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M E M O R A N D U MTOP SECRET

81-09-29

TO: Officer i/c Task Force

FROM: S/Sgt. D.B. SMITH



RE: John Benjamin WATKINS
Inquest

The attached four files with master lists are my response to your request for material relevant to the upcoming WATKINS inquest.

These four volumes were extracted from thirty-four volumes of material which covered the R.C.M.P. investigation of WATKINS. Attached paper (tab #1) lists these files in detail.

I approached this review as a peace officer looking for material that would be useful and enlightening to inquest officials in their deliberations. However, as you will note there are a considerable number of documents that cannot be made public because of national security considerations.

To accomplish the above I extracted material showing the investigation was a legal and proper one for the R.C.M.P. to be investigating. Secondly, material showing the degree of involvement of the Department of External Affairs along with the Prime Minister's awareness of the investigation and in one instance his direction. Thirdly, material relating to WATKIN's health and finally the circumstances of his death.

Material from  Supp. A (one volume) has seventeen pieces of interest with ten being classified "NO OBJECTION" and seven classified "OBJECTION". File  Supp. A (Vols. 1-3) totalled ninety-four pieces of material with eighty-five being classified "OBJECTION" for various security reasons and ten being classified "NO OBJECTION".

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Upon examination you may feel I have erred or been too rigid on the "OBJECTION" side and I would be pleased to reconsider and reexamine any piece that causes either you or members of the Solicitor Generals staff difficulty.

The C/M i/c "J" Operations advises telecommunications material, if required, can be downgraded if the headings and endings are clipped. Additionally it may be possible, in some instances, to change an "OBJECTION" if names can be expunged.

Before I return to "B" Ops. I intend to review the files once more and attempt to chart the exact times the investigators interviewed WATKINS. From my first review it does not appear that the periods he was interviewed were excessive in length.

I could not uncover anything which showed the R.C.M.P. members had acted improperly or contrary to their "Terms of Reference".



D.B. SMITH, S/Sgt.,
NCO i/c International Obligations.

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R E V I E W

tab.
#1

<u>FILE NUMBER</u>	<u>CAPTION</u>
Nothing	<div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> (Vol. 1-3) <u>John Benjamin WATKINS</u> (General biographical data, social relations reports, Some material from <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div>) Nothing relevant to death.
Nothing *	<div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> (Vol. 1-6) <u>WATKINS, J.B.C.</u> <u>(Documents)</u> (Personal file material provided by DEA)
Some relevant material	<div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> (Correspondence related to WATKINS death)
Open Information	<div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> (Clippings on WATKINS death)
Relevant Material	<div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> (Vols. 1-8) <u>ROCKBOTTOM</u> (Case file on WATKINS investigation)
Nothing	<div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> (Vols. 1-3) <u>ROCKBOTTOM - DOCUMENTS</u> Picture P.M.'s visit to USSR, Oct. 1955, pictures of WATKINS friends, copies of various correspondence between WATKINS and friends.
Nothing	<div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> (Vols. 1-8) <u>ROCKBOTTOM - DOCUMENTS</u> <u>RECEIVED FROM DEA FILES</u> (Reports from WATKINS while abroad as Ambassador)
Nothing	<div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> (two wallets) <u>ROCKBOTTOM - BRIEFS</u> (Investigational material including documents used in final reports)
Nothing	<div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> (two wallets) <u>ROCKBOTTOM - FINAL REPORT</u> (Details of case from beginning.)

Files
on
Watkins

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