

on the whole world instead of merely the region. It conduces not only to their respective economic development, but also to peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region and the world at large; and it serves as the foundation for political diversity in the world. We can predict that the mutually beneficial cooperative relations between China and the ASEAN will be more dynamic and vibrant in the days ahead.

### **Address to the IMF meeting**

*From Li Peng's speech to the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, in Hongkong on Sept. 23.*

. . . The just-concluded Fifteenth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party is an extremely important meeting at the turn of the century. It is a meeting building on the past and preparing for the future. The main message I bring to you today, is that the Congress has identified the Deng Xiaoping Theory as our guiding ideology, after drawing upon the experience of the past two decades' reform, opening-up, and so-

cialist modernization drive; that in control of the situation, our central collective leadership, with President Jiang Zemin at the core, is strong and enjoys the support of the whole party and the entire population; that China's political situation is stable; that the reform and opening-up policies will not only remain unchanged, but also continue to develop; and the cause pioneered by Deng Xiaoping will not only go on, but make even greater progress.

The period from now to the end of the first decade of the next century, during which we must properly fulfill two tasks, is crucial for China's modernization. One is to establish a rather complete structure of socialist market economy, and the other is to maintain a sustained, rapid, and sound development of our national economy. It is expected that in the last few years of this century, the Chinese economy will maintain a growth rate of over 8%, while inflation will be kept under 5%. In the first ten years of the next century, the Chinese economy will continue to grow at around 7%. So, with effort for another three to four decades, that is, by the middle of the next century, China will achieve all-around modernization

## **Rubin: China and U.S. will shape the future**

Relations between the "two great nations," China and the United States, will shape the future, U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin told students at the People's University in Beijing on Sept. 25. After describing how the world economy is now global, and then paying homage to the IMF-World Bank, Rubin said: "In the midst of this new world stand China and the United States, the largest developing nation on Earth and the largest developed industrial nation on Earth. In the not too distant future, our two countries will have the largest economies in the world. As such, it is absolutely critical that we build strong and stable relations between our two countries."

Rubin discussed the need for China to make economic reforms such as "diversifying ownership" of state-owned enterprises. He then noted the role of governments in shaping an economy: "Market forces trigger competition which unleashes private initiative and fosters economic growth. There is no question that there are some tasks that government must undertake, because the market simply will not or cannot do them effectively."

He told the students that "the United States has an enormous interest in a successful China," and that he expects joint cooperation "on bilateral issues, . . . the issues

of a global economy, and . . . leadership on the issues of the post-Cold War world." In this regard, Rubin said, one reason he was in China is to co-chair this year's meeting of the United States-China Joint Economic Committee, which promotes dialogue between economic experts from each country.

Rubin concluded his remarks to the students with a vision of cultural optimism for the future of building their nation. "My visit to China has given me an enormous appreciation for China's greatness as well as for the challenges it faces. In the last two days, a very brief visit, but my first to China, I have been fortunate to have been able to observe elements of both China's dynamic present and its magnificent past." He described the "extraordinary terracotta army dating from the Qin dynasty," in the city of Xian which he visited, and then remarked, "As a citizen of a country with a history of only a few hundred years, though a history of which we are very proud, I was impressed to observe a history that is a few thousand years old." Rubin described a modern factory in Xian where he saw the Chinese modern economy in action. "In . . . one brief trip to Xian, I have seen both the old and the new in China, the glory of its past and the enormous potential for its future." He ended by telling the students that it is obvious to him that "the centrality of education" has been a source of China's strength. As the leaders of tomorrow, he challenged the students to "consider what you can do for China at this moment of enormous importance and . . . promise in China's history."