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PROGRAM Nightwatch

STATION WJLA TV
ABC - 7

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11:00 PM

CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Invitation from CIA

DAVID SCHOUMACHER: The CIA tonight did the unheard of; it issued an invitation to the general public to come on in and chat.

The agency is trying to head off building community opposition to a planned expansion at its MacLean headquarters.

Night Team's Carlos Ramirez has the story. Carlos.

CARLOS RAMIREZ: David, the CIA opened its doors tonight about as far as it can. In our case that meant no cameras, no recorders, only notebooks. Anything else was considered a security risk.

Still, the invitation only meeting of about 300 area residents with CIA, state and federal highway officials was historic. In the words of a Deputy Director, the Office of Security is still in a state of shock.

At issue is the \$190 million project for a new office building which will house 3,000 agency's employees now at other area locations. Area residents are afraid the new employees will bring with them new traffic problems.

The CIA headquarters has two entrances. The main gate off of Chain Bridge Road and the entrance on the George Washington Parkway. Residents, many of whom live along Routes 123 and 193 want the new traffic re-routed to the parkway entrance, which they point out is a federal highway, eligible for federal highway funds.

The CIA, which points out that the parkway at rush hour now is filled to capacity, plans to stagger employees' schedules

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offer only 1100 new parking spaces and main day carpooling in order to alleviate the increase in traffic.

While the meeting was held under restricted conditions, Congressman Frank Wolf who organized the gathering believes the CIA now knows how the citizens feel.

CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF: We've also gotten a commitment that there will be citizen participation. The CIA's been very willing to open it up; to allow the citizens to evolve (?) even before the plan -- the consultant begins his work.

RAMIREZ: And area residents who have banded together in an effort to let their concerns be known, sounded optimistic but also cautious.

WOMAN: I feel good that we had a turnout from the community. I think they do know the people are concerned and that they heard us. However, I'd like to see how our meetings go from here on.

MAN: I think it's only the first step of a long series that'll have to be taken before anything really changes.

RAMIREZ: Some, however, might consider the issue moot. The National Capital Planning Commission has given its okay and the CIA said tonight that plans to break ground next spring and have the new employees in by 1987 but Congress has not yet appropriated funds for the project, and that is where the residents believe they can lobby for their concerns.