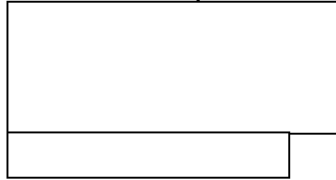


03 October 1995

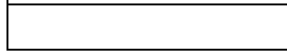
(b) (3)

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Dennis Boxx  
Vin Swasey



FROM:



SUBJECT:

CIA Television Series Project

1. During the week of 18 September, Jack Myers and David Houle of Television Production Partners (TPP) met in Los Angeles with representatives of 20th Century Fox Television to discuss a possible agreement on the proposed CIA television series. TPP characterized these meetings as positive and productive. TPP and 20th Century Fox Television agreed to begin discussions focusing on the business aspects of their potential relationship. 20th Century Fox Television also identified a number of issues contained in the original CIA-TPP Letter of Agreement that needed to be resolved prior to establishing a production agreement. TPP has provided CIA with these concerns as well as their recommendations on each point.

2. I have conducted a paragraph by paragraph comparison of the Agency's original agreement with TPP, 20th Century Fox Television's concerns, and TPP's recommendations. The details of this comparison and recommendations for further action are attached. Overall, I identified:

- four issues that are primarily business or legal in nature and may be readily resolved following OGC review (transferability, production rights, copyright and distribution rights, CIA reproduction rights);
- two issues that CIA may wish to amend to address production concerns (use of the term "docudrama" and contract renewal provisions);
- one significant issue that CIA may wish to use as a negotiating point (use of the CIA name and seal); and,
- a minimum of six issues that constitute either significant departures from project discussions to date or fundamental areas needing clarification or resolution.

These last issues primarily focus on the extent of fictionalization, the use of non-CIA material, acknowledgment of CIA cooperation, and CIA's script review and approval.

3. These six or more issues, taken as a whole, apparently indicate a shift from the agreed series concept -- a dramatic television series based exclusively on synopses taken from actual CIA files with significant attention given to CIA's cooperation in the production -- to a more traditional production format in which CIA synopses and other information may or may not be used in conjunction with other fictional material to produce each episode and the importance of CIA's cooperation is diminished. This shift is not surprising as it is consistent with the obstacles TPP has encountered in their discussions with Steve Tisch and Aaron Spelling. TPP's initial agreement with CIA affords the Agency much greater control than what appears to be the industry norm and the concerns raised represent attempts to bring this agreement back into line with accepted industry practices. It is unlikely that CIA would have agreed to these requirements if they had been presented during the initial discussions.

4. Given the apparent shift in the focus of this project, the fundamental question now facing the Agency is whether the possible benefits derived from our continued cooperation in this project outweigh the concessions, loss of control, and resources that will be required to support it. The Agency's role, as it appears to be taking shape, seems to be little more than a possible source of story material and an occasional technical advisor. Such a role is consistent with the support provided to the entertainment industry by many other Government agencies and may still merit consideration. It may still represent a means to work with the entertainment media to provide a more realistic and fair portrayal of CIA but it is not what was originally agreed to by PAS, the EXCOM, the DDCI and DCI.



#### Attachments

- A - Comparison Between Original CIA-TPP  
Letter of Agreement and Concerns Identified by 20th Century  
Fox Television
- B - CIA-TPP Letter of Agreement
- C - 20th Century Fox Television Internal Memorandum
- D - TPP Correspondence to DD/PAS