

NOTES ON ROBERT WATSON

(Doubtful facts indicated thus : (?))

32 in 1964.

Born 1932.

BACKGROUND

South African-born (?). Educated at Bishop's; spent 1 year, possibly more as an Engineering student at Wits; went overseas, joined British Army, served in Cyprus(?) and Malaya for 2 - 3 years. Officer rank (Captain?), trained troops in paratroop activities and anti-guerilla demolition work. Injured a knee in some sporting activity for which he drew a disability pension - though no disability was ever apparent. Spent some time (1 year ?) on the staff of the British Military Attache in Washington. Either before or after leaving or joining the Army, worked for 1 year - 18 months underground in the gold mines on the Rand. Came to U.C.T. to do a B.A. in 1962, started a B.A. (Hons) in Anthropology in 1964. Parents - upper middle class, with connections in Scotland. Mother only (?) still alive and apparently well off.

PERSONALITY

Charming, easy talker, lies frequently, makes friends easily and maintains a wide circle of associates. Likes women, and holds a great fascination for most with whom he comes into contact - an advantage he does not hesitate to exploit. Known affairs in Cape Town with Lyn v. der Biet, Selena Moltenc. Other girl friends in different parts of the world. Wife (and child?), from whom divorced while at U.C.T., still in Scotland. (This story has never been verified, but probably true). Ambitious politically, and prepared to work with any organization that would accept him and give him a position of power. Tried to use his expertise re sabotage to gain such a position in F.C.L. Left when failed. His departure also due perhaps to women troubles vis-a-vis Leftwich (they loathe each other) and (per Leftwich) to Watson's lack of courage - he never actually committed an act of sabotage. Physically tough, wiry, medium build; great capacity for work, manual and mental. Enjoyed out-door work and exercise. Academic record mediocre, disappointing in relation to pretensions. Variouslly summed up by people who knew him as : a typical "authoritarian personality" (probably the best interpretation) neurotic, a psychopath with marked paranoid tendencies. Likes to be liked.

POLITICAL ATTITUDES - in general displayed a combination of humanitarian intentions and militaristic ruthlessness regarding means. Talked frequently about both economic and terroristic forms of sabotage, methods of interrogation and "ways of breaking a man". Took and kept possession of a 14-round revolver acquired for the organization, and seemed ready to use it on the slightest provocation. Never participated in pamphleteering, public meetings, or any other ordinary political activities, which he regarded with contempt. Pre-occupied with the nature, seizure and retention of power. Trusted none of his associates, nor they him.