

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

April 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR JAY KEYWORTH

FROM: BRUCE ABELL *Bruce*
SUBJECT: FACT SHEET FOR WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL

Fred Fielding has asked OSTP to prepare background information on the New York Times article about Edward Teller. The attached fact sheet is Jerry's and my attempt to lay out OSTP's connection to the issue. It's likely that this will be turned over to Speakes for possible distribution to the press. We let Edward take a look at it also, but we didn't make all his proposed additions (most were attempts to argue his case against the New York Times, which isn't necessary in this context).

Jerry wants to deliver the package, including this fact sheet, to Fielding's office tonight. I hate to red tag you again, but could you please look it over before you leave? Carol is prepared to make any corrections. Please check in particular the date on which you first became involved in the speech, and the people who were present at the September 14 meeting (Ray Pollock thought there might have been someone else).

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Fact Sheet on Involvement of Edward Teller with
President's March 23 Speech on Strategic Defense

- I. Dr. Teller is one of 13 members of the White House Science Council, an OSTP advisory group established on February 16, 1982 and governed by the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The WHSC reports to and responds to the specific requests of the Science Advisor; it does not have access to the President. The first meeting was held on March 9, 1982, and five full Council meetings have been held since that time. In addition, there have been several panels established to study specific topics; these meet on irregular schedules. Dr. Teller has been a member of the panel on Federal Laboratories, but, like other WHSC members, has also sat in as an observer on occasional panels of which he was not a member, including a Military Technologies panel which reviewed the status of directed-energy weapons.

WHSC members are appointed to one-year renewable terms by the Science Advisor. They serve without compensation; travel expenses are reimbursed. All Members are Special Government Employees and exempt from full disclosure requirements. Officially, they are consultants to OSTP and file limited disclosures. Dr. Teller has filed such a statement, which includes information on the company mentioned in the New York Times article, Helionetics. According to Dr. Teller, he has not bought, sold, or traded the stock of Helionetics since he received it in a block in 1980. He adds that he has never discussed the company in connection with his work with the White House, the WHSC, or OSTP.

- II. Edward Teller met with the President in the White House on September 14, 1982, at his request, to discuss an advanced technology he is working on. Also present at the meeting were the Vice President, Ed Meese, Judge Clark, Jay Keyworth, Jim Baker, and two members of the NSC, Sydelle Gold and Ray Pollock. The subject matter touched on a narrow aspect of a directed-energy defensive weapon concept.

- III. Dr. Teller was present at a regular WHSC meeting on March 17-18. However, Jay Keyworth did not learn of the intention to include a discussion of strategic defense in the President's speech until March 19. During the time between then and March 23, he was intensively involved in reviewing and making suggestions for that section of the speech. To assist him in a technical review of the feasibility of strategic defense, he brought three members of the White House Science Council to his office. They were Solomon Buchsbaum, Robert Hunter, and Ed Frieman. Dr. Keyworth had no contact with Dr. Teller during that period of time, nor did Dr. Teller have any occasion to participate in the review or drafting of the President's speech, which was a closely guarded process.
- IV. The White House's first contact with Dr. Teller in connection with the March 23 speech occurred on March 22 when he was invited to come to Washington as part of a group to meet with the President and hear an important speech on national defense. He was one of 12 distinguished scientists who attended that event (along with several dozen other authorities on national defense). That evening at approximately 6:00 p.m. was the first time he learned of the content of the President's speech. Other invited scientists present at that event included: Harold Agnew, William Baker, Hans Bethe, Solomon Buchsbaum, Ed Frieman, William Nierenberg, Frank Press, Simon Ramo, Burton Richter, Charles Townes, and Victor Weisskopf.
- V. In the time since March 23, Jay Keyworth and other senior White House officials have repeatedly emphasized that the concept of strategic defense was long-held by the President and that his proposal was not based on any particular technology and was not the result of any particular person's views or advice.