

beat his challenger. But government officials ask the question, "Parliamentary government for whom?" adding that Korea's stormy postwar history has shown many times that a functioning parliamentary system does not in the least guarantee the "human rights" of the population — especially rights to economic development and social stability. They explain the tightening of Park's rule as necessary to ensure that Korea's mobilization for development runs smoothly.

High-level government officials in Seoul talk quite openly about the "human rights" situation in Korea, anxious to present "their side of the story" following

the heavy attacks on the Park government from liberal Democrats in Washington.

One official, asked what he considered the most pressing human rights problem in the country, replied that the low-wage, labor-intensive sectors still widespread in the Korean economy are most in need of change. "We realize this situation cannot stay the same. The more industry and prosperity we have, the more people will want to have. If we do not satisfy these wants, unions and strikes will inevitably break out. Then what are we going to do then — put all of our workers in jail?"

—Peter Ennis

A visit to Pohang Steel

Pohang Iron and Steel Corporation (POSCO), the government-owned integrated iron and steel making complex, is the pride and joy of Korea's drive for modernization. Located in the city of Pohang, which is known as the "Pittsburgh of Korea," POSCO was founded in 1968 with the aid of Japan, after the World Bank refused to finance the project.

Construction of the 2,000-acre complex began in 1971, and output of crude steel in the first year of operation, 1973, was 1.3 million tons. Since that time, expansion projects raised capacity to 2.6 million tons in 1976 and now to 5.5 million tons, making POSCO one of the largest integrated facilities in the world.

The growth of POSCO has caused a boom in the city of Pohang, and shows the type of "city-building" the Koreans regularly do. When the company was founded in 1968, Pohang had a population of only 60,000. But since that time the government has aided the establishment of some 50 additional facilities around the city, all of which feed into POSCO operations. As a result, Pohang has blossomed into a middle-sized city of 260,000.

Tours of the POSCO facilities are quite extensive, and young company officials bubbling with enthusiasm for modernization serve as the guides. A visitor is taken first to the main briefing room, where a scale model of the POSCO complex is used to introduce him to the production process. Heavy emphasis is placed on explaining the high level of technology used at POSCO. One guide asked a visitor about the technologies used in American steel factories, and could not prevent himself from adding, "I understand they are all obsolete."

While traveling to other parts of the complex, construction projects to expand capacity can be seen all around. At the entrance to each construction site there is a large billboard reporting the number of days before completion. The target date at one particular site seemed overly optimistic, as work had barely begun, but a guide dismissed the doubts of a visitor. "We will complete it on time. We have to."

POSCO presently operates some 26 major facilities, grouped mainly into iron-making and steel-making facilities. The finished products include rolled sheets, galvanized iron sheets, plates, and so on, and are both exported and used domestically. Company officials proudly say that POSCO has generated a profit in all four of its full years of operation, despite the

downturn in world demand for steel. They also emphasize that virtually the entirety of the approximately \$160 million in profit has been immediately reinvested for capacity expansion.

Heavy emphasis by tour guides is also placed on the "welfare facilities" provided for POSCO's 10,000 employees. Due to a shortage of housing in the city, housing has been built for many of the employees right on the complex, complete with recreation facilities, shopping centers, and schools. The company is even starting a program to help employees buy motorcycles, to replace bicycles as their principal source of transportation.

The entire POSCO complex operates on three eight-hour shifts, making POSCO one of the few iron and steel plants in the world to have a 100 percent capacity utilization rate.

One of the most distinctive things about POSCO is the regular presence of busloads of students. Explained one guide: "We have a program to bring students from around the country for a tour. We bring them here to change their minds. Most of them go to technical high schools, but even so their conception of industry is very small-scale. When they come here they can be proud of what Korea has done, and they see what we can do in the future."