Institute colloquium probes apartheid

Panel argues US role in S. Africa

By Katie Schwartz

A panel of six speakers debated whether US involvement in South Africa is an appropriate means of changing the country's apartheid system before a belligent crowd of approximately 500 yesterday in Kresge Auditorium.

The even — titled "What Can and Should Americans Do About Apartheid?" — was part of the Institute Colloquium on Apartheid, sponsored by the Institute Colloquium Committee. The committee is chaired by Dean of Students for Student Affairs Shoshana Motlana, former member of Congress; William Jacobsen of the US Department’s working group on South Africa; and Willard Johnson, MIT professor of political science, who is the political science chair of the South Africa Committee.

Johnny Makatini, US representative of the African National Congress (ANC), was unable to participate due to illness. He was replaced by Robert B. Bobich, MIT professor of political science and history, who moderated the discussion.

Despite centered on the question of whether American trade and commercial presence in South Africa only perpetuates the current state of affairs, or whether it can be used to moderate apartheid. Many in the audience supported the former view, cheering speakers who advocated divestment.

Chothin said that Americans, business, government, and individuals can accomplish change in South Africa, and Johnson saw any US involvement as abhorrent. He added, "A guest is more law-abiding than a native," he said. "Apartheid has shown itself to be an extremely durable institution."

American companies have been less openly apartheid than South African companies, Zevin said. "A guest is more law-abiding than a native," he said. An analogy was drawn with American college regulations. "If a foreign company, is the most committed to human rights, and the most challenged by the anti-apartheid movement."

"It would be a moral thing for companies to leave South Africa," Zevin continued. Some students were right to walk away from a problem, he said. "I favor selling your stock and sending a loud message to the companies." Zevin said. "It is reasonable for investors to say there are certain events that will not profit from, Zevin said. The drug trade is an example, he explained."

"It is a surprising counterintuitive fact that this exclusion by universities of companies present."

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Student demonstrator at colloquium

Black leaders talk of African strife

By Craig Jungwirth

First in a two-part series on the opening address of the Institute Colloquium on Apartheid.

Nabbea Molana, chairman of the ANC’s Committee of Ten and the Soweto Civic Action Committee, opened the Institute Colloquium on Apartheid Wednesday in Kresge Auditorium.

Nabbea Molana has been "one of the leading politicians in South Africa," said Robert Berg, director of the ICS’s Program Subcommittee, who introduced Molana. Molana received his medical degree and began practicing medicine in his homeland in 1958, Robich added.

Molana, whose address opened the Institute Colloquium Committee’s (ICC) Colloquium on Apartheid, discussed the development of a "people’s war" led by students and workers in South Africa — a movement agitated by the South African government's apartheid policies.

"South Africa is indeed a land of crisis," he said. "It is difficult to say when the crisis actually started.... There have, of course, been very numerous warning signs which South Africa’s rulers have ignored."

The African National Congress (ANC), a national organization of blacks, "so far this year has unleashed a number of attacks inside the country since 1976," Molana added. He cited a string of figures from an Oct. 20 Johannesburg newspaper that reported 52 acts of violence and 55 murders and attacks on civilians to one sabotage and attack on a police foot patrol.

Compared to the 42 incidents reported in 1973 and 54 acts reported since 1976, Molana said, "There has been a drastic increase in the activities of the Afrikaans government."

"Do they really think that we will suddenly believe that they are not rights when you have 500 students out-side Paul Grau’s [house]."

"The provost, the ODSA [Off- fice of the Dean for Student Af- fairs] and the president claim to be sudden champions in the struggle against apartheid," Molana said.

"They don’t want to see demonstra- tions. They would rather see nice, scholarly discussions in Kresge. What scares them is that we are having discussions out side Paul Grau’s [house]."

"The provost, the ODSA [Off- fice of the Dean for Student Af- fairs] and the president claim to be sudden champions in the struggle against apartheid," Molana said.

"Do they really think that we will suddenly believe that they are interested in fighting against apartheid?" Contras asked.

"Apartheid is the cause of the crisis. But the reasons behind MIT’s sponsorship are suspect, he claimed. "Why would ... MIT organi- zations with holdings in South Africa support the revolution?" he continued.

"I think this whole thing is just a thing organized to take away from the mass movement," Ayyadurai said, calling it an attempt... (From page 2)