

## MEMORANDUM

## NOTE DE SERVICE

TO  
À

D.G.

FROM  
DE

D.D.G. (OPS.)

SUBJECT  
OBJETJohn Benjamin Clark Watkins - Death of  
64-10-12

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION DE SÉCURITÉ <b>TOP SECRET</b>
OUR FILE - N/REFERENCE
YOUR FILE - V/REFERENCE
DATE 81-04-23 176

At the request of Headquarters, Quebec Area Command have been carrying out some checks and interviews with respect to the death of Mr. Watkins. Requests were made to C/Supt. Robichaud and our liaison officer with the local police, Sgt. Berlingette, has been making verifications.

These requests were:

- to determine the procedures of the Coroner in 1964 in cases of this nature,
- to interview Mr. Marcel Gauthier, the individual who took the statement from the witness on behalf of the Coroner,
- to interview the police officer who went to the scene of the death to confirm that our members had identified themselves.

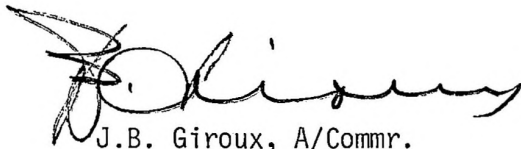
The attached message from Montreal covers the results of the work done in Montreal in this respect. The contents of that message were summarized to me over the telephone. I made note of the summary and as directed, I met the Solicitor General and Mr. S. LeDrew, his Executive Assistant and told them of the information I had received from Montreal.

The Minister was not certain that he would follow the advice not to make a statement in the House this afternoon. I pointed out to him that I felt it would be unwise to do so as the information we had uncovered should demonstrate some discrepancy with what is contained in C/Supt. Brandes' report of 64-10-14 addressed to former Commissioner Higgitt (then Supt.). I also told him that this discrepancy had to be confirmed and that I had recommended to you that someone should be appointed to investigate this matter. Furthermore, that he was going to meet with you this afternoon and that he could discuss that with you and a decision could be made on what course of action should be taken. In any case he should not make a public statement of any kind before this is confirmed except to say that he had asked the RCMP to forward all the details on this matter and that he was expecting the answer in a few days.

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SECURITY SERVICE  
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C/Supt. Robichaud told me on the telephone that the current Coroner, a Mr. Laniel, had asked for an investigation into this case yesterday, 81-04-22. The investigation was to be carried out by the Montreal City Police liaison officer to the Coroner's Office, Mr. Legault, who advised S/Sgt. Berlingette today, 81-04-23, that Mr. Laniel had cancelled his investigation.

Another option to finalize this matter would be to ask C/Supt. Brandes to closely examine Messrs. Lemire's and Martin's recollections of the event and give us his statement as to their truthfulness. C/Supt. Brandes could very well put the record straight once and for all.



J.B. Giroux, A/Commr.

DB given copy of Mtl - message.  
(Lemire/Martin recollections) told of the  
story - but has not read ~~message~~ memo.  
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