Problems haunt Iran program

(Continued from page 1) cal, not nuclear engineering," Hansen said. "We told them no, they had been admitted for a special program and couldn't transfer, and so they left and went to Stanford University to study mechanical engineering."

Other students, Hansen said, "never left Iran," including some who were in the armed forces and were not eligible to come to the United States this year. Others, he said, accepted admissions offers from other schools and went elsewhere, leaving MIT with 20 of the 27 students admitted.

The problem of academic program was not the only misunderstanding between MIT and the students. Although a decision had been made early in planning for the program that the students could not be housed in MIT dormitories, many of the students failed to accept this, and protested when they were told they would have to make their housing arrangements for the fall. Housing the three women participating in the program was especially difficult, as Iranian single women do not often live in apartments by themselves and the students objected to the idea.

"Ultimately, all the students were reconciled to the idea," Hansen said, "but the girls were much more upset than the men." The three women were placed on waiting lists for MIT graduate housing, but, Hansen said, "at least one has given up" and taken an apartment.

Hansen refused to comment on reports that the women threatened to go back to Iran, saying they had met with the Deans for Student Affairs and had "expressed concerns - there were no angry scenes." But Dr. Paul E. Brown, Assistant Director of the Center for Engineering Studies and administrator of the program, told The Tech that "If there had been a way for them to get back, I think some of them would have taken it. They were very unhappy."

Hansen said that the students had been adequately informed of what was expected of them, and attributed the problems to cultural differences and minor misunderstandings. "In Iran, apparently, signing a contract doesn't mean that a negotiation is ended - there's still room to bargain," he said. "Many of these students just didn't seem to take seriously what we told them." The mistakes and problems, Hansen said, will help smooth the path for the second class in the program, due to

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