THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE DEBATE

CAN "STAR WARS" MAKE US SAFE?
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For Lois
ABOUT THIS BOOK

The World Affairs Council of Philadelphia is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization devoted to the promotion of a more informed citizenry on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. The Council takes no positions on issues and does not endorse candidates for public office. Membership in the organization is open to all who share its purposes.

This book is based on a conference sponsored by the Council in Philadelphia on October 3 and 4, 1985, titled “Strategic Defense and American Security: Can ‘Star Wars’ Make Us Safe?” This meeting was convened for the broad examination by leading commentators, widely differing in their views, of the defense of the United States in the nuclear age.

The project of the Council on strategic defense began with Ambassador Paul Nitze’s presentation on our podium of the major address “On the Road to a More Stable Peace.” This speech marked a turning point in the national debate about President Reagan’s “Star Wars” initiative by thoroughly and clearly explaining the administration’s strategic concept.

At the conference itself, more than two dozen noted experts spoke and debated before a diverse audience of over 1,000 concerned citizens from across the nation.

In addition to this book, the conference resulted in the documentary film “Shielding America” which was televised nationally on the Public Broadcasting System.

This book, made possible in part by grants from RCA Corporation and the Boeing Company, is designed to allow more sustained consideration by a wider public of the vital question of nuclear policy which affects us all. We hope it proves interesting and useful.

Buntzie Ellis Churchill
President
The World Affairs Council of Philadelphia