

every one of you. It means you can't talk freely about much of your work with your family and your friends. For some, it means spending a lot of time far away from home. For others, it's meant serving in situations of significant personal danger. While much of your work is sensitive and cannot be discussed publicly, I know what you do. I value it, and I respect you for doing it. And I wanted to come here to say thank you.

The 56 stars carved into the wall here in this lobby remind each who passes by this place of the ultimate risks of intelligence work. Each star memorializes a vibrant life given in the service of our Nation. Each star reminds us of freedom's high price and how the high share some must bear that all the rest of us must respect. My heart goes out to the families and to the friends of each of those whose sacrifices are represented here.

Two of the stars added just this year commemorate two devoted agency professionals who were slain last January entering this compound, Dr. Lansing Bennett and Frank Darling. All of us were shocked and saddened when they were

killed and others were seriously injured. The First Lady represented me here at the memorial service, but I want to say again personally how much I admire the service that they gave, the sorrow and anger we all felt and continue to feel about this outrageous act.

The CIA was established over 45 years ago to help confront the challenges to democracy. These stars remind us that the battle lines of freedom need not be thousands of miles away, but can be right here in the midst of our communities with our families and friends. Jim Woolsey and I know that all of you here today are called to a very special kind of public service.

I celebrate your commitment. I appreciate your contributions. As President, I will do my best to learn from you, to help you to do your work, and to stand by you. And on behalf of the American people, let me say again, I thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:12 a.m. in the lobby of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers of The Netherlands *January 4, 1994*

The President. It's a great honor for me to welcome Prime Minister Lubbers here today. As I'm sure all of you know, he is one of the senior statesmen in Europe, and he has been a great ally of the United States. We've worked together very closely on issues of international security, issues of European security, trade, and economic issues. His nation is one of our larger trading partners, has had a very constructive attitude about that, and of course, I think, the third biggest investor in the United States. So, our relationship with The Netherlands is very, very important. And I'm glad to have him here today, and I look forward to the visit we're about to start.

Eastern Europe and NATO

Q. Mr. President, why do you seem to be having trouble generating enthusiasm for the

Partnership For Peace among Eastern European nations?

The President. As you remember, when they all came here, all the leaders of the Eastern European countries came here for the dedication of the Holocaust Museum, they were looking for ways to become more identified economically and militarily or at least in terms of security issues with the West, and NATO seemed to be an easy way or a clear way to do it. But we're not closing the door on that. What we're trying to do is to open the door to a developing relationship and to do it in a way that is consistent with what all the European nations have indicated they were willing to do at this time and also to do it in a way that doesn't divide Europe.

I think General Shalikashvili, who, as you know, was a child in Poland, spoke about that today. We're trying to promote security and sta-