W2570 WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE  (USA, 1986)
(Other titles: Dusorjaegeren; Mort ou vif)

Credits: director, Gary Sherman; writers, Michael Patrick Goodman, Brian Taggert, Gary Sherman.

Cast: Rutger Hauer, Gene Simmons, Robert Guillaume, Mel Harris, William Russ, Dennis Burkley.

Summary: Action/adventure film set in contemporary Los Angeles. Nick Randall (Hauer) is an ex-CIA agent who left "the company" and now earns his living as a high-tech bounty hunter in Los Angeles. The film opens with Hauer apprehending a fugitive after the thug-cowboy and his two buddies attempt to holdup and terrorize the owners of a small Vietnamese American grocery. Meanwhile, Arab terrorist Malak al Rahim (Simmons) arrives at Los Angeles airport disguised as a rabbi. He and his henchmen plan a series of terror bombings across the city culminating in an attack on a chemical plant (like Bopal in India) which could kill 30,000 people. They start by blowing up a theater full of women and children showing "Rambo." Philmore Walker (Guillaume), a CIA officer and old friend of Hauer's, recruits the bounty hunter to find Malak. Randall accepts because there is a hefty fee and also because Malak is an old enemy from Beirut days. But unbeknown to Walker and Randall, the senior CIA agents running the hunt for Malak intend to use Randall as bait to draw Malak out. Randall ends up conducting his own manhunt, just a step ahead of the authorities. One of the petty criminals Randall must intimidate in his search for Malak is Farnsworth (Burkley), who is also a Vietnam veteran. Randall is in the process of beating Farnsworth up when he notices a photo of the latter in Vietnam on a bookshelf. “You made it back from Nam alive?” he asks. Then he remarks “A lot of good guys didn’t” (implying he was there too) and lets Farnsworth go.

Lebouc, Georges. “Mort ou vif” Grand angle 14/91 (Feb 1987), p. [31-2]

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