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SOURCE Jen-min Jih-pao.

FIRST GROUP OF WOMEN AIR PERSONNEL PUBLICIZED IN CARTOONS

The part now being played by the women of China in the building of the Chinese Communist Air Force was extolled in a series of 15 cartoons in the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, official organ of the Chinese Communist Party, between 27 - 31 March 1952. These cartoons drawn by Miao Ti (1) (numbers in parentheses refer to appended characters) and Chiao Chih-fang (2) indicated that the women of China are not only being trained as technicians and maintenance personnel but also as pilots. The cartoons were drawn on the basis of an article written by Chang Wen (3) which had been published in the 7 March 1952 issue of the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao.

A description of the cartoons and paraphrase of their captions follows:

Cartoon No 1: In this cartoon, a group of girls, in combat uniforms, is depicted as standing at attention before twin-engine planes. According to the caption, these women air personnel gave an exhibition of their knowledge in aeronautical techniques on 8 March 1952 in celebration of international Women's Day.

Cartoon No 2: A group of girls is shown in this sketch as making preparation for departure in a truck. The caption states that a year ago a group of girls, in answer to the nation's call, joined the military cadre school, and a portion of this group, determined to serve in the air force, was selected for air training after being investigated and examined thoroughly.

Cartoons No 3 and 4: Trainees, in double-breasted short coats with turned-down collars buttoned at the throat and rectangular badges on the left side of the coats, are shown in classrooms equipped with drawings, models, and part of airplanes. These girls, the caption discloses, are receiving political and ideological instructions, and also lectures on the principles and technical aspects of navigation and on the construction of the airplane.

Cartoon No 5: In this cartoon, women trainees are depicted as taking gymnastic exercises, which are, states the commentary, an important phase of the training of women air personnel.

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Cartoon No 6: A woman in flight uniform is pictured as being in a training plane receiving flight training. The commentary states that the flier is putting into practice the complicated skills requiring knowledge of meteorology, topography, and navigation, and that during the early stages of training many women pilots, while in the air often forgot everything they had learned because of fright.

Cartoon No 7: Six girls, dressed in short jackets, trousers, and army caps, are shown working over a single-engine plane with the markings of the Chinese Communist Air Force. These trainees are described as having undergone very strenuous training and as being willing to be on hand to make repairs in all kinds of inclement weather.

Cartoon No 8: A female mechanic, highlighted in this sketch, is shown sitting on the ground beside a single-engine plane. This girl, states the caption, had fallen while making repairs on the plane, injuring her back. The mechanic, it is further described, though in pain, on recalling Ma-lieh-hsi-yeh-fu (Chinese approximation of Russian name), a "true Soviet personality," got up immediately to continue with her work. [This episode was not mentioned in Chang Wen's article.]

Cartoons No 9, 10, 11 and 12: The training of pilots, it is described in this series of cartoons, was very strenuous, and at times, some of the trainees were on the verge of considering themselves failures, but with the guidance of their superiors, these girls overcame their fears and difficulties, both physical and psychological.

Cartoon No 13: Standing before Mao Tse-tung's portrait and with a single-engine plane in the background, a woman pilot in air combat uniform is described as having just overcome her physical difficulties and as stating that henceforth she will keep in her mind the concern which the nation and the party had for the women air personnel who will thus conquer hardships with greater faith.

Cartoons No 14 and 15: Cartoon No 14 shows a twin-motor plane with a wind sock and unfurled flags in the background and waving hands of spectators in the foreground. The plane is making flight preparations. In cartoon No 15, six twin-motor planes are pictured flying in formation over a building and an enthusiastic crowd. These women air personnel, the captions disclose, not only have a basic knowledge of aviation, but they are able to carry out the duties of navigators, communication personnel, mechanics, ground crew, and other such positions. The caption states that on 8 March 1952, the maiden flight ceremony was held in Peiping, and the spectators who attended the meeting realized then that these liberated new Chinese women have a great future in the service of the nation.

## CHARACTERS

1. 苗地
2. 趙志方
3. 張文

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