

Paris Police Link Narcotics Arrests To Ben Barka Case

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PARIS, March 23—The case of the heroin in the oscilloscopes turns out to have a curious link to the Ben Barka affair.

The police disclosed today that in hunting a fugitive in the Ben Barka kidnapping they stumbled on a ring smuggling narcotics into the United States.

Mehdi Ben Barka, the Moroccan Opposition leader, was taken away here on Oct. 29, 1965, by two members of the Paris narcotics squad. They said they had been asked to do it by Antoine Lopez, who said he was doing the Moroccan secret police a favor.

Lopez, an official at Orly Airport here, was an agent of the French counterespionage service and, on at least one occasion, a valuable tipster for the United States Bureau of Narcotics. He was also a close friend of the gangster-informer Georges Boucheseiche, to whose home Mr. Ben Barka was taken

as a prisoner, never to reappear. He is now presumed dead.

Boucheseiche and several of his gang flew to Morocco. Belatedly, the police began exploring their haunts. It was in this inquiry, they said today, that their attention was drawn to Paul Chastagnier, a friend of the gangster and a guest at a Montparnasse Hotel owned by Mrs. Boucheseiche.

The police kept an eye on Chastagnier for more than a year, in the hope that he would lead them to Boucheseiche. Instead, they learned with surprise that he was buying oscilloscopes—instruments that show the changes in current—in extraordinary numbers. Eventually, they were less surprised to find a shipment of oscilloscopes at Orly packed with 26 pounds of heroin.

Chastagnier and four others were arrested. The authorities here were waiting today for word of further arrests in the United States.

Meanwhile, the Court of Assises here granted a two-week postponement in the trial of Lopez and five others on charges of kidnapping in the Ben Barka disappearance. The delay, from April 1, was accorded because of the sudden deaths in recent weeks of three lawyers for the Ben Barka family.