

The Host Country

Area, Geography, and 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 borders with North Korea, the USSR, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Laos, and Vietnam. Hong Kong and Macao are situated on China's southern coast.

Two-thirds of China's area is mountainous or semidesert; only about one-tenth is cultivated. Ninety percent of its 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 southern-most area—the Provinces of Yunnan and Guangdong, and the Zhuang autonomous region of Guangxi—lie within the Tropics. Monsoonal climate is a major influence in the south, but the north and west have a typical continental climate.

Selected climactic data for representative cities occupying roughly comparable locations in China and the US are shown in the box below.

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 Siberian air masses dominate and often penetrate, even to the southern Provinces. Little precipitation falls during the colder months; clear days with low humidity and lower temperatures are common. During late winter and spring, strong north winds sweep across north China, and hazy days caused by dust storms are common.

Beijing's spring is mostly dry, with frequent strong winds that stir up heavy dust storms. In July and August, the weather turns hot and humid, similar to that of Washington, DC. Autumn is the best time of the year, with many warm and pleasant clear days and little wind. Winter, lasting from December through March, is cold, dry, and windy, with only occasional light snowfalls.

Population

Nearly a quarter of all the world's people live in China, but estimates of the exact population vary widely. The results of the Chinese Census of 1982 are presently unavailable, but preliminary estimates place the total at about 1 billion.

Population density varies strikingly; the greatest contrasts are be-

tween the country's eastern and western halves. The high mountains, plateaus, and arid basins of the Tibetan Highlands and the Xinjiang-Mongolia Region comprise slightly more than half 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 densities in excess of 520 persons per square mile coincide with level-to-rolling alluvial plains on which intensive agriculture is centered.

Most inhabitants of 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 Beijing. 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. However, the traditional preponderance of non-Han groups in western China is declining, because increasing numbers of Han Chinese have entered these regions since 1950.

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

Religion is not a significant factor in the lives of most Chinese, but churches have recently been permitted to reopen, and many temples have been restored. Ideology controls most artistic expression and social behavior. The PRC is a highly puritanical, austere, and authoritarian state.

Dress for the average Chinese is becoming more colorful, but remains generally plain blue or grey trousers

Location	Mean Temperature January (°F)	Mean Temperature July	Mean Annual Precipitation
Beijing	23	80	24
Philadelphia	32	76	44
Chengdu	42	81	38
Dallas	46	84	32
Guangzhou	56	84	64
Miami	68	82	66
Shanghai	47	91	21
Jacksonville, Fla.	55	81	54
Shenyang	16	75	30
Boston	29	73	42
Wuhan	38	84	50
Houston	53	82	47

topped by a shirt for both men and women, with the addition of a tunic in winter. Chinese cuisine is among the best and most varied in the world. Although the number of outstanding restaurants is growing, they currently fail to meet the demands of both Chinese and foreigners. Some Western food is available at mediocre quality and high prices.

Public Institutions

The 38-million-member Communist Party of China dominates or influences virtually all sectors of national society. Though the party is authoritarian in structure and intent, the vastness of China and the varied nature of Chinese society naturally frustrate any attempt to rule China's 1 billion people by fiat from Beijing. Recognizing this fact, party leaders rule by building consensus for new policy initiatives among party members and influential non-party persons. In periods of relative democratization, such as has been underway since 1978, the influence of persons and organizations outside of the formal party structure tends to increase.

Nevertheless, all important government, economic, and cultural institutions in China contain shadow party leadership groups which endeavor to guarantee that party policy guidance is followed, and that nonparty persons do not mobilize to create truly independent or autonomous organizations. Party control is tightest in government offices and in urban, economic, industrial, and cultural settings; it is considerably looser in the rural and national minority areas where 80% of the Chinese people live and work.

In descending order, the collegial hierarchy of the Communist Party includes: a 7-man Politburo Standing Committee; a Secretariat headed by a General Secretary and 11 Secretaries to handle the day-to-day work of the party center and its relations with regional and local party committees; a Politburo consisting of 23 full and 2 alternate members; a Party Military Commission of about a dozen top-level members, which oversees the People's Liberation Army (PLA); and a Central Committee consisting of more than 200 full members and 100 alternates. All of

the higher level organs are theoretically elected by, and reportable to, the Central Committee, which usually meets once or twice a year in formal plenary session and somewhat more frequently in less formal work conferences on important topics.

The higher level organs, principally the Secretariat, direct the work of the Central Committee's Departments of Organization; International Liaison; Propaganda; and United Work Front. A separate Party Discipline Inspection Commission is elected by, and reportable to, the Central Committee. Provincial and local party groups are patterned on the central model.

Leaders in Beijing have consistently stressed the special status of the 4-million-member 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 of replenishing civilian cadre ranks.

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

The army has now been moved out of its civilian caretaking role, and civilian leaders have returned to control the political machinery. Some members of the military retain positions on party and government organs, but the Chinese Government has stressed that China's administration will always be primarily a civilian affair, following Mao's principle that "the Party must control the smoking gun."

Before the Cultural Revolution, the party also used such mass organizations 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 for the most part have been rebuilt.

Freedom of speech, press, and assembly is guaranteed by the constitution, but encounters significant restric-

tion in practice. Criticism of the "four principles" (the Socialist system, the dictatorship of the proletariat, the leadership of the party, and the ideology of Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong thought) is clearly off limits. In 1979, wall posters and underground journals debated many sensitive political questions. By the end of the year, wall posters were banned, nearly all of the unauthorized journals had ceased publication, and scores of dissidents were being held by PRC authorities. On the other hand, the limits of criticism permitted in official channels have broadened since 1980. Some newspapers have engaged in "expose journalism," aiming their criticisms at corruption and bureaucratic bungling. Foreign books are stocked in libraries, but access is limited.

Arts, Science, and Education

The civilization which took shape in the Yellow River Valley of north China is the second millennium B.C. eventually came to dominate all of East Asia, including Japan and Korea. The products of that civilization—from chopsticks to the Chinese ideographic writing system—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, virtually every aspect of traditional life in the PRC has undergone profound transformation, and the impact on the cultural life of the nation is particularly striking.

All cultural activities in China are controlled and directed through a variety of organizations, including the Propaganda Department of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, the Ministry of Culture, the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, and the local offices of these national organizations. Since 1977, cultural workers in China have concentrated on restoring organizations, schools, and individuals damaged by the excesses of the Cultural Revolution. Organizations have been reinstated, schools reopened, and individual artists and writers rehabilitated. The government and party have given guidance, encouragement, and support to these developments.

Government support for the arts is extensive. International cultural exchanges now are encouraged, and a growing stream of foreign performers and teachers in art, music, dance, and drama, as well as art exhibits, have appeared in Beijing, Shanghai, and a few other major cities in China. Many countries, including the US, have signed formal cultural agreements with the PRC, and the volume of privately arranged cultural exchange activities has also dramatically increased. Perhaps due to this, Western-style music, ballet, traditional opera, and spoken drama are recovering former standards.

In contrast to the sterility of cultural activities during the Cultural Revolution, when the performing arts were restricted to eight "model revolutionary operas," recent years have witnessed a startling revival of traditional performing arts. Several of the more daring artists have probed the limits of the ideologically possible, as shown by murals in the Beijing International Airport. Nevertheless, conformity to party principles, the standards of social realism, and the need for art to serve political ends are recurrent themes in official critiques of all art, though the strictness of party oversight varies from time to time.

Every Chinese province has a historical museum, which serves as a repository for local art objects. Many important and exceptionally beautiful pieces have emerged from archeological digs throughout the country. The best of these pieces are sent from the provinces to the Beijing Historical Museum. The Palace Museum, located in Beijing's center at the former Forbidden City, houses some art treasures of the Qing Dynasty imperial collections.

Chinese art objects, such as ceramics, scrolls, stone carvings, and hardwood furniture, can be found, but prices are high and objects predating the 19th century are generally unavailable. Modern brush painting in the traditional Chinese style is still practiced, and artists are active throughout the country.

The Chinese handicrafts industry has flourished since 1949, although its products usually lack variety or originality. Still, many interesting regional specialties exist: Guizhou Batik, Suzhou embroidery, carved seals, paper cuts, porcelain figurines,

cloisonne, carved lacquer, wicker work, and many others.

In an effort to overcome the ravages of the Cultural Revolution, the PRC has made a large and continuing investment in science. Most scientific effort is devoted to immediate developmental needs: defense, industrial technology, agriculture, and public health. In the PRC's early years, its science was heavily dependent on support from the USSR, where many scientists and technicians were trained. In 1978, China made a decision to seek Western technology and expertise in its modernization effort. This included the sending of many scientists and teachers to Japan and the West, especially the US, for refresher training in many specialties. Despite the ideological break with the USSR, science in the PRC is organized along Soviet lines, with research concentrated at the various institutes of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Chinese scientists have recently begun attending and presenting papers at international conferences, and in recent years, thousands of Chinese periodicals resumed publication after the disruption of the Cultural Revolution. The United States largest bilateral science and technology exchange program is with China.

Educational policy has been a controversial question in China: whether to develop the highly educated and technologically competent elite necessary for the modernization effort, or to assure equal opportunity in education for all, including the present majority. The scarcity of resources and the new priority accorded technological competence over ideological fervor has sharpened the debate. Political loyalty has been a constant consideration in admission to higher education, but the emphasis since 1977 has been on raising academic standards. Some 1 million persons are enrolled in about 600 institutions of post-secondary education, and admission is by a nationwide competitive examination reinstated in 1977.

Universal education in China is provided for the first 10 years of schooling, with students being admitted at age 7. About 147 million children are enrolled in primary schools, and another 66 million are in secondary schools. Only 2% to 4% of senior high school graduates can be admitted in any one year to institutions of higher learning.

Commerce and Industry

For four-fifths of the Chinese people, agriculture directly provides a livelihood. Since 90% of the land is unsuited for agriculture, due to high altitude and other topographic and climactic conditions, maximum yield must be obtained from the arable 10% (which lies mainly in the east). Although intensive cultivation techniques already secure high yields of food per acre, China hopes that improved technology will make even these yields higher. Western and northern regions such as Inner Mongolia, Xizang (Tibet), and Xinjiang are more suited to animal husbandry.

China is the world's largest producer of many food crops, including rice, sweet potatoes, sorghum, soybeans, millet, barley, peanuts, and tea. Major industrial crops are cotton, other fibers, and various oil seeds.

The manufacturing sector supplies the country's needs for most capital goods, as well as an expanding variety of consumer goods. Major industries are iron and steel, coal, machine building, armaments, and textiles.

China has extensive deposits of iron. Other minerals include bituminous and anthracite coal, tin, tungsten, antimony, salt, and magnetite. Chinese exports of crude oil are still relatively small but have become a significant source of foreign exchange.

Over the last two decades, China'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 Communist states (mainly the USSR) and 30% with the West. By 1965, this ratio was reversed, and about 90% of the PRC's trade is now with non-Communist countries. During the past several years, a major portion of its purchases from the West has consisted of large grain imports (10-12 million tons a year), mainly from the US, Canada, and Australia. The amount of US-China trade has grown sharply since 1971, reaching about \$5.5 billion in 1981, 65% of which was purchases from the US.

In addition to food grains, China 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.

China has managed to supply a huge population with adequate food, housing, and medical care, and a basic level of education. But in the past 125 years, development opportunities have not been fully exploited, and the country remains underdeveloped in many respects. Per capita GNP is about \$260, above the average for low-income countries, but well below that of middle-income countries. It is trying to improve its economic performance through a series of reforms, which emphasize less rigidity and more decentralized decisionmaking, a greater role for market forces, and greater play for individual incentives.

Transportation

Automobiles

Most personnel have a personal vehicle for shopping and sightseeing trips. Frequently, cars are bought from departing diplomats, but it is better to bring one from the US or order a Japanese model shipped directly from Japan. China has no particular specification limitations; cars meeting US, Japanese, or European standards may be imported into China. Cars can usually be sold at the end of a tour to the Chinese Government or to a diplomatic corps member.

Vehicles are given a rigorous examination by the Chinese prior to registration. The cost of registration, including a license plate, is \$14. Diplomatic license plates are issued for cars and motorcycles.

Chinese drivers licenses must be obtained and are issued in exchange for a valid US or international drivers license. Foreign licenses are kept by the Chinese but will be temporarily returned for trips outside China. You must have a physical before you can obtain a license. The Chinese will not authorize a license unless blood pressure is normal and applicant's height is over 155 cm (5 feet, 1 inch).

Personally owned vehicles cannot be driven without third-party insurance. This insurance can be purchased from the People's Insurance Company of China. The cost is Y150, or about US\$80, for unlimited third-party coverage (Y250 deductible).

Although driving is on the right in China, unique practices exist which can make driving confusing for foreigners.

Main roads are wide and in good repair, but the numerous pedestrians and bicycles make driving hazardous. It does snow in Beijing, but snow tires are not required since the streets are quickly cleared.

The most popular vehicles are small sedans or compacts. Some car owners choose to remove catalytic converters prior to arrival at post, while others feel this is unnecessary. Other than a heater and windshield washer, no special equipment is recommended, but an air-conditioner is useful. Spare parts are not available for American cars and often scarce for Japanese cars. Bring air filters, oil (Chinese oil is of poor quality), oil filters, points and plugs, radiator hoses, brake and transmission fluids, and especially radiator coolant and windshield washer solution.

Avoid bringing mechanically sophisticated cars or those difficult to repair. Repair facilities are limited and the Diplomatic Services Garage is most familiar with standard Japanese cars. Occasionally, some mechanics in the diplomatic community do repair work in their spare time, but they are limited in the amount of work they can accept.

Gasoline is currently available at the Diplomatic Service Station in Beijing at about 30¢ per liter.

Local

A well-developed rail system exists in the densely populated east. Passenger service, including sleeping car accommodation, is available between all major cities. Domestic air service is extensive, and routes are now serviced almost entirely by jets. On less important routes, a mixture of Russian-built turboprops and Chinese or Russian propeller planes are used. Transportation costs are high.

Taxis are available in Beijing but do not cruise. They must be ordered by telephone and the drivers and dispatchers speak only Chinese. Taxi stands with an English-speaking dispatcher are found at the major hotels and the International Club; the latter is conveniently located close to the Embassy and staff apartments. Late evening and rush hour calls are sometimes not answered promptly.

Taxis are unmetered and charge about \$1 per mile. The fares are set and you need not worry about being over-

charged. Receipts are given for payment. There is no tipping.

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

Regional

International air service links Beijing with Japan and Europe (via Karachi, Bombay, or Tehran). Service is also available to Moscow, Addis Ababa, and Rangoon. Daily connections exist to and from Tokyo, and most personnel use this convenient route for reaching post.

Chinese and US air carriers provide direct and indirect air service via Tokyo between the US and China. Pan Am has routes between New York, San Francisco, and/or Los Angeles, and Shanghai and Beijing. A second US carrier will begin passenger service to Shanghai and Guangzhou from Chicago via Seattle in 1983.

Additionally, the Chinese flag carrier, CAAC, provides air service between Beijing and Hong Kong, Bangkok, Manila, Karachi, Nagasaki, Tokyo, Osaka, and Rangoon. Philippine Airlines also operates a weekly Beijing-Manila flight.

Some personnel have found the Trans-Siberian express a comfortable and interesting means of vacation travel to Europe. The Chinese train departs Beijing every Wednesday morning and reaches Moscow the following Monday, transiting the Mongolian People's Republic and Siberia. The Russian train departs Beijing on Tuesday and arrives in Moscow the following Monday.

Communications

Telephone and Telegraph

The Chinese telephone system ranges from poor to just adequate. Phones may be obtained without waiting. All apartments have one telephone and some have an extension. The cost per month is comparable to that in the US.

International calls may be made to most parts of the world. The circuits to the US are open, with English-speaking operators on duty 24 hours daily. Connections to the US are usually good and cost about \$20 for 3 minutes.

Reversed charges to the US number called will cost about 50% less than if it is charged locally. Therefore, some employees arrange with family, friends, or personal business contacts to accept collect calls for reimbursement.

Domestic and international telegraphic service is rapid and reliable. However, cable costs to the US are about \$1 per word, so personnel find telephone calls more economical.

Mail and Pouch

International mail service is usually reliable and rapid, but somewhat expensive. Air letters to the US cost about 40¢; letter postage is about \$1 per ounce. Sometimes, however, originating postal systems misroute mail intended for the Chinese mainland to Taiwan, causing delays.

You can send and receive airmail and first-class letters, letter tapes, and exposed or processed film weighing 8 ounces or less by air pouch. Prescription medicines, corrective glasses, and medical supplies may be sent via pouch on an emergency basis. Do not have newspapers, magazines, or packages sent in the air pouch.

Air pouches are dispatched twice a week from Washington. Address pouch mail for employees as follows:

(Employee's name)
(State, USIS, etc.)
American Embassy, Beijing
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

For dependents, simply add the dependent's name to the top of the above five-line address.

The Fleet Post Office (FPO) address for letters, all periodicals, and packages:

(Employee's name)
American Consulate General
Box 50
FPO San Francisco 96659

Dependents must use the name of the employee.

Packages sent via FPO must weigh under 20 pounds and have a combined length and girth of less than 100 inches. Any package not meeting these requirements will be repacked in Hong Kong and shipped to Beijing at the addressee's expense. The associated charges may run as high as \$1 per kilo.

Personnel assigned to Beijing are allowed to send out packages via FPO, not to exceed 10 pounds in weight. APO/FPO regulations require the use

of filament tape for sealing packages. Since it is unavailable locally, bring an ample supply to post. Communications personnel will provide additional guidance upon request.

The average transit time by pouch is: letters 10-14 days; boxes 20-21 days. For FPO, it is: letters 12-21 days; boxes 20-30 days.

Radio and TV

In addition to Chinese-language programming, local AM and FM radio stations now have news and some other programs in English, and regularly broadcast Western classical music. A shortwave radio will pick up AFRTS, VOA, BBC, Radio Australia, and other English-language broadcasts.

Three TV channels broadcast 4 hours nightly, mostly in color. The daily TV news, beginning at 7 pm, includes short clips of international news. Chinese and, occasionally, foreign films and entertainment programs are also shown. All programs are in Chinese except for language-instruction programs.

US TV sets will not operate in China, which uses the 625-line PAL system. Locally manufactured color and black-and-white sets are available, but expensive. Japanese sets which receive the PAL system can be obtained, but are more expensive.

US TV's combined with videotape recorders are popular. Many of the US staff import them or purchase them through PX facilities after arrival. The VHS system is predominantly used here, and a substantial library of VHS-compatible tapes is accessible through the American Embassy Association Locker.

Foreign films are rarely shown in public theaters, but can often be seen at embassies throughout Beijing, or during one of the periodic film festivals.

Newspapers, Magazines, and Technical Journals

Since 1981, Chinese authorities have published the English-language *China Daily*, which appears 6 days a week. This newspaper contains local and international news, business reports, a sports page with scores from around the world, and several local features. The *International Herald Tribune*, the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and some other American and European periodicals can be pur-

chased in certain hotels in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and many other cities.

Subscriptions to the *International Herald Tribune*, or the Pacific editions of *Stars and Stripes*, *Time*, or *Newsweek* are possible. Have these publications sent through international mail as follows:

(Employee's name)
American Embassy
17 Guanghua Lu
Beijing, PRC

Personnel subscribing to newspapers and magazines published in the US must use the Embassy's FPO or international address.

Health and Medicine

Medical Facilities

The Embassy has a full-time American Foreign Service nurse who keeps a small stock of medicines for colds, sore throats, stomach upsets, diarrhea, and other minor ailments. The nurse administers the full immunization program recommended by the Department, except for yellow fever immunizations, which are not given at post.

The regional medical officer visits Beijing three or four times a year for consultation. Personnel may also consult with the Canadian regional medical officer when he visits the Canadian Embassy in Beijing.

The Capital Hospital, the only medical facility for foreigners, provides basic medical care. English-speaking doctors are available, but you cannot be assured of consistently seeing the same physician.

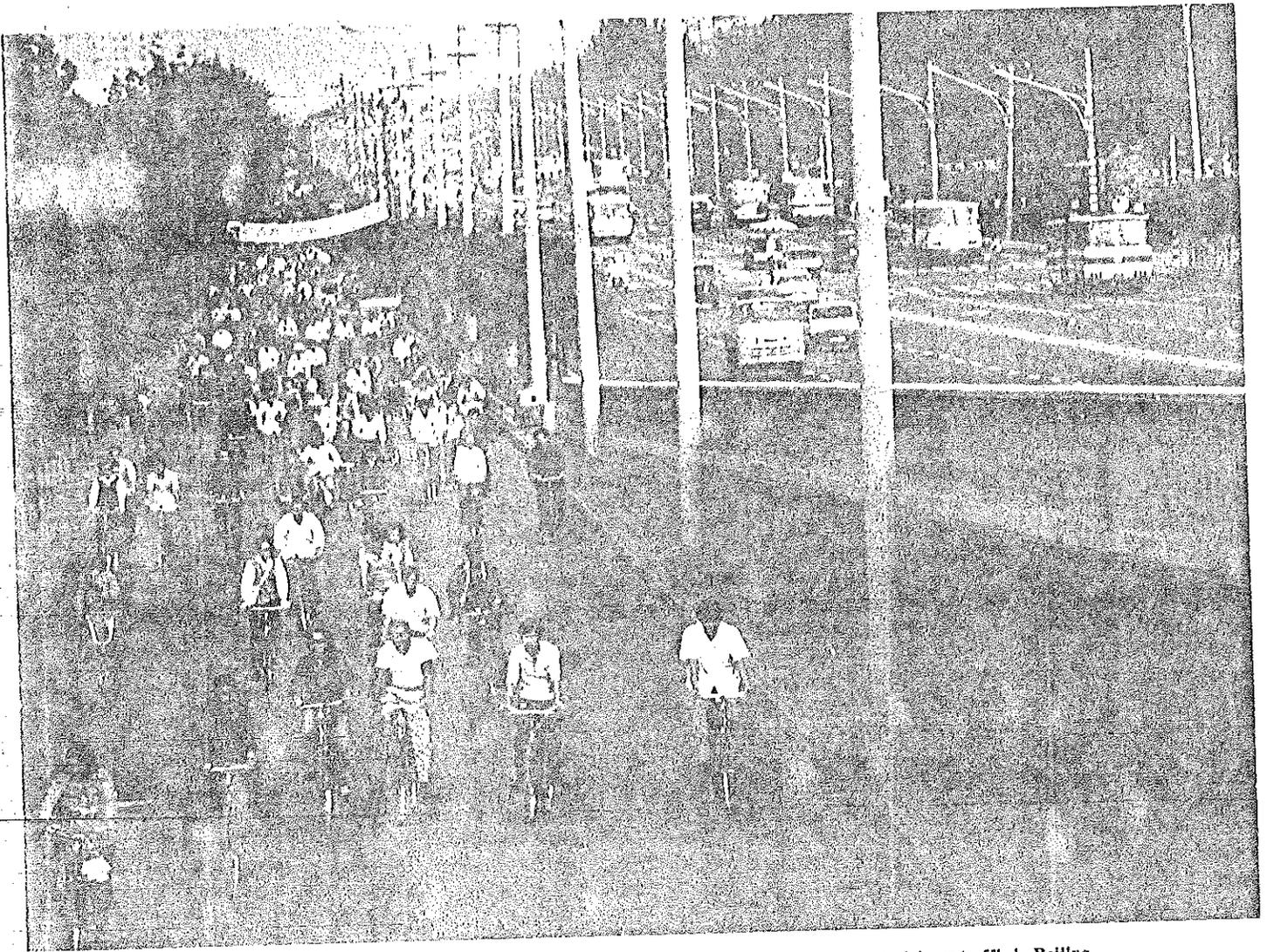
Dental care is poor in Beijing, so have all dental work completed before coming to post. Fluoride supplements or a vitamin-fluoride combination should be brought for children.

Bring an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses for those needing them, as well as a legible copy of the lens prescription.

Preventive Measures

Water must be boiled for 10 minutes and then filtered. Fresh root and leafy vegetables should be soaked 10-15 minutes in a mild sterilizing solution of Clorox or iodine before eating them.

No Western brand name drugs or nonprescription medicines are available locally, although some Chinese



Rush hour traffic in Beijing.

equivalents are found at modest prices. Vitamins should be taken to supplement the diet.

Bring special prescriptions and arrange to receive periodic supplies through the pouch or FPO. The Medical Unit does not stock contraceptives, so bring those you might use. Since Western over-the-counter drugs are not available, bring any medicines which you feel are personally effective, i.e., Ben Gay, PeptoBismol, laxatives, standard cold remedies, and vitamins. Bring along a cold mist vaporizer, especially if you have children. A heating pad (220v/50 cycles) is also useful.

Because of the prevailing dust, and the burning of soft coal during the winter, Beijing has a high rate of pollution, and thus causes many bronchial/sinus ailments. Some personnel use bath oil, skin lotions, and lip balm to prevent chapping and flaking caused by the dry air.

Employment for Spouses and Dependents

Dependents of foreign diplomats cannot work for or with any Chinese institution or authority, whether on a paid or volunteer basis. However, employment opportunities do exist for interested dependents. The Embassy frequently hires both full-time and temporary help. The expanding business community in Beijing also offers positions for those with above-average clerical and/or Chinese-language skills.

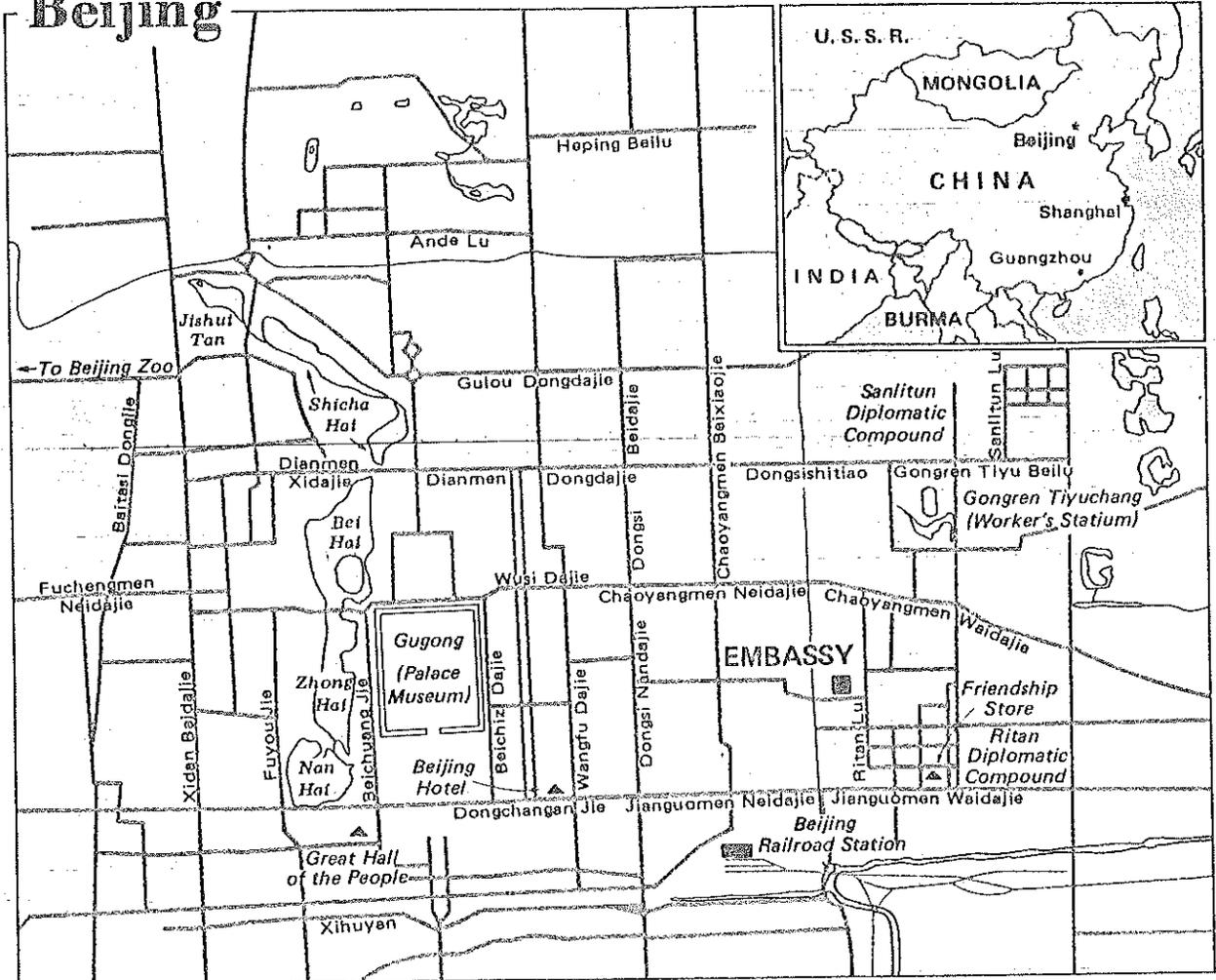
Occasionally, the Japanese and French Schools require English teachers. Dependents can participate in an English teaching program that provides group instruction to Chinese staff members at the Embassy. An ever-present demand also exists for private

English instruction in the foreign diplomatic and business communities.

The administrative and instructional staff of the International School of Beijing is drawn primarily from available dependents in the foreign community. A teaching certificate and experience at the elementary school level are desirable but not always required for the full-time teaching positions at the International School. The number of vacancies varies greatly from year to year, and interested dependents are urged to write as early as possible to:

International School of Beijing
c/o American Embassy, Beijing
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Beijing



4046 4-81 STATE(GE)

American Embassy

Beijing

Beijing is on the northern edge of the North China Plain. To the west and north are hills, rising to 11,000 feet 60 miles to the west, while flat, fertile farmlands stretch to the south and east.

Beijing is a sprawling city, and undistinguished architecturally, with some exceptions—notably the Forbidden City of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. In the past 25 years many new, multistory buildings have been built along the broad east-west access which passes through Tiananmen Square. But Beijing is mostly characterized by narrow streets fronted by gray walls, beyond which gray roofs with slightly upturned gables mark courtyards and residences, and by the blocks of brick apartments for workers typifying the recent development of the city.

The Post and Its Administration

The Embassy opened officially on March 1, 1979, replacing the US Liaison Office in Beijing, after full diplomatic relations were established between the US and the PRC on January 1, 1979. With offices in two, soon to be three, separate installations, the Embassy is located at Guanghau Lu 17 in the Ritan diplomatic area, 2 miles from the center of Beijing. It houses the offices of the Ambassador, Deputy Chief of Mission, Political, Economic, Commercial, Science and Technology, and Communications Sections, as well as the Defense Attache Office. The Bruce Compound is a short distance away at Xiushui Dong Jie 2, and contains: the Consular Section; all administrative offices, including the Health Unit; the Press and Cultural Section (USIS); the Foreign Agricultural Service; the Embassy Employees' Association Locker (commissary); Independence Hall, an auditorium used for official and social events; and the Embassy's

maintenance and repair shops. Just down the street, at Xiushui Bei Jie 3, is the Pak Compound, the Embassy's planned expansion site which will become the new Chancery. The Foreign Commercial Service has additional offices at the Jianguo Hotel, where many personnel have temporary housing. The Chancery, Bruce and Pak Compounds, the Jianguo Hotel, and permanent housing at Qijiyuan and Jianguomenwai are all located within a 15-minute walk of each other.

The Embassy telephone number is 52-2033, and it services both compounds through a central switchboard. Office hours are 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday; lunch period is observed by all sections from noon to 1 pm.

Housing

All employees destined for an assignment in Beijing should understand that housing for all foreign residents including diplomatic staff is totally controlled and allocated by the Chinese

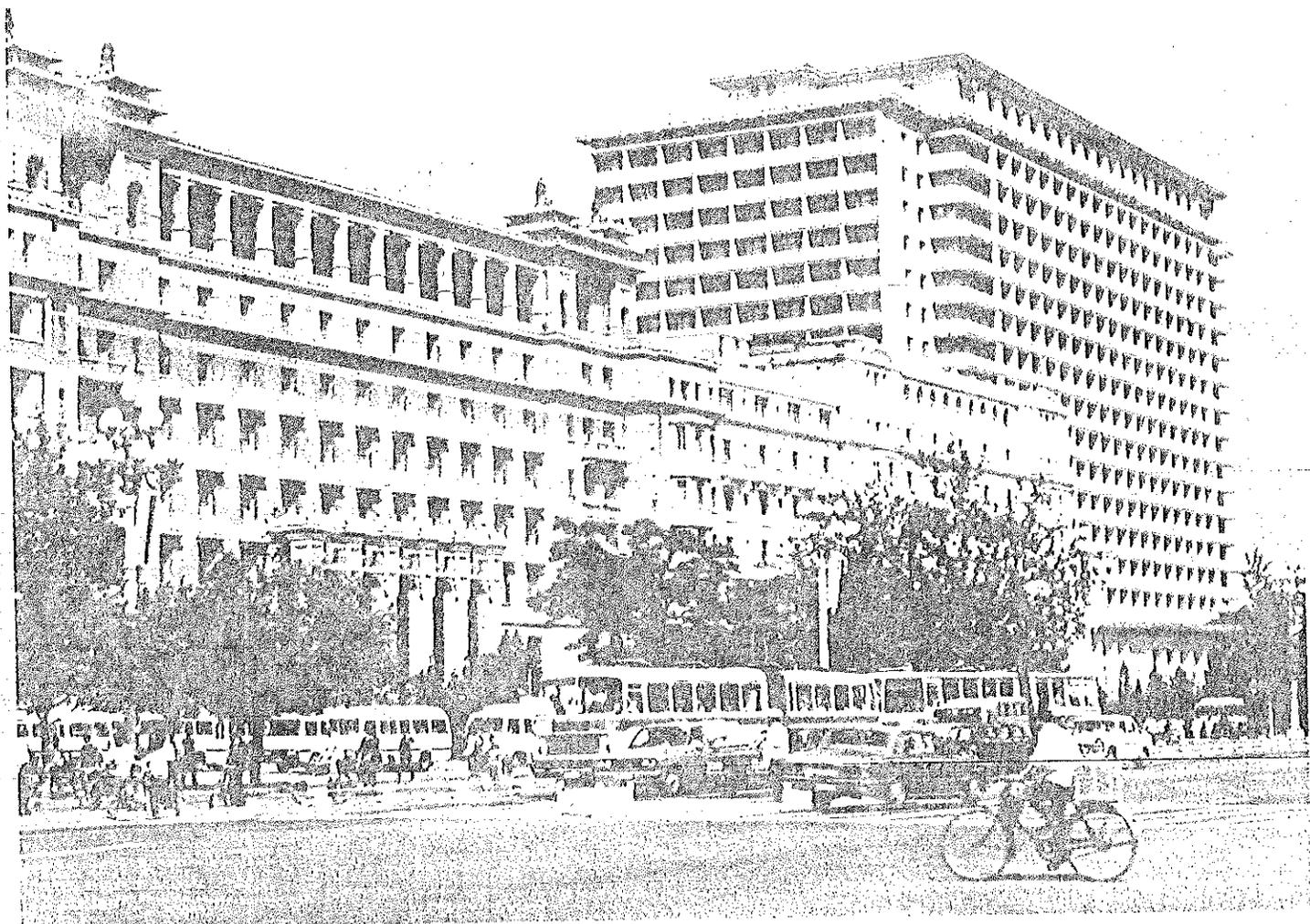
authorities. The Embassy has and expects to have for the next several years an acute housing shortage. As of the summer of 1982, 30 employees and their dependents were housed in the hotels awaiting housing. New arrivals can expect a 6-month hotel stay, although time of year and degree of turnover may make the wait as little as 1 month or as long as 12 months. Assignments to permanent quarters are administered by the Embassy's Inter Agency Housing Board on a competitive bid system, which takes into account family status and date of arrival in China.

Temporary Quarters

Notify the Embassy of arrival plans as far in advance as possible. With a chronic hotel room shortage in Beijing, the Embassy often cannot acquire confirmation of a room or even the name of the hotel until the day of your arrival. This problem has been somewhat ameliorated by the Embassy's hard-won success in arranging permanent rentals in the Beijing, Yanjing, and Jianguo Hotels. However, the Em-



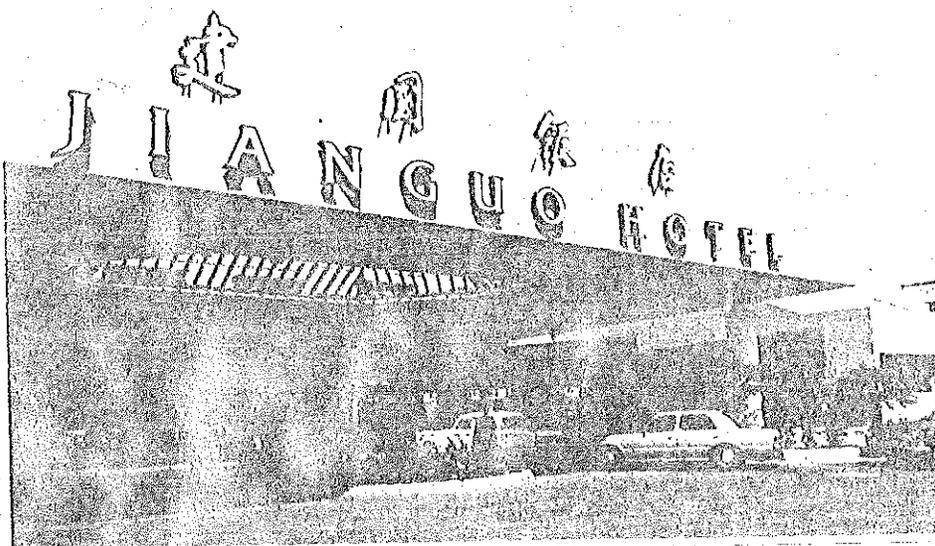
American Embassy (Chancery at right, Ambassador's residence at left).



Above: Beijing Hotel.
Right: Jianguo Hotel.

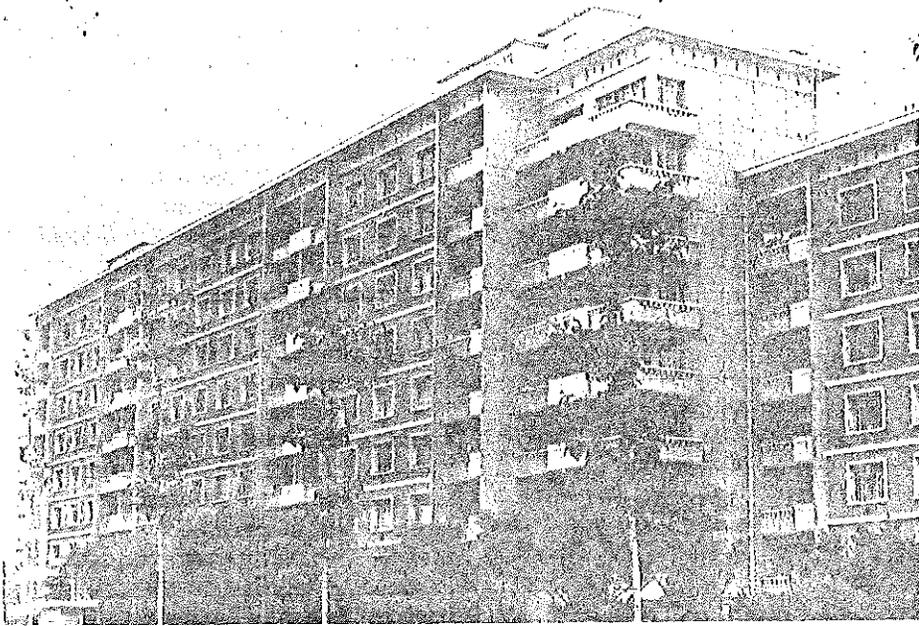
bassy at times may have to obtain temporary rentals for the initial period of a stay. As this is difficult over weekends and local holidays, employees are urged to arrive on weekdays when possible. New arrivals are always met at the Beijing railway station or Beijing Central Airport.

Temporary housing is primarily in one of three hotels: the Beijing Hotel, conveniently located about 2 miles from the Embassy, with large rooms but few suites; the Yanjing Hotel, which has ample suites but small rooms and is rather distant from the Embassy; and the Jianguo Hotel, only a 10-minute walk from the Embassy and with small kitchenettes. All hotel restaurants offer both Chinese and Western cuisine. There is no tipping. Hotel rooms are air-conditioned, and small refrigerators are supplied by the hotel or the Embassy. No cooking



facilities are available in the Beijing or Yanjing. Those assigned to one of these two hotels and wishing to cook in their rooms should bring along small appliances such as toaster ovens, hot plates, electric frypans, etc., and necessary cooking utensils. Micro-

waves are used by some hotel dwellers. Since closet space is quite limited, bring a freestanding clothes rack and garment bag. Pets are not permitted in any hotel in China, and no facilities exist for boarding them in Beijing, unless



Apartment building for diplomatic staff, Beijing.

you have a willing friend with an apartment.

Some families find hotel dwelling reasonably comfortable after making the initial adjustments to the inadequate or nonexistent cooking facilities, small room size, absence of privacy, and the difficulty of entertaining guests. Others find it impossible. Families with grade school children usually have additional adjustments: arranging school transportation, after-school activity schedules, and keeping children in contact with classmates. Most women find it difficult to share a hotel room with a full-time Chinese babysitter; some women either have them work as needed, or do without. Laundry can be done at the Embassy, using the washer and dryer at the Bruce Compound, or arrangements can be made with other Embassy personnel assigned to apartments. Such arrangements are satisfactory, but seldom convenient.

Permanent Housing

Except for the Ambassador's residence, all permanent quarters for Embassy personnel are apartments in high-rise buildings located in one of several complexes reserved exclusively for foreign residents. The apartments are comfortable and acceptable, but far from luxurious. Most have combined living and dining rooms while others have an additional room or hall/foyer which can serve as a dining room or bedroom. Currently (summer

1982) the Diplomatic Services Bureau (DSB) has allocated to the Embassy 62 apartment units, 10 of which are one-bedroom apartments and the remainder are two- and three-bedroom units. Certain apartments, at the direction of the DSB, can be assigned only to officers of counselor rank. In addition, apartments are reserved for the Marine Security Guards and the Embassy nurse.

The Ambassador's residence has two bedrooms, one bath, a living/dining area, small kitchen, and two guest bedrooms and bath upstairs; a guest bedroom and bath, lavatory, small library and large entry hall, and reception and dining-room downstairs; and a large kitchen, storage room, and utility rooms in the basement. The reception area opens onto a covered patio used for large gatherings in the summer/autumn months.

Furnishings

Apartments are adequately furnished by the Embassy, so furniture need not be brought to post. Apartment furnishings include rugs, lamps, and drapes. Stoves, refrigerators, freezers, humidifiers, air purifiers, air-conditioners, washers, dryers, water filter, transformers, ironing boards, and vacuum cleaners are provided. Additional transformers are handy and available in Washington at General Electronics, 4513 Wisconsin Ave. NW 20016; they also sell 220v, 50-cycle appliances. Conversion plugs can be ob-

tained from the Embassy when they are available locally. Bring several extension cords.

Bring linens, dishes, kitchen equipment, and personal objects. Do not bring anything which might crack or warp in the extreme dryness or be ruined by the constant dirt. Apartments may be supplied with either twin- or queen-size beds. Bring linens for either or both.

Because of the prevailing dust you may prefer cassette-type recorders to record players or tape decks.

Storage and closet space is scarce in all apartments. Freestanding clothes racks and garment bags are useful for additional storage. Lightweight bookcases or extra shelving are useful.

Bring two sets of shower curtains, as they are hard to find and after a year become soiled from the mineral deposits in the water.

Beijing's dust is pervasive year round. In addition, soft coal, used for power generation, heating, and industrial purposes, adds an oily, grey element. Fine rugs and tapestries will soon become soiled and cannot be cleaned satisfactorily in Beijing.

Most people bring sufficient pictures, lamps, knickknacks, etc., to give a personal touch to their apartments. But remember that a wide variety of Chinese antique furniture, scrolls, paintings, rugs, porcelain, trunks, and souvenirs can be purchased locally. Save some weight in your household effects to accommodate your purchases here.

Utilities and Equipment

Beijing electric current is 220v, 50 cycles.

All apartments have hot and cold running water provided by a central system. In summer the city's hot water system is closed for a variable period (2-4 weeks) for maintenance. 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. Electric clocks, record players, tape recorders, etc., do not work properly unless designed for or adapted to 50-cycle operation. Local plugs are available, but bring your own supply of adaptors to post. The electrical supply is dependable but wiring is inadequate, and only a limited number of appliances may be used at the same time. Fuse boxes are locked and fuses



Chinese farmer (above) on his way to the local market in Beijing (left).

can only be replaced by DSB personnel, who may not come immediately, especially at night. A few people have brought microwave ovens and found them satisfactory.

Food

Maintaining a Western diet in Beijing is difficult, but not impossible—as long as you're willing to make substitutions in your recipes. Beef, pork, and lamb are available in the new frozen foods section of the Friendship Store, though not in Western cuts. Frozen chickens (both whole and cut-up), duck, and dressed rabbit often can be found, but fresh, uncut meat is no longer sold at the Friendship. Frozen seafood comes in several varieties, including such delicacies as squid and Manchurian salmon; prawns are delicious and plentiful. Fresh seafood, such as fish and crab, occasionally appear. The Friendship Store has a delicatessen which offers ham, tongue, bologna, Chinese-style hotdogs, sausages, fatty bacon, chicken loaf, liver pate, and "fresh" Manchurian caviar.

Dairy products are limited to pasteurized, unhomogenized milk, a heavy cream similar to creme fraiche, butter (margarine is unavailable),

unflavored yogurt, and one cheddar-style cheese. Imported cheeses are sometimes available.

Fresh produce is purchased at the Friendship Store, or in one of the many "free markets" scattered throughout Beijing. Produce available year round includes apples, bean sprouts, beets, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, tomatoes, dried mushrooms, garlic, onions, peppers, and potatoes. Produce available seasonally includes bananas, cauliflower, eggplant, grapes, lichees, oranges, peaches, persimmon, squash, strawberries, and string beans.

No frozen vegetables are available, but you can get canned tomatoes, peas, asparagus, mushrooms, and carrots, as well as a variety of canned fruits whose quality varies considerably, in contrast to their consistently high prices. Canned juices, such as orange, guava, and tomato, are available but taste "tinny."

Some other items available in Beijing stores are: rice (several varieties), cornmeal, oatmeal, macaroni, spaghetti, and millet; bay leaves, cinnamon, noniodized salt, pepper, curry powder, chili powder, sesame seeds and paste, anise, and parsley; chicken and duck eggs, nonegg noodles, sandwich bread, dinner rolls, nuts, granulated sugar, cooking oils (but no solid shortening), jams, honey, ice cream, rice vinegar, ketchup, beer, wine (both imported and Chinese), soda water, mineral water, imported spirits, cookies, and Western brands of candy and gum.

Since all cooking with local food requires a good deal of preparation, you may wish to bring or order some convenience foods: bouillon cubes, cake mixes, lemon juice, packaged

soup mixes, coffee, Tang, mustard, and such cocktail items as crackers, chips, maraschino cherries, pickled onions, canned bacon, and olives. Some other things you may wish to include in your consumables are baking powder, peanut butter, barbecue sauce, canned bacon, and your favorite spices. Ship an ice cream maker separately.

No Western-style baby items are available. Bring sufficient supplies of baby food, juices, formulas, lotion, powder, bottles, clothes, etc. Most families have found local food unsuitable for blenderizing, and have required preprocessed baby food in jars. No diapers, disposable or otherwise, are available locally; bring your own. Due to the lack of reliable laundry facilities, hotel dwellers have found cloth diapers an unmanageable problem.

Purchasing Consumables. Because of the scarcity and poor quality of many food and household items, employees assigned to China are authorized a consumables allowance. Weight allowances for consumables are reflected on employee travel authorizations and are in addition to authorized weight limits for personal and household effects. Your consumables, although weighed separately, can be packed and sent with your household effects if you so desire.

If you are coming from the Washington area, you can buy your consumables at your nearest supermarket and ask the moving company to pick them up and pack them at the store. You can also make your purchases at two wholesale outlets in the

Washington area; prices are somewhat below those of your supermarket. These are:

Merchants Grocery Co., Inc.
800 Maddox Dr.
Culpepper, Virginia 22701
Tel: (703) 825-0786

Cash and Carry
1270 - 4th Street NE
Washington, DC 20002
Tel: (202) 543-9500

Another possibility is ordering in caselots from:

Grocers Supply International, Inc.
P.O. Box 14200
Houston, Texas 77021
Tel: (713) 741-8420

You may also order in caselots or less from one of the many Hong Kong mail-order companies. Three currently being used are:

Pennells
P & O Building
GPO Box 2828
Hong Kong

Oceanways Supermarket, Ltd.
Ocean Terminal
Kowloon, Hong Kong

Dairy Trading Company
128 Wing Lok Street
10th Floor, Block A
Hong Kong

Pennells issues a catalog; the others do not. Prices of food and other items are considerably higher in Hong Kong than in the US. However, the advantage of a Hong Kong supplier—particularly important after you arrive in Beijing—is that shipment by train is substantially faster than by ship.

After your arrival, you may also order consumables from the American Embassy commissary in Tokyo or the Navy Resale and Services Support Office (NAVRESSOFSO), which supplies Pacific commissaries. This is done through the Locker, which will take orders of up to 12 cases and add them to its own monthly supply order.

Due to the inconvenience of sharing a hotel room with a large shipment of consumables, you may choose to delay the purchase and delivery of some portion of your consumables allowance. If you do not ship your maximum allowance before you depart your present post, the Department will still pay for the balance if shipped within 12 months of your arrival in Beijing.

Since you will be spending a lengthy period in a hotel, you may want to bring some "convenience foods" in your airfreight.

Clothing

The weather is hot and humid in the summer and cold and windy in the winter. Prepare your wardrobe with these extremes in mind. Apartments, hotels, and the Embassy are air-conditioned. In winter most buildings are overheated, while restaurants frequently have no heat whatsoever.

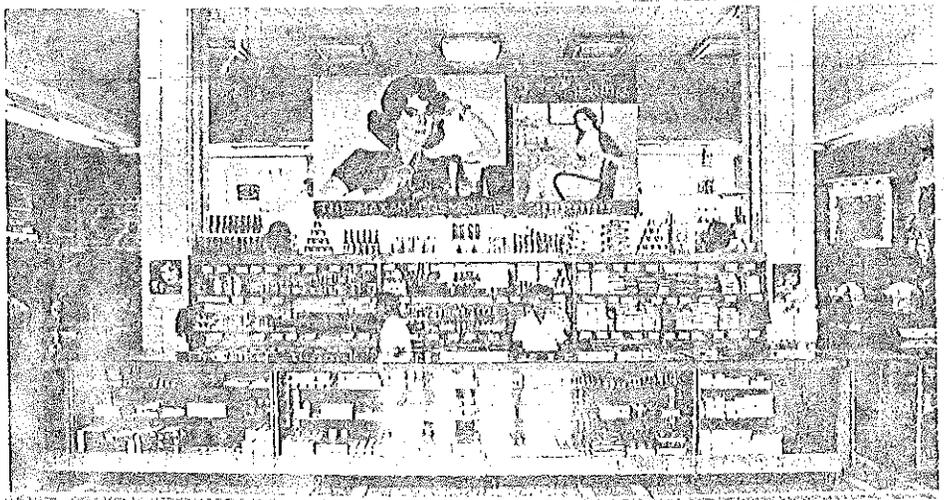
The Chinese, both men and women, wear trousers with a padded tunic in winter, or with a light open-neck shirt in summer. The trousers are

generally blue or grey, sometimes green. Foreigners clothing is informal and reflects prevailing fashions in Europe or the US. Business suits, street-length or long dresses, and pantsuits are worn at banquets and dinners for visiting delegations where Chinese are hosts or guests. Black tie affairs are rare. Generally, this is not a post for formal attire. Daytime requires sturdy, practical, and washable items. Bring your deck shoes, tennis shoes, or Hush Puppies for climbing the Great Wall (it's steep). Ski jackets are great for keeping out the biting winter winds.

Warm clothing, including boots, is useful for dining in restaurants during winter. Synthetic fabrics are a problem because they collect excessive



Friendship Store exterior (above) and interior (below), Beijing.



electricity in the dry winter months. Static spray is a great help in controlling static electricity in clothing, but is not available locally.

The Friendship Store carries a small selection of men's underwear, sports and dress shirts, polo shirts, socks, and sweaters for men, women, and children. But, with the possible exception of the sweaters, most employees prefer to bring or order their favorite brands and styles from US sources.

For children under age 2, clothing should be brought or ordered from the US. Delivery time is usually 6-8 weeks from date of order in Beijing. For older children, Chinese clothing is adequate, although not used by most foreigners due to its distinctly Chinese look. Dresses and trousers are available, though the styling may not be Western. Shoes of cloth and rubber are inexpensive, and come in all sizes.

Bring an adequate supply of diapers, preferably disposable, if a long stay in the hotel is anticipated. Cloth diapers are not recommended since it is difficult to keep them white.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

A meatgrinder, crock pot, blender, pressure cooker, and ice cream maker are useful to some, and a scale (pounds/kilos) is also helpful if you buy much of your food on the local market.

Bring plenty of plastic bags, aluminum foil, wax paper, and Saran Wrap in your household effects. Apartments have large freezers and the above comes in handy. Tupperware is also a convenience. Only milk and yogurt are sold in reusable containers. Paper products are available locally. If you prefer specific Western brands of paper towels, toilet tissue, etc., bring these with you. No satisfactory feminine hygiene supplies are sold locally, so bring these necessities with you.

Dishwashing liquid is not a necessity, but most people prefer Joy or its equivalent. The local soap leaves huge spots if you don't dry your dishes immediately. The Friendship Store sells a variety of hand soap (sandalwood is excellent), but bring a supply if you don't care for heavily scented soaps.

The water in Beijing is exceptionally hard. Washing with local detergents usually turns all whites immediately grey. Even Clorox won't reverse the process. Importing laundry soap and water softener is a good idea. Paper-wrapped foodstuffs often arrive at post tasting like soap, because of several months storage in the same lift-van as the soap. Therefore, wrap boxed soap powder in plastic before placing it in shipping containers.

Bring all toiletries and makeup supplies. Those available locally are quite different from what Americans are use to. Some Western cosmetics are available at selected shops but are limited in selection and quantity, and only at exorbitant prices. Bring a supply of bath oil, since skin becomes exceedingly dry and itchy in the dry climate. Hair conditioner is also useful.

Saniflush and air deodorizers are handy for the bath and kitchen, since the open tub and lavatory drainage system become rather malodorous from time to time. Bring your own mops, brooms, rug shampoo, and a shampooing machine if you have one. Carpets need frequent shampooing due to the extraordinary amount of dust and smoke in the air.

Most of the local household cleaning products do not work well. A supply of Pledge, Windex, Ajax, oven cleaner, and other supplies along this line are helpful.

The fight against bugs and cockroaches is endless. Bring bug killer and roach traps. Flies and mosquitos are not as much of a problem, although in July and August you will need a mosquito killer.

Bring party favors, cocktail napkins, gift wrap and ribbon, and lots of shelf paper and static spray. Also bring all kinds of picnicking gear.

Basic sewing supplies are available, but you may prefer your own favorite brands. Local yarn is not good for needlepoint but is often nice for crocheting and knitting. If you bring a sewing machine, bring extra needles, bobbins, belts, etc.

Artist's supplies are available and inexpensive. Water colors, poster paints, and some oils can be found, but few acrylics are available. Brushes are excellent, but not usually for oil work.

Food and cleaning items are currently stocked in limited quantities in

the Embassy's small Locker facility. The stock varies from month to month, and may include convenience foods, soft drinks, paper products, cleansers, canned foods, coffee, powdered milk, juices, mayonnaise, condiments, wines, and liquors. Stock is not designed to provide basic needs for individuals or families, but merely to furnish basic needs for hotel dwellers and to supplement others' larders. A refundable membership fee is required to purchase from the Locker. Since the Locker's stock is limited, include your basic food and household needs for your tour of duty in your consumable shipments.

Locker prices are high since shipment costs are included in the shelf price.

Basic Services

The Friendship Store and hotels have laundry and drycleaning facilities. Service time varies, and cleaning is usually satisfactory though shrinkage of woolen suits is not unknown, and clothing has been lost or damaged.

Most personnel replenish wardrobes during a visit to Hong Kong or by ordering from the US, but tailoring and dressmaking can be done locally. Friendship Store tailors do good work and will copy clothes you want duplicated. Quilted coats are popular as are silk blouses. Men's shirts are well made, but bring good wash-and-wear fabrics from the US. The Friendship Store sells a wide variety of excellent cotton, wool, silks, and brocades (most inexpensive by US standards) and many people are pleased with the clothes made here.

Barbershops and beauty parlors are located in the hotels and the International Club. Prices are moderate. The Chinese have their own supplies, but some women prefer their own hair spray, conditioners, coloring, shampoo, and equipment such as rollers, etc.

Shoe repair shops are found in Wangfujing, the main shopping street. Service is rapid.

The Friendship Store provides packing and crating services for mailing, but it is quite expensive.

Film can be developed locally, but the quality of the prints and slides (Kodak) is not high. Processing takes only 24 hours, but is quite expensive. Film can be purchased at the Friendship Store, the International Club, and hotels.



International School, Beijing.

Electrical appliances can sometimes be repaired, but finding the appropriate store is difficult. Shop personnel are also not likely to speak English and will probably be unfamiliar with the product.

Domestic Help

Domestic help is available, varies in quality, and generally does not speak English. They are supplied by the Diplomatic Services Bureau (DSB) upon request but are not always assigned immediately. There is no interview or selection process; you are simply assigned an employee. An employee who proves unsatisfactory and is dismissed is often not replaced. A full-time ayi or cleaner/laundress (pronounced AH-EE) is paid about \$100 a month and a cook's wages range from \$130 to \$200. Part-time help is sometimes available from the DSB, but at a high rate (about \$8 a day). For large parties or official functions, cooks or waiters can be hired from the International Club or the DSB for \$1.75/hour.

DCM's have found that a cook, waiter, and ayi are desirable. Section chiefs and some other personnel find a cook and ayi desirable. Almost all find an ayi necessary. Baby-ayis may be requested for personnel with small children and some are willing to assist with housework.

Domestic help works an 8-hour, 5-day week and 4 hours on Saturday. In addition, a 1-hour lunch and rest

period is given. Cooks normally prepare only two meals. If they work late in the evening, they may request compensatory time off the following day as well as charge overtime. Their repertoires are also usually limited.

Catering service is available through the International Club and some hotels.

Religious Activities

Catholic Mass is offered Sunday morning at two cathedrals in Beijing; the churches are independent of Rome and the service is in Latin. Nondenominational Protestant services in Chinese are held Sundays at two local Protestant churches.

An International nondenominational fellowship composed of foreign diplomats, business people, and students meets Sunday mornings at the American Embassy Bruce Building. This is the only English service available. A limited Sunday school and nursery are provided.

Education

Dependent Education

In September 1980 the governments of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and the United States jointly established the International School of Beijing. This school provides English-language instruction for children of kindergarten age through grade 8. The elementary school curriculum is based on, but not limited to, the curriculums found in

American schools. Regular classroom instruction is provided for all children through grade 8. Currently, no provision exists for correspondence courses for older students.

Children of government employees of the five founding nations of the International School are assured enrollment in the school. In addition, every effort is made, based on available space, to enroll children of other nationals from these five countries. When additional space is available, children of nationals from other countries are also offered enrollment on a first-come first-served basis. Because space is scarce, parents of elementary age children are urged to write as early as possible to:

The International School of Beijing
c/o The American Embassy
Beijing
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Schools are also run by the Soviet, French, Japanese, Indian, and Pakistani Embassies. The Russian school is attended mainly by children of Russian and East European diplomats. The Japanese and Indian schools are limited to nationals of those countries. The French school is primarily for children of French and French-speaking African diplomats. However, it is occasionally possible for children of English-speaking parents to be admitted. The language of instruction is French. The Pakistani school offers English-language instruction. However, the school is overcrowded and academic standards are not high.

Chinese schools are now open to foreigners at the preschool, primary, and secondary levels. The language of instruction is Chinese but classes for foreigners are separate from those for Chinese students on the elementary and secondary levels. In general, Americans have found the Chinese nursery school quite acceptable. A small number of American children attend the Chinese elementary and secondary school and parents give varying reports on its quality. Chinese-language instruction is rigorous but other academic subjects generally suffer.

Secondary education in the English language is not available in Beijing. The majority of families at post send their high school age children to boarding schools in the US or Japan. The following schools in the

Far East have boarding facilities for both primary and secondary school age children: the Canadian Academy, Nagamedai 2 Chome, Nada Ku, Kobe, Japan; the Brent School, Baguio, the Philippines; Woodstock School, Mussoorie, U.P., India.

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

Special Educational Opportunities

Only minimal educational opportunities in the English language are available in Beijing. The post offers limited Chinese-language teaching facilities, arranged through resident teachers provided by the Diplomatic Services Bureau.

Some library facilities are available through the American Embassy, British Embassy, and International School.

Foreign residents have regular access to the Imperial Palace Museum (Forbidden City), where both permanent collections and special exhibitions are on view. Most of the city parks, museums, and art galleries are now open for visits by everyone. Tickets can be purchased just outside the entrance doors. Though guides and interpreters can be hired, those interested in developing a knowledge of Beijing'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 Beijing.

Wu Shu (Chinese martial arts) and Taijiquan (T'ai Chi Ch'uan) instruction can be arranged for foreigners, and piano lessons are at times available through the DSB or by foreign spouses.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

China presents limited participant sports opportunities. Tennis, swimming, cycling, and ice skating are enjoyed by some. The International Club has two indoor tennis courts and six outdoor tennis courts. A number of embassies have their own courts. The International Club holds tournaments each 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 International Club also has a 50-meter, Olympic-size, outdoor swimming pool for use during the summer. The pool is unfiltered, and sanitation late in the season is questionable. A wading pool is emptied regularly, and is enjoyed by the younger children. Foreign children may also use the indoor pool at the Worker's Stadium one or two afternoons a week. To qualify for swimming privileges, foreigners are required to pass a health test, which consists of a cursory examination limited to blood pressure test and chest examination.

More than 3.5 million bicycles were registered in Beijing as of January 1980, 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 Beijing is flat, gears are not really necessary, but 3-speed bikes are useful, particularly when pedaling on windy days.

Ice skating in Beijing can be enjoyed about 6 weeks each year, with outdoor, unimproved rinks at the Summer Palace and the Purple Bamboo Park, Bei Hei and the moat of the Forbidden City, as well as an outdoor rink at Ritan 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. For roller skating fans, the rink in Ritan Park near the Chancery doubles as a roller rink in the summer.

Embassy employees play intramural volleyball and frequently organize a summer softball team, which plays Chinese teams and teams from other embassies.

Spectator sports in Beijing include basketball, volleyball, table tennis, badminton, football (soccer), gymnastics, and hockey, but events are infrequent. Tickets become available sporadically through DSB for contests between Chinese teams and visiting foreign teams held at local gyms and at the Worker's Stadium.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Changes of scenery for foreigners in the Beijing area are the Great Wall, the Western Hills, the Ming Tombs, the Peking Man Site, etc. All are places of considerable interest, and worth a

International Club Pool, Beijing.



number of visits. The Western Hills are suitable for short hikes, the Ming Tombs provide settings for picnics, and the Great Wall is simply the Great Wall, with superb bas-reliefs along the way at Juyong Guan. Beijing has an interesting zoo, complete with both great and lesser pandas.

To travel farther than these sites requires special permission from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Embassy employees have visited Tianjin, Xian, Chengde, Zhengzhou, Luoyang, Guangzhou, Nanjing, Wuhan, Suzhou, Shanghai, Yan'an, Wuxi, Datong, Guilin, Kunming, Hangzhou, and many other cities as private tourists. Travel is either by plane or train and must be arranged through China Travel Service (CTS), which provides a full range of services including hotel reservations, travel facilities, automobiles, guides, etc.

Travel is expensive and most Embassy personnel budget \$40-\$50 a day per person in addition to train or plane tickets.

A beach resort at Beidaihe, about 6 hours by train from Beijing, is operated by the International Club for foreigners stationed in Beijing. Personnel may rent either villas or hotel rooms during the resort's short season (approximately June 15-September 15). The American Embassy generally leases a large six-bedroom beach house each summer for Embassy personnel and their families.

A drive to Tianjin is usually possible, 80 miles southeast of Beijing, but no other private motor travel is possible within China.

Embassy employees are authorized an R&R allowance for travel to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, or to the US (transportation paid to San Francisco or Los Angeles). The allowance for Kuala Lumpur may be used to travel to another point for R&R, but the fare to the US must be applied only to travel to the US.

Entertainment

The Embassy receives occasional films and video tapes. Movies are sometimes shown at other embassies. Periodically, the International Club screens Chinese films.

Tickets for local entertainment—nonrevolutionary and revolutionary operas, plays, storytelling, variety shows, concerts, circus, puppet

and acrobatic shows—can be purchased through the DSB and are inexpensive. This entertainment is sporadic, and advance notice of schedules is very short, often only hours. Frequent announcements appear in the local papers.

The Embassy and the International School have pianos available for community residents. Pianos may be purchased locally, with a new one costing upwards of US\$800.

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

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

The International Club is open only 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.

Social Activities

Among Americans. The American community plans frequent informal activities. Sampling Beijing's many restaurants is a favorite form of entertainment, not only among Americans but with all other members of the diplomatic community as well.

Embassy women meet on a monthly basis, alternating between Saturday morning coffee and mid-month luncheons.

American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM CHINA) is made up of US firms doing business in China. Nine standing committees address issues involving the members and their direct business dealings in the PRC. The dues are RMB275 per year, which entitles a firm's representative to participate in the AMCHAM activities and receive its monthly publication.

The American Club is a social organization for the US community in Beijing. The Club is nonprofit and nonpolitical, and supports such activities as Washington's Birthday party, the Ming Tombs picnic, a July 4th celebration, and Thanksgiving Day dinner. Annual dues are RMB20 for individuals and RMB30 for families. Special rates exist for students (RMB6) and foreign experts (RMB8).

International Contacts. Over 7,000 foreign nationals live in Beijing and social activity is frenetic. Americans are included in local diplomatic community social affairs. No American Women's Club exists.

Beijing International Society (BIS) is comprised of people interested in China and its culture. Programs include Chinese films, musical demonstrations, folk dances, folk art, and lectures covering anything from current politics to Tang poetry. The Society also arranges special tours to exhibitions, temples, etc. The dues are RMB20 per year, payable in semi-annual installments. BIS is open to everyone, and offers a chance to meet a good cross-section of the Beijing foreign community.

A Community Liaison Office (Family Liaison Office) has been in existence since March of 1982. A wide range of services are available to newcomers and residents, including assistance to newly arrived personnel and families, special activities and events, local tours, and individual services. You are invited to correspond with the CLO at the Embassy address if you have specific questions.

Official Functions

Nature of Functions

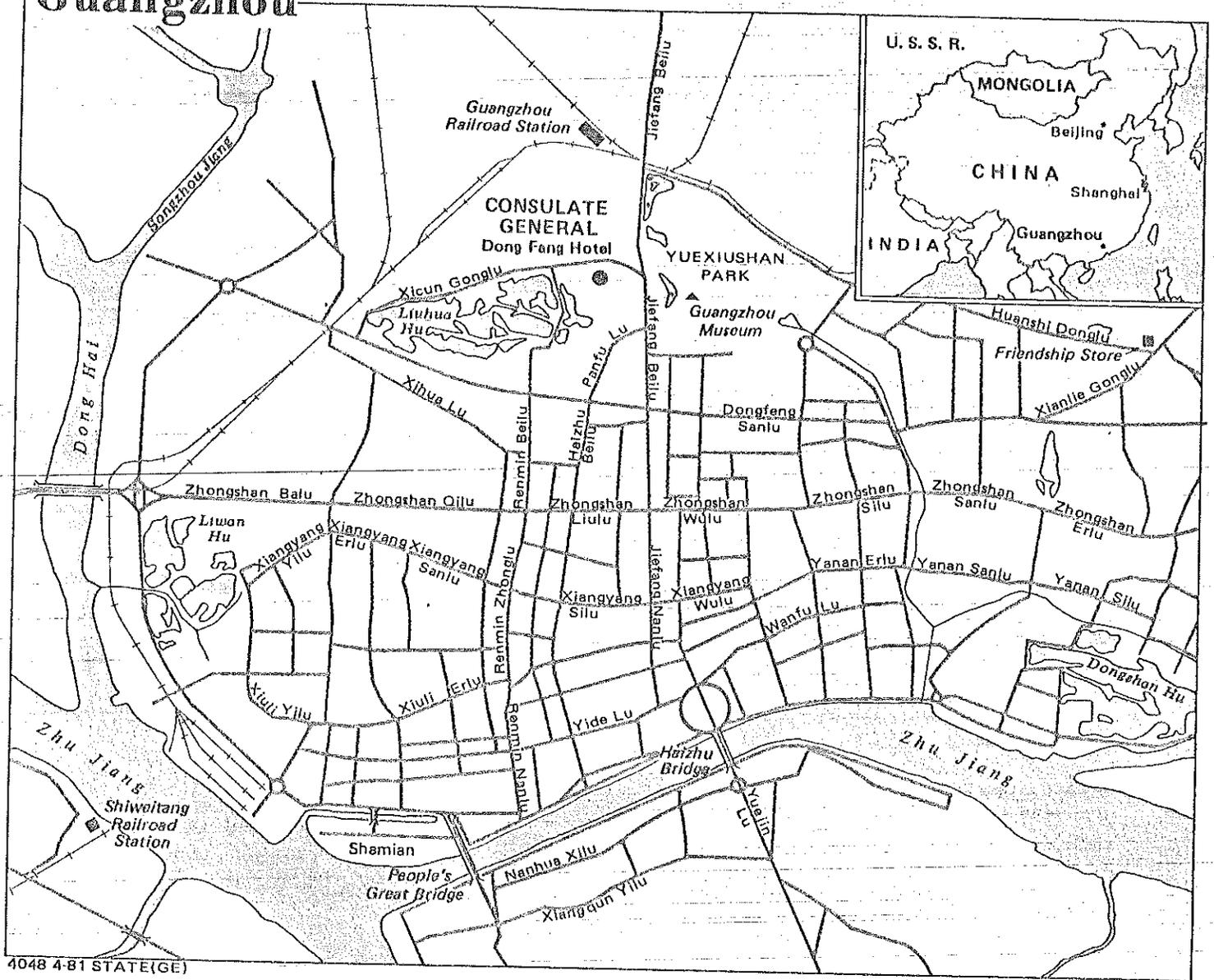
The Chinese pay the strictest attention to rank order, seating arrangements, and motorcade sequence. Banquets and other social functions are meticulously programmed and carefully managed. Officers and their spouses, particularly those dealing with cultural exchanges and trade matters, can expect invitations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

Standards of Social Conduct

Calling cards are available locally, although a wait of 1-2 weeks may be required. Calling cards are particularly useful in Beijing, since locations and telephone numbers of foreign embassies are not readily available to most Chinese.

Invitation cards are used extensively. Since engraved cards are not available in Beijing, printed ones are used by most personnel.

Guangzhou



4048 4-81 STATE(GE)

Consulate General

Guangzhou

Guangzhou (Canton) is on the Pearl River in Guangdong Province in southeastern China, 1,150 miles south of Beijing by air and 114 miles from Hong Kong. The city proper has a population of 3 million and an area of about 25 square miles. Greater Guangzhou has a population of 5 million and covers an area of 1,678 square miles, including an extensive rural area. The city is divided into sectors, with most streets running gently downhill from north to south and ending at the edge of the Pearl River. Most of the surrounding Pearl River delta area is highly fertile, supporting two yearly rice crops in addition to wheat, fruit, vegetables, sugarcane, and oil-producing plants. There are 33 rural communes and 16 state farms within Guangzhou municipality.

Guangzhou is a focal point for light and heavy industry, and its principal exports are textiles, paper, cement, and sugar.

The port of Huangpu (Whampoa), located east of the city, provides loading and unloading facilities for oceangoing vessels. Many of the goods produced in the eight southern and southwestern Provinces of China are transported to Huangpu for export.

The Post and Its Administration

The Consulate General was officially opened on August 31, 1979. It is presently located on the 11th floor, new wing of the Dong Fang Hotel, Renmin Road, North Guangzhou. The telephone numbers are 69-900, ext. 1000 and 1097, and 61-529. All Consulate General staff live in the Dong Fang Hotel. These offices and residential facilities will be retained until more permanent quarters can be obtained. This process is expected to take 3-5 years, since no suitable buildings currently exist in Guangzhou. The hotel is conveniently located only 3 minutes from the train station and 10 minutes

from the airport. The trade fair complex faces the hotel directly across the street to the north, and a large public park is located across the street to the west.

The Consulate General currently has 17 staff members representing Department of State and the Foreign Commercial Service. A USIS officer arrived in summer 1982.

Housing

In the Dong Fang Hotel, single employees occupy two-room suites, while married couples and families occupy additional rooms, subject to availability. The rooms are essentially furnished by the hotel with old, overstuffed furniture which includes two beds, nightstands, dresser, desk, chairs, sofa, easy chairs, coffee table, hotel TV, and small refrigerator. In addition, dehumidifiers, one transformer, and one queen-sized bed are supplied by the Consulate General. Storage space is at an absolute minimum. The hotel is air-conditioned and all rooms have wall-to-wall carpeting.

Cooking facilities are not available in the suites. However, some personnel use electric frying pans and toaster ovens, which so far have been allowed by the hotel. Hotplates present a fire hazard and should not be used.

Pets are not permitted in any hotel.

Utilities and Equipment

Electric current in Guangzhou is 220v, 50 cycles. Electric clocks, record players, etc., will not work unless converted for 50-cycle operation. Plugs, wire, fuses, and other electric paraphernalia are available on the local market.

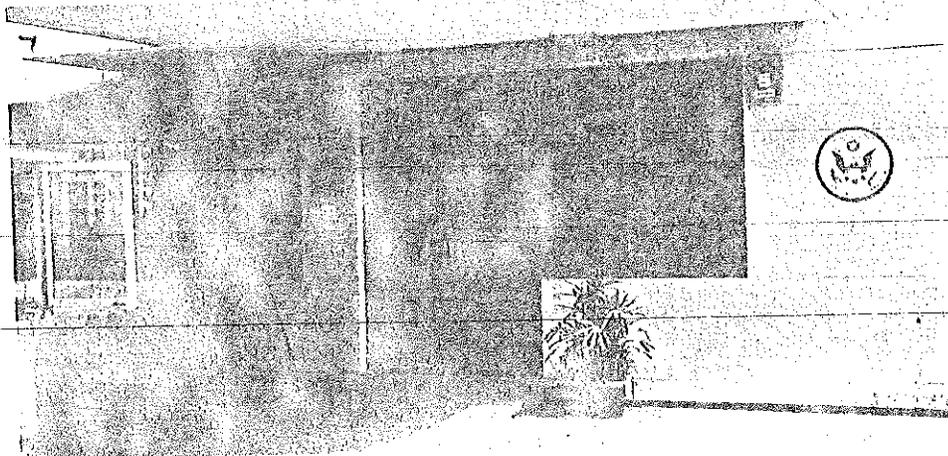
Food

Fresh foods, such as beef, mutton, pork, chicken, and vegetables, are available year round. Generally, fruits are available in season, but are limited in variety. Sausages are also available. Some canned goods produced in China are acceptable substitutes for Western products, and several kinds of meats and produce can be purchased. Chinese canned mushrooms are excellent and reasonably priced.

Other foods, such as hamburger, beefsteak, wine, cheese, condiments, spices, coffee, canned juices, fats and oils, and baby food, are not available in Guangzhou, but can be purchased in Hong Kong.

Paper products, detergents, aluminum foil, and similar household items also are not available locally. If you do not include these in your shipment of effects, you can purchase them in Hong Kong.

Main entrance to Consulate General Guangzhou on the 11th floor of the Dong Fang Hotel.



Clothing

Tailors and dressmakers are available locally, but seldom used by the Consulate General staff. Include an adequate supply of clothing and shoes in your initial shipment of effects. All styles of clothing are available in Hong Kong at comparable to US prices.

Supplies and Services

The Consulate General has three washers and three dryers available for use by the staff, as well as three upright freezers. Hotel laundry facilities are available, and several staff members use the pressing service, which although not expensive is sometimes risky.

A men's barbershop and a women's hair salon are located in the hotel; prices are reasonable. The Chinese have their own supplies for women, but most American women bring their own hair spray, conditioners, coloring, shampoo, and equipment such as rollers.

Shoe repair is available locally.

All types of film can be developed in Hong Kong. You can include an initial supply of film in your shipment of effects, but it is also easily obtainable in Hong Kong. Kodak film is available

in the hotel at prices about one-third above those in Hong Kong. Sauna and massage facilities can also be found in the hotel.

Religious Activities

Stone Room Cathedral has Catholic Masses in Latin, Sundays at 6:30 am and 9 am.

Dongshan Protestant Church holds services in Chinese, Saturdays and Sundays at noon. Because of the crowds attending Dongshan, Guangzhou Protestant leaders have decided to open two additional churches. Renovations at the Zion Church and Hong De Road Church are expected to be completed soon.

Huaisheng Mosque holds services at noon on Fridays.

Education

The American School of Guangzhou opened in September 1981 and expects to have an enrollment of seven for 1982. The school's curriculum is based on the Calvert System, is assisted by grant funds from the Office of Overseas Schools, and is accredited.

Five younger children have been enrolled in a local nursery for morning sessions which is satisfactory and inexpensive.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

Clay tennis courts are a 20-minute drive from the Consulate General, and are rather expensive. A swimming pool open to foreigners is a 10-minute drive from the Consulate General. The pool does not have a filtration system, but the water is changed twice a week. The pool is open from April to October.

The hotel has a number of pool and snooker tables available at high prices, and the Consulate General has a Ping-pong table for its staff.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

The city has a number of interesting parks and museums as well as a good-sized and fairly well-maintained zoo. The Baiyun Mountains offer a change of scenery, and have a variety of trails for the hiking buff.

Entertainment

The Consulate General occasionally receives movies and VTR tapes from Beijing. It also has a color TV which receives English-language programs from Hong Kong stations. Other than this, entertaining is done among the Consulate General staff and the few other foreigners residing in the Dong Fang Hotel. Bring as many books.

Dong Fang Hotel main entrance.





Nen Min Road (Guangzhou) as seen from Consulate General offices.

games, musical instruments, and other hobbies and diversions as possible.

The Consulate General established an employee association in 1981, which organizes group orders of consumables. The association had planned to open a recreation/reading room in summer 1982, which would be used for movie showings, and would also have a small bar and dart-playing area.

Official Functions—see Beijing.

Special Information

Shipment of Household Effects, Airfreight, and Privately Owned Vehicles

Address the above items:

(Employee's name)
American Consulate General
Guangzhou, People's Republic of
China

Depending on the shipping lines used, consignments to Guangzhou may be routed via Hong Kong or Huangpu.

Several staff members have shipped privately owned vehicles to

post. Vehicles should be equipped with air-conditioning, and be easily repairable. The most common and trouble-free vehicles have been Japanese (Toyota, Honda), which can be maintained here. Parts for these cars are available in Hong Kong.

Mail

Personnel at post can use FPO facilities as well as international mail and State Department pouch.

Address FPO mail:

(Employee's name)
American Consulate General
Box 100
FPO San Francisco 96659

Address pouch mail:

(Employee's name)
American Consulate General—
Guangzhou
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Address international mail:

(Employee's name)
Dong Fang Hotel
Renmin Road
Guangzhou, People's Republic of
China

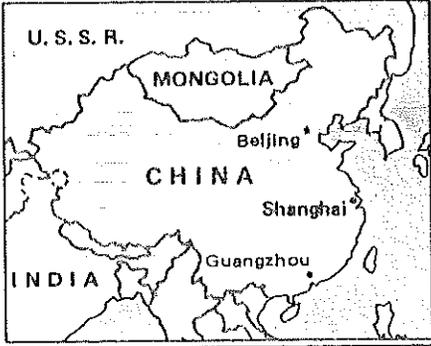
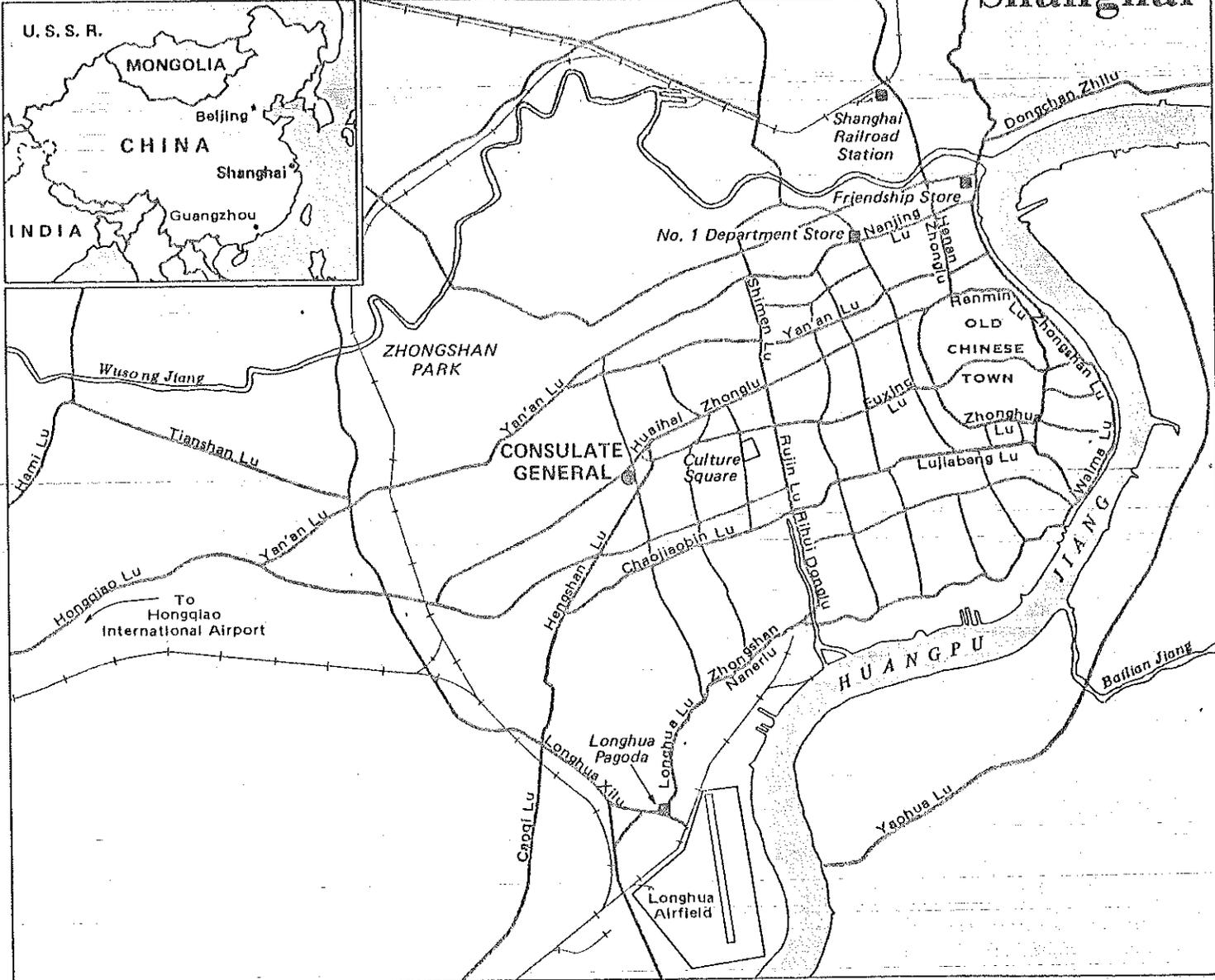
Health and Medical Care

The post has a small medicine cabinet containing typical over-the-counter medical supplies, some prescription drugs, and first-aid supplies. The post is visited quarterly by the nurse from Embassy Beijing, or the regional medical officer, and the Health Unit at the Consulate General in Hong Kong is available for consultations. Post personnel have used the local People's Hospital for limited emergency care, but treatment has been at best satisfactory, and not comparable to Western standards.

Employment Opportunities for Dependents

All dependent spouses are currently employed, either by the Consulate General via PIT appointments or in the American School. Employment outside of these areas is difficult to find. One dependent previously worked as a free-lance journalist while at post. As the foreign business community grows, more dependent employment opportunities may arise.

Shanghai



4049 4-81 STATE(GE)

Consulate General

Shanghai

As well as being the youngest city in China, Shanghai today is its most populous, with more than 11 million residents. At this level, it vies with Tokyo and Mexico City for the title of most populous city in the world. The city and its surrounding suburbs comprise the most important center of industry and trade in the PRC, accounting for one-eighth of the country's gross value of industrial output. The Shanghainese, as the city's residents are known, speak their own distinctive dialect and are recognized as being among the country's most able businessmen. Today, Shanghai's 8,000 factories produce a complete range of industrial material and goods from iron, steel, and shipbuilding to consumer products for the domestic and export markets.

Shanghai is China's largest port and most important foreign trade center. In 1979, Shanghai exports accounted for 30% of all Chinese exports. One of the world's 10 largest ports, Shanghai handles nearly 100 million tons of cargo per year.

Shanghai is also the most cosmopolitan of Chinese cities and its restaurants reflect this. With over 600 restaurants serving more than 2,000 Chinese dishes and a wide range of European cuisine, the city is a gourmet's delight. Shanghai-style food is, like its dialect, distinctive and elegantly presented.

Without question the city of Shanghai is the busiest and most exciting shopping center in China. From antiques to pottery, clothing to cotton goods, rugs, furniture, and jewelry, personnel will find something for every taste in Shanghai's 24,000 stores. Antiques require special handling: Check with the Administrative Office prior to purchasing, for a briefing on the procedures to follow.

Nearby cities include Nanjing, Suzhou, and Hangzhou. Nanjing, the provincial capital of Jiangsu, is a

historic city that has several times been the capital of China. Industry has developed considerably since 1950, and Nanjing is now a production center for iron and steel, chemicals, machine building, optical instruments, textiles, and foodstuffs.

Suzhou is China's historic garden city, and is one of the oldest cities in the Chang Jiang River basin. It is a center for tourism, and many of its historic parks have been restored and reopened to the public. Suzhou is also famous for its silks and embroidery, a centuries-old tradition.

Hangzhou, located on the banks of Xi Hu (West Lake), is one of China's beauty spots and a major tourist center. In addition to being the capital of Zhejiang Province, Hangzhou is one of China's major silk-producing centers. Hangzhou silk is not only famous throughout China, but its reputation internationally is excellent.

The Post and Its Administration

The Consulate General includes officers and employees of the Department of State, the United States Information Agency, and the Foreign Commercial Service. All agencies are located in the Consulate General office building, which is located in the former French concession area. The address is 1469 Huai Hai Zhong Lu and the telephone number is 379-880. Office hours are 8 am to noon and 1 pm to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Outside of working hours an answering service will provide the duty officer's telephone number. If you arrive unexpectedly outside of working hours, call the Consulate General to obtain this number. Contact the duty officer and he will assist you. Typical taxi fare from the airport to the Consulate General is Y10.

Housing assignments are made by the housing board in accordance with established policy on the basis of family size and not upon representational

responsibility. Inform the Consulate General as soon as possible of your family size, along with the ages and gender of children, so that appropriate housing can be assigned.

A Welcome Kit containing sheets, blankets, an iron, a limited supply of china, glassware, flatware, and kitchen utensils is available for use until the arrival of your household effects. No charge is made for the Welcome Kit unless items are damaged or lost.

Report to the Administrative Office as soon as possible after your arrival to begin preliminary orientation and briefing. Bring passports for the entire family. Also bring a minimum of six pictures, 1-1/2 inches x 1-1/2 inches, to be used for your hospital card, foreign office identification card, and drivers license.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

All arriving Consulate General personnel are placed in a hotel for a short time. This not only allows the newly arrived employees to acclimate themselves to a completely different way of life, it also gives the Consulate General time to refurbish their apartments.

Permanent Housing

The consul general resides in a two-bedroom apartment located in one wing of the Consulate General. In addition, the main kitchen and a representational dining and reception room are located on the ground floor. The upstairs apartment is furnished with a small kitchenette for simple family cooking.

The staff apartments are about a 10-minute walk from the Consulate General. The apartments are adequate, but small. All have the same-sized living room and dining room; only the number of bedrooms varies. Each apartment has basic furniture, including lamps, carpeting, gas range, washer, dryer, refrigerator, freezer, vacuum cleaners, and at least two air-

conditioners. Twin- and queen-size beds are provided, but at a given time not all sizes of beds may be available. Include in your shipment of household effects bed linens, table linens, china-ware, glassware, kitchen utensils, appliances, radio, TV set with VHS video tape recorder, bridge table and chairs, ironing board and iron, and wall hangings and other ornamental items. However, attractive decorative objects, such as vases, chinaware, scrolls, and antique or new furniture, are available locally.

Utilities and Equipment

A telephone has been installed in each apartment; monthly cost is reasonable.

Electric current is 220v, 50 cycles. Although the voltage in Shanghai is relatively constant, voltage regulators are supplied by the Consulate General. Electric appliances useful at post include coffeemakers, toasters, hair dryers, blenders, and a food processor

or meat grinder. Due to the extremely hot and humid Shanghai summer, dehumidifiers are also provided by the Consulate General.

Food

The Shanghai Municipal Government maintains a Foreigner's Food Store in the San Jiao Di area, about 30-45 minutes from the staff apartments. The small shop contains most items available on the local market. Chicken and duck, though neither cleaned nor dressed, are available, as are pork, mutton, beef, and veal. The pork and veal are very good, but beef is usually somewhat tough and generally not suitable for American-style preparations. Seafood is quite good when it can be found. Fresh fruits and vegetables are seasonal and not always available. Normally, however, at least two types of fresh vegetables and one type of fruit are available at all times. No imported food items are available

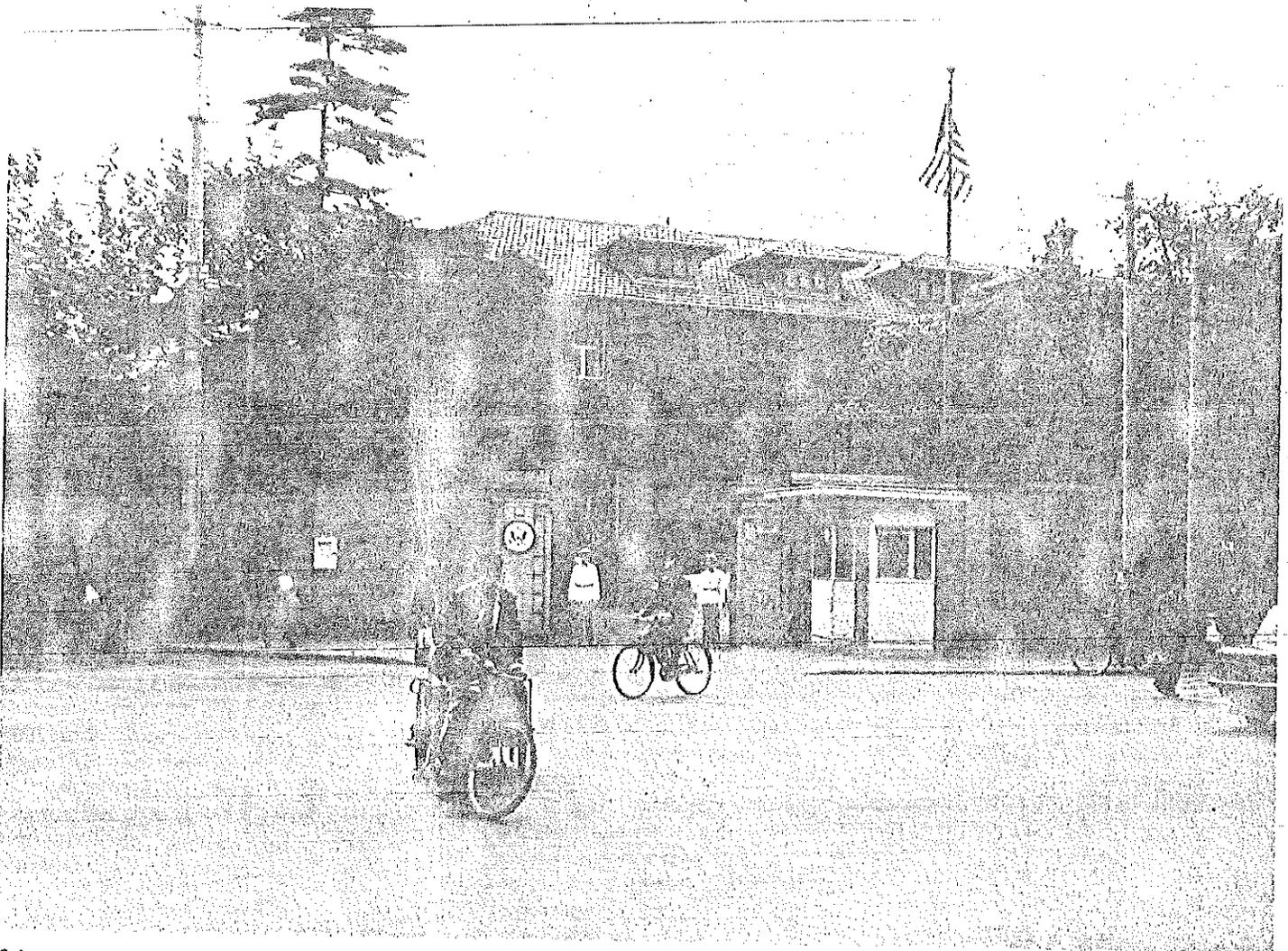
in Shanghai, and the Consulate General has no commissary facilities. Therefore, you should make full use of your consumables allowance.

Imported liquor, wines, and beer are available at the Friendship Store. The prices compare favorably with US prices, except for wine, which costs from US \$8 to \$10 a bottle. Local beer, which is excellent, is available through the Friendship Store and the Foreigner's Food Store.

Clothing

Shanghai has four seasons with weather comparable to that of Washington, DC. The Consulate General offices and apartments are well heated in winter and air-conditioned in summer. Except for the hotels and other places frequented by tourists, no other buildings in Shanghai are heated or air-conditioned.

Consulate General, Shanghai.



Fortunately, China exports cashmere, wool, and camel hair sweaters, as well as down clothing. These items are available locally and at the Friendship Store at reasonable prices.

In planning your Shanghai wardrobe, remember that the summers are hot and humid, while the winters can be cold and damp, with temperatures dropping to the freezing point or below.

The dress code for Shanghai is much like that of Beijing except during the summers, when it may be a bit more casual.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

All cleaning supplies, i.e., soap powder, hand soap, cleansers, and bleach, should be packed in your consumables shipment. Local equivalents of these are poor in quality from both the cleaning standpoint and also what happens to your hands.

Domestic Help

Servants are available through the Service Bureau. Maids are currently paid about Y150 a month, and Consulate General personnel have been very pleased with the domestic help that the Service Bureau has provided.

Religious Activities

Shanghai has one Catholic Church and one Protestant Church. The Catholic Church is not in union with Rome. The three Protestant services conducted each Sunday are all in Chinese. No synagogue exists.

Education

The Consulate General operates a small two-room school which can handle children from kindergarten to grade 8. All students learn using the Calvert System. Additional classes are offered, such as art and Chinese language. It is possible to enroll children in Chinese schools, but the Consulate General has very limited experience in this area.

Recreation and Social Life

The Shanghai International Club has an outdoor tennis court and an outdoor swimming pool, which is open to Consulate General personnel on an entrance-fee basis. It costs about 25¢ for children and 50¢ for adults.

The Jin Jiang Club offers a heated indoor pool, billiards, and bowling, as well as American pinball machines.

Shanghai has no golf courses.

The resident foreign community is small, but social life is quite active due to the large numbers of visiting foreign delegations. The Consulate General sponsors volleyball and softball games when the weather is good, and has a bowling league which bowls Saturday afternoons.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Since Shanghai is an industrial and commercial center, sightseeing in the city is thus relatively limited. It has a good zoo, an excellent art museum, and several picturesque temples and gardens in the city. Short trips to Suzhou, Wuxi, and Hangzhou offer additional sightseeing opportunities at relatively limited expense.

Note however, that American citizens can travel outside of Shanghai only if they have a travel permit. For visitors, this may be just their visa, but the visa must list each city which will be visited.

Special Information

Mail

At post you can use FPO facilities, international mail, and State Department pouch.

Address pouch mail:

(Employee's name)
American Consulate General—
Shanghai
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Note. For dependents receiving mail via pouch, the addressee's name should appear on the first line, fol-

lowed immediately below by the full name of the employee and the remainder of the address, as given above.

Address FPO mail:

(Employee's name)
American Consulate General
Box 200
FPO San Francisco 96659

Address international mail:

(Employee's Name)
American Consulate General
1469 Huai Hai Zhong Lu
Shanghai, People's Republic of
China

Pets

Technically, dogs are not allowed in the municipal area of Shanghai; however, half of the present staff members have brought their pets with them. They cannot be let out on the streets of Shanghai, and are therefore limited to the apartment complex and its small parking lot. Dogs must have valid rabies and health certificates accompanying them, and will be inspected on arrival by local health officials. No quarantine is required. After arrival, dogs must be registered with the Public Security Bureau, which will then issue individual identification cards. Cats are legal, but are governed by the same regulations outlined for dogs, except for registration. Be sure to have someone at point of origin notify the Consulate General of the exact time of arrival and flight date for your pet. Also request approval from the Consulate General to ship your pet, as you may have to stay in a hotel for a short period, where dogs are not allowed. No facilities are available in Shanghai for boarding pets.

Transportation

As in Beijing the same regulations apply here for automobiles, except that an oral test on local traffic regulations is required.

Most Consulate General personnel have bicycles, which are used as transportation within the city, and, during good weather, for weekend outings. See also Beijing.

Notes For Travelers

Getting to the Post

Most personnel arrive at post via Tokyo, unless consultations in Hong Kong are authorized. Obtain a Japanese and a Philippine multiple-entry visa before you depart from the US or overseas post, even if you are only transiting Tokyo. Experience has shown that Japanese visas are essential for most emergency travel from post. If your passport still contains a Taiwan ("Republic of China") visa, apply to the Passport Office for new passports. All personnel require diplomatic passports.

Pan Am now has direct scheduled air service from the US to Beijing, arriving Sunday and Thursday, and to Shanghai, arriving Tuesday. These flights depart from New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles and transit Tokyo.

Travelers transiting Guangzhou are normally met by an English-speaking guide from the China Travel Service, and escorted to the airport. If you plan to stay overnight in

Guangzhou, contact the Consulate General for assistance and guidance.

If traveling by air directly from Europe, you may reach Beijing via Karachi or Bombay. Those coming from Europe could consider taking the Trans-Siberian Railroad. It is less expensive than air travel, and, according to all reports, comfortable and interesting. The Trans-Siberian route is also an alternative if you are traveling from Washington via Europe.

Most people assigned to Beijing will spend many months waiting for permanent quarters. If you find that you will be spending several months in a hotel, arrange to have your household effects and large shipments of consumables sent to Osaka-Kobe, where they will be held in temporary storage until you are assigned to permanent housing. Household effects shipped to Osaka-Kobe should be—

(1) Consigned to:

American Consulate General
Osaka-Kobe
(in transit to Beijing)

(2) Marked as follows:

(Name of employee)
American Embassy, Beijing
via Osaka-Kobe/Xingang

No. xx of xx

(Japan Express Co., Kobe: Hold until notified to forward by American Embassy, Beijing)

The covering bill of lading should also state that both (1) American Consulate General, Osaka-Kobe and (2) Japan Express Co. Ltd. 1, Shinko-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe, (650), Japan be notified.

The original bill of lading, a copy of the packing list and a copy of the employee(s) official assignment orders (to Beijing) should be sent to the American Consulate General Kobe. Copies of the bill of lading and packing list should also be sent to Embassy Beijing.

If you will move directly into permanent quarters after arrival, ship your household effects directly to Beijing, consigned as follows:

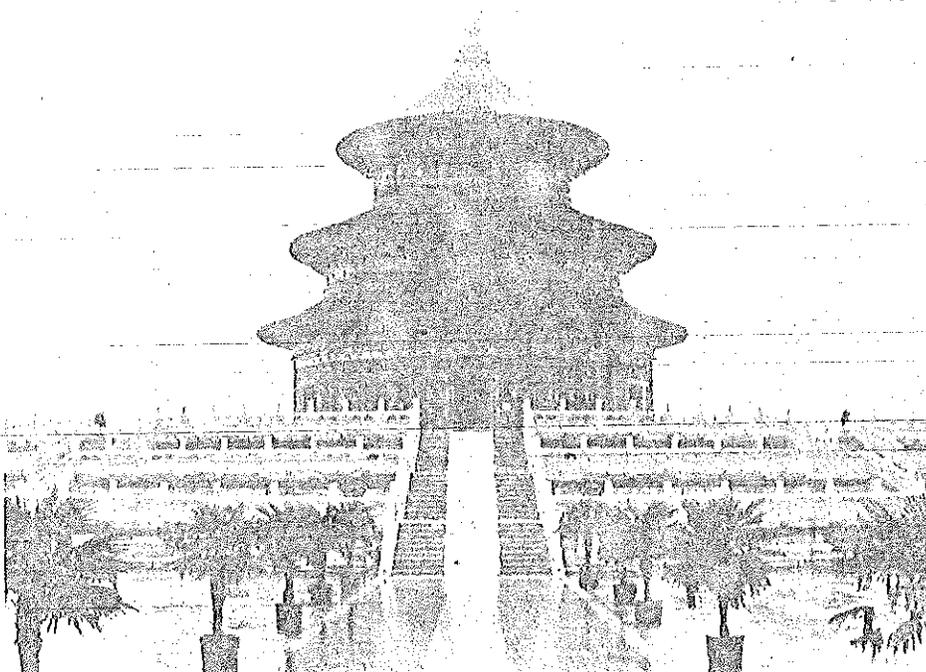
(Employee's name)
Embassy of the United States
17 Guanghua Lu
Beijing (Peking)
People's Republic of China
Via Port of Xingang

All vehicles should be shipped directly to Beijing uncrated and marked and consigned similar to the household effects shipments which are being sent directly to Beijing (see immediately above).

Note. Before initiating any surface household effects or vehicle shipment, obtain precise shipping instructions from Embassy Beijing.

Airfreight takes 3-4 weeks to reach Beijing. Consignments should be marked as follows:

(Employee's name)
Embassy of the United States
17 Guanghua Lu
Beijing (Peking)
People's Republic of China



Temple of Heaven, Beijing.

PRC customs will not release air-freight or household effects without having first seen a complete packing list, prepared by the original packer, and a statement of value, also prepared at the point of origin. Mail these documents to Beijing (Attn: General Services Officer) by the fastest available means. Originating posts should also place copies of these documents in an envelope and fasten them securely to the outside of any air-freight container.

The Embassy has some hospitality kits containing basic household gear for you to use until your effects arrive. Some items may be available in the local stores.

Customs, Duties, and Passage

Customs and Duties

No unusual entry or exit restrictions exist for those with diplomatic passports, which are issued to Embassy personnel. However, if you are bringing any antiques, especially if they are Oriental, or items made of gold, silver, or precious gems, the Chinese customs officials request that a specific and itemized list be submitted to them, thus insuring their legality upon departure. Since you may not want to identify these items on a packing list, you may wait until your arrival before providing an itemized list, but it must be presented to customs within 10 days of the shipment's arrival.

Chinese currency (yuan) may not be brought into or taken out of China. Travelers checks, Hong Kong dollars, and US currency may be exchanged at international airports, border gateways, hotels, and government shops operated exclusively for foreigners. The Embassy cashier is also available to cash personal checks to local currency for official personnel.

Passage

You must have a valid entry visa, and smallpox and cholera vaccinations must be current. Passports are required to obtain Chinese drivers licenses and diplomatic ID cards. Bring a dozen small black-and-white photographs, about 1 inch x 1-1/2 inches. These can be obtained in Beijing, but it is inconvenient and application for ID cards, etc., is delayed. US-size passport photos are acceptable.

Pets

Pets are not easily accommodated, as they are quite rare in China. Special pet foods are not available locally, and there are veterinarians, but no pet specialists. Dogs must be walked on a leash and are not permitted in public parks. Hotels in China refuse to lodge pets, and no kennels or other facilities are available for your pet's care while you are living in a hotel. Accordingly, unless private arrangements have been made with someone to keep and take full responsibility for the pet, do not bring your pet to post until you have settled in permanent quarters. The Embassy can take no responsibility for the care of pets when employees are either in temporary quarters, or away from post on travel.

The Chinese require only that pets have a valid rabies vaccination and a certificate of good health. In 1982, a law forbidding dogs in urban centers was promulgated. Foreign residents are exempt from this prohibition as of summer 1982. If you enter the PRC via Hong Kong, you can make arrangements to place the animal in quarantine during your stay in Hong Kong.

The China Travel Service will not send unaccompanied pets from Hong Kong. You must make arrangements to ship your pet on a direct air route to Beijing.

Firearms and Ammunition

The Ambassador has determined that no firearms may be brought to China. There are no facilities for target shooting and no possibilities of hunting.

Currency, Banking, and Weights and Measures

Local currency is the yuan; the official title is Renminbi (RMB). The dollar rate is set daily by the Bank of China, and is currently about US \$1.00 = Y1.92.

The yuan is a decimal currency, with the fen (pronounced fun) equivalent to cents; 1, 2, and 5 fen coins, and 10, 20, and 50 fen notes. The latter usually is referred to as 1, 2, and 5 mao (1 mao equals 10 fen). Yuan

comes in 1, 2, 5, and 10 yuan notes. Foreign Exchange Certificates—used exclusively by foreigners, both residents and tourists—are issued in the same denominations as the Renminbi, plus a 50 yuan note.

The Certificates can be taken out of the country, but reconversion into hard currency (with proper documentation) must be done in China. Certificates are used exclusively for purchases at hotels and Friendship Stores, and for all services including travel, lodging, and dining. The Embassy provides accommodation exchange facilities. Insure you have enough funds in your checking account to cover initial expenses.

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

Taxes, Exchange, and Sale of 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 within the diplomatic community or to the authorized PRC government purchasing agency. Sales to private individuals are not possible. The Embassy will convert yuan received to dollars as provided for in Department regulations.

Travelers checks are available through the American Employees' Association of Beijing to association members. All major bank travelers checks can be cashed at the Bank of China and other exchange counters in hotels and stores. A limited number of major credit cards (such as American Express, Visa, Mastercard, etc.) can be used in Shanghai and Guangzhou only for accommodation exchange purposes through Bank of China facilities. This service is generally not available elsewhere in China. Personal checks may be cashed at the Embassy cashier's office by official personnel, but are not accepted in other places. The Embassy does not maintain a large supply of US currency, so it can provide dollars only to permanent Embassy staff and their dependents who are leaving China and will need foreign exchange.

Recommended Reading

These titles are provided as a general indication of the material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

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- Spence, Jonathan D. *The Gate of Heavenly Peace: The Chinese and Their Revolution, 1895-1980*. Viking Press: New York, 1979.
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Local Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

- New Year's Day**
- Spring Festival (3 days in February; dates vary)***
- George Washington's Birthday*
- May Day***
- Memorial Day*
- Independence Day*
- Labor Day*
- Chinese National Day (October 1 and 2)***
- Columbus Day*
- Veterans' Day*
- Thanksgiving Day*
- Christmas Day*

* American Holiday

** Chinese and American Holiday

*** Chinese Holiday

NOTE: Avoid arriving in Beijing on Chinese holidays.