

# Duclos Called In Probe of Paris 'Leaks'

## No. 2 French Red Must Testify in Theft of Secrets

(Picture on Page 8.)

PARIS, Oct. 4 (U.P.).—Jacques Duclos, Communist Party secretary and France's No. 2 Red, was requested tonight to testify in the stolen defense secrets case in a dramatic move which might discredit the powerful party.

Also requested to appear before the Paris Military Tribunal investigating the scandal was Emmanuel D'Astier de la Vigerie, president of the fellow-traveling Progressive Party whose Communist-line newspaper was raided earlier today.

The two men, both members of parliament, were asked to appear Wednesday before Maj. Pierre Bernard de Rössuquier. Police sources said it was likely they would be confronted with double agent Andre Baranes, and Roger Labrusse, one of two high government officials under arrest.

Baranes, who confessed he was a "pipe line" through which France's highest defense secrets were transmitted to the Communist Party, was employed by D'Astier de la Vigerie's newspaper, Liberation, until his arrest.

Police rushed through the editorial rooms of the newspaper today and then raided the director's home. Fifteen inspectors of the DST (Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire) studied documents for further evidence of Baranes' guilt.

D'Astier de la Vigerie, head of a four-man parliamentary party which votes the solid Communist line, is the husband of Lioubova Krassine, daughter of Soviet Russia's first ambassador to France.

Duclos, who returned from Moscow Friday, is a National Assembly deputy. As such he has parliamentary immunity which means he cannot be forced to testify unless his fellow deputies lift his privilege. The same immunity is held by D'Astier de la Vigerie.

But a refusal in a case involving national defense secrets would harden public opinion against the Communists and be almost the same as an admission of guilt, according to political circles.

In another development, Mme. Lucienne Metivier-Laserson, a former code clerk, told investigators the Communists had cracked a secret code at the Defense Ministry which allowed them to gain information on the Indochina war.

# Paris Leak Of Secrets Is Solved

## Editor Confesses He Gave Vital Defense Data To Communists

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 protests that the Communist Vietminh in Indochina learned some of France's top secret military decisions almost as soon as they were made by the council, the French equivalent of the United States National Security Council. The case shocked France as much as the Alger Hiss case did the United States.

Andre Baranes, a 38-year-old Tunisian-born editor, admitted freely, police said, that he was the pipeline through which France's innermost defense secrets were transmitted from 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 deliberately "leaked" back to authorities here to sow confusion in France and undermine the government of Premier Piere Mendes-France in an effort to bring about its downfall.

He said French Communist leaders themselves helped him falsify documents to look as if they came from "inside" Communist meetings and to make it appear the Communist knew everything going on in the government.

Baranes said he received his information from two high government officials, both of whom were arrested Friday and who confessed they had passed information to Baranes. Both officials were described as "crypto-Communists" — men completely sympathetic with the Communist-cause.

The two men were Rene J. Turpin, 42, trusted cabinet chief of the ministry's permanent secretary-general, and Roger B. Labrusse, 40, head of the ministry's civil defense service. Both had access to the records of the top-level council meetings headed by President Rene Coty and including the Premier, his top ministers and generals.

### Tells About Troops

The case was as if a Communist spy ring passed along information discussed at a meeting of President Eisenhower with the National Security Council in Washington.

Information included disposition of the French troops in Indochina, troop reinforcement in Tunisia and strategic questions raised by France's defeat of the European army plan.

Some of the information was funneled to the Reds during the Geneva conference which ended the Indochina war and was believed to have helped the Communist Vietminh in its latter day victories.

Baranes was arrested yesterday at a provincial Benedictine monastery near the Swiss border where he had sought sanctuary to become "converted." He was taken before a military instructing magistrate today after questioning and charged with attempts against the external security of the state.

Penalty is one to 10 years imprisonment with death possible if it can be proved his spying aided a "foreign power."

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

# FRENCH RED AGENT DENIES DUAL ROLE IN SECRETS THEFT

NY Times 4 Oct.

**Worked Only for Communist  
Party, He Says—Charged  
With Harming Security**

Special to The New York Times.

PARIS, Oct. 3—André Baranes, newspaper tipster, was charged today with harming the security of the State by transmitting Government secrets to unqualified persons.

M. Baranes, who was arrested yesterday as the principal intermediary in the French security leaks, told secret service investigators that although some of his actions seemed to indicate that he had been a double agent, he had worked only for the French Communist party.

He admitted having also given secret defense documents to an anti-Communist police inspector, Jean Dides, but said that the Communist leaders knew this. M. Baranes asserted that the Communists wanted the French authorities to learn through M. Dides that the Communist party was fully informed on the state of France's defenses.

It is considered he intended to imply that disclosure of the leaks was aimed to influence negotiations for the Indochina peace and to convince French allies that the French cause in North Vietnam was hopeless.

### New Difficulty for Premier

The announcement that the Communist party had established a direct pipeline into the chief coordinating center of French national defense has created a delicate situation for Premier Pierre Mendès-France on his return from the London conference on Germany's rearming. Jean Turpin and Roger Labrusse, two of the chief officials of the Committee of National Defense, have been arrested as responsible for the leaks, and Jean Mons, chief of the Defense Secretariat, has been suspended for negligence. These officials had been long in office, and the disclosures to the Communists has started under a previous Government. But the Premier now has to convince the National Assembly that the Communist access to official information has been broken up.

M. Baranes, who went into hiding for a week, was apprehended yesterday in a monastery at La Pierre-qui-Vire, in Burgundy, where he had sought refuge, and was brought to Paris and questioned throughout the night.

M. Baranes told security agents and repeated to the military magistrate investigating the leaks, that he had obtained his information from M. Labrusse, chief of the section of national protection in the Defense Committee. M. Labrusse had obtained it from M. Turpin, who, it was declared, had never had contact with M. Baranes. The latter sa

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# FRENCH RED AGENT DENIES DUAL ROLE

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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 André 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 one to ten years in prison.

TIMES HERALD, Wednesday, October 6, 1954

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## Paris Leak Principal Says 'Secrets' Were Only Trivia

PARIS, Oct. 5 (AP).—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 said he reported what he had learned about defense plans to Duclos in the latter's office, adding:

"He laughed in my face and told me, 'We already have that.'"

Baranes implied that high French figures yet unnamed

were giving the important information to the Reds. He told the magistrate:

"These are powerful people. Find them yourself."

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 charged by Baranes. The court

officials said Labrusse admitted giving some data on council meetings to Baranes as an "intellectually sympathetic" reporter for a "progressive" journal. The civil servant denied, however, handing any defense documents to Baranes.

Labrusse and a subordinate, Jean Turpin, are charged with passing defense information to unauthorized persons. Their chief, Jean Mons, secretary general of the Defense Council, is charged with negligence in speaking of council matters to Turpin.