MIT seals Wentworth contract

MIT has received final approval of a contract with the Iranian Imperial Organization for Social Services (IOSS) to assist the Wentworth Institute and College of Technology in developing a technical school in Shiraz, Iran. MIT will provide advisory and research service in support of the Wentworth's development of a technical post-secondary school in Shiraz. MIT, under the terms of the $1.5 million five-year contract received by MIT this week.

Wentworth had previously announced (The Tech, March 21) a $1.8 million contract with the IOSS to undertake major development of the technical school in Shiraz. Wentworth was given that contract by the IOSS after MIT suggested that the school—a Boston technical and vocational school offering two- and four-year programs—would be better developed through the assistance of an Iranian school than MIT.

MIT faculty will be involved in two committees to oversee the development of the school and to guide research in several technical-educational areas. The announcement said. A Joint Advisory Committee, made up of Dean William Pounds of Sloan School of Business, and Dean Alfred Keil of Engineering, three or four other MIT faculty members, and several IOSS representatives, will meet three times each year to deal with program review, budgetary review and advice, and modifications of IOSS's other programs in technical education.

A research committee composed of MIT faculty members will select projects in educational research and sponsor them with funds from the contract. The committee will also monitor the results of the research, and will help the IOSS adopt the results for their educational programs.

Sanford: Fed govt should pay for public education

By Gerald Redak

The federal government should fund one-third of the cost of public education, unaffiliated support presidential candidate Terry Sanford said Sunday, in a speech at Harvard University.

Federal support "would do a lot to get more equal treatment" for all American citizens, Sanford told an audience at a talk sponsored by Citizens for Participatory Political Action.

Sanford also called for an economic policy aimed at full employment, a goal which he believes is reachable.

To accomplish his economic goals, Sanford proposed creation of a "national economic council" to coordinate and direct the activities of the many government agencies which affect or control some part of the economy.

Sanford, who is a former governor of North Carolina and president of Duke University, stated that he would announce his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination in June.

Although he would like to see federal support of public primary and secondary education, Sanford said, it should be in the form of "general support money." He added that "I would hope that we could do away with the direction that has come even with a little money from the federal government."

Sanford voiced his opposition to direct federal aid to private colleges and universities, favoring a program of student aid. He added that "I want to preserve the dual system of (public and private) education.

"There are an increasing number of American institutions which have had to improve their position in the market place. It is important that they be protected against the destructive power of the government."

The joint program with Wentworth is one of several which MIT has discussed with the government of Iran in recent months. A contract to train up to 54 Iranian students in Nuclear Engineering has already been accepted by the Iranian government. Other programs under discussion include development of oceanographic research programs with Iran, a faculty exchange program with Argonne University in Washington, and proposed Iranian support of the MIT Energy Laboratory.

The announcement stressed, however, that the contract with the IOSS was independent of other MIT negotiations with the Iranian government.

The Wentworth program was initiated when IOSS approached MIT to request the Institute's aid in establishing the Shiraz school. MIT, after considering the program, put the Iranian agency in contact with Wentworth, which then negotiated its contract separately.