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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

November 1, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KEYWORTH
DR. SINGER

FROM:

BOB McMAINS *Bob*

SUBJECT:

Results of Initiatives Group Red-Team Effort
on Control Sharing

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Listed below are the major concerns expressed at our meeting on 31 Oct 85:

Raising the issue of control sharing focuses on SDI deployment rather than research; this brings up issues we would normally not be facing today. The major issue has to do with the consequences to the NATO/Warsaw Pact balance when the nuclear umbrella is removed. It has been said that a successful SDI deployment would make the world safe for war in Europe. Since it appears that the imbalance will remain or get worse, discussion of control sharing focuses concern on the possibility that the threshold of war in NATO could be lowered.

It may be premature to focus on an endstate with shared operational control when we have not thoroughly analyzed transition states. For example, fusion centers could share intelligence information either as a prelude to shared operational control or possibly as an endstate. This intelligence capability would be particularly important to NATO countries if the nuclear umbrella is removed.

The dynamics between the major powers and Third-World nations, and between Third-World nations within a theatre, are unpredictable: How would France feel about other European countries having a button? How would Israel feel about Mid-East countries having a button? If everyone has a button, should the system be turned on all the time?

The freedom of high space could be compromised, more so as more nations have weapons. If all objects being deployed into space have to be cleared first, we lose our capability to project forces and consequently some of our sovereignty. In essence, each country would have to approve if any one country wanted to launch an object into space. Our whole concept of how to gain access to space would have to be changed.

There are major uncertainties about the impact on atmospheric and surface objects: Would every airplane have to sign a flight plan with the Global Defense System? Could the space weapon destroy an object on the ground?