

Leon
P. de Vosjoli, Philippe
500.4.01.2 Topaz

Novelist Uris Testifies on Royalties Split

De Vosjoli, 51, previously has testified that he left his post as head of the bureau's Washington branch because his superiors paid no heed to his warnings about Communist infiltration.

Novelist Leon Uris testified Wednesday that his collaborator in the book "Topaz" wanted to expose Communist influence in the French secret service so he could return to France as a hero.

De Vosjoli sued on the contention that the book yielded more than \$1 million but that he received only \$65,000. Uris, 47, admits the contract but says De Vosjoli violated it himself by publishing some of his material under his own name.

The testimony was given in Superior Judge Howard H. Schmidt's court at the trial of the \$2 million suit in which Philippe de Vosjoli accuses Uris of violating a contract of May 27, 1965, calling for an equal share in the royalties and proceeds from film rights.



Called to the stand as an adverse witness by attorneys for de Vosjoli, Uris said that while they were converting a French-language manuscript written by De Vosjoli into the novel, the former French secret service agent expressed great fear for his life.

Become a Hero

"But Mr. De Vosjoli," Uris said, "nevertheless hoped that advance publicity on the book would cause a congressional investigation here and a convulsion in France so he could return there as a hero."

The book, which was written entirely by Uris and appeared under his name alone, was based on the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. Much of it dealt with the alleged presence of Communist sympathizers in the French secret service.

AUTHOR — Leon Uris after court appearance.
Times photo