

FDD's National Security Summit
Opening Remarks by FDD President Clifford D. May

MAY: Good morning. Good morning.

If I can ask everyone to take their seats, his seats, her seats, whatever pronouns you prefer. Thank you very much.

Good morning, again, and welcome to FDD's National Security Summit, featuring conversations with National Security Adviser Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster and CIA Director Mike Pompeo.

We're honored to have both these gentlemen with us today, and we thank both of them for their service, past, present and future.

For those who may not know me, my name is Clifford May. I'm the founder and president of FDD.

The Foundation for Defense of Democracies, as most of you probably know, was organized in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks as a policy institute, a think-tank in the vernacular, focusing exclusively on the threats to America's national security, in particular threats to which too little attention had been paid in the past.

Our research and analysis are meant to assist those doing the very hard work of policy-making and legislating, with the goal of defending America and America's allies from our sworn enemies.

Back in 2001, it was my privilege to have been asked by Secretary Jack Kemp and Ambassador Jean Kirkpatrick to work on this project with them, along with a small group of visionary philanthropists who saw the need and were willing to provide the resources. We're grateful to them and we're grateful to other FDD investors, some of whom are here with us today. Let me just say thank you.

I would also like to welcome and acknowledge our distinguish audience of foreign policy professionals and national security professionals.

We are privileged to have with us today ambassadors and senior diplomats from more than 20 countries, as well as senior representatives from the Departments of Defense, Justice, Homeland Security, State, Treasury and the White House, as well as senior staff from congressional leadership offices and congressional committees.

We're pleased as well to welcome many members of FDD's National Security Network, the next generation of national security practitioners; as bright and committed a group of young people as you'll ever meet.

Also we have several members of the board of advisers for our Center on Sanctions and Illicit Finance—CSIF, is the acronym—and our project on cyber-enabled economic warfare, pronounced cyber-enabled economic warfare...

(LAUGHTER)

... because we really do want to convey the fact that our entire economy is now being threatened by cyber warriors, both state actors and non-state actors, and we don't think most people have quite gotten a grasp on that.

We welcome too the many members of the press, both domestic and international, who have joined us today. I consider myself a member of that fraternity; maybe not in good standing, but a member.

(LAUGHTER)

And finally we welcome the audience joining us via livestream and broadcast.

I don't need to tell anybody in this audience we're living in perilous times. The most imminent national security threat is posed by the dynastic regime that rules North Korea.

Previous administrations, Republican and Democratic alike, did not succeed in preventing the hermit kingdom from developing nuclear weapons and increasingly sophisticated missiles to deliver them to targets of Kim Jong Un's choosing. The nuclear umbrella that we've heard about for so many years turns out to be less waterproof than previously advertised.

North Korea's ally, the Islamic Republic of Iran, claims to have halted temporarily the nuclear weapons program that it also claims it never had and doesn't want. But Iran's rulers continue to develop missiles that could carry nuclear warheads to targets around the world just in case.

General McMaster and Director Pompeo will be discussing these and other issues. We'll begin with Director Pompeo, who will be interviewed today by Juan Zarate.

A little quick background: before becoming director, Mr. Pompeo was serving in his fourth term as congressman from Kansas's 4th District. He served on the House Intelligence Committee, as

well as on the Energy and Commerce Committees.

In 2014, Mr. Pompeo was appointed to the House Select Benghazi Committee to investigate the tragic events in Benghazi, Libya.

Prior to his service in Congress, Mr. Pompeo founded Thayer Aerospace, where he served as CEO for more than a decade. He later became president of Sentry International, an oilfield equipment manufacturing, distribution and service company.

Mr. Pompeo graduated first in his class at the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1986. He served as a cavalry officer patrolling the Iron Curtain before the fall of the Berlin Wall. He also served with the 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry in the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division.

After leaving active duty, Mr. Pompeo graduated from Harvard Law School, having been an editor of the Harvard Law Review. That was after leaving active duty in the military.

As noted, he'll be in discussion with Juan Zarate. And as many of you know, Juan is the chairman and senior counselor for FDD's Center on Sanctions and Illicit Finance, CSIF. He is also the chairman and cofounder of the Financial Integrity Network.

Juan previously served as the deputy assistant to the president and deputy national security adviser for combating terrorism, and as the first ever assistant secretary of the treasury for terrorist financing and financial crimes.

We're pleased to have Juan on the FDD team, and we look forward to the timely and incisive questions he will raise with Director Pompeo today.

So, again, thanks to all of you for being with us.

Juan, over to you.