

ANNEX 19

Clermont-Ferrand, November 7th 2006 (AFP) 21 : 15. Actuality
Agence France Press

Economy: Economic destabilization: Charles-Philippe d'Orléans kept in custody

We learned from authority sources that **Charles-Philippe d'Orléans has been kept in police custody in Paris on Tuesday, within the context of an investigation concerning an operation of destabilization of Thea Pharmaceutical Laboratories.**

The 33 years old Charles-Philippe d'Orléans, head of a society council in economic relations has been summoned on Tuesday morning in the Central Office for crime prevention, linked with information and communication technologies (OCLCTIC).

The director of the society's study project of the nephew of Henri II, Count of Paris, has been also kept in custody, as well as the director of another pharmaceutical Monegasque company. The pharmaceutical development manager has been also kept in custody in Nice.

The four men are questioned by the SRPJ police of Clermont-Ferrand assisted by their colleagues from Paris, within the context of an inquiry dated March 10th for forgery and the use of forgeries, identity usurpation and false accusation.

A complaint in a court action with the public prosecutor had been filed to the dean of the investigating magistrates in Clermont-Ferrand by Henri Chibret, PDG of Thea Laboratories, first European independent group specialized in ophthalmology, with head office in the capital city of Auvergne.

In December 2005, Henri Chibret find out that his society he had created in 1994, and specialized in research, development and marketing of ophthalmological products, was the target for economic operation of destabilization regarding an innovative product.

Thea had indeed developed a multi-dose bottle called Abak, with a filter in order to avoid preservatives. The collyrium date use being 2 months instead of 15 days. A scientific study, rigged and truncated, has been send first to a watch-center for pharmacology, then to hospitals and ophthalmologists. Afterwards, an anonymous letter was send to the Health General Office, along with the authentic scientific report which was in favour towards the product. The AFP learned from a close inquiry source that "it was probably a handling error".

Finally, electronic mails questioning the Abak bottles were send on December 13th and 20th 2005 to the Pharmaceutical Order and to the French Sanitary and Food Security Agency (AFSSA).

The Thea Laboratories which are subcontracting a large part of their production, employ 338 collaborators among which 140 in France. In 2005 the society made a turnover of 107,5 millions of euros, 60% in foreign countries.