

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 392B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2008 (1)

KEDIA, Michael - alias KOHLER, Michael X

Born: 23 Feb. 1902 in Tiflis

Father: Mekl KEDIA, director of the "Surete Georgiene".

Former addresses: 99 Kurfürstendamm, Berlin W 31.

4 Rue des Presidannes, Croissy, France
Vesines (near Paris)

1 Rue des Granges, Geneva, Switzerland

Present address: Bern, Switzerland, w/Rostyslaw SIULGIN.

German Passport: No. 857, issued in Berlin, 15 Mar. 1943.

Physical Description: Height - 6', sparse reddish hair cropped short,
regular features, large nose, ruddy complexion,
no beard or mustache, dominating eyes, intellectu-
al type, shape of head-square, long face.

Languages: Russian, French, German

Profession: Before 1940: possibly yoghurt (cheese made from sour milk)
manufacturer.

Chronological Information on KEDIA's life

~~Before 1920: ?~~

~~1922-23: Left Georgia.~~

~~1923-40: Nothing is know about KEDIA from 1923-1940. In fact, almost~~

(2)
1916 First political activity--became member of a nationalistic
Georgian youth organization.

1921 left Georgia together with his family, including his uncle,
Spiridon KEDIA, well-known nationalistic leader who was at that time
Chief of the Security Police of the Georgian Government. Michael
KEDIA was never a member of the Menshevik Party. The Kedia family
left Georgia with the Georgian Government.

Stayed 15 months in Istanbul and then went to Heidelberg where he
studied national economy. Here he learned German.

1924. In March went to Paris where his parents-in-law live (Kedia
married a Georgian in 1921 with whom he had two children.) KEDIA
family had restricted means so he and his father-in-law founded a
small factory manufacturing yoghurt. Business was successful enough
to allow KEDIA, from that time onward, a comfortable income.

1927. KEDIA joined the Youth Organization of the Nationalist Party
(the Georgian exile government in Paris was still under Menshevik
influence but the Nationalist Party under the leadership of xxi
Spiridon KEDIA formed a part of the so-called Assembly). As this
organization became obviously fascist, KEDIA left it but remained a
member of the Nationalist Party. KEDIA is both anti-Socialist and
anti-Marxist because in his mind the Menshevik Party was responsible
for the collapse of Georgian independence - however, he remained a
good friend of the president, JORDANIA.

1937. KEDIA became a member of the group of Caucasian nationalists
(a group which comprised all Caucasian nationalities--Armenian,
Azerbaijan, Abkhazian, Georgian) where he met ALIBAYEV (Azerbaijani)

over
BEST AVAILABLE COPY

3

DJAMALIAN (Armenian), Ali KAVTCHIN (Caucasian), Haydn BAKAT AKHMETELI (Daghestan), and became co-editor in Paris of a Caucasian journal edited in Berlin. This paper was run as a small executive group presided over by KAVTCHIN. It was directed in 1939 to organize 1939. a Caucasian Committee comprising all Caucasian nationalities on nationalist lines.

1939. In December 1939, in connection with the setting up of the above mentioned Committee, KEDIA was asked to go to Prague to contact an affiliated group. Arriving in Berlin he learned that the trip to Prague was only possible with a special German passport as Germany had already invaded Czechoslovakia. ALIVKOFF, one of the editors of the Berlin paper managed to get him the pass and he travelled to Prague. Afterwards, he was BAKAT in Lausanne, who already was one of the leading men within the Caucasian movement.

1940. On July 7, just after the German occupation of Paris, German officers contacted KEDIA. He afterwards heard that the Abwehr had his name in their files because of the pass he had received in 1939 to go to Prague. The German intelligence officers who contacted KEDIA and who from that time onward cooperated with him during the war were Major MACKART, Major RAUBACH and Hauptmann (Prof.) WAGNER of the South Russian intelligence branch. The Germans thought KEDIA to be the most active figure of the Georgians so he became, for them, the leading figure of Caucasian affairs. In Sept 1940 was in contact with Ost II (Lt. Col. von BRANDENSTEIN). Made a couple of trips to Berlin, and agreed to cooperate with the Germans on the basis that German intelligence should help him to regain Georgian independence and independence for other Caucasian nations. This was the only basis

nothing is known about him before 1923. His education, political activities, business, associates are all unknown.

It has been said of KEDIA in the early 40's that he was a leading spirit in Georgian circles, engaged largely in philanthropic activities

1940: Sept. Paris. Recommended by AKHMETELI to Germans to report on the Georgians to the Germans. Was contacted by Dr. KHAMMER. On 1 Sept. 1940 was in contact with Ost II (Lt. Col. von BRANDENSTEIN).

Trips to Berlin to assure independence of Georgia in case of invasion of Russia. Conferred with CANARIS, LAHOUSEN and von LORINGHOVEN.

Georgia office Paris - 6, Ave. Sully-Prudhomme, Paris 7.

1941: Mar. Paris. with Lt. HAUFFE recruiting personnel for TAMARA project. For Abwehr.

After outbreak Russo-German hostilities lived in Berlin.

Summer. Influential member of the SS. Attacked BAGRATION'S COMMITTEE FOR THE LIBERATION OF GEORGIA.

1942: April. Paris. Seen by SINDJIKACHVILI.

Visited Istanbul two-four times from Prague. To visit DJAKELI Leader of his Turkish group.

Recruited for ZEPPELIN project, was leader of Georgia Section. Summer. Berlin.

Oct. Berlin. Obtained release of SINDJIKACHVILI from either Georgia Legion or TAMARA - not clear to which SINDJIKACHVILI belonged.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

on which KEDIA cooperated with the Germans. KEDIA used his influence to save many Georgians, in fact it was he who saved the Georgian government of JORDANIA which was in a difficult position because JORDANIA, in behalf of the Georgians, declared war on Germany, Lt Lithuania, and Stalin-Russia. KEDIA also saved the Georgian Jewish community in Paris thru Obst. HAUFFE. His Georgian office in Paris was at 6, Ave. Sully-Prudhomme, Paris 7. 1941. March in Paris with Lt. HAUFFE recruiting personnel for the Tamara project. KEDIA's headquarters remained in Paris until the outbreak of the Russo-German hostilities when he moved to Berlin. In the Summer, attacked BAGRATION'S Committee for the liberation of Georgia and succeeded in dissolving it. 1942. Established a Caucasian special staff with the help of GRAEFE. From this date on, KEDIA cooperated with both Abwehr and Amt VI. In the summer went to Berlin. Flew to Istanbul where he contacted BERESHVILI and DJAKELI. Sent BERESHVILI to Georgia with help of Turkish intelligence. ~~Mixxxxxxxx~~ He reported back that the situation for resurrections against the Soviets was not unfavorable providing the German armies advance, the German gov't grants autonomy and promises better treatment of prisoners of war. Returned to Berlin. In September, flew to Stavropol to contact Caucasians in German PW camps and here heard for the first time of Zeppelin action. As losses were great and results negligible, on his return to Berlin, Kedia insisted this undertaking stop immediately. He agreed to re-organize Zeppelin action from Turkey by sending small groups of trained men into the Caucasus if MAGY BEY and DJELAL BEY of Turkish intelligence consent. GRAEFE stopped the parachuting and accepted KEDIA's reorganization suggestion.

KEDIA wrote to JORDANIA asking to allow him to resign and return to Paris as their political ideas could not be carried through with the Germans, but JORDANIA asked KEDIA to stay with the German authorities in the interest of the Caucasian cause so KEDIA agreed.

Inspired by JORDANIA and his other friends KEDIA obtained permission through Abwehr and Amt VI intercession to establish the KAVKASISCHER VERBANDSGESAMT. From this time on KEDIA concentrated almost entirely on the saving of P.W.s, helping peasant emigrees who left the Caucasus with retreating German armies and aiding Caucasian workers. In Oct KEDIA sent Father MICHEL and BASIGUS to Rome--the Georgian Cloister plan. KEDIA's trip to Istanbul in December was reported to have been for the purpose of recruiting a staff for the Georgian Cloister.

1944. In June KEDIA flew to Istanbul where he conferred with MAGY BEY, DJELAL BEY and NURI PASHA on the question of how the Caucasian Committee can open contacts with the western Allies. A special representative was suggested as KASHGARI was too closely connected with the German Foreign Service but as diplomatic relations between Turkey and Germany were severed in August the representative KASHGARI did not reach Turkey until Feb. 1945.

KEDIA and Committee ask General Koestring as Chief of Staff of Caucasian Legions in a formal letter to guarantee that Legions shall not be used as occupying forces which suppress resistance of peoples occupied by the German army, as this was against the fundamental ideas represented by the Caucasian Committee (copy of this letter in KEDIA's possession). In Oct. 1944 SS Oberfuhrer KROGER called a conference between KEDIA and VLASSOV with the object of establishing both groups out

over
BEST AVAILABLE COPY

⑦

KEDIA and his Committee flatly rejected the suggestion because VLASSOV was considered a traitor aiming only at a change of regime in Russia. KROKOV threatened Kedia unsuccessfully and in answer to this, KEDIA, with JOURNALIA's consent, formed the Committee for the Peoples Subjugated by Russia, members of which were: For the Caucasian Peoples: same as in the Vorkindungsstab; For Idel-Ural: SAHBI BLASS; For Arintatars: KIMI BAL; For Turkistan: VALI RAHIM; For Ukraine: Colonel ...; For Byelo Russia: ... from this committee KEDIA, ... and VALI RAHIM were chosen as the executive committee.

* In May when the ZEPPELIN project petered out, ~~his~~ his Turkish group worked for Abwehr II field units. The Turkish group continued to operate even after August, when the Turkish Gov't severed relations with the Germans and interned all Abwehr II personnel other than KEDIA's Georgian group.

1945: KEDIA helped Skryabin (OSS agent) cross German lines with the help of RADAGAPLER and von ... married to hide SKRYBINSKI (OSS agent) when he wished to cross German lines to France. April 1945 KEDIA, Ali KANTIR, ALIBEK ... and DJABALIAN left for Switzerland with the help of JOLIS, St Paris succeeded in getting there.

⑤

KEDIA was informed that TAMARA I was parachuted without his consent. The results were negligible and ~~the~~ after three years, the leader of TAMARA I, KANKAVA, escaped to Istanbul. At the end of the year was in Paris.

1943 KEDIA in Berlin. Made two trips to Istanbul, once from Mar 26 to Apr. 17 and again from Dec. 4 to 18 Dec. Two groups were sent to the Caucasus under ERKOMAICHVILI, only he returned. The results for KEDIA of the two groups were more interesting than to the Germans as the information was more political than military. In Istanbul KEDIA was in constant contact with NURI PASHA who represented a very influential Turanian group--Turkistan. He and KEDIA agreed the military situation did not look good and that the HITLER policy towards Eastern peoples was obviously imperialistic. Upon return to Berlin KEDIA decided to prepare disentanglement of his political activities from the German policy, at the same time, seeing no risk in playing on with the Germans as long as his Abwehr friends would stand up for him. In order to be more independent from Amt VI and their services in Istanbul, KEDIA sent ... to Turkey as liaison officer to the Turkish authorities and NURI PASHA.

KEDIA back in Berlin is permitted to see for the first time Caucasian legions under German officers. KEDIA and his Caucasian friends had been unable to get these legions under Caucasian control, but at least had avoided having them handed over to VLASSOV. As KEDIA's aim was to save as many of his countrymen as possible, he did not turn over pro-soviet Georgians to the Germans.

KEDIA tried to get Hitler to change his Eastern policy and to acknowledge the Caucasian Governments as leaders and representatives of their peoples by having ... in ... write a letter to Hitler. The plan failed.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

1945: Escaped to Switzerland shortly before end of war with KANTEMIR and SONAIA. (8)

Oct. In Geneva, Switzerland.

Was first contacted by DB7 in fall or winter 1945 upon request of the American Consul. DB7 gathered in this first interview that KEDIA believed himself kept by the Americans in Suisse for future use. KEDIA suggested to DB7 that he (K) not be kept in an internment camp because, in such a case, he could not run his chain (which he said reached into Moscow) for the Americans. KEDIA had contact with the SI officer, Lt. JOLIS (Paris).

1946: In Bern, Switzerland, living with Rostyslaw SHULGIN.

In January 1946, DB7 reported KEDIA's recent offer of the use of his Georgian chain. What happened afterwards is not clear. Probably nothing happened, that is, his offer apparently was not accepted.

Feb. 1 was to be interned. Internment postponed.

Kedia's name came up again in connection with the SHULGIN operation. DB7 was put in touch with SHULGIN by KEDIA, with whom he (SHULGIN) lived in Geneva, according to a report by DB23 and DB5 of June 46. Thru SHULGIN, KEDIA's offer to use his Georgian chain was indirectly renewed. KEDIA made his offer indirectly to the UHWR (UKRAINIAN CHIEF COUNCIL OF LIBERATION), probably well aware of SHULGIN's connection with us.

12 July 46. KEDIA, in a letter to Rostyslaw SHULGIN proposes that SHULGIN contact KEDIA's men in Turkey (Istanbul). According to

KEDIA

1946 (cont'd):

KEDIA, he has nine agents in Turkey. KEDIA's chief representative is MENAGARI who has contacts with the following Turkish officials:

1. NADJI-BEY (Naci Bey), Chief of the Turkish Military Intell. Service.
2. Col. CELAL BEY, Chief of the Turkish IS for western Turkey.
3. Col. TEMER-BEY
4. Gen. NURI PASHA, brother of Enver PASHA
5. Gen. ERKILLET
6. Krim Cafer Bey AKHOUT

Among KEDIA's agents is an Alexander KANKAVA who parachuted into Georgia 1942 and returned recently to Istanbul.

KEDIA apparently gave this information to SHULGIN for transmittal to the UHWR representative Eugene STACHIV. UHWR is reported to have decided to organize an intelligence center in Turkey, and STACHIV was charged with the mission. SHULGIN, however said that "KEDIA is very impulsive, and not always wise in the choice of his associates." SHULGIN wants to get the advice of the "American authorities" what to do, and their reaction to KEDIA's list.

German organizations of which KEDIA was a member
SS, SD, Abwehr II, KAUKASISCHER VERBINDUNGSSTAB

KEDIA's projects
Turkish Group under ZEPPELIN Project. GEORGIAN CLOISTER

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Groups for which KEDIA obtained men ⁽¹⁰⁾
Georgian Legion, TAMARA, ZEPPELIN Project, KAVKASISCHER SONDERSTAB,
Georgian Waffen SS.

General Remarks

During period of occupation the emigre govt. compromised itself seriously with the Germans, particularly with the SS through KEDIA. Enjoyed complete confidence of Germans and was allowed to direct all the political penetration work.

Has helped to shield the son (an OSS agent) of Beatrice SZARZYNSKI. KEDIA always well supported by WENZELHAUPT in spite of attacks of ODICHARIA and others on him.

Believed to have worked for British IS.

Other than the financial help given by the German government, KEDIA received most of his help from a Grisha BERIDZE. BERIDZE was reportedly saved from the Germans by KEDIA and has financed KEDIA ever since in gratitude.

KEDIA has been accused of being in contact with the Soviet IS. The only proof offered so far has been the names of two Soviets who are supposedly his NKVD contacts. They are TCHARTISHVILI and Lt. MDIVANI. These two men were captured Soviets who worked for the KAVKASISCHE VERBINDUNGSSTAB during the war. After the war ended, these two men were appointed by an American officer to work, in the absence of specially designated Soviets, as Soviet Repatriation Commission officers. When regular Soviets did arrive, they kept these two men on because of their knowledge of the territory and personalities.

KEDIA

3

~~1942 (cont'd): End of year. Paris. Issued travel permit to PAVLIACH-VILI to go to Paris.~~

~~1943: March 26. Arrived Istanbul from Prague - Turkish group.
Apr. 17. Left Istanbul.~~

~~Autumn - GEORGIAN CLOISTER Plan put into effect.~~

~~Late Oct. Sent Father MICHELE and BASILIUS to Rome. Member of official Georgian organization under the SS and SD.~~

~~Dec. 4. In Istanbul. Reported to find staff for GEORGIA CLOISTER project.~~

~~Dec. 18. Left Istanbul. Recruited for ZEPPELIN project.~~

~~1944: Was reported to have made declaration to Allied Repres. in Turkey (in agreement with VERBINDUNGSSTAB) that Georgians only wish to fight Soviet Russia to liberate homeland and hoped for friendly relations with the Allies.~~

~~May. When ZEPPELIN Project petered out, worked for Abwehr II. His Turkish Group continued to operate, even after August, when Turkish Govt. stopped collaboration with German Govt. and interned all Abwehr II personnel other than KEDIA's Georgian group. It is possible that KEDIA worked simultaneously for Abwehr II and Amt VI. It is not known for sure whether he worked for them simultaneously or alternately.~~

~~Summer: when KAVKASISCHER VERBINDUNGSSTAB was formed, became chief of Georgian Section.~~

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

KEDIA

470

Eventually, they returned to Soviet-controlled territory where word leaked out that they were executed. Either they were executed because of having worked with the Germans, in which case they wouldn't be considered NKVD or, they are NKVD agents and the executions were faked to make the Allies lose interest in them.

IN 45538 Dec. 46 Bern

Ukrainians with ABN in Germany ordered DB71 to cut off relations with KEDIA and watch Georgian activities. DB71 is to forward this order to Ukes in France and Poles in Italy who are Georgian contacts. Three reasons are: GUEGUETCHKORY's trip to Sweden and Finland during war now thought for reason of contacting Soviet Mission Stockholm and draft separate peace. GUEG. chosen as had known STALIN and BERIYA. 2. CHAVICHVILI, Georgian assoc. KEDIA freed in French trial due to wartime work with French, Polish and Soviet resistance. Communist papers took his side. 3. KEDIA's wife is mistress of high Soviet official in Paris and still corresponds regularly with KEDIA and exchanges information.

FSRO-1296 Feb 47

Kedia suspected of accepting financial help from Soviets.

WEIDTMAN

Director of the Deutsche Bank in Istanbul. When KEDIA made some trips to Istanbul, he stayed twice with WEIDTMAN.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY