

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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FILE

November 18, 1983

Dear Bill

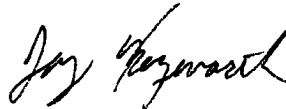
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As you well know, it has been nearly eight months since President Reagan challenged the scientific and technical community to identify those new defensive technologies that may ultimately free us from the threat of nuclear war. In announcing his new Defense Initiatives on the 23rd of March, the President signaled a profound shift in strategic philosophy, a shift whose impact will direct the course of our nation in the coming decades.

In this regard, I would like to discuss with you the nation's response to his leadership to date and our efforts over the past eight months. We have endeavored to select a path which promises to move us toward the President's goal, but we need to be constantly aware of both the prospects and pitfalls we should anticipate as we move forward on that path. As you are aware, DoD has prepared a far-reaching study in response to NSSD 6-83. Their report identifies key technologies and policy issues which we must pursue and outlines several program options for the President. In preparation for a Presidential decision, an NSC meeting will be held on November 30 to review these options and make a recommendation.

I feel that this proposal, coupled with the Strategic Modernization Program and aggressive pursuit of arms reduction, promises a new era of strategic stability. I look forward to sharing with you next week my own perceptions on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



G. A. Keyworth

Science Advisor to the President

The Honorable William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, DC 20505

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