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SOURCE Hsin Ching-chi Lun-ts'ung (Symposium on the New Economy) published by Shih-yueh Ch'u-pan She, pp 216-221,

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1950 FLOOD CONTROL AND IRRIGATION PLANS IN CHINA

Sun Hsiao-ts'un

The flood of 1949 was the worst since the disastrous flood of 1931. More than 100 million mou [one mou is 1/6 acre] of farm land and more than 40 million people suffered as a result. The areas seriously affected were the northern parts of Kiangsu and Anhwei provinces, the Hu-hsi area of Pingyuan Province, and the Yitung area of Hopeh Province.

Recognizing the seriousness of the damage, the Central People's Government called a round-table conference on flood control and irrigation work of the liberated areas early in November 1949. On the basis of this conference's decisions, the Central People's Government has invested considerable money in flood control and irrigation work for 1950. The total amount to be invested in the Northeast and in China proper was estimated to be the value of 180 million catties [one catty is 1.33 pounds] of millet. This amount is almost equivalent to the total value of the First People's Victory Loan.

The budget breakdown for 1950 is as follows: flood control, 73 percent; irrigation work, 19 percent; exploration and research, 4.7 percent; and others, 3.3 percent. The emphasis, of course, is different in different areas. In the East China and the Central-South Administrative Areas, the central task is flood control. Flood control is also one of the principal tasks in North China. In the Northwest, the emphasis is on irrigation. In the Northeast, flood control and irrigation work are both emphasized. The following table shows the budget breakdown by administrative areas for flood control, irrigation, etc.

Administrative Area	Flood Control (%)	Irrigation (%)	Others (%)
East China	94.6	1.3	4.1
Central-South China	90.2	4.3	5.5

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<u>Administrative Area</u>	<u>Flood Control (%)</u>	<u>Irrigation (%)</u>	<u>Others (%)</u>
North China	61.7	28.2	10.2
Northwest	6.1	79.4	14.5
Northeast	31.8	37.0	31.2

In a short period of 6 months [during 1950], break-throughs have been blocked and dikes have been restored along each large river. To examine the work completed and to establish the sense of responsibility, the Ministry of Water Conservancy, before the rainy season arrived, called a flood prevention conference, and announced a guarantee system, which guarantees "no danger and no break-through," even when water level reaches a certain level. Although this system cannot be automatically 100 percent successful, it raised local governments' sense of responsibility. Since then, considerable success has been attained. Beginning in late June, the rainy season spread over China. The water levels of the Yangtze River, the Huai Ho, the Chu Chiang, and the Yung-ting Ho have risen many times, sometimes to the danger point.

Except for several areas along the Huai Ho which have been considerably damaged by flood waters and the 20,000 mou of paddy fields along the An-tz'u highway near the Yung-ting Ho which have been flooded by the rising water, all other areas have passed through this ordeal peacefully. It is possible that the guarantee made by the Ministry of Water Works will be realized, when it says that of the 100 million mou of land which were flooded last year, 70 million mou certainly will not be flooded again this year.

With regard to the irrigation program, it is possible that the work planned for 1950 will be completed. The construction of canals, especially in the Northeast, will permit an increase of 2 million mou of paddy fields. It is possible that the surveying, exploratory, and planning work for the Yung-ting Ho reservoir, one of the basic construction projects, will be completed in 1950.

Are there any shortcomings in this year's flood control and irrigation work? We should admit that there are shortcomings in planning as well as in execution. In particular, the plan did not emphasize the Huai Ho area in northern Anhwei Province. The money and manpower devoted to this area were not sufficient. Enough attention was given to the main Huai Ho, but not enough attention was given to the dredging and drainage of the many other rivers in that area. The main dikes had been repaired; but many branch dikes had been ignored.

From late June on, there was heavy rainfall in both the upper and lower parts of the Huai Ho. The rainfall reached 499 millimeters from June 27 to July 16. The water level of the Huai Ho at Cheng-yang-k'uan is higher than that in 1949 and is even higher than the water level in 1931. As a result, large areas are flooded, and the situation is probably more serious than the situation in 1949. Of course, in a large area like this, where the system of water control has been seriously neglected in the past, it cannot be expected that the job can be well done in 1-2 years.

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