

# Tai studies policy of U.S. in the East

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

The United States may be able to count on the cooperation of European powers by grace of the culture it shares with Europe, but it can't count on that cooperation in Asia.

Dr. Hung Chao Tai of Farmington Hills has taught and researched international diplomacy since 1961. Recently, he was invited to participate in a United States State Department seminar on East Asian Affairs in Washington, D.C.

He believes that the United States would do well to focus its foreign policy on Eastern Asia.

"Our interests lie in Asia," he said. "IN GENERAL, there is an uncertainty if Asia is a vital interest area to the United States or not."

The greater distance between the United States and Asia and unfamiliarity with Asian culture prevents Americans from viewing Asia in the same light as Europe.

"Asia is a great potential power," Tai says.

Japan's economy is the third richest in the world. Half of the Soviet Union is in Asia. China, with its population of eight billion people, is a potential super power.

Tai, who is chairman of University of Detroit's political science department, "I think it is vital for the United States to impress on Asian countries its interest in Asian affairs," he says.

"The U.S. has to make every effort to make nations there confident that it will carry out its obligations."

"If it creates doubt about its ability to carry out its obligations, it would be a most tragic development. Other powers would challenge the United States then."

Tai believes the U.S. should have a clear idea of what it wants to accomplish in the Far East. People who make foreign policy should have their own principles, he says.

He believes that policy makers shouldn't try to follow every change of opinion within the country.

In Vietnam, the U.S. didn't have a clear direction about what it wanted to do, he says. "The strategies it adopted didn't serve the interests of the United States."

United States foreign policy in Eastern Asia tends to be one of reaction rather than initiative, he says.

"We tend to react, rather than initiate," he says. "We participated in World War II, the Korean War, Viet Nam—we didn't intend to participate in the beginning, but in the end, we did participate in these events," he says.

"The United States doesn't have to use military or economic power. It has a moral leadership and its obligations should be kept," he said.

However, recognition of China by the U.S. couldn't have been realized sooner, he says. With Vietnam, it wasn't possible to recognize China until early 1975. The improvement started in 1971. It wasn't possible during Johnson or Kennedy.

Nixon had the political advantage of being anti-communist and conservative. He could make the switch without political backlash. Kennedy could have been pinned as being soft on communism.

Officially, the relationship with China is explained by saying that China can't remain isolated, he says. An effort to improve the relation with China is necessary. It's good to remain realistic.

No matter what Kissinger claimed, he sensed that the power of the U.S. in relation to the Soviet Union had declined. Therefore, from his point of view, the objective is to see how to cut the power of the Russians. He used China against Russia," Tai says.

To China, the great threat is no longer the U.S., the threat of the U.S. is diminishing. The threat to China from the Soviet Union is increasing.

"The Soviet Union has more forces on the Chinese border than in any other place," he says.

Diplomatic relations between the U.S. and China and Russia, involve balancing China against Russia while persuading Russia not to take action against the U.S., he says.

"90 PERCENT, the United States has been successful in its attempts to play that balance of power game," Tai says.

He believes that Kissinger's foreign policy has a master plan.

Tai was at Harvard in 1965-1966, when Kissinger was deputy director of the Center for International Affairs at the school.

"I listened to him deal with seminars. I was very much impressed by the man."

"He is not a man who can speak eloquently, but his ideas are really brilliant," Tai claims. "He can see things ordinary persons can't see."

"I believe, because he is such a brilliant man, he had a certain grand design for the U.S. to continue to be the strongest power in the world. What he attempted to do was to substitute non-military means for military means to do so."

Kissinger used diplomacy, economic policies and all other non-military power, Tai explains.

"I don't think he was successful, though. His trait of being secretive, in a sense, can be considered that of a traditional diplomat."

Tai BELIEVES that discretion is necessary for diplomacy. "If diplomacy is undertaken in an open manner, some of its effectiveness is lost," he says.

Kissinger, a survivor of Watergate, has been hurt by the scandal.

"He's not as effective as he was before 1973," Tai says.

"The American public always expects heroes. It expects miracles. We don't do anything unless we have a hero. This kind of mentality isn't desirable if we want to have a steadfast national policy," he says.

Kissinger, who was viewed as a miracle worker by the public, is now viewed as cynical, secretive and intimidating, Tai says.

"I don't think he could have made such a dramatic switch in character. If he achieves a number of successes, the American people would worship him again."

The Chinese are subtle about creating the right impression, he says. When Nixon was in China, he saw people playing chess in the parks and listening to transistor radios.

"When you think about it," Tai says, "Nixon was visiting China in February, the coldest month in China. Would you believe those people were in the park in February, playing?"

"Some newsmen, who stayed after Nixon had left, observed the Chinese collecting the transistor radios and chess pieces from the people."

"They all had new clothes on, too. Every where else, the people had older clothes on," Tai claims.

Tai, who was born in mainland China and stayed in Taiwan until 1967, would like to visit China.

"I would like to go back, but not under the present conditions," he says. Tai objects to the close surveillance foreign visitors receive. He says that visitors are escorted to a hotel. If they have friends or relatives they wish to see, these persons are escorted to the visitors' hotel room.

"I'd like to be able to move around," he says.



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—Dr. Hung Chao Tai

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## Lichtman loses election

Dorothy Eicker, a six-year member of the Birmingham Board of Education was elected to a six-year term on the Oakland Schools Board of Education Tuesday.

LaVerne DeWard of Novi was re-elected to a second six-year term on the intermediate school district board.

DeWard and Mrs. Eicker will take office July 1. Defeated in a bid for re-election were incumbent Gary Lichtman of Farmington and Betty Campion of Walled Lake.

DeWard, Lichtman and Ms. Campion also are members of their local boards of education.

The 38 Oakland County school districts under the jurisdiction of the Oakland Schools each have two votes in the intermediate board election. In Tuesday's election, 27 ballots were cast, representing all but one of the districts eligible to vote.

Mrs. Eicker received 14 votes, DeWard 15. Lichtman 11 and Ms. Campion 18. Remaining members of the Oakland Schools board are David Sparrow of Bloomfield Hills, Dorothy Beardmore of Rochester and Dr. Harold Bueary of Southfield.

The intermediate board meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Oakland Schools, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Pontiac, directly west of the Oakland County Service Center on Telegraph Road. The meetings are open to the public.

Oakland Schools is responsible for operating a regional service center for the schools of Oakland County.

Consulting, data processing and library media services are available as well as clinical services in reading, psychology, speech and hearing.

## Singles group plans a party

The Catholic Alumni Club of Detroit, composed single, practicing Catholics who are college graduates, will hold a dance June 18 from 8:30-11 p.m. It will be at Irena's Restaurant and Lounge in Warren.

There will be live music by the Sororites. The price at the door is \$5.00 per person.

The club has many social activities for single Catholics who are eligible to marry within the church.

## Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Published every Monday and Thursday by the Observer & Eccentric News-papers, 30251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48150. Second-class Postage paid at Livonia, Michigan 48151. Ad-dress all mail subscriptions, change of address, Form 3579 to P.O. Box 2438, Livonia, Michigan 48151. Telephone 361-3850.

Co-Publishers  
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