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**Collection:** Matlock, Jack F.: Files  
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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection Name** MATLOCK, JACK: FILES

**Withdrawer**

JET 5/25/2005

**File Folder** [TELLER, EDWARD MEETING WITH POINDEXTER  
11/29/83]

**FOIA**

F06-114/11

**Box Number** 36

YARHI-MILO

3615

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
11675	MEMO	KEYWORTH TO POINDEXTER RE UPCOMING MEETING WITH EDWARD TELLER <b>R 4/14/2011 F2006-114/11</b>	1	11/25/1983	B1
11676	MEMO	COBB TO MATLOCK RE TELLER- POINDEXTER MEETING <b>R 4/14/2011 F2006-114/11</b>	1	11/29/1983	B1

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**National Security Council  
The White House**

System # T

Package # 5573

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Executive Secretary			
John Poindexter			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
John Poindexter	1	J	
Executive Secretary			
NSC Secretariat			
Situation Room			
MATLOCK	2	✓	A
R. LEHMAN (SEPARATE COPIES)	2	/	A

I = Information    A = Action    R = Retain    D = Dispatch    N = No further Action

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**COMMENTS**

Should be seen by: \_\_\_\_\_

(Date/Time) 11/28

Jack & Ron,  
I'm meeting with Tiller tomorrow evening. Any thoughts on his topics of concern?  
J



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
NOVEMBER 25, 1983

8573

MEMORANDUM FOR RADM JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM: JAY KEYWORTH *Jay***NOTED**

SUBJECT: Your Upcoming Meeting with Edward Teller

The first issue Edward wishes to discuss with you is authorization to continue US-Soviet-European discussions on the consequences of nuclear war on the global climate. These discussions began last August at the Ettore Majorana Center for Scientific Culture in Erice, Italy.

In addition, it is possible that Edward may raise the subject of similarly based discussions on cooperation for strategic defense.

Since the issue of the catastrophic global consequences of nuclear war has been receiving increasing attention, it could be beneficial to have Edward engaged in these discussions. Responsible acknowledgement and participation by an extraordinary well-informed representative such as Edward would appear to be responsive. However, I believe that encouraging discussions with the Soviets on cooperation for strategic defense would only offer further fuel for their propaganda mill. In addition, Edward's intense commitment to strategic defense and, in particular, to X-Ray lasers tends to constrain his objectivity and even awareness of alternate motives.

Finally, Edward wants to offer his opinion that bomb-pumped X-Ray lasers should not be excluded from a forefront position in the President's New Defense Initiative simply as a response to public opposition to nuclear weapons in space. He feels that the technology is so important that its role must be balanced against the perceived, and temporary, loss of public support for the program.

On this later point, the Fletcher Committee encouraged continued support for research to achieve proof-of-principle for X-Ray lasers, but they did not reflect the same level of unique importance that Edward ascribes to it. I believe that insuring Edward of our continued desire to support an accelerated R&D program in the Department of Energy will serve to allay his basic fear. I also recommend that you further encourage him to support the President's objective, above and beyond the particular technology.

**DECLASSIFIED**

NLRR F06-114/11 #11675

BY KML NARA DATE 4/21/11



File:  
Defensive  
Systems  
Matlock

## MEMORANDUM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/SENSITIVE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

November 29, 1983 11676

MEMORANDUM FOR JACK MATLOCK

FROM: TY COBB *WC*

SUBJECT: Teller-Poindexter Meeting

**NOTED**

Some thoughts on Edward Teller's meeting with Adm. Poindexter:

-- His interest in the catastrophic consequences of nuclear war should be encouraged. Conference in Erice was quite productive. Soviets (Velikhov) attended. Dick Garwin tells me that he sees potential for cooperation between Soviets and Americans here, but I'm not so sure. Not controversial.

-- Edward does have an obsession with X-ray lasers, and it is probably true that the only means for producing X-rays required would be through a nuclear explosion. We should not belittle the substantial loss that would be represented by developing these types of systems -- it would be more than just a little PR problem. (Violates treaty)

-- However, Teller has a lot more on his mind. He requested this meeting at the urging of some of his colleagues who have reservations regarding the direction and speed we may move on strategic defense. Edward is committed to it as are many of his friends. They do, however, feel that there is no proven technology around that merits the expenditure of massive funds on (except, in Edward's case, X-ray lasers). They tend to be very suspicious of chemical lasers, which Sen. Wallop favors. They feel that bureaucratic interests have gained ascendancy that wish to march ahead without sufficient research. The report recently forwarded will read like a Chinese menu, they fear -- something for everyone, resulting in a massive price tag. (Flecher Report)

-- Teller's public backing for a strategic defense program is essential. Therefore, his arguments should be heard. Adm. Poindexter should ask Teller for his honest evaluation of the prospects for achieving an effective strategic defense system (100% leakage proscription??), and which programs bear particular merit. He may also wish to ask for an evaluation of the DoD-chaired report on strategic defense.

-- Teller has a number of thoughts on organization. Wants a Manhattan-style project; feels we need to identify a Gen. Groves. Should also have an oversight board. He will suggest names, if asked. ~~(Ask Teller if he has talked with the JCS.)~~

-- Teller wants our Allies included in work on the strategic defense program. "All the best minds." This is controversial. George Shultz opposes. Weinberger agrees with Teller.

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