

F/B

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I WAS CHAIRMAN MAO'S COOK

Erh-t'ung Shih-tai

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Related by:

Li K'ai-wen

Recorded by:

Chou Hsing-mei

In Chairman Mao's Staff Office

In October 1956, I was reviewed and appraised as a model worker in the Anhwei Province grain preservation work and was sent to Peiping to participate in the All-China Conference of Grain Advanced Workers. On 1 November, in my hotel in Hsi-yuan, Peiping, I wrote letters to Chairman Mao, Vice-Premier Li Fu-ch'un and Ts'ai Chang, Chairman of the All-China Women's Federation, telling them that I had come to Peiping and would like to see my old bosses.

After a few days, I received a telephone call: "Are you Comrade Li K'ai-wen?" "Yes!", I said, and continued: "Are you big sister?" since I knew the voice of big sister Ts'ai. She said: "Yes! We have received your letters! We all are very happy to know that you have come to take part in the honorary conference and Chairman Mao has asked to see you. Please don't go out after your conference and we will send an automobile for you."

On the morning of the 20th, while I was taking my breakfast, an automobile arrived! Toot! Toot! Toot! As the car took me to the inner court yard of the State Council, big sister Ts'ai was already there, had been waiting for me at the entrance of her home. It was Sunday and Vice-Premier Li and big sister Ts'ai were both at home. When they saw me, they asked me about this and that to renew our old acquaintance. Vice-Premier Li said to me: "You are a real old model and you are always a model even when you return to your family!" So, we all laughed at his good joking