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2 pp  
Follet 1 pp  
18 pp

Mr. Ken Follett  
92 Cheyne Walk,  
London SW10 ODQ

June 24, 1985

Dear Mr. Follett,

In reply to your letter, I am sending you further information about the FLN, the Pétition of the 121 and the Réseau Janson.

- 1) The pétition des 121 is a matter totally separate from the trial of the réseau. The 121 were artists, writers and intellectuals who were protesting against the Algerian war. The pétition was signed in July 1960 but only published at the time of the trial. The text of the pétition was considered an incitement to avoidance of conscription and to desertion. It aroused great emotion in the public. Soon after its publication, many more writers, artists and intellectuals decided to add their own signature to the original 121. Because the country was at war (since 1954), the government decided to take strong action against the signatories and some of them were actually charged with "incitement to avoidance of conscription and to desertion". Robert Barras was arrested among others. The whole affair of the pétition des 121 indicates the climate of France at the time; the split among the population (cf. the counter demonstrations of the veterans etc.) was such that the country came to the verge of a civil war: you can see why the above incitement was taken by the government as a very serious matter.
- 2) The FLN was an underground organisation, an Algerian organisation dealing with terrorist activity both in Algeria and in France. The DST (Direction de Surveillance du Territoire) was looking for FLN members; before 1960, these members were all Algerians. The importance of the Réseau Janson was that it involved "des Français de métropole" in the support of the FLN. Helping the FLN was helping the enemy; that was the charge. The members of the réseau helped the FLN in various ways, among which carrying suitcases of FLN money to Switzerland and hiding wanted members of the FLN counted as most serious offenses. But, as I have mentioned in details previously, not all members of the réseau Janson were charged to the same degree because some claimed not to know what was inside the cases or who the

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the persons they hid were. In any case, all members of the réseau did say that they gave complete moral support to the cause of the réseau (i.e. fight French involvement in the Algerian war), and that alone was held against them.

To summarise, we must distinguish between the pétition des 121 and the réseau. As for the charges against members of the réseau, they dealt with assistance to the enemy (which boils down to treason), and this warranted a military trial. The specific actions which entails the trial were a) hiding wanted FLN members (among which the actual head of the FLN on the metropole, Haddad Hamada), and b) passing FLN funds to Switzerland.

Due to several appointments which I had prior to your letter, I will not be available for further research until Tuesday afternoon. Should the need arise, you can telephone me for any question, and I hope that these clarifications will be of help to you.

Naturally, I will consider this letter as a completion of the previous work which I have sent you. I would like to say however that any further investigation would be considered a new project.

I hope you are satisfied with the charges which are based on 8 hours a day at L5 per hour for 7 days plus expenses. I would like to point out that I normally receive an average of L10 an hour for my usual work. If this assessment is agreeable to you, I will be pleased to receive a settlement of the account.

Yours sincerely,

*Anne Raymond*