

to say, I think, in this very room, that French policy is not made at the stock exchange. Well, I myself tell you that France's foreign policy is not made in the newsrooms of a few international news media, nor will it ever be. French foreign policy is the business of the President of

the Republic, the government and the French Parliament. Neither France, her people nor her laws have any lessons to learn from anyone and I suggest that those who desire to be her friends refrain from trying to teach us their lessons.

The French Side of the Abu Daoud Affair

One could say with a bit of irony that there has been as great an outcry in France against Interior Minister Poniatowski for ordering the arrest of Palestinian leader Abu Daoud, as invective against France for releasing him in the U.S. press.

The Interior Minister has been charged with acting in such a way as to "sabotage France's foreign policy" by carrying out Interpol-Israeli Secret Service orders to arrest the Palestinian leader while he was visiting Paris as a member of an official Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) delegation. Such accusations, brought by the French daily *Le Monde* and a slew of political figures, would have been enough to force the resignation of any Minister were it not for the close friendship Poniatowski maintains with President Giscard D'Estaing. Giscard, after all, owes to his minister his rise to power.

The result of Poniatowski's recent behavior, however has led to Giscard's near total political isolation and the defeat of the Atlanticist policies he has always stood for. The communique issued by Giscard's Independent Republican National Federation on Jan. 13, stressed the necessity for a European alliance based on advanced technological cooperation and peace and disarmament treaties with the Soviets. Poniatowski's step-by-step effort to take over since 1968 the predominantly Pompidolian RI party have been cancelled out within the span of a few weeks.

Giscard's Jan. 17 press conference included a warning to the United States to stop its campaign of "insults," and showed him to be breaking ranks with Poniatowski to seek a truce with his Gaullist opposition. What Poniatowski had failed to understand is that by upsetting the delicate balance between the Gaullist networks in the intelligence and military community and the U.S. interests which stand behind Giscard he was creating a strong boomerang effect.

It was Poniatowski's clumsy mishandling of three key "affairs" which combined to produce his unenviable position:

—The Daoud Affair: Poniatowski tried to protect himself by pretending that the DST (French FBI) carried out the arrest without his prior knowledge. For this he was exposed as a liar by former DST director Wybot, who pointed out that such a break in the chain of command was impossible—Poniatowski had had to have

given the order for the arrest. Wybot, who was ousted from his former position by then President General de Gaulle, could hardly be suspected of partisan judgement against the Atlanticist minister.

—The De Broglie Affair: Contributing to this environment of hostility to Poniatowski was his investigation into the Christmas eve murder of Jean de Broglie, a primary spokesman and negotiator for Euro-Arab dialogue. The speed with which Poniatowski concluded the investigation and dispatched himself in front of the media to announce that De Broglie had been murdered for a mere 4 million francs debt to an associate, raised severe doubts as to Poniatowski's commitment to investigate the murder. As the evidence for a "crime of interest" collapsed, the appraisal of the murder as some political affair in the press — including *Le Figaro*, known for its sympathies to Poniatowski — produced a swelling scandal.

—The Saleh Affair: While the De Broglie scandal was in process, the unexplained murder of Palestinian leader Saleh in Paris, one among many such murders of Arabs and their allies in the past months, prompted Gaullist organizers to go on the offensive. Vincent Monteil, Gaullist professor of Arabic studies, and formerly of the Gaullist left intelligence networks during the Algerian war, gave a press conference to demand that Poniatowski investigate the activities of the Israeli Secret Services on French soil. Monteil blamed the Israelis for several murders on which, he stated, he had given a full dossier of evidence to the Interior Ministry. Monteil added that should the Ministry fail to clean out the Mossad-Interpol dirty tricks and assassination networks in France, he would open a public debate on the question.

Since then the efforts at mopping up the network which constitutes the backbone of anti-Gaullist subversive activities in France have grown to include outside allies like the Algerian paper *El Moudjahid*, the East German paper *Neues Deutschland*, and the Danish paper *Politiken*, all of which analyzed different aspects of this network. Meanwhile a mysterious harassment campaign against individuals and defendants in the De Broglie affair (theft, armed attacks, break-ins and car sabotage), notably the near fatal car of a journalist, Hubert Lacier, who has been investigating these matters, has certainly not helped quiet the climate of suspicion surrounding the Interior Ministry.