Foreign scientists condemn university war research

In a prepared statement, over 400 French and Japanese university scientists condemned American scientists to refuse to cooperate in projects for military and secret research. The statement condemns the use of university facilities and personnel especially in connection with biological and chemical warfare research. Central to the statement is opposition to the war in Vietnam.

$600 million in 1967

In fiscal 1967, the Defense Department allocated $600 million in research contracts to American universities, and in the prior year over 60 universities held contracts for chemical research for warfare and defense purposes. At present, MIT is the largest single defense contractor of the American universities.

Among the signers of the statement were a number of distinguished scientists, including Nobel Prize-winners Alfred Kastler, Laurence Schwartz, Hideki Itokawa, Toshio Tomonaga, and Hideki Yukawa. A total of 435 signed in all. The complete text of the statement follows:

"A significant number of American universities are working directly for the war in Vietnam. Some of their departments are involved in chemical warfare experiments with herbicides utilized against crops and plants, napalm, phosphorus bombs, and toxic gases; others are participating in biological research intended for purposes of war. To such activity appears to be a grave violation of the essential commitment of science as a vocation. Scientists have vast ethical and professional responsibilities in the modern world. If they are to retain the benefit of humanity and the integrity of scholarship they should never willingly permit their discoveries to be exploited for destructive purposes. For these reasons and out of a sense of the ethical and professional responsibilities in the modern world, we are supporting MIT's decision to stop all support to the United States military."

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Seniors who desire to join the program do so by March 1. The Army would like to add more to the list of future TOC officers. The three French courses are required, and two years of active duty. Insetive Reserve starts after two years of graduate school. The Army would like to administer the physical for the advanced course soon. Final deadline for applications is Feb. 15.

Under the auspices of the MIT Social Service Committee, about 25 MIT students have been tutoring for Exodus during the last two years. The first of these tutors were graduate students in math who were interested in new methods of teaching arithmetic. The program is now being broadened to include reading, history, and other science subjects as well. Through the co-operation of Educational Services Inc. in Watertown, a large variety of games and materials for teaching arithmetic are available. Science and reading materials can be obtained through cooperation with other tutoring agencies. Even the tutor with no teaching experience can pick up the methodology of these materials very quickly. A more serious problem in the "cultural gap" is one who comes to the community with a ghetto child. The tutor has to realize that the gap is as wide from his side as it is from the child. Ghetto life, despite its material poverty, has a richness and vitality that make the middle class child seem deprived by comparison. Thus the tutor must be willing to learn himself — and he will learn a lot. By the age of ten, most ghetto children are housed out of school environment. The tutor needs sensitivity and the ability to make learning exciting. In addition, the tutor may be hostile and inarticulate when confronted with a middle class, white, academically oriented child. Progress is painfully slow and in many cases non-existent.

There is still a desperate need, for competent, dedicated people to serve as tutors for Exodus and other organizations. This is a need which MIT can help answer. If you are interested in the Roxbury Teaching Program, contact John Sillwell at Ashdown House, or Doug Richardson or Ken Martin at Chi Phi.

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