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

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Title: N. A. (Nestor Apollonovich) Lakoba papers

Date (inclusive): 1915-1939

Collection Number: 2003C73

Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Library and Archives

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 3 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize box (1.6 Linear Feet)

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

Creator: Stalin, Joseph, 1878-1953

Creator: Lakoba, N. A. (Nestor Apollonovich), 1893-1936

Hoover Institution Library & Archives

Access

The collection is open for research; materials must be requested in advance via our reservation system. If there are audiovisual or digital media material in the collection, they must be reformatted before providing access.

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Acquisition Information

Acquired by the Hoover Institution Library & Archives in 2003

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], N. A. (Nestor Apollonovich) Lakoba papers, [Box no., Folder no. or title], Hoover Institution Library & Archives

1893 May 1 Born, Village of Lykhny, Abkhaziia

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 Abkhaziia and Groznyi

1918 Deputy chairman of the Sukhumi Military Revolutionary Committee (Georgia); organized detachments of partisan forces for combat during the Russian Civil War

Led the uprising against the Menshevik-dominated government of Abkhaziia

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 Abkhaziia

1922 Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Abkhaziian ASSR

1930-1936 Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of Abkhaziia; 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 Abkhaziian 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 Beriia, 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 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**

Soviet Union -- Politics and government -- 1917-1936
Georgia (Republic) -- Politics and government -- 1917-1991
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 1, folder 1**

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

**box 1, folder 2**

**Autobiography 1936 February 12**

**box 1, folder 3**

**Curriculum vitae 1936 October 14**

**box 1, folder 4**

**Certificate of graduation, Tiflis seminary 1915 May 6**

**box 1, folder 5**

**Certificate, honorary leader of children communist movement of Abkhazia, Georgia 1924 August 22**

**box 1, folder 6**

**Lakoba case, Sukhumi jail 1918 November-December**

**box 1, folder 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 1, folder 8**

**Undated, unidentified**

**box 1, folder 9**

**Letter from Kostia regarding pursuit of bandits Chkhopeliia and Sichinava**

**box 1, folder 10**

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

**box 1, folder 11**

**Note from Dzhemal**

**box 1, folder 12**

**1925-1932, unidentified**

**box 1, folder 13**

**Cables, mostly undated**
Scope and Contents
Includes cables from 1927.
box 1, folder 14

**Adamii and Chitai, official letter undated**

box 1, folder 15

**Kuchuloria, D. I., People’s Commissar of Provision, Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic undated**

box 1, folder 16

**Pirunov, comrade undated**

box 1, folder 17

**Meskhishvili 1922 June 15**

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

box 1, folder 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 1, folder 19

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

box 1, folder 20

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

box 1, folder 21

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

box 1, folder 22

**Letter to N. Lakoba regarding Sergo Ordzhonikidze 1923 August 22**

box 1, folder 23

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

box 1, folder 24

**Note to N. Lakoba regarding Abkhazian situation 1925 September 27**

box 1, folder 25

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

box 1, folder 26

**Letter regarding Molotov’s trip to Sukhumi 1926 November 29**

box 1, folder 27

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

box 1, folder 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 1, folder 29

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

box 1, folder 30

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

box 1, folder 31

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

box 1, folder 32

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

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

box 1, folder 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 1, folder 34

**Defending a famous secret service officer undated**

box 1, folder 35

**Confirming appointment of comrade Dzhavakhov to a senior position in the Sukhumi CheKa (secret police) 1924 November 12**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 36</td>
<td>Letter to N. Lakoba asking him to familiarize himself with the case of Comrades Sadzhaia and TSaralov. 1924 November 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 37</td>
<td>Secret service travel identification card for protection of comrade Leon Trotsky. 1925 January 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 38</td>
<td>Letter to N. Lakoba concerning two sick workers. 1928 September 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 39</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 40</td>
<td>Draft letter to L. Beriia (with copies to Stalin, Kaganovich, Molotov, and Rudzutak) regarding pronouncement received by N. Lakoba on December 21, 1932. 1932 December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 41</td>
<td>Letter &quot;the copy of our report note&quot;. 1932 July 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 42</td>
<td>Letter to Stalin in which N. Lakoba talks about his (N. Lakoba's) upcoming trip to America &quot;for purchasing of planting material of citrus trees&quot;. 1929 October 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 43</td>
<td>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 October 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 44</td>
<td>Response to Stalin's letter of October 19. 1929 late October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 45</td>
<td>Short evaluation of N. Lakoba's essay &quot;Stalin i Khashim,&quot; which was published in October of the same year as an illustrative brochure by the Abhazian party press (20,000 copies). 1934 August 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 46</td>
<td>Letter to Stalin in which N. Lakoba talks about his (N. Lakoba's) upcoming trip to America &quot;for purchasing of planting material of citrus trees&quot;. 1929 October 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 47</td>
<td>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 October 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, 48</td>
<td>Response to Stalin's letter of October 19. 1929 late October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 49</td>
<td>Short evaluation of N. Lakoba's essay &quot;Stalin i Khashim,&quot; which was published in October of the same year as an illustrative brochure by the Abhazian party press (20,000 copies). 1934 August 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 50</td>
<td>Letter to Stalin in which N. Lakoba talks about his (N. Lakoba's) upcoming trip to America &quot;for purchasing of planting material of citrus trees&quot;. 1929 October 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 51</td>
<td>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 October 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 52</td>
<td>Response to Stalin's letter of October 19. 1929 late October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 53</td>
<td>Short evaluation of N. Lakoba's essay &quot;Stalin i Khashim,&quot; which was published in October of the same year as an illustrative brochure by the Abhazian party press (20,000 copies). 1934 August 12</td>
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</table>
Correspondence 1922-1939
Stalin, Joseph 1929-1934

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Shaginian, Marietta, poet 1932 October 16
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Letter on stationery of the "Chairman of the All Union State Association Sovmongtuvtorg" 1932 May 18
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Karpov, L. 1932 November 23
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Note from the Director of the Kholodnorechensk construction project (Stalin's "dacha" - summer vacation residence) 1933 February 20
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Chakvetadze, head of "Traktotsentr" 1933 November 15
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Kalandilia, Markoz 1933 November 29
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Ivashchenko, Mikhail 1934 January 11
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Office memo on the stationery of the Chairman of the State Political Administration 1934 February 26
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Agrba, Z. 1934 October 15
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Petiaev, S. People's Commissar of Agriculture of Abkhazia 1934 December 28
box 1, folder 72

Borisova, A. 1936 February
box 1, folder 73

Letter to N. Lakoba from General Vlasik, head of Stalin's secret police guards 1936 May 31
box 1, folder 74

Musabekov, G., secretary of the Transcaucasian Regional Communist Party Committee 1936 November
box 1, folder 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 2, folder 1-2  N. Lakoba sayings undated
box 2, folder 3-4  Notes undated
box 2, folder 5-7  Theses for speeches undated
box 2, folder 8-10  Speech drafts
box 2, undated 1930s
box 11-13  Request draft for a battalion of GPU from Tiflis for peasant suppression undated
box 2, folder 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 2, folder 16  Coded messages compiled by N. Lakoba 1922
box 2, folder 17  Article, Iskry Oktiabr'skoi revoliutsii, Sukhumi, printed copy 1922
box 2, folder 18  Speech at a meeting of senior workers 1922 November 18
box 2, folder 19  General thoughts regarding an exhibit of the achievements of the Caucasus economy 1925-1926
box 2, folder 20  Explanation regarding accusations laid down in the office memo of Prosecutor General of the USSR Akulov to Comrade Stalin 1934 January
box 2, folder 21  Stalin i KHashim: 1901-1902 gogy, (nekotorye epizody iz Batumskogo podpol'ia), Sukhumi 1934
box 2, folder 22  Theses of the manuscript undated
box 2, folder 23  Holograph and typescript undated
box 2, folder 24  Printed copy 1934
box 2, folder 25  Ot VI k VII S'iezdu Sovetov ASSR Abkhaszii, Sukhumi, printed copy 1935
box 2, folder 26  Speech praising the project of the new Soviet Constitution 1936
box 2, folder 27  Speech at the celebratory meeting of the Sukhumi city council devoted to the opening of the railroad Ochamchire-Kelasuri 1936 January 1
box 2, folder 28  Speech, "Progress report on the question of storage of tobacco supplies in Abkhaszii" 1936 January 4
box 2, folder 29  Order, directions and requests ("strictly confidential") for building a two room cottage 1936 October
box 2, folder 30  Strictly confidential letter from investigator Pertsov 1937 February 17

Subject File 1914-1936

Scope and Contents note
Arranged chronologically.

box 2, folder 31  Evaluation of work methods of Comrade Tsaitlin in the city of Gudauta undated
box 2, folder 32  Typescript. Includes handwritten notes.
box 2, folder 33  Letter to Anton Ivanovich from unidentified correspondent undated
box 2, folder 34  Survey, "Agriculture of Abkhaszii - base of the Soviet food industry" (pp. 8-24 are missing) undated
box 2, folder 35  Questionnaire for "The history of the civil war in Abkhaszii" undated
box 2, folder 36  Letter (21 pages) from the people of the Abkhaizian Autonomous Republic to Comrade Stalin undated
box 2, folder 37  Complaint regarding false accusations to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia, unidentified undated
box 2, folder 38  Reference material about geranium planting undated
box 2, folder 39  Bank document and check 1914 October 14
box 2, folder 40  Appreciation letter to Doctor Sil'chenko 1921
box 2, folder 41  Miriantsev, Georgii, promissory note 1923
box 2, folder 42  Case of bandits CHkopeliia and Sichinava. Includes list of crimes committed 1924
### Register of the N. A. (Nestor Apollonovich) Lakoba papers

**Subject File 1914-1936**

**Scope and Contents note**

Mostly undated, including many images from the 1930s. Arranged by topic.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>2, 41</td>
<td>Minutes of meetings, Caucasian Regional Control Commission, Russian Communist Bolshevik Party 1924-1925</td>
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<td>2, 42</td>
<td>Kadyrov, Seid, report (&quot;strictly confidential&quot;) on the national question in Georgia 1929 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 1</td>
<td>Kolokolkin, V., note early 1930s</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 2</td>
<td>Danchin, Valerian Dmitrievich, curriculum vitae 1930 August 7</td>
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<td>3, 3</td>
<td>Council of the Tkvarcheli skii collective farm, progress report 1931 January-August</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 4</td>
<td>Rubtsov, L. I., description of the local tree &quot;prutniak&quot; or &quot;Avraamovo derevo&quot; (Vitex Agnus Castus) 1934 December 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 5-6</td>
<td>Excerpts from the newspaper Pravda 1935 April 5, 19</td>
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<td>3, 7</td>
<td>KHatuntsev, letter to his doctor 1936 October 14</td>
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<td>3, 8-9</td>
<td>Photographs undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 10-11</td>
<td>N. Lakoba</td>
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<td>3, 12-13</td>
<td>N. Lakoba with Soviet and party officials</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 14-15</td>
<td>N. Lakoba, L. Beria, Sarie Lakoba (N. Lakoba's wife), and others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 16-17</td>
<td>Group of delegates (including N. Lakoba) of the VIIth All-Union Congress of the Council of People Deputies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 18-19</td>
<td>Guests at home</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 20-22</td>
<td>Friends on a wooden bridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 23-26</td>
<td>Lev Kamenev with hunting trophies</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 27-30</td>
<td>In his native village Lykhny with Moscow guests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 31-32</td>
<td>Group of people in front of the Duke's home in Lykhny village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,</td>
<td>Abkhazian party</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, folder 27</td>
<td>Two other horsemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, folder 28</td>
<td>Horsemen in mountains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, folder 29</td>
<td>Group of people sitting on a bench</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, folder 30</td>
<td>Bolsheviks in an automobile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L.P. Beria (middle row left, in peasant shirt and pince-nez) speaks with N.A. Lakoba (next to Beria, in white shirt and peaked cap). District militia head V.D. Lakoba (in military uniform with badges) sits on the lowest step on the bottom left. Abkhazian District Party Committee (Obkom) Chairman V.K. Ladariya is furthest to the right (in grey overcoat and tall boots). The photograph is from the early 1930s, most likely 1930-32, and was taken on the front steps of the former Smetsky family dacha, a prestigious guest house in the Soviet period and currently a residence of the President of Abkhazia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Subject File 1914-1936**

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

**Scope and Contents note**

Mostly undated, including many images from the 1930s. Arranged by topic.
Photographs undated

N. Lakoba with Soviet and party officials

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<tr>
<th>Box and Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 33</td>
<td>L. Beria in N. Lakoba's car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 34-35</td>
<td>L. Beria, Nina Gegechkori (his wife), Svetlana Stalina and others (on a ship)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 36</td>
<td>Series of photographs depicting L. Beria flirting with a woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 37</td>
<td>L. Beria, Khandzhian, and Musabekov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 38</td>
<td>L. Beria on a tribune</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Friends and family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box and Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 39</td>
<td>Vasili Stalin, Nina Gegechkori (L. Beria's wife), and Sarie Lakoba (N. Lakoba's wife)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 40</td>
<td>Nina Gegechkori (L. Beria's wife), Svetlana Stalina, Sarie Lakoba (N. Lakoba's wife), and Nazie Dzhikhashvili (N. Lakoba's relative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 41</td>
<td>Iakov Dzhugashvili (Stalin's son), Svetlana Stalina, and Rauf Lakoba (N. Lakoba's son)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 42</td>
<td>Sergei Ordzhonikidze with Rauf (N. Lakoba's son), group picture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 43</td>
<td>Svetlana Stalina and L. Beria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funeral

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box and Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 44-46</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 47</td>
<td>Memorial service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 48</td>
<td>L. Beria helping to carry N. Lakoba's coffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 49</td>
<td>Funeral wreath from L. Beria and his wife Nina Gegechkori</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 50</td>
<td>3 strips of contact prints</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Album with inscription “To Comrade Lakoba” 1933 September

Scope and Contents

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