prices are high and objects older than the 19th century are generally not

available. Modern brush painting in the traditional Chinese style is still practiced, and artists are active throughout this country. Their works, however, tend to be overly inspirational.

The Chinese handicrafts industry has flourished since 1949, but the conversion from household to factory production, and the pervasive ideological message, have led to a definite uniformity in the finished product. Still, many interesting regional specialties exist: Kweichow batik, Soochow embroidery, carved seals, paper cuts, porcelain figurines, cloisonne, carved lacquer, wicker work, and many others.

In the early years of the PRC, Chinese science was heavily dependent on outside support. Now, since the split with the Soviet Union, it follows an independent course. Though advanced technology projects such as the Chinese space satellite are a source of pride, most scientific effort is devoted to more immediate development needs--defense, industrial technology, agriculture, and public health. All scientific studies at universities or research institutes are part of a unified state plan and under strict state control. Traditional Chinese medicine is best known for herbal medicines and acupuncture treatment. Recent developments include combining traditional practices with Western medical developments.

Education in the PRC is free and universal through junior middle school (about age 13). Candidates for higher education generally spend several years working on agricultural communes or in industry before entering universities or technical institutes. These "down to the countryside educated youths" are thereby given the opportunity to absorb from the masses a proper class outlook and a better appreciation of the socialist development goals of the nation. China has over 40 universities--those in Peking, Shanghai, Tientsin, Wuhan, and Canton are the leading ones--and numerous other specialized training centers.

The most obvious achievement of the educational system is nearly universal literacy, especially among younger people. By simplifying the written character and reducing the vocabulary of newspapers and popular books, the PRC has effectively mitigated the enormous difficulties of the Chinese language.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Basically, the PRC is an agricultural economy. About 90% of the land is unsuited for agriculture due to high altitude and other topo-

graphic or climatic conditions. Consequently, maximum yield must be obtained from the remaining 10% that is arable (mainly in the east). Although intensive cultivation techniques already secure high yields of food per acre, China hopes to substantially increase these yields even further through improved technology. Because virtually all arable land is used for crops, there is little animal husbandry in the country--except in western and northern regions, such as Inner Mongolia, Sinkiang, and Tibet.

China is the world's largest producer of many important food crops, including rice, sweet potatoes, sorghum, soybeans, millet, barley, peanuts, and tea. Major industrial crops consist of cotton, other fibers, and various oilseeds. The portion of the industrial crop that is exported comprises a principal source of foreign exchange.

An expanding manufacturing sector supplies the needs for capital and limited consumer goods. Major industries are iron and steel, coal, machine building, armaments, and textiles.

The PRC has extensive deposits of iron. Other minerals include bituminous and anthracite coal, tin, tungsten, antimony, salt, and magnetite. Crude oil exists and is refined throughout the country: the supply is more than adequate for China's expanding economy.

Since 1960, the PRC's pattern of trade has shifted from Eastern Europe to countries in Western Europe and the Pacific. In 1960, 70% of its trade was with the Communist states (mainly the USSR) and 30% with the West. By 1965, this ratio was reversed, and about 80% of the PRC's trade is now with the West. A major portion of its purchases from the West during the past several years has consisted of large grain imports (4-6 million tons a year), mainly from the US, Canada, and Australia. The amount of US-China trade has grown sharply since 1971, and in 1973 reached approximately \$750 million, over 90% representing Chinese purchases in the US.

In addition to food grains, the PRC imports chemical fertilizer, pesticides, machinery and equipment, and raw materials. Its major exports include raw materials, agricultural products, and manufactures, including consumer goods, textiles, and goods and services to Hong Kong.

Although itself a developing country, the PRC has a continuing program of foreign economic aid. In 1971, it displaced the USSR as the largest Communist aid donor.

An impressive number of long range capital expansion projects has been completed: huge industrial complexes in remote areas, bridges across the Yangtze River, an extended rail network, and others. In short, China is not yet a modern industrial nation, but it is not a developing country in the ordinary sense either.

TRANSPORTATION

In the densely populated eastern half of the country, there is a well-developed rail system. Passenger service including sleeping car accommodation is available between all major cities. The Chinese are now upgrading their domestic air service, and recently purchased a number of modern British and American jet transports. Trunk routes are serviced now almost entirely by jets; a variety of Russian-built turbojet and propeller planes service other domestic routes.

International air service is presently limited to four flights a week from Europe via South Asia. There is also service from Ethiopia via Bombay and from Moscow. This situation is expected to change in the future with increased flight frequencies from Europe and new flights from Japan and Canada.

Taxis are available in Peking but do not cruise. They must be ordered by telephone and the dispatchers speak only Chinese. Taxi stands with a Chinese-speaking dispatcher are at the three major hotels and the International Club, the latter conveniently located close to the Liaison Office and most of USLO's apartments. Late evening calls are sometimes not promptly answered.

Taxis are not metered, but charge about \$1 per mile. The fares are set and you need not worry about being overcharged. Receipts are given for payment. There is no tipping.

Since most personnel live within a half mile of the Liaison Office, they walk, ride bicycles, or drive their personal vehicles to work. Official transportation is provided for those living in the hotel.

Most personnel find it convenient to have a personal vehicle for shopping and trips to the Ming Tombs and the Great Wall.

Vehicles are given a rigorous examination by the Chinese prior to registration. The cost of registration, including a license plate, is \$10.

Chinese drivers licenses must be obtained and are issued in exchange for a valid drivers

license. The license is kept by the Chinese but may be obtained temporarily for trips outside China and is returned upon departure. You must take a physical examination prior to obtaining a license. The Chinese particularly will not authorize a license unless blood pressure is normal.

You may not drive your personal vehicle until you have third party insurance. The Liaison Office requires that this insurance be purchased from the Ming An Insurance Company. The company is located in Hong Kong, but premiums may be paid in Peking using Chinese currency. The premium is about \$75 for \$50,000 (\$500 deductible) third party coverage per year.

China follows a right-hand driving pattern. The roads are reasonably wide and in good repair. The numerous bicycles, farm machinery, and horse-drawn vehicles make driving hazardous. There is snow in Peking, but snow tires are not required since the streets are quickly cleared.

The most popular vehicles are small sedans or compacts, with Japanese makes predominant but Volkswagens also favored. Other than a heater, no special equipment is recommended, but an air-conditioner is useful. Spare parts are not available for American cars and sometimes not for Japanese cars. Bring air filters, oil filters, points, spark plugs, radiator hose, and a can of brake fluid.

Gasoline is available at the Diplomatic Service Station in Peking at about 70¢ per gallon.

Cars may be sold upon departure relatively easily within the diplomatic community or to the official Chinese purchasing organization.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone and Telegraph

The Chinese domestic telephone system is good and phones may be obtained without waiting. All apartments have one and some have an extension. The cost per month is \$8.

International calls may be made to most parts of the world. The circuits to the US are open and English-speaking operators are on duty 24 hours a day; calls to the US cost \$16 for 3 minutes.

Cable service is rapid and reliable both internally and externally. Cable costs to the US are 72¢ per word.

Mail and Pouch

International mail service is usually reliable and reasonably rapid. Sometimes, however, originating postal systems misroute mail intended for the PRC to Taiwan which causes delays. Chinese air letters cost about 19¢ to the US. Letter mail is about 26¢ per ounce.

Airmail and first-class letters, letter tapes, and exposed or processed films weighing 8 ounces or less may be sent and received through the air pouch. In addition, packages weighing up to 2 pounds may be received in the air pouch. Prescriptive medicines and medical supplies may exceed this limitation if needed on an emergency basis.

Air pouches are dispatched twice a week from Washington. Transit time is about 5 days.

Address pouch mail as follows:

Name
USLO Peking
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Radio and TV

Local AM radio is in Chinese and consists largely of propaganda. Personnel do not find it a source of entertainment.

The two television channels broadcast 3-4 hours nightly. All programs are in Chinese and reflect government themes. At present all television is black and white. Locally manufactured sets are available for about \$450. Less expensive sets may be purchased in Hong Kong and converted for a small sum to receive Chinese broadcasts. Few find a TV set informative or entertaining, but language officers may find it useful.

Newspapers, Magazines, and Technical Journals

A daily News Bulletin is published by the Chinese Government--a book-sized, mimeographed "newspaper" providing 8-10 pages of world news taken from wire service sources. The material is not edited. The only other English-language materials available are translations of official Chinese publications.

No international newspapers or magazines are available. Subscribe to those you wish to

receive and use the Department address. International air subscriptions should be addressed: (Employee), USLO, Peking, People's Republic of China. Time and Newsweek subscriptions should be placed in Hong Kong.

HEALTH AND MEDICINE

Medical Facilities

The Liaison Office has no medical facilities. It does, however, keep a small amount of non-prescription medicine for colds, sore throats, stomach upsets, and diarrhea.

The Regional Medical Officer visits Peking three to four times a year for consultation; personnel may also consult the Canadian regional medical officer during his three to four visits to the Canadian Embassy each year.

The French Embassy doctor will treat Liaison Office personnel and give shots. He has no laboratory or surgical facilities.

The Capital Hospital, which has a wing reserved for foreigners, is the primary medical facility. It provides a full range of good medical and dental care. English-speaking doctors are available.

Preventive Measures

Water is boiled and fresh root and leafy vegetables should be washed in a mild sterilizing solution and peeled.

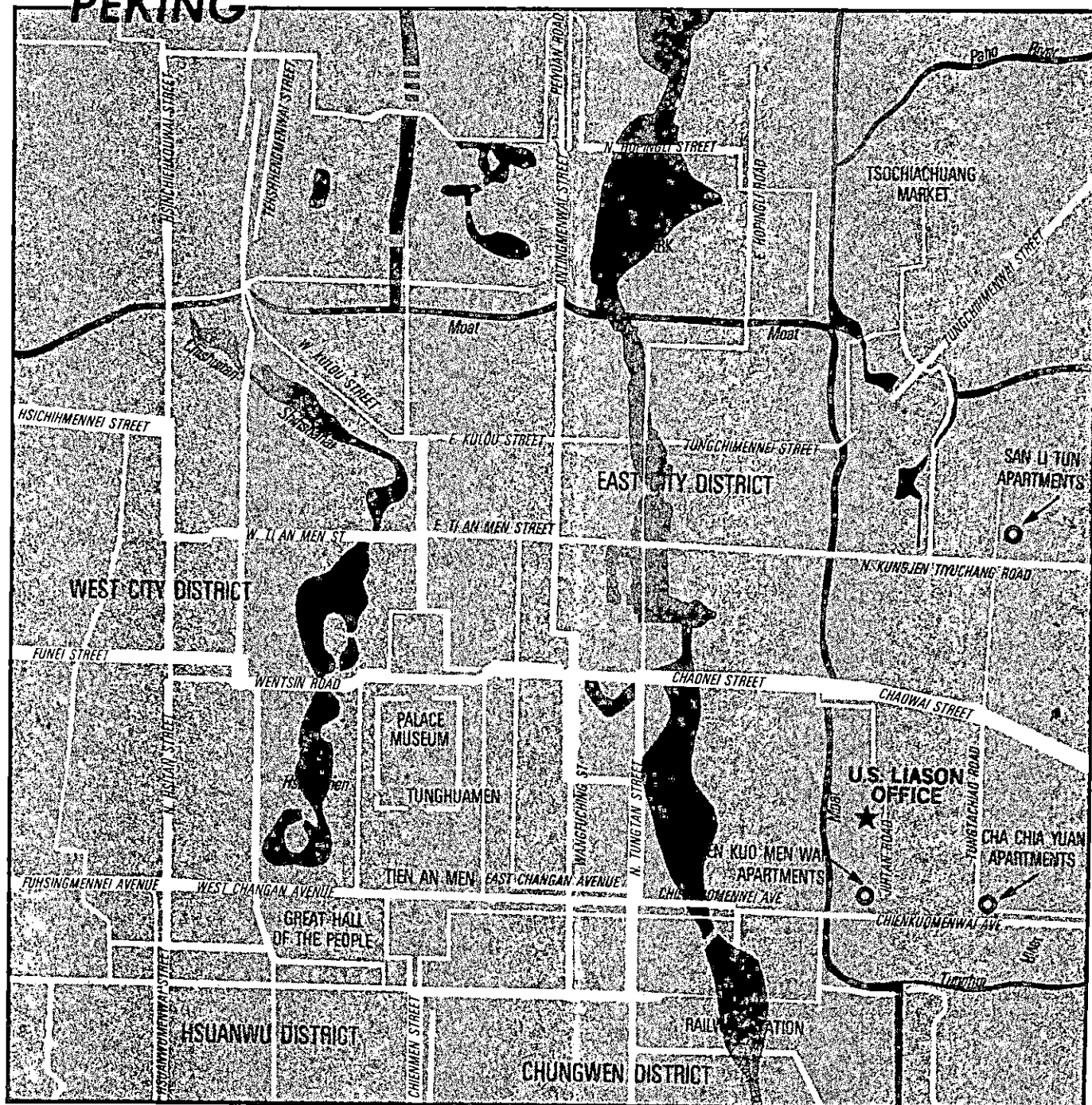
Smallpox and cholera shots are required to enter China.

If you plan to travel in the southern part of China, it is best to take malaria suppressives before, during, and after your trip.

No Western brand drugs or nonprescription medicines are available, but Chinese equivalents are and they are modestly priced. Vitamin C is available, but multivitamin tablets are not. If you require special prescriptions, arrange to receive periodic supplies through the pouch.

Because of the prevailing dust and burning of soft coal during the winter, bronchial and sinus ailments are common. Some personnel use bath oil, skin lotions, and lip balm to prevent chapping and flaking caused by dry air.

PEKING



1001 5-74 (STATE, RGE)

Peking

LIAISON OFFICE

THE POST CITY

Peking is on the northern edge of the North China plain. To the west and north are small hills, while flat fertile farmlands stretch to the south and west.

Peking is a sprawling city, undistinguished architecturally except for the massive grandeur of the Palace Museum (formerly the Forbidden City of the Ming and Ching dynasties). In the past 25 years some new multi-story buildings have been built along the broad east-west axis which passes through Tien An Men Square. But mostly, Peking is characterized by narrow streets fronted by grey walls, beyond which grey roofs with slightly upturned gables mark courtyards and residences. Blocks of brick apartments for workers are characteristic of the Peking built since 1949.

THE POST AND ITS ADMINISTRATION

The Liaison Office was officially established May 14, 1973, the first US representation in the People's Republic of China since 1949. It is a special office with neither diplomatic nor consular status, although personnel enjoy diplomatic privileges. The office is located 2 miles from the center of Peking (Tien An Men Square) in the Jianguo Men Wai diplomatic area adjacent to the Altar of the Sun Park. The address is Guanghua Lu 17; telephone number 522033.

The usual entry and exit point is via Hong Kong. From Hong Kong you take a train to the border, cross on foot, lunch, and board another train for a 2-hour trip to Canton. At Canton you board a plane for Peking, about 1200 miles to the north. The return trip may not be made in a day, and an overnight stop is required in Canton.

An English-speaking guide from the China Travel Service meets you at the railway station in Canton and escorts you to the airport at Canton and vice versa. (There is no tipping.) You can also proceed from Canton to Peking by train (2 nights and 1 day). This route is not recommended for first-time travelers in China. An alternate route

is to fly directly to Peking from Europe through South Asia.

Advise the post of your arrival plans so that you will be met at the airport.

Although the Liaison Office is not a diplomatic mission, it is organized along traditional lines--a combined Administrative/Consular Section, Economic/Commercial Section, and Political Section. The head of the mission is the Chief of the Liaison Office. He is assisted by a Deputy Chief.

The Liaison Office hours are from 8 to 1 and 2 to 6 Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; 8 to 1 Wednesday and Friday; 9 to 12 Saturday.

LIFE AT THE POST

HOUSING

Temporary Quarters

Inform the Liaison Office of your travel plans as far in advance as possible so that the post can request the Chinese authorities to assign hotel space. You will be assigned to either the Peking, Minzu, or Xin Qiao Hotels.

Hotel rooms cost about US\$10 a day for either double or single occupancy, with a 15% heating surcharge in winter (October-April). Hotels are not air-conditioned, but fans may be rented during summer. No cooking facilities are available in the hotels and pets are not permitted.

There is no tipping.

Permanent Housing

At present not enough housing exists for all personnel. This situation should improve during the first half of CY 1974.

All personnel, except the Chief of the Liaison Office, are housed in government-leased apartments. Most of the apartments have a combined



Diplomatic housing - Jianguo Men Wai

living/dining room. Some have an additional room which can be used as a dining room or second or third bedroom. All have kitchens and bathrooms.

The Chief's residence shares the compound with USLO offices. It has four bedrooms, two baths, a living/dining area, and small kitchen upstairs; a guest bedroom and bath, small library and large entry hall, reception and dining room downstairs; plus a large kitchen, storage room, and utility rooms.

Furnishings

The apartments are basically furnished including rugs, lamps, and drapes. Furniture need not be brought to post. Stoves, refrigerators, freezers, humidifiers, air-conditioners, washers, dryers, and vacuum cleaners are provided.

Bring linens, dishes, kitchen equipment, and personal objects. Linens should include sheets and blankets for a Queen-size bed, which is provided for each apartment in addition to single beds. Because of the prevailing dust you may prefer cassette type recorders to record players or tape decks. The Liaison Office recommends bringing a shortwave radio.

Storage space is at a premium in all apartments.

Peking's dust is pervasive all year. In addition, soft coal, used for power generation, heating, and industrial purposes, adds an oily, grey element. Clothes and garment

bags are useful as are treated dust cloths. Fine rugs and tapestries will soon become soiled.

Utilities and Equipment

Peking electric current is 220v, 50-cycle.

All apartments have hot and cold running water provided by a central system. Stoves use city gas. Radiators give ample heat in the winter and supplemental heaters are not required. Import all small appliances and, if they are not 220v, bring a transformer. Local plugs are available; extension cords are useful but not available. The electrical supply is dependable but wiring is inadequate and only a limited number of appliances may be used at the same time.

FOOD

Beef, pork, and poultry are available, although cuts are unfamiliar and the quality inconsistent. Fruits and vegetables are available seasonally. Baby foods and frozen foods are not available. Prepackaged, prepared food, or convenience foods are not available.

You are authorized 500 pounds of consumables in addition to your HHE weight allowance. Consumables should be shown as a separate item on packing lists and may not include wines and liquors.

USLO has no commissary and most personnel order an initial supply of wines, liquors, soft drinks such as tonic and cola drinks, and



Diplomatic housing completed in 1974 -- Chichiayuan

foodstuffs in Hong Kong en route to Peking. There are a number of suppliers, but Pennells' or Ocean Terminal Super Market are principally used. The former has a catalog, the latter does not. Prices are comparable.

Ship orders by "slow freight" (10-20 days) rather than by "fast freight" (4-7 days). Address orders to the individual, USLO, Peking.

Some diplomatic missions utilize Danish or British suppliers. Elapsed time for these shipments is 3-4 months. Orders from European suppliers can be shipped by sea to: (individual's name), USLO, Peking via Hsinking.

The Trans-Siberian Railroad has not been satisfactory for us, but some missions use it regularly.

Initial shipments generally include cooking fats, oils, vinegar, condiments, herbs and spices, special purpose baking flour, sugar, pepper, canned juices, baby foods, canned or dried dairy products, coffee (instant and ground), detergent, dishwashing liquid, dried yeast, and cocktail supplies. Some of the above items are available on the local market, but canned items are more expensive than imported ones, others are of a different quality than Americans are used to.

No imported foods, wines, or liquors are available locally.

Orders are placed individually, although on occasion two or three personnel may order a group shipment. USLO clears inbound shipments for individuals.

CLOTHING

Both men and women in China wear trousers with a tunic, padded in winter, or with a light open-neck shirt in summer. The trousers are generally blue or grey.

Foreigners' clothing reflects prevailing fashions in Europe or the US.

Formal wear is rarely worn, but there are occasional black tie dinners within the diplomatic community.

Business suits and street length dresses are worn at banquets and dinners for visiting delegations where there are Chinese hosts or guests.

Warm clothing, including boots for women, is useful for dining in restaurants during winter. They are often poorly heated and the floors are cold.

Long dresses and pantsuits are worn when entertaining at home or when attending dinners in foreigners' homes.

Bring picnicking gear and walking shoes.

The Peking "Friendship Store" has laundry and dry cleaning facilities. Service takes 1 week, and cleaning is usually satisfactory.

Tailoring and dressmaking are done locally, but most personnel prefer to replenish wardrobes by ordering from the US or during a visit to Hong Kong.

Local shoes are not made to American or European lasts, nor is local, ready-made clothing generally acceptable to the Westerner.

SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Sundries--See section on FOOD.

Basic Services

Men's barbers and women's beauty parlors are located in the Peking Hotel and the International Club. Prices are moderate. The Chinese do have their own supplies for women, but most women prefer to bring their own hair spray, conditioners, coloring shampoo, and equipment such as rollers, etc.

Shoe repair stores can be found in the shopping street. Service is rapid and inexpensive.

Only black and white film can be developed. Development is satisfactory. However, if the picture includes closeups of individuals or subject matter considered inappropriate, development may not be satisfactory. Color slides, prints, and movies must be sent elsewhere for developing. Black and white film is the only film available in Peking.

The Friendship Store provides packing and crating services for mailing, but they are expensive.

Electrical appliances can sometimes be repaired. But finding the appropriate store is difficult and shop personnel are not likely to speak English.

Artists supplies are available and inexpensive.

Domestic Help

Domestic help is available but not always assigned immediately. They are supplied by the Diplomatic Services Bureau upon request and senior officers are given priority. The Deputy Chiefs find that a cook, waiter, and cleaner/laundress are desirable and are authorized. Section chiefs and some other personnel find cook and cleaner/laundress desirable. Almost all find a cleaner/laundress necessary.

Baby "ayis" may be requested for personnel with small children and some may be willing to assist with housework.

Domestic help works an 8-hour day. In addition, a 2-hour lunch and rest period is given. Cooks normally cook only two meals, and if they work late in the evening, they may request compensatory time off the following day. Catering service and waiters are available through the International Club.

Domestic help does not live in. Few speak English, but sign language and charades are usually sufficient. The Liaison Office interpreters may be called upon if necessary.

Salaries range as follows: cook, \$100-150; waiter, \$90-120; laundress/housecleaner (full time), \$60-80.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Catholic Mass is offered Sunday morning at the Southern Cathedral; service is in Latin. Nondenominational Protestant services are held Sunday at 10 am; service is in Chinese.

EDUCATION

Dependent Education

At Post. Dependent at post education is limited. There are four schools: an international school run by the Chinese in conjunction with a local primary school, a French lycee, the Pakistan Embassy school, and the Soviet Embassy school. Except for the Soviet school, no instruction is offered beyond eighth grade.

Each of these schools has drawbacks for American children. The Chinese school is taught in Chinese, providing an excellent opportunity for the child to learn the language. However, English instruction is not up to American standards and the curriculum is limited to mathematics and science. The Pakistan Embassy school teaches in English, but has limited facilities and its curriculum is not

geared to American needs. The French school gives its instruction in French and will not instruct non-French-speaking students. There is a waiting list to attend. The Soviet school is believed to be the best equipped and taught. A complete primary and secondary educational institution, it serves the large (a staff of over 400) Soviet Embassy here which is separate and distant from the diplomatic areas. All instruction is in Russian, but non-Russian-speaking students are accepted and given language instruction.

At present, USLO primary school age children attend the Pakistan Embassy school in the mornings and supplement these studies with a joint, supervised tutorial class based on Calvert correspondence course materials. An American Educational Association of Peking has been formed which is examining ways to improve educational opportunities for American children.

Sports and extracurricular activities are organized on an ad hoc basis with the help of parents and members of the Marine security guard detachment. An organization of diplomatic corps parents sponsors a weekly outing, including swimming, skating, kite flying, visits to museums, for children of ages 9-12.

Away From Post. There are no Western educational facilities for junior high or senior high school students in Peking. All secondary education must be away from post or self-taught. The following schools in the area offer both primary and secondary educational facilities and have boarding units for both boys and girls:

The Canadian Academy
Nagaminadai 2 Chome
Nada Ku
Kobe, Japan

The Brent School
Baguio
The Philippines

Woodstock School
Mussoorie, U.P.
India

The American International School
c/o The American Embassy
New Delhi, India

In addition, there are American schools in Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Bangkok, but they do not have boarding facilities.

Travel from Japan and the Philippines is presently via Hong Kong. But should a direct air route between Japan and China be es-

established, this would considerably reduce the cost of travel to Japan and would eliminate the present 2-day trip each way.

Though all the schools mentioned above are accredited, parents having high school age children are strongly advised to consult the State Department Educational Advisor as soon as possible concerning the choice of schools.

The majority of families at post have elected to send their high school age children to boarding schools in the US.

Special Educational Opportunities

The foreign resident has regular access to the Imperial Palace Museum (Forbidden City), where both permanent collections and special exhibitions are on view. Special arrangements must be made through the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the China Travel Service to other points of cultural interest, and permission is not always forthcoming. Though guides and interpreters can also be arranged, those interested in developing a knowledge of Peking's cultural past should have access to their own source materials and guidebooks. Nagel's Encyclopedia Guide: China is by far the best and most comprehensive guidebook to China, and is available in Hong Kong.

The post offers limited Chinese-language teaching facilities, arranged through resident teachers provided by the Diplomatic Services Bureau.

RECREATION AND SOCIAL LIFE

Sports

Tennis, swimming, cycling, and ice skating are the main participant sports for members of the diplomatic community in Peking. The International Club has two indoor tennis courts and outdoor courts are being built. A number of embassies have their own courts. The International Club held its first tournament this year for members of the foreign community. Though the local tennis equipment is generally adequate, tennis enthusiasts should bring along a supply of balls.

The club also has a 5-meter, Olympic size swimming pool outdoors for use during the summer. Foreigners are permitted to use the indoor pool at the Workers' Stadium two afternoons a week during the rest of the year. To qualify for swimming privileges foreigners are required to pass a health test.

More than a million bicycles are registered in Peking, and many members of the diplomatic

community find cycling a convenient way to exercise and sightsee at the same time. Local bicycles are expensive, heavy, and have no gears, but are sturdily made and comfortable. British-made bicycles can be ordered in Hong Kong. Since Peking is flat, gears are not really necessary, but 3-speed bikes are useful, particularly when pedalling on windy days.

There are roughly 6 weeks of ice skating in Peking each year, with outdoor, unimproved rinks at the Summer Palace and the Purple Bamboo Park. An "All Star Western Team" plays hockey against a Soviet team at the Russian Embassy during weekends in the cold season. Bring your own skates and equipment.

The International Club also maintains facilities for table tennis, billiards and, most recently, a single tenpin bowling alley.

Major spectator sports in Peking are basketball, volleyball, table tennis, badminton, football (soccer), gymnastics, and hockey. Tickets become available sporadically through the Diplomatic Services Bureau for contests between Chinese teams and visiting foreign teams held at local gyms and at the Workers' Stadium.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Changes of scenery for foreigners in the Peking area are limited to the Great Wall, the Western Hills, and the Ming Tombs. All are places of considerable interest and worth a number of visits. The Western Hills are suitable for hiking, the Ming Tombs provide superb settings for picnics, and the Great Wall is simply the Great Wall. Peking has a good zoo complete with pandas, both great and lesser.

To travel further afield requires special permission from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Members of the Liaison Office have been able to visit Tientsin, Sian, Chengchow, Loyang, Canton, Nanking, Wuhan, Soochow, Shanghai, Yenan, Wuhsi, and Hangchow as private tourists. Travel is either by plane or train and must be arranged through China International Travel Service. CTS provides a full range of services including hotel reservations, travel facilities, automobiles, guides, etc.

Travel is not particularly cheap and most USLO personnel budget roughly US\$15 a day in addition to train or plane tickets.

There is a beach resort at Peitaiho, about 6 hours from Peking by train, where diplomats are permitted to rent rooms and cottages during the summer.

You may drive to Tientsin, 60 miles to the east, but no other motor travel is possible elsewhere within China.

The Liaison Office is designated as a post from which R&R is authorized. The designated R&R location is Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Entertainment

Movies. The Liaison Office receives two films a month. In addition, weekly movies are shown at the British, French, and Canadian Embassies. Tickets are sold, but missions are limited in the number they can buy. Periodically, the International Club screens Chinese films.

Tickets for local entertainments--revolutionary operas, plays, storytelling, variety shows, concerts, and acrobatic shows--can be purchased through the Diplomatic Services Bureau and are inexpensive. These entertainments are sporadic and advance notice of the schedule is very short, often only hours.

Relying on your own resources for entertainment may prove the most rewarding in Peking. Bring as many books, games, musical instruments, and other hobbies and diversions as possible.

Shopping. Browsing for antiques and furniture in authorized stores or commission shops is a favorite pastime. Do not expect any bargains, however.

Social Activities

Among Americans. The American community in Peking is tiny, and we see a great deal of each other, almost always under informal circumstances. Sampling Peking's many superb restaurants is a favorite form of entertainment, not only among Americans but with all other members of the diplomatic community as well.

International Contacts. Opportunities for meeting host country nationals are limited. The best chances to see Chinese officials under informal circumstances occur during visits of American groups, which involve mutual attendance at banquets, cultural events, and travel together to points of interest around the country. Once the

visiting group is gone, however, contacts again become difficult to arrange.

There are roughly 4000 foreign nationals living in Peking and social activity is frenetic. Americans are included in local diplomatic community social affairs. There are no women's clubs or charitable organizations. Volunteer part-time teachers at the Pakistani School are welcome.

The International Club. The club is only open to foreigners and no membership application or fee is required. In addition to the sports activities noted, it has a restaurant and rooms for large dinners or receptions. There is no bar and dancing is not permitted, even at a private function; the club closes at 9 pm.

OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS

Liaison Office personnel do not participate in national day celebrations at foreign embassies in Peking, nor in the banquets or other ceremonies usually held for important visiting officials of other nations. We do accept all other invitations for dinner and less ceremonial contacts with recognized members of the diplomatic community. The dress is normally business suit. Black tie is not required, although sometimes worn.

The Chinese pay the strictest attention to rank order, seating arrangements, and motorcade sequence. Banquets and other social functions are meticulously programmed and carefully managed. Officers and their wives, particularly those dealing with cultural exchanges and trade matters, can be expected to be invited to banquets whenever an important American group is in town.

Calling cards are available locally, but are used relatively little even among the diplomatic community. Do not use diplomatic or consular titles on cards. There is no preferred formula for cards; use either "Foreign Service Officer of the United States of America" or just "(your name), United States Liaison Office, Peking."

Have standard invitation cards made before you come. The quality of invitation cards made in Peking is not high.

Notes for travelers . . .

GETTING TO THE POST

At the usual point of entry, Hong Kong, you are authorized consultation to shop, open a Hong Kong bank account, which is necessary, and order provisions and supplies.

Ship airfreight via Air France, Ethiopian, or Pakistan International Airlines, whose routes permit a direct air shipment. More air routes into Peking will be added in the future, so request the latest information from USLO when assigned.

USLO has a few "welcome kits" which may be rented, but plan to bring in your airfreight the minimum necessary to set up housekeeping, i.e., pots, pans, sheets, glassware, tableware, etc., if assigned to an apartment. Pots, pans, glassware, and tableware are available locally.

Airfreight takes 2-3 weeks; HHE 2-4 months via surface routes.

Peking is very cold in the winter, hot in the summer. Given the length of time for shipment of HHE, you should take into account seasonal clothing requirements when packing airfreight.

Chinese currency (Yuan - ¥) may not be brought into or taken out of China. Travelers checks, Hong Kong dollars, or US currency may be exchanged at the border.

Photos are required for ID cards, drivers license, and other documents. Bring one dozen small photos, approximately 1" x 1-1/2." These photos can be obtained in Peking, but it is more convenient if you bring them. US-size passport photos are not acceptable.

CUSTOMS, DUTIES, AND PASSAGE

Customs and Duties

There are no unusual entry or exit regulations for holders of diplomatic passports, which are issued to all USLO personnel.

Address household effects:

(Employee)

USLO

Peking, People's Republic of China
via Hsinkang

Direct sailings to Hsinkang are limited (and no American flag vessels call). USLO recommends that HHE be sent on a through bill of lading via Yokohama.

Automobiles may be shipped unboxed to (employee), USLO, Peking via Hsinkang. If you do not wish to bring a car, you may be able to purchase one from departing personnel of other missions. The prices, however, are close to the original purchase price for even a 2- or 3-year-old vehicle.

Passage

You must have a valid entry visa. Smallpox and cholera vaccinations must be current.

Pets

Since all personnel are assigned to apartments, pets are not easily accommodated. Special pet foods are not available. There are veterinarians but no pet specialists as pets are uncommon in China. No kennels are available, so if you leave Peking you must arrange for the care of pets during your absence. Dogs must be walked on a leash; they are not permitted in public parks.

The Chinese require only that pets have a valid rabies vaccination and a certificate of good health. If you enter the PRC via Hong Kong, you must make arrangements to place the animal in quarantine during your stay in Hong Kong.

China Travel Service will not send pets unaccompanied from Hong Kong. Therefore, if you are not to be assigned housing on your arrival, delay shipping pets until you have moved from the hotel. You will have to arrange, then, to ship pets via a direct air route to Peking.

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

The Chief of the Liaison Office has determined that NO firearms may be brought to China. There are no facilities for target shooting or possibilities of hunting.

CURRENCY, BANKING, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Local currency is the Yuan, whose official title is Renminbi (RMB). The dollar rate is set by the Central Bank, the Bank of China, and reflects the dollar's international position. During the past year the rate has remained steady at approximately Yuan 2 = US \$1. The Yuan is a decimal currency, with the fen (fun) equal to cents. There are 1, 2, and 5 fen coins and 10, 20, and 50 fen notes. There are 1, 2, 5, and 10 Yuan notes.

You may open an account with the Bank of China, but there is little need for checks, since nearly all transactions are made with cash. The Liaison Office provides accommodation exchange facilities.

If you plan to order supplies from Hong Kong or travel there unofficially, you must open a bank account in Hong Kong dollars, since the shipping and travel costs are billed in Hong Kong dollars. Bank of America, Chase Manhattan Bank, and the First National City Bank of New York all have offices in Hong Kong.

The Chinese use the metric system of weights and measures with some local variations, the most important of which is the "jin" (about 1/2 kilogram or 1.1 pounds). When buying meats, fruits, and vegetables, always ask for the amount in "jin."

TAXES, EXCISES, EXCHANGE, FINANCE, AND SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

You are not subject to any Chinese taxes nor are there sales taxes on any purchases. Personal property may be imported at any time. Personal property and automobiles may be sold upon departure within the diplomatic community or to the authorized Chinese purchasing agency. Sales to private individuals are not possible. The Liaison Office will convert Yuan received to dollars as provided by Department regulations.

Travelers checks are not available in Peking, nor are credit cards honored anywhere in China. The Liaison Office does not maintain a large supply of US currency. Personal checks may be cashed at the Liaison Office, but are not accepted anywhere else. Renminbi may be freely exchanged at the border (or airport if leaving by an international flight) upon departure.

Maintain a checking account in the US and, as noted above, open a checking account in Hong Kong.



The International Club

RECOMMENDED READING

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LOCAL HOLIDAYS

The Liaison Office observes the following holidays:

January 1**	New Year's Day
January 23, 24, 25***	Spring Festival (date varies)
February 18*	George Washington's Birthday
May 1***	May Day
May 27*	Memorial Day
July 4*	Independence Day
September 2*	Labor Day
October 1 and 2***	Chinese National Day
October 14*	Columbus Day
October 28*	Veterans' Day
November 28*	Thanksgiving Day
December 25*	Christmas Day

* American Holiday

** Chinese and American Holiday

*** Chinese Holiday