MIT grad McNair among seven presumed dead

By the Tech staff

Ronald E. McNair PhD '76 was among seven astronauts who died when the space shuttle Challenger exploded minutes after its launch from Florida's Kennedy Space Center yesterday morning.

The crew included Air Force Maj. Robert R. Scobee, the shuttle commander; Navy Cmdr. Michael J. Smith; Judith A. Resnik, mission specialist; McNair, mission specialist; Gregory B. Jarvis, payload specialist; Air Force Col. Ellison S. Onizuka, mission specialist; and Christa McAuliffe, payload specialist.

Feud of President Ronald Reagan's ouster of Challenger's crew, Page 3.

McNair, the second black

Director Gordon H. Pettengill '48 predicted that NASA will not launch any more space shuttles until it determines the cause of the Challenger accident.

NASA will probe for a good explanation of what caused Challenger to explode, Binsack said. Once NASA has identified the source of the explosion, it will search for a way to ensure that such an incident does not happen again.

"No one in their right mind would fly the space program without analyzing the Challenger explosion with very good hypotheses of what happened," Binsack said.

NASA had planned 15 shuttle missions for this year. It will probably cancel all of the missions in the next couple of months, Binsack said.

Pettengill and Binsack would not speculate on what might have caused the explosion of the Challenger's main fuel tank.

"We don't get involved with the propulsion systems," Pettengill said.

"We've been watching the films just like everyone else," Binsack added. "There's just a lack of information so far."

George L. Sawyer III G, a staff member at MIT's Spectroscopy Laboratory, said he and his colleagues were in tears.

"This space shuttle Challenger explosion is the event that has affected the MIT community the most," Sawyer said.

"There's been an increase in international tensions, and in light of world events, the study is an excellent idea at this time," O'Connor said.

Located at 138 Albany Street, MIT's five-negativat research facility uses weapon-grade, highly-enriched uranium (HEU) fuel.

The second largest university research reactor in the United States. The largest one is at the University of Missouri at Columbia.

City councillor David E. Sullivan '74, who requested the investigation at the Nov. 18 meeting of the City Council, was concerned that the reactor might be vulnerable to an accident or a terrorist attack.

"We've got a nuclear reactor with bomb-grade fuel sitting in one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States," Sullivan explained in an interview with The Tech. "Naturally, you want to know what the safeguards are. The reactor could be a significant public health and safety hazard. The city has the authority and responsibility to address these issues."

Lincoln Clark, Jr., associate director of the 28-year-old reactor, said MIT will cooperate with the city's investigation.

The reactor presently follows the security

MIT's nuclear reactor

By Earl C. Yes

As ed hoc committee appointed by the Cambridge City Council has begun a safety investigation of MIT's nuclear reactor, according to David B. O'Connor, director of the city's Department of Emergency Management and Planning.

The committee will begin its investigation this week.

"There has been an increase in international tensions," O'Connor said. "It's an excellent idea at this time." The Space Shuttle Challenger will set back society's advances, according to David B. O'Connor, director of the city's Department of Emergency Management and Planning.

One of MIT's nuclear reactors, located at 138 Albany Street, is part of a larger research facility that uses weapon-grade, highly-enriched uranium (HEU) fuel. The reactor is one of the largest in the United States and is housed in one of the largest metropolitan areas.

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