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## NEWS IN BRIEF

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### HOLY FATHER EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

On February 11, in a telegram addressed to Mr. Vasily Kusnetsov, First Vice-President of the Supreme Soviet, Pope John Paul II expressed his condolences on the death of President Yuri Andropov. The Holy Father also offered consolation to the Soviet people in their time of sorrow, and promised to make special remembrance of the "illustrious deceased."

### "PRIESTS RENEWAL CAMP" HELD IN HONG KONG

Over one hundred Hong Kong diocesan priests have participated in a "Priests Renewal Camp" held at two retreat houses on Changzhou, one of Hong Kong's outlying inslands, from February 12 to March 3. They have temporarily left their parishes and offices to give themselves completely to prayer, study and reflection.

During the time of the priests' renewal camp, pastoral service centres have been set up in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories to take care of the sacramental and pastoral needs of the Catholics. At the same time, some lay leaders have been appointed to lead the Catholics in prayer and liturgical services.

### GOVERNMENT TO RETURN BISHOP'S HOUSE IN GUANGZHOU TO THE CHURCH

The Guangzhou City government has decided to return the bishop's house to the Church. This was decided at a meeting held at the site of the bishop's house by an inspection committee made up of a vice-mayor of Guangzhou, the assistant chairman of the Guangzhou Peoples Congress, and representatives from the Bureau of Religious Affairs in December, 1983. The official transfer of the property is scheduled to take place in March of this year.

### THE CONTRIBUTION OF MISSIONARIES TO SINO-CANADIAN FRIENDSHIP NOTED

During January, the Chinese Prime-Minister Zhao Ziyang visited

the United States and Canada, where he met U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Canadian Premier Pierre Trudeau.

At the welcoming dinner for Prime Minister Zhao in Ottawa, Premier Trudeau mentioned the contribution of missionaries to Sino-Canadian friendship. During his toast, Premier Trudeau, while praising the contributions of Chinese to Canada, remarked: "Canadians also crossed the Pacific Ocean and headed towards the East. I think first of the missionaries who brought the message of peace. It was at that time the peoples of our two countries established relations."

The main content of the discussions which took place while Prime Minister Zhao was in Canada was an increase in economic and cultural exchange between the two countries, disarmament among the super-powers, and the promotion of limitation on nuclear arms.

#### "CHINA NEWS ANALYSIS" RE-PUBLISHED

China News Analysis, which had ceased publication for one year, resumed publication in January of this year. China News Analysis is a Catholic fortnightly which researches China matters. The former editor was Father Laszlo Ladany, S.J. Now a group of younger Jesuits have taken up the editing tasks.

The first issue under new management, published on January 2, 1984, had agriculture in China as its main topic. The second issue published on January 16, dealt with the question of the anti-crime campaign in China.

#### CHINA COMPLETES 6TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN EARLY

China has fulfilled the set production quotas of its 6th Five-Year Plan early. According to that plan, in 1985 the value of China's industrial and agricultural output each year should be \$871,000,000,000 RMB. However, the tabulation taken at the end of 1983 showed that the value of total production for the whole year was \$890,000,000,000 RMB. Thus, the targets of the 6th Five-Year Plan were arrived at two years early.

According to the 6th Five-Year Plan, the yearly growth rate in China's industrial and agricultural production should be 4%. However,

in the last three years the actual growth rate has reached almost 7%.

### BEIJING CELEBRATES THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAO ZEDONG'S BIRTH

Hu Yaobang, Secretary-General of the Chinese Communist Party, delivered a speech in praise of Chairman Mao on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of Mao's birth. At the same time, the Mao Zedong Memorial building in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, was changed to make room for three more former Communist leaders: Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqi and Zhude.

The CCP Propaganda Department announced that the name "Mao Zedong Memorial" would not be changed. The addition of Zhou, Liu and Zhude, however, is to emphasize Mao Zedong thought as the product of a collective leadership and to boost the historical position of other leaders in the Party, the Propaganda Department reported.

### THE CANONIZATION OF FATHER G.M. ALLEGRA SOUGHT

The Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong has set up a special court to examine and judge the case of the application for beatification and canonization of the Franciscan Father G. M. Allegra. If everything goes smoothly, this priest, who devoted his whole life to the work of translating the Bible into Chinese and who founded Studium Biblicum, would become the first member of the Hong Kong diocese to be recommended for canonization.

Father Nicholas Ruggiero, PIME, has been appointed substitute judge of the special court, Salesian Father Julian Carpella, defensor, and Canossian Sister Margherita Renoldi, court secretary.

At the court's setting up ceremony, Bishop Wu, ordinary of the Hong Kong diocese, said: "This is an unique event for the Hong Kong diocese..... I hope that the result of this event will be the lighting of another bright torch in the Chinese Church."

### SUN YATSEN RESEARCH SOCIETY ESTABLISHED

During January, it was announced that a Sun Yatsen Research Society has been established in Beijing. Hu Sheng has been appointed Chairperson and Liu Danian, vice-chairperson. The secretary-general is

Jin Chongji.

### ACADEMY FOR BUDDHIST NUNS IN CHINA

China's only academy for Buddhist nuns has nearly completed its first year of classes. Since its opening in March, 1983, sixteen nuns have been accepted to study the full course, while ten others are auditing the courses. Their ages range from 18 to 30 years.

The academy is located in the suburbs south of Chengdu. Master Lu Lian, Assistant General Secretary of the Chinese Buddhist Association is in charge of general affairs at the academy. Master Lu pointed out that the academy offers both a two-year preparatory course and a four-year standard course. Each student had to pass an entrance examination before being selected. Major subjects studied at the present time are Buddhist Scriptures and Chinese literature. The students may also choose to study any of the following electives: Tibetan, English, Japanese, medicine and handicrafts.

### BISHOP FAN XUEYAN IMPRISONED AGAIN

Fan Xueyan, the seventy-six year old Bishop of the Baoding Diocese in Hebei Province, has recently been sent to prison again. Sentenced along with Bishop Fan was Father Huo Binzhang, also of the Baoding diocese. Both clergymen received sentences of ten years.

Bishop Fan's "crimes" were: ordaining priests and bishops secretly, receiving foreign exchange and maintaining relations with the Vatican.

On January 11 of this year, Reuters News Agency carried a statement from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirming that Bishop Fan had been arrested again for "having contacts with foreign countries and conspiring to impede the sovereignty and security of the motherland."

Fan Xueyan was appointed bishop of the Baoding diocese in 1951 by Pope Pius XII. He was jailed for the first time in the nineteen-fifties and was released after the Cultural Revolution.