

## What is Jacques Soustelle?

During World War II, Jacques Soustelle operated as a British intelligence agent. He was deployed into Charles De Gaulle's Free French apparatus in London, rising in its intelligence bureau (BCRA). Soustelle played a key role in the arrangements which gave Irgun terrorists from Palestine—including Menachem Begin—refuge in France after the war.

In the immediate post-war period, Soustelle stayed inside De Gaulle's political machine, and was elected to parliament; he focused his parliamentary activity on bringing De Gaulle's followers into alliance with right-wing socialists, exemplified by Francois Mitterrand, current head of the French Socialist Party. De Gaulle repeatedly vetoed these proposals.

In 1955, Soustelle was sent to Algeria as Governor General by Prime Minister Pierre Mendes-France; he developed a network of "colonialist" supporters independent of his government position, networks that were to become a leading part of the Algerian Secret Army Organization. His provocative behavior led to his removal from office. Returning to France, Soustelle was re-elected to parliament, and became President of the France-Israel Alliance caucus—on the eve of the French government's collaboration with Great Britain and Israel in the Suez invasion.

It was only after De Gaulle's return to power that Soustelle openly discarded his "Gaullist" clothing, and went into exile, taking leadership of the

OAS Algerian terrorists, and other parallel groups. Soustelle's terrorists had the active support of David Ben Gurion and Israeli intelligence. Financing for the OAS and other bands came from the Permindex Corporation. This assassination bureau was established by British Canadian Major-General Louis Mortimer Bloomfield, who channeled monies through the U.S. FBI-Division Five (which Bloomfield set up during World War II). Permindex engaged in over 30 attempts to assassinate President De Gaulle, notable among them the 1971 Petit Clamart incident to which Soustelle was directly linked.

Seeking refuge in Switzerland, Israel, Madrid and Rome, Soustelle in the following period obtained aid from sources in the United States associated with William F. Buckley and his National Review circle.

During the 1965 presidential elections, Soustelle, still abroad and a wanted man, called upon his supporters to vote for socialist Mitterrand in the second round of balloting against De Gaulle. Earlier, during the 1962 trial of OAS General Raoul Salan, a Soustelle associate, Mitterrand had testified as a defense witness.

Soustelle did not return to France to pursue his fascist politics openly until 1968, when a general amnesty was declared, largely due to political pressures exerted by Mitterrand.

parently out of a compelling need to explain why he broke with de Gaulle over the General's development policy for the Third World and the Algerian independence issue. *Le Figaro's* Alfred Fabre-Luce was quick to support Soustelle's reminiscing, insisting that France must deal with the Third World purely on the basis of anti-Sovietism. But Soustelle's sudden attempt to settle 20-year-old scores may turn out badly for him, since he is part of the very Permindex network Giscard is now pushing a crackdown against.

On Nov. 2, police ended their year and a half search for Jacques Mesrine, France's most wanted criminal, a former OAS member with active ties to the "anti-establishment" left: he was ambushed by Paris police

and his life ended in a hail of bullets. The closing in on Mesrine was coordinated by Inspector Maurice Bouvier, given the assignment only about a month ago. Bouvier is otherwise best known for leading the successful investigations into the assassination attempt against de Gaulle at Petit Clamart in 1962, leading to the arrest of the would-be assassins whose payoff has been traced to Major Louis Mortimer Bloomfield's Division Five of the FBI and the Permindex assassination bureau.

The successful closing of the Mesrine case, and what that may portend for Jacques Soustelle, is part of the necessary response to the Boulin affair.

—Dana Sloan and Garance Phau