



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 26, 1985

The Honorable Michael Heseltine
Secretary of State for Defense
United Kingdom

Dear Colleague:

In the period since President Reagan introduced his vision for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), many of our Allies have informally expressed an interest in participating in this research program. At the same time, some of our friends have sought clarification of our policy and attitude toward such cooperation. I am writing to you today both to make clear my Government's views on this important subject and to begin a direct dialogue with you thereon.

As you know, the purpose of the SDI is to determine whether there are cost-effective defensive technologies that could enhance deterrence and increase stability. Because our security is inextricably linked to that of our friends and Allies, we will work closely over the next several years with our Allies to ensure that, in the event of any future decision to deploy defensive systems (a decision in which consultation with our Allies would play an important part), Allied, as well as United States, security against aggression would be enhanced. Moreover, the SDI program will not confine itself solely to an exploitation of technologies with potential against ICBMs and SLBMs, but will also carefully examine technologies with potential against shorter-range ballistic missiles.

The United States will, consistent with our existing international obligations including the ABM Treaty, proceed with cooperative research with the Allies in areas of technology that could contribute to the SDI research program. Pursuant to this policy, the United States is permitted -- and is prepared -- to undertake such cooperative programs on data and technology short of ABM component level as may be mutually agreed with Allied countries.

If your nation is interested in exploring possible cooperative efforts or contributions, I would ask, as a first step, that you send me, within 60 days, an indication of your interest in participating in the SDI research program and of the areas of your country's research excellence that you deem most promising for this program. In order to provide a more comprehensive basis for your assessment of pertinent capabilities and to help expedite the process, the United States is prepared

to arrange meetings in Washington so that your government's scientific/technical representatives may receive detailed briefings on the SDI program during this period.

We would expect to give your response prompt consideration with a view to initiating as appropriate bilateral discussions on specific areas and arrangements for cooperation.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Kuntze

27 MAR 1985

