April 15, 1944
Federal Bureau of Investigation Report on Activities of Mikhail Konstantin Kalatozov

Citation:

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

Mikhail Konstantin Kalatozov, w. a. a.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:
Subject observed in conversation with Soviet Vice Consul of San Francisco, Gregori Kheifetz, at rear of Russian Consulate, Los Angeles, on 3/14/44 for period of 20 minutes. Subject also visited by Kheifetz at his home, 4744 Los Feliz, on 3/17/44 for total of 2 1/2 hours. Additional motion pictures of subject obtained. Spot surveillances indicate continued contact with film studios and motion picture personnel, Los Angeles. Bank account reviewed, which reflects subject's source of income to be Soviet Union International Organization of KINO, which means "Motion Picture Industry of USSR," $1750 received by subject via cable from above organization a second time on 2/26. Review of mail cover, telephone toll calls, and telegrams set out. Contact between subject and Jascha Heifetz, internationally known violinist, on radio program in interest of Russia. Interpreter of subject, is graduate of University of Moscow. Telegram traffic to Russia reflected re purchase by Russia of motion pictures produced in USA.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent
Los Angeles, California

DETAILS: AT LOS ANGELES

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED: Special Agent

RECORD: 4/9/44

INDEXED: 5/5
On March 14, 1944, during a visit to Los Angeles, GRIGORI
KHEIFETS, 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 KHEIFETS were observed to walk back and forth outside behind the Russian
Consulate for a period of approximately twenty minutes, apparently deep in con-
versation.

Also during a visit of KHEIFETS 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 re-
turned to the Consulate and after remaining there one-half hour he walked back
KALATOZOV's a second time and spent from 5:45 P.M. until 7:15 P.M. on this
date at the KALATOZOV residence.

It appears from information obtained through[ ] that
KHEIFETS is acquainted with some of the prominent motion picture personnel in
Los Angeles, for example, CHARLES CHAPLIN. It also appears that KHEIFETS 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 fol-
lowing 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 Organization of KINO, which means the "Motion Picture Industry of U.S.S.R.", in the amount of $_________________ This deposit brought the subject's balance as of ____________________________ The following activity was noted from February 25 through March 22 in this account:

A check for ______________ Los Angeles, which is evidently in payment for a purchase made.

A check for ________________ endorsed by ____________________________ whose identity is set out in reference report.

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

A check for ________________ endorsed by her, which is evidently salary payment to ______________ subject's interpreter.

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

A check for ______________ 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 ______________ Los Angeles, whose identity is not known. An ______________ is listed in the Los Angeles Telephone Directory as a ______________ 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 ______________ was also reviewed and it reflected that she has a current ______________ 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:

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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.
LA 100-19404

Information was received to the effect that [redacted] learned the English language and that part of her education was received at the University of Moscow.

This source reflects that subject KALATOZOV sent two wires to [redacted] 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, [redacted] has advised that they are definitely interested in three of these four pictures and are ready to pay approximately $100,000 for these.

PENDING