

II. SUMMARY REPORTS

A. Changchun City, CHINA

1. Summary of Conditions.

Changchun City is the capital of Jilin Province. In the past 40 years it has grown from just under 500,000 to over 6.4 million. Administrative boundaries have changed dramatically over the past five decades. Like many Chinese cities, its administrative boundaries now include a large amount of rural area. The total area of the administrative unit is 18,881 square kilometers, but the main four urban wards extend over only 1,116 square kilometers. The four urban wards hold just over 2.1 million people, while the suburban area has about 4.3 million people. Population densities thus vary remarkably. In the four urban districts there are 1932 persons per square kilometer, while in the much larger suburban districts the density is only 242 persons per square kilometer.

The population growth of the main urban districts over the past four decades reflects much of China's social and demographic dynamics. From 1949 to 1960 the city more than doubled in population from 460,000 to 1.2 million. In this period both high fertility and in-migration fueled the growth. For the next ten years the population oscillated around 1.2 million, declining with the economic distress of the early 1960s, and with the out-migration of the cultural revolution at the end of the 1960s. From 1971 it began to grow again, despite declining fertility, and experienced an average annual growth rate of 2.5 percent for almost the next two decades. By 1990, it had reached 2.1 million, and has grown only very slowly (0.7 percent per year) since then. Today its stability comes from very low fertility and mortality (7.6 EBR² and 5.2 EDR) and lower migration. The overall 1 percent growth rate of the past few years is made up by about .25 percent natural increase and an estimated .75 percent in-migration.

Population Dynamics. The birth and death rates of the city follow those of China as a whole over the past four decades, showing one of the most rapid demographic transitions the world has ever seen. In 1949 when the statistical series begins, the crude birth rate was greater than 30 and the death rate had already declined substantially to about 10. Both birth and death rates actually rose for a few years. The death rate rose to just over 15 in 1951, while the birth rate rose steadily to 50 in 1954. The death rate then continued a steady downward trend, except for a few years in the early 1960, when economic distress and famine plagued much of China. After that period of distress, the crude death rate settled at about 5-6, and has remained there until today. The birth rate, on the other hand oscillated from 50 down to 30 in 1961, then back to 47 in 1963. From that point it declined to 21 in 1966, rose to 26 in 1970, and then began its steady and rapid decline. After China adopted a vigorous family planning program in 1972, the crude birth rate dropped rapidly from 23 to 12 in just three years. It remained around 15 throughout the 1980s, and has fallen drastically to just over 7 in 1992.

2. This is the reported level, but it appears far too low and may be a typographic or other

The changing birth and death rates have eventually brought a gradual aging of the population, and a radical change in the dependency ratio. The rapid decline in fertility, combined with in-migration, normally concentrated in the working aged population has given the city a great predominance of population in the 15-64 age-range. For the past ten years more than 70 percent of the population is in this working age, while only just over 20 percent are under 15. The aged are beginning to grow in numbers and proportions. While this growth is slow at the present from 4.4 to 5.0 percent 1982-90, it is expected to rise rapidly in the near future and to present a major problem for the city, as for all of China.

Quality of Life. The objective indicators of quality of life have increased considerably. The crude death rate has fallen dramatically, indicating also a decline in the infant mortality rate and an increase in life expectancy. Education and literacy rates have increased dramatically, so that now illiteracy is only a minor condition concentrated in the population over 60 years of age. Although housing remains a problem, housing space has increased steadily from 4 to 6 square meters per capita in just the last ten years. Access to clean water rose from 64 to 90 percent in the same period, and today 85 percent of the households enjoy individual indoor water service. Medical and health services are generally available to the great majority of the population. Finally, the economic changes of the past decade have brought to Changchun city the material consumer products enjoyed by higher income economies. In 1975 already 75 percent of the households had black and white television sets, while 17 percent had color television, and only one percent had refrigerators. By 1992 less than half had a black and white television, 70 percent had a color television, and almost half of the households owned a refrigerator.

2. Problems and Projects.

The major problems today appear to be transportation, housing and urban pollution. The population has grown more rapidly than the number of buses, and the city's transportation is in great need of development. Although housing development has kept ahead of the population growth, it remains a problem for the city.

Pollution is a problem that grew rapidly with urbanization and industrialization, but is also a problem that has been addressed with some success. As a major industrial city, Changchun produced great a amount of gas, water and solid wastes. Industrial gaseous wastes increased greatly until 1987, when treatment facilities came on line, and the gaseous wastes began to decline, while the treated wastes increased from 10 to over 20 percent. The same happened with industrial water wastes. In addition, a recycling program increased the amount of wastes being recycled.