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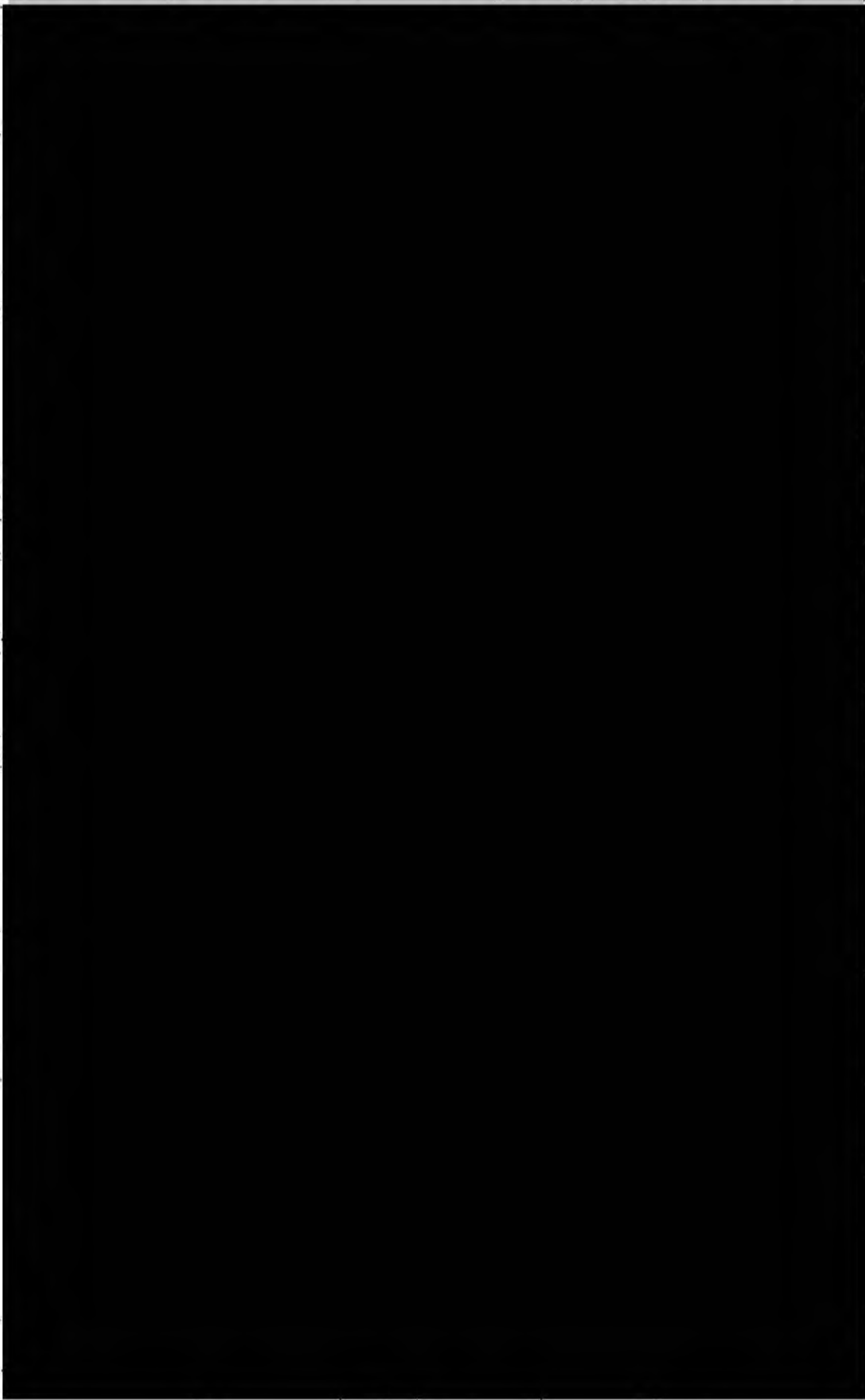
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CARDING DATE 17-2-64

TO: The D.S.I.

Re: John Benjamin Clark WATKINS



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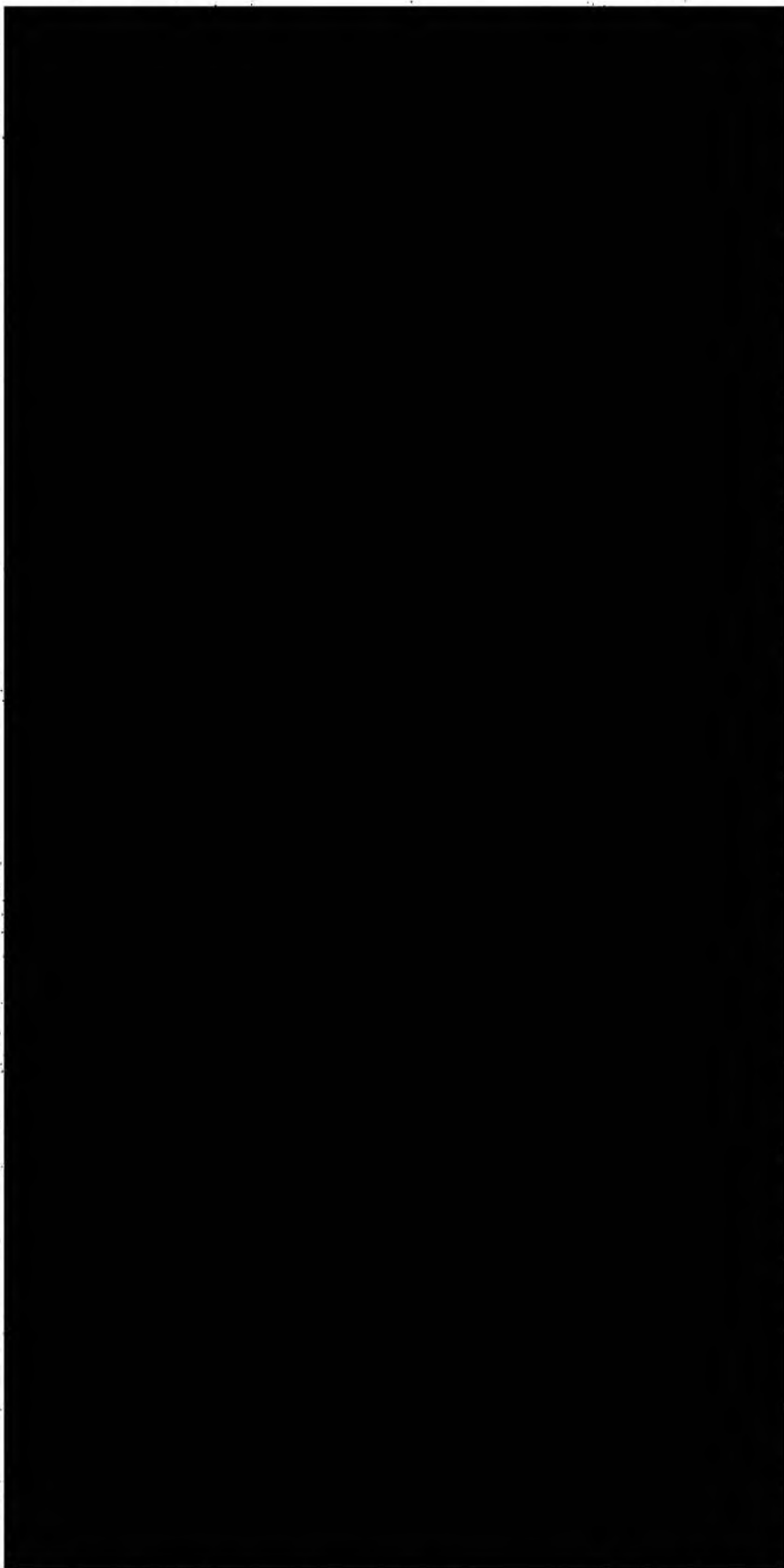
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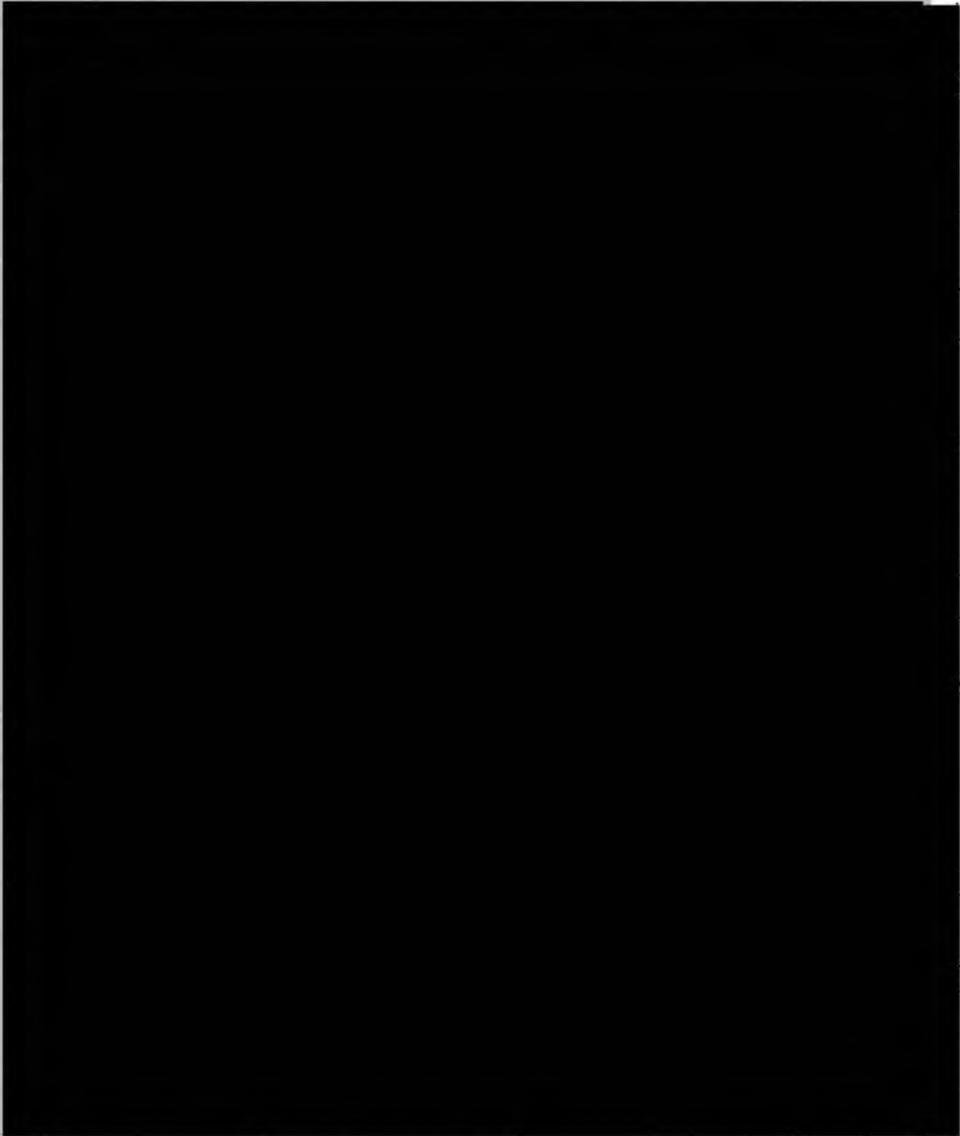
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SUMMARY
OTHER COLLATERAL:

- a) A most important additional fact turned up by research in External Affairs is that whilst Ambassador to Norway WATKINS visited Paris in December 1953 and met the then Minister of External Affairs (L.B. PEARSON). At that meeting he protested about his pending posting back to Moscow as Ambassador. He protested that this was not to his liking. (NOTE: He is a Russian speaker, a student of Soviet history and culture, a single male and was going to a senior Ambassadorial post).

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- b) We now have indisputable evidence that WATKINS was a practicing homosexual at least in 1956. His partner was a Dane of chance meeting who subsequently turned to criminal endeavours.
- c) Resigned from Dept. of External Affairs in February 1963 several years ahead of full service on grounds of ill health. Indicated he planned to spend four months in Europe. Has not returned. Believed to be based at Lennox Hotel in Paris.

CONCLUSIONS:

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3)

- 4) Posted to Oslo in 1952 - 54 (No follow-up knowledge).

- 5) Protested in December 1953 about re-posting to Moscow. If he had been successful in partially evading K.G.B. for last few years he was now facing a return to their direct pressures which would have been an unpleasant and unfortunate prospect.

- 6) Posted Moscow March 1954. Crimea meeting with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WATKINS could not have helped but know that his host was other than an ordinary senior civil servant.

- 7) WATKINS co-operated with K.G.B. and may still be under their control.

- 8) Luncheon meeting with [REDACTED] in April 1960 in Copenhagen [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WATKINS' claim to have forgotten [REDACTED] name is difficult to accept in view of his statement that he had often seen him in Moscow as "Chief of Protocol" - an ideal cover for meeting recruited diplomats.

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9) [REDACTED] probably resulted in WATKINS being warned of personal danger and early retirement followed with immediate exit from Canada. (NOTE: Pressure of homosexual investigations in External Affairs of which he would have knowledge may have been a contributing factor.)

10) Four month European holiday which has now extended to one year is in itself suspicious.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1) [REDACTED]

2) [REDACTED]

3) Re-examine possibilities of enticing WATKINS back to Canada perhaps by offer of short term government or academic task. (Risk he will defect if he becomes aware of real interest in him).

4) Restrict knowledge in External Affairs because of friendships that must exist.

5) Failing or in lieu of (3) approval to interrogate WATKINS in Paris.

6) Vigorous safe local research to continue i.e. External Affairs.

If the assumption that WATKINS has been a recruited K.G.B. agent operating for several years the resulting damage to the Western World will have been enormous and it is therefore a case that cannot be left too long unresolved. In addition to ourselves [REDACTED]

(W.L. Higgitt), Supt.,
Officer i/c "B" Branch

OTTAWA,
17-2-64.