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Maj. Gen. James McCormack, Jr. has been appointed Vice President for Industrial and Governmental Relations at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, President James R. Killian, Jr., announced today. He will succeed Vice Admiral Edward L. Cochrane, who retires July 1.

General McCormack came to M.I.T. in 1955, after his retirement from the Air Force, as special adviser to the President. Last year he also became president of the Institute for Defense Analyses, an agency established by M.I.T. and four other educational institutions to conduct scientific analysis work for the Department of Defense.

As vice president, General McCormack will represent the Institute in external relations with government and industry, according to Dr. Killian. He will have general supervision of policies of the Division of Sponsored Research, of Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington, the Instrumentation Laboratory in Cambridge and the Operations Evaluation Group in Washington.

General McCormack was born in Chatham, Louisiana, on November 8, 1910. He was graduated from West Point in 1932, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, receiving a B.A. degree in 1935, and took the degree of master of science in civil engineering at M.I.T. in 1937.

During World War II General McCormack served as a general staff officer in the War Department and with the 12th Army Group in Europe.

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After the war he was for four years Director of Military Applications of the Atomic Energy Commission. His final military service was as Director of Research and Development of the Air Force.

General McCormack has received the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Legion of Honor, Croix de Guerre with Palm and the Order of the British Empire. Recently he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a member of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, the Board of Governors of the Air Force Academy, the Board of Governors of the Flight Safety Foundation and the Advisory Board of the Army Chemical Corps. His clubs include St. Botolph Club, Army and Navy Club of Washington and University Club of New York City.

General McCormack and his family live at 6 St. Johns Road, Cambridge. A daughter, Martha, is a senior at the University of Maryland and a son, James, is a senior at Culver Military Academy.