Senator John Kennedy's proposal late in the campaign for a "Peace Corps" was not a novel one to MIT. As early as 1951, and again two years ago, the issue was discussed by SCEP and others. Now, with the proposal's maturation as a political football, there is at last some possibility that something will come of it.

We feel that herein lies an ideal solution to two awkward situations. An appreciable number of MIT graduates annually enter the Armed Services for years from six months to three years, thus virtually marking time in their professional careers. Also, recent novels such as The Ugly American, and State Department surveys in Europe, tell us that American prestige abroad is not at the heights it once was.

Substantial groups of trained, qualified American college graduates, going under government auspices to underdeveloped countries which requested their services, would, in our opinion, go a long way toward improving both of these regrettable situations; for if such service were to last from one to two years, those concerned would have more than fulfilled their obligation of service to country.

For the MIT graduate, the proposal has particular merit. It would provide an opportunity for travel — it would provide at least some professional training — it would broaden our graduates' outlook. One's obligation to his country would come to be regarded not as two years of unproductive drudgery, to be avoided any way possible, but as a real opportunity to benefit personally as well as serve.

Many college students feel a social or political obligation of one kind or another, but are unsure or unaware of how this obligation should be fulfilled. The picketing of Woodrow Wilson by white students is a case in point. Picketings and "marches on Washington" are fine for demonstrating interest and awareness, but the energy would be far better put to use where it will do some good. Service abroad would not only utilize this energy, but would also give students some much-needed perspective on real-world problems and how one copes with them.

The setting up of a "Peace Corps" of one sort or another would be of immense benefit to the country, and to its college graduates. The Tech is proud to note that the idea is not a new one to MIT; we hope that it will be speedily realized into an active force to boost America's prestige and put to better use one of her great resources.