Human rights policy is producing results

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, students protested vehemently the involvement of the U.S. in Vietnam. When the U.S. government, they said, was ignoring the human rights of the Vietnamese people when it proped up a dictatorial government and escalated a small conflict into a major conflict with neighboring Vietnam. Washington's response to the protesters' demands that the US end its involvement in Vietnam was slow, and when President Nixon finally removed the last US troops from Vietnam in 1973, the government's motivation was not human rights but rather a belief that the conflict was lost. Consequently, for the sake of the human rights of people in foreign countries had not changed; later that year, the Nixon administration launched a policy to facilitate the overthrow of the democratically-elected government of Chile.

Human rights often disregarded

Of course, the actions of the Presidents who got us into and out of Vietnam were only consistent with the foreign policy of previous presidents. Since the 1800's, the United States has had an unfortunate history of disregarding the rights of people in other countries. The governments that we have supported have often been notorious for their criminal behavior. In South America, Carter's policy has resulted in a country being taken over by a small group of military Officers. In Africa, the results are equally encouraging. Much of the world is ruled by dictators, and many governments have no respect for human rights.

Reactor wastes cause political fallout

"The use of low-level radioactive material by MIT and Harvard is generating political heat in Cambridge."

In the past, the Cambridge City Council ordered a special hearing to be held Monday, November 19. The council wants to learn from MIT and Harvard what kinds of experimental generation radioactive waste, how wastes are transported out of the city, and what plans exist for waste disposal. Community attention and the Council followed the closing of a waste disposal site in Hanford, Washington, three weeks ago. Since then, Harvard has restricted use of radioactive materials in its laboratories and MIT has requested a voluntary slowdown. MIT can stockpile its waste for 4-6 months and anticipates a new dumping site will be found before storage space in Building 210W on Albany Street runs out. However, storage problems don't even compare to that which may be brewing at City Hall. Parker Coddington, Harvard's director of government relations, articulated the university's true fear: "The real danger of all this lies in its expansion into a cause of externalities that may lead to a curtailment of research." (Cambridge Chronicle 10/25/79)

Recalling the fallout of the recombinant DNA controversy in 1975, MIT and Harvard are presently bending over backwards to cooperate with the Council. A Ted Talk headline, "MIT Pleads Cooperation in Radioactive Waste Study," reveals MIT's eagerness to accommodate. The article quoted Robert Albert of the School of Science: "We will provide the council with all the information they desire on how radioactive wastes are handled at MIT." MIT's eagerness to accommodate, the article quoted Robert Albert of the School of Science: "We will provide the council with all the information they desire on how radioactive wastes are handled at MIT."