

CHINA AND THE COLD WAR

Sir.—Your correspondent Mr. James Bertram, writing under the heading "China and the Cold War," is right—he knows his Mao Tse-tung —: my quotation did come, as he suggests, "from some years back." But I have nothing to detract. The fact is that the same quotation about the impossibility of remaining neutral in the cold war was quoted recently and with warm approbation by Chen Po-ta, who, as a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and as Vice-President of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism in Peking, is presumably in a much better position than either of us to speak for the Chinese Communists.

Mr. Bertram is also right in understanding me to recommend recognition of China "on grounds of logic and 'knowing your enemy.'" I also hold, in view of the size and importance of China and the apparent stability and strength of her Government, that Communist China must eventually be admitted to the United Nations. But such developments will not necessarily reduce the devotion of the Chinese Communists to the cause they have quite frankly espoused. "The Chinese Revolution is part of the World Revolution," says Chen Po-ta. Liu Shao-chi and others appear to share his view. Chen has also published his view that "the conclusions reached by Comrade Mao Tse-tung . . . are being verified by the activities in the countries of South-East Asia."

I should like to think that "a negotiated peaceful solution" to the Formosa question could be reached. If such a solution is to be reached, I suggest that the Chinese attitude is so positive and so clear that it will be reached only on Red Chinese terms, i.e., with the "liberation of Taiwan." Perhaps the Americans will have other ideas. In any case, Mr. Bertram and I appear to agree on Peking's desire to relax tension. We differ on the nature of other aims and objectives. I reiterate that my view concerning China's loyalty to "the Socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union" (a well-used phrase in China and one prominently displayed on May Day banners) is not based on a forgotten saying of Mao Tse-tung but on a mass of evidence. The early post-revolutionary fervour is still evident in Peking. Perhaps it will weaken or mellow. I agree that may depend in part on Western and, in particular, on American policy.

ANGUS ROSS (Dunedin).

MOTHERS AT WORK

Sir.—The panel discussing the controversial topic, "Why Do Married Women Work?" (the question really is, "Why Do Mothers Work?") in the National Women's Session today (July 18), greatly disappointed me with their attitude to the subject. During the discussion it was even said by a woman member that "too much is expected of a mother nowadays." She is expected to be mother, nurse, housekeeper, etc. Well! Has a mother's task ever been different?

Quite wisely, the panel gave first of all what virtually everyone accepts as good and valid reasons for a mother working—e.g., deserted wife, young widow with children to support, invalid husband, and the few others with which no one would quarrel. I felt they could have done better had they defined more rigidly, "economic reasons." Granted, some families are of a size where a wife finds it extremely difficult to manage on an average wage. Nevertheless, I noticed that, as usual, no mention was made of the mother who chooses to work so that refrigerators, wall-to-wall carpets, cake

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

mixers, etc., may be purchased, not forgetting, of course, keeping up with the fashions for the next race meeting, to which she travels in a new car, nonchalantly smoking her cigarette, which "Heavens! I couldn't possibly give up." After the meeting, at which she took the wrong tips, as did probably Hubby, her many friends are invited to a party where liquor practically drips from the taps, and the guests as well as hostess cheerfully, or otherwise, lament the cash that failed to bring the expected "divvies."

I believe that many working mothers merely use their children as an excuse for seeking employment; that a true mother will make any sacrifice necessary for her children's education. The latest fashions, cigarettes, etc., cheerfully go by the board so that Johnny and Mary can have every chance in life.

One speaker mentioned during the discussion that he personally knew of the work the Police Clubs in London were doing. He said these clubs were run by the Police during the afternoons where children, whose mothers were employed outside their home, could stay during the after-school hours till mother came home: such is the magnitude of the problem in Britain. In time, is it going to be so with New Zealand?

It is the privilege, not the burden, of mothers the world over to give their children the constant attention and love which they need; to be at home when eager voices call out, "Mother, where are you?" to answer their endless questions; to solve their little problems; to nurse them through their childish illnesses—in other words, just to be there, at home, when needed.

Why do mothers work? Wistfully, the question lingers.

MAY DANIEL (Riverton).

THE CORAL ROUTE

Sir.—J.W. writes in your issue of July 20, "I was amazed to hear Bryan O'Brien, after saying that authors should be sure of their facts when referring to an author who mistook the pandanus tree for a pineapple tree, say that pandanus fruit is inedible. . . Should not comères be sure of their facts?"

First, I did not say "authors should be sure of their facts." This statement was made by the person interviewed, Mr. Porcellano.

In regard to the pandanus as a food, I repeat that in Polynesia the fruit is generally classed as inedible, and is never offered for sale as a food. But in times of famine many "inedible" things are eaten. If J.W. wants a quick verification of these facts, I refer him to the *Naval Handbook for the South Pacific*, a publication which has a strategic interest in the edibility of tropical fruits. In the book the pandanus is named as a famine food only, and while it has some nutritive value, it is normally never eaten by the natives. Is J.W. aware that there are 250 varieties of pandanus spread throughout various parts of the tropical world? The fruit of many of these varieties is so fetid that they could not be eaten under any circumstances. I have many times seen the pandanus gathered, but it was used only for making artificial flowers.

BRYAN O'BRIEN (Wellington).

ORGAN AND CHOIR

Sir.—I was a member of the Christchurch Cathedral Choir from 1914-20, and I remember the Doctor singing at the men's practice on two occasions. When learning Wesley in E he burst out and sang with us in the chant part for quite a few minutes. Next week he did the same. He had a nice light baritone.

With regard to music, we used to do "O Love the Lord" (Sullivan) unaccompanied quite often, the bass skip of a major ninth always being impeccable; "I Am Alpha" (Stainer), "Send Out Thy Light" (Gounod), also "Messe Solenne" (Gounod), Anglicised Masses by Schubert in G and C, Mozart in B Flat, Weber in E Flat. The main change in the music was made when Bishop Julius returned from England in 1919 and held a meeting of the choir and organist, after which choral matins was dropped to once a month, and all theatrical music disappeared. The morning congregations dwindled to less than half in a few months.

GEORGE H. CLAYDON (Christchurch).

FARMING IN TANGANYIKA

Sir.—On 2XP's Farm Session for July 12, Jack Brown had a Mr. Fox in the studio to give some impressions of farming in Tanganyika. Mr. Fox related how he would bring in the cows early in the morning and not be surprised to find an

elephant or two amongst the Ayrshires. While discussing wild game on Tanganyika farms Mr. Fox related how a lion would hurdle a four-foot fence with a two-year-old heifer grasped in its jaws.

Having resided in Rhodesia, which is relatively close to Tanganyika, I know that many tall stories are always current in those parts. One of them, for instance, concerns marauding baboons. To dig a pit and snare one of the troop is the first step. Secure a pot of white paint or wash and paint the animal white. While this is taking place the remainder of the troop are looking on from the top of a near-by kopje. Release the white baboon and it immediately goes in pursuit of its troop, which is natural, as they are gregarious. The effectiveness of riding the area of the baboons comes about this way. The troop observe the white creature coming near but don't recognise it as one of their own and are afraid, so they run; but the white chap can't understand why they don't wait for him: thus they gallop on out into Bechuanaland and the South Atlantic Ocean presumably.

Let's return to Mr. Fox. When he related his stories he did so with seriousness and without a clue to humour. The Farm Session is usually educational and interesting, but I feel we were "taken for a ride" on July 12, as Mr. Fox did not have a grasp of Tanganyika farming.

TARANAKI TED (New Plymouth).

PORTRAIT OF HAWKE'S BAY

Sir.—"Without vision, the people perish." What a fitting quotation to end this blurb (2YZ, 7.0 p.m., July 16). It is about time this absurd two-headed monster which refuses to acknowledge its body, commonly known as Hawke's Bay, which stretches from Mahia to Herbertville, Wairoa to Woodville, Ruahines to the sea, took a good look at itself. Without Hawke's Bay, Napier would still be nothing but a little fishing village and Hastings a raupo swamp. Meat, wool and fruit were mentioned in this programme just as briefly as that, with no mention of "our" fertiliser works, "our" freezing works, "our" butter and cheese factories. Besides Napier, Hastings, Hastings, Napier, Cape Kidnappers received a mention and Mahia, too, in passing. Surely this fair province deserves better treatment.

E.J. (Norsewood).

THE GOON SHOW

Sir.—I am solidly behind your several recent correspondents who desire further series of the *Goon Show*. I cannot, however, agree with their derogatory remarks about *TIFH* and *Radio Roadhouse*. These are still very fine shows, Goons notwithstanding.

I would like to add a word of appreciation also for *Hancock's Half-hour*, which seems to me to be in the very top rank. It possesses, in Sid James, a character to rival even the fabulous "Wal" of *TIFH*, and in at least one respect it reaches the outer terminus of novelty—it has no vocal or musical item whatever!

C. HEMMING (Christchurch).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Arthur Lush (Christchurch): On the question with which *The Listener* is concerned a long letter from you was printed and answered in the issue of May 25. The answer stands. Your present letter extends the question beyond our scope, as well as our space, and should be addressed elsewhere.

Flagship Discovery (Wellington): A new *Joe Morgan* "space" serial, "The World in Peril," is now being broadcast from 3YZ on Saturdays at 8.0 p.m., and from 4YZ on Sundays at 8.15 p.m.

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

AT Spriggen's Park on August 8, the Sprinkboks will play Wanganui-King Country, and listeners are reminded that the game will begin at 3.0 p.m.—not 2.30. The other Springbok match scheduled for the week is on August 11 (2.30 p.m.), when the touring team will play Taranaki at New Plymouth. Other important Rugby fixtures are—Canterbury v. Otago (commentary from 4YA), and North Island Varsity v. South Island Varsity (2YA) on August 8; and on August 11, five matches with commentaries as follows: a Seddon Shield match at Nelson (2XN); Southland v. Canterbury (4YZ); South Canterbury v. Mid-Canterbury (3XC); N.Z. University v. Wellington (2YA); and Waikato v. Bay of Plenty-Counties-Thames Valley (1YZ).

SOCCER: The North and South Island Finals for the Chatham Cup will be played on Saturday, August 11. These will be covered by commentaries from 1YA and 4YA.

CRICKET: During the week cricket summaries will be at the usual times, 7.18 a.m. and 8.10 a.m., when progress reports will be given of play against Glamorgan, Warwickshire, and Derbyshire.

HOCKEY: At 6.50 p.m. on August 7, and August 9, and after the delayed Rugby broadcast on Saturday, August 11, results will be heard of the matches played by the touring New South Wales Men's Hockey team. Summaries of International Women's Hockey will be at the usual times.

HARRIERS: Harriers meet for the N.Z. Championships at Greenmeadows, Hawke's Bay on August 11. Results will be broadcast in the National Sports Summary at 7.20 p.m.

RACING: The Grand National Hurdles, 6th race in the second day of the Canterbury Jockey Club's meeting (August 7) will be rebroadcast by 1YA, 2YA, 3YZ and 4YZ.

MOTOR CYCLING: A BBC eye-witness account of the Ulster Grand Prix will be broadcast in a Main National Stations link at 12.33 on Sunday, August 12.