From the News Service
Mass. Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Mass.

For Release in AFTERNOON Papers
of FRIDAY, June 20, 1952.

New and spectacular control of soil properties for engineering purposes was predicted today at the closing session of a conference on Soil Stabilization at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"The time may not be far away," Dr. T. William Lambe, Director of the Soil Stabilization Laboratory at M.I.T., told the conference, "when the engineer can all but tailor soil properties to meet his particular requirements."

In summarizing the conference, Dr. Lambe emphasized especially the impressive research record of the chemical industry and the increasing importance of soil chemicals.

"The development of chemicals which, in trace quantities," he said, "can cause spectacular changes in soil characteristics is entirely possible. One can look for chemicals which will do for the engineer what soil conditioners like Krilium, Aerotil and Aggrilon promise for the farmer.

"There is, however," Dr. Lambe cautioned, "no sound basis for the hope for a magic chemical which will stabilize all soils under all conditions.

Soil Stabilization Conference

During the conference, nearly 400 scientists and engineers heard 26 papers and 11 prepared discussions by speakers of international reputation in the field. The program surveyed the theory, advantages, limitations and cost of a wide variety of methods of soil stabilization and several manufacturers' representatives presented papers on stabilization equipment.

Major topics of the conference were densification, electrical stabilization, stabilization with additives, chemical stabilization, soil protection, incorporation of additives with soil, and applications and economics of soil stabilization.

In commenting on the significance of the meeting, Professor Lambe added: "Recent developments in our rapidly expanding civilization indicate we must build now on sites which in the past have been avoided because of inferior soil conditions. For this reason, improving the properties of natural soils to meet modern requirements is one of the truly great fields now developing."

It was the consensus of the delegates that the growing need for soil stabilization will result in an increase in research which will, in turn, produce forward strides. Improvements in equipment for compacting and mixing soils were predicted by some speakers and new stabilizers and new construction techniques were suggested by others.

Sponsoring the conference with the M.I.T. Departments of Civil and Sanitary Engineering and of Chemical Engineering are the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; the U. S. Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks; the U. S. Air Force; the United States National Council on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering; the Highway Research Board; and the Massachusetts Department of Public Works.

-30-