

Report of Dr. N. L. Gault, Jr, member of the University of Minnesota Delegation to the Peoples' Republic of China, September 1-21, 1979.

The delegation arrived in Beijing about 3:30 p.m. Monday September 3, 1979 at the airport where the arriving passengers were asked not to photograph anything at the airport. On our flight from Tokyo was a group of Presidential Scholars, one of whom was a physician. To my embarrassment and apprehension a number of the passengers disregarded the admonition not to take pictures of the airport but openly began snapping pictures of the terminal building and the large pictures of the Chinese leaders fixed to the side of the terminal. Nothing happened; no one stopped them or took their cameras! (I once was stopped by Korean soldiers from taking pictures of Korea University entrance when the military were occupying the campus; I was taken from the automobile in which I was riding past the university, marched into the officer in a temporary building on the campus, and questioned. I opened my camera and took out the film exposing it and of course loosing some pictures that I had wanted to preserve. But I still believe in preserving the body first!)

We were driven into the Friendship Hotel in a van which I believe was Japanese made. The Friendship Hotel is a large complex of many huge buildings; it was built so I was told by the Russians to provide living accommodations for their technical personnel who were aiding the Chinese in the days when the relationships between Russia and the PRC were harmonious. The grounds of the hotel were neat and clean but dusty; little or no grass grows. Dahlias and chrysanthemums were in bloom; many shrubs and trees were new to us. The Dragon's Claw was a most fascinating tree that was sculptured into an umbrella shape. The ginkgo tree was beautiful and large. Willows were common along the roads. The buildings in the hotel complex were varied; some large ones housed large numbers of people while others were smaller. Our delegation was housed in building number seven (7), I believe; it was lucky!

Y. Wang and I shared two bedrooms, bath, and washroom/laundry room. We were on the second floor and our windows opened out over the entrance drive into the complex; a night the fifty to seventy light grey automobiles operated for the occupants were parked below outside our windows. In the mist of the early morning light these quiet sleeping monsters, all alike in shape and color, suggested a colony of peculiar bacteria, moles, or animals! In my room I had a single bed which was very comfortable; it was high like a hospital bed. The mattress sagged a little so I felt as if I was in a hammock. My room had a chest of drawers, a desk, bedside stand with lamp, and two sitting chairs with a table between them. There was no place to hang clothes except in a cabinet in Y. Wang's room which provided one half the space for hanging clothes. The bath was tiled and the tub was deep and long. Water supply was plentiful but at times hot water was not available. Clean towels were issued daily in the bathroom. The beds were made daily and the room cleaned. The maids (both male and female) were officed on the ground floor just as we entered the building; the room keys were kept there in numbered slots on a box. I would pick up my key when I needed it. Each room had a thermos of hot water and a decanter of cold water. Also a tea cup with its cover plus a supply of tea was in each room.

Our Chinese guides and interpreters were housed on the upper floors. This surprised me a bit as in other East Asian cultures the most honorific occupy the highest floors! But they were ever present to help us and get us off to our meetings.

We were served our meals in a central dining room in a building some 150 yards away. There we were recognized to be seated at two tables, round, capable of seating 10 persons at each. But we were only twelve so had plenty of room and too much food! This dining room was on the second floor of the building; as I entered I took the stairs to the left; to the right of beginning the stairs was the men's room, door open, and a strong disinfectant odor and/or urine odor

clouded over me as I ascended to steps. On the right side the women's room was located; I never took that side so do not know if it had such an odor or not. I suspect it did.

At meal time which was set by our guides, we were not served until all were at the table unless of course we asked for early service. The waiters brought food "family style"; a number of dishes, eight to ten, were brought to the table and we either reached out to help ourselves or sometimes we passed the dishes to make it easier. There was always one dish that provided soup of some type. We preferred the Chinese breakfast to the American style breakfast; it included soup or rice gruel, vegetable as well as meat dishes. A real treat was a fried long twisted pastry; nicknamed the Chinese doughnut without a hole! Oddly enough no tea was served with breakfast unless ordered specifically; the gruel was considered enough liquid for the meal. Of course beer, fruit juice or water was available. Noon and evening meals taken here were excellent too but too much food was served. I often thought of the abundance we were given in contrast to what I presumed to be the food placed on most Chinese tables. Wine and Mao-Tai were also available for purchase.

The dining hall was divided by movable screens; the left side of the hall seating visitors to the country and the right side serving the local government persons connected with the visitors, I presumed. At least I saw our counterparts, interpreters, and guides eating at the right end of the hall. On the left end, we met a professor of physics from the University of Hawaii who with his family of four children was housed in this hotel complex for the next year or two while he taught at a university. They took all their meals in this dining room; the children from age 15 to 2 years were enrolled in the local schools. The family was ethnic Chinese but only the parents spoke some Chinese.

Oh, yes, the laundry service was excellent; returned the same day if left with the service office in the morning.

The hotel complex provided stores for the purchase of local

4
items (furs, rugs, clothes, embroidery, glass ware, lacquerware, stamps, postcards, cigarettes -- local and foreign, liquor --local and foreign, ginseng and deerhorn) plus the desk where money was exchanged.

Arriving tired on Monday the 3rd, we were met at the airport by Prof. C. J. Liu and Prof. Mei-Ling Hsu who had arrived in PRC before the delegation. They welcomed us and it was good to see them; they too were at the Friendship Hotel where Prof. Liu will live for the next two years as she continues to teach and conduct her research in PRC. After a rapid settling in we dined at the Hotel in a rush fashion so we could get to the spectacular Beijing Opera Company performance at the Opera House. We has choice seats on the first row of the balcony; the music, language, costumes, colors, audience reaction, sound, acoustics, and as I learned even the plot were all foreign to us Americans. But it was a unique opportunity that most of us after catching a few winks of sleep during lulls in the action on stage appreciated; a tape recording I made is a good sample of the sounds; photographs give a distant but colorful view of the stage.

Tuesday, 4 September

The Delegation was taken after breakfast to the Ministry of Agricultural Machinery, our host PRC government agency. There we were ushered into a large reception room on an upper floor where the Minister--Mr. Yang, Li Kyong and the Vice Minister--Ms. Liu, An welcomed us. This building was a massive one and a small elevator assisted us to the third floor, I believe. As we departed some of us asked to walk down but that was not agreed to; we had to take the elevator.

Through interpreters we learned that the Minister felt that the Gang of Four had created a situation which kept PRC behind in science, technology, and languages. The people were influenced not to study; many agricultural courses were discontinued; people were urged to produce without education to meet the immediate needs of the people. The Farm Mechanization Factory was moved two or three times but is now

5
located in Beijing. Jilin Technical University (our host institution) was very famous also but was badly damaged by the Gang of Four. Their goal is to get with it in this century and prepare for the next; the Minister said they wanted to learn advanced technology from the Americans. PRC needed and wanted to exchange scientific and technical faculty and information held by each country. He pointed out that before the break with the Russians, the people studied Russian. From 1966 when the Cultural Revolution began until 1976, English language was not taught. Now they realize that their experts in science and technology must know English. The Minister pointed out that Vice President Mondale, a Minnesotan, had just completed a most successful visit to PRC and now the University of Minnesota Delegation is following up within a week of the Vice President's visit! Regent Moore accepted the welcome extended us by the Minister; she introduced the members of the Delegation and asked Prof. Freeh to describe our mission.

At 10:45 we arrived at the U.S. Embassy to meet with Mr. Thomson who is the Public Affairs Officer of the Embassy. He had studied Chinese at the U of Mn summer program. He had been in Beijing for 15 months but in Taiwan for 5 years before arriving in PRC. Mr. Sylvester also joined our group and explained the general conditions in PRC as of this date. The Embassy is crowded with 60 persons and an expected 70 additional ones soon; there is no space for offices and there is no space for apartments. Interesting there are 400-500 Russians in the diplomatic mission in Beijing; they have large accommodations established some years ago. We learned from these two that education in PRC had been based on political ideology; the students admitted to courses were nominated by the work unit without regards to qualifications or intellectual capacities. But since the Gang of Four removal from the government, the provincial and municipal authorities held competitive examinations in December 1977 for entrance to higher education or possibly even to secondary education. Then in mid 1978 there were national examinations held; some six million took the exams and about 300,000 were admitted to courses. This was repeated in 1979. PRC is just now recovering from the excesses of the Cultural Revolution.

During the Cultural Revolution the professors, researchers, and educated persons were low on the totem pole.

Apparently the major problem is one of discipline or the lack of discipline to do the correct things. Also there is a lack of motivation on the part of most of the people. Their attitude change is impacting on the changes needed now. For ten years students did not learn to do research; in fact for ten years there was really no teaching!!

The State Planning Commission is directing the placement of students; the first priority is given to the Needs of the State; to the Ability of the Student; and finally to the Personal Wishes of the Student.

During this first two days in Beijing, the delegation was taken to the summer palace for the afternoon. The lake and the magnificent buildings and the gardens were beautiful to see. We were there for the sunset. Again I was struck by the lack of grass; dirt and blowing dust was everywhere. Renovation of the structures is underway; repainting and replacement of some structures were noted. Obviously there has been a lack of upkeep. The marble boat was researched by Gault and Staehle! The Vice Minister Liu was the hostess at the summer palace restaurant for dinner; it was delicious.

On the 5th we left for Changchun to visit Jilin Technical University, our host institution. We drove to the airport in Beijing early in the morning and had our breakfast at the airport. All checkin and baggage checking was done by our hosts. We had a hearty breakfast, Chinese style. As I left the dining room which by the way was apparently reserved to serve visitors, I saw the Minnesota People-To-People Medical Tour Group headed by Dr. Chas. Sheppard of St. Peter; Dr. Ellen Fifer, Dr. Jacobson, and Dr. John Mathers (Duluth) were in the group. Just as I met them our plane was called and I hurried out to the Russian turbo-jet. It resembled the Fairchild that I had flown in India. Wing on top so the passenger has good vision of the ground. We flew first to the old city of Mukden now called Shenyang; here the airport was restricted for photographing but the passengers including our own group paid no attention to the request. Thankfully no one raised any trouble about it. There were numerous helicopters parked at this airport all along the runways. Some were covered; others were being serviced. The terminal is a large building with few accommodations; the dining facilities are in an adjacent building--those for foreigners at least as we had our evening meal here on our return. We flew then to Changchun where the terminal was of similar size. The plane ride was without food but we had tea or juice'; the hostess gave each person a small note book; candies were also available on take off and on landing. While at the airport and even in the air the hostess swatted flies on the ceiling of the passenger compartment and caught the dead fly in a plastic bag she held in her other hand! Very facile.

At the airport we left the plane in protocol order with Regent Moore leading the delegation to the airport apron. There the officials of the province and of the Jilin Technical University were lined up to welcome us. The TV cameras were recording the event. Everyone clapped their hands in the traditional manner. Introductions were brief and we were assigned cars that were numbered on the windshields and back glasses; Betty Robinett and I were assigned to car #3. In a procession of cars were drove to the Hotel which is a huge complex within walls and gates; this facility was built by the government years ago for the purpose of holding meetings. In fact my interpreter told me that previously the local people were not allowed in the hotel. Chou En Lai was said to have been there numerous times. The center building was shaped like a letter E with rooms on the ends and dining, stores, etc in the center section. Attached to either side were other buildings; the one to the right was a huge swimming pool enclosed. One the left I was told was the theater and meeting rooms.

7

My room consisted of a large, high ceiling sitting room with a seatee, two over stuffed chairs--all covered with white cotton slip covers. This room also had a huge desk and chair with lamp, inlaid accessories for writing. A low long table was set before the seatee. A chest of drawers was at one end of the room near the closet for hanging clothes. On the chest were the ever present hot water thermos and cold water decanter. And of course the tea and cups. The bedroom was about 2/3rds the size of the sitting room; there was a single bed and a double bed in the room; both were equipped with overhead mosquito netting which we did not need as the temperature was cool enough to discourage such insects. There was a dressing table also in the bedroom; it had a mirror. The bathroom was entered from the bedroom; it was large with a big tub. The shower attachment did not work. The hand basin and mirror were small and poorly lighted as was the bathroom. The tile was in need of repair and cleaning. The water leaked from around the base of the toilet. Towelling quality was poor. Small soap bars were present. Food here in the central dining room was excellent; we had all our banquets here in this hotel but in a smaller side room. Again the nationals ate behind screens in the large dining hall while the visitors are in the larger area.

After lunch and a brief clean up period we were off in our caravan to the Jilin University of Technology. Our way took us through the city passing many large buildings and apartment buildings. Streets were wide and treed. They were clean. One day while we were lecturing there came a hail storm and two hours later on the way to the hotel the hail was piled high along the streets. It must have been some storm; I did not see any damage to the fields we passed on our departure from the city. At the University we were met by hundreds of students and faculty lining the drive up to the administrative building. They were smiling and clapping their hands. Our motorcade came to a halt some distance from the building we were to enter; we walked our way forward thru the throng clapping our hands in expression of our happiness with their welcome. A young girl rushed forward with a bouquet of flowers for Regent Moore who bent forward to receive them and kiss the young girl. Smiles, smiles, smiles--a ocean full of smiles. Never have I had such a surging within me to imbibe the exhilarating fellowship that was being extended me; it was a powerful and moving experience that I trust I will never forget. Of course I know such a welcome is extended most visitors and although I think they were so pleased to have the University of Minnesota there I suspect others who come will get the same first class treatment. For the Chinese are very hospitable people who are very kind and gracious.

The Delegation was shown through dimly lighted halls to a meeting room in which the tables were set in a conference square configuration. We sat around the edge; tables before us were filled with fruit and candies. A spokesman said a welcome to the U of Mn and proclaimed that the University of Minnesota was the most famous university in the United States; it was said to have made research recognized nationally and internationally. It is for the purpose of advancing the academic level of the Jilin University of Technology that the U of Mn was invited. It is hoped we can make closer contacts with each other. We will begin with a tea party; now the tea party begins. So said the spokesman.

Regent Moore extended our thanks for the welcome and expressed our interest in relating to the Jilin University for academic growth and research in our institutions. She introduced the U of Mn delegation.

Vice President Liang, Shu Shou introduced the faculty, students and guests. President Lu, Jin spoke to the Guests and Comrades. He said we are very glad to have this very warm gathering to welcome the U of Mn delegation headed by Regent Moore. It is great for us to come together to have this academic interchange. In behalf of the faculty and students and in my own name let me extend warm welcome. Here he named each member of the U of Mn delegation.

8

Warm greetings and sincere sentiments. The U of Mn enjoys high prestige in the world. It has 55000 students. Its academic standards are very high. It has noted faculty and scholars. Eleven of its faculty have become Nobel Prize winners. Its English Language Institute is known to be very well run as well as other units. We appreciate your achievement. Regent Moore has lots of experience and holds high prestige. Your visit here will strengthen the intercourse between our universities.

Our university--the University of Technology of Jilin -- is one of the major universities of our country. It is responsible to the Ministry of Agricultural Machinery; other universities in this ministry are Shanghai, Shendo Engineering Institute, etc.

Our university began 24 years ago. Since it has trained 14,000 undergraduate, 38 research students, 85 foreign students, 13000 corresponding and night class students. Academically we have reached a certain level; our students have won national prizes. But the sabotage created by the Gang of Four on this University was serious; we failed to advance but rehabilitation is underway. Premier Hua will certainly build up the university; to do this we need help here in PRC as well as opportunities for our scholars to study in foreign countries. Your present visit is a good chance for us to learn from you; it will improve the intercourse between our universities. He quoted Mondale regarding tomorrow's relationships.

The contact and friendship between us followed the Sino-American relationships improvement; you have come to us. We appreciate you active attitudes.

One month after signing an agreement, President C. Peter Magrath wrote a letter to our ambassado in the United States. Later President Magrath and Prof. Freeh wrote many letter to us. You have a very friendly attitude. We have had lots of contacts and preparation for your visit. Our sincere appreciation to President Magrath. Recently the U of Mn sent Prof Liu to PRC; our Prof Wu worked with her to make arrangements for this visit. It will be a success, I am sure.

The latitude of Jilin Province is same as Minnesota. The geography and weather is very similar. Friendships have connected us together. This is just the beginning of our relationships. Now, friends, expecting prospects of the future, we are confident, we will march forward hand in hand for great success and good health.

Vice Pres. Liang heads the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the Jilin University. Wang (Huang), Yan Ping is the Vice Head of Education Bureau of Jilin Province.

Regent Moore spoke. She thanked everyone. We are very happy to be here today and we bring you greetings from Minnesota. Vice Pres Mondale is a graduate of the U of Mn and we are very glad to come so soon after his visit. Our president C Peter Magrath and others worked over a year so we can be with you today. We traveled a long way and many hours and we are a bit weary. But your welcome at the airport and here on this campus refreshed us. We look forward to beginning our consultations tomorrow.

Prof Freeh spoke. For many this is a dream come true. I have been working for the past year with many at Minnesota preparing for this very day we are enjoying. Like Hubert H. Humphrey, Vice President of the United States and a Minnesotan, said, "First the dream and then the reality". Now we are meeting reality. We want to learn more about what you are doing in your programs. To be successful in a partnership, both sides must benefit from the relationship. We are convinced we can gain much from exchange as you can offer.

Prof Chen, Tangming spoke saying Jilin is one of the major universities of the Ministry of Agricultural Machinery. It used to be the Changchun auto and tractor institute. It got its present name in 1955. It has 7 departments with 18 specialties: farm machinery--2 special ~~faculties~~ ^{faculties} farm machinery and tractor building factories. The Automobile department has 3 special faculties:

9

internal combustion, repairing, and operations. Construction machinery has two faculties: Construction machinery and mining machinery. Electrical Engineering: Industrial automation and Electronic Engineering. First Mechanical Department has four faculties: Casting, Welding, Rolling, and Materials. The Second Mechanical Department has two: Mechanical engineering and technology and Management. The basic sciences faculty are in applied math, applied physics, and applied chemistry; they produce teachers in these subjects.

There are 3300 undergraduate students, 59 researchers (possibly graduate students?), and 11 foreign students. A faculty of 2300 accomplish this task! Of these 900 are teachers; 71 are professors and "vice professors" (presume associate professors). 31 are titled in the research group, ~~XX~~ There are 26 laboratories and 3 research centers which will be increased to 6 in the near future. Titles are rolling technology, scientific information research center, individual and audio technology institute, change transmission, information gathering and management system, system engineering, soil and mechanics research institute, auto mechanic research institute, and mechanical engineering research institute. In the first three years of the program, the students study basic sciences--2400 teaching hours. They specialize in the last year. There are 24 compulsory subjects: 7 basic sciences, 10 special basic sciences, 7 specialized subjects, and 7 selective courses.

Research students will have the following designed curriculum: 2 years in the basic sciences and design work. From these students some are selected to proceed with selected graduate school work; they do research and write a thesis.

They have been successful in their program as their students won 10 prizes in an national scientific conference. There were 34 prizes won in the Jilin Province. They won 41 prizes in Changchun City. Since 1978 there have been 20 scientific theses which have been published in journals. twelve items of research will be completed within this year. But we are lagging behind other universities within this country. Our equipment and laboratories are backward. We want to learn from all universities both within PRC and abroad. Up to 1981 the students will number 4800 but by 1985 there should be 6200. The students in research should be 800! We will build up our university in teaching and in research. This visit will be helpful to learn from you. We need your cooperation. The academic interchange will be greatly strengthened.

A student then rose and spoke: Dear teachers. Relations between students and teachers are good. We as youths have warmth. We are happy about your coming to our university. PRC has shifted to the youth of the country the task of helping our country. We have to learn to learn from advanced countries. We need and want advanced technology. Main task for us is to study; we want good marks and grades. I want that so I can go abroad to study. I want to go to Minnesota. She recalled Mondale's message. On behalf of the students many warm greetings.

Chen, Y M Vice President of the Tractor dept spoke. He graduated from U of Ill 1948. Welcomed the U of Mn. I recall days in the Univ of Wisconsin; we visited 10 universities 5 research centers and 11 factories in the USA. Every where we found a warm sentiment among the American friends. We were deeply impressed. Great changes have taken place in the US and these will be of great help to us in the PRC. I am sorry I did not have time to go to St. Paul even though I was so near. But you coming to this university, I can learn from you. Changchun is the most beautiful place. South Lake Hotel is pretty. Autumn is a good time of the year.

Subsequently we toured the campus visiting many of the laboratories for teaching agricultural machinery. Being unfamiliar with the subject I could not evaluate the space, equipment, conditions, etc.

BMC was established in 1939; it was the Jin Ja Ji District School originally. Dr. Bethune is said to have started it but he died 12 Sep 1939. Chairman Mao wrote a memorial to Bethune and changed the name of this college. In total there are 1600 students in the 5 years program. There are 1800 beds in the four hospitals. There is a library which we did not see. Also a pharmaceuticals department. There are a total of 15 departments we were told.

On the next day when the entire delegation visited the medical college, we were told that the college used to be the Kirin Medical College. The buildings certainly were characteristic of the type the Japanese built; they admitted the buildings were from the days when the Japanese occupied Manchuria and Changchun was the capital city.

The college expects to graduate 536 physicians this year, the last of the three year program students. 5% of the graduates remain with the college. All physicians specialize! There is no practice identified as family practice. Many graduates are assigned to the communes, to county hospitals (200-250 beds), to district hospitals, or to municipal hospitals. Once assigned to a site the physician had to accept that assignment for life! THERE IS NO MOBILITY PERMITTED. Attrition in the medical college is about 2%. They do not offer courses for the barefoot doctors; these are elected in the communes from the primary school kids and are trained these in the field to serve as the front line medical service in addition to doing their own jobs in the communes. Some later may complete schooling and come to the medical college. Student body is about 50% male and 50% female. Books and materials are free. 80% of students have full scholarship plus room and board. The medical faculty must make outreach tours to outlying hospitals and clinics to train doctors and health care workers; this is the way barefoot doctors are trained and kept renewed in their skills.

I interviewed YANG, HAN YE a 45 year old female who graduated from Schuwan Medical College in western China (Whashi University in Changdo). She was assigned to BMC in 1960 to the Dept of Biochemistry where she teaches medical students biochemistry and immunology. Her research is concerned with the immunologic diagnosis of cancer using the alpha fetoprotein. She uses a radioimmuno assay. It is helpful in diagnosing hepatic cancer. She is married with 2 children (son is freshman at Beijing University and daughter is 11 years old) Her husband is a teacher in the tractor department of Jilin University of Technology.

She wants to learn immunochemistry at U of Mn. She wants molecular immunology in one or two years. She passed her English exam last year which the Minister of Education gave to select faculty to study abroad. The Biochemistry Dept at U of Mn have her credentials under consideration.

In Chngchun at the South Lake Hotel we had two delightful banquets; the first was given the U of Mn delegation by the head of the Bureau of Education of the Jilin Province, Mr. Wang. Preceding the dinner we gathered in a meeting room and received gifts for the the President of U of Mn and individual gifts of lacquer tea cups. The second evening the Mn delegation gave a banquet after presenting gifts to Jilin University of Technology.