In a powerful presentation, the author tells what America must do if she is to meet the challenge. First of a series of alumni reports.

By EARNEST HOBERECHT, '41 journ

Asia is challenging the United States to prove it really believes in "Democracy."

This is no "tea party" challenge; it is a "chips down" affair. The stakes are high: Who gets Asia?

In many ways the challenge is quite fair; in many ways it is like a pair of loaded dice.

It is a fair challenge because Americans believe in Democracy and believe their Democracy and their way of life will stand the test.

But in another way, it's a low blow. The challenge frequently is hurled by a sincere man who is so filled with emotion and half truths that he is unprepared to give due credit even when he receives the perfect answer.

So, I put the word "Democracy" in quotation marks in the first sentence for a very definite reason. Democracy means many things to many men.

Perhaps the average American doesn't realize this as completely as one who has lived abroad a number of years. The fact is emphasized by the interest of foreign friends who want a quick definition of the word.

Just when you think you have a few perfect, pat phrases which will turn the trick, you bump into a character who asks one simple question that throws you for a loop.

Remember there is "Democracy" in North Korea and Communist China according to the governing regimes in those areas. The Communists probably use the word more times in a 15-minute newscast than any five U.S. radio stations put together. When the Communists speak of Democracy, they are not talking about the wonderful way of life we Americans enjoy. They are describing the fine "Democratic" life they "enjoy" behind the Iron Curtain.

Asians hear the American version and they hear the Communist version. Some are impressed by what Moscow, Peiping and Pyongyang say. The promises frequently sound very good—often superior to the promises being made by the Free World.

"Democratic" life at the Communist end of the rainbow sounds much better than life as it actually is lived in some areas of Asia where there is no escaping the reality of today.

This is the challenge the Free World must meet in Asia. Our reality must compete against the sometimes naive hopes of the awakening Asians and the calculated promises of the Communists.

It does no good to argue that such a challenge is unfair. It exists. It must be met.

Until the Communists take over a country, they do not have to make good on their promises. By the time they take over, they are in such firm control that it does the local native population little good to protest the Red failure to fulfill.

The age of the common man which swept through Europe and America has reached Asia. Asians are looking for the end of the rainbow—socially, politically and economically. And they want to get there in a hurry.

There are various driving forces, some more powerful than the others.

The Asian people are tired of being treated like "poor relations." Today they are like the kids in the neighborhood who haven't had enough equipment to get in the main ball game. They are starting a team of their own, even if they don't have the same fancy balls, bats and gloves.

Even if they don't have a rule book, they are going to play. They may make mistakes, but they will have fun making them in their own happy way.

On a recent tour of 10 Asian countries, I found there was one feeling which seemed to dominate the people everywhere: "We want to belong."

During the past decade I have stood on the cold stone steps of the Forbidden City, crossed the deserts of India, watched the steam rising from the jungles of Burma and floated down rivers in Siam on Imperial barges. From Japan to Jakarta and
from Cambodia to Karachi, I have talked with thousands of Asians who not only want to "belong," they demand it.

They want to be accepted; they want to be treated as equals and they intend that it shall be this way from here on out.

I have talked with many Americans, including diplomatic and military officials on the scene, who now believe this feeling accounts at least to a certain extent for Korean President Syngman Rhee's anti-armistice stand this past summer.

"I felt right along President Rhee would agree to the United Nations plan being put forward by the United States," one American in Korea told me. "But it was evident the Korean President enjoyed the situation and was in no hurry to give in. He was pleased with the thought of having high American officials beating a path to his door—practically begging him to agree to an armistice he knew was inevitable."

In numerous public statements, Rhee and other high Korean officials made it plain they felt the United States and the United Nations military authorities had by-passed them in the armistice planning. They felt left out. Rightly or wrongly, they thought they were being treated as "inferiors" and had been "taken for granted."

Rhee's stubborn old revolutionary spirit boiled. He wanted to prove to the world—and to himself—that he was important.

And there is no doubt about it, his "standing up" to the United States and the United Nations won him quite a bit of respect in many Asian quarters.

Rhee was determined to show the Americans he was an equal and had to be treated as such. He demanded and finally got the kind of treatment he wanted.

This atmosphere isn't confined to Northeast Asia. I found it in India and elsewhere. And recent statements by Prime Minister Nehru of India have all hit the same theme: "The world must pay more attention to what the people of Asia want."

It is too simple to say America faces this or that specific problem in Asia today. Most certainly, one of the main problems confronting the Americans is the need to make honest friends and to demonstrate that the people of the 48 states today are honestly ready in practice to live up to their own American Constitution.

In the intervening years since our own American Revolution, we have come to consider our Constitutional government as conservative rather than revolutionary. But in Asia, our Constitution appears quite revolutionary to many in the area who only today are reaching the stage of revolt against colonialism.

Because of bad selling on our part—or perhaps due to successful Communist prop-
There is little or no room in the newspapers to tell the American story. The newsprint shortage is so desperate that the local people cannot always understand the news. The Asian officials say that the Americans try to judge America by Asian standards, so do Asians make mistakes when they try to judge America by Asian standards.

The United States should spell out its foreign policy, clearly and often. And, as much as possible, there should be continuity on which other governments can count—an announced long range program which will serve as a basis for planning and cooperation.

U.S. domestic policy and politics frequently are misunderstood by Asians who cannot differentiate between what goes on inside the United States and what the United States wants and does abroad.

Almost all Asians agree on one thing: The United States should spell out its foreign policy, clearly and often. And, as much as possible, there should be continuity on which other governments can count—an announced long range program which will serve as a basis for planning and cooperation.

Asians can't understand why America spends millions building up the economy of a country and then throws up tariff barriers against the products which that country must sell in the United States to keep its economy going.

They can't understand restrictions on immigration quotas, or quotas which they believe discriminate against Asians.

Often they can't understand the behavior of Americans living abroad in almost complete disregard for local customs and traditions.

In this connection, it is necessary to point out that these "revolutionary" Asians—these people who want and demand independence for their own countries—sometimes are extremely conservative in other ways.

By virtue of their own background and conditions in their part of the world, they sometimes are confused by "The American Way of Life" and completely baffled by the so-called "big debates" in the United States.

For one thing, the mere fact we Americans claim to follow democratic methods is not proof to all people that we are "Democratic."

Many persons in Asia can't always understand why opposition politicians are permitted to hack away at the government and baffled by conflicting statements by members of the same political parties.

As Americans make mistakes when they try to judge Asia by American standards, so do Asians make mistakes when they try to judge America by Asian standards.

A frequent charge made privately by Asian officials is that the Americans try to "take over" every government they set out to assist.

The complaint usually runs something like this:

"The Americans come to help. They want to give advice. The advice winds up consisting of their insisting everything be..."
Covering the Campus . . .

The 1953 Campus Chest drive lid was blown off November 2 and lasted through November 6. Joyce Gregory and Doug Fox, both from Oklahoma City, were co-chairmen. Highlight of the drive was the traditional carnival held in Woodrow Wilson Center. All proceeds of the drive is put aside in one fund and is appropriated to the different charity drives held throughout the year.

Doris Fleeson, Washington correspondent, will be guest speaker at the annual Matrix Table dinner November 19 sponsored by Theta Sigma Phi. Miss Fleeson's topic will be "Women's Status in a Changing World." Awards for the outstanding Sooner coed, faculty member and state woman will be awarded by Martha Plummer, Bixby, president of the professional women's journalism fraternity, Miss Grace E. Ray, '20ba, '23ma, associate professor of journalism, is Theta Sigma Phi sponsor.

Other well-known figures visiting the campus recently were Senator Mike Monroney, '44ba, and Muhyyiddin Nusuli, editor and publisher of a Lebanon newspaper. Senator Monroney spoke to the Oklahoma College Democrats.

Nusuli was a guest of the Journalism School while on campus. He came from the Middle East to America with 19 other Moslem scholars to attend the Colloquium on Islamic Culture at Princeton University.

The 1953-54 Celebrity Series program was launched October 20-21 with the appearance of Charles Laughton, famed stage and screen star. Hundreds of students, faculty members and Norman and Oklahoma City residents filled Holmberg Hall for the performance entitled "An Evening With Charles Laughton."

Don Lane, '52ba, senior law student from Pampa, Texas, is student chairman for the series. Other celebrities scheduled to appear include Cesare Siepi, November 18-19; Jascha Heifetz, January 13-14; Jennie Touro, February 2-3, and Jack Lowe and Arthur Whittome, March 18-19.

John Malone, '37ba, extension specialist, is faculty manager for the series.

Bowl-hungry students are already making big plans for a Florida New Year's weekend in anticipation of Big Red winning the Big Seven championship, and consequently getting a bid to play in the Orange Bowl game, Miami, Florida. The recent bowl tie-up between the Atlantic Coast and Big Seven Conferences created the early speculation.

Big Red's victory over the Texas Longhorns October 10 is past history, but the pleasant thoughts of the annual Dallas trip is still lingering in everyone's mind. The newly formed Pep Council, spearheaded by Jordan Cohen, Kansas City, and Fred Cook, Holdenville, presented a petition to the Board of Regents requesting a holiday be granted if we won the game. It was not granted.

Asia Challenges America . . .

made over according to the American pattern."

Asians not only resent it, but the idea is completely impractical.

This mode of behavior raises doubts as to America's democratic intentions and overlooks some very realistic obstacles.

The background of most Asian areas is vastly different from that of the 48 states, and the material resources—for just one thing—either are lacking or tremendously underdeveloped. For another thing, you can't switch from 16th century practices to idealistic 21st century techniques overnight. Evolution and education have to play some role.

The fact that many of these Asian nations now have gained their independence does not mean they are now in a position to operate governments along lines which match those of the United States and England. Neither does it mean they can operate armies or build dams the same as we.

Like the 13 original American colonies, they have to go.

"The trouble with many Americans," a Filipino publisher friend told me, "is their readiness to speak with authority on any subject and their eagerness to criticize anything and everything not exactly like that 'back home.'"

"Things are different here in Asia. You just can't judge all of Asia by your own 1953 standards. That just won't work."

"Further, remember public criticism does not always make friends. If you must criticize, remember you taught us Filipinos many of the things we know today. Stop talking down to us."

"Think before you speak. Asians have feelings. Just like you, we can be offended."

Some of America's diplomatic representatives in Asia voice the private opinion that too much of their affairs are rigidly controlled by Washington. Some claim this long-distance diplomacy, made possible by modern communications, tends to follow a theoretical formula and fails to allow enough give-and-take by competent men on the spot.

But everything is not adverse, America does have a great many friends in Asia. It would like to have more.

America has won diplomatic battles. It would like to win more.

The United States retains considerable prestige as a result of the military victories of World War II.

The material strength of the United States is respected although there are people who are tremendously envious and jealous and who resent the manner in which most Americans abroad display their position and high standard of living.

America's aid programs have been highly appreciated by millions of Asians who literally have been saved from starvation. However, some of these same people believe the United States attaches too many strings to its gifts.

Strong American leadership, whenever it is displayed, is highly commended by most Asians and appreciated.

The very nature of Americans, themselves, is one of the great assets America has to exploit in Asia. Americans are naturally friendly and good-natured. But this quality, too, sometimes is misunderstood by Asians who have been raised under vastly different codes of public and private behavior. Sometimes the most friendly and best-intended gestures of Americans backfire because these acts do not fit into the local pattern of life.

Undoubtedly, it would be impossible for the United States and all Americans abroad to overcome all their faults. It would be impossible for the United States to solve all problems, or to overcome all objections.

And I believe our Asian friends, too, will admit they are not completely perfect.

Most thinking Americans agree there are a few major points which merit effort. If the United States wants to win the
friendship of Asia, Americans must earn this right by accepting Asians as equals. Asia is anxious to be treated as a full partner and undoubtedly could be counted on for more assistance in almost any program if encouraged to cooperate on such a basis.

Much of the success of the Communists is due to their ability to get across that intangible feeling of “belonging.” Communists have a unity of purpose, they are going somewhere, they have a common bond.

America is being challenged to come up with something better. America is being challenged to prove it wants Asia’s friendship.

Once the United States has proved to the Asians it wants their democratic friendship, the United States will be in a position to take a second step. Many experts on Asian affairs believe the second step is necessary if Communism is to be defeated.

The second step is this: A full-fledged, free-swinging, all-out wide open campaign to sell Capitalism.

Combatting Communism is not enough. We must sell Capitalism, the only real hope for the millions of poverty stricken citizens of the Asian nations.

We must sell “Capitalism for the Common Man” just as the Russians are selling Communism.

Americans know what Capitalism has given them—the highest standard of living in the world. We must convince the Asians that Capitalism—not Communism—can do the same for them.

In a sense, the American slogan can be “Capitalism Makes Every Man Rich.” Compared with most people of Asia, almost all Americans are “rich.” Certainly, we could help Asia lift itself out of the hole.

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A sales campaign of this nature will not be easy. “Capitalism” has a bad name in many areas in Asia. Capitalism as practiced by some of the native capitalists—and the former colonial powers—has an evil reputation.

The United States must sell “American Capitalism”—the kind that develops natural resources, raises the standards of living, provides families with basic needs and some of the luxuries of life.

To do this, America must have friends—influential people such as government leaders, editors, teachers and others who will “sell” American Capitalism with as much drive and enthusiasm as local Communists are selling Communism.

So, America’s initial program in Asia today is this: To clearly and vigorously demonstrate to the Asians they are wanted as friends, full and equal partners in a dynamic union of free and prosperous men.

On the Sooner Scene...

little criticism. Apprehensive that the Big Seven would not lift its bowl ban for any reason this year, football fans in this area appeared pleased that the Sooners have a chance to shoot for an automatic bowl bid. Too, the prospect of playing Maryland had something to do with the reaction.

I am inclined to think that the ticket for a short trial period is the answer to Oklahoma’s bowl ambitions. The players will get a chance to perform periodically in a bowl if they are good enough, the fans will have a chance to watch or hear the team in action against a good post season opponent, and a degree of post season sanity will prevail under the can’t repeat rule. Besides wouldn’t it be great to play Maryland.

On the Sooner Scene...

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