

Jerry:  
A number of colleagues plan to send Hurst  
to our faculty. We would very much appreciate having  
your ideas on it.  
Francis Low  
\* or something very close to it  
Dear Colleague:

OFFICE OF THE  
PROVOST

DEC 3 1968

Ref. to \_\_\_\_\_

File \_\_\_\_\_

The very existence of mankind is threatened by the misuse of scientific and technical knowledge. Our government has contributed to this trend, and its actions in Vietnam have destroyed confidence in its ability to make wise and humane decisions. The new administration has even promised to further enlarge our destructive capability.

The response of the scientific community to these developments has been hopelessly fragmented. There is a small group that conceives and advocates these policies, and a handful of eminent men who have tried but failed to stem the tide from within the government. The concerned majority has been on the sidelines and ineffective in opposing policies that would be still-born without their co-operation. We feel that it is no longer possible to remain uninvolved.

We therefore call on scientists and engineers at MIT, and throughout the country, to seek methods for concerted action against the dangers that have been unleashed. As a first step in this direction we ask our colleagues - faculty and students - to join us in stopping research activity at MIT for one day, ~~on January 15~~. We propose to devote this day to extensive public discussion. This action is in part symbolic, to emphasize our profound apprehension. It also has the following specific purposes:

1. To give notice that the government cannot take our co-operation for granted in hazardous programs such as the projected ABM system and the enlargement of our nuclear arsenal.
2. To devise means for turning research applications away from their present overemphasis on military technology towards the solution of pressing environmental and social problems.
3. To initiate a critical examination of the concepts underlying our defense policy.
4. To convey to our students the hope that they will devote themselves to bringing the benefits of technology to mankind, and to ask them to scrutinize the issues raised here before participating in the construction of destructive weapons systems.
5. To explore the feasibility of organizing the technological community so that its political effectiveness can become commensurate with its crucial role in modern society.

If you share our apprehension, and desire a rational examination of the issues we have mentioned, we urge you to join us, ~~on January 15.~~