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BARKA -- C.I.A.

PARIS, JAN. 27 (REUTERS)-NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR FRANÇOIS MAURIAC TODAY ACCUSED THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OF BEING INVOLVED IN THE KIDNAPPING OF MOROCCAN LEFTWING OPPOSITION LEADER MEHDI BEN BARKA.

MAURIAC SAID THE C.I.A. HAD "JUST PULLED OFF A MAGNIFICENT DOUBLE BLOW AGAINST THE NON-COMMITTED NATION BY GETTING RID OF BEN BARKA AND AGAINST DE GAULLE.

"IF THE AMERICAN SERVICES ARE INNOCENT IN THIS AFFAIR, THE DEVIL MUST BE GIVING THEM A HAND."

MAURIAC S COMMENTS, IN HIS WEEKLY COLUMN IN LE FIGARO LITTERAIRE, SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN THE OUTCOME OF A FRIDAY MEETING AT WHICH INTERIOR MINISTER ROGER FREY WAS QUOTED AS CITING THE C.I.A. AS A "POSSIBLE" CONSPIRATOR IN THE CASE.

AFTER THE MEETING AT MAURIAC S HOME, ALSO ATTENDED BY LEFTWING MEMBERS OF DE GAULLE S PARTY, THE LEFTWING NEW OBSERVER QUOTED FREY AS SAYING IT WAS "NOT IMPOSSIBLE" THAT C.I.A. AGENTS INFLUENCED HTE PREPARATION OF THE BEN BARKA KIDNNAPPING.

FREY DENIED THE ACCURACY OF THE REPORT.

THE KIDNAPING --AND WIDELY ASSUMED DEATH--OF BEN BARKA HAS BECOME FRANCE S BIGGEST SCANDAL IN YEARS, CAUSING A SHAKEUP IN FRENCH COUNTER-ESPIONAGE SERVICES AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMBASSADORS BETWEEN FRANCE AND MOROCCO.

PRESIDENT CHARLES DE GAULLE WAS REPORTED DETERMINED TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE CASE DESPITE THE BIG NAMES INVOLVED AND THE POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO FRANCO-MOROCCAN RELATIONS.
(MORE).

PARIS BARKA --C.I.A. X X X RELATIONS

TODAY MAURIAC REFERRED TO REPORTS OF CLOSE LINKS BETWEEN GEN. MOHAMMED OUFKIR, THE MOROCCAN INTERIOR MINISTER SUSPECTED IN FRENCH CIRCLES OF BEING THE MAN BEHIND THE BEN BARKA KIDNAPING, AND THE AMERICAN C.I.A.

THE FRENCH JUDGE INVESTIGATING THE BEN BARKA CASE AND THE DEATH OF GANGSTER GEORGES FIGON ISSUED INTERNATIONAL WARRANTS LAST WEEK FOR THE ARREST OF OUFKIR AND TWO MOROCCAN SECRET SERVICE CHIEFS. MOROCCO REFUSED THE WARRANTS, AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMBASSADORS FOLLOWED.

THE NEW OBSERVER SAID DE GAULLE WAS "PAYING THE PRICE OF HIS PROUD SOLITUDE. HE DOES NOT WANT PARTISANS, BUT INSTRUMENTS OF EXECUTION. AS HE DECIEVES THEM ALL THE TIME, HE IS CONSTANTLY DECEIVED BY THEM. AS HE WANTS TO BE ALONE, HE BECOMES ISOLATED."

THE MASS-CIRCULATION FRANCE-SOIR SAID DE GAULLE WOULD SPEAK AT LENGTH ON THE BEN BARKA CASE AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR THE THIRD WEEK IN FEBRUARY.
GFB :: 9:42A ::

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