Handful of support

(Copies of this letter were sent to UAP Phil Moore and to The Tech.)

Dear Phil,

Recent actions taken by you and the SACC have compelled me to write you to tell you that, even though we voted you to be UAP, we still support you in your various blanket statements, covering the undergraduate student body. In the handout for the second Taiwan demonstration, you say that one of the purposes of the protest is to show that significant opposition exists to the Deal. Possibly the fact that only 150 people came out of their classes and work for the first protest didn’t make a large impression on you, but it showed me and many others a few facts about the student body here at MIT.

I am sure that you consider the anti-Deal movement to have the support of the majority of the student body after the last demonstration; answering a questionnaire is not my form of support. Consider the fact that, simultaneously to your rally at the Student Center, at least twice as many people were sitting in a 542 lecture; also, at least five times as many people showed up last weekend to LSC’s showing of Rol- terball. No, I think that you don't have the support of the student body, except on paper, which isn’t really worth a whole lot when you are trying to show the administration a significant opposition to a program.

I support the theory that we should not allow the proliferation of nuclear power to any country, especially one who has an obvious enemy. I don't feel that any of the posters will further that theory in practice; I doubt that ending the program at MIT will do much, either. As we saw with the Iranian “exchange,” if MIT doesn't train these people to do whatever we're training them to do, someone else will, and probably just as well. If we turn the Taiwanese away, the program will go on at another university here or abroad. I grant you that this is a facetious attitude, but there is so much more that can be done with our time, such as alerting those who support the Institute (the alumni and the government), and those who support the laws and policies against this sort of proliferation (the State Department), about the facts and our views on the present situation.

Phil, there’s so much more that can be accomplished, not just talked about. Instead of washing our hands of the Taiwan missiles, let’s work to prevent the Institute from setting up programs of questionable value and legality standing in the future, and stop the Deal, not shock it off to another school. Puerile shouting at the administration is an ineffective technique of expressing one’s moral concern over a program. As long as you have only a handful of active supporters (i.e. 4% of the undergraduates), you will convince no one of the serious ness of the issue.

Paul Hoffman

To the Editor:

After reading the Menand Report on the so-called “Spying” incident, I, a foreign student at MIT, feel a bit like a Jew in the pre-war Germany as a Nazi is appearing on the horizon.

The Menand Report clearly portrayed a sad and horrifying scene occurring on February 6, 1976 in Room 26-100. Social Action Coordinating Committee (SACC) members practically declared martial law and suspended the constitutional rights of a MIT foreign student with a poor command of English in the name of a “citizen’s arrest” at their open forum. What SACC has done was inexcusable, and can not be tolerated. Just some unsubstantiated allegations that the student taking some pictures was a “spy” apparently were enough reasons for SACC to pressure, intimidate, and coerce him in giving up his rightful belongings, and SACC reacted savagely based on circumstantial evidence and character-assassinating rumors, and proceeded to deprive the victim of his civil liberty of taking pictures for his personal use. No one in theMIT campus. Name withheld by request