

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
Washington, DC 20511

February 13, 2009

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

Senate confirmation of Leon Panetta as CIA Director is excellent news for the country and for the Intelligence Community.

Leon is an accomplished public servant who brings experience, leadership and management skills to his new responsibilities. He and I have worked closely since being nominated together in early January. Leon will bring the CIA's talent and extensive contributions to the Intelligence Community to their full potential. I welcome him to the team and look forward to his support and contributions in the months and years to come.

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