

## MARKOVIC AFFAIR DREDGED UP TO WATERGATE HARDLINE GAULLISTS

Dec. 25 (IPS)--In an attempt to Watergate the last of the old hardline Gaullist "barons," the six-year-old "Markovic affair" is being resurrected. Former Foreign Affairs Minister Michel Jobert, number one candidate for leading a petit bourgeois, potentially fascist movement around a "tighten your belt for the Motherland" austerity program, is the star witness in court hearings on the affair.

Markovic was a Yugoslavian gangland drug dealer murdered in 1968. The scandal around his death was said to be concocted by the Gaullist barons and aimed at Georges Pompidou, DeGaulle's challenger.

The implications of the trial take on their full political significance in the context of the abrupt left turn of the French Communist Party (PCF) characterized by its resounding blows against Rockefeller's closest allies in France, President Giscard d'Estaing and Socialist Party (SP) leader Francois Mitterrand. While Giscard's cut-throat austerity program has already sufficiently discredited him in the eyes of his rapidly shrinking base, the PCF's attacks against the SP have considerably broken down the SP's credibility as anything but a Rockefeller mouthpiece. Soon, neither agent will be able to implement anything. Should the PCF continue blasting the SP, Jobert will be Rockefeller's last option to police the working class into accepting drastic cuts in their living standard.

Jobert claims to possess a secret list which Pompidou had drawn up of those whom he suspected were involved in the attempt to drag his name into the mud around the unresolved murder of Markovic. The fact that Jacques Isorni, the lawyer who attempted to implicate then Finance Minister Giscard in the last unsuccessful murder attempt against President DeGaulle, is the person calling on Jobert to testify, indicates that the names which Jobert may bring to light could reach as high in the government as Giscard himself.

Should this move succeed, it would give Jobert a free hand to consolidate a movement composed of desperate petit bourgeois layers--shopkeepers and peasants--the traditional makeup of a fascist movement in a depression.