

French Spy Novel

TOPAZ. By Leon Uris.
McGraw-Hill. 341 pp.;
\$5.95.

Reviewed by
Maitland Zane

AN egomaniacal anti-American French dictator . . . a high-level Soviet KGB defector . . . a handsome French counterspy . . . Russian missiles in Cuba . . . a beautiful mistress . . . JFK in his finest hour . . . brutish Castro henchmen . . .

Leon ("Exodus") Uris, in his new fact (?) or fantasy (?) spy thriller, has rung in just about everybody but the toad-like degenerate who wants to cut up the heroine with a buzz saw.

The writing is up to Uris' usual standards. Here is some crucial dialogue between Juanita, the luscious mistress, and Rico Parra, a villain:

"She took his crude hand and lifted it to her breast. 'As long as we're going to do it,' she said, 'we might as well enjoy it.'

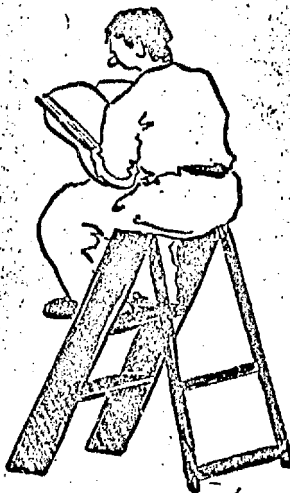
His free hand raised suddenly and slapped her mouth, 'Pig! Aristocratic pig!'

Authentic History

As Book Editor William Hogan wrote in a recent column, Uris claims this book represents authentic history, and that events bear out his contention that Moscow has

been shaping France's foreign policy for four years.

Topaz is the Soviet code name for a network of French spies who when they are not stealing NATO and American secrets for the rats in the Kremlin are befuddling "President Pierre la Croix" with ingenious theories about the REAL mean-



ing of the 1962 Cuban missiles crisis, viz., a phony crisis hoked up by JFK and Khrushchev.

The Washington Post reported that "unofficial" American sources confirmed the existence of a KGB defector who sounds very much like a similar character in Uris' book. This defector reveals the existence of another

er plot which may have some substance in fact, that of a 1963 French plot to carry out highly secret military and industrial espionage against this country, with the Russians benefiting in the end.

Nothing Startling

Nations, including this one, have long carried out espionage, military and economic against other nations — including "friendly" nations — so there is nothing particularly startling in this.

What does surprise me is that Uris believes Charles de Gaulle is so revengeful (because of the wartime slights inflicted by President Roosevelt) that he would condone the existence of a Russian spy ring in the heart of the NATO alliance, and would cheerfully allow French-Russian spies to penetrate the Pentagon for Moscow's gain.

There is a strong odor of old fish about this scandalous book. My guess is that a certain naive best-selling novelist has been made a sucker of by our own Central Intelligence Agency in a high-level American Intelligence plot to smash, or at least defame, the President of France.