Taiwan program stopped

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posts, a program such as the one presently being conducted at MIT would be the best way for them to start.” (Thursday, 2/12/76)

In addition, it was learned that the State Department had objected to MIT's original program, to be administered by Draper Labs, on the grounds that it would provide a curriculum too close to "state-of-the-art" work, and had denied Draper the right to conduct laboratory projects in Taiwan.

The program was then transferred to the MIT Measurement Systems Lab with Draper personnel used as lecturers.

In Mid-March, a faculty-staff-student Committee on Institute International Commitments (CIC) was formed to investigate the program and the allegations that its intent could be military.

About one month before the CIC final report was issued, Committee member Ken Flamm publicly wrote that "all the evidence the CIC has so far points to the military nature of the program."

Flamm charged that "MIT is operating a training program for personnel employed by the Taiwanese Ministry of Defense. While State Department intervention stopped the transfer of the most sensitive inertial technology to Taiwan, the Taiwanese are still receiving a specially-designed two-year intensive inertial technology program.” (The Tech, 4/16/76)

Although MIT President Jerome Wiesner and Chancellor Paul Gray '54 replied to the Committee that they were not personally convinced that the subject matter was as closely related to military applications as the CIC believed, they authorized a recasting of the program, to be undertaken jointly by Dr. Jones and NTU officials.

Based on the brief time left on the contract, these negotiations resulted in the program's termination last month rather than a refocusing of its objectives. All of the program's students returned to Taiwan last week after the decision was announced.