

RCMP EYES ONLY

APPENDIX 3

John Benjamin Clark WATKINS (Deceased)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. He told the story of John Benjamin Clark WATKINS, a Canadian Ambassador to the U.S.S.R., who had been a Russian Intelligence Service (RIS) target in 1951 and 1955 on the basis of possible homosexuality as well as believed pro-Soviet sympathies.

A lengthy and intensive research study of the records of the Department of External Affairs was begun in order to locate WATKINS' despatches for the periods he had served in the U.S.S.R. As a result of this study, together with [REDACTED] it was decided early in 1964 to interview WATKINS who had retired in July 1963 and was residing in France. Efforts were made in April 1964 by the Department of External Affairs to induce him to return to Canada for temporary duty with the Department. This would have made WATKINS available for interview by the RCMP in Canada in order to establish the truth of the allegations [REDACTED] This attempt failed.

[REDACTED] provided information to the effect that WATKINS had been recruited by the KGB in the U.S.S.R. on the basis of homosexual activity and that he provided the U.S.S.R. with much valuable information.

The combined information [REDACTED] together with additional information accumulated as a result of a painstaking investigation, resulted in a decision in August 1964 to proceed with an interview of WATKINS in France. The protracted interview which followed covered the period from 10 September to 12 October 1964 and took place in Paris, France, London, England and Montreal, Canada. The following account of WATKINS' homosexuality and involvement with the RIS is based largely on his own information.

From 1928 to 1930 WATKINS enjoyed a "true love" association with a minor who was a farm hand in the Ontario farming community which was WATKINS' home. WATKINS described this as his "only occasion of deep emotional involvement", and stated that "the rupture of this relationship due to the farm hand's marriage hurt". During the period 1930 to 1948 WATKINS' homosexual affairs were of a casual "pick-up" nature, as a result of cruising in parks, etc., with "persons of a lower intellectual status" whose names he rarely knew because of the fleeting nature of the association. Commenting on his service in Ottawa during this period, WATKINS stated, "I usually cruised the Driveway and the area round the Chateau Laurier - I used to take occasional walks with an eye for persons on park benches".

From 1948 to 1951 WATKINS served his first tour of duty in Moscow as Charge d'Affaires. He became acquainted with a Dr. Igor BOELZA of Moscow, a Russian intellectual, with whom he developed a

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firm friendship based on mutual intellectual interests such as musicology. Through BOELZA, WATKINS met other intellectuals and also resumed an old friendship with Vladimir and Grace KAZAKEVICH¹ whom he had known during his residence in the United States. It would seem likely that these persons were co-operating with the KGB and in one instance there were earmarks of KGB engineering when one of these intellectual acquaintances, Dr. Viktor KRYLOV,² attempted to have WATKINS defect and take up employment in the U.S.S.R., as a translator.

During this first tour of duty in the U.S.S.R., no evidence was obtained of any homosexual activity on WATKINS' part until he took a trip to Novosibirsk from 25 August to 4 September 1950. Evidence of WATKINS' faculty for picking up all types of odd persons was revealed at this time through his involvement with a vaudeville juggler and a soldier. Although WATKINS denied that any actual homosexual acts occurred, his homosexual inclinations were undoubtedly revealed to the KGB who presumably would have had him under surveillance and who would thus have gained factual information on which to assess him.

In late 1950 or early 1951 WATKINS became involved with "Volodya",³ the homosexual nephew of a person he had become acquainted with on his trip to Novosibirsk. WATKINS described the events of a particular evening in the following manner:

We had a meal together served by the woman. I drank very little on this occasion. Volodya took a number of vodkas, which was unusual for him ... We finished supper - had drinks with the meal. Then I got up from my chair and walked to the Christmas tree. Volodya left his chair and pressed himself against and embraced

¹Vladimir KAZAKEVICH was born in Leningrad in 1903. He entered the U.S.A. in 1921 and resided there until 1948 when he was forced to return to the U.S.S.R., because of an Un-American Activities Investigation of his Communist activity. [REDACTED] stated that KAZAKEVICH was a KGB agent.

²Dr. Viktor KRYLOV was born in 1908 in Kiev. During 1950-1951, his period of acquaintance with WATKINS, KRYLOV was Head of the Section of the Foreign Language Publishing House, in Moscow, responsible for publishing translations from foreign languages into Russian. [REDACTED], it is strongly suspected that KRYLOV is identical to a Colonel TACKHCHYANOV @ KARYEV, a high-ranking KGB officer; however, as photographs were not available, it was not possible to arrive at any firm conclusion.

³Not identical to the "Volodya" involved in the homosexual compromise of [REDACTED] dealt with in APPENDIX 2.

me. His penis was erect, and he then undid his trousers fly then I proceeded to masturbate him. This was a short process as the climax came very quickly due to his excited state. During the process I watched his face when he had the orgasm - he closed his eyes and looked ecstatic ... Volodya made no offer to masturbate me, and I did not want it anyhow. Without vodka Volodya would not have done it. He did not display any gratitude for the act nor give any thanks. The apartment was brightly lit.

WATKIN's brief homosexual affair with Volodya bears all the marks of a planned KGB operation. Volodya subsequently attempted to re-institute contact, but WATKINS was not interested.

WATKINS left the U.S.S.R. in March 1951 and from then until 1954 he served in Ottawa and in Oslo, Norway. According to WATKINS, his homosexual activities during this period were limited to transient affairs in parks with persons unknown to him. These were limited to masturbation, with WATKINS deriving his main satisfaction from "the live experiences for imaginative stimulation". There is no evidence of RIS pursuit of WATKINS during these postings.

WATKINS began his second tour of duty in the U.S.S.R. in March 1954 and left in April 1956. His position was that of Canadian Ambassador. The KGB, no doubt aware of WATKINS' homosexuality from his first tour of duty in the U.S.S.R., appear to have placed him under close scrutiny through his renewed association with Russian friends who were doubtless under KGB control, as well as through surveillance.

In the autumn of 1954 WATKINS made a trip to Central Asia where he became involved in homosexual relations with AKHUNDI, a Uzbek lyric poet, and with Kamal (last name unknown), a Sovkhoz worker. WATKINS himself surmised that his own lack of interest in women, which would have been readily apparent to AKHUNDI throughout the visit to Tashkent, may have led to an abortive homosexual effort in his hotel room which he described in the following terms:

I was standing up and he was standing behind me with erect penis - I was not aroused - by a sixth sense I knew what he was up to, and then he asked me to take my pants down on the bed. I took my pants down and got down on the bed and he tried to bugger me - I told him not to - that it would hurt - he went and wiped himself off.

A few days later WATKINS had homosexual relations with Kamal. This affair occurred while WATKINS was visiting a vineyard distillery with AKHUNDI. He had become involved in a drinking bout during which he passed out. He awoke in his hotel room lying undressed in bed with Kamal mopping his face with a wet cloth. WATKINS then motioned for Kamal to get into bed and they had homosexual relations.

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WATKINS returned from his Central Asian trip to his post in Moscow in October 1954. From this point on he became acquainted and deeply involved with more Russian nationals on the basis of mutual cultural interests. In December 1954 WATKINS developed a social friendship with a Madame Nina KRYMOVA whom he had originally met in 1951 through Vladimir KAZAKEVICH. Through KRYMOVA, WATKINS was then brought into direct contact in December 1954 with Anatoliy NIKITIN,¹ a high-ranking KGB officer. Shortly after WATKINS' meeting with NIKITIN, Kamal visited Moscow and renewed his homosexual relationship with WATKINS. In June or July 1955 Kamal again visited Moscow for a third encounter with WATKINS resulting in homosexual relations.

During this period (1954-1955), WATKINS was being cultivated at a fast rate by NIKITIN with discussions on foreign affairs and policies becoming standard procedure. By April 1955 NIKITIN had arranged for WATKINS to meet additional KGB personnel in the persons of Aleksey GORBUNOV² and Vladimir KONDRATOV.³ The use of these three senior KGB officers illustrates the magnitude of the efforts of the KGB to exploit WATKINS to the fullest possible extent. In WATKINS' many contacts with the three KGB officers, which were supposedly based on mutual cultural interests, discussions would invariably turn to more serious subjects. NIKITIN, GORBUNOV and KONDRATOV questioned WATKINS on such subjects as how foreign diplomats in Moscow reported to their governments; the relationship between Commonwealth Heads of Missions in Moscow; Western reaction to the idea of the Four Powers meeting at Geneva; foreigners' objections to conditions in the Soviet

¹Anatoliy NIKITIN @ GORSKI @ GROMOV - a career officer in the KGB. Since 1954 he has been used as a Resident Recruiter by the Second Chief Directorate of the KGB. NIKITIN's cover employment was provided as the Institute of History, Academy of Science, specializing in the history of U.S. foreign policy. NIKITIN had also controlled Donald MacLEAN and Guy BURGESS of the British Foreign office during his period of service with the Russian Embassy in London from 1936 to 1944. BURGESS and MacLEAN, both homosexuals, defected to the Soviet Union in 1951.

²Aleksey GORBUNOV @ GRIBANOV - from 1954 to 1961 Deputy Chief of the Second Chief Directorate of the KGB. His cover position was provided as a senior official of the Academy of History, Academy of Sciences; adviser to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Premier KHRUSHCHEV.

³Vladimir KONDRATOV - probably identical to Vladimir KONDRASHIN, a senior KGB officer responsible for operations against Commonwealth Missions in Moscow. His cover position was provided as a senior official of the Department of Agriculture in Moscow.

Union; and the question of German rearmament.¹ GORBUNOV also used WATKINS to obtain advance impressions which would aid the Russians in their discussions with Mr. PEARSON² (then Canadian Minister of External Affairs - scheduled to visit the U.S.S.R. in October 1955). In his dealings with these persons WATKINS' immediate use of the diminutives "Alyosha" and "Volodya" for GORBUNOV and KONDRATOV indicates that the relationship was established on a friendly and personal basis from the beginning.

In July 1955 a new personality, Boris (last name unknown), was introduced to WATKINS. Boris made three unsuccessful attempts to involve WATKINS in homosexual acts while both were holidaying in the Yalta area as GORBUNOV's guests. The KGB apparently felt they had not yet achieved the objective of full recruitment of WATKINS on the basis of homosexual compromise. In February 1956, shortly before WATKINS' return to Ottawa, the KGB attempted to reintroduce Kamal into the picture; however, WATKINS, being ill at the time, refused to see Kamal.

Throughout WATKINS' second tour of duty in the U.S.S.R., there is considerable evidence indicating that the KGB went to some trouble in seeing to it that his intellectual wants were satisfied through the provision of "friends" with mutual cultural interests. In this manner the KGB could also ensure that there would be little or no conflict between the fulfillment of these intellectual wants and his availability to the KGB in the persons of NIKITIN, GORBUNOV and KONDRATOV. It appears that the KGB used WATKINS both as a source of information and as an unofficial channel through which Soviet views on certain points could be made known to the Canadian Government. WATKINS himself admitted that he had been sufficiently naive not to doubt GORBUNOV's and NIKITIN's bona fides, and he agreed that GORBUNOV

¹WATKINS had an admitted distrust of the Germans and it is possible that the KGB were endeavouring to exploit this distrust.

²The topics covered by GORBUNOV in a private conversation with WATKINS in August 1955 were as follows:

1. Cultural and Scientific Exchanges - such exchanges would be beneficial.
2. Trade - general trade agreement.
3. Exchange of parliamentary delegations.
4. Technical exchanges.
5. Far Eastern Problem - Canada to assist in achieving relations; China's admission to U.N.

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could have manipulated his naivete and sincerity of views to Soviet advantage.

Just prior to leaving the Soviet Union, WATKINS met GORBUNOV at a Kremlin reception. GORBUNOV remarked to WATKINS that "people were talking". Although GORBUNOV did not amplify on this remark, WATKINS sensed that this was an allusion to the Kamal homosexual affair. WATKINS' explanation for sensing that this remark referred to the Kamal affair was to the effect that it was on his conscience, and he had anticipated for some time the possibility that the Soviet authorities would initiate some action to exploit this involvement. WATKINS agreed to meet GORBUNOV alone within the next few days.

As agreed, WATKINS met GORBUNOV at the latter's apartment at which time GORBUNOV presented him with a page-and-a-half dossier of his homosexual relations with Kamal. WATKINS accepted the factual nature of the Kamal affair. Then GORBUNOV, in a dramatic gesture of friendship, proceeded to tear up the dossier and made the request that WATKINS, in his new position as Assistant Under-Secretary of State in Ottawa, should "help poor CHUVAKHIN" (Soviet Ambassador to Canada). WATKINS' stated reaction was one of firm opposition and an expression indicating his readiness to be declared persona non grata rather than work for the Soviets. WATKINS claims that GORBUNOV did not press the issue and that if the Soviet authorities had attempted to blackmail him into operating on their behalf, i.e., passing secrets and betraying the Canadian Government in any way, he would have chosen suicide. In his subsequent interviews with RCMP investigators WATKINS continually repeated the statement "you can question my judgement but not my loyalty".

Nevertheless, upon his return to Ottawa in 1956 WATKINS, in his new position as Assistant Under-Secretary of State, had considerable contact with CHUVAKHIN. The degree of co-operation which he extended to CHUVAKHIN, if any beyond the normal call of his duties, does not appear to have been satisfactory from the Soviet viewpoint as CHUVAKHIN, in March 1957, relayed a letter and gift to WATKINS from GORBUNOV in Moscow. WATKINS claimed that the greetings from GORBUNOV implied a follow-up to the original request "to help poor old CHUVAKHIN". WATKINS denied that he had gone out of his way to aid CHUVAKHIN stating, "I resent any assumption that I should tell them something I would not have told them otherwise".

Following his service from 1956 to 1958 as Assistant Under-Secretary of State in Ottawa, WATKINS served from 1958 to 1960 as Canadian Ambassador to Denmark. During this period Vladimir TCHURANOV,¹

¹Identical to the CHURANOV mentioned in APPENDIX 4, p. 2 (VASSALL case).

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KGB Legal Resident with the Soviet Embassy in Copenhagen, made unsuccessful attempts to cultivate WATKINS and in April 1960, E. TARABRINE,¹ a senior KGB officer, visited Copenhagen and brought WATKINS another message from GORBUNOV. For WATKINS the message from GORBUNOV implied a reminder about the Kamal dossier. TARABRINE's visit was apparently another attempt to enlist WATKINS' co-operation.

During WATKINS' final posting in Ottawa from 1960 to 1963 three unsuccessful attempts were made by the KGB to continue contact with him. On this point WATKINS stated that his duties in Ottawa did not involve official contact with the Soviet-bloc Missions and he was opposed to such associations because of GORBUNOV's action in showing him the Kamal dossier with the subtle suggestion that he co-operate, and the subsequent reminders.

In conclusion, while it was found that the original information provided [redacted] was misleading, it can be said, on the basis of WATKINS' own admissions, RCMP investigation, in particular the clarification of his relationships with the Soviets as provided through a study of his Moscow despatches, and the information provided by [redacted] that there is little doubt WATKINS' homosexuality had precipitated a high priority and persistent KGB operation to promote his homosexual involvement with Soviet nationals and the use of this involvement as a lever to gain his co-operation.

The KGB were obviously successful in homosexually compromising WATKINS and subsequently bringing subtle pressure to bear on him. It would appear, however, that the KGB assessment of WATKINS was that a naked blackmail approach would likely lead to a complete loss of any form of co-operation and to exposure of the KGB operation with probable damage to Canadian/U.S.S.R. relations resulting.

From the KGB point of view the manipulation of WATKINS was a success, perhaps not to the extent they would have wished, but much more than they would ordinarily expect from a man of WATKINS' status. Although he was probably never recruited as an agent in the classical espionage sense WATKINS was apparently an "agent of influence" whose real value rested not so much in the information that he might have provided but rather in the channel he represented for disseminating ideas and information that the KGB, as an instrument of Soviet foreign policy, wished to put over.

¹At that time TARABRINE was Head of the Second Department (England and Scandinavia), First Chief Directorate, KGB. He had been MGB Legal Resident in Stockholm in 1950.

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