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# London Times says French party leader bribed to place spy

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By Peter Almond  
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LONDON — A major British newspaper Sunday claimed to have established that a French "right wing" member of the European Parliament is in fact an agent of the Romanian secret intelligence service, and that he bribed National Front party leader Jean-Marie Le Pen at least \$250,000 to secure his parliamentary seat.

The agent for the communist Romanian government was identified by the Sunday Times as Gustave Pordea, a Romanian-born, naturalized French citizen who has been a controversial member of the small, 10-man National Front delegation to the European Parliament at Strasbourg since June 1984. He has been controversial ever since Mr. Le Pen placed him, unknown and unannounced to most of the rest of the party, high on a list of candidates for seats the National Front was sure to

win in the Euro-elections.

The reason for being placed high on the list, the Sunday Times claimed, was Mr. Pordea's "bribe" — although Mr. Le Pen reportedly did not know it came from the resources of a communist government.

The alleged links between Mr. Pordea and the Romanian intelligence service were first spotlighted by the Paris newspaper *Le Matin* as long ago as the eve of election day in 1984. But the paper made no mention of the bribe, and Mr. Le Pen claimed at the time that *Le Matin* was trying to smear the National Front, which has been accused of xenophobia.

Mr. Le Pen said the selection of Mr. Pordea showed that the party considered any Frenchman of foreign origin to be completely French and that Mr. Pordea would be a spokesman for the people of Eastern Europe.

The European Parliament has little real power, but it is considered a

useful contact point for European-minded politicians and has a real potential for control over the European Economic Commission. Romania is the only East-bloc country to recognize the EEC.

Mr. Pordea successfully sued *Le Matin*, then successfully sued it again when the paper quoted a letter from Lt. Gen. Ion Mihai Pacepa, deputy director of the Romanian intelligence service until he defected to the West in 1978, stating that he had personally reactivated Mr. Pordea as an agent of influence in the early 1970s.

Gen. Pacepa did not give evidence in Mr. Pordea's lawsuit against *Le Matin* earlier this year, and the paper lost the case. But the Sunday Times said it had been in contact with Gen. Pacepa in the United States and had "received a categorical assurance" that the letter to *Le Matin* fingering Mr. Pordea as a Romanian agent was accurate and that it was only security considerations

that kept him from testifying against Mr. Pordea in Paris.

According to the Sunday Times report, by Paris correspondent Jon Swain, Mr. Pordea, 69, was a Romanian diplomat who chose exile in France rather than return to Bucharest in 1947. He then worked for a publisher and has written many books, mostly on the theme of Romanian nationalism.

On Dec. 8, 1983, he became a naturalized Frenchman. Five days later, according to the Sunday Times, he flew to Vienna and met with Costel Mitran, a Bucharest-based Romanian diplomat who has been identified by Western security agencies as a senior figure in the DIE, the Romanian secret service responsible for running Romanian undercover agents in foreign countries.

Mr. Mitran reportedly told Mr. Pordea Romanian intelligence had fixed a \$500,000 budget for the operation to get him into the European Parliament.

Back in Paris, Mr. Pordea tried through a political organization called the Fondation Pour l'Europe to get himself on a center-right coalition list led by Simone Veil. He failed, and was later dismissed from the foundation.

Mr. Pordea then reportedly tried to approach Jean-Marie Le Pen's right-wing National Front through the "sympathetic" Unification

Church of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, even though Mr. Pordea was said to be a devout Roman Catholic.

"He sat at the back [of church meetings] eating sandwiches," a Unification Church member was quoted as saying. "He made much of the fact that he lived on very little money and was a widower who had brought up six children. He made himself to be a figure almost to be pitied."

But the Sunday Times said Unification Church members were suspicious of Mr. Pordea's motives and refused to arrange an introduction to Mr. Le Pen.

He finally succeeded through an old friend, the Comtesse de Solliers, who reportedly told Mr. Le Pen's wife, Pierrette, that Mr. Pordea had unspecified friends who would pay four million francs (\$500,000) to get Mr. Pordea fifth or sixth in prominence on the National Front list of candidates. Mr. Le Pen accepted — and put Mr. Pordea on the list at No. 4.

The Sunday Times reported that the financial link between Mr. Le Pen and Mr. Pordea was made by Pierre Darier, son of the head of the Banque Darier in Geneva.

On June 17, 1984, the National Front won 11 percent of the vote in the European elections, its biggest victory to date. Mr. Pordea was guaranteed a seat in Parliament.

Confronted by the Sunday Times' investigation, Mr. Pordea reportedly said: "Very funny. I have nothing to say. I am not going to confirm or deny anything."