MIT seeks Simplex developers

(Continued from page 11)

In July of 1969, MIT purchased the Cambridge property of the Simplex Wire and Cable Company. Because the firm was anxious to move to Maine for economic reasons, the Institute was able to purchase the site for the bargain price of $12 million. Part of the 18-acre site is directly adjacent to brookside property. The land itself is bounded by Emily, Sedgley, and Brookline Streets in Cambridgeport.

In early 1970, the Cambridgeport Planning Team (CPT), a Federally-funded neighborhood planning organization, told MIT the community wanted the Institute to develop part of the site for low-income housing and Small-caps industry. The Institute made no public move to do anything with the property, and a year later the CPT announced the formation of the Simplex Searing Committee to "carry on the fight." Discussion continued, with the Committee when claiming it was being ignored by MIT. In 1974, the Cambridge City Council resolved not to issue any building permits "until the neighborhood planning process is completed and recognized by MIT as a mandate for development of the Simplex land ...."

In 1978, the Institute started looking for someone to buy the property and, late in the year, the Polaroid Corporation expressed an interest. The two parties met occasionally, but no deal was made.

Soviet policy discussed

(Continued from page 2)

... scientists who have been denied facilities to work in. The Soviet Union has since cracked down on such meetings, but we "must not give in to the temptation to isolate ourselves politically from the US," he said. He criticized the Reagan Administration's link between the SALT talks and Poland in punishing ourselves, rather than the Soviets.

Herman Feuriah, Head of the Department of Physics, pointed out that skepticism and the ability to communicate freely are necessary to a scientist. Both of these needs, he said, conflict with a totalitarian government's goal of maintaining control of its population. This leads to oppression of scientists, among others, by such governments.

Aleksyeva, who did not speak at the symposium, was recently allowed to emigrate from Russia to join her husband, Sakharov's stepson. The Soviet government renewed its denial of her exit visa following a much-publicized hunger strike by Sakharov and his wife. In a letter quoted at the conference, Sakharov accused the Soviet government of "hostage-taking" in an attempt to pressure him.

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NOTES

Notice to all Graduate Research Assistants and Teaching Assistants: The Bursar's Office has revised the payroll deduction schedule of term charges, effective this month. Starting with the January 1982 paycheck, the office will be taking a deduction of 1/9 of the total term charges, and a uniform deduction of 3/9 will be taken in February, March, April, and May. Students with any questions or problems should contact their account representative.