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Another of the shocks in China is the extent to which China is still a developing—even a backward—society. I am sure the Chinese Communists showed us those aspects of their development they were proudest of—a jeep factory in Peking, three steel plants among the 60 mines and plants in the Iron and Steel Complex at An Shan, and a rice-growing commune near Shenyang. Yet in every case—although it was evident that Communist China has come a long way—the conclusion was inevitable that China has a long way to go.

The Chinese Communists know this. They themselves call their country backward. They cite their accomplishments, then engage in what Chairman Mao Tse-tung recommends as constructive self-criticism and talk of their shortcomings. They wind up by saying, in line with Mao's teachings, that through reliance on the people and the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, they will ultimately erase their shortcomings. In years to come, we will increase our production, they say.

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One of the many shocks in China is the extent to which it is a low-wage society.

The workers are on eight pay levels. Pay in the jeep factory ranged from $15 to $47 a month. In the steel mills it ranged from $16.50 a month to $48 a month and it averaged $26. But what one must remember is that it doesn't cost the Chinese much to live. Their living standards are low. Much of the housing is of the subsistence level, by our standards. And the diet of the average Chinese is about 78 per cent starchy foods, very inexpensive. They spend about $2 to $3 a month for housing, and it costs a family of four about $15 a month for food. The government provides factory workers with a clothing allowance, free haircuts and free medical care.

As one Chinese Communist official summed it up: "Ours is a low-wage society, but our life is guaranteed."

When you consider that in the Old China millions of Chinese were homeless and lived in grinding poverty, you have to conclude that the Chinese today feel themselves to be far better off than before the revolution.

Yet life in China is very hard. The Chinese are on a six-day week with no vacations—in the factories and on the farm. The children even go to school six days a week. And teachers have only one month of vacation a year—15 days in the winter and 15 days in summer.

Here is a society of some 800 million people—all being continuously indoctrinated and all laboring devotedly in line with the teachings of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, all being taught the glories of the People's Liberation Army and of world revolution.

There is only one word for it—scary.

The Chinese now are engaged in the diplomacy of friendship. Remember that Chairman Mao, for all of his denunciations of "American imperialism and its running dogs," has also declared that Communist China can and should live in peaceful co-existence with the United States. It's all in his little red book, the "Teachings of Chairman Mao."
Are the Chinese people contented under Communism? By their own standards, they are living far better lives, materially, than before the revolution. But the day after we left Red China, we read an account in a Hong Kong newspaper to the effect that large numbers of young Chinese refugees were fleeing from the Canton area to avoid working on the commune farms. Most of those who escaped over the barbed-wire border barricades to Hong Kong were young people sent from the urban areas to the countryside to help with the rice crop and other harvesting.

What will the future hold for Red China? What will happen in Communist China when Chairman Mao dies? This is a crucial question because at the present time all of life revolves around Chairman Mao in China. His portrait hangs everywhere, and every statement citing progress by the Chinese refers to the teachings of Chairman Mao. In fact, all song and dance performances are centered on Chairman Mao and the People's Liberation Army.

It is impossible to predict what may happen in Communist China after Mao's death. But perhaps some valid forecasting is possible regarding the immediate future of China.

China is going to continue to grow as a major political, military and—yes—even an economic power despite its backwardness as an industrial nation. In the meantime, we must never forget—regardless of the Chinese diplomacy of friendship—that the Chinese abhor the economic, social and political philosophies represented by the United States.

One of the most interesting aspects of Chinese Communist rule is the wooing of third countries by Chinese Communist leaders. Their goal is a world revolution. Even in nursery school they teach of revolutionary struggles in other countries.

In the summer of 1967 the Chinese advocated the armed overthrow of the governments of several countries they had cultivated assiduously only the year before. Now Red China is engaged in a "People's Diplomacy" offensive intended to improve its relations with as many countries as possible. But the goal of world revolution has not changed.

Currently the United States and China are talking about people-to-people and informational exchanges and about improved trade relations.

I think the greatest potential in exchanges is in the field of medicine. For the United States—acupuncture. We may see extensive use of acupuncture anesthesia in the United States within a year or two.
As for trade, it may be several years before any significant Sino-American business is possible.

For their part, the Chinese have publicly and privately indicated an increasing interest in a variety of American industrial goods. The potential for hundreds of industrial products in the large, underdeveloped market of China is very great, but the Chinese are tough bargainers and the competition is strong.

The Chinese are most interested in such items as transportation equipment—with special emphasis on aircraft, agricultural machinery, machine tools, and electronic and communications equipment.

China is primarily an agricultural nation—and its agriculture sorely needs mechanizing. I see a large potential in sales of agricultural equipment to China.

But just as in any other foreign market, American businessmen who hope to sell to the Chinese must be ready to beat the competition or lose out.

Because labor is so cheap in China, most of China's exports tend to be consumer goods. There may well be that initially imports from China will be in far greater magnitude than are exports from the U.S. to China.

With regard to relations between China and the Soviet Union, there is no question that the Sino-Soviet conflict is not only deep but that it will continue for a long time. The danger of war between China and the Soviet Union is very real and it is great. Foreign policy experts recognize this, and they see U.S. military might as an offset to the military capability of the Soviet Union. The United States is seen as a stabilizing influence in a world dominated by the two great superpowers.

What about the Chinese denials that they have any expansionist ambitions? Such statements cannot be taken at face value because we do not know exactly what they mean. The Maoists have always argued that China should be reconstituted in its frontiers of the 18th century, before territories were lost. Among the lands taken from China are Afghanistan, Kashmir, Mongolia, West Turkestan, Tannu Tuva, and the southern portion of the Soviet Far East. The Maoists have also occasionally claimed Kamchatka. So when the Maoists say they do not have territorial ambitions it may be they are excluding lands which they consider as rightfully theirs.

When we say that the Chinese have made economic gains under Communism, we are not saying that communism is the best possible system for the Chinese. We have, after all, successful Chinese anti-communist states—the Republic of China
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But anyone who believes that Communist China is going to revert to a capitalist state when Chairman Mao and Premier Chou En-lai disappear from the scene is puffing on an opium pipe.

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