

# NEW CHINA MAGAZINE— PLUSES AND MINUSES

The summer issue of New China Magazine is out and contains a wealth of interesting material. New China is the quarterly magazine of the U.S.-China Peoples' Friendship Association and has proven to be an important tool for learning and teaching about life in the People's Republic of China.

Included in the current issue is a lively article by Jim Veneris, the Korean War POW who chose to live in China after the war. Veneris concludes his article saying: "I have great faith in

the American people; I love them. It wasn't the great masses of the American people who labeled me a turncoat; it was McCarthy and his bunch."

New China also includes a first-hand report of life in Peking's "tent city" at the time of last year's earthquakes; an account of Senator Mansfield's stand in favor of normalization of relations with China; an informative description of a divorce trial in China and other important articles.

Unfortunately however, New China is still operating under the strange policy of ignoring the earth-shaking events that have been taking place in the People's Republic of China during the past year. Once again, there is no mention made of what is being described as one of the greatest events in China's history—the defeat of the "gang of four" by the Chinese people and their communist party.

Nor is there any mention of the fact that China has a new leader, Communist Party Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, who is showing in practice that he is a worthy successor to Chairman Mao in this time of great difficulty. The only sign of Chairman

Hua is found in a paid advertisement from China Books and Periodicals.

It appears that the Friendship Association and New China are still shackled by the politics of a handful who are peddling the trash that "the left has been overthrown" in China or that "Chairman Hua hasn't proven himself yet." This reactionary slander is still being spread by the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) and a handful of other opportunists who have tried to make the Friendship Association their "mountain stronghold," while in fact opposing genuine friendship with China.

This confusion greatly damages the ability of the Association to draw in new members, especially when it is promoted right in the pages of New China magazine itself. Until this situation is changed, the magazine does not really deserve the name "New" China, despite its many interesting features, because it is not really speaking about what is "new" in the land of socialism.

New China is available for the price of \$4 a year from New China, 41 Union Square West, Room 721, N.Y., N.Y. 10003.

