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Uproar Over Spy Book In France

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Paris

A revealing spy story by a former French intelligence agent, Philippe Thyraud de Vosjoli, has been ordered seized because a colleague claimed he was slanderously represented in the book as working for Moscow.

A Paris court ordered confiscation in France of the book "Lamia," in which de Vosjoli suggests that all French intelligence services — and even France's senior ministries — are riddled with Soviet agents.

The successful demand for seizure was made by Colonel Georges de Lannurien, a retired high official in the French counterespionage service SDECE. He said he would follow up his seizure suit with defamation charges against de Vosjoli.

De Vosjoli, who now lives in Florida, was head of the SDECE bureau in Washington in the early 1960s, and his revelations to American author Leon Uris inspired the best-selling spy thriller "Topaz."

In "Lamia" — published three years ago in English in the United States — de Vosjoli tells how a prominent Soviet spy official, code-named "Martel," fled to the West in 1963 with information on a Soviet network that had allegedly infiltrated the highest levels of French government.

De Vosjoli cited several people by name in his book of recollection, hinting strongly that they are Soviet agent. De Lannurien was among those named.

De Lannurien, who was posted at various times to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and to Czechoslovakia, has stated that Georges Pompidou, then prime minister, sent him to Washington in the early 1960s to investigate the "Martel" charges.

He said he even recommended that an independent inquiry be made by a high official outside the intelligence services.

"Lamia" was published in French for the first time in Canada last year. It has been sold in Belgium, and only a small number of copies are known to have been sold in France. *Reuters*