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Swearing-In of CIA Director Robert Gates 11/12/91 [OA 8317]

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(Duggan/Simon)
October 7, 1991
Draft Two
CIA

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GATES SWEARING-IN
CIA HEADQUARTERS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1991
9:00 A.M.

[Acknowledgments]

1-30-76 Every time I visit Langley it's a homecoming. Today I think of that January day in 1976 when President Ford stood here as I took the oath of office as DCI. \\

I'll always appreciate having had that one year here -- getting to know the people and the institution. That was without question one of the most rewarding times of my life. \\

Today marks an historic transition. We express the nation's thanks for the devoted service of former Director Bill Webster and Acting Director Dick Kerr. \\ We welcome Bob Gates, a new Director of Central Intelligence from a new generation -- a generation moving into leadership without the familiar strategic backdrop of the Cold War. \\

Bob Gates is no stranger here. He has spent his entire career -- a quarter of a century -- as an intelligence professional. He's a keen analyst and an independent thinker. He stood by my side and gave me wise counsel during the Panama crisis, and Desert Storm, and the drama of August in Moscow. He has my deepest trust. \\

Under your new leader, you men and women of the CIA face as challenging a mission as you've ever had. You must change the

American intelligence community as rapidly and profoundly as the world itself has changed. Up till now, a very large proportion of our intelligence resources has been devoted to monitoring the threat posed by a secretive adversary -- the Soviet empire. The collapse of the Warsaw Pact and of Soviet communism allows us to make better use of the assets we once needed to penetrate Soviet and East European secrecy.

Make no mistake: We will not let our guard down. \\ We're not about to dismantle the capabilities that we've worked so hard to rebuild, but we must adapt them to new realities. \\

The intelligence community's new challenge under Bob Gates's leadership is to move beyond the Cold War to the complex problems of the 21st century. Our world without the Soviet juggernaut is a safer world, but it's no new garden of Eden. \\ This is not the end of history. \\ We should work hopefully for better world conditions and structures for peace, but human nature remains what it always has been. Men and nations still have their propensities for violence, greed and deceit. \\

We need a strong intelligence community to consolidate and extend freedom's gains against totalitarianism. We need intelligence to verify historic arms reduction accords. We need it to suppress terrorism and drug trafficking. And we must have intelligence to thwart anyone who tries to steal our technology or otherwise refuses to play by fair economic rules. \\

We must have vigorous intelligence capabilities if we are to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This is truly a life-or-death mission. \\

In sum, intelligence remains our basic national instrument for anticipating danger -- military, political and economic. \\ Intelligence is and always will be our first line of defense, enabling us to ward off emerging threats whenever possible before any damage is done. \\

As you work to transform the intelligence community to face our new era, I pledge to do all I can to keep American intelligence strong. \\ Under Bob Gates's direction, we will dramatically expand our human intelligence collection efforts. We will give our officers and analysts the very finest in support technology. We will show no tolerance for those who leak secrets that protect our intelligence professionals' lives.

As the CIA's Deputy Director during the 1980s, Bob Gates was an innovative leader who deserves much of the credit for putting the strength and pride back into American intelligence. Bob is a man of skill and integrity. He will be a very strong and effective manager here. Now I am looking to him, and to all of you, to commit yourselves anew to the excellence that always has been the hallmark of our intelligence community.

Thank you, and may God bless you.

And now, let us witness the swearing-in of Director Robert Gates.

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Andrews continues:

(Administrator Kessler: "Consumers are hungry for a food label they can trust and understand -- real words with real meaning.") Consumer groups contend the rules have huge loopholes. In what some say is a cave-in to industry pressure, labeling on fresh meat and poultry will be voluntary. (ABC-8, CBS-3)

SUPREME COURT/SCHOOL PRAYER

CBS's Rita Braver reports the Supreme Court today considered the constitutionality of prayer in schools. Justice Thomas, hearing his first high-profile case, stayed silent. Though the decision is not expected to allow a return to prayer in public schools, it could result in a substantial lowering of the wall between church and state. (CBS-8)

SOVIET UNION/LENIN

Jennings reports yesterday's story that Lenin's body is for sale was incorrect. ABC based its story on a report in the Forbes business publication FYI, whose editors today said it was a joke. (ABC-15)

KUWAIT

Jennings reports firefighters today put out the last of 732 oil-well fires. (ABC-11)

PHILIPPINES

Jennings reports a tropical storm has caused a devastating series of landslides and floods. More than 2,300 have been killed and 1,500 are missing. (ABC-12)

SOUTH AFRICA

Jennings reports South Africa has accepted an invitation to go to the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona. (ABC-13)

LOUISIANA/ENVIRONMENT

Jennings reports a recent nationwide survey has found that three of every five blacks and Hispanics live in areas where there is a toxic-waste dump nearby.

ABC's Ned Potter reports on the industrial section from New Orleans to Baton Rouge, one of the most polluted areas in America. Some environmental groups say the nation's minority communities -- impoverished and politically powerless -- have been used for decades as sites for waste dumps and heavily polluting industry. A civil rights group says it has documented a clear link between race and pollution. Minorities in Louisiana are fighting back and the movement is spreading throughout the nation. (ABC-14)

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Cheney
Powell

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An indispensable
agency -
especially to the
men + women
who serve

the w/ such
dedication +
distinction,

Intro Kern

Jandra Day

O'Connor

450 people