IN DEEP SORROW

WITH the deepest sorrow, we announce to our readers the passing of Soong Ching Ling (Mme. Sun Yat-sen), Honorary Chairman of the People's Republic of China who among her many other activities was Chairman of the China Welfare Institute which publishes this magazine. She died of lymphocytic leukemia on May 29, 1981, at the age of 90.

Her long life was one of unremitting service to the people. She was, without doubt, one of the most beloved and inspiring women of our century. An eminent stateswoman of China and the world, she was at the same time a leader and a fighter in the ranks. She never separated the welfare of the country, the society and the people, hence she was a patriot, a democrat, a revolutionary and a communist. Within these larger objectives, she worked unceasingly for the welfare of China's women and children. And she never separated the progress of China from that of other nations and peoples, hence she was a thorough internationalist and fighter for world peace.

We, at this magazine, found her always concerned with our work, as direct leader, frequent author, constant helpful critic and encouraging adviser. She urged us always to present to the world a true picture of China and its revolution to which she was so passionately devoted.

We pledge to continue and improve our work in her spirit.

The Editorial Board
China Reconstructs

Special Supplement July 1981
SOONG CHING LING (1893 - 1981)
ANNOUNCEMENT

Issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China and the State Council of the People's Republic of China

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China and the State Council of the People's Republic of China announce with the deepest grief: Comrade Soong Ching Ling, a great patriotic, democratic, internationalist and communist fighter, outstanding international political figure and prominent state leader of China, Honorary President of the People's Republic of China and Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, died of chronic lymphocytic leukemia in Beijing at 20:18 hours on May 29, 1981, at the age of 90.

Comrade Soong Ching Ling's death is a great loss to our country and the people of the whole country. We hereby decide to hold a state funeral for her to express the profound mourning of the people of all our nationalities.

A funeral committee for Comrade Soong Ching Ling has been formed.

ETERNAL glory to Comrade Soong Ching Ling, a great patriotic, democratic, internationalist and communist fighter and outstanding state leader of China.
Condolences to Soong Ching Ling’s Relatives in the United States, Taiwan and Hongkong

The funeral committee for Soong Ching Ling sent telegrams on the evening of May 29 to her relatives in the United States, Taiwan and Hongkong, informing them of her death and expressing condolences.

The relatives included Mme. Chiang Kai-shek, Mme. Sun Fo, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Soong, Mrs. T.V. Soong, Mrs. T.A. Soong, Moon Sun, Kin Sun, Chiang Ching-kuo, Chiang Wei-kuo, H.H. Kung’s children David, Louis Rosalyn and Jeanette, and Soong Ching Ling’s elder grandson T.P. Sun and younger grandson T.K. Sun.

The telegram read:
We inform you with deep grief that Soong Ching Ling, Honorary President of the People's Republic of China, passed away in Beijing at 20:18 hours on May 29, 1981. Her passing is a great loss to the people of China and the world and to you relatives. We send you our deepest condolences.

Relatives and Friends of Soong Ching Ling in Taiwan Invited to Her Funeral

The funeral committee for Soong Ching Ling issued the following announcement on May 30 inviting her relatives and friends in Taiwan to attend her funeral:

Comrade Soong Ching Ling (Madame Sun Yat-sen), Honorary President of the People’s Republic of China, died at 20:18 hours on May 29 in Beijing. Condolence and paying last respects to her remains will be held at the Great Hall of the People from May 31 to June 2. The memorial ceremony will be held on June 3. She will be buried in the Soong family graveyard in Shanghai on June 4.

All of Comrade Soong Ching Ling’s relatives and friends in Taiwan are welcome to attend the memorial activities. Special flights of (Taiwan’s) China Airlines may land at Beijing Airport or the Hongqiao Airport in Shanghai. The funeral committee will bear all the expenses.
WITH deep grief, we pay tribute today to the memory of Comrade Soong Ching Ling, one of the founders of the People's Republic of China, Honorary President of the People's Republic of China, a leader whom the people of all nationalities in China, including our Taiwan compatriots and overseas Chinese, love and respect from the bottom of their hearts, a great patriotic, democratic, internationalist and communist fighter known throughout the world, a long-tested vanguard defender of world peace, and an outstanding member of the Communist Party of China.

Despite all the efforts of medicine, Comrade Soong Ching Ling died of chronic lymphocytic leukemia at 20:18 hours on May 29, 1981, in Beijing at the age of 90.

A native of Wenchang county, Guangdong province, Comrade Soong Ching Ling from her early years followed the great revolutionary, Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and devoted herself to the cause of the democratic revolution. In 1913 she became Dr. Sun Yat-sen's secretary, taking charge of his vast correspondence, including confidential letters from China and abroad, and other day-to-day work. She married Dr. Sun Yat-sen in 1915. She was firm, loyal, prudent and modest, and always remained Dr. Sun's close comrade-in-arms and able assistant. In May 1921, Dr. Sun Yat-sen took office as the Extraordinary President of the Republic of China. In June the following year, Chen Jiongming turned against the revolution and bombarded the presidential mansion. His rebel forces pressed on, and the situation became critical. Comrade Soong Ching Ling refused to leave the mansion before the others. She said to Dr. Sun: "China can do without me, but cannot do without you." She insisted that Dr. Sun be evacuated from the danger area before her. Then escorted by guards, she broke through the battle lines. As a result, her health was gravely impaired. This heroic action is but one indication of Comrade Soong Ching Ling's staunch will, and outstanding and wise courage in her dedication to the cause of revolution.

Comrade Soong Ching Ling did a great deal of active and practical work during Dr. Sun Yat-sen's consultations with representatives of the Communist Party of China on matters of cooperation and in his discussions with envoys sent by Lenin. She firmly supported the Three People's Principles, as newly interpreted by Dr. Sun Yat-sen in the Manifesto of the First National Congress of the Kuomintang of China, namely, the new Three People's Principles incorporating the policies of alliance with Russia, alliance with the Communist Party and assistance to the peasants and the workers. In order to solve the problems of the unification and construction of China, Dr. Sun Yat-sen, despite grave dangers and against all advice to the contrary, traveled to north China in November 1924. Comrade Soong Ching Ling accompanied him with great resolution. Dr. Sun Yat-sen died of illness in Beijing on March 12, 1925. It was Comrade Soong Ching Ling who publicized Dr. Sun Yat-sen's testament to China and the world. Shortly afterwards, speaking with the stern force of justice, she denounced the Right wingers of the Kuomintang and plunged into the work of preparing for the Northern Expedition.

DURING the Second National Congress of the Kuomintang of China in January 1926, Comrade Soong Ching Ling resolutely implemented Dr. Sun Yat-sen's three great policies, worked in close cooperation with the Chinese Communists, and struggled against the Right wing of the Kuomintang. After the April 12,
1927 counter-revolutionary coup in Shanghai, Comrade Soong Ching Ling and many Kuomintang Left wingers as well as the Chinese Communists Mao Zedong, Dong Biwu, Yun Daiying, Lin Boqu and Wu Yuzhang issued a joint message in denunciation of Chiang Kai-shek. On the eve of the open betrayal of the revolution by the Wang Jingwei (Wang Ching-wei) government in Wuhan, she again issued a Statement in Protest Against the Violation of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Revolutionary Principles and Policies, declaring that she would sever all relations with those who were renegades to the cause of Dr. Sun Yat-sen. On August 1, Comrade Soong Ching Ling, Comrade Mao Zedong and 20 others issued a declaration in the name of Central Committee members of the Kuomintang, solemnly exposing the betrayal of Chiang Kai-shek and Wang Jingwei. On the day of the Nanchang Uprising, a revolutionary committee composed of Zhou Enlai and 24 others was formed and, though Comrade Soong Ching Ling was not in Nanchang at the time, she was elected to the seven-member presidium of the revolutionary committee. In August 1927, she made a long and arduous journey to the Soviet Union, in search of the road to victory for the Chinese revolution.

During the first two years of the ten-year civil war, Comrade Soong Ching Ling participated in a series of important international anti-imperialist activities in the Soviet Union and France and, in 1929, she was elected honorary chairman of the second congress of the Anti-Imperialist League. She subsequently became one of the principal leaders of the world anti-fascist movement.

After Comrade Soong Ching Ling returned to China, she gave wholehearted support to the political stand of the Chinese Communist Party and resolutely rejected any post offered to her on the Central Committee of the Kuomintang and in the government, thus defeating all KMT threats and lures. She time and again stated her profound yearning for socialism. She solemnly pointed out in an article she wrote in 1931 that the Kuomintang had long since betrayed its revolutionary policies, and that its various factions, backed by warlords, were all trying to curry favor with the imperialists and slaughtering the Chinese masses. "Only a revolution based on the masses and serving them can smash the power of the warlords and politicians, shake off the yoke of imperialism and realize socialism." In the 1930's, when she was engaged in revolutionary activities in Shanghai, she established a profound revolutionary friendship with the great communist Lu Xun. Together with Lu Xun, Cai Yuanpei, Yang Xingfo and others, she organized the China League for Civil Rights, and waged tit-for-tat struggles against the Kuomintang reactionaries, protecting and rescuing a large number of Chinese Communist Party members and patriotic democrats who opposed Chiang Kai-shek. Thus she made important and unique contributions to the cause of revolution.

After the September 18 Incident of 1931, Japanese troops invaded and occupied China's three northeastern provinces, and the KMT government pursued a policy of non-resistance. In 1934, the Chinese Communist Party set forth a Six-point Program for Resisting Japan and Saving the Nation which was promulgated over the signatures of Comrade Soong Ching Ling and others. On August 1, 1935, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party issued the August 1 Declaration which called on the people of the whole country to work together as one to stop the civil war and resist Japanese aggression. Comrade Soong Ching Ling, He Xiangning, Liu Yazi, Jing Hengyi, Chen Shuren as well as Yu Youren, Sun Fo and others were the first to respond. Their response produced a tremendous public impact. After the outbreak of the War of Resistance to Japan, Comrade Soong Ching Ling refused to go to the places where the Kuomintang government had its seat, and instead went to Guangzhou and Hongkong where she founded the China Defence League for collecting donations from foreigners and overseas Chinese sympathetic to China's War of Resistance to Japan. She unremittingly supported the anti-Japanese struggles led by the Chinese Communist Party and exposed the Kuomintang reactionaries' policies of compromising with and capitulating to Japan and opposing the Communist Party and the Chinese people. The Kuomintang government therefore exerted pressure on Comrade Soong Ching Ling through foreign forces, but were rebutted by her and by Comrade Chen Han-seng who was working with her at the time. After the Southern Anhui Incident in 1941, Comrade Soong Ching Ling, He Xiangning, Liu Yazi and Peng Zemin came out boldly to denounce the Kuomintang's perfidious acts. Comrade Soong Ching Ling arrived in Chongqing in December 1941. She managed to meet or maintain contact with George Hatem, Agnes Smedley, Edgar Snow, Rewi Alley and other foreign friends who were sympathetic to the revolutionary cause of the Chinese people and they worked closely with her, making important contributions to the Chinese people's cause of resistance to Japanese aggression.

After the victory of the War of Resistance to Japan, Comrade Soong Ching Ling founded the China Welfare Fund in Shanghai and, under very trying conditions, provided concrete assistance to the working masses. During the War of Liberation, she rendered great material help to the Chinese Communist Party
and the Chinese People's Liberation Army under its leadership.

After Beijing was liberated, Comrade Soong Ching Ling was delighted to accept the invitation from the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party addressed to her to participate in the First Plenary Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and she left Shanghai for the north. When the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, Comrade Soong Ching Ling was elected Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government. She was elected Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress in 1954, and Vice-Chairman of the People's Republic of China in 1959 and again in 1965; and again elected Vice-Chairman of the N.P.C. Standing Committee in 1975. As an important state leader for the past 32 years, she was involved in numerous state activities in the cause of China's socialist revolution and socialist construction. Comrade Soong Ching Ling made highly successful visits to the Soviet Union, India, Burma, Pakistan, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. In 1957, Comrade Soong Ching Ling accompanied Comrade Mao Zedong to participate in the Moscow Meeting of Representative of Communist and Workers' Parties. Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqi and other comrades often exchanged views with her on major international and domestic issues and, during the long period in which they collaborated, they confided in each other, and forged a profound and comradely friendship.

Comrade Soong Ching Ling always paid attention to women's work in new China, devotedly watching over the health and education of children and young people. For many years she presided over the work of the People's Relief Administration and the Red Cross Society of China. Comrade Soong Ching Ling was an outstanding leader of Chinese women and an affectionate grandmother to the children of China. She always showed great solicitude for old friends and acquaintances who had been followers of Dr. Sun Yat-sen in their early years, and deep concern for the future of Taiwan. She ardently hoped that peace talks between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party would be conducted at an early date so as to accomplish the great cause of the reunification of the motherland, to which she made invaluable contributions.

In recent years, Comrade Soong Ching Ling was elated by our Party's successive smashing of the Lin Biao and Jiang Qing counter-revolutionary cliques and staunchly supported the series of principles and policies since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee. She was full of enthusiasm for the socialist modernization of the motherland to which she devoted all her energy and strength in her later years. She ardently hoped for the growing prosperity of the motherland which has entered into the era of socialism after fully realizing Dr. Sun Yat-sen's ideal of the revolutionary Three People's Principles. Comrade Soong Ching Ling made brilliant contributions to the cause of China's revolution and construction and won the heartfelt respect and love of the people of all nationalities in the country.

Comrade Soong Ching Ling was elected a leading member of the World Peace Council in 1950 and Chairman of the Peace Liaison Committee of the Asian and Pacific Regions in 1952. In the international sphere, she conducted courageous and fruitful struggles against wars of aggression, in defence of world peace, for the advance of progressive culture, for social progress and the well-being of mankind, and for the promotion of understanding and friendly exchange among the people of all countries. She enjoyed the high esteem of people of all strata in China and other countries, and was acknowledged internationally as one of the greatest women of the 20th century.

Over the past 70 years, Comrade Soong Ching Ling spared no effort in performing her duties and devoted all her energies and strength to the people's democratic and socialist cause of China, to world peace and the cause of the progress of human society. Under all circumstances, she retained her unyielding revolutionary principles, and was neither intimidated by force, nor subdued by wealth or rank. Her noble spirit and integrity will be remembered throughout history. What we treasure most is the fact that Comrade Soong Ching Ling kept up with the pace of history and, starting as a great revolutionary democrat, she became a great Communist. The Communist Party of China and its leaders Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqi and other comrades had long accepted her as a close comrade-in-arms, a comrade and a respected proletarian vanguard fighter. Shortly before her death, she was accepted as a full member of the Communist Party of China, and a long cherished wish of hers was thus fulfilled. This was an honor for Comrade Soong Ching Ling and also an honor for the Communist Party of China. Comrade Soong Ching Ling will always live in the hearts of the people of all nationalities in China and in the hearts of the Chinese Communists.

In mourning Comrade Soong Ching Ling, we will turn grief into strength and, rallying still more closely around the Party Central Committee, work hard to accomplish the great sacred cause of the reunification of the motherland and build China into a modern, powerful socialist country with a high degree of democracy and civilization!

Eternal glory to Comrade Soong Ching Ling!
She Lives Forever
in Our Hearts

Ching Ling’s Chinese and foreign friends and relatives.

Condolence

Ceremonies began in Beijing on May 31 and lasted until June 2.

A black-bordered portrait of Soong Ching Ling hung in the mourning hall of the Great Hall of the People, which was draped in crepe and sheets of silk with elegiac inscriptions. On either side of the hall were wreaths presented by governmental and people’s organizations and by foreign friends.

Draped with the flag of the Chinese Communist Party, her body lay in state amid flowers and pines. Armed fighters of the People’s Liberation Army stood guard at the sides of the crystal sarcophagus. Wreaths presented by Soong Ching Ling’s daughter-in-law, Mme. Sun Fo, and by other relatives were placed in front of her body. Soong Ching Ling’s relatives who stood as guards at the bier included Pearl Suiying Sun Lin, Rose Suihua Sun Tchang, Venus Shing Kung Tai, Paul Kiakong Tchang, Paul T. K. Lin, Eileen Chen Lin (Chen Shu), Walter Chee Kwon Chun, Sau Chun Wong Chun and Yen Chun.

On hearing the news, leaders of the state and Party hurried to her home to mourn.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, and the State Council announced that a state funeral would be held to express the profound mourning of the people of China.

A funeral committee was formed the same day, composed of 393 people including leading members of the Party, the state, the army, the democratic parties, provincial leaders, and Soong

China’s flag was lowered to half staff at Soong Ching Ling’s residence and, on June 3 all over the country.

The heart of a great woman stopped beating at 20:18 hours on May 29, 1981. Soong Ching Ling, Honorary President of the People’s Republic of China, died of chronic lymphocytic leukemia at her residence in Beijing at the age of 90. At her bedside were her granddaughters Pearl Suiying Sun Lin, Rose Suihua Sun Tchang and Venus Shing Kung Tai and other relatives including Paul Kiakong Tchang, Paul T. K. Lin, Eileen Chen Lin (Chen Shu), Walter Chee Kwon Chun, Sau Chun Wong Chun and Yen Chun.

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in her illness for her talk on Children's Day. “My heart beats with yours.” Zhu Hong, a fifth-year pupil, said, “I’m determined to carry out the behest of Grandmother Soong, study hard and be a worthy successor to the revolutionary cause.”

Among the 120,000 mourners during the three days of ceremonies were workers, peasants, PLA fighters, cadres, minority representatives and overseas Chinese representatives. Foreign friends now in Beijing from over a hundred countries and regions, foreign diplomats, journalists, experts, students and trainees also paid their last respects.

**The People Mourn**

At six p.m. on June 2, people lined Chang'an Avenue from the Great Hall of the People to watch the remains of Soong Ching Ling taken to the Babaoshan Crematory. In the crowd was a young teacher with her child standing under a tree on the sidewalk. She said, “My child and I are here to see Grandmother Soong off.” The 7-year-old girl, who had attended the service in the morning, had returned with her mother.

At 6:30, to the strains of funeral music, Soong Ching Ling’s remains were escorted by government officials and her relatives to Babaoshan in a hearse draped with black and yellow crepe. About a million people lined the 20-li Chang'an Avenue.
State leaders Ye Jianying (center), Tan Zhenlin and Yang Shangkun at the bier in the Great Hall.

Young Pioneers in Beijing come to see their beloved Grandmother Soong for the last time, at the mass mourning in the Great Hall of the People.

Textile workers.

Representatives of minority nationalities.

Students.

Women's representatives.
The hearse was gone, but the people stayed. Before the Monument to the People’s Heroes at Tian An Men Square, many people gathered amid the wreaths in the evening mist. There were wreaths from university and middle school students. Amid the wreaths there was a pot of Chinese roses. On the iron fence were hung delicate paper flowers made by children.

Her Glory Will Last

June 3 was the climax of the memorial ceremonies in Beijing. Throughout the country, flags flew at half staff and all entertainment stopped. At eight in the morning, the urn containing Soong Ching Ling’s ashes was taken into the mourning hall of the Great Hall of the People escorted by a procession of PLA soldiers.

At four in the afternoon, a memorial service attended by about 10,000 people was held in the Great Hall of the People. On the rostrum were leaders of the Party and state and Soong Ching Ling’s relatives, including her granddaughter Lily Sun Wong who arrived in Beijing from Honolulu on June 2nd. The meeting was presided over by Secretary-General of the Party Hu Yaobang. Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping gave the eulogy. He praised Soong Ching Ling for her devotion over the past 70 years to the Chinese people’s democratic and socialist cause, and to world peace and progress. She retained her unyielding revolutionary principles, Deng Xiaoping said, and was neither intimidated by force, nor subdued by wealth or rank.

Her noble spirit and integrity will be remembered throughout history.

Final Rest in Shanghai

At her own wish, expressed before her death, Soong Ching Ling’s ashes were interred in Shanghai, the city where she was born, grew into a revolutionary, and had her permanent home. The grave is in the burial plot of the Soong family established by her father and mother, with places left for their children.

The brief, solemn ceremony took place on June 4, immediately after the urn was brought by plane from Beijing, escorted by a group of leaders of the Party and government headed by Deng Yingchao and other senior national leaders.

Some 500 people were present at the ceremony in Shanghai’s International Cemetery. Many thousands simultaneously stood at attention in the streets.

Red-scarved Young Pioneers from the Shanghai Children’s Palace of the China Welfare Institute, a project particularly close to Soong Ching Ling’s heart, stood sobbing at the grave-side as the urn was lowered. It was immediately covered with a granite slab reading simply:

1893-1981

Comrade Soong Ching Ling
Honorary President of the People’s Republic of China
June 4, 1981
On the other side of the family plot, also at Soong Ching Ling's request, is a grave of the same size and configuration containing the remains of her faithful staff member and comrade-in-arms, Li Yen'o (Li Ma), a simple Chinese woman who was with her for five decades through weal and woe, and who died of cancer early this year.

Shanghai's newspapers and radio and TV broadcasts, like those throughout the nation, were filled with tributes to Soong Ching Ling. These included vivid reminiscences of her work and struggles by persons directly involved.
The meeting of mourning in the Great Hall of the People on June 3, 1981.

Silent tribute.
On June 4 Soong Ching Ling's ashes were flown to Shanghai for interment.

The urn with Soong Ching Ling's ashes being lowered into the marble outer coffin.
Deng Yingchao, Ulanhu, Liao Chengzhi, Chen Muhua and Chen Guodong standing in tribute before the tomb.

Funeral ceremony held at the Soong family tomb in Shanghai.
CHINA RECONSTRUCTS MOURNS

On May 30, the day after Soong Ching Ling's passing, the China Reconstructs staff of some 200, including foreign specialists in the various language editions gathered to mourn her. Also present were leaders of the Foreign Languages Publishing and Distributing Bureau and representatives of other foreign publications in Beijing.

The editorial board's announcement to readers (See page 1.) was read out in Chinese and English. A eulogy recalled Soong Ching Ling's leadership of the magazine over a period of almost thirty years.

Members of the editorial board called on Soong Ching Ling during her last illness, and were present at the State Memorial Service in Beijing on June 3 and the State Funeral in Shanghai on June 4.

A special supplement in commemoration of Soong Ching Ling will be published with our August issue.

photos by Zhou Youma,
Zhang Shuicheng,
Zhang Jingde
and Sun Yunshan

Everyone at China Reconstructs bid a last farewell to Soong Ching Ling.