

## French Seek Former Official Threatening Corruption Expose

Reuter

PARIS, Sept. 15 — French border police have been ordered to watch for and detain a former French government official, Gabriel Aranda, who has threatened to expose alleged widespread corruption in high-ranking government and military circles.

Police have mounted a round-the-clock vigil outside the Paris home of Aranda, 34, who claimed in a statement published here today that he had 136 documents including signed letters and official reports incriminating 48 French public figures.

Aranda, whose present whereabouts are unknown, sent shock waves running through France on Wednesday when he threatened to expose allegedly corrupt links between government circles and big business unless France halted its supply of Mirage jets to Libya.

A Paris court has opened an inquiry into possible charges of theft, receiving of stolen property and complicity fol-

lowing the publication on Wednesday of a first batch of allegedly compromising documents.

Yet no charges have so far been laid against Aranda, a fervent supporter of the Israeli cause. He was press adviser to former Equipment and Housing Minister Albin Chalandon until the latter lost his post in last July's government reshuffle.

Aranda said in an interview published by the right-wing daily L'Aurore today that he was not Jewish. He asserted that he was acting within the law to serve the state through the denunciation of scandal.

Earlier this week Aranda released to the press a photo-

copy of a letter which he said was sent by the former Gaullist party leader, Rene Tomassini, to the equipment minister asking for favorable treatment for a building firm.

A government spokesman declined to comment on the affair.

But Aranda's move is embarrassing and potentially damaging to the government, which must face general elections by next spring at the latest.

This morning's editions of the Gaullist newspaper La Nation, which completely ignored the affair yesterday, charged that the political opposition was "picking up its arguments in dust-bins."