

Massachusetts  
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## Lincoln Satellites Launched

Two experimental communications satellites designed and built for the Air Force by MIT's Lincoln Laboratory were launched Sunday (March 14) from Cape Canaveral in Florida aboard a TITAN III-C launch vehicle.

Following is a statement issued by Lincoln Laboratory:

Liftoff took place at 8:25pm (EST), and the satellites were released simultaneously into orbit at 3:10am (EST) on Monday, exactly on schedule. This was a great moment at Lincoln, eagerly awaited by the hundreds of people who have contributed to the development of the satellites over a period of more than five years. The first direct telemetry signals from the spacecraft, received from both satellites promptly after separation, were greeted with great enthusiasm, and the laboratory's experimental program got underway immediately.

The initial phase of this program includes several activities. First, the orientation and motion of the satellites had to be determined, corrections calculated, and commands sent to the spacecraft to stabilize them with communication antennas pointed at the earth. Second, the orbital positions and velocities of the satellites must be determined very precisely so that they can be directed to start moving slowly away from one

(Continued on page 8)

## Perkins Named Head Of Civil Engineering

The appointment of Professor Frank E. Perkins as head of the Department of Civil Engineering has been announced by Dr. Alfred A.H. Keil, dean of the School of Engineering.

Professor Perkins, who has been acting head of the department since

neering sciences, technologies and systems engineering."

Professor Perkins received the SB in civil engineering in 1955 from MIT. Following service in the US Army Corps of Engineers.



COMET WEST streaks behind the MIT George R. Wallace, Jr., Astrophysical Observatory in Westford, Mass. The photograph was taken shortly before dawn March 8 by physics senior Russell Chipman of Norwalkston, Conn., who spends most of his time at the observatory taking photographs of hydrogen alpha radiation from nebulae. Although the recently discovered comet is becoming fainter, it should still be seen with binoculars in the eastern sky between about 3:45 and 4:45am—weather permitting.

## Faculty to Meet

A regular meeting of the faculty will be held today (Wednesday, March 17) at 3:15pm in Rm 10-250. Agenda items include:

—Report by the ROTC Advisory Committee

—Report by the Committee on Educational Policy concerning freshman experimental programs (Concourse and the Experimental Study Group)

Resolution on Non-smoking

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**ACCOUNTING TRANSFER** of a portion of MIT's present group life insurance coverage to two minority firms was discussed this week by (left to right): Kim Valentine, assistant to the treasurer; William J. Kennedy III, president of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company; Chancellor Paul E. Gray; Clarence Williams, special assistant to the President and Chancellor for minority affairs; and Weathers Y. Sykes, senior vice president of Supreme Life Insurance Co. of Chicago.

## Black Firms to Share MIT Life Insurance Business

By **PATRICIA M. MARONI**  
*Staff Writer*

MIT announced this week that negotiations are in progress for transferring 10 percent of its group life insurance coverage with the John Hancock Company to two of the nation's largest black-owned insurance companies—North Carolina Mutual of Durham, N.C., and Supreme Life Insurance Company of America, of Chicago.

The agreement is basically an accounting transfer in which the minority companies share in revenue from MIT and MIT's insurance risk, with all other administrative and contractual responsibilities remaining with John Hancock.

Chancellor Paul E. Gray, who made the announcement, said the move represents a significant commitment on the part of MIT to help minority companies play a greater role in America's majority businesses. He said that MIT was initially approached by North Carolina Mutual after the company had negotiated a similar agreement with Harvard.

MIT currently holds \$266 million (face amount) of group life insurance with the John Hancock Company. Under the negotiated plan, each minority company will be responsible for five percent of this total business.

Kimball Valentine, Jr., assistant to the treasurer and insurance officer for MIT, said, "From the individual insured's point of view, there is no change. John Hancock is still responsible for the account, but it is transferring—or ceding—a share of the risk and the premium dollar to the minority-owned companies."

MIT offers its faculty and employees a choice of group life insurance options: a contributory plan, whereby both MIT and the insured contribute a monthly percentage, or a free policy, providing \$5,000 in insurance, pro-rated in the case of part-time employees.

Clarence G. Williams, Special Assistant to the President and Chancellor for Minority Affairs, said the business agreement illustrated MIT's role as a prime mover in aiding all segments of society.

"We hope this helps open doors and generate new contacts for the minority companies, which have already distinguished themselves as economically sound, reputable concerns," he said.

The 76-year-old North Carolina Mutual Company, which operates in 15 mid-border states and Washington, D.C., is the largest black-owned corporation in America, according to its 1974 annual report. With more than \$2 billion in insurance, the company holds policies for such black universities as Morehouse and Howard and re-insurance agreements—similar to the MIT arrangements—with several Fortune 500 companies.

"Re-insuring, or contracting for part of another company's insurance business is becoming more of a nationwide trend," Mr. Valentine said.

The Supreme Life Insurance Company of America began operations in 1921 and has increased its business over the years by re-insuring such companies as the Federal Life Insurance Company of Washington, D.C., Dunbar Life Insurance Company of Cleveland, the minority business of the Chicago National Life Insurance Company, and others.