

not just one or two years to finish it.

On the environmental issues, we have conducted many studies on almost all issues relating to environmental problems. We know that the project will have environmental problems. We are fully aware of that, and we are going to take care of them.

We know there are some aspects relating to environmental problems, such as that some fish are really endangered, and we are going to take care of that. For example, the Gezhouba project has been finished. It is 40 kilometers downstream. With the Gezhouba project, we had a problem relating to the Chinese sturgeon. They have a special way of life. They spawn in the upper part of the river, and the small fish swim down to the East Sea, and then return upstream to spawn. That

is their life cycle. Because we closed the river with the dam, this fish cannot return upstream to spawn. We carried out a study of the sturgeon, and now artificially breed the Chinese sturgeon. Now we have solved the problem, without endangering the species.

We have learned that this is a proper way to treat this sturgeon, because we have successfully artificially bred the fish; but the environmentalists claim that this sturgeon is not the original sturgeon—they say that, it is just like a monkey you keep in a cage. I say that we have no way to avoid doing that; otherwise, we would have to put ourselves in a cage.

[Archeological excavations ongoing in the Three Gorges region of the Yangtze River have unearthed at least 10 important relics of ancient Chinese culture. Most of the tombs, build-

What the Three Gorges Project will accomplish

The Three Gorges Project is being built by the China Yangtze Three Gorges Project Development Corporation, a state-run enterprise directly under the State Council of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese National People's Congress made the final decision to build the Three Gorges Project in April 1992. In the low-water period during 1993-94, the Phase I coffer dam was completed, and excavation for the diversion channel begun. In December 1994, the main job, concrete placement, was launched, beginning the construction of the project itself. The planned overall construction period for the main project is 17 years. The navigation structures and first group of units are to be inaugurated in the eleventh year of construction. Total cost of the project is estimated at 50.09 billion yuan (roughly \$6 billion), in 1993 values.

When completed, the dam will be 2,354 meters long, and its maximum height will be 175 meters.

The project is located on the Yangtze River, which, at 6,300 kilometers long and with an annual water runoff of some 960 billion cubic meters, is China's largest river and the third largest river in the world. The project site is at Sandouping, in the middle section of the Xilin Gorge, below which the river flows into a broad alluvial plain, where the slower-flowing water deposits the silt brought from upstream, creating a serious danger of floods in this Jingjiang section of the river. The vulnerable area is inhabited by 15 million people. Because the reservoir will inundate about 28,750 hectares of land, it will be necessary to relocate up to 1 million people from 19 counties and cities in

Sichuan and Hubei provinces. Most will be resettled in areas of their home counties. The *Implementation Program of the Three Gorges Project* states that "it is proper that the development-oriented resettlement policy is adopted, instead of the compensation operation of the past, i.e., the resettlement should be combined organically with economic development of that area."

Flood control: Currently, in the Jingjiang section of the Yangtze River, protected by dikes, flood control capacity is only about 600-700,000 cubic meters, which is insufficient. Sufficient expansion of control capacity through extension of the dikes is impossible. When completed, the Three Gorges Project reservoir will have a total storage capacity of 39.3 billion cubic meters, with flood control storage of 22.1 billion cubic meters.

Flood disasters regularly strike the Yangtze Valley. In 1870, some 300,000 people were drowned; subsequent floods killed 145,000 people in 1931, 40,000 in 1954, and 30,000 in 1959.

Electricity: The Three Gorges Hydropower Station, when completed, with a total installed capacity of 18,200 megawatts, will be the largest hydroelectric project in the world. Power houses, consisting of 26 units, will be located on both the right and left sides of the dam spillway. It will generate 84.7 billion kilowatt-hours a year, the equivalent of burning 50 million tons of raw coal, and transmit 2,000 MW a year to Sichuan province, and 8,000 MW to eastern and central China.

Navigation: The project includes construction of a double-lane, five-step flight lock and one-step vertical shiplift. When the project is complete, 10,000-ton boats will be able to sail upriver to the city of Chongqing from Wuhan. Annual shipping capacity on the Yangtze will increase to 50 million tons, up from the current 10 million tons, and transport costs will be cut 35-37%.