
PART II

The political underworld at work: Edgar Faure's networks and the KGB in France

by Laurent Murawiec

Below EIR continues its investigation into the underworld of French politics. The subject is the connection between the Nazi International and the Communist International from the pre-World War II days to the present. Part I of this series focused on Georges Albertini, a recently deceased agent of the Nazi Abwehr, and a participant in the founding of the French Communist Party (PCF) through his friend and ally Boris Souvarine. Souvarine himself "reconverted" to anti-communism to found the Russian studies think tank called the Institute for Social History, in Paris.

In the first installment of Murawiec's exposé, we followed Albertini and Souvarine through the meanders of their "public" shifts. In the process we discovered that Souvarine's profession as anti-communist "Russian studies" expert is the best KGB cover, and every activity of the "former" communist proves it. We also discovered something about American politics: the most rabid "communist-haters" in the U.S. labor movement may very well have been KGB stringers all along.

Jay Lovestone is the prime example of someone who followed the "Souvarine route." A founder of the CPUSA, Lovestone was summoned to Moscow by Stalin in 1928 with the mission of establishing Comintern antennas in the West, and was "curiously expelled from the CPUSA a year later," noted Murawiec. Lovestone then worked with the Dulles brothers' "captive nations" operation in Europe, which included Souvarine and his circles.

"A ferocious anti-communist is the best possible agent of disinformation to get committed anti-totalitarians to swallow the most absurd lies," Murawiec wrote

The range of manipulative influence acquired since World War II by Georges Albertini, Souvarine, et al., who came to dominate the Russian studies field in France and exert significant influence abroad, extended into the "ultra-liberal" wing of the French industrial confederation, with the so-called Institut de l'Entreprise as one of the major bankrollers. Former Prime Minister Raymond Barre was another backer, through his assistant, Trilateral Commission member Jean-Claude Casanova. Another funder was Vernon Walters, a

former CIA deputy director and former Averell Harriman assistant, through his Paris outfit, the French Association for the Atlantic Alliance.

In 1981, a "spoiler" was added to the French presidential election campaign, with the stated purpose of shaping the national policy debate around "East-West" issues. The standard-bearer was an imitation of Margaret Thatcher, one Marie-France Garaud, who had been well-known as a senior staff member of the Pompidou presidency—and an Albertini associate throughout. The composition of her campaign staff under Georges Albertini once more brought to light the peculiar mix that defies the rules of politics.

A prominent member was one Col. Roger Barberot, a "left Gaullist" who, like all such specimens, is neither a leftist nor a Gaullist but a high-flying intelligence operative nominally situated on the left in order to cultivate contacts and conduct operations. He was one of the field commanders of the notorious "Barbouzes," the gang of (partly Corsican) thugs, killers, and gangsters created in Algeria in the early 1960s by British intelligence agent Lucien Bitterlin, today a leader of the "Franco-Arab Solidarity Association."

Barberot was appointed ambassador to Uruguay in 1965, and used his Montevideo post to oversee a reorganization of the Latin American heroin route of the French Connection. Under him was Joseph-Auguste Ricord, a veteran of the Paris Gestapo's most important corps of torturers and murderers, the Bonny-Lafont gang; Christian David, the gangster who murdered Moroccan leader Ben Barka and Algerian exile leader Belkacem Krim on orders of and with the payments from Swiss financier Dr. Alfred Schaefer, former head of the Union Bank of Switzerland and one of the leaders of the Nazi International.

Barberot, using his cover as a diplomat, and his close links with those French politicians controlled by the old Abwehr gang of Michard-Pelissier, built a considerable intelligence empire which the efforts of U.S. drug enforcement agency personnel in Europe and anti-drug factions in the French intelligence and police community finally weakened in the early 1970s.

More recently, Barberot associated with high-ranking

KGB operatives in France to engineer the “diamond scandal” which inflicted irreparable political damage on then-President Valéry Giscard d’Estaing. The Garaud campaign, run under-the-counter by Albertini, was aimed at muddying the waters in which Giscard would fish for his vote; the Souvarine-Albertini crowd was already seeking influence on his successor’s staff.

President Mitterrand’s secret service coordinator, the shadowy businessman François de Grossouvre, was in fact a prime source of income for both Garaud and Albertini in the latter’s last year or two. De Grossouvre is an associate of Nazi international chief Swiss banker François Genoud of Lausanne; yet he is also a member of the postwar communist-controlled peace movement. He was ousted in 1947 from French intelligence (SDECE), and has acted as a protector of Regis Debray, the Cuban intelligence associate of Philip Agee.

The ecumenical nature of the Souvarine-Albertini operation may also be illustrated with a glance at the staff of the Institut d’Histoire Sociale, which included former Nazi Claude Harmel (a.k.a. Lemonnier) and former Vichy regime influential Georges Lefranc, both experts in labor affairs; Patrick Humbert-Droz, a relative of a former Bukharinite secretary general of the Comintern; and the Swiss politician Jules Humbert-Droz, who ran the Swiss Communist Party through 1942 and then became head of the Swiss Socialist Party until the 1960s. Among collaborators of the institute is the well-known sociologist Raymond Aron, prominent member of the stridently anti-communist Committee for the Free World.

Old and new generations

One of Albertini’s most prominent friends and associates was top political figure Edgar Faure, the Proteus of postwar French affairs. Twice a prime minister under the Fourth Republic, and a government minister nine times, he typifies the petty politicking and dirty deals which came within inches of ruining France in the 1950s. A member of the loose left-of-center electoral alliance known as the Radical Party, and a fluent Russian-speaker, he was used as a secret negotiator with Moscow and Peking. After the death of Abwehr veteran Michard-Pelissier, Faure took over a chunk of the latter’s law clients (and presumably, files, dossiers, and activities).

Faure’s wife, the late Lucie Faure, née Meyer, was the founding editor of *La Nef*, a posh “intellectual” journal which brought together left and right in its capacity as a “forum for dialogue.” Jay Lovestone was a familiar figure at *La Nef*. Madame Faure had been an intimate of the late aristocrat Emmanuel d’Astier de la Vigerie, a monarchist adventurer who used an image as communist fellow-traveller to become one of Moscow’s top Western operatives in the “peace movement” of the 1950s. D’Astier, a relative of Sir Winston Churchill, and considered by General de Gaulle—whose wartime Resistance he continuously tried to foil, take over, or otherwise weaken—as a British intelligence agent.

Faure worked closely with a shady financier named Haim

Jaller (a.k.a. F. Igoïn) who ran the “France Navigation” shipping company, one of the major logistical centers and instruments of the Comintern/KGB operations in the West, starting with the Spanish Civil War. Faure maintains a close business association with the de Neufville-Mallet-Schlumberger private banking house, the linchpin of Swiss-Protestant banking.

Another intimate of Edgar Faure was left-liberal publicist Gabriel Ardant, whose brother Henri Ardant, a wartime collaborator of the Nazis, was “turned” in 1944 by the security services of the French Communist Party and approved by Moscow as a top-level agent of influence in the financial circles which he had worked with during his Vichy career as head of the wartime Banking Organization Committee.

Finally, Edgar Faure is an intimate of the “Red billionaire” Jean-Baptiste Doumeng, the largest agro-import-export operative between East and West, a shareholder in the mysterious Banque Stern of Paris, and a personal acquaintance of Yuri Andropov for at least 30 years.

In 1968, de Gaulle, under the gun of destabilization, agreed to a broad compromise with the Communist Party and Moscow, one aspect of which was a franchise on the school system for the Communists; the form it took was the appointment of Faure as education minister. The thoroughgoing reform undercut classical education and compartmentalized scientific education; it included the founding of a special ultra-leftist University at Vincennes near Paris which was used from its inception in September 1968 as a terrorist training ground for Middle Eastern, Italian, and Latin American “students.” Vincennes became a playground for Trotskyist, Maoist, anarchist, and Communist groups which succeeded in recruiting by the thousands from the student body.

In short, Edgar Faure has acted as the godfather of the younger generations of Anglo-Soviet political intelligence, whose leftist colors conceal their control by old Nazi-Abwehr and KGB networks. Paris-based Nazi-Trotskyist Michel Pablo, the 1945-62 head of the so-called Fourth International and a close collaborator of Swiss Nazi leader François Genoud, is exemplary: it was Pablo who inducted Regis Debray as an intelligence agent and sent him to Cuba. Pablo, Genoud, and Ben Bella were the joint Nazi-Trotskyist apparatus that was used by the KGB to create the “Tricontinental” international terrorist organization.

Faure’s protégés are now well placed in the corridors of power. Regis Debray sits as a special adviser to the President in the Elysée Palace, while heading the *Bulletin pour l’information sur l’intervention clandestine*, the French counterpart of Philip Agee’s *CounterSpy* terrorist and intelligence organization. Socialist government ministers, leaders of the French peace movement, and “left Gaullists” take part in its activities.

While Georges Albertini died an inglorious death this year, as his institute was beset by intrigue and financial problems, his life mission—the coordination between old Nazi, British, and Comintern intelligence operations—has been transmitted to younger hands.