

APPENDIXES

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Summary Report of Advisory Council Activities

Charles N. Kimball, *Chairman*

It was with great pleasure that I accepted the chairmanship of the Technology Assessment Advisory Council, succeeding Dr. Frederick Robbins upon his assumption of the presidency of the National Institute of Medicine. I was particularly gratified that Dr. Jerome Wiesner agreed to serve with me as Vice Chairman of the Council.

The scientific and technological capabilities of the United States are diffused broadly in the industrial, academic, and research communities—public and private. If this Nation is to successfully confront the problems of the 1980's, science and technology must play a central role. Progress in agriculture, energy, health, transportation, telecommunications, trade, environmental protection, resource extraction, and other major sectors of activity is dependent on the scientific and technological enterprise. Government policies in turn have a critical impact on the health of that enter-

prise. Consequently, it is particularly important that Congress have access to the best scientific and technological judgment available in establishing national policies and programs,

OTA plays a vital role in gathering and focusing expertise from around the country on major issues facing Congress. The Advisory Council, comprising distinguished individuals from various disciplines, locations, and professions, works with the Congressional Board and the Director in this process.

Under the direction of Dr. John Gibbons, OTA has become an increasingly potent instrument in bringing science and technology to bear upon the Nation's needs. That role will assume even greater importance as we confront the challenges and complexities ahead.