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**PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE ADVISOR, DR. JOHN MARBURGER,
TO SPEAK AT HIGH TECH SUMMIT IN GENEVA**

On December 11, John H. Marburger, III, the Science Adviser to the President and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy will address the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva, Switzerland. The purpose of the Summit, which is a UN General Assembly-sanctioned event, is to develop a common vision and understanding of the information society and draw up a strategic plan of action for its concerted development.

Dr. Marburger's participation in the Summit demonstrates our country's longstanding commitment to the multilateral process. It also underscores the importance of science and technology as the basic building blocks for creating digital opportunities worldwide. The Government of the United States strongly believes that WSIS is an extraordinary opportunity for nations to foster free expression, share knowledge, improve living standards and otherwise expand the benefits of the Information Society.

The World Summit on the Information Society will take place December 10-12 in Geneva, Switzerland. Heads of state, executive heads of United Nations agencies, industry leaders, non-governmental organizations, media representatives, and civil society will meet to develop a better understanding of global information society issues.

OSTP was established by Congress in 1976 with a broad mandate to advise the President and others within the Executive Office of the President on the impacts of science and technology on domestic and international affairs. The 1976 Act also authorizes OSTP to lead an interagency effort to develop and to implement sound science and technology policies and budgets and to work with the private sector, state and local governments, the science and higher education communities, and other nations toward this end. Under Dr. Marburger's leadership, the office has been organized in response to the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of today's science and technology challenges. The two associate directors lead a set of departments that work in teams on science and technology issues.

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