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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Camille Dreyfus Professorship in Chemistry, named for the chemist and industrialist who pioneered man-made acetate fibers and plastics, has been established at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology under a \$500,000 grant from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc., of New York City.

Mrs. Jean Dreyfus Boissevain, President of the Dreyfus Foundation, and Dr. J. R. Killian, Jr., Chairman of the M.I.T. Corporation, jointly announced the grant, Mrs. Boissevain from her residence in Florence, Italy.

Dr. Julius A. Stratton, M.I.T. President, in receiving the gift for the Institute stated that the Dreyfus Professorship is the first endowed chair to be established within the Department of Chemistry.

"Through this professorship," President Stratton said, "Dr. Dreyfus' life-long dedication to excellence and achievement will be perpetuated to serve as an inspiration to new generations of chemists. This generous gift will also add further strength, of course, to our Department of Chemistry and to its capacity to contribute to knowledge and to human welfare."

The Professorship will honor the memory of Dr. Camille Dreyfus, the Swiss-born chemist who, along with his brother, Dr. Henry Dreyfus, undertook early basic research in cellulosic chemistry, successfully made the first cellulose acetate yarn, and formed three major chemical-industrial enterprises: British Celanese, Ltd., Canadian Celanese, Ltd., and Celanese Corporation of America.

Mrs. Boissevain said: "In the spirit of dedication typified by his achievements in chemistry, the Foundation expresses the conviction that this Professorship will serve

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DREYFUS
CHAIR

Dreyfus Professorship / M.I.T.

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to perpetuate pioneering efforts in chemical research and education at an institution known throughout the world for its leadership in science and technology."

Dr. Killian paid tribute to the Foundation as a leader in the effort to strengthen scientific education in the United States. "This grant," Dr. Killian said, "serves as an example of the importance the Foundation places on its opportunity of making major advances in our nation's science and technology, through the leverage of an institution which is in a special position to exert international leadership."

Income from the endowment will be used to support the chemistry scholar of outstanding merit who will be selected to occupy the Dreyfus chair and to support, in part the research that the Dreyfus professor will desire to carry out.

The Dreyfus brothers were graduated from the University of Basel and, while at the Sorbonne in Paris, began the cellulose acetate research that, by 1910, had developed in a commercial process for making lacquers and plastic film. In World War I, Dreyfus facilities in Basel and England produced the acetate "dope" used on aircraft wing and fuselage fabric coverings. In 1917, at the urging of President Woodrow Wilson, Dr. Camille Dreyfus came to the U.S. to start a similar operation at Cumberland, Md.

Synthetic fiber from cellulose acetate was the primary scientific objective of the Dreyfus brothers, however, and by 1921 their British company had produced its first acetate yarn. Their United States company, Celanese Corporation of America, began commercial production of acetate yarn at Cumberland, Md. in 1924. However, resistance to the new and relatively unknown man-made fibers was stubborn and widespread. To overcome these difficulties in the United States, Dr. Camille Dreyfus conducted a personally-directed merchandising campaign to win commercial acceptance for synthetic fibers.

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The eventual achievement of commercial success for acetate and the Celanese operations reflects Dr. Camille Dreyfus' genius -- not only as a scientist but also as a merchant and financier. The Celanese companies have become internationally prominent for their scientific achievements in the field of cellulosic chemistry -- an area of science which gave birth to both the man-made fibers and the plastics industries.

The Dreyfus Foundation was established in 1946 originally as a memorial to Dr. Henry Dreyfus who died in 1944 in London. It became a memorial to both brothers when Dr. Camille Dreyfus died in New York in 1956. The Foundation has as its purpose the advancement of the science of chemistry, chemical engineering, and related sciences as a means of improving human relations and circumstances throughout the world. The Foundation achieves its purposes by making funds available for use by individuals, institutions, and organizations and for the creation and maintenance of laboratories, research bureaus or agencies, and facilities for the exchange, publication, distribution, coordination and control of scientific information.

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October 7, 1964