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XARZ-24952

1 March 1946.

FBS

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Michael KEDIA.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE'S METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2006

I. Background; activities under the Germans.

Michael KEDIA; (Michel KEDIA); © KOEHLER, Michael.
Born: Georgia (USSR), 1902.
Former addresses: (a) 99 Kurfuestendamm, Berlin # 31, Germany.
(b) 4 Rue des Presidannes, Croissy, France.
(c) Vesines (near Paris), France.
Present address: 1 Rue des Oranges, Geneva, Switzerland.
Languages: Russian, French, German.
Profession: Yoghourt manufacturer.
Parent: Stated to be son of Maki KEDIA, ex-director of "Surete
Georgienne"; nephew of Spiridon KEDIA.

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Held German passport No. 357, issued Berlin 15 March 43. Claimed to be German national of Armenian origin (probably a part of his cover).

Travels: Visited Istanbul (from Prague) once in 1943 (March 26th); and twice in 1942, staying only a few days each time.

chronology

Subject was in the service of the Germans from 1941 until the time of the German collapse. He first recruited Caucasian POW's in order to form an anti-Communist legion. In 1942 and '43 he recruited agents for the SD to send to the Caucasus by parachute. During his visit to Turkey in December ('43) he was reported to have attempted to find staff for a Georgian monastery to be set up in Rome which should include two SD agents. He was connected with Friedrich WÄHNER and Eugen LUDWIG. A plan was made in autumn 1943 to set up a Georgian cloister in Rome under Vatican protection and among the monks to introduce two agents who were to keep contact with the SD net in the city. The principal persons connected with this scheme were Subject, Sadathieraschwili, BASILIUS, Father Tarschaisvili, MICHELE, and the SD chiefs KAPPLER, HOSTIL, REISSIANN. Subject's duty was to pick three novices from among the Georgian emigrants in Germany and send them to BASILIUS; then they would be recommended to Father MICHELE, who was to be the cloister Abbot. The three novices sent by Subject were found unsuitable and many difficulties arose.

Subject was in contact with Ast II, Paris, from 1 Sept 40 on. He made trips to Abwehr II Hq. in Berlin to assure Georgian independence in case of invasion offussia. He wanted to take over the Georgian government after the country's liberation. This was the subject.

duplication of [unclear]

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KEDIA Memo

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with ~~WILHELM~~ ^{WILHELM} ~~LAUSSEN~~ and ~~VON~~ ^{VON} ~~LORENSHOVER~~. After the outbreak of Russo-German hostilities, Subject lived in Berlin, where, through Abwehr and High Command, he had direct connections with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In his three trips to Turkey he prepared the ground for uprisings in the Turkish and Caucasian frontier regions. He formed a Georgian office at 6 Ave. Sully-Prudhomme, Paris 7.

He was associated with Standartenfuehrer ~~BICLER~~ ^{BICLER}. Also with ~~SCHAVGULIDZE~~ up until 1941.

Subject recruited Akaki ~~TCHIKLADZE~~ ^{TCHIKLADZE} and other Georgians for the TAMARA* groups. Just before Germany declared war on Russia, Subject was very active in looking up all the Georgians in France. When war was declared, he called them all together and told them they could return to their native land if they would join the Germans. He said that those who did not volunteer to go at first could not return later. Subject apparently had complete charge of the Georgians although he did not go with them on the TAMARA projects. TCHIKLADZE claims that KEDLA was chiefly responsible for the whole TAMARA business, and that he acted through ambition, and not through Georgian patriotism.

1940

Subject headed the Georgian section of Amt ~~VII/2~~ ^{VII/2} (Zeppelin), RSHA, which dealt with sabotage and subversive operations in Russia. He enjoyed the complete confidence of the Germans and was allowed to direct all the political penetration work. He also directed operations out of Turkey. He took an active part in the work of the Georgian National Committee, an organization organized and subsidized after 1941 by ROSENBERG's Ministry for Eastern Territories.

Subject collaborated actively with ~~BAMAT~~ ^{BAMAT}, (another Georgian, chief of the Georgian Liaison Staff (Germany)) and the German occupation authorities in France, recruiting Georgians for labor service in Germany, where they were taken over by BAMAT and forced to join the Georgische Verbindungsstab (i.e. Georgian Liaison Staff). KEDLA, together with his father-in-law, ~~PATCHOULLA~~ ^{PATCHOULLA}, and his wife (who was the mistress of a certain ~~HPTSTUF~~ ^{HPTSTUF} ~~CHRISTIAN~~, in Abt. VI, in Paris), played the German cause for what they were worth and

*TAMARA was the secret name given to a mission made up of Georgian agent recruits. The agents were trained at the Chateau de Rocquencourt (France), and the allowances were paid from the Georgian office at 6 Ave. Sully-Prudhomme, Paris. This mission put about 350 men at the disposal of different units of the Brandenburg Division for special work.

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actively collaborated not only with Bamat, but through the mediation of ZUCHESTIAN, with Hptstuf, ENGELHAUPT of Abt. VI of the RSHA in Berlin.

Subject is described as an opportunist of the purest water who at all times tried to play both sides. Thus, he helped many Jews in France, keeping them out of jail for adequate financial remunerations, and later in Berlin, while organizing the Georgische Verbindungsstab and the Georgian Fighting Units within the SD and the SS, he kept up his connections to Georgian Menshevik Irredentist circles and to Soviet agents and cells, such as the NKVD agent Major KASOUNIA, whom he gave refuge within the Georgische Verbindungsstab and shielded from the Gestapo.

II. Flight to Switzerland.

At the collapse of Germany subject fled to Switzerland, taking with him all the money of the Georgische Verbindungsstab, together with Hptstuf, ENGELHAUPT of the SD, the liaison man with the Georgian Units. Bamat also went to Switzerland. The reason for Subject's and Bamat's being in Switzerland (their subordinates went to Italy) is because they, presumably, intended to intervene with the International Red Cross at Geneva on behalf of the Caucasian POW's and displaced persons in British and American occupied territory to prevent their deportation to Russia.

With the help of his money and his former connections, Subject soon started again his political activities together with Bamat in Switzerland, and is reported to have established contact with American and British intelligence agencies. In addition, it is reported he has come into contact with Soviet intelligence officers, more particularly with the Soviet Repatriation Commission in Salzburg, one of the members of which, Capt. TSHARTISVILI, is in constant correspondence with him.

Word has been received that Subject's group (i.e. the former Georgische Verbindungsstab) in Munich has started to work once more in Munich, with contacts to both the Soviets and American authorities. More specifically, it has been reported that the former Chief of Police of the Georgische Verbindungsstab, one Alexandre TSCOMAYA, was found in a DP camp near Bregenz, from where he was brought by plane by the Americans to Salzburg and from there to Munich, where he is now working with the former collaborators of Subject, such as MICHIZAYA, and GABALSHVILI, and MALLOW-MALLOWSVILI, allegedly receiving the assistance of the Americans, such as transportation, etc.

Furthermore, a certain Chota BRESZLARI, reportedly Subject's right-hand man and his liaison with Soviet agents during the time of the Georgische Verbindungsstab, who lived in Salzburg some months (1945), obtained permits at the end of August from the French local liaison officer for his repatriation to France via Switzerland. He (BRESZLARI) was taken to the Swiss border, with his wife and parents, by the above mentioned TSHARTISVILI and

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(KEDIA. p. 4)

and Lt. ^{VH} DIVANI on 6 September 45 with instructions for Subject to enlarge as much as possible his Georgian Committee in Switzerland. At the same time, BRUSCHWEILER, the chief of the ^{VH} "Borner Hilfsverein (Committee for the assistance to people reluctant to return to the Soviet Union), was prevailed upon by various persons to entrust the representation of his committee in Switzerland to Subject as far as the Georgian interests were concerned.

From another source it is reported that one ^{VH} Nina ^E KODZE-DJIAKEVIC, ^J who worked for Subject in Berlin, was contacted in August or September (1945) by Subject from Switzerland through couriers (assisted by the Soviet Repatriation Commission), and that Subject wants her to go to Switzerland. Subject's reasons for this are not entirely clear.

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This summary on KEDIA should be read in conjunction with the report GEORGIA AND THE GEORGIANS. (Ref. no.).

Verified by Mr. METZEL
of FBI

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