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CONTROLS
UNCLAS LYON 0378

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PARIS FOR CONGEN EZELLE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

TAGS: ASEC, PTER, FR

SUBJECT: MAITRE JACQUES VERGES EXPLAINS HIMSELF - LYON PROGRES
INTERVIEW TRANSLATED

QUOTE: ABDALLAH, BARBIE, ACTION DIRECT
MAITRE VERGES EXPLAINS HIMSELF:

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

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GEORGES IBRAHIM ABDALLAH (AKA ABDEL KADER ESSAADI, PRESUMED CHIEF OF F.A.R.L.), ARRESTED IN LYON AND DETAINED IN FLEURY-MEROGIS IS THE CENTER OF THE TERRORIST BLACKMAIL WHICH CURRENTLY HANGS OVER FRANCE. A COMMITTEE OF SOLIDARITY WITH ARAB OR LEBANESE POLITICAL PRISONERS WAS CLAIMING, LAST FRIDAY, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BOMB ATTEMPT IN THE PARIS R.E.R TO OBTAIN THE LIBERATION OF GEORGES IBRAHIM ABDALLAH WHICH CHARLES PASQUA, MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR DECLARED IMPROBABLE BECAUSE FRANCE WILL NOT YIELD TO BLACKMAIL. IBRAHIM ABDALLAH HAS A LAWYER, MAITRE JACQUES VERGES WHO ALSO TAKES CARE OF THE MOST EXPLOSIVE AFFAIRS OF THESE LAST YEARS: FROM FRIENDS OF CARLOS TO **KLAUS BARBIE**, THE BOULIN AFFAIR AND THE DEFENSE OF THE ACTION DIRECT MILITANTS, ALSO ARRESTED IN LYON. ALL THESE BOMBERS ASKED HIM TO BE THEIR LAWYER, AND FOR THE PROGRES, THE MOST PROVOCATIVE, HEATED STARS OF THE BAR HAS ACCEPTED TO GO FURTHER... STATEMENTS FOR WHICH, OF COURSE, HE ALONE IS, RESPONSIBLE.

PROGRES: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CHARLES PASQUAS DECLARATION CONCERNING THE NON-LIBERATION OF IBRAHIM ABDALLAH?

ME VERGES: I DONT UNDERSTAND THIS STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR BECAUSE THE LIBERATION OF MY CLIENT DEPENDS ON THE JUDGE AND NOT ON MR. PASQUA. IT IS A LEGAL DECISION: AND I TRUST JUSTICE.

PROGRES: SURROUNDING ABDALLAHS CASE IS THE BLACKMAILING OF FRANCE. DO YOU THINK THAT THIS PRESSURE IS ACCEPTABLE?

ME VERGES: I BELIEVE IN THE GOOD FUNCTIONING OF JUSTICE, AND I DONT THINK THAT MY CLIENT IS BLACKMAILING. IF THERE IS ANY BLACKMAIL, IT COMES MORE FROM THE UNITED STATES THAN FROM MY CLIENTS FRIENDS. THERE HAS BEEN A SENTENCE MADE BY THE LYON TRIBUNAL ABOUT HIM, AND NO ONE APPEALED IT. ONLY A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AND ITS FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE (EDITORIAL NOTE: THE UNITED STATES AND THEIR LAWYER, ME KIEJMAN) CRITICIZED THIS JUDGMENT. IN MY OPINION, IT IS A FRENCH PROBLEM. FOR TWO YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A PROCEDURE IN PARIS ABOUT TWO ATTACKS IN WHICH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND A MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL WERE KILLED. I THINK THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO SAY. I DONT UNDERSTAND WHY WE ARE NOT ACQUITTING FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE ABDALLAH CONCERNING THESE TWO AFFAIRS YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT BLACKMAIL: FOR ME IT IS BLACKMAIL FROM A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT WHICH IS THE SOURCE OF OUR CURRENT PROBLEMS. . UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 3 LYON 0378

ABDALLAH IS A RESPECTABLE MAN.

PROGRES: WHO IS YOUR CLIENT ABDALLAH, REALLY? DOESNT THE FACT THAT HIS LIBERTY IS SOUGHT THROUGH SUCH VIOLENCE PROVE HE REALLY IS A TERRORIST CHIEF?

ME VERGES: MR. IBRAHIM ABDALLAH SAID AT HIS TRIAL THAT HE IS AN ARAB RESISTANT AND REMINDED THAT AT A CERTAIN TIME IN FRANCE, THE RESISTANTS WERE ACCUSED OF BEING TERRORISTS BY THE OCCUPIERS. HIS CASE BEGAN JUST LIKE THE ONE OF THE ARMENIAN GARABIDJAN OR ANIS NACCACHE, SYMBOLIC. THE SYMBOL IS WHAT IS IMPORTANT. IS HE REALLY LIKE WHAT I READ HERE OR THERE, THE CHIEF OF THE F.A.R.L.. THE MOSSAD (ISRAELI SECRET SERVICES) CLAIMS IT IN AN OFFICIAL REPORT IN LYON. I NEVER BELIEVED IN THE MOSSADS PEOPLE... YOU ASK ME WHAT KIND OF PERSON MR. ABDALLAH IS? HE REMINDS ME OF CERTAIN FRIENDS I HAD IN THE PAST IN THE RESISTANCE, IN THE FRENCH FREE FORCES OR OF MANY OTHERS I MET IN THE ALGERIAN F.L.N. WHEN I FOUGHT FOR THEM. TO ME, HE IS A RESPECTABLE MAN...

PROGRES: SO YOU RESPECT THE BOMBERS?

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ME VERGES: YOU ARE THE ONE WHO THINKS HE PLACES BOMBS. IN ANY CASE, A BOMBER IS ALWAYS FOR ME A QUESTION ASKER. BUT THIS IS A GENERAL ANSWER TO A GENERAL QUESTION WHICH DOESNT CONCERN MY CLIENT, AT ALL.

PROGRES: DO YOU THINK THAT THE ONES WHO DEMAND THE LIBERATION OF ABDALLAH (BOMB IN THE R.E.R.) HAVE A LINK WITH THE ONES WHO DETAINED THE FRENCH HOSTAGES IN LEBANON?

ME VERGES: I DONT KNOW IF THERE IS ANY LINK BETWEEN THOSE PEOPLE BUT I DO KNOW THAT IN THOSE TWO CASES, THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT MADE MISTAKES BEFORE MARCH 16. MR. FABIUS SAID SEVERAL TIMES THAT FRANCE WOULD BE UNPARDONING WITH THE TERRORISTS. HE VOLUNTARY DRAMATIZED THE SITUATION AND HE PROVOKED THE ANGER OF THOSE DETAINING THE HOSTAGES. AND MICHEL SEURAT WAS KILLED. AT PRESENT, THE ATTITUDE OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS MORE SERIOUS AND MORE PRUDENT: PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE DISCREET AT A CERTAIN TIME AND ALL THE LEFT PRESSSS RUMORS TO PREVENT THE NEGOCIATIONS CONCERNING IBRAHIM ABDALLAH ARE TO BE ABLE TO TRAP THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT. THE LEFT WOULD LIKE TO ACCUSE CHIRACS GOVERNMENT IF THERE WERE MORE BOMB ATTACKS.

PROGRES: ARE YOU THE INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN ABDALLAH FRIENDS AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT?

ME VERGES: NO.

I AM INTERESTED IN THE MAN.

PROGRES: ALL THE TERRORISTS ASK FOR YOU AS THEIR LAWYER (ARMENIANS, MEMBERS OF ACTION DIRECT, OF F.L.N.C., FRIENDS OF CARLOS, ETC...) WHY?

ME VERGES: I AM TOO MODEST TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

PROGRES: IS THERE A CAUSE YOU WOULD REFUSE TO DEFEND?

ME VERGES: I AM A LAWYER SO I DO NOT SEE ANY.

PROGRES: THE FACT THAT TERRORISTS PLACE BOMBS AND ATTACK INNOCENT PERSONS, DOESNT THAT MOVE YOU?

ME VERGES: I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU. I FIGHT ONLY FOR PRISONERS WHOSE MOTIVATIONS ARE NOT INTERESTED. I AM NOT THE LAWYER OF ACTION DIRECT AND I AM NOT THE SPOKESMAN OF ACTION DIRECT. I HAVE BEEN THE LAWYER OF THREE INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE CALLED THE CHIEFS OF ACTION DIRECT BY THE PRESS. I AM INTERESTED IN THE MAN. HE IS THE ONE I FIGHT FOR. I WILL REMIND YOU THAT THE PAST GOVERNMENT AMNESTIED SOME MEMBERS OF ACTION DIRECT WHO WERE CONSIDERED AS POLITICAL PRISONERS.

DURING THE ALGERIAN WAR, I FOUGHT FOR BOMBERS BUT THEIR ARGUMENT WAS STRONG: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PILOT WHO DESTROYED A VILLAGE WITH A NAPALM AND A MILITANT WHO PLACES A BOMB AND RISKS HIS OWN LIFE?

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PROGRES: IN THE POLITICAL LINE OF YOUR CLIENTS (CARLOS FRIENDS, **KLAUS BARBIE**...) WE FIND A VIOLENT HATE FOR ISRAEL. DO YOU FEEL THE SAME?

ME VERGES: I AM NOBODYS ENNEMY. BUT I UNDERSTAND THOSE WHO PROTEST AGAINST THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION (LEBANESE, PALESTINIANS).

CRIME IS SOMETHING THAT EXCITES ME.

PROGRES: IN THE IBRAHIM ABDALLAHS AFFAIR, WHO PAYS YOU?

ME VERGES: I COULD REFUSE TO ANSWER YOU. BUT I AM GOING TO DO IT. IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS, AND THIS ONE IS PURELY POLITICAL, I DONT TAKE MONEY. THIS IS AN OLD TRADITION OF THE BAR AND I KEEP IT. FORTUNATELY, I DEFEND OTHER CASES.

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PROGRES: WHERE DOES THIS TASTE COME FROM?

ME VERGES: CRIME IS SOMETHING THAT EXCITES ME. IT IS BREAKING THE LAW AND THE LAW CHANGES. WHEN I WAS A YOUNG LAWYER I USED TO DEFEND THE GIRLS WHO HAD HAD AN ABORTION, WHICH WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE NOWADAYS. LAW IS SEAKING TO SEPARATE THE HUMAN BEING FROM THE ANIMAL. IN THE MOVIES, IN A PLAY, IN LITERATURE LIKE IN LE ROUGE ET LE NOIR OR LES POSSEDES, WHAT IS THE MORE ATTRACTIVE IS THAT IT COMES FROM A REAL STORY. I ACT IN FRONT OF VIOLATION OF THE LAW JUST LIKE A READER WITH A STORY. IN A TRIAL, EVERYONE TELLS A STORY. BUT THE STORY OF THE PROSECUTOR DOESNT INTEREST ME BECAUSE HE TELLS THE STORY IN THE NAME OF THE SILENT MAJORITY WITH CLICHES.

PROGRES: THE QUESTION ASKED ABOUT JACQUES VERGES IS ABOUT YOUR DISAPPEARANCE FROM FRANCE BETWEEN 1961 AND 1979. WHERE WERE YOU?

ME VERGES: I WAS TRAVELING. I LOVE OUTDOORS LIFE.

I AM NOT A TERRORIST.

PROGRES: YOU WERE COMPARING THE TERRORISTS TO THE RESISTANTS, BUT YOU ALSO ARE KLAUS BARBIES LAWYER? THIS IS NOT THE LEAST OF YOUR CONTRADICTIONS.

ME VERGES: THIS DOESNT BOTHER ME AT ALL. IN BARBIES TRIAL, THE DELAY BROUGHT TO JUDGE A MAN WHOSE GUILT WAS EVIDENT AT HIS ARRIVAL IN LYON SHOCKS ME. APPARENTLY IT IS NOT, AS MORE INFORMATION IS ACCUMULATING AND THAT HIS TRIAL WILL LAST LONGER THAN THE GERMAN OCCUPATION IN FRANCE. FOR ME, IT IS CLEAR THAT EACH CAUSE NEEDS A LAWYER, IT IS THE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE STATE OF LAW...

PROGRES: THIS STATE OF LAW THAT EVERY TERRORIST CONTESTS?

ME VERGES: PROBABLY... BUT I AM NO TERRORIST. WHEN BARBIE LEFT LYON IN AUGUST 1944, HE DID IT BECAUSE THE FIRST ARMY WAS COMING UP THE RHONE VALLEY. IN THIS ARMY, THERE WAS A NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD SERGEANT OF THE THIRD DIVISION OF THE ALGERIAN INFANTRY CALLED JACQUES VERGES. I HAVE ALREADY SAID IT: IF BARBIE HAD BEEN IN FRONT OF ME AT THAT TIME, I WOULD HAVE SHOT HIM. IF I FIGHT IN THIS WAR AGAINST TERRORISM, IT IS NOT TO PARTICIPATE TODAY IN A DISHONEST TRIAL, IN A JUDICIARY MASCARADE. AND I DIDNT PROGRAM THE BARBIE TRIAL.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH, IN AN IMMEDIATE SENSE, THIS INTERVIEW HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS, IT IS A USEFUL INSIGHT INTO THE PUBLIC THINKING AND APPROACH OF THIS LAWYER ACTIVE IN SEVERAL CASES IN WHICH WE ARE INTERESTED.

VALERGA

END OF MESSAGE

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