

**December 20, 1944**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation Report on Activities  
of Mikhail Konstantin Kalatozov**

**Citation:**

"Federal Bureau of Investigation Report on Activities of Mikhail Konstantin Kalatozov", December 20, 1944, Wilson Center Digital Archive, FOIA release. Obtained and contributed by Val Golovskoy. <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/134040>

**Summary:**

Soviet film director Mikhail Kalatozov has departed from the United States but is expected to return in 1945. Final report on his activities and contacts prior to departure.

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

FILE NO. **100-19404**

REPORT MADE AT <b>LOS ANGELES</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>12/20/44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10/1-31/44</b> <b>11/1-30/44</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>	GIF
TITLE <b>MIKHAIL KONSTANTIN KALATOZOV</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY (R)</b> <b>REFER 5 IS</b>	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

**MIKHAIL KALATOZOV**,   departed from San Pedro, 1:15 P. M. November 11, 1944 aboard the SS "Taganrog" for Vladivostok. Customs examination of effects negative. Information received that KALATOZOV will return to U. S. in February or March of 1945 to resume his duties as official Soviet motion picture representative. Up until the time of his departure KALATOZOV maintained contact with CHARLES CHAPLIN, BORIS MORROS, WILLIAM DIETERLE and other prominent left wing movie personalities. BORIS MORROS and KALATOZOV entered into an agreement for the sale of motion picture "Tales of Manhattan" and for the distribution of certain usable works produced in the USSR. Investigation continuing regarding the relationship between RKO and Soyuzintorgkino for the exchange of motion pictures between the United States and Soviet Russia.

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REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent    
Los Angeles, October 23, 1944.  
Letter to the Bureau, November 13, 1944 entitled  
"COMINTERN APPARATUS, INTERNAL SECURITY (R)".

DETAILS:

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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Since the last report was written in this case   who is close to the KALATOZOV household, supplied the following information.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>[Signature]</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 1 New York (Inf.) 1 San Francisco (Inf.) 2 Los Angeles <b>COPT IN FILE</b>		<b>RECORDED</b> <b>INDEXED</b> <b>EX - 33</b> <b>100-249539-18</b>

52 JAN 4 1945

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 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 11-17-81 BY SP-11/CAL/BJP

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On October 14, 1944 [redacted] contacted the KALATOZOVs; however, neither was available and the [redacted] advised that she would call back later. [redacted] again contacted the KALATOZOVs and advised them that they were expected for dinner at the MORROS home that evening.

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On October 16, 1944 KALATOZOV received a Western Union telegram from Warner Brothers New York office which stated: "SHIPPING YOU TODAY PRINT OF MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM /s/ [redacted]"

On this same date [redacted] invited [redacted] [redacted] who is under investigation in connection with another case, to her home.

On October 17, 1944 CHARLES CHAPLIN, well known motion picture actor, contacted [redacted] and invited [redacted] KALATOZOV, [redacted] at Los Angeles, to dinner on October 18, 1944.

On October 20, 1944 an unknown woman contacted [redacted] [redacted] and desired to know whether KALATOZOV was going to [redacted] [redacted] dinner which was to be held on October 21, 1944.

On October 23, 1944 KALATOZOV contacted [redacted] by long distance telephone at MI. 9138, Washington, D. C. Their conversation was in Russian, a translation of which has not been made to date. On this same date an unknown man contacted KALATOZOV and asked him whether he had a copy of the motion picture "Tales of Manhattan". KALATOZOV advised he did not have a copy and that the man should get in touch with BORIS MORROS. On this date an individual known as [redacted] contacted [redacted] and asked if she had received the letter. She stated that she did not know where the theater would be, apparently making reference to resuming of her career [redacted]. She stated that it would be first in Moscow, then in Leningrad. The address for the time will be [redacted].

The individual known as [redacted] then wanted to know if [redacted] had found the photostats of a letter and a letter to [redacted] (ph.). Reference was then made to what KALATOZOV should do in case of inspection, apparently referring to his clearing of certain documents through Customs.

On October 24, 1944 [redacted] contacted [redacted]

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[redacted] and advised her that the KALATOZOVs were so rushed they could not go over to get the pictures. KALATOZOV wanted a picture of [redacted] CHAPLIN and [redacted] was advised that [redacted] would leave them at the studio for KALATOZOV to pick up.

With regard to KALATOZOV'S activities up until the time he left the United States, the following was ascertained through physical surveillance.

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On the night of October 14, 1944 a farewell reception was held for him at the Russian Vice Consulate. [redacted] and [redacted] of the Soviet Vice Consulate, San Francisco, attended this reception. There were at least one hundred persons in attendance including such individuals as [redacted], CHARLES CHAPLIN, [redacted] BORIS MORROS, [redacted] HANNS EISLER, BERT BRECHT and many others prominent in Hollywood who have been associated with either "left wing" or Communist movements.

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From [redacted] it was ascertained that he had reviewed several prints of American films which KALATOZOV intended to take with him to Russia on his departure. [redacted] stated that KALATOZOV had the following prints:

"Song of Russia" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer)

"The Little Foxes" (M-G-M). This is a LILLIAN HELLMAN story which was first released as a picture in about 1941 and concerns the lives of a degenerate southern family.

"All That Money Can Buy".

"A Song to Remember" - a life of CHOPIN.

"Up In Arms" - the DANNY KAYE musical.

"The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

"Tales of Manhattan" - a BORIS MORROS Production.

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On October 21, 1944 Special Agent [redacted] accompanied Customs Inspector [redacted] and [redacted] United States Censorship representative, to the home of MIKHAIL KALATOZOV, 4744 Los Feliz Boulevard, for the purpose of searching and sealing KALATOZOV'S luggage and household effects. Agent [redacted] attended under the pretext of being a Censorship representative.

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During the time of the search, [redacted] KALATOZOV, [redacted] were present.

A total of twenty two boxes and trunks were examined, which contained mostly clothing and canned food. One box contained a paint supply and cosmetic outfit while another contained a new inter-office communication system. KALATOZOV had several boxes of books many of which were concerned with art. There were a few Russian books, but none of them appeared to be of interest to the Bureau. There were two copies of The Writers' Congress book written following the Writers' Congress held in October 1943 in Los Angeles. There was also an autographed copy of a book by LION FEUCHTWANCER, a subject in the Comrap investigation, an autographed copy of "The Last Mile" by JOHN WEALEY, and many other books by Communist writers.

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KALATOZOV also presented for inspection two small packages of clothing which he stated "are not mine" remarking that they were gifts he was taking to Russia from people in the United States. Both of these packages contained notes written in Russian. One was from [redacted] and the other was from [redacted]. These two notes are being translated by the Office of Censorship.

Also noted were approximately twenty five phonograph records, most of which were of the standard commercial type of popular songs; however, one album was entitled "Songs for Democracy" concerning the International Brigade in Spain and contained the following handwritten message by PAUL ROBESON, Negro Communist singer: "These songs of the Spanish struggle deeply reflect the democratic spirit. That spirit of Joe Hill never died. This album is a 'must'."

There were also many photographs among KALATOZOV'S effects, almost entirely of the studio type, 8 x 10 inches in size, of KALATOZOV [redacted] taken with [redacted] SAMUEL GOLDWYN, CHARLES CHAPLIN, [redacted] and an unknown man identified as a member of the Soviet Government Purchasing Commission. Many of these pictures were taken at the reception held in August 1943 for KALATOZOV at the Mocambo night club in Hollywood.

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In conversation with KALATOZOV, Agent [redacted] ascertained that he was returning to Moscow and would leave on October 25, 1944 aboard a Russian tanker from Long Beach. KALATOZOV did not know the name of this tanker. He stated he is returning to motion picture work in the Soviet Union, and remarked that he is a director. It was noted that KALATOZOV had a poor understanding of English and would respond only to simple questions, usually asking [redacted] to interpret for him. He remarked that he is a Georgian "like STALIN".

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Also in conversation with Mrs. KALATOZOV it was learned that she has no particular plans on returning to Russia. She advised that she is [redacted]

[redacted] She speaks and understands English very well and advised that she had studied English in Moscow.

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Regarding [redacted] it was ascertained that she has been in the United States for four years and that she formerly worked for [redacted]. She stated that she likes California but is anxious to return to Russia.

[redacted] was noted to be wearing a lapel ribbon, purple and light blue in color, which [redacted] explained represented an award he had received for [redacted]

It was interesting to note that the fireplace in the living room of KALATOZOV'S house during the time of the inspection by the Customs officials was piled high with black ashes, evidently representing burned papers. This is of significance in view of the fact that during the entire search no correspondence of any nature was noted.

On October 24, 1944 [redacted] advised that [redacted] in conversation with an unknown party, stated that KALATOZOV would like his luggage and personal effects moved to a Russian ship, the name of which they did not know, which could be loaded on October 27, 1944, apparently the date which he will depart from the United States.

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According to [redacted] no immediate successor has been named to assume KALATOZOV'S duties as the official Russian motion picture representative in the United States. As previously reported, information received from the New York Field Division indicates that [redacted] at Los Angeles, will apparently be concerned with handling contacts in the motion picture industry for the Soviets.

With regard to KALATOZOV'S relationship with BORIS MORROS which has been significant in this case in view of the fact that MORROS is alleged to be a Soviet espionage agent, the following information was obtained from [redacted]

"October 24, 1944

"Mr. Mikhail Kalatozov  
4744 Los Feliz  
Los Angeles, California

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"Kindest personal regards.

"Sincerely yours,

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[Redacted]

Relative to the two notes which were written in Russian and which were contained in packages which KALATOZOV was taking back to Russia, the following translation has been received. The first letter from [Redacted] addressed to [Redacted] stated as follows:

[Redacted]

"Our Dearest:

"We are very worried about [Redacted] [Redacted] We hope and believe that you will feel better when you receive our little gift. We are sending you some tablets to restore your health. Each of you can take one a day. We are also sending you 11 pairs of stockings, a slip and a pair of panties, hoping that this kind and obliging Soviet Citizen will soon find an opportunity to bring or send them to you. [Redacted] are hoping that you are well and that everything is all right, also that [Redacted] will soon return safe and sound after a victory over the terrible fascists. Love and kisses for each of you.

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"Your loving,

[Redacted]

The second letter written by [Redacted] and addressed to [Redacted] states:

"Dear [Redacted]

"In the past year we were glad to receive four letters from you, and also a picture of [Redacted] who is a real beauty. We have sent you several letters and hope you have received them.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] is working and [Redacted] Greetings from all of us, love to you and [Redacted] who wishes to see you

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"My Dearest [redacted] Love and kisses from [redacted] I am sending you a picture of [redacted]"

On November 6, 1944 in company with [redacted] of the United States Customs, Inspectors [redacted] of Censorship, Special Agent [redacted] noted the contents of two large wooden boxes which were being taken aboard the SS "Taganrog" by MIKHAIL KALATOZOV. The boxes were consigned to "Moscow Kino Komitet". One box was noted to contain \$800.00 worth of theatrical cosmetics. The other box contained various articles among which was a Victrola, considerable blank paper, and a picture of CHARLES CHAPLIN. The picture was autographed to [redacted] with love".

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United States Customs officials advised on November 11, 1944 that MIKHAIL KALATOZOV, [redacted] had departed on that date from San Pedro at 1:15 P. M. aboard the SS "Taganrog" bound for Vladivostok.

It was ascertained at the time of KALATOZOV'S departure that [redacted] who returned from New York with KALATOZOV and who is in this country for the purpose of [redacted] the Russian motion picture industry, did not depart with [redacted] and is remaining in Los Angeles, presently residing [redacted]

Regarding KALATOZOV'S successor it is apparent that his activities will be carried on by [redacted] assigned to Los Angeles.

On November 12, 13, and 14, 1944 a confidential source advised that a thorough search of the KALATOZOV residence failed to produce anything of interest in the way of trash, scrap paper or other articles which they had left behind.

On November 29, 1944 [redacted] advised that he had received information that KALATOZOV would return to this country in February or March, 1945 and would again resume his duties as official representative of the Soviet motion pictures.

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Referenced report set out a lead to ascertain the nature of the contract between RKO and Soyuzintorgkino, Soviet motion picture combine. To date no information has been obtained regarding this contract; however investigation is continuing and will be reported in this case.

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UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION:

\*At Los Angeles, California 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 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in these negotiations.

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(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.)

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CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] - [redacted]

[redacted] - [redacted]

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U. S. Censorship  
Los Angeles

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[redacted] - [redacted]

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[redacted] - [redacted]

These informants requested that their names be maintained confidential.