The case was broken last week when Police Inspector Jean Dides was arrested on charges of having stolen documents in his possession.

PARIS, Oct. 3 (U.P.)—The kingpin in France's stolen defense secrets scandal confessed to secret service agents today that he piped information to the Communist party from highest level national defense council meetings.

There were persistent pro-
tests that the Communist Viet-
minh in Indochina learned
of the top five military decisions almost as soon as they were made by the council, the French equivalent of the United States National Security Council. The

Algerian France's highest defense
secrets were transmitted to
the director's home. Fifteen in-
vestigators of the DST (Direction de la Surveillance du Terri-
toire) studied documents for a
further record of Baranes' guil

Duclos, who returned from
Moscow this week, is a Na-

German. Lucienne Metivier-Las-
eron, a former code clerk, told
investigators the Communists

The two men, both members
of parliament, were charged

Two weeks before Ma. Pierre Bernard de Ressaguès, a

police sources said it was like-
ly they would be confronted

Baranes, who confessed he
was a "pipe line" through
which France's highest defense

In one of its rarest
appearances, the Communist
party's newspaper, Liberation,

Baranes told of the top-level
meetings and to make

Baranes said he had sought
sanctions from the girlfriend
of a top-level official of the

Baranes said he received his
information from two high gov-
ernment officials, both of whom

two high government officials to
the Communist Party— and to
the Kremlin.

Red Leaders Helped Him

He also confessed that some
of this information had been
"leaked" back to authori-
ties here to sow con-
fusion in France and undermine
the government of Premier
Pierre Mendes-France in an ef-
fort to bring about its down-

He said French Communist
leaders themselves helped him

He refused in a case in
volving national defense se-
crets would harden public
opinion against the Commu-
nists and be almost the same
as an admission of guilt, ac-

In another development,
Aliece Lucerne Meiwier-Las-
eron, a veteran code clerk, told
investigators the Communists

The French government of
Premier Mendes-France has

In the Paris Military Tri-
unal investigating the case, it
was stressed today that the

Terror of the top-level council
meetings and to make it
appear the Communist knew
everything going on in the gov-
ernment.

Baranes admitted that he had
given false documents to look
as if they came from "inside" Com-

Baranes and his wife and
three children moved to Italy
when they were arrested. The

The case was as if a Commu-

nists were arrested last week
and who confessed they had passed in-
formation to Baranes. Both of-
ficials were described as "crypt-
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that sometimes M. Labrusse came and dictated the information to him and sometimes it was conveyed through other persons. The police did not make public all that M. Baranes had said about how he had distributed the secrets. He said he had taken it first to the Communist party headquarters.

Later he admitted having also informed M. Dides, but he said that the Communists had previously altered some of the contents, and that they knew he would take it to the police inspector. Inspector Dides on several occasions informed the French Ministry of Interior about the Communist knowledge of defense secrets, and used the information in his anti-Communist police network.

M. Baranes and some of the accused members of the Defense Committee have been said to have been identified with the Progressist party, a group affiliated with the Communists.

The Progressist headquarters denied; however, that any of the accused men had ever been members of the party.

Tipster Professed Loyalty

To M. Dides M. Baranes professed to be a Communist opposed to Moscow, and to Deputy Andre Hughes, who had agreed to harbor him in hiding, he had professed to loyalty to France. He was said to have told M. Hughes that he was suspicious of members of the Defense Committee, and wanted to know whether the United States would protect him if he exposed them.

The former Tunisian newspaper man showed signs of great fatigue and anxiety concerning his case. He apparently realized the gravity of the charges against him, which might be punished by death, in the event that it should be proved that he had connived in conveying the information to a foreign state.

He appeared to have believed that—possibly through his relations with M. Dides—he had been under the protection of the police. Under questioning, however, he showed no unwillingness to talk.

The offense with which M. Baranes is charged is punishable by ten years to life.
Paris Leak Principal Says ‘Secrets’ Were Only Trivia

PARIS, Oct. 5 — The key figure in France’s growing spy case said today he didn’t pass along any big secrets to the Communists after all — only stale bits that made No. 2 Red leader Jacques Duclos laugh.

Andre Baranes, reporter for the fellow-traveling newspaper Liberation, who previously admitted obtaining vital French defense secrets for the Communists, modified his story today under questioning by Magistrate Jean de Resseguier. Persons at the closed hearing quoted Baranes as saying in his latest version: “I admitted everything to the D.S.T. (Military Counter-Espionage Service). This was after very long hours of interrogation. But we are not the true authors of the leaks.”

Baranes made the case a sensation when he recently stated he had received defense secrets from Rober Labrusse, a high civil servant. Labrusse himself was questioned at length today and, according to court officials, denied furnishing any information over an extended period to the Communist Party as speaking of council matters.

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