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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

R. A.
SMITH
APPT.

Dr. Robert Allan Smith, prominent British physicist and specialist in semiconductor and infrared physics, has been appointed the first Director of the new Center for Materials Science and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The appointment was announced by Dr. Charles H. Townes, M.I.T. Provost. Dr. Smith also will hold a simultaneous appointment as Professor of Physics at the Institute.

The interdepartmental Center for Materials Science and Engineering-- which will be housed in a \$6 million building soon to be built on the M.I.T. Cambridge campus-- is a part of M.I.T.'s new center-oriented approach to research and teaching in science and engineering. Besides the Materials Center, there will be a Center for Earth Sciences (now under construction), a Center for Life Sciences, a Center for Communications Sciences and a Center for Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Each center will draw investigators and teachers from a variety of scientific and engineering disciplines to pool their different talents to the solution of basic problems in the specific areas of center responsibility.

Dr. Smith engaged in pioneer radar research for the British government from 1939 to 1946 and from 1946 to 1961 served as head of physics for the Royal Radar Establishment. He spent the 1961-62 academic year as Professor of Physics at the University of Sheffield, England. He was educated at Edinburgh and Cambridge Universities and received the Ph.D. degree from Cambridge in 1936.

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