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MAURY POVICH: The CIA is dealing with a sensitive issue tonight. It doesn't involve the Soviet Union or any foreign policy matters. The issue is one of public relations between the agency and nearby residents.

And Metromedia 5's Morris Jones has just returned from the meeting over a proposed expansion project at the agency's headquarters. Morris, you even got inside.

MORRIS JONES: Maury, we did, without cameras. But tonight's public meeting at the auditorium was historic in a way. One official said it was the first time he could remember any citizens were allowed on the compound. But the CIA knows it has some public relations work to do.

The agency wants to construct a new seven-story building on its property to consolidate its work force. Currently, there are a thousand CIA workers in leased offices in Rosslyn, Arlington, Tysons Corner and Vienna. But residents are concerned about the added commuter traffic if everyone is moved on to the CIA compound.

Highway 123 is now the main route to the CIA with other entrances coming off 193 and the George Washington Parkway. Nearby residents are angry they've never been called in to planning sessions until now, and then only because of their protests.

The CIA wants to add 3,000 additional workers at its compound with only 1,000 new parking spaces, saying it can make room for the surplus. Residents don't want the added congestion.

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WOMAN: We have a great problem with the traffic congestion that exists presently and we're afraid that with the additional thousand new cars, three thousand employees, that it's just going to be a tremendously impossible mess to get in and out any time of the day.

JONES: And Ken, how do you feel? Do you think the CIA is passing the buck?

KEN: Well, I'm not sure I'd call it buck-passing as much as I'd say that there seems to be a need for a broader, higher level coordination among all the federal and state and local agencies involved.

JONES: Here's what the CIA proposed at tonight's meeting. Again, cameras were not allowed. Staggered work shifts so agency employees are not so much a part of rush hour traffic. This will be even more important when the new building and workers are added. Road and ramp improvements will be made on Highway 123 by the state of Virginia. And the dirt that's dug up to make room for the new building will be spread on CIA property where a new parking structure will be put up that would keep dump trucks off the roads.

There's still a problem with Highway 193 which is already saturated with traffic, and the CIA isn't sure what to do about the problem. Plus, residents still want the main agency entrance changed to the George Washington Parkway. But more, the U.S. Park Service doesn't want the commercial traffic there.