MIT Professors Write Kennedy

Materials Science Center Assured
By Second Century Fund Growth

Funds have been received to assure the construction of a $5 million, five-story Center for Materials Science and Engineering at MIT. Institute officials believe that this new center, for which architectural designs are now being completed, has been formally approved by the Executive Committee of the MIT Corporation.

The building will be located directly north of MIT's Great Dome in what is called the main parking area which opens on Massachusetts Avenue.

The concrete and glass building will provide more than 350,000 square feet of laboratory, classroom and office space, and will house interdisciplinary teaching and research in the broad field of materials.

The Materials Science Center building committee is the outgrowth of an Institute-wide building on all levels, facilitating integration of the work of all the Institute's teaching and research activities. Research and teaching facilities will be provided in the Center for the education of students from several MIT science and engineering departments.

Dr. John C. Slater, an associate and former Head of the MIT Department of Physics, is the chairman of a steering committee responsible for planning the Center. Other committee members are Dr. Peter Elias, Professor and Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering, and Dr. N. J. M. Van Dijk, Professor and Head of the Department of Metallurgy.

The architectural firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill of Chicago, Illinois, have been retained for design and detailed planning and designing of the new Materials Science Center.

Second Century Fund drawings will be started as the preliminary plans are completed in February, 1962, and construction started in November, 1962. The schedule of the Center has been set up to be ready for occupancy by September, 1963.

Architectural work started earlier on two programs made possible by the funds raised for the Second Century Fund. The Aeronautics Section of the Center for Space Sciences, a Center for the Life Sciences, a Center for Aeronautics and Astronautics, plus a Graduate Residence Center and a new Student Services Building.

These later phases of the program will be started in 1963 and completed in 1966.

The MIT Debate Society entered two tournaments last weekend.

At home, the Society held its first Greater Boston tournament, with 11 teams entered. The affirmative side won the first debate in a five-debate tournament on the topic: "Resolved: Labor Organizations Should Be Under the Jurisdiction of Anti-trust Legislation.

In Philadelphia, at the Villanova College, MATT placed seventh in the nation's largest tournament, and ranked above any other New England entry. The negative team of Glenn Books '63 and John Macrae '64 was one of three undefeated negative teams, and the affirmative team of John "Kit" Killian, Chairman of the Corporation at MIT, this Group, composed of students and educators from NATO countries.

Casimir is a visiting member of the Department of Physics at Johns Hopkins, Michigan, and Princeton Universities, and has been Professor of Physics at the University of Leyden since 1939.