

Stop the OSI's assault against German-American scientists!

by Maj.-Gen. (Ret.) J. Bruce Medaris

General Medaris sent the following tape-recorded message to a June 15-16 memorial conference honoring the late Krafft Ehrlicke, the German-American space pioneer. The conference, held in Reston, Va., was co-sponsored by the Fusion Energy Foundation and the Schiller Institute.

General Medaris was commander of the Army Ballistic Agency, Redstone Arsenal, from 1956 to 1958, and commander of the Army Ordnance Command from 1958 to 1960. It was under his direction and through the efforts of the Peenemünde team of Wernher von Braun, that the United States launched the first Earth orbital satellite, and developed the first antiballistic-missile defense system, the Nike-Zeus.

In his reference to the Justice Department's harassment of a group of naturalized citizens, General Medaris is describing the ongoing witchhunt against German-American rocket scientist Dr. Arthur Rudolph. Through the efforts of the Office of Special Investigations (OSI), Dr. Rudolph was blackmailed into renouncing his U.S. citizenship and returning to the Federal Republic of Germany. Dr. Rudolph was the inventor of the Pershing missile and had received three government awards for his contributions to U.S. military and scientific advances. He was targeted by forged Soviet documents and perjured witnesses. General Medaris sent a letter to President Reagan on May 24, 1985, co-signed by 108 members and former members of the U.S. rocket and space program, requesting White House action to restore Dr. Rudolph's citizenship.

After General Medaris's tape was played at the conference, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the founder of the Schiller Institute, vowed to "make sure that this message by General Medaris is distributed by the Schiller Institute all over the world."

I cannot believe that the law under which the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) of the Department of Justice is operating, to harass a particular group of naturalized citizens of this country, is constitutional.

Unfortunately, those being harassed do not command the resources to challenge these procedures in court, let alone to carry the case to the Supreme Court, which would probably follow. To the best of my knowledge, no charges have been stated in specific terms and supported by proper, direct tes-

timony from identifiable witnesses, and the ordinary rules governing the deportation of aliens have been completely ignored. The individuals targeted for harassment as war criminals are called *aliens*, when, in fact, every condition governing immigration and naturalization was complied with long ago.

Even the public statements of the OSI and other protagonists of these unjust actions have alleged guilt by association. Direct evidence supporting the innocence of Dr. Rudolph and others now under attack are totally ignored. To allow continuation of this kind of treatment, smacking strongly of blackmail and the lawless methods of underworld enforcers, is to ignore such a travesty of justice, that makes a mockery of the Constitution and of every so-called civil-rights law aimed at equal standing before the law for all the citizens of this nation.

While the particular assault on these basic values, to the defense of which I have devoted most of my life, is most urgently before us at this time, there are many other challenges that demand the attention of all intelligent patriots. I invite you to consider just a few:

First of all, the obsession with Mutually Assured Destruction has so controlled our use of resources as to bring about some dangerous and disreputable conditions in our presently available forces usable in conventional warfare. This, in the face of the fact that non-nuclear warfare has repeatedly challenged our national interests.

Second, success in bringing about an effective strategic defense against a possible nuclear strike will bring into sharp focus the threat of conventional warfare, and I feel confident that at the present time the forces opposed to our way of life, total much more than our own and those of our potential allies.

Third, it is worth considering that, since the time when in Korea the advice of the military commander in the field was ignored, we have had no success that can be attributed to our armed forces. At best, we have had stalemates, standoffs, a condition in Korea that is absolutely horrible to consider, where we, for all these years, have had to mount guard on a line of partition that should have never have been allowed to exist. Every time we attempt to answer today's threats of terrorism, we encounter the fact that our special forces are neither given the proper kind of consideration, nor are they in a condition to meet the challenge as it should be

Let us look to our standards and maintain them in this country, because if we do not maintain our standards of freedom and justice, if they become subordinate to private causes, we have lost that which has inspired our forces in every conflict to do everything they possibly could, to stand to the bitter end, and to always come through to preserve our freedom.

met. You cannot leave planning in the hands of civilians seated at a desk, and then hand the final plan to the assault commander for special forces and expect to have success in the encounter. In fact, it seems almost unreasonable to expect men to risk their lives under such conditions.

During this period, since the time I wrote my book *Countdown for Decision*, we seem to have virtually ignored what should be easily recognized as the very pragmatic aims of the Soviet Union. We have spent resources for the enhancement of science in parts of creation that are unlikely even to be reached by human beings and to parts of creation that reveal to us conditions already long past.

Yet we have not put our strength into that part of space which is immediately about this Earth on which we live, that should have been given to that area because of its immediate effect on us here. This relates as well to the matter of defense as it does to offense, and in the present case, it becomes madness not to turn our attention to an effective strategic defense that will make a nuclear holocaust so unsuccessful as to assure that it would not happen. In fact, the objective should be to make nuclear weapons so ineffective, and in fact to cause them to strike back against those who launched them, as to cause this type of weapon to disappear from the world's arsenal. So long as we have and tolerate the existence of nuclear forces, effectively without adequate defense, we are unable to turn our attention to the myriad benefits which are inherent in the whole matter of nuclear science and physics, because in the mind of the public, there is a relation between the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the uses of warfare and for great destruction. Unfortunately, this relationship is enhanced by the disinformation campaign of our enemies.

The civilian bureaucracy

There are many more things that should be considered, but I will leave you with one last thought. We won the greatest war in all of history, World War II, with more men under

arms, more spread-out forces, more parts of the globe covered by warfare, than had ever been the case before, and we did it even without the shadow of a Department of Defense. We did it with a civilian bureaucracy at the top of the national effort, that was minimal, to say the least. We had only two secretaries, the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, and yet we came through that, and it was certainly, in its relative effect and relative cost, no more costly than the peace has become since.

In contrast, in order to *increase*—and that is meant sardonically—the effect of our forces, we have added a civilian bureaucracy, above the secretaries of the several forces, that is tremendous in size, that complicates every decision to be made, and that controls those things which then are publicly charged to the military as their mistakes.

I submit that, once upon a time, our forces knew how to judge what weapons they needed and were allowed to do so and then were prepared, through having their own scientific and technical resources, to see to it that those who produce these weapons, these new systems, did it economically and rightly and without any kickbacks or graft or any of the things that we run into these days and almost consider comically. I ask you to simply consider whether the effects of this tremendous civilian bureaucracy are the right ones for the defense of this country, and whether this extension has truly added to the effectiveness of our forces and their ability to carry out their mission, which is, after all other methods have failed, to win and to protect this country. I ask you to think about this, since I consider it of great importance.

You might look about you where you have military installations, and see that none of the forces are allowed to take care of their own houses. They can't even look after their own homes, and so many of them are allowed to live away from garrisons, even when they first go into the forces. There is not the opportunity to build that kind of comradeship that means a man will not desert a buddy when the chips are down and the choice is win, lose, or die. We might look and see that our forces that are supposed to be deployable quickly and to be able to sustain themselves in the field, are not even allowed to feed themselves at home, and so there has been very little practice for the men and the mess sergeants and the cooks who are going to have to feed them when they go into the field. This phase of our national defense, I am convinced, could yield a sufficient reduction in the resources devoted to it, to provide plenty of power for a really well-organized, top-level approach to a crash program to provide the strategic defense we must have to put an end to the overpowering and continuing of nuclear destruction.

Let us look to our standards and maintain them in this country, because if we do not maintain our standard of freedom and our standard of justice, if they become subordinate to private causes, we have lost that which has inspired our forces in every conflict to do everything they possibly could to stand to the bitter end and to always come through to preserve our freedom.