The Cambridge Project—a lab for the social sciences or a $7.6 million computerized counter-insurgency program for the Department of Defense—either way, the project is shaping up to be one of the big issues both here and at Harvard this fall.

The Cambridge Project, often known as Project CAM, will “develop, test, and disseminate computer-related techniques that will advance the behavioral sciences” according to its founders. Briefly stated, it will provide social scientists with more sophisticated computer equipment that has ever before been available for behavioral research.

Opposition to the project began last spring when members of the Science Action Coordinating Committee found out about the project which had been unmentioned to the Defense Department in December. Since then Harvard has been asked to join the project and opposition has developed there among radical student groups and faculty.

The project was originally conceived by a group of MIT social scientists and computer experts, including Professor Ithiel de Sola Poole, and Professor J.C.R. Licklider, director of Project MAC. Because of the size of CAM, the group approached the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) of the Defense Department for funding. The proposal requested a $7.6 million budget over a five year period.

The functions of CAM, as listed in the proposal to the Defense Department, include “to operate interactive multi-access competing facilities in support of methodological and application research in the behavioral sciences” and “to collect and maintain sets of data and computer-program models determined to be useful to the research work of participants in CAM.”

Memo to both generations:

we read you loud and clear

Arrow, Barron Anderson, Bostonian, BVD, Camp, Cricketeer, Farah, Forum, Freeland of Boston, Gant, Jockey, Levi, London Fog, Maine Guide, Mansfield, Michael Stern and Paris. These and other famous labels have been researching styles, colors, patterns and fabrics right down to the wire.

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Research or Repression?

Plans for the project include the use of MIT’s 7094 CTSS computer facility developed by Project MAC. The system can handle about 30 users simultaneously and can be entered by telephone dialup. The CAM proposal predicts that “when the ARPA network comes into operation, it will be possible to make some of the facilities remote stations by a telephone linkup.” The CAM proposal predicts that “when the ARPA network comes into operation, it will be possible to make some of the facilities remote stations by a telephone linkup.”

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