

RCMP EYES ONLY

APPENDIX 5

David Moffat JOHNSON

On 14 October 1959 a self-confessed homosexual reported that from his conversations with other homosexuals and his observations of JOHNSON's habits and behavior he had no doubt that JOHNSON, who was at that time Canadian Ambassador in Moscow, U.S.S.R., was a homosexual. This information was immediately passed to the Department of External Affairs; however, that Department was of the opinion that the evidence against JOHNSON was too inconclusive to warrant recalling him from Moscow.

Further investigations among known homosexuals revealed that JOHNSON was known to have visited notorious homosexual meeting places in Montreal and New York, and London, England. In addition, a known homosexual reported that in 1956, just prior to JOHNSON's departure for Moscow, JOHNSON had attempted to "date" him.

In April 1960, in an interview with the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, JOHNSON admitted having had homosexual relationships during his service in the Canadian Army (1943 to 1945) but denied any such liaisons since being appointed Ambassador to the U.S.S.R. JOHNSON agreed to resign from the Department but instead was placed on loan to the United Nations Technical Assistance Board in Nigeria until his resignation on 6 September 1963.

On 28 October 1965 JOHNSON was interviewed by the RCMP but contributed nothing to our overall knowledge of events during his four and one-half years as Canadian Ambassador in Moscow. He appeared, however, to know a great deal more than he cared to admit.

While there is no evidence to indicate that JOHNSON was ever successfully homosexually compromised and recruited by the RIS, it is of interest to note that Anatoliy NIKITIN alias GROMOV, the KGB officer who controlled the British defectors BURGESS and McLEAN and who was involved in the homosexual compromising of JOHNSON's predecessor in Moscow, John Benjamin Clark WATKINS,¹ appears to have attempted² to talent spot and cultivate JOHNSON during his stay in Moscow. In addition, it was while JOHNSON was the Canadian Ambassador in Moscow that [REDACTED] (see APPENDIX 1) was compromised by the RIS.

¹See also APPENDIX 3.

²JOHNSON rebuffed NIKITIN's attempt by making NIKITIN unwelcome at the Canadian Embassy in Moscow.

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