

CONFIDENTIAL
22 SEPT 93

Status report on the Communist latinization of Chinese, with implications for intelligence practices.

THE PROGRESS OF PINYIN

If the Communists have their way in China, the age-old characters of the Chinese language will finally join the Egyptian and Mayan hieroglyphics and the more recently buried Vietnamese ideographs in oblivion. Like Kemal Ataturk's a few decades ago, the Communists' effort to remold the nation includes a drive for drastic changes in a language ill suited to science and technology, to education of the masses, to the communications of a directed economy, to their international purposes. Much of the heritage that was dear to old China, obnoxious to the new, will also be buried with the old language: future generations of school children, taught from latinized textbooks, will not be able to read the undesirable ancient classics. The gentility of the cursive characters will be replaced by the classlessness of proletarian typefaces.

The language reform program of the Communists is a three-pronged drive. The first spearhead, aimed at the simplification of Chinese characters, has made the most progress. Some 2,000 characters are now accepted in the simplified form and used in textbooks and newspapers. Even family surnames are now shortened, although when General Hsiao Hua of the Chinese People's Liberation Army began using the short form of his surname in public dispatches instead of the ample there was much comment among scholars of the old school.

A second aspect of the language reform is the promotion of the Peking dialect as *putunghua*, the "common tongue" or national language. The Nationalists had introduced a *kuoyu* or "national speech" that selected from both northern and southern pronunciations, adopting for example the pronunciation *shui* used south of the Yangtse for the Peking (then Peiping) *ju*, "auspicious." Now it is again *ju* in the *putunghua* officially accepted for use in schools, broadcasting, etc.

Pinyin

Evolution of Chinese Writing

Shell and
Bone
Characters
B.C. 1700-1400



Ta-chün
B.C. 776 -A.D. 250



Hsiao-chün
B.C. 250-A.D. 25



Li-shu
A.D. 25-220



Kai-shu
A.D. 380- present
day



Current Simplified
Forms



Meaning

servant

to fish

turtle

chicken

horse

(From Tao-tai Hsia's *China's Language Reforms*, Yale Institute of Far Eastern Languages, New Haven, 1956, p. 106.)

The third drive, the most revolutionary, the most significant for intelligence, and the one with which this paper is concerned, is that for *latinhua*, latinization, and is officially known as Hanyu Pinyin Fangan, Program for the Chinese Language in Phonetics. Pinyin, "phonetics," has come to denote the particular system of representing spoken Chinese in Latin letters—determined by the arbitrary values, including tonal qualities, given them—that is now being propagandized by the regime. Ostensibly the system is intended only to provide an aid for learning the standard (Peking) pronunciation of Chinese characters, a purpose which has so far governed most of its uses. The long-range aim, however, seems to envisage the Chinese coming to use only Pinyin and eventually dropping the characters. Wu Yu-chang, chairman of the Chinese Language Reform Committee, who as a refugee in the Soviet Union in the early days saw the Pinyin system being developed by philologists and who feels confident that China's millions will some day be using it in their daily work, specified as much in 1955:

Traditional Chinese writing is the product of feudalism. It has become a tool for the oppression of the proletariat and a stumbling block to mass education. It is not suited for the modern era. China must *replace* its outmoded character system with Pinyin.

Intelligence-wise, the impact of Pinyin is already being felt. Biographic registers and other filing systems organized by character sequence or according to the Wade-Giles alphabet must recognize and convert the new forms found in source materials. Plant names and trademarks are appearing in Pinyin. Pinyin signs have been put up on public buildings, streets, railway stations, and road posts. There are indications that as soon as place names can be standardized Pinyin maps may be issued. Government organs have already announced "draft" lists of Pinyin provincial and county names.¹

¹A list published on June 15, 1958, by the Peking *Wen-tzu Kai-ko* (*Language Reform*) carried this explanation: "A total of 2,128 names of places on the county level and above are contained in this list; including those on Taiwan. The basis for this list is the publication *A Draft Gazetteer of the Administrative Division of the Chinese People's Republic* published by the Ministry of Interior in December 1955 and revised according to various State Council directives on administrative changes in China issued up to September 1957." The *Wen-tzu Kai-ko* (*Wenzi Gazette* in Pinyin) is the official organ of the Chinese Language Reform Committee of the State Council.

Pinyin

Development and Introduction of the System

The Latin alphabet used in Pinyin consists of the identical 26 letters used in English, except that the *v* is reserved merely for quotations from other languages and incidental special uses. Provision is made for an umlaut and other diacritical marks, but these are dropped in common usage. Several letters and diphthongs are pronounced quite differently than in English—*c* like “ts,” *q* like “ch,” *x* like “hs,” *z* like “tz,” *zh* like “dj.” The chart following gives some examples of the wide variations between Pinyin and the Wade-Giles romanization accepted as official by the U.S. Government. The influence of Cyrillic is evident in the random samples listed at the end.

Wade-Giles	Pinyin	English Phonetic Approximation
<i>Initials</i>		
cha	zha	jah
ch'a	cha	chah
chia	jia	jeeah
ch'ia	qia	cheeah
chih	zhi	jihr
ch'ih	chi	cheeh
chin	jin	jean
ch'in	qin	chean
chou	zhou	joe
ch'ou	chou	cho
chu	zhu	joo
ch'u	chu	choo
chu <i>umlaut</i>	ju	jooh
ch'u <i>umlaut</i>	qu	chooh
hsi	xi	she
i	yi	yee
jan	ran	run
kai	gai	guy
k'ai	kai	kye
pang	bang	bahng
p'ang	pang	pahng
ta	da	dah
t'a	ta	tah
tsa	za	jah
ts'a	ca	chah
tzu	zi	jzu
tz'u	ci	tsuh

Wade-Giles	Pinyin	English Phonetic Approximation
<i>Finals</i>		
lien	lian	len
lung	long	loong
ch'ung	ch'long	choong
hsieh	xie	sheh
mieh	mie	meh
<i>Romanized Cyrillic</i>		
zhan	zhang	chang
zhen'	zhen	chen
tsan	zang	tsang
tszen	zeng	tseng
chen'	chen	ch'en
chzhan	zhang	ch'ang

The Russians, as a matter of fact, took an early initiative in latinizing Chinese² and participated in developing precursors of the Pinyin. In 1928 the Chinese Scientific Research Institute, then part of the Communist Academy in Moscow, proposed that a Latin alphabet, rather than the more difficult Cyrillic, be used for Chinese. In 1929 Chu Ch'iu-pai, a Chinese Communist leader studying in the Soviet Union, and the Russian philologist Kolokov devised a Latin-letter system for Chinese. In 1931 a conference in Vladivostok attended by Wu Yu-chang, Lin Po-ch'u, Hsiao San, Wang Hsiao-pao, and Soviet scholars E. H. Draizhova and B. Ya. Starogyd drafted a 28-letter latinhua alphabet.³

² Not that they pioneered the alphabetization. The possibilities were considered as early as the 16th and 17th centuries by philologists of other nations. The Manchu government gave some thought to an alphabet in 1894 when echoes of the Meiji Restoration in Japan reached the mainland. During the Literary Renaissance in China after World War I, Dr. Hu Shih and others introduced *Pai-hua* (colloquial Chinese) and a system of phonetics which enjoyed some popularity. In 1926 official sanction was given to the alphabetization of Chinese when the National Language Romanization Research Committee organized by Dr. Lin Yu-t'ang and others introduced the *Gwoyeu Romatzyh* system, which in 1932 was replaced by the *Gwoin Charngyong Tsyhhuay* system promulgated by the Nationalist government. Abroad, the English literary world has long accepted the Wade-Giles system, later modified to become the official U.S. standard, and the newer Yale University system. Missionaries working in Fukien, Taiwan, and Kwangtung have also introduced roman alphabets for previously unwritten local dialects.

³ *Wen-tzu Kai-ko* No. 21, 1959.

Pinyin

With the founding of the People's Republic in 1949 the language problem fell first to a semi-official Chinese Written Language Association and then in 1952 to an official Chinese Written Language Research Committee, which in 1954 was reorganized as the present Chinese Language Reform Committee under the State Council. National conferences held in Peking in October 1955 and February 1956 drafted the Pinyin program, and it was finally approved by the National People's Congress in February 1958.

The Congress prescribed that Pinyin "should initially be used experimentally in normal, middle, and elementary schools in order to gain experience" and "should also be gradually introduced in the publishing field in order to perfect it through use."⁴ The Ministry of Education directed that instruction be started with the 1958 fall semester, and 50,000,000 people are said to have learned Pinyin that year.⁵ An experimental Pinyin newspaper, the *Hanyu Pinyinbao*, edited jointly by the Reform Committee and the Journalism Department of the People's University, began publication on October 12. Wan-jung Hsien in Shansi Province was designated an "experimental farm" to test the use of the new writing and by November 1959 had introduced Pinyin textbooks and was publishing its own Pinyin newspaper.⁶

In January 1959 a Peking meeting of librarians from institutions of higher learning and the Chinese Academy of Sciences called for adopting a uniform filing system based on

⁴ The Congress specified that the Pinyin should be applied also to the minority languages used in frontier provinces like Tsinghai and Sinkiang, both those hitherto lacking any written form and those of the Uighurs, Kazaks, Sibos, and Moslems that used the Arabic alphabet. Reporting on progress in this application, the *Jen-min Jih-pao* of February 10, 1960, wrote that "the plan for standardizing new terms approved by a recent meeting of philologists [in Sinkiang] provides for directly borrowing new terms from the Chinese language . . . Many terms found in Party directives, resolutions, and policy statements have now become common to all nationalities. . . . [This practice] will promote cultural exchange among the nationalities, socialist construction, and the unity of nationalities."

⁵ Peking, *Jen-min Jih-pao*, March 20, 1959.

⁶ Peking, NCNA, May 10, 1960.

Pinyin. The T'ai-yuan board of education has ordered experimental use of Pinyin as the basis for all files of student cards, library books, etc.⁷ Since January 1960 the anti-illiteracy campaign has shifted to promoting the use of Pinyin. In Shansi over 1,200,000 people joined Pinyin study groups, and there was a similar response in Kirin province. The program is now being pursued in 18 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions where *putunghua* is spoken. Visual aids and other devices for teaching Pinyin are sold in all New China Bookstores. In addition to wall charts and flash cards, these include a series of six graded textbooks, dictionaries, and phonograph records.⁸ The standard keyboards of typewriter and teletype machines, the Gregg Shorthand system, the Braille system for the blind, international semaphore signals, etc., have been adapted to Pinyin. Young Pioneers in many parts of China are said to write their letters exclusively in the new alphabet.⁹

“填韵母”答案

- 横列
- 1 文字 改革
 - 3 面貌
 - 6 幸福
 - 8 会话
 - 10 人民 公社

- 直行
- 1 完全
 - 3 拼音
 - 4 字母
 - 5 学习
 - 8 革命
 - 10 姓
 - 15 黄红

W	E	N	Z	I		G	A	I	G	E			
A				I			E						
N			M	I	A	N	M	A	O				
Q			U				I						G
U	P						N	G					U
A	I		X	I	N	G	F	U					A
N	N		U					O					N
			Y	E		H	U	I	H	U	A		C
			I	X				U					H
R	E	N	M	I	N			G	O	N	G	S	H

CROSS-WORD LEARNING AID

In July 1960 the *Shansi Nung-min Pao* (Shansi Farmer) was converted to the use of Pinyin, changing its title to *Shanxi Pinyinbao*.¹⁰ In Peking, the press now supplements the traditional Chinese characters in its mastheads with Pinyin, the

⁷ *Wen-tzu Kai-ko* Nos. 5 and 20, 1959.

⁸ *Jen-min Jih-pao*, April 2, 1960.

⁹ *Wen-tzu Kai-ko* No. 12, 1958.

¹⁰ *Kuang-ming Jih-pao*, July 7, 1960.

Pinyin

well-known *People's Daily* appearing unfamiliarly as *Renmin Ribao*, the old *L'Impartial* as *Dagongbao*.¹¹ In a list of names appearing on page 3 of the August 25, 1960, issue of *Kuangming Jih-pao*, Pinyin was inserted after characters whose pronunciation might be in doubt: the characters for (Chang) I-yuan (1728-3354-3283) were followed by the Pinyin (*Zhang*) *Yiyuan*, that for Chi (8042), a rare Chinese surname, by *Qi*, that for Tai (0086/3141), a national minority in Yunnan Province, which is often mispronounced without vocalization, by the Pinyin *Dai*.

English-speaking foreigners wishing to learn Chinese through the medium of Pinyin are given assistance in a "Language Corner" of *China Reconstructs*, organ of the China Welfare Institute. Abroad, the Soviet Union, whose press immediately hailed the introduction of Pinyin,¹² makes it a required course for all students specializing in Chinese studies at Moscow University and uses it in Boarding School No. 11 and other schools teaching Chinese.¹³ In North Korea, the full text of the Chinese Pinyin program as proclaimed in 1958 was carried by *Korean Linguistics*, issued by the Korean Academy of Sciences. In March 1960 a Japanese goodwill mission under Zenmaro Toki, Chairman of the National Language Commission of Japan, visited China to study the language reform

¹¹ Other new names in the capital are *Congren Ribao* (Daily Worker), *Beijing Ribao* (Peking Daily News), and *Guangming Ribao* (Kuangming Daily News). In Shanghai there is *Xinwen Ribao* (Daily News) and *Jiefang Ribao* (Liberation Daily); in Canton, *Guangzhou Ribao* (Kuang-chou Daily News), *Yangcheng Wanbao* (Canton Evening News), and *Nanfang Ribao* (Southern Daily News). Further afield are *Qingdao Ribao* (Tsingtao Daily News), *Harbin Ribao* (Harbin Daily News), *Qinghai Ribao* (Tsinghai Daily News), *Xizang Ribao* (Tibet Daily News), *Neimenggu Ribao* (Inner Mongolia Daily News), and *Yili Ribao* (Ili Daily News of Sinkiang).

¹² In 1958 articles on the Pinyin system were carried by *Izvestia*, March 23rd; *Krasnaya Zvezda*, June 24th; *Sovietskaya Moldavia*, June 12th; *Moskva Pravda*, March 13th; *Problemy Vostokovedeniya*, No. 2; and *Sovremennyy Vostok*, No. 8.

¹³ Russian words are also transliterated into Pinyin for the convenience of the Chinese: *Kenimuningong* for Kremlin Palace, *Nijita Henuxiaofu* for Nikita Khrushchev, *Liening* for Lenin, *Kitayi* for China, *Kamuunizimu* for Communism, *situjiante* for student, *wuqiqli* for teacher, *maliqi* for child. (*Wen-tzu Kai-ko* Nos. 12 and 22, 1959.)

PINYIN FELICITATIONS FROM A SOVIET SCHOLAR ON THE DECENNIAL OF THE
REPUBLIC

1959 nian 10 yue 28 ri.

Sh. Pingqiang
Zong yuwa (Soviet scholar)
Zhou Songyan
S. I. Gode (Czechologist)

Zuowei Zhongguo wenzhi gaige gongzuo de lao gongzuoerrenyuan,
kandaole muguan Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo shi nian lai de wenzhi
gaige gongzuo de weida chengjiu; hanzi jianhua fang'an de shun-
li tuxing, jue daduoshu zhong-xiaoxue he shifan xuexiao de yuwen
ke dou yi shiyong putonghua jinxin jiaoxue guan-guo ye you 5000
wan xiaoxuesheng kaishi xuexi pinyin zimu — zhen shi de women
huanxin guwu! Zhexie chengjiu shi gen Dang de lingdao he guan-
hui shi fenbukai de.
Wenzhi Gaige zazhi shang suo fabiao de youguan putonghua
pingbihui de chengji, bie shi women gaixing.
Guan-guo Renmin Dabiao Dahui pizhan de Han yu pinyin
fang'an dui women jiaoxue gongzuo, bie shi zai xuesheng de fa-
yin fangmian, shi yige qiangyouda gongji. Bifang shuo: Mosike
Daxue Dongfang Tayan Xueyuan bianxie de Han yu jiaokeshu li
jiu guangfan shiyongzhe zhexie pinyin zimu.
Women xiangxin Zhongguo Wenzhi Gaige Weiyuanhui zai Dang
de lingdao xia zai luiguang putonghua, xiaomie wenming, jinbu
tugao renmin de wenhua shuiping, ba lamen jiaoyucheng shenhui-
zhuyi de jiji jianshe zhexie zhongda renwu jiang dadao geng
weida chengjiu.
Dang Weidai Shiyue Shehuizhuyi Geming sishi er zhou zhiyi
xiang Zhongguo Wenzhi Gaige de lao gongzuoerrenyuan he xin gan-
bu zhi reide tongzhi jingli!

Pinyin

program.¹⁴ In India and Pakistan, however, Moslems are reported angry at the Pinyin plot to wipe out the cultural heritage of the Moslems in Sinkiang.¹⁵

Pinyin in Science and Technology

The Chinese Academy of Sciences has created a special committee to study the application of Pinyin to the field of Chinese science. Junior researchers organized Pinyin classes in the science center at Chung-kuan Ts'un near Peking, beginning in June 1958 with an enrollment of over 600.¹⁶ It is expected that Pinyin will facilitate the machine translation of scientific articles. Pinyin words have been proposed that often approximate foreign words in use in the different sciences.¹⁷ Scientific and technical periodicals carry such Pinyin titles as *Kexue Tongbao* (Science Bulletin), and *Kexue Xinwen* (Science News).¹⁸ Although *Scientia Sinica* still uses its old Latin title, it lists the names of its editorial committee in Pinyin.¹⁹

In November 1959 the Geographical Transliteration Committee of the State Bureau of Surveying and Cartography announced draft regulations for the transliteration of minority

¹⁴ Tokyo, *Akahata*, March 23, 1960.

¹⁵ *New York Times*, February 28, 1960.

¹⁶ *Wen-tzu Kai-ko*, August 30, 1958.

¹⁷ In chemistry, *zirkon* for zirconium, *krogenin* for cryogenium, *karat* for carat, *karbakol* for carbacholum, *krom* for chromium, *kasin* for quassin, *kinamin* for quinamine, etc. In medicine, *naomoyan* for meningitis, *guanjie huanong* for swelling of the joints, *jixing* for acute, *manzing* for contagious, etc. Some space-age terms are *xingji feixing* (interplanetary travel), *yuzhou huojian* (space rocket), *yuanzineng feiji* (atomic airplane), *qianshui kechuan* (submarine passenger ship), *jiatong* (communications).

¹⁸ Others are *Diqiu Wuli Xuezhao* (*Acta Geophysica Sinica*), *Qixianzue Yibao* (*Meteorological Translation Journal*), *Dizhi Yu Kantan* (*Geology and Prospecting*), *Wuli Yibao* (*Physics Translation Journal*), *Dian Shijie* (*Electricity World*). These Pinyin titles are now used in Moscow's *Referativnyy Zhurnal* (*Journal of Abstracts*). *Referativnyy Zhurnal - Khimiya*, No. 16 for 1960, for example, carried #65998 *Zaozhi Gongye* and #66017 *Huaxue Tongbao*.

¹⁹ Some of these men are Ma Da You (Maa Dah-you), Qian Xue Sen (H. S. Tsien), Ye Du Pei (Chu Thay Yap), and Zhang Xi Jun (H. C. Chang). The unsystematic old names in parentheses point up the potential value of Pinyin in providing a standard system of romanization for the storage and retrieval of biographic data.

nationality place names into Pinyin.²⁰ Pinyin spellings for the provinces and regions of China have been standardized according to the chart on page A46. Moreover, committees are at work standardizing Pinyin spellings of geographical names for the entire world.²¹ These groups face the problem of

²⁰ In brief summary as follows (from the Peking *Ti-li Chih-shih*, "Geographical Knowledge," No. 11, 1959):

1. All Han place names should be transliterated according to the Hanyu Program for Pinyin. For example, instead of the Chuang pronunciation *Guangsai*, the Peking pronunciation *Guangxi* should be used for the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region.

2. If the pronunciation of a place name is not the same in Han and a minority language, the Pinyin transliteration should generally follow the Han pronunciation. But the pronunciation of the minority nationality may be accepted in special cases. For example, use *Urumqi* instead of *Wu-lu-mu-ch'i* and *Xishuangbanna* instead of *Sipsuangbanna*.

3. Use Han place names such as *Ballingmiao*, but add the native name, *Bat Halga*, below.

4. Where more than one minority language is prevalent, use the officially accepted language. For example, in Sinkiang use the Uighur *Tashkurgan* instead of the Tadjik *Warshide*.

5. Use the dominant minority pronunciation instead of the local minority pronunciation. For example, in the Xishuangbanna Dai nationality area in Yunnan province, a river is locally called *Namkinli*, but in the standard Dai Yunjinghong language it is the *Namkindi*. The latter should be adopted. For a certain town in Inner Mongolia the name *Huh Hot* should be used instead of the local pronunciations *Hoh Hot*, *Goh Got*, and *Hohe Hota*.

²¹ Some of the draft transliterations in *Yameilijia* (the Americas) are *Baxi* for Brazil, *Jianada* for Canada, *Guba* for Cuba, *Moxige* for Mexico, *Banama* for Panama, and *Bilu* for Peru. In *Afeilijia* (Africa): *Kamailong* for Cameroons, *Jiana* for Ghana, *Qieniya* for Kenya, *Gangguo* for Congo, *Madajastjia* for Madagascar, *Molugge* for Morocco, *Aiji* for Egypt, *Duoge* for Togo, *Sanggetba* for Zanzibar, and *Aerjiliya* for Algeria. In *Yaxiya* (Asia): *Jianpusai* for Cambodia, *Xilan* for Ceylon, *Chaoxian* for Korea, *Felubin* for the Philippines, *Yinduniziya* for Indonesia, *Riben* for Japan, *Taiguo* for Thailand, and *Yuenan* for Vietnam. In *Ouluoba* (Europe): *Bilishi* for Belgium, *Deyizhi* for Germany, *Xila* for Greece, *Falanxi* for France, *Yidali* for Italy, *Nansilafu* for Yugoslavia, *Heland* for the Netherlands, *Aodili* for Austria, *Ruidian* for Sweden, and the east European *Baojialiya* for Bulgaria, *Jiekeshiluofako* for Czechoslovakia, *Xiongyali* for Hungary, *Polan* for Poland, *Luomaniya* for Rumania, and *Aerbaniya* for Albania. Some geographical designations in *Sulian* (the Soviet Union) are *Mosko* for Moskva, *Gruzia* for Grusinskaya, *Hasak* for Kazakhskaya, *Batoros* for Belorusskaya, and *Oros* for Rossiyskaya.

Pinyin

WADE-GILES	PINYIN	WADE-GILES	PINYIN
Anhwei	Anhui	Kwangsi	Guangxi
Chekiang	Zhejiang	Kwangtung	Guangdong
Fukien	Fujian	Liaoning	Liaoning
Heilungkiang ..	Heilongjiang	Ningshia	Ningxia
Honan	Henan	Shansi	Shanxi
Hopei	Hebei	Shensi	Shānxi
Hunan	Hunan	Shantung	Shandong
Hupeh	Hubei	Sinkiang	Xinjiang
Nei-meng-ku ..	Neimenggu	Szechwan	Sichuan
Kansu	Gansu	Taiwan	Taiwan
Kirin	Jilin	Tibet	Xizang
Kiangsi	Jiangxi	Tsinghai	Qinghai
Kiangsu	Jiangsu	Yunnan	Yunnan
Kweichow	Guizhou		

whether to pinyinize geographical designations according to the local pronunciation or according to international usage, whether Paris for example is properly Pah-ri' or Pair'-iss. One writer contended that Dublin should be listed as *Balia-keli*, Pinyin for the Gaelic Baile Atha Cliath.²²

Pinyin in Communications

The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs promptly issued an order for the adoption of the newly promulgated system in the postal and telegraphic service. The text of the order with an explanation of the regulations governing the use of Pinyin is given in the September 30, 1958, issue of *Wen-tzu Kai-ko*.²³

²² *Wen-tzu Kai-ko* No. 4, 1959.

²³ In summary:

1. Pursuant to the decision of the fifth session of the First National People's Congress made on February 11, 1958, telegraph messages may be transmitted in Pinyin.
2. The 26 letters of the Pinyin alphabet will be used. A *y* may be inserted before a *u* to indicate an umlaut.
3. Pinyin may be used for all categories of domestic messages.
4. Pinyin messages in secret code may be transmitted only by military and government organizations and organizations granted permission by the government.
5. Only messages written in approved Pinyin and clear text will be accepted for telegraphic transmission.
6. Designations of telegraph offices and message rates will be those now in current use.
7. Pinyin telegrams may be addressed to telegraph registration numbers, *youxiang* (post office boxes), or *dianhua haoma* (telephone num-

Pinyin traffic was initiated on a trial basis on October 1, 1958, National Anniversary Day, to and from Peking, Shanghai, and Chungking. The Shanghai Post and Telecommunication Bureau implemented the order of the Ministry by issuing a notice announcing acceptance of Pinyin messages as of October 1, 1958, at all post and telecommunication bureaus.

Wen-tzu Kai-ko (No. 8) of August 1958 carried a model Pinyin message for bank transfers, by which for example the Yuan County Merchandising Company, with account number 2401 at the Provincial Bank, could effect a telegraphic transfer of 10,000 yuan to the provincial authorities. Under the old method the telegram would have read, "(2401) (10,000) (0337-4905-0361-0674-0448-3387) (0064-1874-1421)," with 24 message units and requiring four processing steps. In Pinyin it is simply "(2401) (10,000) Y. X. Gonsi lirun. Jing Qiaoxiao," with only 13 units in clear text requiring no processing. Bank messages could be further simplified by abbreviating the Pinyin words for currency units—*w* for wan (10,000), *q* for qian (thousand), *b* for bai (hundred), *y* for yuan (dollar), *j* for jiao (dime), and *f* for fen (cent).

The national railways are making wide use of Pinyin. The main railway station in the capital has the sign *Beijing Zhan* (Peking Station) across its front entrance. Inside is a *Junren Houcheshi* (Military Personnel Waiting Room). The post office in Peking is marked *Beijingshi Youju*. On October 1, 1959, the Ministry of Railways ordered the serial markings on all rolling stock changed to Pinyin. Open freight cars now

bers). To expedite delivery, the names and addresses of senders and recipients should be backstopped in characters.

8. Pinyin messages may be transmitted in single or connected words. Conversion into characters will be done on request.

9. Five letters or fewer constitute a Pinyin unit and the fee is three cents per unit.

10. Pinyin messages will not be accepted for international traffic; including Hong Kong and Macao.

A supplement to the regulations points out that the official Pinyin spelling of Chinese characters is given in a "Chart of Common Pinyin" issued by the Language Reform Publishing House in May 1958. The supplement also declares that the transmission of domestic messages in secret code is governed by Telegraph Regulation No. 39 and that messages in Pinyin must carry the notation "HY" (Hanyu) to indicate that the message is not in a foreign or minority nationality language. (*Wen-tzu Kai-ko* No. 11, 1958.)

Pinyin

use the designator *C* in place of the old phonetic “x,” closed cars *P*, and coaches *RZ*. Locomotives are designated *DK*, *ET*, and *JF* (Jiefang).²⁴

Discussing the use of Pinyin in railway dispatch work, the staff of the Shanghai Railway Bureau made suggestions for short forms to use for railway traffic. Thus *n* could be used for nien (year), *y* for yue (month), *r* for ri (day), *5c* for wuci (fifth train), *fr* for fahuoren (shipper), *sr* for shouhuoren (consignee), *t* for ton, *d* for dan (picul), etc. It was also suggested that the last letter of a doubtful word be doubled; for example, since “bu” in the message “40t shengtie bufa” could mean either 40 tons of wrought iron *reshipped* or *not shipped*, the latter meaning could be indicated by writing “40t shengtie buufa.”²⁵

On July 1, 1958, railway telegraph offices in the Tsingtao, Weihsien, and Chefoo stations began using Pinyin. In the Tsinan railway bureau over 200 cadres are said to be studying Pinyin part or full time, and it is claimed that eighty percent of the Nanking railway office staff are learning to use Pinyin in their operations.

Communication publications bear titles in Pinyin along with the traditional characters. A common one in every city is the *Dianhua Haobu* (telephone book). Some communications journals are *Luzingjia* (Traveller), *Tiedao Zhoukan* (Railway Weekly), and *Wuxiandian* (Wireless). The latter carries Pinyin sectional headings—*Aihaozhe Xiaozhizuo* (Innovations of the Hobbyists), *Dajiatan* (Everybody's Comments), *Shijie Zhi Chuang* (Window of the World), *Weishemma* (Why?), *Kankan Xiangxiang* (Look and Think), *Wuxiandian Wenda* (Questions and Answers on Radio), and *Duzhe—Zhuozhe—Bianzhe* (Reader—Writer—Editor).²⁶

Pinyin in Military Usage

On June 10, 1960, the General Political Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army directed the armed services to implement an April 22nd decree of the Party Central Committee that Pinyin be universally adopted in training; the armed forces must be unified, it said, and this can be accom-

²⁴ *Wen-tzu Kai-ko* No. 22, 1959.

²⁵ *Wen-tzu Kai-ko* No. 2, 1959.

²⁶ Peking, *Wu-hsien-tien* (Wireless), September 19, 1959.

plished only if a common language is used. All instructors, educational and dramatic personnel, interpreters, and motion picture workers were ordered to become conversant with the new system.²⁷

Even earlier, however, at a Second Cultural Work Conference of the armed forces held in Peking in November 1959, Deputy Director Liu Han of the propaganda section had reported considerable progress in the use of Pinyin in the armed forces: the Shen-yang Military District had early in 1958 ordered all its subordinate military units and training institutions to use Pinyin; the Navy had adopted it in July for visual communications like semaphore and flash signals; most military schools were using it. Troops from Fukien, Kwangtung, Kwangsi, Chekiang, and Kiangsu, who usually have strong local accents, were beginning to learn correct Chinese through the phonetic writing.²⁸

In 1960 a concerted effort was being made to teach recruits Pinyin, thereby simultaneously improving their vocabulary and pronunciation. It is said to require usually some 30 to 40 hours of instruction. Book I of an anti-illiteracy textbook series being published by the Army's General Political Department is written in Pinyin, and other military publications transliterate their titles and difficult words in the text.²⁹ Illiterate recruits for communication battalions from Kwangtung province and the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region are said to have learned Pinyin in three or four months with the help of teaching aids like "Pinyin poker" and "military termi-

²⁷ *Jen-min Jih-pao*, June 11, 1960.

²⁸ *Wen-tzu Kai-ko* No. 23, 1959.

²⁹ The Pinyin titles of some important military publications are *Jiefangjun Bao* (Liberation Army News), *Jiefangjun Huabao* (Liberation Army Pictorial News), *Jiefangjun Zhanshi* (Liberation Army Soldier), *Jiefangjun Wenyi* (Liberation Army Literature and Art), and *Hangkong Zhishi* (Aeronautical Knowledge). A few military terms are *junfu* (uniform), *junguan* (officer), *junhao* (insignia), *junhuo* (ammunition), and *junji* (discipline). A short item entitled "Jiefangjun Baoweizhe Women" (The People's Liberation Army is Defending Us) reads: *Jiefangjun shushu shouli nazhe qiang, bupa fengchu yuda; bupa hurrede taiyang. Tamen ririyeye baowel zuguo, gonggu, guafang.* (The People's Liberation Army, rifle in hand, is not afraid of the wind, rain or fiery sun. Day and night, it defends the homeland and strengthens national defense). (From *Wen-tzu Kai-ko* Nos. 19 and 23, 1959.)

Pinyin

PINYIN
拼音

ZIMU
字母

ZHUYIN
注音

SHANGBIAO
商标



nology contests," and training in radio operation could therefore be reduced from a year to six months and still yield a five-fold improvement in transmissions.³⁰ At a Third National Demonstration Conference on teaching *putunghua* held in Peking during August 1960, several Army units were cited for their excellence in Pinyin semaphore signalling.

Pinyin in Commerce and Literature

Advertisements in the mainland press now carry such Pinyin phrases as *Meidu Dianchi Chang Zhi*, "Beautiful Capital Battery Works." In August 1959 Shanghai merchants were ordered to use Pinyin in their signs. A box of shoe polish has on its cover *Matou xieyou Di 2 Huaxueshe* (Horse Head shoe polish made by No. 2 Chemical Works). Other trademarks are *Bailusi Pijiu* (White Crane Beer) and *Hanqiao Pai* (Han River Bridge Shoes). China's latest luxury sedan (with a scented mahogany dashboard and silk floor rugs) is called *Hongqi* (Red Flag). The picul is now *dan* and the catty *jin* (.5 kilogram).

Some familiar names for theaters and parks in Peking are now written in advertisements and signs as *Xin Zhongguo* (New China), *Dahua* (Great China), *Zhongshan Gungyuan* (Chung-shan Park), *Beihai* (Imperial Palace Lake), *Shoudu* (Capital), *Erhtong* (Children's). China's largest domestic book distributor, the New China Bookstore, is rendered *Xinhua Shudian*, its international counterpart *Guozi Shudian*.³¹ English-language news dispatches are beginning to use Pinyin titles without translating them, for example that of *Red Flag*, organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, which is cited simply as *Hongqi* in the transmissions of the New China News Agency.

Implications

It can thus be seen that the replacement of the old writing with the new phonetic alphabet, although it is not being accomplished overnight, is making substantial progress under the steady pushing of the regime, and that after less than three years we in intelligence are beginning to feel its effects. It would be premature to say that we should be giving active

³⁰ *Kuang-ming Jih-pao*, May 26, 1960.

³¹ *Peking Review*, June 16, 1959.

Pinyin

consideration to the adoption of Pinyin ourselves in Chinese gazeteers, maps, biographic registers, alphabetical files, language training, and standard nomenclature; aside from the still experimental status of some phases of the Communist program and our uncertainty about the rapidity of its future progress, the new system would be a hindrance in processing material concerning or obtained through the Chinese on Taiwan and elsewhere in the anti-Communist diaspora. But we should at least be keeping up with the Communists in our familiarity with the Pinyin forms, and as we set up new systems we should design them with an eye to convertibility to Pinyin. Otherwise we may find ourselves stuck, in a decade or two, with passing the bulk of our material through a superfluous routine of conversions into and out of the then antiquated and artificial Wade-Giles. We have succeeded in remaining for more than eleven years the frightened ostrich with respect to a single Communist rendering, Peking, but we should not try it for a whole language.