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

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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
Access
The collection is open for research; materials must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], N. A. (Nestor Apollonovich) Lakoba papers, [Box no., Folder no. or title], 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 Groznyi
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)
1921 Assistant chairman of the Revolutionary Committee in Abkhazia
1922 Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Abkhazian ASSR
1930-1936 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
1936 December 28 Died unexpectedly. Lakoba had an honorable burial, but was later declared an "enemy of the people"

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 handwritten letters between Nestor Lakoba and the leaders of the Russian revolution and high ranking Soviet government officials such as Joseph Stalin, Feliks Dzerzhinskii, Lavrentii Beriia, Sergo Ordzhonikidze, and many others. Correspondence includes letters of both a business and personal nature relating to his public life.

Photographic series contains a huge bulk of very unique and unknown prints of Soviet leaders, such as Joseph Stalin, Feliks Dzerzhinskii, Lavrentii Beriia, 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.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Abkhazia (Georgia)--Politics and government.

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**Biographical File 1915-1939**

**Scope and Contents 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 Contents note**
Includes addresses, phone numbers, notes, and sayings.

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

**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 Contents note**
Contains correspondence of both business and personal nature. Arranged chronologically.

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**General**

**Box/Folder 1 : 8**
**Undated, unidentified**

**Box/Folder 1 : 9**
**Letter from Kostia regarding pursuit of bandits Chkhopeliia and Sichinava**

**Box/Folder 1 : 10**
**Unfinished letter in purple ink regarding upcoming visit of L. Beriia to Sukhumi**

**Box/Folder 1 : 11**
**Note from Dzhemal**

**Box/Folder 1 : 12**
**1925-1932, unidentified**

**Box/Folder 1 : 13**
**Cables, mostly undated**

**Scope and Contents note**
Includes cables from 1927.
Box/Folder 1 : 14

Adamii and Chitai, official letter undated

Box/Folder 1 : 15

Kuchuloriiia, D. I., People's Commissar of Provision, Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic undated

Box/Folder 1 : 16

Pirunov, comrade undated

Box/Folder 1 : 17

Meskhishvili 1922 June 15

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

Box/Folder 1 : 18

Letter to N. Lakoba with a request to send 16.5 million Deutschmarks to Mr. Schreiber, who lives in Berlin undated

Note

Most likely, this is regarding party money earmarked for the support of the German Communist Party.

Box/Folder 1 : 19

Note to N. Lakoba asking to accommodate his old friend Sergei Anishchev arriving in Sukhumi on vacation undated

Box/Folder 1 : 20

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

Box/Folder 1 : 21

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

Box/Folder 1 : 22

Letter to N. Lakoba regarding Sergo Ordzhonikidze 1923 August 22

Box/Folder 1 : 23

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

Box/Folder 1 : 24

Note to N. Lakoba regarding Abkhazian situation 1925 September 27

Box/Folder 1 : 25

Draft letter from N. Lakoba to Sergo Ordzhonikize 1926 January 7

Box/Folder 1 : 26

Letter regarding Molotov's trip to Sukhumi 1926 November 29

Box/Folder 1 : 27

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

Box/Folder 1 : 28

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

Box/Folder 1 : 29

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

Box/Folder 1 : 30

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

Box/Folder 1 : 31

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

Box/Folder 1 : 32

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

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

Box/Folder 1 : 33

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 undated

Box/Folder 1 : 34

Defending a famous secret service officer undated

Box/Folder 1 : 35

Confirming appointment of comrade Dzhavakhov to a senior position in the Sukhumi CheKa (secret police) 1924 November 12
Correspondence 1922-1939
Beriia, Lavrentii, head of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD) 1924-1932

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

Box/Folder 1 : 36
Letter to N. Lakoba asking him to familiarize himself with the case of Comrades Sadzhaia and TSaralov 1924 November 19
Scope and Contents note
Includes L. Beriia's signature on the letterhead of the Tanscaucasian CheKa (secret police).

Box/Folder 1 : 37
Secret service travel identification card for protection of comrade Leon Trotsky 1925 January 27

Box/Folder 1 : 38
Letter to N. Lakoba concerning two sick workers 1928 September 14

Box/Folder 1 : 39
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 June 21

Box/Folder 1 : 40
Letter "the copy of our report note" 1932 July 26

Box/Folder 1 : 41
Draft letter to L. Beriia (with copies to Stalin, Kaganovich, Molotov, and Rudzutak) regarding pronunciation received by N. Lakoba on December 21, 1932 December

Box/Folder 1 : 42
Georg (possibly Georgii Sturua) 1925 January 26

Box/Folder 1 : 43
TSanava, Sergei 1925 August 7

Box/Folder 1 : 44
Orakhelashvili, M., secretary of the Transcaucasian Regional Communist Party Committee 1926 January 4

Box/Folder 1 : 45
Lakoba, Mikhail (N. Lakoba's step brother) 1926

Box/Folder 1 : 46
Strictly confidential undated

Box/Folder 1 : 47
He was assigned to Leon Trotsky as head of the secret police guard during Trotsky's stay in Abkhazia 1926 May 23

Box/Folder 1 : 48
V. Pantsulai, famous Georgian Menshevik. He is expressing concern about Russian policy in Georgia in general and in Abkhazia in particular 1926 June 10

Box/Folder 1 : 49
Tuskiia, S. 1927 June 16

Box/Folder 1 : 50
Inal-Ip, N. 1927 October 4

Box/Folder 1 : 51
Gugushvili, V. 1927 November 1

Box/Folder 1 : 52
Birvava, P. 1927 November 8

Box/Folder 1 : 53
Bzhalava, Manuchar 1929 April 19

Stalin, Joseph 1929-1934

Box/Folder 1 : 54
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" undated
Scope and Contents note
Includes draft and final version.

Box/Folder 1 : 55
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 Abkhazia 1929 October 19

Box/Folder 1 : 56
Response to Stalin's letter of October 19 1929 late October

Box/Folder 1 : 57
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) 1934 August 12

Box/Folder 1 : 58
Chichinadzhe letter 1931 March 10

Box/Folder 1 : 59
Fedorov, Professor, letter regarding N. Lakoba's health 1931 July 20

Box/Folder 1 : 60
Correspondence 1922-1939
Stalin, Joseph 1929-1934

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

Eliava, Shalva, Deputy People's Commissar of the Foreign Commerce of the USSR 1931 August-November
Box/Folder 1 : 61

Shaginian, Marietta, poet 1932 October 16
Box/Folder 1 : 62

Letter on stationery of the "Chairman of the All Union State Association Sovmongtuvtorg" 1932 May 18
Box/Folder 1 : 63

Karpov, L. 1932 November 23
Box/Folder 1 : 64

Leideker, S. 1933 February 9
Box/Folder 1 : 65

Note from the Director of the Kholodnorechensk construction project (Stalin's "dacha" - summer vacation residence) 1933 February 20
Box/Folder 1 : 66

Chakvetadze, head of "Traktotsentr" 1933 November 15
Box/Folder 1 : 67

Kalandiia, Markoz 1933 November 29
Box/Folder 1 : 68

Ivashchenko, Mikhail 1934 January 11
Box/Folder 1 : 69

Office memo on the stationery of the Chairman of the State Political Administration 1934 February 26
Box/Folder 1 : 70

Agrba, Z. 1934 October 15
Box/Folder 1 : 71

Petiaev, S. People's Commissar of Agriculture of Abkhazia 1934 December 28
Box/Folder 1 : 72

Borisova, A. 1936 February
Box/Folder 1 : 73

Letter to N. Lakoba from General Vlasik, head of Stalin's secret police guards 1936 May 31
Box/Folder 1 : 74

Musabekov, G., secretary of the Transcaucasian Regional Communist Party Committee 1936 November
Box/Folder 1 : 75

Letter from Mardaleishvili 1939 September 12
**Speeches and Writings 1921-1937**

**Scope and Contents note**
Contains of Nestor Lakoba's writings, speeches, reports, coded messages, and orders.
Arranged chronologically.

| Box/Folder 2 : 1-2 | N. Lakoba sayings undated |
| Box/Folder 2 : 3-4 | Notes undated |
| Box/Folder 2 : 5-7 | Theses for speeches undated |
| Box/Folder 2 : 8-10 | Speech drafts |
| Box/Folder 2 : 11-13 | Undated |
| Box/Folder 2 : 14 | Request draft for a battalion of GPU from Tiflis for peasant suppression undated |
| Box/Folder 2 : 15 | Report to the "Council of propaganda and action of the people's of the East about the political situation in Sultan (old) Turkey" 1921 |
| Box/Folder 2 : 16 | Coded messages compiled by N. Lakoba 1922 |
| Box/Folder 2 : 17 | Article, Iskry Oktiabr'skoi revoliutsii, Sukhumi, printed copy 1922 |
| Box/Folder 2 : 18 | Speech at a meeting of senior workers 1922 November 18 |
| Box/Folder 2 : 19 | General thoughts regarding an exhibit of the achievements of the Caucasus economy 1925-1926 |
| Box/Folder 2 : 20 | Explanation regarding accusations laid down in the office memo of Prosecutor General of the USSR Akulov to Comrade Stalin 1934 January |
| Box/Folder 2 : 21 | Stalin i KHashim: 1901-1902 gogy, (nekorote epizody iz Batumskogo podpol'ia), Sukhumi 1934 |
| Box/Folder 2 : 22 | Theses of the manuscript undated |
| Box/Folder 2 : 23 | Holograph and typescript undated |
| Mixed materials 2 : 24 | Printed copy 1934 |
| Box/Folder 2 : 25 | Speech praising the project of the new Soviet Constitution 1936 |
| Box/Folder 2 : 26 | Speech at the celebratory meeting of the Sukhumi city council devoted to the opening of the railroad Ochamchire-Kelasuri 1936 January 1 |
| Box/Folder 2 : 27 | Report to the "Progress report on the question of storage of tobacco supplies in Abkhazia" 1936 January 4 |
| Box/Folder 2 : 28 | Order, directions and requests ("strictly confidential") for building a two room cottage 1936 October |
| Box/Folder 2 : 29 | Strictly confidential letter from investigator Pertsov 1937 February 17 |

**Subject File 1914-1936**

**Scope and Contents note**
Arranged chronologically.

| Box/Folder 2 : 30 | Evaluation of work methods of Comrade TSeitlin in the city of Gudauta undated |
| Box/Folder 2 : 31 | Letter to Anton Ivanovich from unidentified correspondent undated |
| Box/Folder 2 : 32 | Survey, "Agriculture of Abkhazia - base of the Soviet food industry" (pp. 8-24 are missing) undated |
| Box/Folder 2 : 33 | Questionnaire for "The history of the civil war in Abkhazia" undated |
| Box/Folder 2 : 34 | Letter (21 pages) from the people of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic to Comrade Stalin undated |
| Box/Folder 2 : 35 | Complaint regarding false accusations to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia, unidentified undated |
| Box/Folder 2 : 36 | Reference material about geranium planting undated |
| Box/Folder 2 : 37 | Bank document and check 1914 October 14 |
| Box/Folder 2 : 38 | Appreciation letter to Doctor Sil'chenko 1921 |
Subject File 1914-1936

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

Photographs undated
Scope and Contents note
Mostly undated, including many images from the 1930s. 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 Ordzhonikidze, 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 VIIth 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  Horsemen 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 : 36-37  Series of photographs depicting L. Beriia flirting with a woman
Box/Folder 3 : 38  L. Beriia, Khandzhian, and Musabekov
Box/Folder 3 : 39  L. Beriia on a tribune

Friends and family
Photographs undated
Friends and family

Box/Folder 3 : 39  Vasiliii 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  Sergo Ordzhonikidzhe with Rauf (N. Lakoba's son), group picture
Box/Folder 3 : 43  Svetlana Stalina and L. Beriia

Funeral
Box/Folder 3 : General
44-46
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 4

Album with inscription "To Comrade Lakoba" 1933 September

Scope and Contents note

Depicts vacation images of Joseph Stalin, L. Beriia, N. Lakoba, and many others.