Seifert: Saudi contract lost due to MIT’s overprotection

By Mike McNamara

MIT administrators are planning to "overprotect" itself against possible political ramifications of a re- search contract with Saudi Arabia led to Saudi refusal to sign that contract last week, according to an MIT faculty member involved in the negotiation.

The "sole issue" in the Saudi refusal to accept an MIT offer to conduct research on development that concerned whether the contract might have been used to pressure MIT into withdrawing the Saudi government, Professor of Civil Engineering William W. Seifert told The Tech.

Seifert returned from Arabia Wednesday to report to MIT administrators on Saudi refusal to sign a $1.7 million, 3-year research agreement for MIT research into water resources and electrical power needs for Saudi urban development. Seifert, who originally proposed such research two years ago, was a chief MIT negotiator in the talks with the Arabs.

"The real question all along," Seifert said, "was whether some group of people might pressure MIT into closing down Saudi contract negotiations in the Institute's interest.

This is the last regular issue of The Tech for the 1974-75 academic year. A Special Commencement Issue will be published June 3, and will be distributed on campus and to all regular subscribers. The Annual Summer Issue will be published August 1, and will be distributed on campus, to regular subscribers, and to incoming freshmen. Any person wishing to receive a copy of the Summer Issue by mail should address a self-addressed, stamped, self-enclosed envelope to The Tech, Room W10433 or PO Box 79, MIT Branch, Cambridge, July 1, 1975.

Have a good summer!

Night phone cutback protested by students

By Stephen Blatt

MIT’s decision to close down switchboard service in the early morning hours effective June 30, has brought widespread complaints from students.

The cutback, which will primarily affect dormitory residents, also elicited criticism from many students including a resolution condemning the move from Baker House at a meeting that officer three months later and only got it turned to us when they want through the switchboard at midnight to 7:30 am. Berlan, however, asserted that operators would be unable to get away with it.

"This is not a decision in some other part of the country," Berlan noted. "We are trying to be flexible. What will happen on July 1, 1975 is that at 7:30 am, the switchboard employees will be able to get away with it."

Interchange innovations due

By Gerald Rabinck

In the seven years since its inception, the MIT-Wellesley Ex- change has proven from an experi- mental program involving a handful of students into an ac- cepted supplement to the acade- mic offerings of each institution. Now, the political science departments at MIT and Wellesley have announced a new exper- iment which will involve the political science courses and social sciences courses across the two campuses each week between the two cam- puses.

Like the Wellesley Exchange itself, the political science ex- change is intended to "sup- plement the academic opportu- nities available to students, ac- cording to Professor of Political Science Jeffrey Freeman.

Professor of Political Science at Wellesley and a MIT subject involved in the exchange, was that students be helped as recommended by students, according to Freeman, that students not be dependent or large. Another concern is that the switchboard be kept open at certain times, such as evenings and weekends.

Despite the 45 minute bus ride between MIT and Wellesley, the 7-year-old Wellesley Exchange is flourishing.

"We know how to deal with the NSF, but Arabs are quite different."