

The Washington Post A17
 The New York Times _____
 The Washington Times _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The Christian Science Monitor _____
 New York Daily News _____
 USA Today _____
 The Chicago Tribune _____
 Date 2 July 1991

SHORT TAKES

2,000 Assemble At CIA to Honor Retiring Webster

More than 2,000 CIA employees gathered outside the agency's headquarters at Langley yesterday at a retirement ceremony for Director William H. Webster.

Deputy director Richard J. Kerr presented him with the Distinguished Intelligence Medal and praised him for bringing "continuity and calmness" to the CIA during a period of turmoil.

Webster, who was sworn in four years ago, said the agency's employees helped him keep the pledge he had made to work closely with the oversight committees of Congress and with other U.S. intelligence agencies "to better serve our common purpose."

With an era of declining budgets ahead, he said, "there will be inevitable strain," but at the same time, "a reputation for hon-



WILLIAM H. WEBSTER
... emphasizes need for honesty

esty and competency becomes all the more important."

Webster is planning to leave the agency sometime this month to join a law firm in the Washington area, but no details have been announced. Senate confirmation

hearings have yet to be scheduled for his designated successor, deputy White House national security adviser Robert M. Gates.

A former federal judge and FBI director, Webster succeeded the late William J. Casey at the CIA in the midst of congressional and independent prosecutor investigations of the Iran-contra scandal.

In presenting the medal, Kerr said Webster showed an "extraordinary willingness to take risks" and "a great deal of independence in presenting intelligence to policymakers."