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SOCY.01.4 Scorpio

P-WINNER, Michael

FILM

DAVID BRUDNOY

In the wake of Watergate, with CIA activities in domestic affairs—strictly proscribed—now surfacing, we would be blinkards to refuse even to consider the possibility of AID malfeasance. Who knows what tomorrow's *New York Times* will disclose. But *Siege* is not aimed at enlightenment; agitprop suffices. Turn to *Scorpio*, Michael Winner's latest directorial mush-job, for a completely anti-thought approach to these matters. Here CIA agents Burt Lancaster and Alain Delon play out a baffling and boring game of hide-and-slaughter with each other and KGB agent, Paul Scofield, whose Soviet employers, we are instructed, are regular guys just like American spy masters. *Scorpio's* plot is witless relativism. Of course all spying is a down-trip, but are there no differences in regimes? In *Scorpio*, none whatsoever; in *Siege*, *claro que si!* 1973 has thus far not been a good year for international intrigue cinema.