

Bielefeld) organized the conference. The Volkswagenwerk Foundation made possible the invitation of the foreign participants.

The lectures and discussions dealt with long-range social processes that occurred in Indonesia and Malaysia along with the integration of the rural population into the spreading colonial economic system. Regional and historical differences in this process were highlighted.

During the conference the following papers were presented:

Coen Holtzappel, University of Leiden

"Some Remarks on the Phenomenon of Landless Peasants in Java's History"

Frans Hüsken, University of Amsterdam

"Regional Diversity in Javanese Agrarian Development: Variations in the Pattern of Involution"

Jan Avé, Rijksmuseum, Leiden

"The Internal Development of a Subsistence System in Borneo and the Drastic Changes in Recent Years"

Wolfgang Clauss, University of Bielefeld

"Economic and Social Development in Upper Simalungun, North Sumatra: 1900 to the Present"

Hans-Dieter Evers, University of Bielefeld

"Subsistence Production and the State in Indonesia, 1817-1980"

James J. Fox, Australian National University, Canberra/University of Bielefeld

"The Historical Consequences of a Changing Subsistence Base in West Timor"

Diana Wong, University of Bielefeld

"Patterns of Change in a Kedah Village"

Tilman Schiel, University of Bielefeld/Free University of Berlin

"Transformation of the Javanese Mode of Production"

Prof.Dr. Hans-Dieter Evers, Bielefeld

#### International China Symposium in the GDR

From 22 to 24 April 1981 a symposium called "China in the 1980's" was held in Karl-Marx-Stadt (formerly: Chemnitz), East Germany. It was organized by the "Department of Chinese Contemporary History" of the Section for the Study of Asian Affairs of the Humboldt University (East Berlin). The Department and in particular its head, Professor Felber, must be given credit for their excellent preparatory and organizational work.

The Symposium was especially important as it represented the first conference on contemporary China problems to be held in the Soviet bloc with Western participation. Out of the 44 participants, 35 came from Bloc states (GDR, USSR, Poland, Bulgaria, Mongolia, Vietnam, Hungary,

Czechoslovakia, Cuba). They were scholars, Party functionaries, and diplomats. The majority of the participants came from East Germany. Conspicuously, but easily explained in political terms, was the lack of representatives from Romania. Nine participants, all of whom were scholars, came from Western countries, i.e. West Germany (Marie Luise N ath, Joachim Glaubitz, Eckard Garms, and the author of this report), USA, Italy, Switzerland, and Japan.

The three days of conference were divided into plenary sessions dealing with problems of methodology, economy, social structure, domestic and foreign policy. Only one day was devoted to foreign affairs - too little time if compared to the remaining two days during which, among others, valuable time was wasted by discussing "dogmatic" problems like the so-called class structure.

During the methodological session, the Western thesis according to which socialism and modernization incompatibly contradict each other, gave rise to an East-West controversy. When discussing the domestic development in the PRC, the participants tended, in general, to draw a gloomy picture. An understanding was more or less reached that, in view of the changes of course which took place several times after Mao's death and because of the statistical data still being insufficient to date, predictions for the next decade seem to be rather risky. Most of the participants predicted an unstable development.

The session on foreign policy was introduced by a paper written by Yakovlev (Moscow) characterized more by propagandistic endeavour than by scholarly objectivity holding China up as the greatest danger to the world peace. In his paper, the author made not even the slightest attempt to refer to primary sources to verify quotations meant to back up his main thesis. This paper as well as oral contributions from some Soviet and other participants from Communist countries like Cuba and Vietnam inevitably provoked sharp Western replies and lowered, for a time, the usual level of discussion.

Because of the more detached and sophisticated character of the second basic paper on foreign policy written by Kaufmann (East Berlin), and also due to contributions made by other participants from East and West, the propagandistic tendency mentioned above did not win the upperhand. However, this tendency prevented, to a certain degree, the discussion of such a crucial topic as Sino-Soviet relations from being led in a detailed and quiet way. Kaufmann's thesis deserves attention. It predicts a new process of d etente between Washington and Moscow will start in the 1980's, inducing China to strive for independence from the West without, however, leading to a rapprochement between the PRC and the USSR. A certain understanding was reached among the participants because of the still prevailing uncertainty about domestic developments in China: It appears difficult if not impossible to make a prediction concerning Peking's foreign policy in the 1980's.

The symposium offered an opportunity for an East-West exchange of views on the PRC's policy which proved to be so useful that one should hope it can somehow be continued.