

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001



JUN 7 2000

Dr. Bradford W. Parkinson
Chair
NASA Advisory Council
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Dr. Parkinson:

Thank you for your report on the NASA Advisory Council meeting on March 16-17, 2000, which was held at NASA Headquarters. I am pleased the Council had a comprehensive and productive meeting. I enjoyed our discussions concerning the workforce issues facing the Agency. We must continue to look at innovative ways to attract young, exceptional workers. I encourage a continued dialog between the Council and the Agency on ways we can continue to reinvigorate our aging workforce with bright, young scientists and engineers.

The discussion that we had over the problems presented by the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) was very useful and enlightening. It is my understanding that there have been several meetings between Dr. Claude Canizares' team and Gen. Sam Armstrong on this subject. Gen. Armstrong has indicated that progress has been made, and you will hear a report of the findings at your next meeting.

The Council's thoughts on the Agency's efforts at developing technologies for a second generation Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) are much closer to our plans than one may think at first glance. The Council's input over the past several years on this subject has been invaluable to NASA and the Nation. I have instructed Sam Venneri, Associate Administrator for Aerospace Technology, to meet with Admiral Robert Monroe to address any remaining concerns raised by the Council.

NASA will provide the Council with a comprehensive briefing on our response to the four recent review committee reports at your September meeting. As always, I appreciate the time and dedication you and the Council members give to NASA's programs and policies. I hope that you have a productive meeting in June, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel S. Goldin".

Daniel S. Goldin
Administrator