

## Colleges at U. of Delhi End Attendance Rule

In the face of fierce student protests, the heads of several of the University of Delhi's constituent colleges have waived rules that bar students who have not regularly attended classes from taking final examinations.

Under university rules, students must attend at least two-thirds of their lectures to be eligible to take the exams. But this month, the principals of several colleges lowered the requirement or found other ways to allow ineligible students to take the tests. The action followed protests by hundreds of students who would have been barred from taking the exams.

On the eve of the examination period, the protesters took over the offices of the principals of three colleges, preventing administrators from leaving for several hours. The protesters had the backing of the University of Delhi Students' Union. "If the university rule is actually followed, then 50 per cent of the students would be ineligible for the exams," said Rekha Jindal, president of the union.

While the administration of Indraprastha College has so far refused to allow the 26 ineligible students there to take final examinations, many other University of Delhi colleges have given in to the students' demands. To save face, the principals of some colleges required errant students to sign contracts stating that they knew they would not be allowed to continue their studies if their attendance did not improve. —SIDDHARTH DUBE

## India Drops Recognition of M.D.'s From Russia

The Medical Council of India, a government agency, has ruled that medical degrees from Russia and

other republics of the former Soviet Union will not be recognized in India after this year.

What's more, Indian physicians in training will be required to serve their internships in India and no longer be able to serve them in Russia or other former Soviet republics.

The new requirements will affect 5,000 Indians now studying in the republics of the former Soviet Union. They will also affect India's long-standing ties with medical schools in those countries. Under a 1986 agreement with the Soviet Union, India recognized degrees from 29 medical institutions, which are now in several countries.

The council reportedly took its action because of concern that many of the medical schools in question no longer follow the training criteria established in the Soviet era. The council plans to inspect the institutions and to sign separate agreements in each country.

According to the *Indian Express*, a daily newspaper, officials also were concerned about reports of corruption involving some medical schools. —S. D.

## Colleges Protest Canadian Copyright Bill

Despite a last-ditch appeal last week, Canadian colleges, universities, and education groups now see little hope of modifying proposed changes in pending legislation on copyright in Canada.

"The government is committed to getting the bill through quickly," said Sally Brown, senior vice-president of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. "We know it's going to be difficult."

The association was one of several organizations that registered their complaints last week when the Canadian Senate, an appointed body, held hearings on Bill C-32, which is designed to update the