Eisenhower Speech, 11/7/1957

Narrator: From the President’s office in the White House in Washington, DC, we present an address by the President of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower. The President discusses science and national security, the first in a series of addresses scheduled in the next several weeks. Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States.

President Eisenhower: My fellow citizens, my subject tonight is science and national security. Originally this talk was to be part of one I intend to make in Oklahoma City next week; however, I found that I could not possibly deal with the subject in just one address. So tonight I shall concentrate on the most immediate aspects of this question of the relationship of science to the defenses of our country. First, let me tell you what I’m going to do in this talk and in my next. I’m going to lay the facts before you, the rough with the smooth. Some of these security facts are reassuring. Others are not; they are sternly demanding. Some require that we resolutely continue lines of action now well begun. Others require new action, and still others new dimensions of effort. After putting these facts and requirements before you, I shall propose a program of action, a program that will demand the energetic support of not just the government, but every American if we are to make it successful.

First then, some facts about our present security posture. It is one of great strength, but by no means should this assurance satisfy any of us. Our defenses must be adequate not just today, but tomorrow and in all the years to come, until under...