Letters to the Tech
Ideas Sought on Foreign Programs

(A copy of this letter was sent to the Tech. To Members of the MIT Community.

An Open Letter to the MIT Community:

On April 28, 1975, we, the members of the Chaplaincy at MIT sent a letter to the Tech critical of MIT's contract with the Iranian government to train nuclear engineers in Nuclear Engineering. We expressed our concern about the independent integrity of an institution we deeply care about.

We relate this with a bit of drift of MIT involvement in making contracts with foreign governments. Upon which principle MIT stands in making such contracts?

We write this letter in response to MIT's negotiations with the Saudi Arabian government. As MIT's early approval of the aims and purposes of the Salt Water Conversion Corporation, and we regret that the negotiations for that project were terminated by Saudi Arabia. Wholly research is the university's responsibility, involving MIT and other governments or government-sponsored projects always carry with them moral, and social, and political concerns. Such consequences of their very nature raise the question of MIT's principles.

In this instance, MIT stated its principles in writing, and clearly, and then stood upon them. For this we are deeply grateful, and we wish to say so publicly.

President Wiesner said that "we cannot legally continue in any activity which has associated with it the violation of any individual on the basis of characteristics such as, race, color, national origin, religion or sex." MIT, he said, as an equal opportunity employer has both its legal requirements as well as opportunity to discriminate in all of its dealings. We commend the Institute and the MIT administration for this stand. We genuinely appreciate the clarity with which the principles were stated.

We regret that Saudi Arabian officials failed to appreciate MIT's need to insist on this principle, but we rejoice that the Institute did not compromise.

Rev. John Crocker, Jr. Fr. Robert Moran
Rev. James O'Reilly
Rev. Frank Nolting
Rev. Steven Murphy
Pastor Comfort
May 27, 1975

Review

Rebuttal

To the Editor:

I think that in the interest of fairness and equal time you should publish the following rebuttal of Sam Delany's Dhalgren.

If the characters of Dhalgren (by Sam Delany; Bantam Books) seem inconsistent and impene- trable, suspect lack of insight and penetration in the reader. The apparent anomalies arise from a basic premise: that life is ambiguous, that cognition is at best uncertain. Once comes to terms with the main character's inconstant insanity, which takes a while, the motivations of the characters should become instantly apparent (although never "lucid"). Dhalgren, I found, could be enviable in its inter- nal, strange rationality that (for instance) when Kid said: "I think it means Denny's going to leave me first," I could sit back and say, with absolute conviction: "Yeah, that's right, I think that's what it means." And then, when it came to the moment when, in fact, it isn't that, I then thought, it wasn't that we (the Kid and I) had been wrong, it was that life -- and Delany's superannuation of life -- never works out the way it logically should.

The construction of a "clear" system of symbols in Dhalgren's style. See Einstein Int- ersection, for Chusakke, or the Tech. 40

Meetings of the MIT Community:

To Members of the MIT Community:

An Open Letter to the MIT Community:

On April 28, 1975, we, the members of the Chaplaincy at MIT sent a letter to the Tech critical of MIT's contract with the Iranian government to train nuclear engineers in Nuclear Engineering. We expressed our concern about the independent integrity of an institution we deeply care about.

We relate this with a bit of drift of MIT involvement in making contracts with foreign governments. Upon which principle MIT stands in making such contracts?

We write this letter in response to MIT's negotiations with the Saudi Arabian government. As MIT's early approval of the aims and purposes of the Salt Water Con...