Passport denial flap follow teach-in

By Mike McNamee

Two Boston-area Taiwanist students have charged that the Chinese Consulate is blocking their requests for passports because of the student's political "misbehavior.

The consulate is "holding for review" the passport of one of the students because he attended an academic at MIT on the inertial-guidance program, they said.

The students told The Tech that they called "spies" for the Nationalist Chinese government who reportedly took pictures of the family at the event. They were told that "my behavior at MIT was bad," when they applied for passport renewal.

Although the two students were not interviewed in The Tech's offices last weekend, they requested that their names not be published for fear of reprisals against their passport requests, which are still pending, or against their families in Taiwan.

Because the Tech refused to give the students' names, the Chinese Consulate refused to comment on the cases. "Most of our students have no problem with their passports, but if some have, we must know who you are talking about so we can find out," a spokesman for the Consulate said.

MIT investigating

The two students have been interviewed by MIT officials who are investigating charges that "Taiwanite students are spied upon while at the Institute. Special Assistant to the President Louis Meenard has prepared a written report for President Jerome B. Wexner on the 'spy incident' at the Taiwan teach-in, but the report an assure that the rights of foreign students have not yet been released.

The students interviewed by The Tech attended Harvard and Brandeis Universities. Although one of them - Student A - attended the teach-in, neither considered having an "activist" or "politically-oriented" role. Student B was attending a teach-in with an ambulance, "but I haven't been to rallies or meetings," the other student - Student B - said.

Their stories are apparently well-known among the Taiwanese, many of whom are reported shunning any sort of contact with other Taiwanese because of fear of being labeled as an activist. Chinese communists in other cities have heard the story as well; The Tech has received a letter from China charging an opus on their tale (see page 2).

"We'll have to check this with Taipei," Student A went to the Chine-ese Consulate shortly after the Teach-In to apply for passport renewal. His passport was routinely renewed three years ago; he expected the same this time. Instead, after completing his forms, he was told to wait for an interview with a visa official.

"They put me in a waiting room and made me wait an hour while they went to check my record," Student A explained. "Then the visa-official came out and said I was very sorry, but I'd have to check back to Taipei (the capital of Taiwan) for permission to renew my passport."

When Student A pressed the official for an explanation, he said, "You may be better at MIT than bad." "I wouldn't tell me what he meant by that, he said, but I had to send the information to Taiwan for permission." Student A added.

Student B went to the Consulate at about the same time last month - to apply for passports for relatives in Taiwan who wished to visit the U.S. He, too, was told that his request was being sent to the capital to be cleared.

"I didn't press him for reasons," Student B told The Tech. "Maybe he's a good reason.

"I'll have to wait two weeks."

PASSPORT DENIAL FOLLOW TEACH-IN

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Student B also said that several weeks before he went to apply at the Consulate, he was told by a Taiwanese friend that he was on a government "blacklist." His friend, who has since completed his MIT studies and returned to Taiwan, was later accused of being a government spy because he accepted pictures of Taiwanese attending the good-}

MIT hold elections

By Dan Fields

The 1979 election results, includ- ing those for the 1978-77 officers, are given below.

The new officers will be official- ly installed at the incoming freshman's Welcome dinner on September 1.

The Interfraternity Conference (IFC) held elec- tions for the 1979-77 officers. The new officers will be officially sworn in on April 1. Meeting at Kappa Sigma on March 5, chairman elect Richard Marburs (SPE) told The Tech that he hopes to "put an emphasis on communications." As the head of approximately 30% of the undergraduate living accommodations, Mardus said that he likes the idea of creating an information center, available to fraternity members, designed to spread news and to increase the awareness of IFC activities. He expressed an avid interest in the idea of creating an intranet to be distributed regularly to the fraternal chapters.

David Dobos (ECA) '77, the current constant threat of removal from civil service keeps one of the IFC's performance at a peak.

Most of the material for Wener's talk came from a four-week trip he took to India in January. The trip gave Wener the opportunity to talk with people representing a broad range of India's institutions, and also allowed him to witness the degree of control the govern- ment is using to deal with the problem.

Speaking in a room with windows covered with a metal screen for "Produce more for prosperity," and "Government service is very poor," Wener said that the government is using the media is used more as a means for the administration to com- municate with the public than as a source of information. (Please turn to page 3)

IFC officers elected

By Henry Fiorentini

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