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(U) DCI Meets Director of 'The Agency' by [redacted] OPA

DCI George Tenet recently met with the executive production team for *The Agency*, a Paramount Studios made-for-TV movie that will air on Showtime later this year. *The Agency*, a realistic and patriotic depiction of CIA's mission and personnel, is being directed by Tim Matheson, whose extensive filmography includes numerous television and feature film roles. The movie is being produced by Robert Cort and David Madden, whose joint Cort/Madden Production company has just released *Odd Couple II* with Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau.

Script writing, pre-production, and casting for *The Agency* have been underway for over a year; filming begins this month.

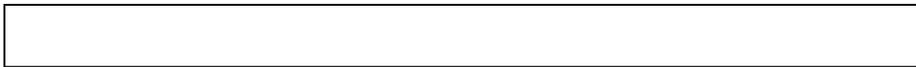
Cort, Madden, and Matheson visited Headquarters recently at the invitation of the Office of Public Affairs to get what the movie team hoped would be "a cinemagraphic flavor of CIA's Headquarters and its people." Matheson was also interested in looking at possible sites for some weekend location shots at Headquarters. The Hollywood trio met with DCI George Tenet to brief him on the story line of the action adventure drama.

Robert Cort, a DI analyst from 1970-72, said: "It was an honor to talk with the DCI and it was an incredible experience to walk the halls again after all these years." Cort wrote the short story upon which the screenplay was based. Screen writer Roger Towne, remembered for his classic baseball film *The Natural* with Robert Redford, adapted the story to movie format. Director Matheson told the DCI he was excited by the human quality of the script, and after seeing the Agency for himself he was determined "to capture on film the professionalism, dedication, and patriotism which CIA truly represents and which the American public little understands."

Towne, who visited Headquarters last year for an insider's view, subsequently crafted an authentic, exciting story centering around a multi-directorate fusion team. The team deals analytically and operationally with a crisis involving the arrest of an Agency officer in North Korea, as well as the shipment of Russian ICBM's into North Korea, where they are to be used as nuclear blackmail against US forces stationed in South Korea. In the fictional story's climax, a Presidential Directive authorizes the fusion team's tactical arm to undertake a covert action operation designed to neutralize the threat.

Filming begins in Toronto on May 19. One-day, weekend location shooting inside Headquarters is tentatively planned for mid-June. The movie's set director was in Headquarters last week, gathering information needed to build realistic sets in the Canadian studio.

Casting is nearing completion. Actor Tom Berenger, whose many films include *Platoon*, *Someone to Watch Over Me* and *Major League I & II*, will play the lead—a DO officer who heads the fusion team. Actor Ron Silver, with numerous Broadway, television and feature credits, such as *Reversal of Fortune* with Glenn Close, portrays the DCI. Berenger is scheduled to spend a day at Headquarters en route to Toronto to get an "actor's feel" for the real Agency officers he and his colleagues will be representing on



screen. (This is **UNCLASSIFIED**.)

(U) DCI George Tenet and  OPA (far right), welcome (left to right) *The Agency* producer David Madden, director Tim Matheson, and producer Robert Cort.

Produced by

 Office of Public Affairs/



For questions please call

