

**February 9, 1944**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation Report on Activities  
of Mikhail Konstantin Kalatozov**

**Citation:**

"Federal Bureau of Investigation Report on Activities of Mikhail Konstantin Kalatozov", February 9, 1944, Wilson Center Digital Archive, FOIA release. Obtained and contributed by Val Golovskoy. <https://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:**

Original Scan

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**FILE NO. **100-19404**

REPORT MADE AT

**LOS ANGELES**

DATE WHEN MADE

**2/9/44**

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE

**11/23,25; 12/1-3,  
6 9,17,21,24,29,30/43  
1/3-8,17-20,26/44**

REPORT MADE BY

**GIF**

TITLE (CHANGED)

**MIKHAIL KONSTANTIN KALATOZOV, with aliases:  
Mikhail Konstantin Kolotosov, Mikhail Kolotosoff,  
Mickael Kolotosov, Mikhail Colotosov.**CHARACTER OF CASE  
**SECURITY MATTER (R)**

b7C

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 surveillances indicate film contacts, Los Angeles, and close association of subject with [redacted] of Artkino Pictures, Incorporated, New York. Results of bank account review, mail cover, toll calls and telegrams set out.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted]  
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 [redacted] and the writer.

b7C

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 a woman who is believed to be [redacted] while in the Russian Consulate. When he left sometime later in the company of [redacted] assistant Vice Consul, this woman was seen in the car with KHEIFETS and [redacted]. The car, driven by [redacted] stopped at the KALATOZOV home and the woman left the car. KHEIFETS did not enter the KALATOZOV home, but proceeded with [redacted].

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES DESTROYED

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

5 Bureau

3 Los Angeles

COPY IN FILE

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/11/01 BY 60321/UC

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 [redacted] Artkino Pictures, Incorporated, 723 Seventh Avenue, New York, was noted to be present. At the end of the three hour period, [redacted] and KHEIFETS left the KALATOZOV residence together in a car driven by [redacted]

b7C

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, [redacted] were made possible through the cooperation of [redacted] and these motion pictures are being retained in the files of the Los Angeles Field Division for future identification purposes.

b2

b7D

b7C

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 [redacted] of Artkino Pictures Incorporated, during his stay in Los Angeles. [redacted] has been seen to visit the KALATOZOV home on many occasions, and [redacted] 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, [redacted] believed to be an acquaintance of [redacted] were in subject's car, and en route to subject's home [redacted] was let out of the car at Glendale Boulevard and Baxter Avenue, Los Angeles.

[redacted] is described as 5' 2", 125 pounds, age [redacted] black, unruly hair, dark eyes, gray-black mustache, dark complexion.

b2

b7C

b7D

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 KALATOZOV. It has been noted through this same source that [ ] frequently visits [ ] at the KALATOZOV residence.

[ ] of the Bank of America, 1776 [ ] 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 \$480.00 cash deposit. Since that time checks have been written to the following people:

b7C

b7C

[ ]  
Sydney's, Ltd.

\$220.00

20.20 (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

[ ] and [ ] is Russian born)

[ ] 40.00.

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.

b7C

b7D

[ ] advised that the subject and his interpreter have indicated that deposits will be in the form of cablegrams 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.

b7C

that her father's name was [ ] and her mother's name was [ ]

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.

b7C

Letter to [ ]

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, 8822 Washington Boulevard, Culver City. This source also indicates contact with the following individuals:

b7C

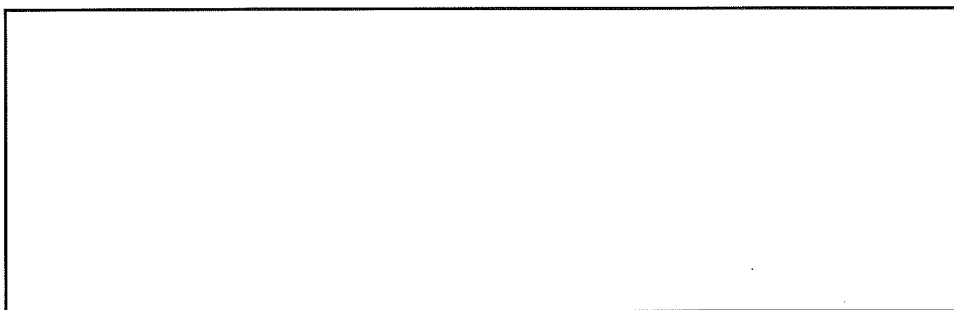
b7D

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 [ ]

[ ] indicated the following:

b7D



[redacted] (at this point the letter was evidently continued on a separate sheet of paper which was not available through this source.)

This source further indicated that [redacted] mentioned above, has on the wall of his office a picture approximately 14 x 18 inches, evidently taken at the above mentioned reception for KALATOZOV which picture shows the subject and his wife in company with [redacted] EDWARD G. ROBINSON, also [redacted] and two unidentified individuals.

b7C

Investigation has disclosed that [redacted] was the prior owner of the subject's present automobile and that [redacted] 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 [redacted]

b2

[redacted] has given the following information: b7D

b7C

[redacted] 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, KALATOZOV and his wife had a third party with them, who is believed to be [redacted] [redacted] uses the names [redacted] interchangeably as [redacted] is the foreign version of the American name [redacted]

This source indicates contact between the subject and one BERTHOLD 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".

This source indicates an anticipated meeting between subject and one BORIS MORROS, motion picture producer in Los Angeles. It is believed that this meeting will be regarding the production of some future film, however, efforts will be made to ascertain the purpose of the meeting.

b7C

CHARLES ~~CHAPLIN~~ and [ ] are in contact both telephonically and personally with the subject and members of his household, according to this informant.

- P E N D I N G -

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:

b2

## THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION:

b7D

\*At Los Angeles, California will, through assistance of  
Confidential National Defense Informant [ ] 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.

LA 100-19404

On March 14, 1944, during a visit to Los Angeles GREGORI 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 conversation.

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 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 [ ] 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 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

LA 100-19404

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 [redacted] This deposit brought the subject's balance as of [redacted] The following activity was noted from February 25 through March 22 in this account:

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

b7C

b7D

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

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

b7C

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

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

A check for [redacted] 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 [redacted] Los Angeles, whose identity is not known. An [redacted] is listed in the Los Angeles Telephone Directory as a [redacted] 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 on [redacted] unless he appears again and seems to get regular payments from subject KALATOZOV.

b7C

b7D

The bank account of [redacted] was also reviewed and it reflected that she has a current [redacted] 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:

LA 100-19404

[redacted]  
[redacted] (It is noted that subject's  
interpreter and her husband, [redacted] rented and  
moved into an apartment at [redacted] which sur-  
veillance reflects is in the same building with the above  
and [redacted] is an acquaintance of [redacted]  
Tazteca Film Distributing Company, 1907 South Vernon Avenue  
[redacted] who is  
apparently [redacted]

b7C

[redacted]  
Albert Essig Company, Advertising, 1121 South Hill St., R. 800  
H. W. Houston Company, 11801 West Olympic, West Los Angeles

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.

b2

Confidential National Defense Informant [redacted] 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 ad-  
vises that BORIS MORROS has purchased this film for his use as a producer.

b2

b7C

[redacted], 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 [redacted]  
The New York Office was advised of this information and also that the informant  
indicates [redacted] 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.

b7C

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.

P E N D I N G