



A REMINDER OF THE OLD CHINA

The Marble Boat at the Emperor's Summer Palace near Peking. The grounds of the Palace are now used as a public park.

This led to resistances on the part of the Chinese peasants. They appear to have protested principally against the over-regimentation of life in many communes, the denial of all private property, and even against the free-supply system which does not provide incentives for increased production, as do regular increases in money wages. On December 10 the Central Committee of the Communist Party called a halt to this programme of proceeding rapidly towards the creation of a communist form of society. It was then decided not to proceed with the formation of communes in the cities, one of the reasons being that "bourgeois ideology still is fairly prevalent among many of the capitalists and intellectuals in the cities". The importance of retaining the system of monetary wages was emphasized: "in the income of commune members that portion of the wage paid according to work done (and not according to need — ed.) must occupy an important place over a long period and will, during a certain period, take first place". It was further laid down that members who receive financial support from relatives in cities or from overseas Chinese should not be discriminated against, or be forced to make "special investments or contributions" to the communes. It was emphasized that "the means of livelihood owned by members — including houses, clothing, bedding and furniture — and their deposits in banks and credit co-operatives will remain their own property after they join the commune and will always belong to them".

The same resolution of the Central Committee gave support by implication to those articles appearing in the Western press which asserted that