Opinion Feedback

Coalition is tired of waiting

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After several weeks, we were contacted by the ODSA, only to discover that MIT had completed its re-evaluation without community-wide input, and that this so-called "re-evaluation" resulted in virtually no change at all.

It was at this point that, in frustration, we built a symbolic "Towship Alexandra" to dramatize the plight of the South African blacks, and to show solidarity with them in their struggle. As you recall, we also brought our concerns directly to the MIT Corporation at their March 7 meeting.

Although over 100 Coalition members requested that two of their number be allowed into the meeting to present their case directly to those who make MIT's divestment decisions, this was not allowed. Instead, a week later, a memorandum was issued - the same man whose negligence caused the cancellation of this fall's meeting - and Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56 led the campus police on a dawn raid which resulted in the destruction of Township Alexandra and the arrest of eight MIT students.

Last June, in private meetings with ODSA and with the Executive Committee of the Corporation, we again requested to meet directly and publicly with the corporation's attorneys - so that the MIT community could be involved in a genuine re-evaluation. The corporation's request was met with extreme reluctance. ODSA members claimed that such a public involvement would mean that the corporation members would be "in the dark." They feared we would use such a public forum to bring MIT's investment decisions to the fore.

We will not, however, waste our time in polite conversations with meaningless committees or in backroom meetings behind closed doors. Neither will we be paraded into passivity by endless postponements and empty promises. This latter is too important; the imperative to act is too clear; MIT must divest.

Steve Penn G
Greshen Ritter G
and three others for the Coalition Against Apartheid

ODSA-student relations disturbing

To the Editor:

I am currently a graduate student at MIT. During a brief return to campus last weekend, I was appalled as the atmosphere among students regarding the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA) continued to be tense. Specifically, I participated in a discussion concerning "student militants."

Apparently, a memorandum was issued by Shirley M. McBay announcing a tentative plan by the ODSA to establish a Student Community Relations Committee. Apparently, such a committee among students would serve as peer police to enforce the policies of the ODSA. Although this memo was clearly a bad idea, a surprising number of students believed this to be authentic.

I trust this is not the case. As you know, I have a clear concern that student militants should be considered at Dr. Louis Menard III, E51-201G, or Tobie Weiner E53-460, Ext 3-7762, NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 3, 1986.

Harry S Truman Scholarships

The annual Harry S Truman Scholarship Awards will be made to current sophomores in good standing who are U.S. citizens or nationals. Two MIT students will be nominated by the Institute. The awards will be $6,500 and are renewable for the senior year and for up to two years of graduate study. Any sophomore weighing to be considered should contact Dr. Louis Menard III, E51-201G, or Tobie Weiner E53-460. Ext. 3-7762, NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 3, 1986.