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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
January 6, 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER
The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Strategic Defense Initiative (U)

The President has reviewed and signed the decision directive regarding the strategic defense initiative (SDI). All of DOD's major editing recommendations were reflected in the final document (Tab A).

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The President is fully committed to pursuing the strategic defense initiative. The NSDD reflects the high priority which he places on the SDI and his desire that it be initiated in a manner which will ensure its long-term continuity in addressing the deterrence potential of strategic defense concepts. Towards that goal, your choice of a program manager of considerable stature to reflect this priority is a key action.

In considering the proper level of funding for SDI in its initial year, the President took full note of the DOD program recommendation. The full DOD funding recommendation would have been appropriate in a normal year. However, the President was very concerned that, given the debate which will doubtless surround the defense budget during the election year, such a large increase over previously planned levels would subject the SDI to attack and misrepresentation. The President's principal concern is that the SDI be managed in such a way as to keep it alive during an election year.

Accordingly, the President had decided that it is preferable to use 1984 to develop the SDI program management structure internally and as a period during which the program manager can conduct a low-visibility but persistent and widespread program toward educating the Congress, U.S. allies, and the public regarding the goals of the SDI. He has decided that the increment to the FY85 DOD budget for strategic defense should be approximately \$250 million above the amount budgeted for this activity prior to the President's March 23 speech. The President expects to approve a larger funding increase for FY86 and the outyears as the SDI is more fully defined in terms of both policy and technical goals. In line with this, it is requested that the SIG-DP develop and implement a policy analysis plan concerning studies to support the SDI during the coming year and into the future.

6 Jan 84

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Bob
Robert C. McFarlane

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