February 09, 1944
Federal Bureau of Investigation Report on Activities of Mikhail Konstantin Kalatozov

Citation:
http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/134026

Summary:
Report on contacts made by Soviet film director Mikhail Kalatozov with Soviet embassy officials and members of the American film industry.

Original Language:
English

Contents:
- Scan of Original Document
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES  2/9/44
Date When Made  11/3/43; 12/1/43;
PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE  6/9,17,21,23,29,30/43
1/3-8,17-20,26/44
REPORT MADE BY GIF

TITLE (CHANGED)
MIKHAIL, Konstantin, KALATOZOV, with aliases:
MIKHAIL, Konstantin-Kolotsov, Mikhail Kolotsoff,
Mikhail Kolotsov, Mikhail Kolotsov.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS
Subject in continuing contact with Soviet Vice Consul,
GREGORI KHEIFETS, San Francisco, and Soviet Consular
officials, Los Angeles. Motion pictures of subject
obtained. Spot surveillance indicate film contacts,
Los Angeles, and close association of subject with
of Arkino Pictures, Incorporated, New York. Results of bank account review,
mail cover, toll calls and telegrams set out.

P

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent
Los Angeles, November 22, 1943.

DETAILS: b7C

The title of this case is being marked changed in order to set
out the fact that the currently used and accepted spelling of subject's name
is MIKHAIL, Konstantin, KALATOZOV.

This is a joint report of Special Agent______ and
the writer.

A surveillance conducted on GREGORI, KHEIFETS while he was in Los
Angeles, reflected that on the day of his arrival, January 9, 1944, KHEIFETS
met with a woman who is believed to be _______ while in the Russian Con-
sulate. When he left sometime later in the company of
Assistant Vice Consul, this woman was seen in the car with KHEIFETS and
The car, driven by _______ stopped at the KALATOZOV home and the woman left
the car. KHEIFETS did not enter the KALATOZOV home, but proceeded with

b7C

Bureau
Los Angeles
COPY IN FILE

b7C
The second contact between KHEIFETS and KALATOZOV, or members of his household, was on January 11, 1944, when KALATOZOV and KHEIFETS were seen to be at the Russian Consulate at the same time for a period of approximately one hour.

On January 12, 1944 KHEIFETS spent about three hours in the evening at KALATOZOV's home and at this time Artkino Pictures, Incorporated, 723 Seventh Avenue, New York, was noted to be present. At the end of the three hour period, and KHEIFETS left the KALATOZOV residence together in a car driven by

The last contact between KHEIFETS and KALATOZOV was for approximately one hour on the afternoon of January 14, 1944.

It is possible that the reason for these contacts is subject's capacity as a representative of the U.S.S.R. in the film industry; however, investigation is continuing to determine whether there is any other reason for these contacts.

Moving pictures of the subject and his interpreter were made possible through the cooperation of and these motion pictures are being retained in the files of the Los Angeles Field Division for future identification purposes.

Spot surveillances indicate that KALATOZOV spends the largest part of his time contacting various film studios in and about Los Angeles. He has been seen to visit the following studios: Consolidated Films, Inc., RKO, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and Warner Brothers. Surveillances of the subject also indicate his close association with of Artkino Pictures Incorporated, during his stay in Los Angeles. has been seen to visit the KALATOZOV home on many occasions, and together with the subject and his secretary frequently arrange for film showings at the above mentioned studios.

On December 17, 1943, the date of KALATOZOV's return to Los Angeles, he was met at the train by his secretary, believed to be an acquaintance of . were in subject's car, and en route to subject's home was let out of the car at Glendale Boulevard and Baxter Avenue, Los Angeles.

is described as 5' 2", 125 pounds, age black, unruly hair, dark eyes, gray-black mustache, dark complexion.
Information received from indicates that is an associate of subject's interpreter, and he was merely in company with her, which fact caused his meeting KAIATOV. It has been noted through this same source that frequently visits at the KAIATOV residence.

made possible a review of the bank accounts of the subject. A review of subject's account reflected that it was opened January 15, 1944 with a $250.00 cash deposit. Since that time checks have been written to the following people:

- Sydney's, Ltd. $20.00 (a clothing company, 708 North Broadway, Los Angeles)
- Foothill Patrol 10.00 (a private watchman agency which does patrol work in the area in which subject's home is located).
- 26.07
- 20.00
- 50.00.

Other checks were written to service organizations such as the gas company, telephone company, etc. On January 25, 1944 the balance in this account was $10.44.

advised that the subject and his master have indicated that deposits will be in the form of checks and telegrams which will emanate from Moscow, Russia, and be sent directly to the bank in subject's name. Subject also advised that one should arrive very soon, although stated no such deposit had been received at the time of the interview.
that her father's name was [redacted] and her mother's name was [redacted]

Investigation will continue regarding these two accounts and further activity will be reported.

The following are the results of a mail cover on all mail received at the residence of the subject:

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Culver City (infrequently)
Soviet Cinema Committee of the U.S.S.R., 210 Madison Avenue, New York City
D. C. Heath and Company, 285 Columbus Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts.

Letter to: [redacted]

It is believed that due to the small amount of traffic in communications received directly at the residence of the subject, much of his mail comes to him via the Russian Consulate and is probably received there via the diplomatic pouch.

A review of the toll calls made from the telephone of subject indicates that he is in contact with the United States Government War Department, United States Army First Motion Picture Unit, Army Air Force, 8322 Washington Boulevard, Culver City. This source also indicates contact with the following individuals:

A review of telegrams sent and received by the subject indicates that his telegram traffic is concerning the position he holds as a film representative of the U.S.S.R., and the greater portion of this traffic is between the subject and other people in the same industry and is of a commercial type.

A highly confidential source made available the following information. A carbon copy of a letter evidently written by one [redacted] indicated the following:

- [redacted]
This source further indicated that mentioned above, has on the wall of his office a picture approximately 10 x 13 inches, evidently taken at the above mentioned reception for KAIATOZOV which picture shows the subject and his wife in company with ROBINSON, also and two unidentified individuals.

Investigation has disclosed that was the prior owner of the subject's present automobile and that sold this automobile to a dealer in Glendale from whom subject purchased the car. No indication has been received that the subject has any connection with

[Blank]

has given the following information:

[Blank] who has been identified as the subject's secretary, is at present staying in subject's home and it is to be noted that upon his arrival in Los Angeles, KAIATOZOV and his wife had a third party with them, who is believed to be [Blank] used the names interchangeably as is the foreign version of the American name

This source indicates contact between the subject and one BERTOLD BRECHT of Santa Monica, who is a German alien, and also a known Communist writer of revolutionary poetry and plays. Information in this office indicates that BRECHT was a successful Communist writer in Berlin. At about the time HITLER came to power, BRECHT left Germany and he came to the United States after spending sometime in two of the Scandinavian countries and the Soviet Union. He is the co-author of a recent movie entitled "Hangmen Also Die". 

- 5 -
This source indicates an anticipated meeting between subject
and one BORIS MORROB, motion picture producer in Los Angeles. It is bel-
lieved that this meeting will be regarding the production of some future
films, however, efforts will be made to ascertain the purpose of the meet-
ing.

CHARLES CHAPLIN and [xxx] are in contact both
telephonically and personally with the subject and members of his house-
hold, according to this informant.
LA 100-19404

UNDEVELOPED LEADS: THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

AT LOS ANGELES

Will have the names in this report searched through the indices and report in a subsequent report any pertinent data obtained through the Los Angeles files.

Will attempt to develop further information regarding the subject's contacts with people prominent in the motion picture industry in and about Los Angeles.
UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION:

At Los Angeles, California will attempt to examine subject's personal effects.

Will develop further information on motion picture contacts of subject regarding his interest in propaganda for the U.S.S.R.

Will attempt to obtain a confidential informant in the movie industry through which subject's contacts in the industry can be more completely covered.
On March 14, 1944, during a visit to Los Angeles, HEIFETS, Vice Consul for U.S.S.R., San Francisco, met subject at the Russian Consulate in Los Angeles and during the time both were at the Consulate subject and HEIFETS were observed to walk back and forth outside behind the Russian Consulate for a period of approximately twenty minutes, apparently deep in conversation.

Also during a visit of HEIFETS on March 17, 1944, he walked from the Russian Consulate to KALATOZOV's home at 4744 Los Feliz, which is approximately one and one-half blocks from the Consulate, and spent one-half hour from 4:45 P.M. to 5:15 P.M. in KALATOZOV's house. At 5:15 P.M. he returned to the Consulate and after remaining there one-half hour he walked back to KALATOZOV's a second time and spent from 5:45 P.M. until 7:45 P.M. on this date at the KALATOZOV residence.

It appears from information obtained through HEIFETS that KALATOZOV is acquainted with some of the prominent motion picture personnel in Los Angeles, for example, CHARLES CHAPLIN. It also appears that HEIFETS in his contacts with the subject makes himself current on the status of pictures in which the Russian Government is interested and which are produced in this country. Confidential National Defense Informant in this connection reflects that KALATOZOV and his household personnel are interested in the following seven pictures:

- They Shall Have Music
- No Greater Love
- The Russian People
- Ninotchka
- Tovarisch
- Battle for the Ukraine
- Earl of Chicago

Through a confidential source additional motion pictures of the subject have been obtained and are in the files of the Los Angeles Field Division.

Spot surveillances of subject KALATOZOV who generally travels with his interpreter, indicate that he is in continued contact with various film studios in Los Angeles and with producer and acting personnel of these various studios. In this connection Confidential National Defense Informant indicates that these contacts are in connection with subject's reviewing pictures produced in this country such as those set out above, in which the Russian Government has shown an interest. As an example of the above this source indicates that KALATOZOV has repeatedly requested the Cinema Committee in Moscow to advise regarding the purchase of four pictures produced by SAMUEL GOLDWYN in the United States at a price of $125,000. This source indicates
that the Russian Government purchases these films for use in Russia, and
KALATOZOV with his interpreter act as the representatives for these purchases.

A review of the subject's bank account reflects that on
February 26, 1944, a second cable from the Soviet Union International Organiza-
tion of KINO, which means the "Motion Picture Industry of U.S.S.R.", in the
amount of [amount]. This deposit brought the subject's balance as of
[balance].

The following activity was noted from February 25
trough March 22 in this account:

A check for [amount] made in Los Angeles, which is
evidently in payment for a purchase made.

A check for [amount] endorsed by [endorser], whose identity is set out in reference report.

A check for [amount] for Motor Vehicle Bureau of California, which is evidently in payment of registration on subject's automobile.

A check for [amount] endorsed by her, which is
evidently salary payment to [recipient]'s subject's interpreter.

A check for [amount] endorsed by the U. P. Railroad
which a confidential source advises was in payment of the fare for [recipient] to New York when he left Los Angeles.

A check for [amount] made in Los Angeles, which is possibly in payment for recording work done by this company for the
subject in line of his official business.

A check for [amount] made in Los Angeles, whose identity
is not known. An [name] is listed in the Los Angeles Telephone Directory
as a [occupation]. In view of the above which indicates that this is probably in payment for dental work done on the subject, no
further investigation will be conducted unless he appears again and
seems to get regular payments from subject KALATOZOV.

The bank account of [account holder] was
also reviewed and it reflected that she has a current [date]. However, no pertinent activity was noted in this account during this period.

A review of mail cover, telephone toll calls, and telegrams
reflects the following names, which names are being listed in anticipation of
future contacts by subject with these individuals. However, these sources have
reflected nothing in addition to the names:

-3-
It is noted that subject's interpreter and her husband, who are renting and moved into an apartment at which surveillance reflects is in the same building with the above and is an acquaintance of

Tasteck Film Distributing Company, 1907 South Vernon Avenue

apparently

The indices of the Los Angeles Field Division will be checked and any pertinent data regarding the above people in the indices of this office will be reported in a future report.

Confidential National Defense Informant reflects that the subject has been in contact with JASCHA HEIFETZ, prominent violinist, with regard to his appearance on a program which was put on on the 12th of February at 11:00 A.M. over the radio, in which program the subject was interested. He requested HEIFETZ to appear on this program as a representative of Soviet culture. However, HEIFETZ declined to commit himself and later refused to accept this on the basis of prior commitments.

Reference report indicates that there was an anticipated meeting between the subject and one BORIS MORROS, motion picture producer in Los Angeles, and since that time this source has indicated that the subject of the anticipated meeting between BORIS MORROS and KALATOZOV was the purchase of a film entitled "The Russian People" by BORIS MORROS. This informant now advises that BORIS MORROS has purchased this film for his use as a producer.

mentioned in reference report as secretary to subject, and who has been living at his home, left Los Angeles bound for New York City and this information was made available by Source. The New York Office was advised of this information and also that the informant indicates contemplates no return to Los Angeles.
Information was received to the effect that learned the English language and that part of her education was received at the University of Moscow.

This source reflects that subject KALATZOV sent two wires to c/o Cinema Committee, Moscow, regarding the purchase of four pictures from SAMUEL GOLDWYN at a price of $125,000. Additional telegram traffic made available through this source indicates that no definite acceptance has been made to this point. However, has advised that they are definitely interested in three of these four pictures and are ready to pay approximately $100,000 for these.

PENDING