

cluded. Israel, of course, must be a key negotiator. With American encouragement, it has already ruled out the option of Palestinian statehood. And, if the negotiations are confined to the nations in the immediate region, Israel has ample power to impose this condition.

Reasons for action and inaction

Therefore, unless there is strong pressure from the rest of the international community, the option of Palestinian statehood is clearly a non-starter. It thus matters very much to the Palestinians and other Arabs that countries such as Canada should support the demand for self-determination. Our protestation that we want to leave this elementary human right to negotiations is rightly seen as hypocritical and evasive. The Arabs suspect, moreover, that the real explanation of Canada's stand is pressure emanating from Washington and from our own pro-Israel lobby.

Canada's credibility and influence would increase if we joined the vast majority of nations that now support Palestinian self-determination. It would also help if Canada permitted higher level contacts with the PLO which, according to all public opinion poll in the West Bank and Gaza, speaks for over 90 percent of the Palestinian people. Even more important, we should join the large majority in the UN that insists that only the PLO can speak for the Palestinians in any negotiations for a Middle East settlement. The search for alternative spokesmen is disrespectful to the Palestinian nation. It is also futile. A treaty not negotiated and signed by the PLO would be a certain recipe for continued unrest. Only if permitted self-determination, including the right to designate their own negotiators, can we expect the Palestinians to become good neighbors and constructive members of the international community. □

Review Article

John Watkins: diplomat & writer

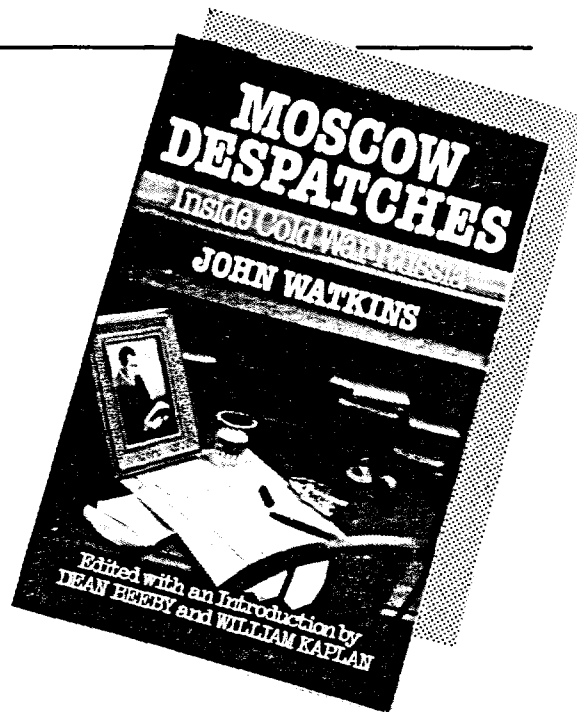
Fallen among Pharisees

by Bert Hart

Moscow Despatches: Inside Cold War Russia: John Watkins edited by Dean Beeby and William Kaplan. Toronto: James Lorimer & Company, 1987, 150 pages, \$22.95.

This slight book is about the entrapment of John Watkins, a senior Canadian diplomat, by the Soviet KGB (Committee, or more accurately, Ministry of State Security). John Watkins served in Moscow as chargé d'affaires at the Canadian Embassy from September 1948 to March 1951. He returned to Moscow as Canadian Ambassador in March 1954 for a second tour of duty which lasted until April 1956.

The editors of the book, Dean Beeby and William Kaplan, follow the novel procedure of presenting their theme through a carefully selected and fragmented collection of the dispatches and letters which Watkins sent to Ottawa from Moscow. To assist the reader in finding the right path through what might otherwise seem like a puzzling maze, the editors provide some guidance in an introduction of twenty pages or so. They include biographical details of Watkins's life and career and, in line with their primary concern with his entrapment, they refer to the KGB connections of his Soviet contacts. There is some necessary background information on Soviet history, on Soviet-Canadian relations and on East-West relations. Throughout the collection other brief observations are inserted to place the documents in the context of events and to indicate their relevance to the main theme.



During his first period in Moscow the Stalinist ice age still prevailed and, as he acknowledges in one of his reports, Watkins's social and professional contacts were very limited. The editors include only several letters from this period in the collection. In contrast, the coverage of the second period brings together a number of quite interesting communications on Soviet affairs and on Watkins's conversations with his Soviet contacts and with people he met on his trips to various parts of the Soviet Union. Even so, one feels disappointed that many more items from both periods were not included in the book.

The editors make it quite clear that they wish Watkins's account of his trip to Central Asia in the autumn of 1954 to be considered as the heart of the collection of documents. It was, they say, during this tour that Watkins let down his guard and, if we read carefully with their guidance, we will be able to detect in the dispatches and letters from that point forward the emergence of a secret police operation of Byzantine proportions against a foreign diplomat. This suggests an appropriate blurb for the book: If you are becoming bored with the current hothouse crop of pseudo-documentaries on espionage try this one for size. It is