

Government  
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## MEMORANDUM

## NOTE DE SERVICE

JSW/ds

TO  
A

S/Sgt. D. Smith

FROM  
DE

Insp. J.S. Warren

SUBJECT  
OBJETWATKINS Inquest

SECURITY-CLASSIFICATION-DE SECURITE

S E C R E T

OUR FILE - N/REFERENCE

YOUR FILE - V/REFERENCE

DATE

80-11-20

On 81-11-18 I met with Me Yves Fortier and Me Simon Potter concerning the WATKINS Inquest. While probably understandable, given the lapse of 17 years since the event, there are significant discrepancies emerging in the recollections of those involved or allegedly involved at the time and these discrepancies are causing counsel some concern. They would prefer to erase as many question marks as possible, not only in what they feel is the best interest of C/Supt. Brandes, whom they represent, but in the interest of the Force in the sense of putting this matter to rest once and for all.

The main areas of concern that have developed to this point are:

- (1) Who, if anyone, came to Montreal from Ottawa on 64-10-13?

C/Supt. Brandes claims, supported by the report he wrote at the time that D/Commr. Kelly (Rtd.), then DSI, came to Montreal on 64-10-13 and that he and D/Commr. Kelly rode back to Ottawa together on the police plane. D/Commr. Kelly would have spent about 6 hours all told in Montreal including visiting the scene of the death.

Mr. Kelly denies he went to Montreal. He has no recollection at all of visiting the scene and can see no reason why he would have. He is supported in this by the recollection of Commr. Higgitt (Rtd.) and the diary his wife keeps which contains no mention of a trip by him to Montreal on that date.

On 81-11-16, I drove Mr. Kelly to the Holiday Inn on Cote de Liesse, where the death occurred. The hotel is a very distinctive one and though there have perhaps been some structural and decorative changes in it since 1964, it should stick in the memory. Mr. Kelly is adamant that he

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has never been there before in his life. Based on my recent conversations with him in other matters, I would judge his memory to be excellent.

The log of the police plane for October 13, 1964 has been destroyed.

- (2) Which police officers from the Ville St. Laurent Police attended the scene?

C/Supt. Brandes report indicates that officers Vidal and Racette were first on the scene joined later by Officers P. Lemire and Bordeleaux. Vidal and Racette adamantly deny being present and it appears certain that Officer Bordeleaux had been replaced that evening by an Officer Martin. The Montreal police officers who do claim to recall the affair, differ significantly from C/Supt. Brandes in respect to how the body was discovered and its position in the room when they arrived. The doctor that C/Supt. Brandes report identifies as being on the scene, denies he attended this case.

The records of the Ville St. Laurent Police were destroyed at the time of amalgamation into the MUCP. C/Supt. Begalki (Rtd.), then Oi/c "B" Operations, Montreal, did contact the Ville St. Laurent Police after receiving a telephone call from the duty NCO, S/Sgt. J.A.Y. Lapoint. He has no recollection to whom he spoke or what he said beyond that contained in the two reports he wrote the following day.

- (3) How many members of the RCMP and who attended at the hotel on the night of the death?

In the present recollections of the Ville St. Laurent policemen involved, there were as many as 5 members of the RCMP present when they arrived on the scene. The report of C/Supt. Brandes identifies only Mr. Bennett and he present.

- (4) What disposition was made of WATKINS personal effects and by whom?

C/Supt. Brandes claims no knowledge of this, insisting it was all handled by the Ville St. Laurent Police Force. The police officers who attended the scene have no recol-

lection of luggage. Hugh Owen Clark, WATKINS cousin and next-of-kin, recalls that an envelope containing an amount of travellers cheques mysteriously arrived in the mail sometime after the death, without any note or explanation.

WATKINS Will, of which we have obtained a copy, indicates the estate was handled through Royal Trust. Did Royal Trust receive and dispose of his luggage, travellers cheques, money, plane ticket and passport? Was in fact his passport, possibly a diplomatic one, ever returned to External Affairs, and if so, when and by whom?

(5) Why was the body cremated and on whose instructions?

A copy of WATKINS Will has been obtained and contains no mention of cremation. There are two accounts of what happened to the funeral home records. The QPF claim their investigation shows they were all destroyed in a fire some years ago. Our investigator in Toronto claims they were stolen together with the safe they were contained in, from the home of the funeral director in Georgetown, Ont. some years ago.


(6) Who were the two men with WATKINS when he disembarked from the plane in Toronto 10 days or so before his death?

C/Supt. Brandes claims that within a few days of arriving in Montreal from London, WATKINS went off by himself to visit his relatives the Clark's, in Norval, Ont. C/Supt. Brandes and Mr. Bennett spent the 10 days or so while WATKINS was visiting, preparing themselves for the resumption of interviews. When testifying before the Inquest, the Clark's recalled that WATKINS seemed to disembark from the plane they met in Toronto, with two other men. Upon inquiring about them, WATKINS replied they were acquaintances who the Clark's wouldn't know.

(7) Did WATKINS see a doctor after his arrival in Canada?

The report of Mr. Bennett indicates that one of the main reasons WATKINS wanted to visit his cousins was so that he could consult a doctor. The Clark's testified before the Inquest that though WATKINS was obviously ill during

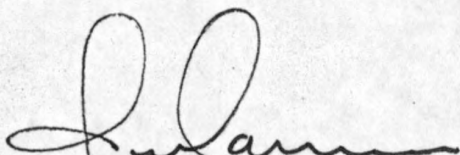


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his visit to them, to their knowledge he did not visit a doctor and it was very unlikely he could have done so without their knowledge.

Some of these questions may be resolved by interview by counsel of the members of the Force, including Mr. Jim Bennett, involved at the time. Others may require inquiry but we will have to be exceptionally careful on that score not to be seen to be attempting to intrude into the inquiry of the Coroner. I will discuss this with the Commissioner at the first opportunity.



J.S. Warren, Insp.,  
Officer i/c Task Force.

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