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SCIENTISTS OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF  
KAZAKH SSR VISIT COMMUNIST CHINA

by I. Kenesbayev, L. K. Klyshev, Ts. D. Nominkhanov  
and N. S. Kalachev

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FOREWORD

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## Experiences of Philologists

Pages 100-101

I. Kenesbayev

A look at the far past reveals that society has gone through several different historical stages. The Chinese people belong to the group of peoples with an ancient culture which is connected with the ancient history of mankind. The early cultural heritage of the Chinese people, which already existed in the paleolithic, neolithic and bronze epoch, has been known to the scientific world for a long time. It is a known fact that the first invention of the compass, seismograph, gunpowder, paper, printing, etc. is related to the Chinese people. It is also known that in old China several centuries before the Christian era, ancient historical and philosophical works existed, as well as completely developed Chinese ideographic characters in the Shang Dynasty (1766 - 1122 B.C.). Chinese philology is rooted far in the past (three centuries B.C.).

Chinese philology, which lives together with the Chinese language, has made enormous progress during the period of the Chinese People's Republic. The marxist linguists of today's China gave a hard blow to the theory of Schleicher, which represents the morphology of the Chinese language as being in a very primitive stage (especially the theory of Marr, which says it belongs to a group of languages which remained in its original form) and to the reactionary efforts, which were made in the field of philology during the Kuomintang government.

The theory of philology, the problems of a uniform national language, the reform of Chinese characters, the liquidation of general ignorance in reading and writing and the research into the languages of the minority peoples -- all these are problems which keep the scientists of today's China occupied with beneficial and important task.

At the same time, besides working on the problems of the Chinese language, the linguists of China engage intensely in the research of the languages of the minority peoples. In Peking at the Academy of Science of China there are two eminent linguistic institutes, one of which is the institute of philology, the other the institute of the languages of the minority peoples. The former one was opened in 1950. In this institute there are a) Chinese written language studies, b) dialectology, c) various dictionaries, d) translations and e) redaction sectors. Within ten years the research into the dialects of the Chinese language is to be concluded. In this year the Chinese dictionary of the present Chinese written language will be completed.

In the future, historical and phraseological dictionaries will be worked out. And, besides this, there is some other work included in the institute's plan (orthoepic and morphologic dictionaries, the dictionary of the Peking dialect, grammar, writing problems). This institute of philology is directed by the famous Chinese linguists Lu Chan-pei, Lui Shu-hsiang and Hsi Min-yuan. The staff, under the leadership of these men, carefully studies the problems of each historical period of the Chinese language, and the theoretical and practical problems of philology. These philologists are a system out of the 90,000 hieroglyphs and, on this base, are writing a textbook on the history of language, and are setting up easy writing rules for a vocabulary of 3,000 hieroglyphs that will be intelligible to the majority. At the same time, based on the Latin graphic, the adoption of an alphabetical writing is the main task of this institute. Our Chinese friends fully informed us about this program.

We became closer acquainted with the institute of the languages of the minority peoples. This institute is led by Comrade Burhan Shahidi, a great scientist who knows several languages and is a well known and deserving person. His representatives are professor Fu Mao-chi, Wan Li-pin and P'in Wan. These men had the kindness to make us well acquainted with the work in the institute. At the same time I want to mention specially the services of Comrade Ch'en Wei a young scientist of the institute who is rather familiar with the Russian language.

Comrade Burhan several times called in meetings of the staff of the institute and arranged very useful talks. I gave a speech about the Kazakh written language, Kazakh philology, etc. C. D. Nominchanov also delivered some speeches.

This institute has 160 permanent members on its staff. Besides, 700 people work in local areas. The institute was officially opened in 1956. There are about 50 different nationalities in China. Presently the language and the dialects of 33 different nationalities and ethnographic groups are being studied. Only 21 nationalities have an alphabet (16 of these are in Latin). The writing problems of the rest will soon be settled. Attention is paid also to the terminological question. In this way the wonderful experience of the great Chinese people is also applied to the construction of the languages of the minority peoples. Furthermore, the institute does excellent work in the field of the written language of the minority peoples, the study of the comparative language and the training of young specialists. Concerning the other problems of the linguists, the institute has made considerable accomplishments.

The institute, which published 29 works in 1958, has already published 80 works in 1959. There are some Chinese youths in the institute, which specialize in Uighur and Kazakh.

I was in China in 1958 (together with the candidate of philological science, G. D. Nominchanov). I became acquainted with the Chinese linguists, institutes of philology, universities and press organizations (of course also with numerous cultural monuments). I was in Peking, Tsinan, Koko Choto, Lanchow, Urumchi, Ghulja, etc. We have clearly seen how big the friendship and the general interest of the Chinese scientists and the Chinese people is towards the Soviets.

On this day of the completion of ten years of the Chinese People's Republic we send our warmest greetings to all our friends there and to our friends in the field of science. Long live our close friendship, the people of two great socialist countries -- the Chinese and the Soviets.

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Experiences of Botanists, Physiologists,  
and Technical Scientists

Pages 102-109

L. K. Klyshev  
Ts. D. Nominkhanov  
N. S. Kalachev

L. K. Klyshev, Academician of the Academy of  
Sciences of the Kazakh SSR

When I visited the Chinese Peoples Republic I had the objective of becoming acquainted with the activities of their scientists in the field of botanical science and establishing contact with them. In a comparatively short time I succeeded not only in visiting scientific institutions and institutes of higher learning in the principal cities of the country (Peking, Nanking, Shanghai, Hangchow, and Canton), but also in witnessing the grandiose projects which the great Chinese people are completing. Everything that is being done in People's China arouses rightful enthusiasm in the friends of the Chinese people and all those who believe in the victory of communism. In addition to being occupied with deep theoretical problems, Chinese scientists are offering valuable practical suggestions which are multiplying the wealth of the people.

I shall begin with the activities of the botanical institutes of Northern and Southern China which are headed by such great scientists as Professor Chiang Ch'ung-shu, Professor Ch'ang Huang-yung, and also the botanical gardens of these institutes led by energetic specialists (Yu Tieh-chuan, P'ei Tse-yang, and others).

The very rich Chinese flora, which consists of 25,000 species, has been almost wholly collected by the botanical institutes. The material which has been collected with painstaking care and processed into herbaria and fixed will serve as the basis for the compilation of the many-volume, monographic work, the Flora of China. The botanists of China have promised to complete this work in a few years.

Geobotanical research is directed not only toward describing the natural vegetation cover, but also its transformations, especially in drought zones.

In addition to conducting grandiose projects on the introduction and acclimatization of plants, the botanical gardens are doing much selection work designed to develop drought and frost-resistant decorative, food, essential oil, vitamin, and medicinal plants. They are engaged in small and large scale processing of the raw plant material.

The Institute of Plant Physiology in Shanghai, which was organized only very recently and is headed by the well known professors Lo Tsung-lo and Ying Hung-chang, is studying the most important problems of the physiology and the biochemistry of the higher and lower plants with the objective of working out rational principles of agriculture and increasing the productivity of agricultural crops and wild useful plants.

In particular, Professor Lo Tsung-lo and his co-workers have made quite a detailed study of the causes of the dropping off of cotton plant ovaries and have worked out some methods for increasing the drought resisting qualities of plants in northwestern China. Professor Ying Hung-chang and his co-workers have established a direct connection between the size of the leaf surface and the yield of rice. Interesting data have been obtained on photosynthesis in isolated chloroplasts. The Institute has a large output of gibberellin and is now perfecting it. Successful work is being done in working out methods for propagating one-celled algae (*Chlorella*) with the objective of using it as a source of fodder for stock and for obtaining fats.

A large group of scientists and four teams are studying the conditions for obtaining high yields of agricultural crops. In addition to conducting their own experiments, they are generalizing the advanced experience of agricultural production.

The Institute of Medicines in Shanghai is one of the largest scientific research institutes in the country. The Institute has developed a number of remedies for hypertonic disorders from plants and is now working to decrease their toxicity in the human organism.

The activities of secondary and higher institutions of learning merit special attention. The young people are not only studying, but are producing useful products in large and small enterprises which are functioning in the educational institutions. For example, Peking University produces 300, Nanking University 600, and Shanghai University just as many types of products, beginning with complex computers of their own design and ending with vitamins.

In 1958 the students of the city of Nanking planned to return 80 percent of the money spent on their education to the State through the sale of the things they produce and have planned to convert over to education on a cost-accounting basis in time.

The scientific research of the professorial and instruction staffs of the universities is being conducted along with practical work of the students and a large portion of it is connected with

production. For example, the biology department of Shanghai University has a student agricultural cooperative with three branches -- animal husbandry, agriculture, and a fertilizer factory.

Shanghai University does a great deal of work on studying the biochemistry of grain storage. Professor Wang Min-ting and his co-workers have established that wheat storage over many years (3-4 years) improves the quality of the flour. In this case certain mold fungi which secrete nicotinic acid play a large part. The biochemistry department of the university is working with the Institute of Plant Physiology to study the cause for the dropping off of cotton plant ovaries.

The peasantry who form the majority of the Chinese population and who are united in cooperative communes are working with great enthusiasm. In China the peasants are getting unheard of yields of rice, wheat, maize, and other crops. It is particularly interesting to note the increase in rice yields obtained through deep working of the soil -- up to one meter. Increasing the nutritional area by increasing the depth makes it possible to plant a crop more thickly. Dense planting (up to ten million plants per hectare) along with deep working of the soil and use of fertilizer have made it possible to increase rice yields up to 322 tons per hectare and wheat up to 55 - 60 tons per hectare. The grain to straw ratio is 1 : 1 or 1 : 2 with shallow while it is 3 : 1 or 2 : 1 with deep plowing.

At present the Soil Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences is designing machinery for mechanizing the deep plowing of land to be planted to rice and wheat.

I wish to note the modesty, the hospitality, the industriousness, and the devotion of the Chinese people to their government and their friendly attitude toward the Soviet people.

Ts. D. Nominkhanov, Candidate of  
Physiological Sciences

We were in the Chinese Peoples Republic from 8 August through 5 September 1958. During this period we were in the cities of Peking, Tientsin, Hu-he-huo-t'o, Lanchow, Urumchi, and Kul'dzha. We visited the Institute of Languages of National Minorities of the Academy of Sciences of the Chinese Peoples Republic, the Central Academy of National Minorities of the Chinese Peoples Republic, the Institute of Linguistics of the Academy of Sciences of the Chinese Peoples Republic, Peking State University, the Publishing House for National Minorities, Peking State Library, and many other institutions and higher educational institutions.

I wish to discuss a few of them briefly.

The Central Academy of National Minorities was established in June 1951. Its principal task is to carry out the policy of the Communist Party of the Chinese Peoples Republic in respect to national minorities. The Academy has three departments: political, historical, and linguistic, also a preparatory section and courses in national minority dances. At present 2,152 persons, representatives of 45 national minorities of China, are studying at the Academy. This Academy has a branch at Wuhan. The Academy has an attached secondary school which has more than 100 pupils. The Academy numbers 348 persons, including 57 professors and instructors. The Academy has 30 chairs divided by subject. The library has 400,000 books including 50,000 in the national minority languages and more than 90 newspapers in 15 languages. This Academy is an educational establishment of a type new to China. The Academy has opened special prayer rooms for lamaists and Moslems since it respects the customs and religions of the students. The Academy has graduated several classes already. By 1957 1,757 graduates had been sent out into the minority areas. The political department has graduated 700 persons who are working successfully out in the areas. The courses of study last four years. The Academy has a two-year graduate program and offers short courses.

The Institute of Linguistics of the Academy of Sciences is occupied exclusively with Chinese philology. The Institute of Linguistics detached groups of scientific workers from its personnel to form the Institute of Languages of National Minorities of the Academy of Sciences. The Institute has a large library on Chinese philology. Peking State University, which was founded in 1898, celebrated its sixtieth anniversary in 1958. The great sons of the Chinese people, Comrade Mao Tse-tung and Li Tao-chao — two of the founders of the Communist Party of China, and the writer and thinker Lu Hsin have worked in the university.

At present the university has 14 departments: mechanics-mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geology-geography, history, Chinese philology, Russian philology, philology of oriental countries, philosophy, economics, law, and library science; in addition, it has courses in the Chinese language for foreign students. Peking University has 1,206 teachers, 8,060 students, including 202 graduate students. Of those who are studying there, 19 percent are women and 19.5 percent are of working class or peasant origin. Two hundred and forty-four students from the USSR and the peoples democracies of Europe and Asia are studying at the University. During the years of the existence of the CPR, Peking University has grown rapidly.

The number of students increased 3.6 times and the number of teachers 5 times. In the last 7 years the total area of the University increased 3.6 times. The libraries of the University have 1,800,000 books and the number of laboratories has grown from 20 to 210. The students of the University, like those in all the other institutes of higher learning in the country, go to classes free of charge and they make use of dormitories and dispensaries at State expense. Upon completing their studies the students are sent out by the State to work in accordance their specialty and their wishes. We were interested in the department of oriental nations in Peking University where it turned out that the following languages are under study: Mongolian, Korean, Japanese, Hindi, Arabic, Persian, Indonesian, Burmese, Thai, and Urdu.

The Publishing House of National Minorities in Peking publishes books on philosophy, literary works, children's books, translations of literary and other works, and dictionaries. Books are published in the Tibetan, Mongolian, Kazakh, Uighur, Korean, and other languages. The works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Mao Tse-tung, the collected works of M. Gor'kiy (Moi universitety [My Universities], Mat' [Mother]) and translations of literary works from the Russian and Chinese languages of the World War II period are published in the minority languages. In addition, Tibetan-Chinese, Mongolian-Chinese, Uighur-Chinese, Korean-Chinese dictionaries, a dictionary in five languages, an Uighur-Chinese terminological dictionary, an illustrated magazine, geographical maps, et cetera have been published. The rapidity with which books are published made a great impression on us. They told us that a book of approximately 20 printed sheets can be published within a month.

I wish particularly to emphasize the warm attitude they manifested toward us, Soviet scientists and the attention we received from the citizens of the CPR and the scientists we met. While we were in Urumchi an unofficial meeting was arranged for us with the leaders of the Sinkiang-Uighur Autonomous Region (with Comrade Sayfuddin Azia, Comrade Furkhan, and other officials). We read papers at the Institute of Languages of National Minorities of the Academy of Sciences of the CPR where the scientific workers of a number of institutions of higher learning and philological institutes and also spoke before scientific workers and teachers from the institutes of higher learning of the city of Huhe-hu-t'ao. We shared the progress made by the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR in our specialties with Khan, Mongol, and Uighur scientists.

We believe that our trip to the CPR was very useful and essential to the development of science in our friendly, socialist nations and hope that trips by scientists of both nations will become traditional in the future.

Modern China, a nation of vigorous building of socialism, is forging ahead with seven-league strides. The general line of the Communist Party of the CPR proclaims: "Breaking the old bounds, straining all resources, and pushing ahead, build socialism -- greater, faster, better, and more economically." Let the great country of socialism prosper -- the Chinese Peoples Republic!

N. S. Kalachev, Candidate of Technical Sciences

During the ten years of existence of the Chinese Peoples Republic the Soviet press has published not a few facts which bear witness to the gigantic development of the national economy of our great neighbor to the east. However, you can know the whole gigantic strength and the whole majesty of the creative Chinese people only when you yourself go to China.

The author of these lines had the good fortune to be in China in August 1958. Thirty days is a very short time in which to become acquainted with even a single branch of the national economy of this great country -- namely, with the construction of hydraulic engineering projects. Nevertheless, due to the exceptional kindness, attention and foresight of the Chinese comrades, I was able to find out and to see much that was new and interesting during that comparatively short interval.

China is a splendid country with a great past, a heroic present, and an attractive future. No less splendid are the Chinese themselves with their exceptional industry, their deep people's wisdom, magnanimity, and enthusiasm. An enthusiasm for work has literally seized the entire nation. All of China's 600 millions, from small to large, are toiling with surprising conscientiousness.

To organize the work of its 600 millions of people and to guide the ever growing enthusiasm of the masses along the correct course is the great and difficult task of the Communist Party of China. The facts show that this task is being fulfilled with success.

The list of the different combinations which the Chinese like to discuss and by which they are constantly guided in their daily work is very large. Here are some of the most popular combinations: the large is combined with the small, the central with the local, the European with the national, the modern with the ancient, the State with the cooperative, the scientific with popular practice, mental work with physical labor, industry with agriculture, natural with the artificial, et cetera.

One must understand it in this way: the construction of large power projects is combined with the construction of small hydroelectric power stations; centralized State measures are supplemented with local measures carried out by the provinces and individual co-operatives; the construction of large irrigation systems is combined with the most primitive irrigation devices, clear down to carrying water to the fields with shoulder yokes; along with the construction of large metallurgical combines in a country which is carrying out the mass construction of primitive artisan blast furnaces, et cetera.

The Chinese say openly that it is only due to these harmonious combinations that they have succeeded in achieving decisive successes in all fields of the national economy. Under Chinese conditions the "small" frequently surpasses the "large."

In the Peking Scientific Research Institute of Hydraulic Engineering I became acquainted with the subjects and status of scientific research projects in the field of hydraulic engineering construction in China.

The Institute has eight laboratories and departments, an experimental mechanical workshop, a department of technical information, and a publishing house. There are about 1000 scientific co-workers. The spacious premises of the Institute are located beyond the city proper and the homes and apartments of the co-workers are located there.

It is necessary to note the great attention which is devoted in China to the problem of combining mental work with physical labor. Every co-worker of the Institute is sent to production work or to work in rural villages for periods up to 1 - 2 years. The Institute has a vegetable garden which is cared for by the co-workers.

The work of the Institute is closely linked with the hydraulic engineering problems of the country. Work is being done on the overall utilization of the rivers of China, on improving and developing the river network for navigation, irrigation, flood control and on clarifying the effects of human activities on run-off, et cetera.

The laboratories of the Institute are well supplied with the necessary equipment. The hydraulic engineering laboratory and the laboratory of river bed processes occupy an indoors area of 6,000 square meters. In addition, there is an open area of 4,000 square meters. The laboratory staff numbers 100 persons. No less than 50 models of large hydroelectric power stations are under testing simultaneously.

On the whole, the Institute makes a large and good impression. The scale of scientific research and the level of theoretical training of the Chinese specialists provides evidence that in the field of hydraulic engineering, as in a number of other fields, China has made startling progress.

As a rule water resources research in China includes four combined hydraulic engineering problems: flood control, irrigation of the land, hydroelectric power, and navigation. However, flood control and the development of irrigation are regarded as the principal tasks.

The grandiose plan for making use of the Huang Ho, which was developed as early as 1954, is well known to Soviet Specialists. According to this plan, 46 complex hydroelectric power stations with a total capacity of 22 million kilowatts are to be built on the Huang Ho. All of them are to be built in the next seven years. At present five hydroelectric power stations are under construction, the largest of which is the hydroelectric power station at Sanminhsia with a capacity of 1,100,000 kilowatts.

The plan for the Sanminhsia Hydroelectric Power Station was developed in the Soviet Union, but important changes have been made in it. In particular, the water level is now ten meters lower than in the original plan. This was done in order to save good land farther up the river, in the vicinity of the Hsian River, from inundation.

In connection with the development of large-scale irrigation, the people in China are very concerned about the problem of increasing the flow of the Huang Ho by diverting run-off from the Yangtze River Basin which has more abundant precipitation. This is paralleled by the problem of supplying Central and Northwestern China with water by diverting water from the Yangtze, Mekong, Salween, and even the Brahmaputra rivers to that area. They are studying the problems of intensifying the thawing of glaciers and increasing precipitation in some regions of the country.

Work on compiling plans for making use of the Yangtze River and its tributaries has been conducted on an extremely large scale. The flow of the Yangtze exceeds 1000 cubic kilometers per year at its mouth. The potential capacity of the basin amounts to 220 million kilowatts -- 40 percent of the total water power resources of the nation.

The San-hsia hydroelectric power station with an established capacity of up to 25 million kilowatts is the central object of the plan for making use of the Yangtze River. A series of large water reservoirs and hydroelectric power stations is also planned for tributaries of the Yangtze River. Large-scale water diversion measures for flood control purposes are planned for the middle and upper reaches of the river.

The power planning organizations of China are working on 170 large hydroelectric projects. It is interesting to note that under Chinese conditions, there is almost no difference in the relative costs of constructing hydroelectric and thermal electric stations. In some cases the construction of hydroelectric power stations is even cheaper. This is explained by the presence of natural conditions which are particularly favorable for the construction of hydroelectric power stations -- conditions which are to be seen on almost all Chinese rivers. Apparently this is also made possible by a number of other factors which have not yet been fully clarified.

The students are giving an enormous amount of help in national economic construction in China. The Ching-hua Institute has been in existence for 40 years. Prior to the liberation 2,000 students were studying in Ching-hua, now the number of students has increased to 10,000 persons. In the near future the number of students will be increased to 20,000 persons. In this connection a great deal of construction is under way to expand educational facilities.

The first trial of communistic education is under way at Ching-hua in which the students are justifying the money being spent on their education by working in the factories and industrial enterprises established in the Institute. A special feature of the students' course work is the fact that all of them are responsive to the concrete requirements of the national economy: the students of the hydraulic engineering department are developing plans for hydroelectric power stations; the experimental workshops of the Institute, which are working at full load on three shifts, are producing lathes; the tractor built by the students is the pride of the Institute, et cetera.

In 1958 1,432 students, including 258 women, were graduated from the Institute. The graduating students had fulfilled 336 projects, of which 14 were large, complicated projects.

I had the opportunity to inspect a number of hydraulic engineering projects in China: the Kuan-t'ing Reservoir with a capacity of 2.2 billion cubic meters, located on the Yung-ting-Ho several hours' journey from Peking; the She-sang-ling Reservoir on the outskirts of Peking, which is the pride of the citizens of Peking (it was built by the people in a fabulously short time -- a total of about four months); the construction of the hydroelectric power station at San-men-hsia on the Huang Ho which we have already mentioned; the construction of the Hsi-nan-kiang Hydroelectric Power Station in Chekiang Province -- the largest spillway dam in the world, and others.

The work on the hydraulic engineering projects goes on round the clock with unceasing, stimulating music from radio loudspeakers (there is music at all Chinese construction projects). The construction projects are obviously short of machinery and the large part of the work is done by hand with the aid of exceedingly simple and clever devices, of which the Chinese are great masters. Nevertheless, all construction projects, as a rule, are proceeding ahead of schedule.

The components of the hydroelectric stations are well planned. The exceptionally painstaking fulfillment of construction work, which is carried out to completion even in small detail, attracts one's attention.

The Yangtze River and its famous San-hsia Gorge where the largest hydroelectric power station in the world is to be built with a capacity of 20 - 25 million kilowatts and with a height of 150 meters.

The San-hsia (literally three gorges) Section of the Yangtze River, with a length of about 200 kilometers, is located directly above the city of I-chang. The deep bed of the river cuts through thick strata of limestone here. Its banks, which are up to 200 meters high, are often vertical.

Mass irrigation construction carried out on the initiative of the peasants without help from the State has been developed in all regions of China to control floods and drought. I became acquainted with such construction in the Mei-she District of Honan Province.

In the comparatively small area of this district the local population had built: 273 water reservoirs, 200,000 wells, and 7,100 dams. In order to combat soil erosion on the slopes in the district, the people have dug 13.4 million checkerboard pits and 51,000 collector canals; over 40,000 meters of terracing have been built on the slopes.

As a result of all this work, floods and drought have been eliminated in the Mei-she District.

I observed enormous enthusiasm for work and precise, well-ordered organization of work in the construction of the Li-wang Reservoir in this district. The height of the dam of the Li-wang Reservoir is 37 meters, its length is 600 meters, and the volume of the body of the dam is 810,000 cubic meters. Up to 30,000 persons have participated in this construction.

It is important to note that local agencies do not make any claims at all on State enterprises in carrying out mass hydraulic engineering construction. Even the cement needed for building hydraulic engineering works is usually made locally in artisan furnaces.

While travelling about the country, I spent many hours in creative conversations with different specialists of the Chinese Peoples Republic. In addition to inspecting hydraulic engineering construction projects, I saw many cultural monuments of antiquity in different Chinese cities. And everywhere, and all whom I encountered invariably felt a genuine friendship for me and for the entire Soviet people.

Only through such direct contact can one learn the whole gigantic strength of the creative friendship of two mighty peoples.

- END -

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