



**Remarks by the Director of National Intelligence
Mr. Dennis C. Blair**

**Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA)
Building Dedication Ceremony**

**University of Maryland Research Park
College Park, Maryland**

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DR. MELVIN BERNSTEIN (Vice President for Research, University of Maryland): As President Mote indicated, we have a new friend who is joining us in the research park, Dennis Blair. The third Director of National Intelligence, Director Blair comes to this position with no lack of experience – a 34-year Navy career culminating as Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Command. Then he moved to become President and CEO of the Institute for Defense Analysis while he became more involved with academic activities and teaching.

I'm also very pleased to have noted that he's a Rhodes Scholar, so he understands the importance of education – the importance of being able to work problems across boundaries between the academic community and the public and private sector. That is really something that not only this university is committed to, but so many other universities across the country, anxious to be able to contribute in the solution to these critical problems. So it's a pleasure to welcome Dennis Blair.

(Applause.)

DIRECTOR BLAIR: Thanks very much Melvin – distinguished officials who will be participating in this event, and all of you who are here, I just want to say a couple of things. First, from the point of view of us in the Intelligence Community, we're just pleased as can be to be here as part of what is obviously an intellectual ferment or primordial stew out of which great – (laughter) – things will come. And we're going to be stewing there along with everybody so very much. (Laughter.)

And I'd like to just mention some of the people from the intelligence world who are responsible for this event taking place today. The first, my predecessor, who I don't think was able to make it this morning – Mike McConnell, the second Director of National Intelligence – who really pushed this along from his position. And I know Mike's thoughts are here with us. Also, on the staff of the Director of National Intelligence, we have Al Munson, Scott Sarlin, and most of all, Dr. Lisa Porter down here. Lisa will be moving into a fine office here and making things

happen, but again, those of you who pushed this through in a difficult way, thanks very much and here we are.

And then finally, I just couldn't help but thinking that is the best everybody singing the national anthem that I've heard – it must be something about Maryland – this thing was composed right up the road or something. But it was – the –

SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI: (Inaudible, off mike.)

DIRECTOR BLAIR: But it made me think that the United States does the magic things that it does when we have government, academe, normal patriotic Americans coming together for a common cause. Although we in the Intelligence Community live a lot of our lives in the secret world that we can't really tell people about, the essence of what we do is not very complicated: We try to steal the secrets that other people would like to keep from us so that we can do the right thing for the country.

A large part of that business has to do with applying technology along with very talented and dedicated people in order to get into places that other countries and other organizations would just as soon not have us learn what they're doing, come back so that we can help make the decisions that keep this country safe and that then support the sorts of things we do around the world, whether it's in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq or elsewhere.

So to see everybody here making music together – a lot of enthusiasm, a lot of harmony – was just wonderful. And that's, I think, what we're looking for out of our partnership here in this place – some of the finest academic disciplines – people from the Intelligence Community who really know what has to be done, members of Congress who oversee us – they know everything that we're doing and they kind of make sure that we're on the right track. I think we have all the ingredients here for really doing magic stuff to make America safer and more secure in the future. So it's just wonderful to be part of it. Thank you.

(Applause.)