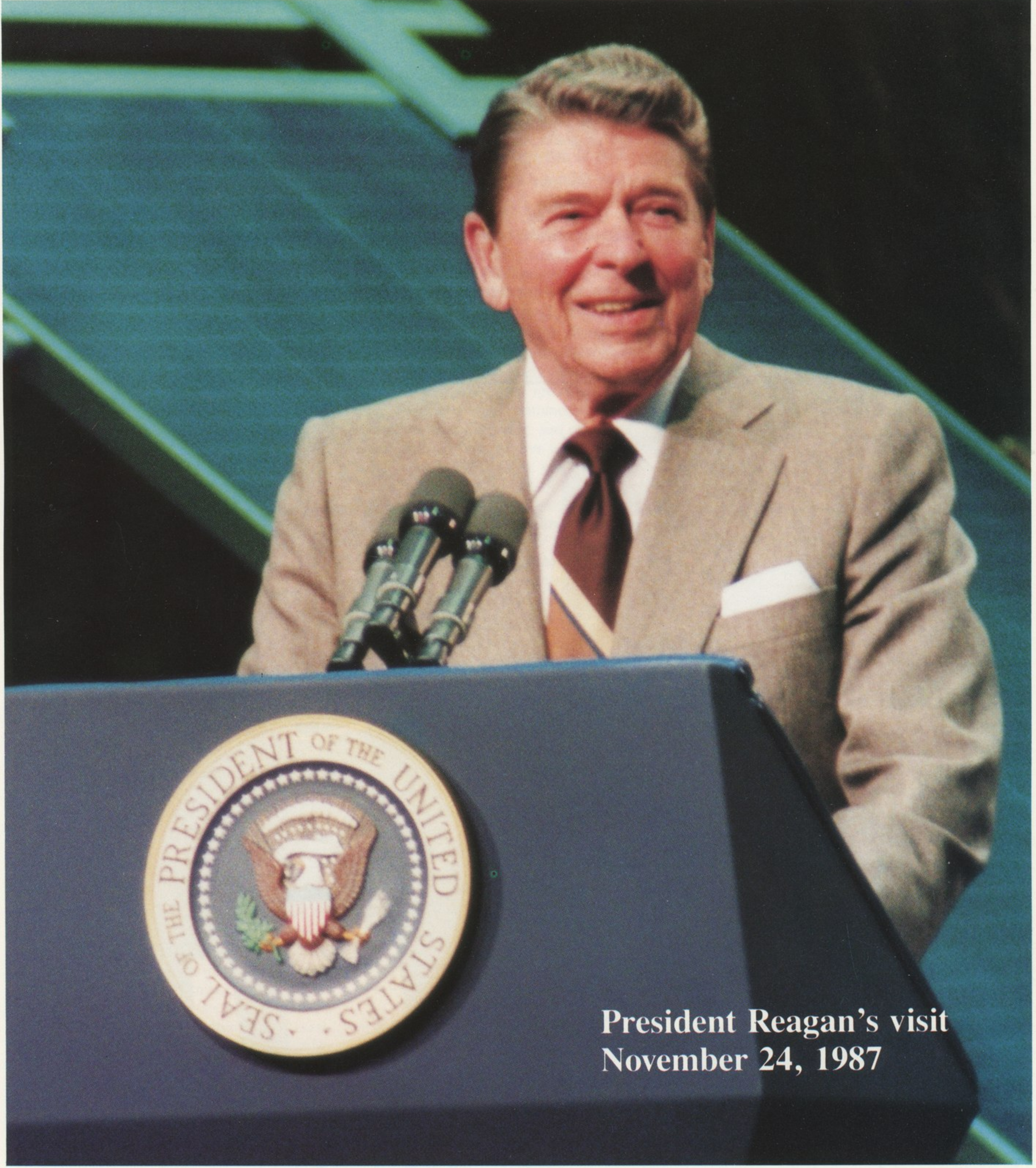


MARTIN MARIETTA

news

ASTRONAUTICS GROUP

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President Reagan's visit
November 24, 1987

Reagan visits Martin Marietta

"It is an honor for me to be at Martin Marietta with all of you, men and women of science and engineering, who play such a vital role in this age of technology. I will have to admit I am a bit awed by what I've seen and heard today."

With those words, President Ronald Reagan began his remarks Nov. 24 during a historic visit to the Martin Marietta Astronautics Group. Seven distinguished panelists joined the president to discuss the progress of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) before President Reagan's remarks to more than 3,000 employees gathered in the factory.

"I have to say, Mr. President, just look at what we started 30 years ago with Martin Marietta and the Air Force," said Gen. Bernard Schriever, chairman of the SDI Institute and a member of the SDI Technical Advisory Committee.

Martin Marietta employees can take special pride in the president's and Schriever's comments, for it was 30 years ago when Martin Marietta facilities rose up among the Rocky Mountain foothills for production of the first

Titan missiles, one of the nation's first strategic missile programs. Schriever at that time was the Air Force general in charge of developing the nation's new fleet of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM).

Thirty years and more than 400 Titans later, Martin Marietta once again played a key role in the country's military strategic future. President Reagan chose Martin Marietta over a half-dozen other defense contractors to show the nation, and the world, his strong commitment to SDI. And the proof of his commitment was an 80-foot long full-scale model of one of SDI's key programs, the Zenith Star chemical laser.

Panelists joining Gen. Schriever included John Herrington, Secretary of Energy; Thomas G. Pownall, corporation chairman and chief executive officer; Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson, director of Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (SDIO), Department of Defense; Dr. Frederick Seitz, president emeritus, Rockefeller University, and past president, National Academy of Sciences; Dr. William Graham, science adviser to President

Reagan, and head of the Office of Technology Assessment; and Dr. Solomon Buchsbaum, executive vice president of Customer Systems for Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc.

Before his speech, the president got a private tour of the rapid retargeting/precision pointing (R2P2) simulator that will evaluate the performance of space-based lasers whose targets are constantly changing. R2P2 is one of several contracts worth \$300 million currently under way at Martin Marietta. The president also viewed models of other projects being developed for the space-based defense system.

For all those in attendance, it was a special event. For those who were here 30 years ago, participating in the genesis of the Titan program and for those now working on SDI, it showed, in the words of the president, what employees here have always known: "the scientific research and engineering work you are doing . . . is a tribute to the genius of America."

The president received two standing ovations from employees during his 15-minute speech.



One of six helicopters in the president's entourage lands at the Waterton facility.

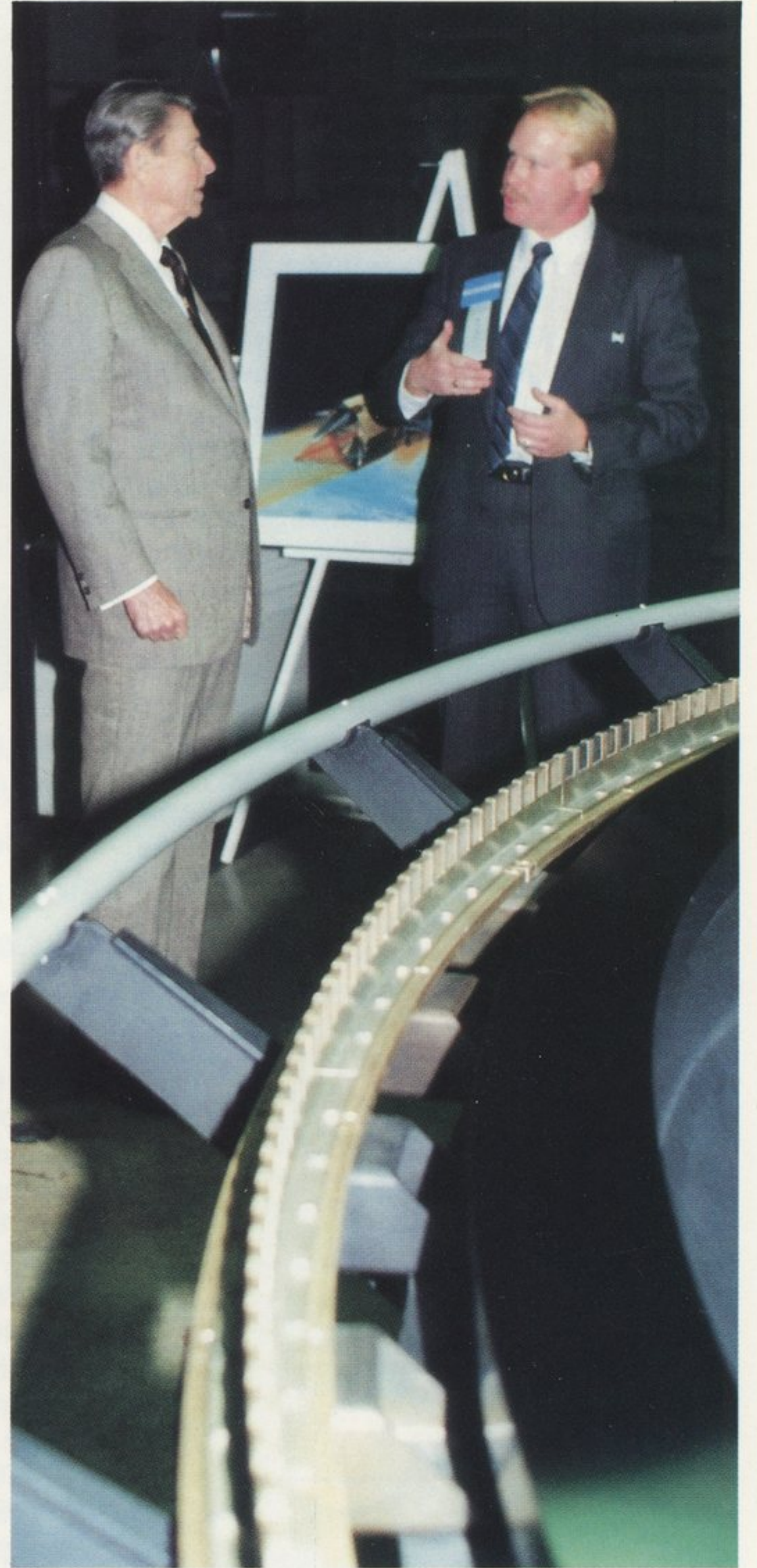


Thomas G. Pownall, chairman and chief executive officer, far right, and Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson, director, Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, greet President Reagan.

Arrangements are being made for a videotape of President Reagan's address to be available for purchase. Details will be given in the next issue of the *Martin Marietta News*.



Peter B. Teets, president of the Astronautics Group, far right, greets President Reagan. Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr. (Ret), a member of the Martin Marietta Corporation board of directors, second from the left, and Caleb B. Hurtt, executive vice president of the corporation, look on.



Paul Shattuck, manager of the rapid retargeting/precision pointing lab, explains the simulator's functions to President Reagan.



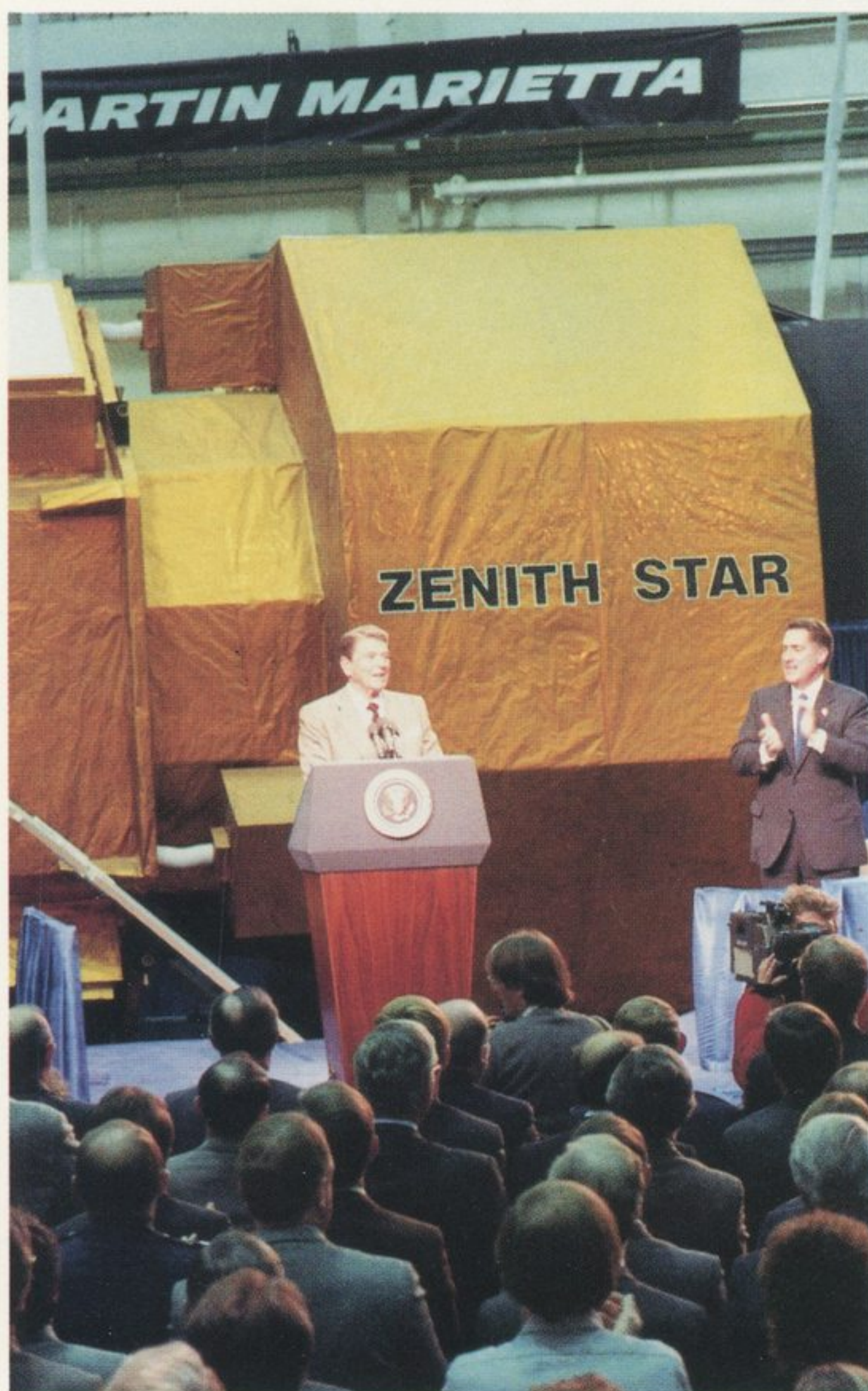
President Reagan listens to Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson, director, Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, explain one of the displays in the rapid retargeting/precision pointing lab.

Some of the more than 3,000 employees invited to attend line up outside the Engineering Building hours before the ceremony begins.

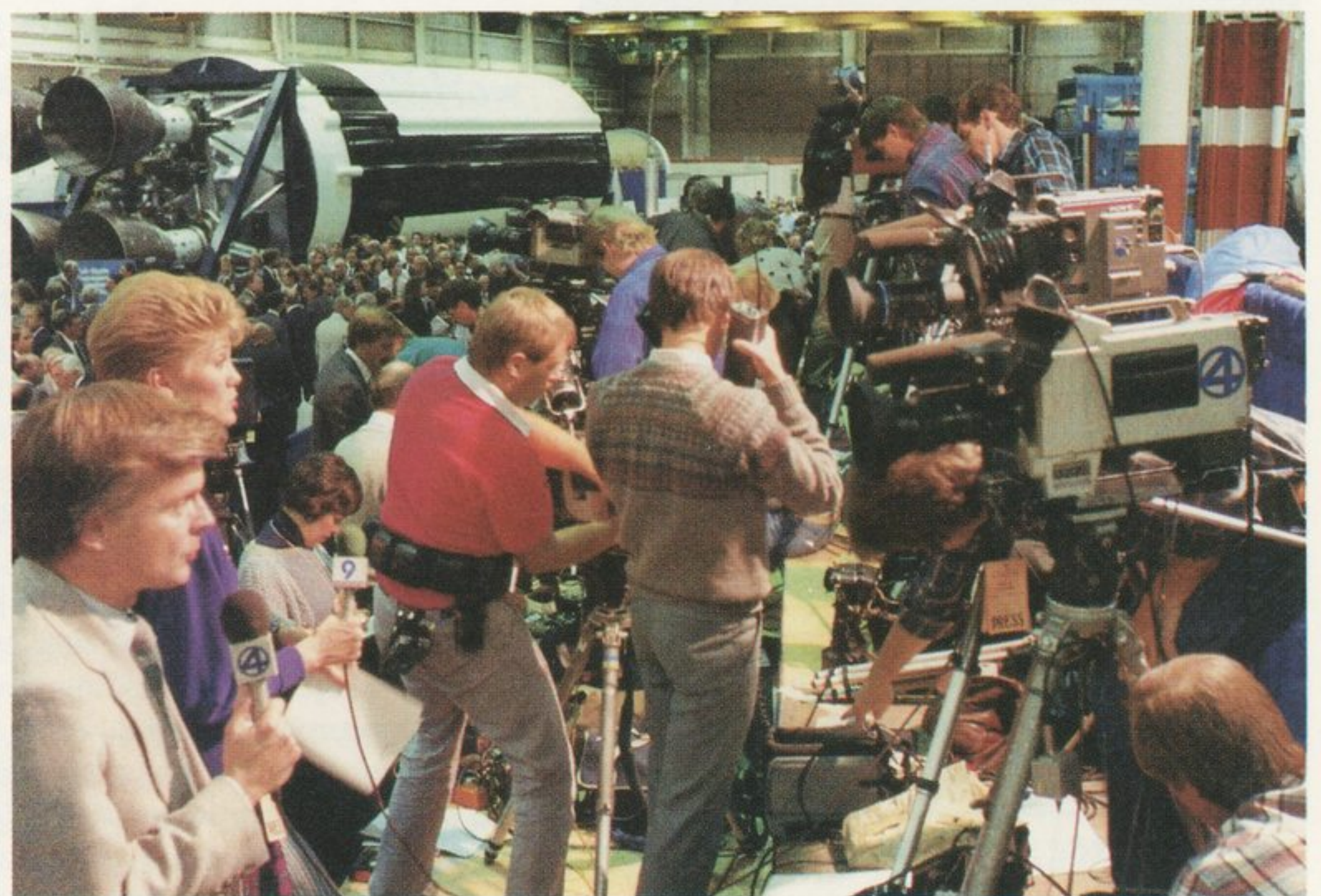




Panelists joining President Reagan, second from the left, are, left to right, John Herrington, Thomas G. Pownall, Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson, Dr. Frederick Seitz, Dr. William Graham, Dr. Solomon Buchsbaum, and Gen. Bernard Schriever.



More than 3,000 employees listen to President Reagan's speech in the second-floor factory.



Media set up equipment prior to the president's arrival.



Eugene Horak, manager, assembly operations, Space Launch Systems, presents a plaque on behalf of Martin Marietta employees to President Reagan at the end of the ceremonies.

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(Editor's note: The following is a copy of remarks by President Ronald Reagan to employees of Martin Marietta Astronautics Group on Nov. 24.)

It is an honor for me to be at Martin Marietta with all of you, men and women of science and engineering, who play such a vital role in this age of technology. I will have to admit I am a bit awed by what I've seen and heard today.

I've just returned from a conducted tour of the rapid retargeting/precision pointing (R2P2) program. We should show that facility to anyone to whom we want to show enthusiasm for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) program.



It has been technology and freedom, together, that has pushed America ever forward and made her the land of abundance and progress we love so dearly.

I was born in a small town in the farm country of Illinois. Progress in those days meant indoor plumbing, electric lights, a telephone, and later, perhaps, a radio crystal set. Just in my lifetime, we have gone from a time when many, if not most, people traveled by horse power—and I mean the kind that eats hay—to an era of supersonic passenger service. And just possibly before I leave the scene, we will have developed a craft that will take off from runways as planes do today, but once at high altitude, this craft will rocket itself into space and zip to its destination at 18 or 20 times the speed of sound—from New York to Tokyo in 90 minutes.

The America I was born into was acclaimed for its liberty and opportunity, yet that opportunity for which we were so proud has been expanded today beyond anything the Americans of my youth could possibly have imagined. Affordable world-wide communications and transportation have not just extended, but eliminated horizons. Computer capability, which a short time ago was available only to large corporations, is now being put to use by small business and individual entrepreneurs.

We are in an age when the common man can do and experience what in past times has been enjoyed only by royalty, aristocracy, and the elite. Jefferson, Washington, and Madison laid the foundation for liberty and equality; Edison, Einstein, Goddard, and others like them, like many of you, built on that foundation. It has been technology and freedom, together, that has pushed America ever forward and made her the land of abundance and progress we love so dearly.

You are laboring to develop a defensive system that will change history. Once you've completed your work, the world will never be the same. I suggest it will be a better and a safer world. And what better legacy can this generation leave than a safer world?

Arthur Balfour once noted, "Science is the greatest instrument of social change . . . the most vital of all revolutions which marked the development of modern civilizations." Science and technological-based revolutions in health care, food production, communications, transportation, manufacturing, and other endeavors have changed how we live and the quality of our lives. Before joining you, I was given a classified update on some of the key elements of the program you're working on. It is clear that the project is bounding forward and I couldn't be more pleased. After what I have seen today, I believe that mankind is again on the edge of a revolution that will change the basic assumptions upon which we base our decisions and reshape the world in which we live.

Until now, mankind's search for security often focused on expanding the ability to lash out, to kill, to destroy. Technological advances throughout the ages increased man's destructive power, and those nations that did not keep pace soon felt the sting of defeat and the pain of subjugation. But humanity, in almost every case found a defense for every offense, and that is exactly what we are seeking; a defense against mankind's most deadly weapons: ballistic missiles.

You are laboring to develop a defensive system that will change history. Once you've completed your work, the world will never be the same. I suggest it will be a better and a safer world. And what better legacy can this generation leave than a safer world?

I appreciate the extraordinary effort each of you is making. Your mental prowess and creativity, and, yes, your hard work, will make or break the program.

Our Strategic Defense Initiative offers mankind security through protection rather than retaliation. I never felt safety in knowing that while we were being blown up, we were blowing someone else up at the same time. It is a scientific advance that will be judged a success based not on how many lives it is capable of taking—which is none—but on how many it is able to protect. It is a moral as well as scientific endeavor worth every minute and hour you are dedicating to it. Our goal is to strengthen deterrence by moving as soon as we are ready to increasing reliance on defenses to keep the peace.

I realize that being a government project, with all the politics that goes with that reality, your work can be frustrating. Wernher von Braun once said, "We can lick gravity, but sometimes the paperwork is overwhelming."

I appreciate the extraordinary effort each of you is making. Your mental prowess and creativity, and, yes, your hard work, will make or break the program. And I want you to know, what you accomplish will be put to good use in protecting your country, the free world, and perhaps all mankind against the threat of nuclear holocaust. You are not working to build a bargaining chip. It will not be traded away.



Because the question is not, will strategic defenses be developed? The question is rather, will the Soviet Union be the only country to possess them? The choice is ours.

Yes, there are those who complain about the cost. Benjamin Franklin, himself a man of science and politics, once observed, "The expenses required to prevent a war are much lighter than those that will, if not prevented, be absolutely necessary to maintain it."

Well, mirroring that thought, I'd say that what we spend to protect ourselves from nuclear missiles is much lighter than the cost,

human and otherwise, if even one nuclear missile is fired, even if by mistake, and we have to suffer the consequences because there is no way to stop it. In the case of SDI, America cannot afford not to do everything necessary to develop this missile defense system and put it into operation.

The Soviet Union, even as they criticize and try to cripple our SDI research effort, has been aggressively moving ahead on its own anti-ballistic missile defense. They have spent roughly \$200 billion in the last 10 years—and have concentrated the energy and talent of their brightest scientific minds. More than 10,000 skilled scientists and engineers are working on military lasers alone—with thousands more developing high-tech weapons that use particle beams and kinetic energy.

The Soviet government wages its propaganda campaign against our SDI research, even while they work overtime to develop their own SDI-like system. We must not be lulled into reducing our commitment. Their military program, which includes everything from killer-satellites to the modernized anti-missile system that protects Moscow, dwarfs our SDI program already. Those who would cut or eliminate funds for our effort would grant a clear monopoly in this vital area to our adversary, which would undermine the present basis of deterrence. Because the question is not, will strategic defenses be developed? The question is rather, will the Soviet Union be the only country to possess them? The choice is ours.

SDI is not a weapon of war, but an insurer, a protector, of the peace.

Furthermore, the Strategic Defense Initiative is not aimed at protecting us and our allies against the Soviet Union alone. Francis Bacon once wrote, "He that will not apply new remedies must expect new evils; for time is the greatest innovator." Well, in the decades ahead, who knows what governments will obtain ballistic missile technology? Who knows how rational or competent those governments will be. I spoke before a meeting of the American Council of Life Insurance last week and I called SDI an insurance policy. And that's what it is.

SDI is not a weapon of war, but an insurer, a protector, of the peace. It is totally within the limits of the ABM treaty. Let me add, the United States has observed the ABM treaty, but with the construction of the huge phased-array radar at Krasnoyarsk the Soviets have violated one of the treaty's key provisions. This is but another example of why it's important not to rely on words alone. The Strategic Defense Initiative, you see, underwrites our efforts to achieve offensive arms reduction agreements. With a defensive system in place, the possibility that one side has cheated, and has a few missiles in hiding, is far less threatening. SDI, then, makes further reductions more likely. A system that makes ballistic missiles less effective, makes those missiles more negotiable.



But let there be no doubt, giving up the Strategic Defense Initiative and the protection it will provide is too high a price for any agreement.

Now there are those who may be pessimistic about the chances of deep reductions in U.S. and Soviet nuclear arsenals, but let us not forget that in 1981, when I first proposed our zero option, it too was all but written off by many commentators. In the time that has followed, we persevered and stuck to our principles. We held firm against the advocates of a so-called nuclear freeze. We followed through on our modernization program and in close cooperation with our allies, installed the Cruise and Pershings in Europe. When at long last it was realized that we in the alliance had the courage to protect our own long-run interests, progress toward a mutually beneficial treaty ensued.

As you are all aware, General Secretary Gorbachev will be visiting Washington beginning December 7. If the last-minute details can be worked out, we hope to sign a historic treaty that will eliminate a whole class of U.S. and Soviet nuclear-armed intermediate-range missiles from the face of the Earth, the first mutually agreed-upon reduction in our nuclear arsenals ever.

And this could well be just a beginning. We hope we can see forward movement on a number of other fronts. The United States, for example, has proposed a 50-percent reduction in U.S.-Soviet offensive strategic forces. Much progress has been made toward a strategic arms reduction talks (START) agreement and more is possible. But let there be no doubt, giving up the Strategic Defense Initiative and the protection it will provide is too high a price for any agreement.

Neither the INF treaty we hope to sign during the upcoming summit, nor any other agreement that follows, will be built on trust. Agreements with the Soviet Union must be based on reciprocity, verification, and realism. And while we want to bolster the peace and do our part to improve relations, no agreement should ever be signed simply for the sake of

signing an agreement, for the sake of atmospherics. Improving the general tone of relations between our countries, as I have outlined on several occasions, will require much more movement from the other side toward the solution of regional conflicts, a far greater respect for human rights, and progress on a number of bilateral issues between our countries. As I have explained to General Secretary Gorbachev, our countries do not have differences because we are well-armed, we are well-armed because we have differences.

I am deeply impressed by what I've seen and just heard.

Even with all the talk of openness and Glasnost, much change needs to take place before trust, like that we have with democratic governments, can come into play. The Soviet peoples themselves—even though there has been some change—still tell stories and joke about their plight. I heard one about a fellow who went to the KGB to report that he lost his parrot. The KGB asked him why he was bothering them. Why didn't he just report it to the local police. He answered, "I just want you to know, I don't agree with a thing that parrot has to say."

In four months, we will mark the fifth anniversary of the March 23, 1983, speech in which I challenged the scientific community to develop a system that would make ballistic missiles obsolete. General George Patton once said, "Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity." That statement showed a deep insight into the American character, and it has been proven again in our drive to establish a strategic defense system.

The progress made toward achieving our goals gives us reason for confidence. The critics who claimed it couldn't be done have been proven wrong again—just has been the case with almost every technological triumph in the past.

I am deeply impressed by what I've seen and just heard.

The progress made toward achieving our goals gives us reason for confidence. The critics who claimed it couldn't be done have been proven wrong again—just has been the case with almost every technological triumph in the past. The scientific research and engineering work you are doing, along with that of others like you in hundreds of locations throughout this great land, is a tribute to the genius of America. This is truly a national effort—both government and private sector—involving pre-eminent individuals in industry, education, and the scientific community. No President could be prouder or more grateful than I am for all you, and your fellow colleagues around the country, are doing.