Demo raid linked to 'Topaz'

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A book written by a former French master spy now living in the Miami area has turned up among the possessions of five men arrested during the break-in last Saturday at Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington.

The book, which includes episodes related to the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba and the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, was listed among articles found by Washington police in the hotel rooms occupied by the suspects.

Most if not all of the suspects reportedly had connections with the Bay of Pigs fiasco or other anti-Castro activities.

The book is "Lamia" by Philippe L. Thyraud de Vosjoli, who also collaborated with author Leon Uris on the best-selling novel, "Topaz," a fictionalized version of de Vosjoli's exploits as an agent in Washington and Cuba.

Also found among the suspects' belongings was another published item related to spying. It was described as "four pages from National News" with the title, "The Russians May Be Spying." The identity of "National News" was unclear.

Reached by telephone at a

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Demo raid suspects had ex-spy's book

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friend's home near Miami where he is living temporarily, deVosjoli said that he knew nothing about the break-in except what he had read in a newspaper.

In the book, de Vosjoli told of a trip he made to Guatemala in 1961 to check a report that Cuban exiles were training there for an invasion of Cuba. He wrote that he located the group and spoke with several of its members.

Asked whether any of the men arrested in Washington were among those he met in Guatemala, de Vosjoli said he was "unable to tell you the names" of those he encountered. When the names of the five suspects and E. Howard Hunt, a former CIA agent whose name has surfaced in the case, were mentioned to him, de Vosjoli said he did not recognize any of them.

De Vosjoli, 51, was based in Washington at the time of the 1961 invasion as a liaison between the French intelligence service and the CIA. "I was not involved in the Bay of Pigs operation," he said. "It was kept very secret from me. Allen Dulles (former CIA chief) asked me to go to Cuba afterward to check on the situation there."

Asked why anti-Castro persons, such as the Washington suspects, might be interested in "Lamia," de Vosjoli said it could be simply because the book "tells the story of the Bay of Pigs and the missile crisis. You know, I was the first one to identify the missiles over there."

De Vosjoli described "Lamia" as "the story of events I witnessed during 23 years in intelligence." It was published in 1970, and he said that more than 1,000 copies were sold in Miami.

The French-language version, he said, has sold more than 40,000 copies in Canada and Europe in its first 12 days. He said France has lifted a ban on the book, which contains criticism of the late President Charles deGaulle.

De Vosjoli said that he has Cuban friends in Miami's exile community but that he has avoided anti-Castro activities. He is writing a book about deGaulle for December publication and another on drug peddlers, he said.

De Vosjoli won a $352,250 court judgment in Los Angeles several months ago against Uris, alleging that Uris violated their contract calling for an even split of royalties on "Topaz" and the movie based on it. Uris has appealed the ruling.

The former spy moved here in 1965. Two months ago, he sold his Coral Gables house at 9020 Old Cutler Rd. He said that he and his wife, Monique, are staying with a friend while they look for a new home.

A son, Patrick, is a reporter for Channel 12 in West Palm Beach. Another son, Philippe Jr., is a graduate student at the University of Connecticut. Both received bachelor's degrees from the University of Miami.