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**Report of President**

Stratton gives final words

By Paul Johnston

"There have been critically important years, and they have totally consumed the time, the thought, and the energies of all those who have had a part in the affairs of MIT."

So writes Julius A. Stratton in his final report to the Corporation as President of MIT. The report, for the year ending June 30, 1956, has been recently made available to all those connected with the Institute.

"MIT reacts to the times. A number of powerful forces, Stratton continues, have combined to redouble in many respects the characteristics of the Institute."

"The Institute has contributed its own share to these advances, and by the very nature of its involvement it has also reacted strongly to the needs and opportunities of the time. They in turn continue to multiply and diversify so that a myriad of paths open out before us, institutionally and individually," he said.

Stratton goes on to discuss the "idea of a university," and the basic qualities and conditions which must exist before a true university can. "The real crisis of the university," he remarks, "is how to maintain its intellectual integrity, how to hold fast to the essence of its ideals, while striving to interpret and express them in the context of new science, of new economics, of new politics- in sum, of a totally new world."

"Systems become important. Practically as a result of this new world, but certainly not completely as a result, the "distinction between what is academic and what is not academic has lost much of its simplicity, if not its meaning," Stratton says. Interest is now focused on "the study of complete or partial systems. These approaches...unique elements of pure science and engineering with considerations that are historically, economically, and political in nature. They provide, moreover, an unbroken passage that leads from the lecture room and laboratory into government and industry."

"MIT continues by mentioning "those values and objectives that have come to assume the first importance" in his thinking, and gives his view of what the future course of the Institute should be. First, reaffirming the theme of his inaugural address, Stratton asks that "everything we do, whether for the advancement of knowledge or in the public interest, should be viewed in the larger context of our teaching mission."

A broader education

With an increased involvement of the Humanities in the academic curriculum, Stratton hopes that an MIT education can become even more broader and more flexible than before. "I am convinced," he says, "that undergraduate education is destined at MIT to assume an increasingly broad and fundamental character and that students will come to us in growing numbers in the belief that, whatever their ultimate professional goals, this kind of education will serve them well in an age so powerfully influenced by the social and practical implications of science."

"Looking to the future, Stratton mentions several projects which use more completely the capacity of the Institute. Construction of an addition to McLean Hall is now underway. The Center for Advanced Engineering Study and the Center for Space Research, on Massachusetts Avenue and Vassar Street respectively, are to be completed in the summer of this year. A new undergraduate dormitory, MacGregor, is to be built just east of Barker House. And a new Chemistry Building, to be located in Eastman Court has been designed, with the hope that construction will begin this spring."

"A la recherche..."

Concluding the report, Stratton remarks that one cannot termin- ate "an active involvement of forty-six years without trace of trauma." But, he notes, he has come to "this milestone without sadness or regret, but with a sense of deep gratitude" for the opportunities and friendships that he has enjoyed during his term of office. He says that "for MIT those have been gloriously ex- citing, productive years, and no one could have asked more of life than to have had in all of this even a modest part."

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