

Remarks

by

William H. Webster

Director of Central Intelligence

at the

Dedication of the Sculpture

for the

New Headquarters Building

CIA Headquarters

November 5, 1990

Thank you Harry.\* All of us have enjoyed the privilege of having this courtyard between the two main buildings. It is made all the more significant by the work of the artist we honor this afternoon.

What we have always wanted—in our buildings and in the art that makes them live—is to create an ideal place. For us, that would be one that is right for both reflection and challenge. Today we pass a milestone in the Agency's commitment to these two—and it is both a milestone and a beginning. Today we dedicate a work of art commissioned solely for the Central Intelligence Agency—a work made possible by the Art in Architecture program. I want to congratulate the artist, Mr. James Sanborn, for his excellent work. This is a first for us: We have "placed" art before—even come to count on it as a familiar and expected comfort—but we had not watched it evolve. Mr. Sanborn has changed this. It is his vision that we have watched develop here. And it is his vision that has inspired our curiosity, questions, and admiration.

Mr. Sanborn has accomplished a very difficult thing—he has created something that speaks to a sense of place. He has worked to give us art that is appropriate to this institution, that embraces larger truths, and that speaks of a sense of mission. This could not have been easy.

I know that art is solitary work. That, in its many manifestations, it deals with language, communication, and with creating a shared view of the world. I don't pretend to know how these things are done.

But art that captures this place and these people must deal with a host of things: it calls for understanding intellect, solitude, the unyielding nature of the work, and capturing an integrity of place. And this artist has, as well, tried to recreate something of the character of the nation. It is impressive that in this enclosed courtyard, we could have so clear a sense of the rugged nature and vast expanse of our country.

Mr. Sanborn, you have used symbols of water and rock most effectively. But I know that all intelligence professionals will enjoy the opportunity to tackle the code you've presented us in this courtyard. You have captured much of what this Agency is all about. We like to be tested. And we enjoy a challenge. The sculpture in this courtyard is both a symbol of that challenge and the very thing itself. It is a welcome addition here, and in years to come it will be enjoyed again and again. Thank you for the work that you have done.

\* Harry Esterley, Director of Logistics.