Rabi stresses military need for academic enlightenment

By Deff McGregor

Nobel Laureate I. I. Rabi, visiting Professor of Physics, told an East Cambridge audience last Friday that the American government and military are in great need of more involvement with and guidance from the academic community.

In a lecture titled "The Concept of National Defense," Rabi developed the theme that the military should not be left to its own resources of judgment and that enlightened help from outside is needed.

He said a concentration of power exists where there is a lack of accumulation of wisdom. Drawing illustrations from his own experience of work with the military, Rabi claimed that military leaders do not have the background to deal with expanding technology and complex international situations. He said also that a military left to itself has rather undemocratic features.

The role of the universities, to the extent that it has developed, has helped to provide leadership and technical assistance, and has extended democratic concepts to the military, Rabi claimed.

He added, "What element in our society is different? One is the awful willingness of the American public to pay taxes- how easily the federal government can take money away from the people. The other one is wisdom... When there is no impact of wisdom the whole national life becomes unharnessed."

On ways to rectify the situation, Rabi argued that the government and military not be abandoned. He said that military not be abandoned. He said groups of concerned individuals, especially scientists, may have more influence on Congress than many people realize. He noted that one part of the trouble is that people in the academic and technical community are not well with the motivations of party politics.

In a question-and-answer period that followed, Rabi said that a "think-tank" arrangement can lead to the Pentagon being told what it wants to hear. He also called an ABM system of "double purpose" as disarming the military.

"The reason why the ABM system will not work is that it will require a lot of dollars to maintain. With the amount of money which Congress is spending to maintain the military, the ABM system will not work."

**SDS hits MIT "harassment"**

By Larry Klein

Thursday in the West Lounge of the Student Center the MIT SDS held a first meeting to consider ways of asking the Institute maintenance men to get better working conditions. Attemted by some twenty-five persons, the Thursday meeting was expected by its organizers to serve as the initial step in building an active SDS chapter at MIT.

Disorientation of workers

The main topic of discussion at the SDS meeting was MIT's treatment of its maintenance men. Reporting information they had gained from talking to maintenance personnel, students attending the meeting built up a story of exploitation of the workers--both by their own union leadership and by the Institute itself.

According to students at the SDS meeting, supervisors of the maintenace men have been conducting a campaign of harassment against their charges for the past year, with complete approval of the Institute. Moreover, the Institute was charged with threatening to break such a strike through replacement of maintenance personnel.

As evidence for this claim, a student quoted from an Institute memorandum which dealt with an anticipated strike in late January: "Institute personnel should prepare to continue their regular activities to the fullest extent practicable. Arrangements have been made to provide essential services with temporary and other non-union personnel."

The purpose of the meeting, as seen by its organizers, was twofold. First, they wanted to build up a strong student movement which can either convince the Institute administration to treat its maintenance men differently or which can foil any attempts by the Institute to break a strike by maintenance men through the use of non-union personnel (particularly students).

Secondly, such a movement was seen by the meeting's organizers as a first step toward which an SDS chapter at MIT could crystallize. The significance of this particular cause was further highlighted by the necessity seen by most of the people in attendance at the meeting for MIT to build a strong student-worker alliance.

Although there was general agreement at the meeting as to the importance of building a powerful class student movement, disagreement did develop as to the exact reason for this importance.

Some of the students felt it to be to their eventual economic advantage to support the plight of the maintenance men. Others, however, disagreed, seeing no economic advantage in aiding the workers. Instead, they saw a moral significance in such action.

Behind much of this discussion however, there also seemed to be the implicit assumption that the support of the working class was vital to the interests of the SDS. With this support, the SDS would greatly increase its chances of being able to influence governmental policy--specifically in combating "the misuse of science and technology in the service of imperialism."