

Thank you very much. Gentlemen, it's a pleasure to be here. I want to speak just for a very few minutes in order to give some time for questions. I am here not only to see you, but when I leave here, to be briefed on some of the latest developments going on here at the Laboratory. I think that we in the United States Navy, at least, have frequently been accused of not giving sufficient interest to the field of mine warfare, and in part, I believe, this is the result of the fact that our Navy is made up of three unions: the aviation union, the submarine union, and the destroyer union, and I have therefore made myself the head of the mine warfare union to try to get an equal balance of interest within the United States Navy in this very important field.

I think that when one looks at the map of the world and the extent to which the potential adversaries of the free world are limited by geography, one is driven to two primary conclusions: that if we of the free world stick together, we have tremendous geographical advantages; and the second conclusion is that if we are to exploit these geographical advantages, we must do a great deal more in the field of mine warfare. The Soviet Union is making frantic efforts to overcome the disadvantages of geography, yet she remains with jugular veins that are relatively easy to sever in the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, in the Baltic exits, in the G.-I. -- Greenland-Iceland-U.K.-- gap into the North Atlantic, and with the islands through which she must emerge along the Pacific periphery, she has significant disadvantages. It can take billions and billions of dollars worth of ships, submarines, and aircraft to try to block these straits. Millions of dollars worth - appreciably less - can do an efficient job if we concentrate more effort in the field of mine warfare. So I personally welcome this meeting here as an effort to stimulate interest, to exchange information, to concentrate the efforts of the free world on the exploitation of significant weakness of the other side, and of course on dealing with how best to counter her own efforts - the efforts of the other side in mine warfare - with our countermeasures.

Gentlemen, I'll be happy to try to deal with any of your questions. If they very technical, I will have to ask for assistance; since I am head of the Union, and not one of the union members.

CDR HUTSE: - - -

CAPT. LASLEY:

Thank you very much. Does anyone have any questions for Admiral Zumwalt?

ADMIRAL ZUMWALT:

Well, gentlemen, I then wish you all the very best of luck in your meetings here. I had the privilege two weeks ago of meeting with the representatives of forty of the free world navies, and nineteen of your Chiefs of Navy were there in Newport at the Biannual Sea Power Symposium. I think that the thing that stood the most to me was the tremendous extent to which we have really become integrated in our thinking and in our planning. One of the concepts that came out of this meeting was the need for more regional association, and there is already planning going on for some of the regions of the world to have meetings in the off years, in between the meetings of the entire free world navies, and I think that the concentration there will inevitably lead to more work in the field of both mining and countermeasures so that the detail work you do here will certainly serve as a good prelude for the meetings of the regional symposiums as well as for the preparation of your own individual navies.

I hope that we can all continue to work together efficiently in the years ahead, and I pledge myself to do the best for my navy in our cooperative efforts. Thank you very much.