MidEast situation best since 1948, says Wright

By Dave Dunford

The political situation in the Middle East has been better since October's Yom Kippur war, however, a State Department official said earlier this week that "we now have the best opportunity for a just and last- ing peace in the Middle East since 1948."

Speaking at a political science seminar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Advisor William Wright elaborated on his optimistic outlook, pointing out that there are a number of differences be- tween the current situation and previous post-war periods.

"The differences focus primarily on damage to Israel," Wright began, citing several pe- rennial demands which no longer live as insurmountable obstruc- tions to peacemaking. In particu- lar, he mentioned that the issue of Arab recognition of Israel has become less important now that that recognition is in place.

Further, Israel's demand for a non-aggression treaty may, in Wright's view, be unrealistic if progress along other lines is made, thereby rendering a treaty in fact and not in words, Wright proposed.

In the context of recent events, he said that Iran's past demands for defendable borders are not to be ignored. "Only good neighbors make defensible boundaries," Wright com- mented.

On the Arab side, Wright noted the presence of a confi- dent and a dynamic military after the wars of 1948, 1956, and 1967. "The world of psychology seems to be much more important to the people in the Middle East than it might have been," he explained. "Both sides are vic- tim of the same psychological problems."

By Charlie Shawalan

Recycling of paper and other materials at the Institute, long advocated by groups ranging from student ecologists to ad- ministrators, has suffered su- bstantial set-back with the failure of a plan for separation and reuse of paper established over a year ago.

The plan, based on a study done by MIT students and implemented in November of last year by Physical Plant, def- fended on "source separation" by office workers of recyclable and non-recyclable materials. A special waste bin was placed in many administrative and sci- entific departments, so that materials that were recyclable could be pro- cessed without costly separation.

Turnover in secretarial posi- tions and lack of a central group to work on the plan are causes for its failure, according to Man-ager of Building Services Ted Dean, Jr., of Physical Plant. "Secretaries come in and aren't aware of the differences between the two wastebaskets they see," Dean said. "The recyclable materials get contaminated."

Another problem, Doan said, is that one of the students that did the original work developing the recycling plan, Fred Gross '73, has graduated, and no other students have taken over the operation or improvement of the plan. Lack of a group taking interest in the plan has led to ignorance about its existence and misuse of the facilities pro- vided for it.

The recycling plan drawn up by Gross and Donald Whiston, a former Physical Plant supervisor since retired, was designed to get around many of the problems associated with previous programs. Source separation by the secretary or office worker would eliminate late separation of con- taminated garbage; separate dumpsters were to be used for the reusable and non-recyclable materials, and Physical Plant employees would make pick-up on alternate nights.

However, the dumpsters that were designated for recyclable materials were often tossed over or simply thrown in by people who do not realize what their inten- tions are. Fire laws also regulate the collection of the paper and other recyclable materials in public places, such as the Building 7 lobby, due to the safety hazards involved.

Physical Plant hopes to resusc- itate the plan both for economi- cal and ecological reasons, according to Doan. "I'm not a proponent of the plan being at all successful," he added, "but the updated version is a step in the right direction for those who care about waste reduction."

"The plan is an attempt to make the campus greener," Doan said. "It's important to remember that we are all part of the environment, and we must take responsibility for some of the most important work being done today."

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In the context of recent events, there was a great deal of progress in the Middle East, according to Doan. "It seems to me now that perhaps we have been wholly-owned subsidiary of the Institute for 60 years, which will double the separate corp."

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