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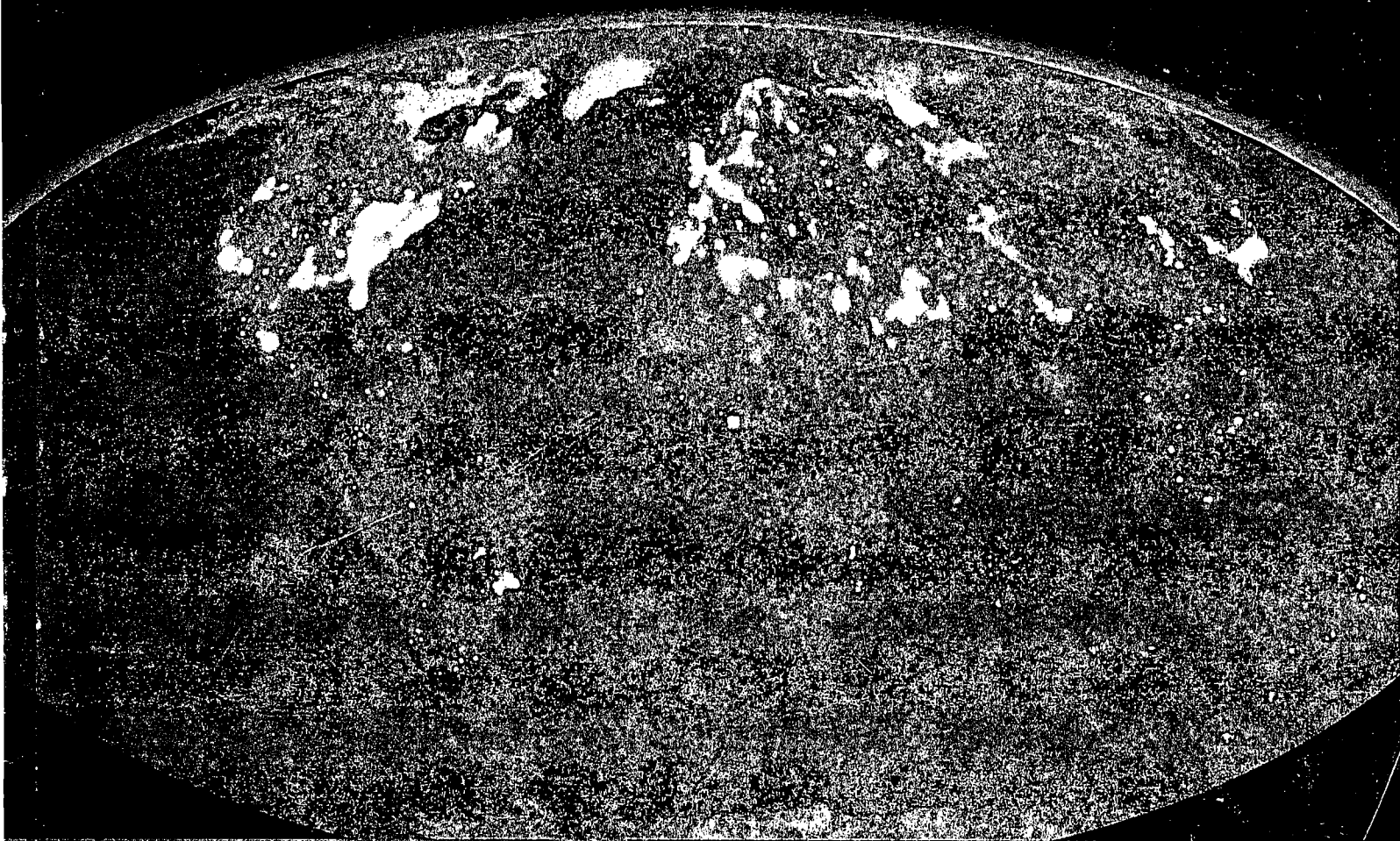
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Powerful Partnerships



The Federal Role in International Cooperation on Energy Innovation

*A report from the Panel on International
Cooperation in Energy Research, Development,
Demonstration, and Deployment
The President's Committee of Advisors
on Science and Technology*



June 1999

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Powerful Partnerships:

A Synthesis of a Report by the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology

"Advanced energy technologies can help meet the challenges of economic development, national security, and environmental quality." President Bill Clinton, July 23, 1998

It is in our fundamental National interest to greatly strengthen international cooperation in energy innovation. The President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) concluded that continuing our current energy trajectory would be "problem plagued and potentially disastrous." Unless innovation to increase energy end-use efficiency and to improve energy supply technologies is both rapid and global, world energy demand is likely to soar in the next century to four times today's level, entailing higher consumer costs for energy, greater oil-import dependence, worse local and regional air pollution, more pronounced climate disruption from greenhouse gases, and bigger nuclear energy risks than today. And if the United States abdicates leadership in international cooperation on energy technology while others forge ahead, it will cost U.S. firms dearly in their share of the multi-hundred-billion-dollar-per-year global market in energy-supply technologies, most of which is and will remain overseas. As the world heads into the next millennium, however, there is a window of opportunity — open now but closing fast — to move the world off this troublesome path. The choices the United States makes today will influence the evolution of the global energy system for many decades to come (Box 1). The United States has strong stakes in the future economic, national security, and environmental course of world energy development. (See references 1,2.)

Initiatives are recommended in four areas:

- **Strengthening capacities for energy technology innovation** through education and training; creation and support of regional centers for energy research and deployment; promotion of energy sector reform that attracts private capital while protecting the public interest; and creation of mechanisms for demonstration, cost-reduction and financing of advanced energy technologies;
- **Promoting technologies to limit energy demand** by increasing efficiency of energy use, particularly in buildings and appliances, small vehicles and buses, energy-intensive industries, and cogeneration of electricity;
- **Promoting technologies for a cleaner energy supply**, with emphasis on biomass, wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources, using fossil fuels far more efficiently, developing technologies to capture and store carbon, and nuclear fission and fusion; and
- **Improving management** of the Federal portfolio, including with external oversight.

These programs go beyond spurring research and development; they are designed to catalyze and facilitate efforts of the private sector, and will launch advanced energy technologies into substantial international markets, free of the need for ongoing government subsidies.



August 1999