

regime of the Kremlin will fall. The only question is timing. Will it last another ten years or another 50 years? From what little we can learn, we know the whole Soviet economic right now shows signs of serious weakness. While I know no more than any of the members of this audience, I do not believe we will have war.

“A few days ago, I talked to one of the greatest of the German industrialists, whom I met in Germany four years ago and whom I consider a very able and intelligent man. I asked him what information they get out of Russia and what his view of the Russian situation was. He said in substance that Germany gets a good deal more information from Russia than we do because within the last year Russia has returned thousands of German prisoners who have been in various parts of Russia in labor camps and elsewhere. Without exception, these prisoners state that the standard of living in Russia has gone down rather than up, that the people get a miserable diet and there is great dissatisfaction with the present Russian regime. At the same time, they say there will be no revolt. He further stated that he felt that Russia is far weaker than is generally supposed. They are carrying on a gigantic campaign of bluff. His view is that the last thing in the world they want is war. He said it is for that reason that public opinion in Europe has been so indifferent about building up a big defense program...

“But if war does come, we will have a stern test. Will our young men be willing to fight and die for their country, will our older men be willing to give their time, their money, if necessary their whole fortunes to their country? I believe they will...

“Certainly no thinking man as he advances in age can fail to realize that there is a force greater than ourselves, that controls our destinies, that there is a Divine Will and a Divine Plan, that however well we may plan, those plans may be destroyed by a manifestation of the Divine Will.

“Anyone who has read the history of the different great civilizations of the world, of the rise, decay and fall of these civilizations, cannot fail to realize

that the moral and spiritual qualities of man and nations are far more important than his physical and mental qualities. Men cannot live without faith and religion.

“If our people can only retain the qualities that built and developed this country from a handful of people in a few settlements along the Eastern Seaboard to the richest, strongest and mightiest nation in the world today, I would have no fear of the future. If our people retain their belief in God, retain their faith and courage, there is no reason to believe that we cannot continue our path to an even greater future, but if we lose these qualities, our country and our people will perish.”

**General William J. Donovan:
Asia and Patience**

General William J. Donovan, former U.S. Ambassador to Thailand and legendary American intelligence official, addressed The Economic Club of Chicago on January 12, 1955, on the struggle for Asia.



“To us in America the Asian question is: ‘What are Communist China and Soviet Russia going to do? How far will they go in their aggression? To the Asians, this is not ‘the Asian question,’ although it is a question many of them are also asking. To them, ‘the Asian question’ is tied in with the issue of nationalism and self-assertion. Many of them are still thinking as recently liberated colonial peoples, long dominated by Western powers...

“We cannot speak correctly of a single ‘Asian question’, nor, for that matter, of a single Asia. There are many Asias—each with its own point of view, its own problems and questions, with many ethnic, racial, and economic interests. First of all,

we must recognize that our major problems are not necessarily their major problems. Also we must realize that the Asians have different points of view from ours concerning Communism and the U.S.S.R. Therefore, to comprehend Asia and Asian problems requires patience and understanding. We must discuss our needs and our interests in the light of their aims and their problems.

“In the last ten years, we have watched a course of dynamic changes in Southeast Asia... These changes are the continuing repercussions of the ‘shot heard round the world’ which a New England Minute Man aimed at a representative of colonialism in 1776... It is in the context of the colonial past that we must interpret the bitterness and distrust we find inherent in many of the new nations of Asia against their former governors...

“South Asia stretches from the subcontinent of India to the vast island continent of Australia... When we look at our map we recognize that no one of the countries in that area can alone resist Communist attack. Only united can they stand—in spite of the differences that lie between...

“Today it is the Communists who seek to dominate the world... Blocked in Europe, the Communists have turned to Asia for new satellites for their empire. China, Tibet, North Korea, and, tragically, Vietnam, have already paid the price.

“The security of every free nation is part of our own security... We must remember that the goal of the Communists has not changed... If there is one constant in Communist dogma it is that the ultimate goal must always be world domination.

“Only a few months ago did eight years of fighting in Indochina come to an end... Today it is divided into the nations of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, and the term Viet Minh is used to identify that part of the population who are Communists... It was believed that the mobilized forces of these three countries, together with the French forces, promised sufficient strength to repel and perhaps destroy Viet Minh power. The United States contributed \$2

billion for arms and material.

“The French Union forces outnumbered the Viet Minh five to three. Their supplies were plentiful and their arms and equipment our best. However, they were deficient in their intelligence concerning the enemy’s resources and strength. This enemy did not wage war in the classic style. This was a war fought from the submerged sanctuary of a rice paddy, or by stealth and terror in the night... The principal weakness of the French Union’s position was not military but political... Its purpose should have been to guarantee and assure Viet Nam of its full sovereignty, taking account of the irrepressible power of nationalism. Instead... Vietnam has been split roughly at the 74th parallel into a Communist controlled North and a non-Communist controlled South...

“For Southern Vietnam a permanent political solution is intended through the means of free general elections in 1956... The present government is headed by Ngo Dinh Diem, an intense Nationalist and an incorruptible man who has in his lifetime opposed domination of his country by either the Communists or the French. His program of reform and advance has been delayed and betrayed by a conspiracy of non-cooperation and sabotage on the part of selfish groups in his own government...

“With this background, the Manila Conference was convened last September. Although all the Southeast Asian nations were invited, only Thailand, the Philippine Republic, and Pakistan participated. England, France, New Zealand, Australia, and the United States were the other participating members. To many Asians, the mere inclusion of former colonial powers was an affront... Responsible Vietnamese officials asked why their voice was heard only through the mouth of French representatives...

“The Manila Pact... seeks to deter the potential aggressor by making him fearful of its consequences... Within the next few weeks, our Senate will act upon the Manila Pact. In following the President’s recommendation for ratification, our

country should make clear once more that the purpose of the pact is a defensive one. We should also broadcast again the Pacific Charter which is the preamble to the pact, and which asserts in clear, unmistakable terms the right of all people to self-determination, self-government, and independence...

“Much has been said of the easing of international tension in the world... The present danger lies in jumping to the conclusion that at last the Communists have taken a softer tone and that when they talk of disarmament or free elections, they mean what we mean. Instead of that being the case, the meanings of peaceful co-existence are miles apart. In fact, since first the Communist world raised that slogan two wars have taken place in Asia. One in Korea—the other in Indochina...

“With the exception of Thailand, all of the present countries of Southeast Asia were born since World War II. If we can help give them a generation without Communist interference, they will be able then to stabilize and secure their independence... We have sought solutions to alleviate the conditions of continued poverty in the underdeveloped countries of Asia. The Communists, on the contrary, count on that continued poverty in the underdeveloped countries to soften up new areas for conquest and control...

“At this critical period of our country, we must have a Government of self-respect. As a people, we create that self-respect in our Government. However, we as a people must recognize that we are in a conflict which will be with us at least for a generation. Perhaps for fifty years to come. Let us face the simple fact—there is no gadget or device for victory—to think so is to delude ourselves.”

**Oveta Culp Hobby:
A Newspaper Woman Speaks**

As the first woman speaker in the history of The Economic Club, Oveta Culp Hobby, former editor and publisher of The Houston Post, and The Federal Security Administrator at the time, spoke on newspapers on March 23, 1953.



“Though communication—the transmission of ideas and facts—has overleapt the boundaries of time and space, it is still hemmed in, over a large part of the world, by man-made political boundaries.

“That is one of the tragedies of our time. Dictators know that one of the first steps in the limitation of freedom is to control the transmission of ideas. A frightening vision of how far this kind of thing can go was given in that remarkable satirical novel by the late George Orwell. He called his book “Nineteen Eighty-Four.” It was a picture of what London might be like 31 years hence if state control of lives and minds of Englishmen followed, to their ultimate absurdity, patterns already laid down by countries behind the iron curtain.

“Not only, of course, was there complete control of the transmission of ideas, but ideas themselves were remolded by a chance in the meanings of words. For example, the three slogans of the ruling—and only—party, dinned continually into the minds of the citizens through every possible means of communication were: ‘War is peace.’ ‘Freedom is slavery.’ ‘Ignorance is Strength.’

“This perversion of the meanings of ordinary words was, however, only a first step. The party was developing a new language, which it called ‘Newspeak,’ and which it was gradually substituting for standard English, which it called ‘Old speak.’ In ‘Newspeak,’ such words as honor, justice, morality, internationalism, democracy,