SUSPECTS' READING? (5)

Top Spy's Book Found in Room

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A first-person account by a former French master spy and a newspaper article entitled "The Russians May Be Spying" were among the effects found in a Watergate Hotel room used by the five men charged in an attempted bugging of Democratic National Committee headquarters Saturday.

The book—"Lamai" by Philippe Thyraud de Vosjoli — is a first person account of the author's career as a French intelligence agent from World War II through the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba.

The author was later the hero of Leon Uris' best-selling novel "Topaz," in which the protagonist worked closely with the Central Intelligence Agency to unveil top Soviet spies within the French government, and helped the United States ascertain that ballistic missile launching sites were being placed in Cuba despite Soviet denials.

He resigned from the Deuxiemme Bureau, the French equivalent to the Central Intelligence Agency, in 1963 after the De Gaulle government recalled him from his post in Washington after a controversy.

He was said to have been ordered home because of too close ties to the CIA. He has been living in Miami for several years, and it was there that he met Uris and, according to testimony in a Los Angeles court, turned over to the author a manuscript of his memoirs entitled "Le Reseau Topza" or "Network of Corruption."

The court awarded him half the royalties — $350,000 — for "Topaz" after he testified that Uris had agreed to fictionalize his work and share the royalties.

Lamia was de Vosjoli's code name with French intelligence. When U.S. intelligence about Cuba was sharply curtailed following the Bay of Pigs debacle, CIA director Allen Dulles encouraged "Lamia" to act as an American agent during his trips to Cuba on a French diplomatic passport, according to de Vosjoli's book.

The author said he briefed Dulles on Cuban matters and later briefed his successor, John McCone.

He said he passed his discovery of Soviet rockets in Cuba to his home office in Paris as well as to the American government.

While heading French intelligence in Washington, De Vosjoli became deeply involved with interrogations of a high-level Soviet defector, a spy named Anatoli Dolyntsin, who reportedly was the main source of information that ended the career of British spy Kim Philby.

De Vosjoli said that the late President John F. Kennedy in 1962 sent a personal courrier to the late French President Charles de Gaulle with a letter from Kennedy warning the French leader that his government had been penetrated up to the cabinet level by Soviet agents, and that NATO secrets were being passed systematically to the Soviets.

De Gaulle was angered by the letter and rejected the information after an investigation. De Vosjoli was subsequently recalled and refused to go to Paris.

The author emphasized his concern over Soviet espionage in his work and his subsequent writings.

His book, "Lamia," was among the effects found in Room 214 of the Watergate Hotel when police inspected it after finding the room key on one of the men seized inside the Democratic National Committee.

Also listed on the returned search warrant filed in Superior Court is the notation: "Four pages from National News, title, 'The Russians May Be Spying.'"