By Tom Learde
The MIT Socialist Group and the Committee on Central America presented a forum on the foreign policy of President Ronald Reagan's administration, Wednesday from 12 to 3pm on "the occasion of a visit by Vice President Bush to MIT," according to the sponsors.

Speakers at the forum included Aggrey Mbere, a teacher at Roxbury Community College, Joe Sernoe of the Boston AFSC, and Martin Diskin, Professor of Anthropology at MIT.

Mbere, a member of the African National Congress and native of South Africa, spoke against the Reagan administration's policies toward South Africa. Mbere described the administration's policies as "a shift to closer collaboration with racist government of South Africa." He noted that this collaboration with the apartheid government supported international judgment contained in United Nations resolutions condemning apartheid.

Mbere said that the U.S. cooperation with apartheid was "no surprise" because "the economic and political interests of the U.S. are clear." He specifically noted that U.S. policy is motivated by what he referred to as a mineral scare, a desire to prevent Communist control of valuable South African mineral resources.

Mbere also discussed the complexity of apartheid while maintaining white control of South Africa. He felt that the American need for South African minerals and naval positions has given a major role in shaping U.S. foreign policy.

Mbere felt that his fear was ultimately a fear for the survival of the capitalist system.

Diskin addressed the administration's policy toward the Middle East. He noted that the policy was very similar to that toward South Africa because both were motivated by what he termed resource wars. Diskin felt that the situation was complicated in the Middle East by US struggles with a "two track policy" there, one which is trying to support the survival of Israel while another attempts to maintain privileged access to Mideastern oil resources.

A member of the recent AWACS debate in Congress as an example of the complications of this two track policy. He noted that "the AWACS debate is not over a weapons system, but over which way foreign policy will tilt—to Israel or Saudi Arabia."

Gerson felt that the intensity of reaction to the Iranian hostage crisis was intended to "reconcile the American public to accepting the possibility of a foreign interventionist war. He remarked that this shift ended the reign of the Nixon doctrine, which he described as the use of other countries to fight for US interests in Asia. Reagan's new set of doctrines is based on the idea that the oil of the Mideast is "the regular vein of capitalism" and, as a result, the US must be willing to risk nuclear destruction to ensure control of the Middle East, according to Gerson. He attributed the statement of these doctrines to spokesmen for the Reagan administration.

Diskin spoke of Central American foreign policy. He noted that the domino theory was re-emerging in Central American foreign policy. The idea that the US is that last domino, according to Diskin, has permitted the administration to "sanction more poverty" domestically to provide for defense.

The MIT Socialist Group and the AFSC will send a delegation to El Salvador as the site of "East-West confrontation in Central America" and described El Salvador as "the United States' Afghanistan." He (Please turn to page 9)