

*Remedial*

REMARKS

BY

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AT THE CIA

SENIOR INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

PROMOTION

CEREMONY

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The day I was sworn in on May 26, I had the pleasure of participating with Bob Gates and the President in the decoration of four covert heroes. And we honor them especially. But I pay my respects to all of you who, in your leadership, make the system work.

Much of what we do is secret and because of this there is often concern, occasional criticism, and often a great deal of confusion in the public eye about our work. We are going through a period of tension at the present time. Many committees are investigating the activities of the Iran-contra situation and that includes what role, if any, the CIA played in it. There is also a lot of speculation about what we are going to do about it here. I've tried to make my position clear, in response to some erroneous news reports, that I intend to do what I think is the logical thing to do, and that is to ascertain the facts as they come in. We'll review what various investigative agencies, including our own Inspector General, have to say about our conduct. If there are mistakes that were made, they will be corrected. If mistakes were not made, we'll make sure the proper people know that we were doing the right thing.

I'll probably bring someone on board, who did not participate, and who was not here, to help me assess the information that is already available. This will not be a new and separate investigation, but I simply want to make sure that the job is done correctly while I address myself to all the responsibilities that have been given to me by the President, about which you are well aware.

In the meantime, your role--and I am speaking to the honorees today--your role as leaders and managers is to do what all of us are trying to do which is, simply put, to do our work with absolute fidelity to the Constitution and the laws and the rules that are put in place to help protect us as well as our society. And in terms of our accountability--whether it is to the Congress, to the National Security Council, to the President, or to the public--to deal with absolute credibility and veracity. There are many things that we have to do that require deception as a part of our responsibilities. -But that does not include deception of those who have a right to know from us what we are doing. These two things--fidelity to law, and absolute veracity to those in government with whom we work--provide that element of trust without which this agency could not function, and without which we certainly would be subjected to the most severe kinds of restraint and unable to do the job that the American people expect of us.

And so I that ask all of you who are being honored today accept with that honor and that promotion, and demand of those above you, that level of veracity and that level of fidelity to law that I have spoken of, and that you impart it, and the sense of it, to all of those who work for you.

Our nation needs our service. Those of you who are being promoted today are the present leaders and future leaders of this agency who will be here long after I have passed the scene. You play a major role in ensuring that this agency can continue to meet a steadily growing diversity of demands and requirements, that it can sustain the ethics and integrity of our profession,