Olympic boycott is possible

By Rich Anubs, Bob Host, and Richard Salz

President Carter announced Sunday on the NBC television show “Meet the Press” that if Soviet troops in Afghanistan were not removed after one month’s time, he would not support the sending of a United States team to the Moscow Olympics.

He recommended that the games either be moved to a different site—or number of sites—or be postponed altogether. He also suggested the establishment of a permanent site for both the summer and winter games. Official sources have said that the president has the final say in the matter. The final decision regarding Olympic policy, however, rests with the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Lord Killanin, IOC president, said it would be physically impossible to find other accommodations in the event of a change of the Olympic site. Los Angeles, the host of the 1984 summer Games, has offered its facilities as an emergency measure.

F. Don Miller, Executive Director of the US Olympic Committee, reading a prepared statement, said that “The United States Olympic Committee recognizes and shares President Carter’s concern regarding the situation abroad. It was not before possible.”

Julian K. Roosevelt, IOC representative to the United States, reiterated that should the US withdraw from the Games, no individual athletes would be allowed to participate. “The IOC recognizes a committee in each country, and it is up to that country to send a team to the games.”

In an interview, Gene Ward, Press Liaison of the 1980 Winter Games Commission, stated that the president has the final authority over the American team. Ward, also Press Officer of the initial bid delegation to the IOC, noted that only the IOC can sanction a major change such as the location of the summer games. Ward pointed out, however, that “The IOC can do whatever it wants to.”

He pointed out that some major western nations such as England and Australia will not participate in the Olympics. Ward noted that the 1980 Olympics will be a “sharing of the spoils.”

ESG oversight committee formed

By Bob DeMarino

The establishment of an Oversight Committee to the Experimental Study Group (ESG) is the clearest advantage to the program’s becoming “regularized” as an Institute offering, stated Chairman of ESG and Acting Dean for Student Affairs Robert L. Halfman ’44 this week.

According to Halfman, the Oversight Committee, composed of faculty from the departments of math, physics, chemistry, and the humanities, will function in assisting ESG in recruiting new students, guiding academic policies, and providing an outside perspective on ESG and its effectiveness.

“By this way,” he said, “the program will receive a continuing sensitive academic review which was not before possible.”

ESG was unanimously voted to become a regular portion of the Institute’s offerings by the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) on November 15, 1979.

ESG was formed in 1968 as an alternative to the regular MIT curriculum which would allow students to devise their own program of study via personal tutors, small seminars, and self-paced study. Owing to its ESG literature, ESG is for students who feel that the rigid structure normally offered does not allow for the study of those areas they found personally intriguing.

Before November 1979 ESG was classified as an “approved experimental program” under the auspices of the CEP. ESG was reviewed biannually by CEP which had the power to disband it, continue it, or end its experimental status. Halfman says that the stability of knowing that ESG is a regular MIT program and the legitimacy of being part of the School of Science will enable ESG to be molded to better fit the needs of its students.

Commenting on whether the change will mean more money for ESG, or perhaps expansion of the program, Halfman said, “I don’t foresee additional finances and there is by no means consideration of expansion. The program has been limited to fifty freshman for important reasons.” Halfman likened the size of ESG to the size of a fraternity, indicating that there is a certain cohesive force between members in a group of between 30-50 members, but that this cohesiveness drops off drastically with increased numbers.

press side

When January is over, will you feel about IAP the way people did 10 years ago? Compare your opinions with theirs in Page 2.

Anything Goes, the MIT Musical Theater Guild’s latest production is continuing its successful run at the Loeb Drama Center. Page 10.

No one seems to agree on the film Star Trek — including David Shaw and Shawn Wilson, who fight it out on Page 11.

Five of MIT’s fifteen winter sports will carry undefeated records into the second half of the season. Page 16.