

DIPLOMAT IS BRANDED A RED SPY

Alger Hiss - former High State Departmental official - is branded a Communist spy by an American jury, after a sensational trial. It began 18 months ago, when his accuser, Whittaker Chambers (self-confessed former Communist) testified before the Un-American Affairs Committee.

"Mr. Hiss represents the concealed enemy against which we are all fighting and I am fighting. I testify against him with remorse and pity."

On oath, Hiss contradicts the evidence of Chambers on almost every point. The 45-year-old Harvard-educated American names 34 prominent people, whose confidence he enjoyed. They include Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, State Secretaries Byrnes and Acheson. Says he:

"Ask them if they ever found anything except the highest adherence to duty and honour, then the committee and the public can judge whether to believe a self-discredited accuser, whose names and aliases are as casual as his accusations. The undocumented statements of the man who now calls himself Whittaker Chambers, is he a man of consistent reliability, truthfulness and honour? Clearly not. He admits it and the committee knows it."

At the first trial, the jury disagreed. At the second, it found Hiss guilty of perjury - a Communist spy.