Foreword by George P. Shultz

Throughout his life and work, William Perry has distinguished himself as a man of high intelligence, absolute integrity, rare vision, remarkable accomplishment, and an unwavering sense of humanity. Evidence of these attributes is vividly apparent in the gripping stories contained in this memoir chronicling Bill's extraordinary efforts, over the course of his illustrious career, to reduce the nuclear threat.

Bill's engagement in the issue of nuclear security began in the mid-1940s when, as a soldier in the US Army of Occupation in Japan, he witnessed the massive devastation in the aftermath of World War II. Following his service in Japan, he became a high-level national security adviser to the US government and participated in the development of reconnaissance technology that could detect Cold War nuclear threats. During the Carter administration, Bill served as undersecretary of defense for research and engineering. He worked to shore up deterrence of the Soviet Union by offsetting their numerical advantage in conventional forces through the development of stealth and other force-multiplying high-technology systems still in effective use today by our military (his "offset strategy").

As secretary of defense under President Clinton, and in his subsequent Track 2 diplomacy work, Bill developed a successful negotiating style that combined incisive analysis, an ability to balance diverse security concerns, and effective persuasiveness. Bill used these diplomatic skills to establish military alliances with former adversaries in the post-Cold War era; an example is the Partnership for Peace in Europe. He succeeded in facilitating the Nunn-Lugar program to remove holdover nuclear arsenals from new republics after the Soviet Union broke apart. Bill also brought about international arms control initiatives and security arrangements for nuclear materials, vital steps on the road toward achieving nuclear security.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with Bill and being inspired by him in our shared effort to achieve better control over nuclear weapons and fissile material. In the past decade, together with Sid Drell, Henry Kissinger, and Sam Nunn, we have convened a number of important conferences and have written numerous opinion pieces that have received worldwide attention. Phil Taubman described our efforts in his book *The Partnership: Five Cold Warriors and Their Quest to Ban the Bomb* (2012). We have emphasized the importance of the steps that must be taken on the road toward our ultimate goal of nuclear security. Sam Nunn's image of a mountain captures our idea. At the mountain's peak is a world free of nuclear weapons. At its base is a world where many countries possess nuclear weapons and where the fissile material to make bombs is often loosely guarded. In this world, there is a high probability that a nuclear weapon will be detonated at some time, wreaking unimaginable consequences. We have tried to put ourselves on a path to reach the mountaintop and, until recently, progress was being made.

The end of the Cold War produced an atmosphere that led to massive reductions in weapons, so today the world's nuclear weapons stockpile is less than one-third of the number in existence at the time of the 1986 Reykjavik meeting between President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. But now instability has returned, and we are threatened once again by the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Our joint efforts and Bill's personal commitment to counter this threat continue, with particular emphasis on educating young people on the dangers of nuclear weapons and ways to prevent their use. In addition to Bill's innovative nuclear security program for students at Stanford University, he has instituted an online course in order to spread the message to a vast audience of youth around the globe.

Bill's journey, so vibrantly recorded in this book, goes on as he works aggressively to stem the tide of nuclear weapons and guide the world onto a constructive path once again. Ever at his side in this quest is his wife, Lee. The wisdom that behind every great man there is a great woman is exemplified in the loving, productive partnership that Bill and Lee share. Lee has steadfastly supported Bill on his journey, at the same time accomplishing significant goals of her own. The military services awarded her a medal for her efforts to improve the quality of life for US military families, and—recognizing her tireless work to improve standards in an Albanian military hospital—the president of Albania conferred upon Lee the Mother Teresa Medal.

At every stage of his career, Bill has demonstrated his dedication to the wel-

George P. Shultz. Light at 11B: Joseph Garappolo and Christian Pease, with permission.

fare of members of the US armed forces. He began his military service as an enlisted man, so his concern for the well-being of every soldier—and every soldier’s family—is personal. He acknowledges the iron logic between military capability and quality of life and agrees wholeheartedly with Sergeant Major Richard Kidd’s counsel to “Take care of your troops and they will take care of you.” Anyone who has served in the military, as I have in the Marine Corps, knows that the troops must come first.

Bill’s deep-seated commitment to improving the quality of life for military families is illustrated by the actions he took after observing that the level of military housing, particularly for families, was in dire need of improvement. As Bill set about assessing the issue of military housing, he was fortunate to have

an additional pair of eyes and ears; while he was visiting the troops, his wife, Lee, was talking to servicemen's spouses. The result of their work was an ingenious and novel public-private partnership, authorized by Congress in 1996, that dramatically upgraded, and continues to maintain, the quality of military housing.

Such breakthroughs were surely on President Clinton's mind when, in the January 1997 Farewell ceremony for Bill, he awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom and said, "Bill Perry may well be recorded as the most productive, effective secretary of defense the United States ever had."

General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, offered this assessment of this extraordinary public servant:

Yes, he is a man of vast talent. Yes, he is a man of enormous energy and infectious enthusiasm. Yes, he is a man of great caring for those who wear our nation's uniform for their families. But he is first and foremost a man of unshakable character. He is a man who will do what is right, no matter what the price.

Americans owe a debt of gratitude to Bill Perry, who has dedicated his life's journey to national security. It is a journey that he continues to pursue with expertise, energy, and unquenchable enthusiasm.

George P. Shultz