

CIA and KGB Compete at Woo

By Jim Hoagland

Washington Post Foreign Service

PARIS — Togolese students and Marseilles stevedores do not figure prominently in the exploits of James Bond and other fictional master spies, but they are important targets for 007's real-life counterparts operating in France.

American and Soviet espionage activities here have come under new scrutiny after the publication by French leftist newspapers of the names of CIA and KGB operatives in Paris, but the French government has pronounced itself undisturbed by the revelations.

Interior Minister Michel Poniatowski has turned aside demands from both Conservative and Socialist politicians for investigations

and expulsions with assurances that the majority of foreign agents "are identified and watched" by the government. Agents caught meddling in internal affairs would be expelled, he added.

His statement hints at an important aspect of the longstanding CIA presence in a country that frequently has shown intense suspicion of American intentions.

As in many other countries, the CIA routinely "declares" to the French government the names of its agents stationed in the American embassy.

Moreover, the United States has repeatedly assured France that CIA operatives here concentrate on gathering information about Communist and Third World countries rather than France, informed

sources report. This undertaking is a key factor in France's acceptance of the CIA presence here, according to these sources.

France's continuing close connections with its former colonies in Africa, Asia and the Middle East and the appeal of Paris to students and emigres from all over the world make the French capital an excellent listening post for the major intelligence services.

"The agency people here are always looking for a 'hot young prospect' from Africa or the Middle East that they can 'turn around.' If the guy becomes a Cabinet minister in Togo or Upper Volta in 10 years, they've developed an important asset," says one source with intimate

knowledge of the agency's method of operation here.

The backgrounds of many of the 44 embassy employees indentified by the leftist newspaper Liberation as CIA members reinforce that point. Many are specialists in Latin American, African and Middle Eastern affairs.

The newspaper, which used the techniques developed by American dissident groups of combing the State Department's biographic register and embassy telephone listings for telltale signs, admits its list is neither complete nor totally accurate.

Lumped in with station chief Eugene Burgstaller, who was identified more than a year ago by another Paris newspaper, are secretaries and clerks whose connections

ing Paris Unionists, Students

with intelligence work are tenuous at best.

Embassy spokesmen decline formal comment on the publication, which was strongly denounced by the State Department in Washington. Embassy staff members indicate there have been some harassment calls to the telephone numbers listed by Liberation but the staff has taken a "stiff upper lip" attitude.

Despite the formal American assurances to the French government, American intelligence activities here do involve French matters as well as third country subjects.

Although the CIA role in it is relatively minor, American contingency planning has long required secret reports on

French military and some civilian installations that would become targets in the event of a war and Soviet occupation of France. French nuclear plants have an especially high priority for intelligence gatherers here.

The National Security Agency, which eavesdrops on communications and breaks foreign codes, has a large contingent working out of the embassy, according to informed sources.

The CIA also is widely believed to have undertaken a major effort to penetrate French labor unions and block Communist attempts to do the same shortly after World War II, when Howard Hunt was one of the agency's first operatives here.

A French official who

watched CIA activities here during the rule of Charles de Gaulle asserts that the CIA, operating through American labor unions, has long been a major source of funds for the Socialist-led Force Ouvriere Union, which has 900,000 members.

The Gaullists have attempted to tar Centrist politicians like Justice Minister Jean Lecanuet, who favors stronger ties to the United States, with the CIA brush, but have produced no evidence to support the charge.

American agents appear to have fared better than their Soviet counterparts in avoiding French wrath. Few expulsions of Americans have come to light, while about 70 Soviet, Cuban, East German

and other Communist-bloc diplomats have been quietly expelled in the past four years, according to French sources.

The most embarrassing case for the Soviets was the 1973 expulsion of a military attache caught trying to make off with a laser rangefinder from an exhibition at the Paris Air Show.

The second round in the press battle to ferret out secret agents here has gone to the leftist weekly *Nouvel Observateur*, which named Ivan Petrovitch Kisliak as the Soviet station chief here and identified the military intelligence head as another embassy official, Nikolai Evdokimov. Liberation staff members claim they will be back with more CIA names.