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# **(U) Message from the Director: CIA's 70th Anniversary**

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Team,

Seven decades ago, as the Iron Curtain descended on Europe, our government formed a new kind of intelligence service: an independent agency charged with ensuring that our senior policymakers have a comprehensive picture of the threats and opportunities facing our country in times of war and peace. Since then, CIA has been a pillar of our national security enterprise. We have helped 13 presidents confront key foreign challenges, including the Cuban missile crisis, the war in Vietnam, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the tragedy of 9/11, the campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan, the spread of nuclear weapons, and so many more. Ours is a remarkable legacy, one in which all of us at CIA should take enormous pride.

CIA will celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary next month on 18 September. To mark the occasion, we will hold a ceremony in the main lobby and add a new name to our list of CIA Trailblazers—a distinction reserved for those who have profoundly shaped our Agency and our mission. We'll also unveil a new museum exhibit in the upper lobby near the main staircase, detailing the achievements of some of the most influential figures in CIA history.

Anniversaries do more than mark the passage of time. They're also an opportunity to reflect on who we are, what we stand for, and where we're going. Perhaps most importantly, they're a time to draw strength and inspiration from those who came before us. Our predecessors have placed in our hands an extraordinary institution. We must protect it. And we must challenge ourselves to not only build on their legacy, but to bring to our own work—each and every day—the same energy and creative spirit that they invested in theirs.

Mike

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