

As an impressionist sketch the book is fair enough. Its chief merit lies in its final three chapters – the first two of these for heartening examples of Chinese Christian witness, and the last for sound advice regarding the future.

It is my present conviction that under no foreseeable circumstances should leadership in China evangelism be in the hands of any but the Chinese Church itself . . . the Church inside mainland China . . . Evangelism in China must not be totally dependent, ever again, on Western personnel or Western finance. The time will certainly come when they will want, and appreciate, our assistance. We must be ready for meaningful co-operative efforts. The initiative, however, must be theirs, the response ours.

He goes on to speak helpfully about personal evangelism, based on the Bible (which Asian Outreach is producing in China's new simplified script) and on the experience of Christians in China whose faith has triumphed over the challenge of a communist regime. VICTOR HAYWARD

Derriere le Rideau de Bambou, by Sergiu Grossu, Editions des Catacombes, Courbevoie, 1975, 153 pp.

This book divides into two almost equal parts, the first on "What is happening in communist China?" and the second on "The Country of the 'Tiger Cages'" (Cuba). To both regimes the author applies these curses from Nahum and Habakkuk: "Woe to the bloody city, all full of lies and booty – no end to the plunder! Woe to him who builds a town with blood, and founds a city on iniquity!" He invites us to look through what he himself describes as "only a hole in the wall" of silence. And all that he sees is of the devil.

Though this account has been written in French, many of the documents on which it relies were originally in English. Most of the material is drawn from obviously hostile sources. No attempt is made to explain, let alone extenuate.

In both countries Christians indubitably have suffered for their faith. But this is not the whole story. "To all appearance, religion is practically dead in China," asserts Mr. Grossu. This, however, is to equate religion with public worship. And in a footnote Mr. Grossu at least recognizes that Protestants have fared better than the Catholics. Plenty of evidence from many sources supports Mr. Kauffman's very different report. The physical sufferings of prisoners in Cuba seem more terrible than those of prisoners in China. VICTOR HAYWARD