

October 23, 1944
**Federal Bureau of Investigation Report on Activities
of Mikhail Konstantin Kalatozov**

Citation:

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Summary:

Report on the conclusion of Soviet film director Mikhail Kalatozov's trip to the United States and various negotiations with American film companies.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

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ON 08-11-2004

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

FILE NO. 100-19404

SECRET

- Mr. Tolson.....
- Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
- Mr. Clegg.....
- Mr. Coffey.....
- Mr. Glavin.....
- Mr. Ladd.....
- Mr. Nichols.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
- Mr. Tracy.....

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 10/23/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/17-10/13/44	REPORT MADE BY [Redacted]
TITLE MIKHAIL KONSTANTIN KALATOZOV, with aliases		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (R)	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
REFER 5 IS

CLASSIFIED BY 2553c/aw
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X

MIKHAIL KALATOZOV and [Redacted] returned from New York on September 20, 1944. KALATOZOV received a cable from Moscow instructing him to proceed there by airplane. KALATOZOV has recently completed negotiations with M-G-M for the purchase of two pictures and is negotiating with Walt Disney Studios at the present time. KALATOZOV has been in contact with BORIS MORROS and reportedly met him on October 6, 1944. Plans under way to form a distributorship for Russian pictures between Soviet motion picture combine and RKO Studios. KALATOZOV continues to maintain contact with persons of left wing tendencies throughout Hollywood. Information received that KALATOZOV will depart from the United States for Russia on or about October 25, 1944. No indication that he will be succeeded by another Russian motion picture representative.

ADDITIONAL INDEXING

- P -

REFERENCE:

- Report of Special Agent [Redacted] Los Angeles, August 23, 1944.
- Bureau letter, September 11, 1944.
- Teletype to Bureau, September 20, 1944 in the case entitled "Comintern Apparatus, Internal Security (R)"
- New York teletype to Bureau, Chicago and Los Angeles, September 16, 1944 - "Comrap"

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
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DETAILS:

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:

Referenced teletype from New York advised that on September 16, 1944 MIKHAIL KALATOZOV and a [redacted] departed from New York on September 7, 1944 for Chicago and Los Angeles. KALATOZOV was to be met at Chicago by [redacted] of the Sherman Hotel who was obtaining a reservation for him from Chicago to Los Angeles.

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On September 20, 1944 KALATOZOV and Professor [redacted] arrived in Los Angeles from Chicago, and the Bureau was accordingly advised by teletype. Since their arrival in Los Angeles, [redacted] has been residing at the KALATOZOV residence, 4744 Los Feliz Boulevard, and has accompanied KALATOZOV almost daily during the period of this report to various Hollywood motion picture studios.

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The following information was provided by Confidential [redacted] who is very close to the KALATOZOV household.

On August 16, 1944 [redacted] in conversation with one [redacted] advised that [redacted] was going to work the following day at Columbia Motion Picture Studios. Later [redacted] advised one [redacted] that she was going to begin work at Columbia as a consultant.

b7C

Also on this same date [redacted] sent the following night letter to her husband, c/o Amtorg, 210 Madison Avenue, New York City: "AM WORRIED YOUR CHECK NOT SUFFICIENT TO PAY ZINA (VOYNOW) TWO WEEKS SEVERANCE PAY AS YOU PROMISED. ONLY ABLE TO PAY DENTIST AND RENT. OTHER BILLS OUTSTANDING."

On August 19, 1944 [redacted] contacted [redacted] advising that [redacted] shipping capacity had been reduced so that she will have to cancel the order for all but five of the books.

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On this same date a person believed to be [redacted] previously mentioned in this case, contacted [redacted] at which time he stated that [redacted] has arranged for the screening if they had only Russians

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and no Americans. The name of this film was not mentioned. [] then related that she had started to work on a motion picture entitled "Counter Attack". PAUL MUNI was to play the part of a Jewish Red Army soldier, which according to [] was not good inasmuch as MUNI forgets that he came from a Jewish state. [] concluded that she had become employed as a technical adviser at Columbia Studios.

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On August 21, 1944 an unknown woman contacted [] [] stating that she wanted a Russian dance group for the United Nations exhibit. [] replied that she did not know anyone like that here as there was no one from the Soviet Union, but that she would attempt to find out.

Under date of August 23, 1944 a person believed to be [] attempted to contact [] but was advised that the latter was sleeping. It was stated that [] would contact her later.

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On August 30, 1944 an unknown woman contacted [] [] and was advised that the [] may be leaving for Russia soon although it was not definite.

On this same date a [] (ph) of Republic Pictures contacted [] and asked "When will the big chief be in?" [] stated that they expected him within a week, and that he would have [] call []

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Informant advised that on September 4, 1944 [] [] whose husband is also a subject in the Comrap investigation, contacted [] and was advised that the [] were leaving in about one month.

On September 7, 1944 the [] left wing writer, contacted [] and extended her an invitation to a party on September 8th at RKO Studios, Projection Room #3.

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An unknown woman contacted [] on September 13, 1944, stating that she had read a play and thought that it was charming. She was advised that she would have to get the rights for the play through [] in New York who has charge of Soviet rights.

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[redacted] on September 17, 1944, sent a night letter to [redacted] which said "WHY DONT YOU AND [redacted] ANSWER. AM WAITING FOR WORD FROM YOU AND HIM AND VERY WORRIED. /s/ [redacted]"

b7C

On this same date [redacted] sent a night letter to [redacted] "PUZZLED BY YOUR LONG SILENCE. HAVE YOU RECEIVED MY GIFTS. MY NEW ADDRESS IS [redacted] PRESENTLY WORKING ON RUSSIAN FILM COUNTER ATTACK WITH [redacted]"

[redacted] on September 19, 1944, received a Western Union cable from [redacted] addressed to MIKHAIL KALATOZOV, which stated "ENDEAVOR TO LEAVE BY PLANE WHILE BAGGAGE YOU CAN SHIP BY CABLE."

On this same date KALATOZOV received a Western Union telegram from New York signed by [redacted] which read as follows: "SORRY TO ADVISE YOU NO PRINT OF BATHING BEAUTY WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL NOVEMBER FIFTEENTH. SHALL WE DELIVER PRINT THEN OR DO YOU WISH TO SUBMIT ANOTHER SUBJECT."

[redacted] contacted MIKHAIL KALATOZOV on September 20, 1944, stating she had a letter from [redacted] in New York which had to reach KALATOZOV before he left for Russia. She stated that the [redacted] was in Los Angeles for five days but that he was then in New York.

[redacted] contacted KALATOZOV on September 22, 1944, offering assistance when KALATOZOV returns to Russia. He stated this was in response to a letter from a [redacted] in New York advising that KALATOZOV was going to Russia and would have films and equipment which might need protection.

On this same date [redacted] who is a subject in the Comrap investigation, and whose telephone number is [redacted] contacted [redacted] and asked if [redacted] was still in Los Angeles. [redacted] advised [redacted] that [redacted] is in the east.

[redacted] (ph) also contacted [redacted] on this date and stated that he would make arrangements for a film showing for Mr. KALATOZOV and [redacted]

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On September 23, 1944 [redacted] contacted Western Union and sent the following night letter to [redacted], Committee on Cinema, Moscow, USSR: "URGENTLY WIRE MY HOLLYWOOD ADDRESS DATE MONEY SENT TO MGM FOR SONG OF RUSSIA. /s/ MIKHAIL KALATOZOV".

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In addition she also sent a night letter to [redacted] Artkino Films, 723 - 7th Avenue, New York City, stating "PLEASE SEND ALL FREIGHT ALSO BILLS FOR TICKETS TO LA GREETINGS /s/ MIKHAIL KALATOZOV".

On September 25, 1944 a [redacted] contacted the subject's residence and was advised that Mr. KALATOZOV wished to see the following pictures: "Tom, Dick, and Harry", "Bill of Divorcement", "A Man to Remember", "Suspicion", "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "Vivacious Lady".

On this same date a Western Union telegram was received by KALATOZOV from [redacted] New York, stating "BANK RECEIVED FUNDS TODAY FOR OUR ACCOUNT FORWARDED [redacted] THANKS KINDEST REGARDS."

Subject received a telegram on September 26, 1944, believed to have been signed by [redacted] New York City, which stated "VERY MUCH SURPRISED TO SEE STORY IN LAST WEEKS MOTION PICTURE HERO INDICATING YOU HAVE JUST CLOSED LONG TERM DEAL WITH [redacted] IN LONDON FOR RECIPROCAL FILM DISTRIBUTION. IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THIS WAS PART OF OUR DEAL AND I PRESUME THAT THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE IN THIS STORY. WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU. HOPE EVERYTHING IS WORKING OUT WELL. KINDEST REGARDS.

~~ROBERT VOGEL~~ of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, on this same date contacted KALATOZOV advising him that he had been requested by his New York office to advise KALATOZOV when the film "Song of Russia" would be ready. VOGEL informed subject that the picture would be ready Friday, at which time KALATOZOV would see him at the studio. VOGEL gave his telephone number as ASHLEY 4-3311.

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On September 27, 1944 [redacted] contacted Mr. [redacted] advising her that Mr. KALATOZOV could not come for lunch on Friday.

[redacted] sent the following two cables to Moscow on September 28, 1944: "ZENIER FACTORY PENZA OBLAST HIZH-NIHOMOV USSR FOR [redacted] PLEASE ASK [redacted] NOT

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TO RETURN MY MOSCOW APARTMENT UNTIL MY ARRIVAL /s/ [redacted] and
[redacted] TELEGRAPHED ACCORD-
ING TO WIRES (?) MY ADDRESS SOVIET CONSULATE LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA."

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On this same date KALATOZOV sent the following night letter to [redacted] RKO, Rockefeller Center, New York City: "RANK AGREEMENT ONLY FOR TWO OLD PICTURES NO GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH RANK EXISTS. OUR AGREEMENT STILL IN FORCE YOUR FRIEND MIKHAIL KALATOZOV".

As of October 1, 1944 a woman contacted [redacted] for [redacted], and was advised that the former was not in. Later on this same day KALATOZOV contacted [redacted] and advised her that [redacted] and [redacted] could not come, and stated that he had a house guest, [redacted] at his home. [redacted] told KALATOZOV to bring [redacted] along, and it was agreed that they would attend the party at 7:00 P. M. that date.

[redacted] was contacted by an unknown man on October 2, 1944, who advised her that he had been appointed [redacted] for the Dutch East Indies and wanted to talk with KALATOZOV before leaving for New York.

On this same date a [redacted] of the RKO Studios contacted [redacted] and wanted to know if someone would be at home during the day inasmuch as he had some film for subject which was to be taken to Russia.

On October 3, 1944 KALATOZOV attempted to contact a person believed to be [redacted] in New York. He was advised, however, that this person was out.

A Western Union night letter from [redacted] in Moscow was delivered to KALATOZOV on October 4, 1944. This read as follows: "10/3/44 [redacted] CABLED ABOUT YOUR DEPARTURE BY PLANE. DESIRABLE YOU GET THROUGH [redacted] 10,000 METERS NEGATIVE FILM WITHOUT PREPARATION WITHOUT MARKING AND BRING IT WITH THE SAME PLANE."

On this same date a [redacted] called, stating that she had a package which [redacted] would leave at the information desk for KALATOZOV. [redacted] on this same date, sent a night letter cable to Moscow addressed to "[redacted] [redacted] CABLED [redacted] STOP YOU MUST UNDERSTAND IT IS

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"ALL I CAN DO FROM HERE DETAILS AWAIT WITH MIKHAIL KALATOZOV STOP LOVE
[redacted]

b7C

On October 5, 1944 [redacted] con-
tacted [redacted] and stated that she had seen [redacted] the
previous day. She said the USSR bought "The Song of Russia" and stated
that a lot of footage of [redacted] was not in the picture. She suggested
that they buy it and put it in the picture also.

KALATOZOV, on October 6, 1944, attempted to contact
BORIS MORROS, a prominent subject in the Comrap investigation, and was
told that MORROS was not at his office but was at his home. Later on
KALATOZOV talked with MORROS in the Russian language which was sub-
sequently translated and is believed to have referred to a meeting
between KALATOZOV and MORROS between 1:00 and 6:00 P. M. that day, on
Sunset Boulevard. MORROS is believed to have indicated that he had
something to give to KALATOZOV. Due to circumstances beyond control,
this meeting between KALATOZOV and MORROS was not covered.

On October 9, 1944 KALATOZOV contacted an individual
in JACK WARNER'S office at the Warner Brothers Studio. KALATOZOV ad-
vised that he wished to visit the studio that day and bring the new
[redacted] with him.
Later KALATOZOV and this unknown individual discussed a film, and KAL-
ATOZOV was advised to direct his request to the New York office, attention
[redacted]

b7C

On this same date [redacted] of Walt Disney Studio
contacted [redacted] extending an invitation for her husband to see
a film that day at 2:00 P. M. [redacted] was told that KALATOZOV could
not make it and desired to be notified when another showing would be
made.

[redacted] later contacted an unknown man and ad-
vised him to send the packages to her home. The unknown man stated
that he had received an order for two pictures from M-G-M, "Bathing
Beauty", and "Song of Russia", for KALATOZOV. He was advised to send
them to KALATOZOV'S home. He also stated that he had a public address
system and package of advertising material. [redacted] said the
charges would be paid by [redacted] in New York.

On this same date [redacted] office con-
tacted [redacted] and she advised them that the request for the

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print would have to be made through Mr. HARRIMAN by some authorized person. Later this date an unknown woman contacted [redacted] wanting to know if an export license was needed for earlier film. She advised that the Government had an agreement, for example, on "Blockade" with the Franco Government and that public display was not permitted. She also stated that they were going to make further inquiries the next day.

An individual named [redacted] (ph) on this same day contacted KALATOZOV and asked him when he could see him. An appointment was made for Thursday at 5:00 P. M. at subject's home.

b7C

On October 10, 1944 [redacted] who, together with her husband, has been mentioned in the Comrap investigation, advised [redacted] to tell her husband that she had heard from [redacted] who said that HARRY WARNER must clear through the Russian Ambassador before he can be given any pictures. Later [redacted] talked with [redacted] advising her that the request must come from STALIN or someone authorized, and that they will write a letter to HARRIMAN.

[redacted] talked with [redacted] on October 11, 1944 and they decided that the Ambassador has nothing to do with "it" (apparently referring to the sale of pictures). [redacted] requested KALATOZOV to call HARRY WARNER'S office and make an appointment.

On October 12, 1944 [redacted] contacted a [redacted] (ph) and stated that her husband had talked to [redacted] an Englishman, about certain movie rights for which he wants money. She stated that KALATOZOV would arrange a meeting with [redacted] for the following day at [redacted] office at 4:00 P. M. (S)

On this same date KALATOZOV attempted to contact BORIS MORROS and was advised that he was out of the city. He was informed that MORROS would return the following night and would call KALATOZOV upon his arrival.

An individual from the Walt Disney Studio contacted KALATOZOV on this same day, concerning where certain prints were to be delivered. It was decided that they would be sent to the harbor (San Pedro) for examination by Customs officials. [redacted] then talked with a [redacted] and asked if they could have an extra print

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to take along with them to show to officials in Moscow. She was advised that they do not have an extra print. This apparently related to the motion picture "Bambi" in Russian.

On this same date KALATOZOV was observed leaving his home with [redacted]. He drove the latter to the RKO Studios and then proceeded alone to the Beverly Hills Hotel, where he is believed to have entered room 108, registered to ALEXANDER GALPERSON. This latter person is apparently an Englishman connected with the motion picture industry and investigation is presently being conducted to establish GALPERSON'S identity.

b7C

By referenced letter of September 11, 1944 the Bureau advised that [redacted] of RKO Studios, had discussed with the Foreign Agents Registration Section of the War Division of the Department of Justice the matter of setting up a corporation composed of stockholders from RKO and Soyuzintorgkino, the Soviet motion picture combine. Investigation is presently being conducted to determine what the activities of this corporation will be.

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[redacted] was contacted on October 13, 1944, and advised that [redacted] the KALATOZOVS that they would leave the United States for Russia on or about October 25, 1944. Their mode of travel was unknown to [redacted].

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A recent analysis of KALATOZOV'S bank account fails to reflect anything of interest. On September 22, 1944 he had \$1,997.62 as a balance in his account. No deposits were listed and the only check written during the pertinent period was dated September 9, 1944 in the amount of \$250.00 to [redacted].

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The activities of [redacted] are not being set out in this report inasmuch as a separate case has been opened in the Los Angeles Field Division.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
- P E N D I N G -

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION:

At Los Angeles, California will, through [redacted] continue to cover KALATOZOV'S activities.

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b7D

Will continue to monitor KALATOZOV'S bank account at the Vermont and Melbourne Branch of the Bank of America.

Will cover KALATOZOV'S departure and attempt to arrange for a discreet search of his baggage.

Will continue efforts to ascertain the nature of the contract between RKO and Soyuzintorgkino, the Soviet motion picture combine. It is noted that RKO is represented by [redacted] [redacted] in these negotiations.

b7C

(Copies, for information purposes, are being forwarded the New York and San Francisco Field Divisions due to subject's association with subjects of the Comrap investigation.)

~~SECRET~~