



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

January 25, 1971

To Members of the Faculty and Staff:

I am pleased to announce the formal establishment of an Artificial Intelligence Laboratory here at M.I.T. A research group has been active in the areas of artificial intelligence and heuristic programming at M.I.T. since 1958. Staffed chiefly by members of the Mathematics and Electrical Engineering Departments, it was first part of the Research Laboratory of Electronics, and then the Computation Center, and, in 1963, it became a part of Project MAC.

The Artificial Intelligence group has now grown to the point where it is natural to manage it as a separate laboratory. The central concerns of the laboratory are with the development of theories of problem-solving and other general principles of intellectual activities for both machines and organisms. Currently, attention is focused on experimental systems useful in dealing with natural language, robotics, machine vision, learning and elementary education: also, with theoretical studies intended to develop parts of the theory of computation that can help understand why some things seem harder to compute, in practice, than others.

Professor Marvin Minsky, of the Department of Electrical Engineering, and Professor Seymour Papert, of the Department of Mathematics, are Co-Directors of the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

The research program of the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory is currently funded by the Advanced Research Projects Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Science Foundation: the laboratory is seeking broader support for its elementary education project. The laboratory is located, with Project MAC, on the eighth and ninth floors of 545 Technology Square. Members of the M.I.T. Community interested in learning more about the new laboratory and its research program are invited to discuss their interests with the directors.

Jerome B. Wiesner
Provost