

April 15, 1944

**Federal Bureau of Investigation Report on Activities
of Mikhail Konstantin Kalatozov**

Citation:

"Federal Bureau of Investigation Report on Activities of Mikhail Konstantin Kalatozov", April 15, 1944, Wilson Center Digital Archive, FOIA release. Obtained and contributed by Val Golovskoy. <https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/134028>

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**

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|---|----------------------------------|---|--|-----------|
| REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES | DATE WHEN MADE 4/15/44 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/10-12, 3/1, 4, 5-11, 12-18, 19-21, 23-25, 27/44 | REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div> | RW |
| TITLE MIKHAIL KONSTANTIN KALATOZOV, w.as. | | | CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER (R) | |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject observed in conversation with Soviet Vice Consul of San Francisco, GREGORI KHEIFETS, at rear of Russian Consulate, Los Angeles, on 3/14/44 for period of 20 minutes. Subject also visited by KHEIFETS 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, re 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.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/16/87 BY SP-10/BJM

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ADDITIONAL INDEX 8

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REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent 2/9/44, Los Angeles, California.

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DETAILS:

AT LOS ANGELES

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|---|---|---|---------------------------------|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 30px;"></div> | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE WVA 3 2 11 6/44 | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100-249539-4 | RECORDED & INDEXED 51 |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 3 Los Angeles | | 19 APR 22 1944 | |

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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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] in this connection reflects that KALATOZOV and his household personnel are interested in the following seven pictures:

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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, [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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

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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.

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

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

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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.

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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:

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[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]

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[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.

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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.

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[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.

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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.

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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