Register of the N. A. (Nestor Apollonovich) Lakoba Papers

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Descriptive Summary
Title: N. A. (Nestor Apollonovich) Lakoba Papers
Dates: 1915-1939
Collection number: 2003C73
Collection Size: 3 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize box (1.6 linear feet)
Repository: Hoover Institution Archives
Stanford, California 94305-6010
Abstract: Nestor Apollonovich Lakoba (1893-1936) papers document life and activities of the politician, revolutionary, party and government official, and victim of the purges.
Physical location: Hoover Institution Archives
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], N. A. (Nestor Apollonovich) Lakoba Papers, [Box no.], Hoover Institution Archives
Acquisition Information
Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 2003
Accruals
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1893 May 1
Born, Village of Lykhny, Abkhazia

1910-1911
Studied at the seminary in Tiflis, Georgia

1912
Became a member of the Russian Social Democratic party

1912-1918
Worked for the Russian Social Democratic party in Abkhazia and Grozny

1918
Led the uprising against the Menshevik-dominated government of Abkhazia
Deputy chairman of the Sukhumi Military Revolutionary Committee (Georgia); organized detachments of partisan forces for combat during the Russian Civil War

Late 1918
Arrested and imprisoned in Sukhumi, Georgia

1919
Banished from Georgia

1920
Took control of the underground Bolshevik organization in the city of Batumi (Georgia)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Assistant chairman of the Revolutionary Committee in Abkhazia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Abkhazian ASSR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930-1936</td>
<td>Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of Abkhazia; served on the Central Executive Committee of the Georgian SSR, the Central Executive Committee of the Transcaucasian SFSR, the Central Executive Committee of the USSR and the Bureau of the Party Central Committee in Georgia. He was personally acquainted with his fellow Caucasians Joseph Stalin and Lavrentii Beria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>December 28 Died unexpectedly. Lakoba had an honorable burial, but was later declared an &quot;enemy of the people&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scope and Content of Collection**

Nestor Apollonovich Lakoba (1893-1936) papers document life and activities of the politician, revolutionary, party and government official, and victim of the purges.

A Caucasian revolutionary before 1917, Nestor Lakoba was appointed chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Abkhazian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, and from 1930 to 1936 was chairman of the Central Executive Committee of that republic. He served on the Central Executive Committee of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Central Executive Committee of the Transcaucasian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, the Central Executive Committee of the USSR and the Bureau of the Party Central Committee in Georgia. Since 1917 he was personally acquainted with his fellow Caucasians Joseph Stalin and Lavrentii Beria. Both later considered him their personal enemy. Majority of people believe he was poisoned by Beria's agents. He was given a state funeral, but posthumously declared an enemy of the people.

The bulk of the collection is hand written letters between Nestor Lakoba and the leaders of the Russian revolution and high ranking Soviet government officials such as Joseph Stalin, Feliks Dzerzhinskii, Lavrentii Beria, Sergo Ordzhonikidze, and many others. Correspondence includes letters of both a business and personal nature arranged chronologically.

Photographic series contains a huge bulk of very unique and unknown prints of Soviet leaders, such as Joseph Stalin, Feliks Dzerzhinskii, Lavrentii Beria, Sergo Ordzhonikidze, Mikhail Kalinin, Semen Budennyi, as well as Stalin's children Svetlana and Vasilii.

Documentation in the Speeches and Writings includes drafts, notes, sayings, verses, theses, speeches, and final published articles as well as other materials relating to his public life.

Of particular interest is the Biographical file with different versions of autobiographies and curriculum vitae, as well as other materials reflecting his early years in Georgia in general and in Abkhazia in particular.

**Arrangement**

The collection is organized into five series: Biographical file, Correspondence, Speeches and Writings, Subject file, and Photographs.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

**Subjects**

- Abkhazia (Georgia)--Politics and government.

**Biographical file, 1915-1939.**

Scope and Content Note

Includes autobiography, curriculum vitae, certificates of graduation, jail documents, medical records, and notebook pages with addresses, phone numbers, notes, and sayings arranged by form.

Box/Folder: 1 : 1 Notebook pages.

Scope and Content Note

Includes addresses, phone numbers, notes, sayings, undated.

Box/Folder: 1 : 2 Autobiography, 1936 February 12

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Box/Folder: 1 : 3  Curriculum vitae, 1936 October 14
Box/Folder: 1 : 4  Certificate of graduation, Tiflis seminary, 1915 May 6
Box/Folder: 1 : 5  Certificate, honorary leader of children communist movement of Abkhaziia, Georgia, 1924 August 22
Box/Folder: 1 : 6  Lakoba case, Sukhumi jail, 1918 November-December
Box/Folder: 1 : 7  Medical records, X-Ray results, 1926, 1935

Correspondence, 1922-1939.

Scope and Content Note
Contains correspondence of both business and personal nature. Arranged chronologically by date

General
Undated, unidentified

General

Box/Folder: 1 : 8

Letter from Kostia regarding pursuit of bandits Chkhopeliia and Sichinava

Box/Folder: 1 : 9

Unfinished letter in purple ink regarding upcoming visit of L. Beriia to Sukhumi

Box/Folder: 1 : 10

Note from Dzhemal

Box/Folder: 1 : 11

1925-1932, unidentified

Box/Folder: 1 : 12

Cables, mostly undated. Includes cables from 1927

Box/Folder: 1 : 13

Undated, Adamii and Chitai, official letter

Box/Folder: 1 : 14

Undated, Kuchuloria, D. I., People's Commissar of Provision, Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic

Box/Folder: 1 : 15

1922-1928, Ordzhonikidze, Sergo (chairman of the Central Control Commission)

Box/Folder: 1 : 16

1922 June 15, Meskhiashvili

Box/Folder: 1 : 17

1922-1928, Ordzhonikidze, Sergo (chairman of the Central Control Commission)

Box/Folder: 1 : 18

Undated, letter to N. Lakoba with a request to send 16.5 million Deutschmarks to Mr. Schreiber, who lives in Berlin. Probably these are party money earmarked for the support of the German Communist Party

Box/Folder: 1 : 19

Undated, note to N. Lakoba asking to accommodate his old friend Sergei Anishchev arriving in Sukhumi on vacation

Box/Folder: 1 : 20

1922 April 17, letter to Atarbekov regarding the visit of Feliks Dzerzhinskii, Genrikh IAgoda, and others to Sukhumi in mid-October

Box/Folder: 1 : 21

1922 May 15, letter regarding a visit of Feliks Dzerzhinskii, Genrikh IAgoda, and other people to Sukhumi

Box/Folder: 1 : 22

1923 August 22, letter to N. Lakoba regarding Sergo Ordzhonikidze

Box/Folder: 1 : 23

1924 January 18, letter to N. Lakoba regarding medical leave of Leon Trotsky to Sukhumi

Box/Folder: 1 : 24

1925 September 27, note to N. Lakoba regarding Abkhazian situation

Box/Folder: 1 : 25

1926 January 7, draft letter from N. Lakoba to Sergo Ordzhonikizde

Box/Folder: 1 : 26

1926 November 29, letter regarding Molotov's trip to Sukhumi

Box/Folder: 1 : 27

1928 October 18, letter to N. Lakoba asking to arrange a stay in Sukhumi for a military attach Vitalii Primakov

Box/Folder: 1 : 28

1924 January 6, Belen'kii, A., letter to N. Lakoba regarding doctor's advice to Leon Trotsky to immediately take a trip to the south

Box/Folder: 1 : 29

1924 January 18, Dzerzhinskii, Feliks (organized the first Soviet institutions of police coercion and terror)

Box/Folder: 1 : 30

1924 February 13, official confidential letter from Sofronov, signed as head of the Black Sea fleet

Box/Folder: 1 : 31

1924 March 21, official letter from the State Black Sea-Azov steam-ship line

Box/Folder: 1 : 32

1924 September 25, Prosecutor General of Abkhaziia (Georgia), office memo regarding death sentence to Zholkver, A.

Box/Folder: 1 :

1924-1932, Beria, Lavrentii, head of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD)

Box/Folder: 1 : 33

Undated, copy of the letter from N. Lakoba regarding Stalin's request to find a candidate to fill the position of Secretary of the Transcaucasian Regional Communist Committee

Box/Folder: 1 : 34

Undated, defending a famous secret service officer
1924 November 12, confirming appointment of comrade Dzhavakhov to a senior position in the Sukhumi CheKa (secret police)

1924 November 19, letter to N. Lakoba asking him to familiarize himself with the case of Comrades Sadzhaia and TSaralov. Includes L. Beria's signature on the letterhead of the Transcaucasian CheKa (secret police)

1925 January 27, secret service travel identification card for protection of comrade Leon Trotsky

1928 September 14, letter to N. Lakoba concerning two sick workers

1929 October 29

1932 June 21, copy of the letter which describes a conversation between N. Lakoba and Stalin regarding Secretary of the Transcaucasian Regional Communist Party Committee Mamiia Orakhelashvili

1932 July 26, letter "the copy of our report note"

1932 December, Draft letter to L. Beria (with copies to Stalin, Kaganovich, Molotov, and Rudzutak) regarding pronouncement received by N. Lakoba on December 21, 1932

1925 January 26, Georg (possibly Georgii Sturua)

1925 August 7, TSanava, Sergei

1926 January 4, Orakhelashvili, M., secretary of the Transcaucasian Regional Communist Party Committee

1926, Lakoba, Mikhail (N. Lakoba's step brother)

1926 May 23. He was assigned to Leon Trotsky as head of the secret police guard during Trotsky's stay in Abkhazia

1926 June 10, V. Pantsulai, famous Georgian Menshevik. He is expressing concern about Russian policy in Georgia in general and in Abkhazia in particular

1927 June 16, Tuskiai, S.

1927 October 4, Inal-Ip, N.

1927 November 1, Gugushvili, V.

1927 November 8, Birvava, P.

1929, April 19, Bzhalava, Manuchar

1929-1934, Stalin, Joseph

Undated, Letter to Stalin in which N. Lakoba talks about his (N. Lakoba's) upcoming trip to America "for purchasing of planting material of citrus trees". Includes draft and final version

1929 October 19, expressing disagreement with the decision of the Georgian Bolshevik Party's Central Committee (TSetlin's commission) regarding the Abkhazian case, which recommended removing N. Lakoba from the position of president of the Central Executive Committee of Abhazia

1929 late October, response to Stalin's letter of October 19

1934 August 12, short evaluation of N. Lakoba's essay "Stalin i Khashim," which was published in October of the same year as an illustrative brochure by the Abhazian party press (20,000 copies)

1931 March 10, CHichinadzhe letter

1931 July 20, Fedorov, Professor, letter regarding N. Lakoba's health

1931 August-November, Eliava, ShAlva, Deputy People's Commissar of the Foreign Commerce of the USSR

1932 October 16, SHaginian, Marietta, poet

1932 May 18, letter on stationery of the "Chairman of the All Union State Association Sovmongtuvtorg"

1932 November 23, Karpov, L.

1933 February 9, Leideker, S.

1933 February 20, note from the Director of the Kholodnorechensk construction project (Stalin's "dacha" - summer vacation residence)

1933 November 15, CHakvetadze, head of "Traktotsentr"

1933 November 29, Kalandiia, Markoz

1934 January 11, Ivashchenko, Mikhail
Correspondence, 1922-1939.

Scope and Content Note

Box/Folder: 1 : 69
1934 February 26, office memo on the stationery of the Chairman of the State Political Administration

Box/Folder: 1 : 70
1934 October 15, Agrba, Z.

Box/Folder: 1 : 71
1934 December 28, Petiaev, S. People's Commissar of Agriculture of Abkhaziia

Box/Folder: 1 : 72
1936 February, Borisova, A.

Box/Folder: 1 : 73
1936 May 31, letter to N. Lakoba from General Vlasik, head of Stalin's secret police guards

Box/Folder: 1 : 74
1936 November, Musabekov, G., secretary of the Transcaucasian Regional Communist Party Committee

Box/Folder: 1 : 75
1939 September 12, letter from Mardaleishvili

Speeches and writings, 1921-1937.
Scope and Content Note
Contains of Nestor Lakoba's writings, speeches, reports, coded messages, and orders. Arranged chronologically

Box/Folder: 2 : 1-2
Undated, N. Lakoba sayings

Box/Folder: 2 : 3-4
Undated, notes

Box/Folder: 2 : 5-7
Undated, theses for speeches

Speech drafts
Scope and Content Note
Undated drafts

Box/Folder: 2 : 8-10
1930s

Box/Folder: 2 : 11-13
Undated, request draft for a battalion of GPU from Tiflis for peasant suppression

Box/Folder: 2 : 14
1921, report to the "Council of propaganda and action of the people's of the East about the political situation in Sultan (old) Turkey"

Box/Folder: 2 : 15
1922, coded messages compiled by N. Lakoba

Box/Folder: 2 : 16
1922, article, Iskry Oktiabr'skoi revoliutsi, Sukhumi. Printed copy

Box/Folder: 2 : 17
1922 November 18, speech at a meeting of senior workers

Box/Folder: 2 : 18
1925/1926, general thoughts regarding an exhibit of the achievements of the Caucasus economy

Box/Folder: 2 : 19
1934 January, explanation regarding accusations laid down in the office memo of Prosecutor General of the USSR Akulov to Comrade Stalin

Box/Folder: 2 : 20
1934, Stalin i KHashim : 1901-1902 gogy, (nektoroye epizody iz Batumskogo podpol'ia), Sukhumi

Box/Folder: 2 : 21
Theses of the manuscript, undated

Box/Folder: 2 : 22
Holograph and typescript, undated

Box/Folder: 2 : 23
Printed copy, 1934

Box/Folder: 2 : 24
1935, Ot VI k VII S'iezdu Sovetov ASSR Abkhasii, Sukhumi. Printed copy

Box/Folder: 2 : 25
1936, speech praising the project of the new Soviet Constitution
devoted to the opening of the railroad Ochamchire-Kelasuri

Box/Folder: 2 : 26
1936 January 1, speech at the celebratory meeting of the Sukhumi city council

Box/Folder: 2 : 27
1936 January 4, speech, "Progress report on the question of storage of tobacco supplies in Abkhaziia"

Box/Folder: 2 : 28
1936 October, order, directions and requests ("strictly confidential") for building a two room cottage

Box/Folder: 2 : 29
1937 February 17, Strictly confidential letter from investigator Pertsov

Subject file, 1914-1936.
Scope and Content Note
Arranged Alphabetically

Box/Folder: 2 : 30
Undated, evaluation of work methods of Comrade TSeitlin in the city of Gudauta.
Scope and Content Note
Typescript. Includes handwritten notes

Box/Folder: 2 : 31
Undated, letter to Anton Ivanovich from unidentified correspondent
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Box/Folder: 2 : 32  Undated, survey, "Agriculture of Abkhazia - base of the Soviet food industry" (pp.8-24 are missing)
Box/Folder: 2 : 33  Undated, questionnaire for "The history of the civil war in Abkhazia"
Box/Folder: 2 : 34  Undated, letter (21 pages) from the people of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic to Comrade Stalin
Box/Folder: 2 : 35  Undated, complaint regarding false accusations to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia, unidentified
Box/Folder: 2 : 36  Undated, reference material about geranium planting
Box/Folder: 2 : 37  1914 October 14, bank document and check
Box/Folder: 2 : 38  1921, appreciation letter to Doctor Sil’chenko
Box/Folder: 2 : 39  1923, Miriantsev, Georgii, promissory note
Box/Folder: 2 : 40  1924, case of bandits CHkhopelia and Sichinava. Includes list of crimes committed
Box/Folder: 2 : 41  1924-1925, minutes of meetings, Caucasian Regional Control Commission, Russian Communist Bolshevik Party
Box/Folder: 2 : 42  1929 May, Kadyrov, Seid, report ("strictly confidential") on the national question in Georgia
Box/Folder: 3 : 1  Early 1930s, Kolokolkin, V., note
Box/Folder: 3 : 2  1930 August 7, Danchin, Valerian Dmitrievich, curriculum vitae
Box/Folder: 3 : 3  1931 January-August, council of the Tkvarchel’skii collective farm, progress report
Box/Folder: 3 : 4  1934 December 31, Rubtsov, L. I., description of the local tree "prutniak" or "Avraamovo derevo" (Vitex Agnus Castus)
Box/Folder: 3 : 5-6  1935 April 5 and 19, excerpts from the newspaper Pravda
Box/Folder: 3 : 7  1936, October 14, KHatuntsev, letter to his doctor

Photographs, undated.

Scope and Content Note
 Mostly undated, including many 1930s images. Arranged by topic

N. Lakoba
Box/Folder: 3 : 8-9  Portrait
Box/Folder: 3 : 10  On a tribune
Box/Folder: 3 : 11  In a parade
Box/Folder: 3 : 12  In automobile
Box/Folder: 3 : 13  In the airplane named after him Looking through an open window
N. Lakoba with Soviet and party officials
Box/Folder: 3 : 14  Joseph Stalin, Mikhail Kalinin, and others
Box/Folder: 3 : 15  Sergo Ordzhinikidzhe, Semen Budennyi, and others
Box/Folder: 3 : 16  L. Beriia, A Khandzhian, and others
Box/Folder: 3 : 17  L. Beriia, and others on steps of an office building
Box/Folder: 3 : 18  N. Lakoba, L. Beriia, Sarie Lakoba (N. Lakoba's wife), and others
Box/Folder: 3 : 19  Group of delegates (including N. Lakoba) of the VIth All-Union Congress of the Council of People Deputies
Box/Folder: 3 : 20  Guests at home
Box/Folder: 3 : 21-22  Guests in the Botanical garden
Box/Folder: 3 : 23  Friends on a wooden bridge
Box/Folder: 3 : 24  Lev Kamenev with hunting trophies
Box/Folder: 3 : 25-26  In his native village Lykhny with Moscow guests
Box/Folder: 3 : 27  Group of people in front of the Duke's home in Lykhny village
Box/Folder: 3 : 28  Abkhazian party
Box/Folder: 3 : 29  Two other horsemen
Box/Folder: 3 : 30  Horsemens in mountains
Box/Folder: 3 : 31  Group of people sitting on a bench
Box/Folder: 3 : 32  Bolsheviks in an automobile
Box/Folder: 3 : 33  L. Beriia in N. Lakoba's car
Box/Folder: 3 : 34-35  L. Beriia, Nina Gegechkori (his wife), Svetlana Stalina and others (on a ship)
Box/Folder: 3 : 36  Series of photographs depicting L. Beriia flirting with a woman
Photographs, undated.

| Box/Folder: 3 : 37 | L. Beriia, Khandzhian, and Musabekov |
| Box/Folder: 3 : 38 | L. Beriia on a tribune |
| Friends and family |
| Box/Folder: 3 : 39 | Vasili Stalin, Nina Gegechkori (L. Beriia's wife), and Sarie Lakoba (N. Lakoba's wife) |
| Box/Folder: 3 : 40 | Nina Gegechkori (L. Beriia's wife), Svetlana Stalina, Sarie Lakoba (N. Lakoba's wife), and Nazie Dzhikhashvili (N. Lakoba's relative) |
| Box/Folder: 3 : 41 | Iakov Dzhugashvili (Stalin's son), Svetlana Stalina, and Rauf Lakoba (N. Lakoba's son) |
| Box/Folder: 3 : 42 | Sergio Ordzhonikidze with Rauf (N. Lakoba's son), group picture |
| Box/Folder: 3 : 43 | Svetlana Stalina and L. Beriia |
| Funeral |
| Box/Folder: 3 : 44-46 | General |
| Box/Folder: 3 : 47 | Memorial service |
| Box/Folder: 3 : 48 | L. Beriia helping to carry N. Lakoba's coffin |
| Box/Folder: 3 : 49 | Funeral wreath from L. Beriia and his wife Nina Gegechkori |
| Box/Folder: 3 : 50 | 3 strips of contact prints |
| Box/Folder: 4 | 1933 September, 1 photo album with inscription "To Comrade Lakoba". Depicts vacation images of Joseph Stalin, L. Beriia, N. Lakoba, and many others |