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Chinese 'revolution' is completely over

by JOHN R. WALKER
Southam News Services
The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution is definitely over, as Chairman Hua Kuofeng told the just concluded eleventh National Party Congress.

Former head of state Liu Shao-chi and former premier Chou En-lai would be smiling in their graves at the line-up of old colleagues who have surfaced in the brand new Politburo and the Central Committee; most of the old guard, in fact, who suffered oblivion or demotion in the Cultural Revolution.

And of course the one with the broadest smile will be the double purgee, Teng Hsiao-ping, whose comrades from the great North China Front armies line the bulwarks of power under Chairman Hua Kuo-feng.

There are ten military men in the 23-man Politburo, some of the most prominent of whom suffered in the Cultural Revolution for their advocacy of a modern military army for China, which Mao Tse-tung the guerrilla leader always opposed. And four others of the new Politburo members had military or political commissar backgrounds in the Red armies before and during the Long March.

The 201-member Central Committee has been drastically weeded of members who arose out of the Cultural Revolution. Most prominent among the many who have reappeared since the mid-sixties

is the first victim of that revolution's purges, Lo Jui-ching, former chief of staff of the army and prominent booster for arms modernization.

The gerontocracy continues to rule in China under the 57-year-old Chairman Hua, headed by the 78-year-old defence minister Yeh Chien-ying, once chief of staff on the Long March and, drinking companion of Chou En-lai. He holds no love for Chiang Ching and her Red Guards, who deliberately broke the fingers of his young pianist son during the heady initial days of the Cultural Revolution.

Aside from Yeh and the 73-year-old Teng, the other vice chairmen of the party hierarchy are: Li Hsien-nien, 72, labelled the "faithful muscle-man of Liu Shao-chi" by the Red Guards, but who survived to become Chou En-lai's chief economic wizard;

and Wang Tung-hsing "the Body guard" to the late Chairman Mao, who arrested Lo Jui-ching and Teng during the cultural revolution purges, but threw in his lot with these pragmatists when the purge of the gang of four began last October.

Among the nine new Politburo members are military veterans and bureaucrats, nearly all of whom were followers of Liu Shao-chi, Chou En-lai and Teng. Most prominent is the "father of China's atomic energy program," Teng's boyhood friend, the 78-year-old Nieh Jung-chen who was under Red Guard attack in 1966, but like others was saved by Chou En-lai.

Another purgee of '66 among the newcomers is Su Chen-hua, 68, another Long March veteran who fell afoul of Mao's antimodernization views on the armed forces.

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'Legal systems to be tuned to needs'

WINNIPEG (CP) — Shridath Ramphal, secretary-general of the Commonwealth, opened a conference of Commonwealth law ministers today with a challenge to delegates to demonstrate the relevance and practicality of such meetings.

The people of the Commonwealth are entitled to ask what the meetings are all about, Ramphal told delegates from the 27 member countries and four associated Caribbean states attending the four-day conference.

"They tend to question these gatherings as talk-shops: as pleasant affairs for participants but as largely irrelevant to their own lives."

He said delegates must demonstrate how legal systems, in particular Commonwealth cooperation, can be made more attuned to the service of human needs.

Bora Laskin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, also was to address the opening ceremonies today.

Federal Justice Minister Ron Basford is to act as chairman of the meeting which will deal with a wide variety of legal topics behind closed doors.

Basford told a news conference Monday that closed meetings allow for free exchange between ministers. Ramphal said, however, that a communique will be issued at the end of the conference.

Some of the issues to be discussed include white collar crime and mutual enforcement of judgments, orders and awards by courts in member countries.

Australia is expected to bring up proposals dealing with co-operation between Commonwealth

countries in the investigation and prosecution of criminal offences.

It is also expected to raise the issue of mutual recognition of custody orders to help combat the international kidnapping of children by parents.

Basford told the news conference that the problem of pretrial delays will also be discussed along with new sentencing and rehabilitation procedures.

The question of sovereign immunity, which prevents the official acts of one state from being questioned in the courts of another, and the independence of the judiciary, also are subjects of discussion.

In his opening remarks, Ramphal said the Commonwealth shares a tradition of responding to legal challenges in fresh and innovative ways.

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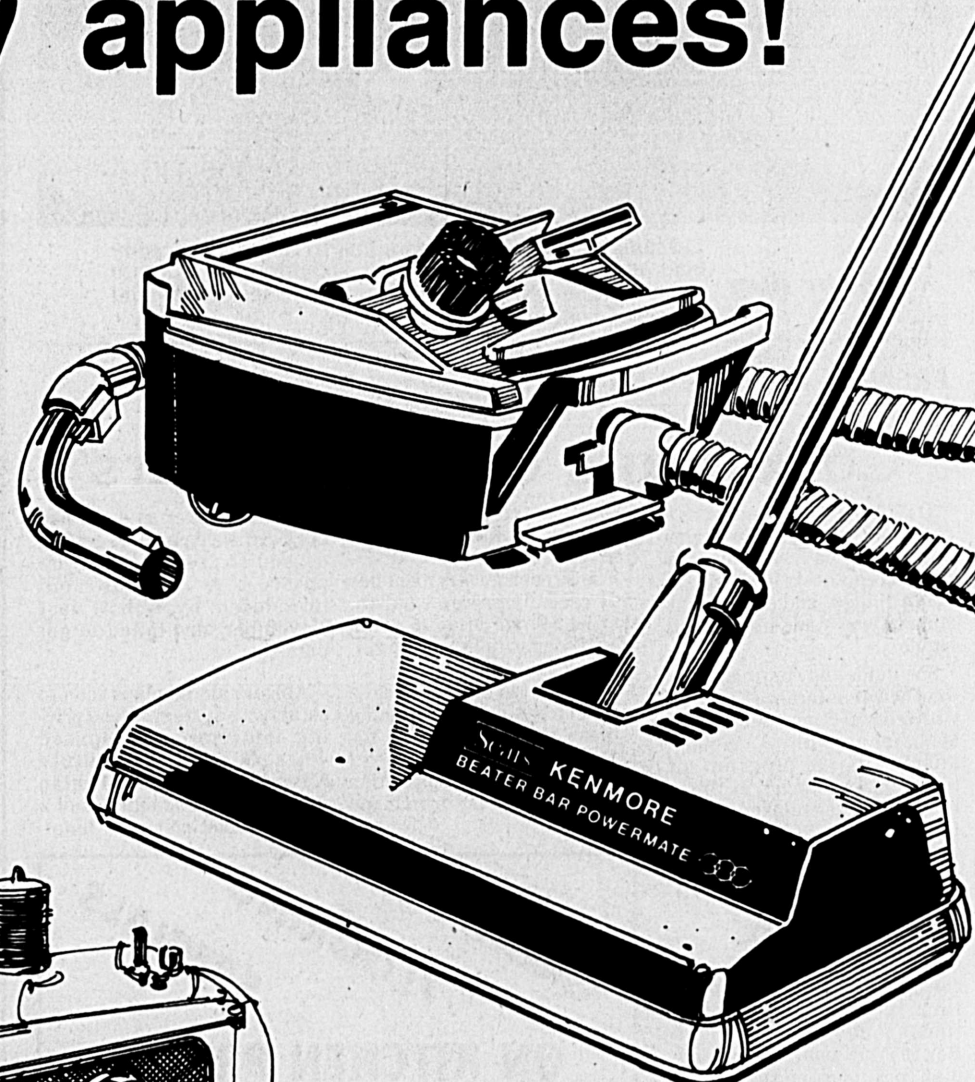
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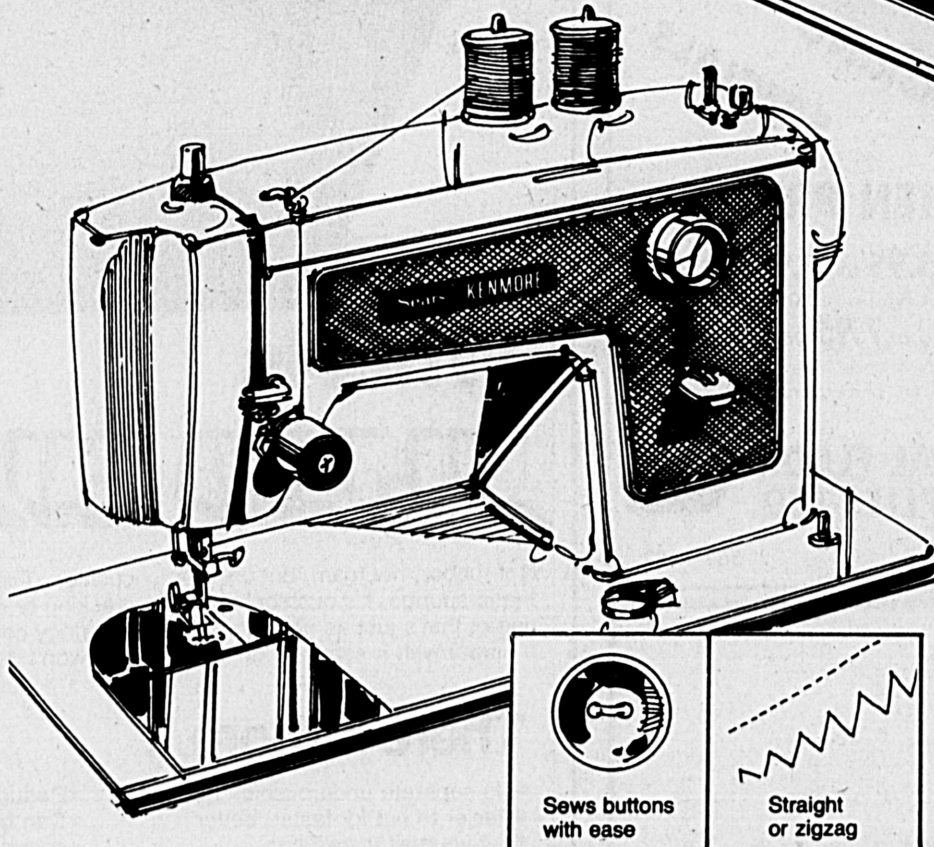


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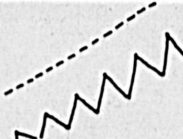
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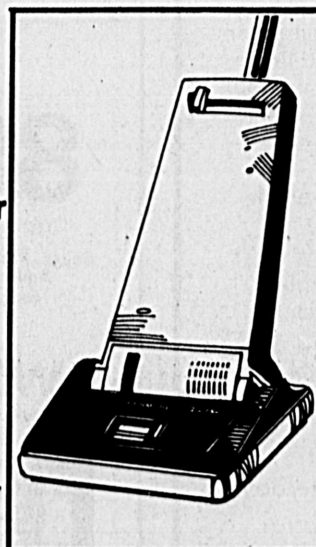
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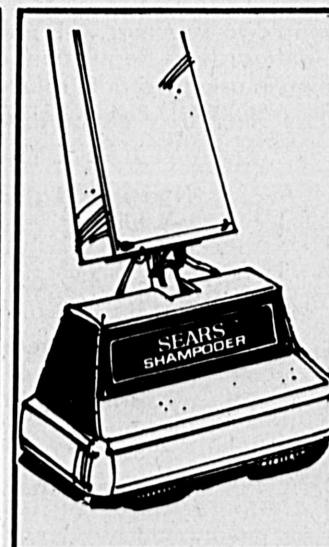


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