Ref: 91-FOI-0860

Mr. Steven Aftergood  
Federation of American Scientists  
307 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC  20002

Dear Mr. Aftergood:


The DSB has provided the enclosed records as responsive to your request. Since the chargeable costs of processing this request were under $15.00, there are no assessable fees in this instance.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

W. M. McDonald  
Director  
Freedom of Information and Security Review

Enclosures:  
As stated

FOI:Kahn:gvk:1F0860L1:04/07/94:gr√pk_yl_wh_
DSB Task Force — Space Exploration Initiative Support

Memorandum for the File

July 9, 1991

First Meeting — 5/15/91

The DSB Task Force on DOD support to the Space Exploration Initiative met on May 15, 1991.

Background

In July, 1989, on the twentieth anniversary of the first Apollo landing on the moon, President Bush announced a renewed national goal for manned space flight; back to the moon to stay, then on to Mars. In the intervening two years, the proposed Space Exploration Initiative has been extensively studied (NASA 90 Day Study, Outreach Programs, the Synthesis Group, NASA-sponsored, chaired by Tom Stafford.) Despite White House support, Congress has been apathetic. No national consensus in favor of SEI as a major element of a logical blueprint for the future of the civil space program has emerged.

SEI will require major advances in Space Technology. A heavy lift launch vehicle, nuclear propulsion for trans-planetary trajectories, nuclear electric generators for electric power, closed loop life support systems, and understanding of human adaptation to weightlessness head a long list required to enable safe, affordable missions.
Discussion

Since this was a first meeting, and the SEI program was far from being well-defined, the Task Force was not prepared to offer conclusions or recommendations, but offered the following observations based on the presentations and discussions:

1. A joint NASA/DOD program to develop the core vehicle for a National Launch Vehicle is a logical area for cooperation. Because NASA is so heavily committed to existing programs, DOD would be the logical lead agency. Since funds are limited, emphasis should be placed on development of the 580,000 pound thrust engine, the key building block for the system.

2. Advanced propulsion technology can be critical to the manned Martian mission. NASA and DOD must be encouraged to complete a Memorandum of Understanding to continue effort already underway.

3. NASA and DOD should be encouraged to cooperate in the advancement of space technology to their mutual advantage.

4. In other areas, DOD should resist involvement in SEI until national support clarifies and a clear program emerges.

[Signature]

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## Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Check In</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Prof. Shea</td>
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<td>09:40</td>
<td>ODS (A) Remarks</td>
<td>Dr. Sevin</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:50</td>
<td>Facility Briefing</td>
<td>SAIC</td>
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<td>09:55</td>
<td>Ethics Briefing</td>
<td>OGC</td>
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<td>10:05</td>
<td>N S C Remarks on SEI</td>
<td>Col. Worden</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>SDIO Brief</td>
<td>Col. Lenard</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>National Launch System</td>
<td>NASA / Air Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>All</td>
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<td>12:00</td>
<td>Working Lunch</td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>NASA SEI Remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:40</td>
<td>Road Map (Objectives - Priorities - Timetable - Output)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:45</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Executive Session</td>
<td>Prof. Shea</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:30</td>
<td>Adjourn</td>
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Dennis J. Granato  
Executive Secretary
ATTENDANCE LIST FOR May 15 1991
DSB SPACE EXPLORATION INITIATIVE TASK FORCE MEETING

MEMBERS

Prof. Joseph F. Shea, Chairman
Dr. H. Kent Bowen
Dr. James R. Burnett
Dr. Ashton B. Carter
Mr. Daniel J. Fink
Mr. Ronald Kerber
Mr. Walter E. Morrow, Jr.
Gen. Lawerence A. Skantze, USAF (Ret.)
Mr. Samuel M. Tennant
Maj. Gen. Jasper A. Welch, Jr., USAF (Ret.)

OTHERS

Mr. George Abbey
BGen. Sam Armstrong, USAF (Ret.)
Lt. Col. David Beadner
Mr. Dennis J. Granato
Dr. Michael Griffin
Lt. Co. Rodger Lenard
Mr. Robert E. O'Rourke
Mr. Neil Schussel
Dr. Gene Sevin
Mr. Peter Worden

[Signature]
Dennis J. Granato
Executive Secretary