APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE: SEP 2005

(b)(3)



Browse Entire Issue (No. 488)

January 21, 1998 No. 488

Headlines: (U) Mr. Smith Goes to CIA

Movie and television star, rapper, and all-around Fresh Prince of a guy, Will Smith and colleagues who are filming in Washington, DC visited Headquarters on January 14. Producer Chad Oman, manager James Lassiter, and personal assistant Charles Alston joined Smith in seeing how an Operations Center really functions, then spent time with Crime and Narcotics Center analysts to understand the role of intelligence in estimating the global extent of the problem and how intelligence assists law enforcement operations against drug organizations. Smith observed that "it was neat to see how this imagery really works, rather than how you often see it in the movies." The team told What's News that they had gained a new respect for how CIA professionals help protect Americans, "making it safe to attend our movies."

PAS, explained that the visit helped "to inform, educate, and assist them in getting and portraying a more accurate picture of the intelligence profession and our accomplishments. In partnership with numerous Agency components, PAS has arranged for individuals working on media treatments of the CIA to see the real work of the Agency, through unclassified interviews with analysts and managers and visits to their workplaces."

Photo: (U) Ops Center Chief explains the Center's function to Charles Alston, Chad Oman, James Lassiter, and Will Smith.

