US shifts on Viet students

The MIT administration has gone from trying to deport college students from South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos to supporting them and sponsoring their educations in less than a year. Students who were out of Vietnam with the government a few months ago are now being given special help with government loans and financial aid, extra assistance with permits and visas, and special help in obtaining privileges such as in-state tuition rates available at many colleges.

The students who were in danger of being deported last year included many Vietnamese students who opposed the war being fought in their country. The US Immigration and Naturalization Service brought charges against many such students, seeking to have their student visas revoked and have them deported.

The end of the war in South Vietnam and the coming of many Vietnamese refugees to this country has changed the government's view about Indochinese students -- even the ones who were to be deported.

A summary of federal guidelines prepared by the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs stressed the resources available to Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian students, advising college officials to make use of resources made available by the government.

But not all Indochinese students want to be aided. Nguyen Hue An, an MIT graduate student in Electrical Engineering who was one of the students the US sought to deport, has told friends that he intends to return to Vietnam after he completes his degree. An stated last year that he wanted to go back to his country, "even if the Paris Agreements end US involvement in the war," are fully implemented.

The US has recognized the desire of some students to return to their countries, and has made arrangements to help them, too. A short paragraph in the guidelines deals with repatriation and re-entry permits, to be obtained through the United Nations Commission for Refugees and the Red Cross.

Most Vietnamese students at MIT, however, are more interested in finding out if their families got out of the country, and in finding out how to get back in. According to Foreign Student Advisor Eugene Chamberlain, several students have not located their families yet, and do not know whether they got out with other refugees last spring.

"There haven't been any outstanding problems, that the Foreign Student Office have had to deal with," Chamberlain said, "but we are helping our Indochinese students who are still looking for their families."

Joseph I. Pechtel
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The NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE will be holding hearings on Thurs., Sept. 25, to place undergraduates on the following committees:

7:30PM. WELLESLEY – MIT JOINT COMMITTEE

The committee monitors and coordinates the MIT – Wellesley Exchange Program to ensure that it constitutes a meaningful diversification in the learning experience of the undergraduates of both schools.

Kenneth M. Hoffman, Co-Chairperson, MIT. x-3438

8:30PM. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE

This committee gives support, coordination, and direction to the Institute's programs for equal employment and educational opportunities.

Carl Garland, Chairman. x-31904

If interested, call the listed chairmen for more information, and leave your name with the UA Secretary at x-2696.

Hearings are held in Room 400 of the Student Center.