

December 2, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Peking, People's Republic of China)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHINA BALLET TROUPE

The Ballet is under the directorship of the Ministry of Culture. The forerunner of this Company was an experimental ballet company attached to the Peking Dancing School and that Company was formed in 1954. In 1965 it was grouped into the Central Opera and Ballet Company. In 1969 it received its present name. Since 1964 they have been playing ballets of modern revolutionary themes such as, "Red Woman's Detachment", "Ode to the Yimeng Mountains", and "Sons and Daughters on the Prairie".

The total number of this Company is about 500 people. Twenty of them are engaged in creative work (choreography) and 186 are dancers and the rest are orchestra and stage workers.

In the ballet this evening there will be about 40 dancers and the average age is 25 years old. They all graduated from the Peking Dancing School. The age of the hero is 30 and the heroine is 28. They studied for 7 years before they both joined the Company. They started at 12 years old. Their daily schedule in the Company is as follows: 2 hours basic training; 4 hours rehearsal; and the rest of the day is devoted to study and physical work.

Apart from performing in cities, they also go down to the grassroots level. When they are doing so, they divide their company into two groups so they can do it in turn.

#

#

#