

of the State Family Planning Commission, who boasted that "between 1970 and 1979 the birth rate of the PRC came down from 33.59 to 17.90 per thousand, a decrease of 46.7%. The natural growth rate dropped from 25.95 to 11.7 per thousand, a decrease of 54.9% . . . from 1970 up to the present [1983], a total of 79 million births have been averted." However, as one demographic specialist from the Population Council reports, "the old birth and death rates of the '50's are widely suspected as being too low, which means that China's 'progress' in reducing fertility and mortality rates in subsequent years may actually be underestimated."

'China 2000' for population control

Official sources cited in the *Beijing Review* have declared that the "optimum population level" for China is between 650 and 700 million and that this goal should be achieved by 2080. China intends to keep her population close to the present 1.2 billion figure by the end of the century. Thus, some of Peking's population reduction enthusiasts plan to reduce the population by over 500 million over an 80 year period. The one-child policy alone will not achieve that goal. For that particular type of slaughter they have called in the experts, like *Global 2000* author Gerald Barney, who was in-

'Appropriate technology' for China's birth control

While there are a number of very highly respected physicians in China's medical facilities, this handful of doctors, trained in the West, cannot produce a modern health-care delivery system for a country of 1 billion people. So China goes on with its essentially primary health-care program, with the birth-control delivery system built right in. Mao Tse-tung's "barefoot doctor brigades" allowed each village to select one of its peasant peers to be trained as a health-care worker. These peasants participate in health-care programs by inserting Intra-Uterine Devices (IUDs), delivering babies, and performing induced abortion by vacuum aspiration methods.

According to the minister of health, each of China's 2,000 counties (each with approximately 400,000 to 600,000 people) has its own general hospital, anti-epidemic station, and maternal- and child-health hospital; 55,000 communes (with anywhere from 15,000 to 50,000 people each), or about 90%, have their own health centers; and about 700,000, or 90%, of the nation's production brigades (each with up to 3,000 workers) have their own co-operative medical centers. Because it is impossible to allocate a fully trained medical doctor to each village, a barefoot doctor or paramedic is placed within walking distance of every citizen. If you are not too sick to walk to see your paramedic, you might die waiting—there are approximately 600 citizens for each paramedic!

The number of IUDs in place in China far exceeds the total for the rest of the world. Roughly 7 in every 10 IUD users are Chinese. The most popular model with the Chinese officials, for obvious reasons, is the modified Ota ring, which can only be removed with a fine metal hook.

The Chinese were early advocates of vacuum aspira-

tion method of abortion and carried out the first clinical evaluations of the method in the 1950s. "Appropriate technology" was applied and equipment designed to meet the specific needs of rural practitioners without well-equipped clinics. A 1964 innovation was based on the traditional Chinese "cupping" therapy. The technician produced a vacuum by throwing a lighted match into a bottle containing alcohol and quickly corking the bottle. Later, a foot-operated pump was developed, small in size and of simple construction, so that barefoot doctors could perform abortions in the rural areas.

Experiments reminiscent of the Nazis

Besides research in indigenous plants with abortifacient properties, the Chinese have discovered that gossypol, a chemical derivative from cottonseed, can reduce male sperm counts. Study on the male pill started in 1980 with the Chinese Academy of Medicine, in conjunction with the Rockefeller Foundation, with funding in part from the U.N. Fund for Population Activities. The Chinese want to develop a pill that can be taken by men or women, so that the husband and wife can alternate taking the pill and thus "share any health risks."

The most outrageous research began in 1964 when the Chinese began to explore another method of male contraception: thermal treatment of the testes with hot baths, microwaves, laser beams, or supersonic radiation to suppress the normal growth of the sperm. Animal experimentation and clinical trials in more than 10 provinces have shown "promising" results. Hunan researchers found that exposing testes to temperatures of 42 to 43 degrees centigrade (about 107-8 degrees F) for 15 minutes daily for one to two weeks suppressed the spermatogenesis for three to six months. While Hitler tried x-rays to sterilize women prisoners, the Chinese population-reduction enthusiasts are trying blasts of microwaves three or four times daily on men to reduce their sperm growth.