

STATEMENT BY SENATOR BOB DOLE

TITAN II BRIEFING

WICHITA, KANSAS

SEPTEMBER 27, 1980

I AM PLEASED TO HAVE DR. HANS MARK, THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, HERE TODAY TO TALK TO US ABOUT THE TITAN II MISSILE, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE NUMEROUS ACCIDENTS WE HAVE EXPERIENCED, MOST RECENTLY THE ACCIDENT LAST WEEK IN DAMASCUS, ARKANSAS.

HANS M. MARK BIOGRAPHY

DR. HANS M. MARK BECAME SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE IN JULY, 1979. PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT, DOCTOR MARK WAS UNDERSECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

DR. MARK WAS BORN ON JUNE 17, 1929, IN MANNHEIM, GERMANY. HE CAME TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1940 AND BECAME A U.S. CITIZEN IN 1945. HE ATTENDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NEW YORK CITY, EARNED HIS BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, IN 1957, AND HIS DOCTOR OF PHYSICS IN 1954 FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

DR. MARK HAS ALSO BEEN A CONSULTANT TO GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, AND BUSINESS. HE SERVED AS A CONSULTANT FOR, AMONG OTHERS, THE INSTITUTE FOR DEFENSE ANALYSES (1958-1961); THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (1966-1969); THE U.S. AIR FORCE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (1969-1976); THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (1974-1976); THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (1975-1976) AND THE DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD (SINCE 1975).

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FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND THE BRAVERY OF THE TITAN II CREW IN DAMASCUS AND OTHER TITAN CREWS AROUND THE COUNTRY WHO MUST WORK WITH A MISSILE THAT IS OUTDATED AND HAZARDOUS. SPECIFICALLY, I WANT TO COMMEND TECH. SGT. MICHAEL HANSON FROM WICHITA AND SGT. REX HUKLE FROM MULVANE FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND BRAVERY IN SERVING THEIR COUNTRY. SGT. HANSON IS RECOVERING FROM HIS INJURIES AT HIS HOME IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, AND SGT. HUKLE WHO WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED, IS RECOVERING IN A LOCAL HOSPITAL IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

THE DAMASCUS, ARKANSAS, TITAN II ACCIDENT LAST FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1980, ONCE AGAIN UNDERSCORES THE URGENT NEED FOR A COMPLETE RE-EVALUATION OF THIS AGING WEAPONS SYSTEM.

THIS INCIDENT IS JUST ONE IN A SERIES OF MISHAPS. IN RECENT YEARS THE TITAN II HAS BECOME A "PROBLEM" MISSILE. IN 1978 FOR EXAMPLE, TWO AIRMEN WERE KILLED AND 29 WERE INJURED IN KANSAS AND ARKANSAS IN TWO ACCIDENTS INVOLVING "LEAKS" OF HIGHLY TOXIC LIQUID PROPELLANT USED IN TITAN II'S. THEN ON APRIL 22, 1980, ANOTHER MAJOR "LEAK" OCCURRED AT THE POTWIN, KANSAS, MISSILE SITE. FORTUNATELY, NO ONE WAS INJURED.

CONSIDERING THE ENORMOUS DESTRUCTIVE POWER CONTAINED WITHIN EACH OF THESE MISSILES, IT IS TRULY INCREDIBLE THAT THE DAMASCUS EXPLOSION DID NOT TAKE A LARGER TOLL.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION NEEDED

IN RECENT YEARS, I HAVE STRONGLY URGED THE CONGRESS TO REVIEW THIS WEAPONS SYSTEM AS A RESULT OF THE NUMEROUS PROBLEMS THAT HAVE DEVELOPED. I BELIEVE CONGRESS SHOULD MAKE CERTAIN THAT ADEQUATE SAFETY MEASURES ARE BUILT INTO EACH TITAN SILO TO ASSURE THAT CREWMEN ARE AFFORDED MAXIMUM PROTECTION IN MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES AND OTHER ROUTINE DUTIES. ADDITIONALLY, WE MUST BE SURE THAT IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT, BOTH THE CREW AND CITIZENS LIVING IN AREAS SURROUNDING THE SILOS RECEIVE AMPLE TIME TO GET TO SAFETY.

BUT, THE BROADER QUESTION IS WHETHER THE TITAN II SYSTEM IS AN EFFECTIVE AND SAFE STRATEGIC WEAPON. THIS IS A MATTER WHICH THE CONGRESS MUST UNDERTAKE WITH DILIGENCE AT ONCE. WE CANNOT AFFORD MORE INJURIES LIKE THOSE WHICH OCCURRED AT DAMASCUS, ARKANSAS, AND ROCK, KANSAS, AND OTHERS. NOR CAN WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT A MISSILE THAT IS QUESTIONABLE IN MANY ASPECTS. THE CONGRESS MUST DETERMINE THE LIMITS ON THIS MISSILE'S EFFECTIVENESS, AND BEGIN TO CORRECT ANY DEFECTS OR MAKE PLANS FOR ITS REPLACEMENT.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT SENATOR STENNIS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, HAS PROMISED TO TAKE A THOROUGH LOOK AT THE TITAN II SYSTEM TO MAKE CERTAIN FOR THE PEOPLE IN KANSAS, ARKANSAS, AND ARIZONA THAT THIS MISSILE IS NOT ONLY EFFECTIVE BUT IS SAFE. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS MISSILE IS NOT MORE OF A THREAT TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO RESIDE IN THESE STATES THAN IT MIGHT BE TO SOME FOREIGN POWER.

ONCE AGAIN, I WANT TO THANK DR. HANS MARK, THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, FOR AGREEING TO MY REQUEST TO MEET WITH THE NUMEROUS FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICIALS AS WELL AS OFFICIALS FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA.

BIOGRAPHY

United States Air Force

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE OFFICE OF INFORMATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20330



HANS M. MARK

Dr. Hans M. Mark became secretary of the Air Force in July 1979. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Mark was under secretary of the Air Force.

Dr. Mark was born on June 17, 1929, in Mannheim, Germany. He came to the United States in 1940 and became a U.S. citizen in 1945. He attended primary and secondary schools in New York City, earned a bachelor of arts in physics at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1951 and his doctor of physics in 1954 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Active in teaching since 1952, Dr. Mark taught courses in physics and engineering at Boston University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of California at Berkeley and Davis and Stanford University. Concurrently, he was active in research and held a number of administrative appointments. Following completion of his graduate studies, Dr. Mark remained at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a research associate and acting head of the Neutron Physics Group, Laboratory for Nuclear Science, until 1955. He then returned to the University of California as a research physicist at the Berkeley campus, then at the university's Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in Livermore, where he served until 1958.



After two years as an assistant professor of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Mark returned to the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in Livermore to continue physics research and to head the Laboratory's Experimental Physics Division (1960-1964). During that period he was also first an associate professor (1961-1966) and then professor of nuclear engineering (1966-1969) at the University of California's Berkeley campus. He served as chairman of the Department of Nuclear Engineering and administrator of the Berkeley Research Reactor from 1964 to 1969.

In 1969 Dr. Mark accepted the position of director of the Ames Research Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. As director he managed the center's research and applications efforts in aeronautics, space science, life science and space technology. He also continued his association with the academic community, first as a lecturer in applied science at the University of California, Davis campus, from 1969 to 1973 and since 1973 as a consulting professor of engineering at Stanford University.

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(Current as of July 1979)

Dr. Mark has also been a consultant to government, industry and business. He served as a consultant for, among others, the Institute for Defense Analyses (1958-1961); the National Science Foundation (1966-1969); the U.S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board (1969-1976); the vice president of the United States (1974-1976); The President's Advisory Group on Science and Technology (1975-1976) and the Defense Science Board (since 1975).

Dr. Mark has written extensively; his articles have appeared in a number of professional and technical journals. He also co-authored a volume on "Experiments in Modern Physics," served as co-editor of "The Properties of Matter Under Unusual Conditions," and was a co-author of "Power and Security."

His major scientific accomplishments include contributions to the precise determination of the wave lengths of nuclear gamma rays, to the development of X-ray astronomy, to various fields of nuclear instrumentation and to the development of more accurate atomic wave functions.

Dr. Mark is a member of Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa and the National Academy of Engineering. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He also belongs to a number of other professional associations including the American Nuclear Society, the American Geophysical Union, the American Association of University Professors and the Society for Engineering Science, of which he was a director from 1972 to 1976. Dr. Mark holds an honorary doctorate of science degree awarded in 1978 by Florida Institute of Technology.

Dr. Mark is married to the former Marion G. Thorpe. They have two children, Jane and Rufus.