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One, it's a place where discrimination of any kind is not acceptable, and, secondly, it's a work place where people are judged on their capability, that performance counts, regardless of gender or race.

ZAHN: Let's talk about what some of your priorities will be, because you will be very involved in the day-to-day operations of the CIA. Even John Deutch has conceded that morale is very low there, coming on the heels of mismanagement problems swirling around the Aldrich Ames case, how that was handled, and these discrimination problems. What is your main goal? And the two you just mentioned just now -- about -- you just pointed out?

SLATKIN: Well, our biggest challenge and our first challenge is to improve the management, and thereby the morale of the men and women at the Central Intelligence Agency. There is no doubt these are dedicated professionals who are doing the nation's most important job every day. But we all understand that intelligence is at a crossroads at this point. With strong leadership from John Deutch and with team work and team building, I am confident that we'll be able to keep this agency in the right direction.

ZAHN: What kind of reaction have you gotten so far to some of the members who have felt quite embattled through the last several months?

SLATKIN: Well, I must say in my first couple of days, I've been thrilled. I've been really pleased at the way people, the men and women of the CIA, have welcomed the new team and have said that they are willing, more than willing, to work with strong leadership to move the agency forward. It's been a nice welcoming and I must say I've spent most of my time in the first week meeting with the senior leadership and meeting with all levels of the career force. And you can feel a general understanding and a general welcoming of strong leadership and the new team that John Deutch has put into place.

ZAHN: There are still a couple of key positions left open. Let's talk about the director of operations in closing this morning which is a very sensitive post involving clandestine overseas operations. How actively will you be involved in helping make that appointment?

SLATKIN: I'm going to be very actively involved. John Deutch has established a group of outside advisers as well as myself. The outside advisers include Brent Scowcroft; John McMann, former Deputy Director of the CIA; Ambassador Lilly; Nora Garrett, and myself. We will form a team -- we are going to start today, as a matter fact -- that will present John Deutch with a series of recommendations for who the next director of operations will be.

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ZAHN: Well, we thank you for joining us this morning. We know you've got a lot of work to get started on this week. Again, congratulations. Thank you for coming.

SLATKIN: Thank you, Paula. I appreciate being here.

ZAHN: Alright.

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