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Spy: The long night in the twilight zone

London (AP)—Hugh Hambleton, the Soviet spy who claims he was a double agent for Canada and France, took the stand at his espionage trial yesterday and said an intelligence officer named Jean Masson was his French control.

Hugh Hambleton

"Jean Masson would bring me documents that I would photograph and turn over to the KGB contact," the 60-year-old British-Canadian testified in Central Criminal Court.

He said Masson was an official of the French Service of External Documentation and Counter-Espionage but did not identify him otherwise.

Hambleton, a professor of economics at Laval University in Quebec, was on the NATO staff in Paris from 1956 to 1961. He is charged with spying for the Soviets until 1979.

He said he was an intelligence officer with the Free French forces in World War II, operated behind the German lines with the U.S. Counter-Intelligence Corps and at the end of the war was with Canadian military intelligence.

HE SAID HIS first contact with the Soviets was in 1950 or 1951, when at a reception he met a KGB agent, "Borodin," who was first secretary and commercial attache at the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa.

He said Borodin and another Soviet agent, "Paul," contacted him again when he was studying at the University of Paris in 1955.

Shortly afterward, he continued, Masson and another man came to see him and satisfied him that they were French intelligence officers.

"He (Masson) wanted me to maintain a close relationship with them (the Russians) at all times and report to him periodically," Hambleton testified.

He said he got the NATO job at Masson's instigation. Then followed years of regular clandestine meetings in subways and other places with Paul and other Soviet agents which he said he reported to Masson.

When the Soviets gave him a camera to photograph NATO documents, Masson supplied him with documents that had been "doctored" so that they would not betray secrets, he continued.

DEFENSE LAWYER John Lloyd-Eley said Hambleton also would testify that the Canadian intelligence service arranged for Masson to handle him during his NATO job.

In another development, Robin Gordon Walker, 36, the son of a former British foreign secretary, has been charged with breaching official secrecy, the public prosecutor announced.

Walker, a senior government information officer, was charged under the Official Secrets Act with "failing to take reasonable care of documents." He was ordered to appear in court in January.

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