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STATION : Munich REPORT NO. : MGH-1176 (HSC-76) 7.16
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 SOURCE : Chalva MAGHLAKELIDZE MICROFILMED DATE : 1946
 SUB SOURCE: Lt. William OTT, OMGB Special Branch FEB 2 1968 INFO REC'D: March 1947
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 REFERENCE : S-Memorandum #8; LWX-213

SUBJECT: KEDIA Group; Suspicion of Soviet Activities

NOTE: The information given below was obtained by Lt. OTT from a Georgian friend, Chalva MAGHLAKELIDZE, who is mentioned by several sources (see references) as an agent of Abwehr II in the Tamara Project (one of KEDIA's intelligence activities in 1941) and as a member of Colonel BAUN's staff in Poland and in the Munich area. He is listed in S-Memorandum #8 as a chauffeur; born 18 April 1902 in Koutais; formerly resident at 14 rue St. Didier, Paris 16e; active against the USSR.

1. A group of three Georgians-- Michael KEDIA, Alexander TSOMAYA, and Michel ALCHIBAYA -- formerly employed by the Germans are suspected of being Soviet agents. They recruited agents for the German Kaukasische Verbindungsstab of the Ostministerium during the war, but as early as 1942 or 1943 a suspicion arose that they had joined the Germans under instructions from Moscow. Several incidents nourished the idea, including the following:

a. ALCHIBAYA was once threatened with exposure as a Soviet agent by a Georgian Grigol PERADZE, professor at the University of Warsaw. In order to save himself, he had PERADZE arrested by the Gestapo and executed as a Soviet spy.

Heidelberg Comment: This incident and Professor PERADZE have not been previously reported.

b. Two Soviet agents arrested by the German police in Posen sometime in 1944 admitted working under the direction of a Soviet Major GABUNIA, who had become a German PW and later translator for the Propaganda Ministry. The day of the agents' arrest, GABUNIA disappeared; after hiding for two days in TSOMAYA's apartment, he escaped through Poland to the USSR.

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Heidelberg Comment: GABUNIA (or KABUNIA) is listed in S-Memorandum #8 as an agent of the Tamara Project, active against the USSR in France; resident at 132 rue Point du Jour, Billancourt; mechanic; deceased. He was reported in LSX-65 as an NKVD agent protected by KEDIA in Berlin during the war.

c. GABUNIA returned from the USSR to Berlin with a former Soviet captain named BARAMIDZE, a member of the Georgian legion suspected of being a Soviet agent. He hid in KEDIA's apartment in Berlin for some time.

France
ced
Heidelberg Comment: In S-Memorandum #8, ~~BARAMIDZE~~, whereabouts unknown, is reported as having twice traveled to Russia for KEDIA. An agent of the Tamara Project, German ~~BARANITZE~~, a laborer active against the USSR, living in Paris 15e at 5 rue Mademoiselle, born 16 October 1904, may be identical with BARAMIDZE, as may also the BARAMIRDZE listed in LWX-213 as a KEDIA agent.

d. KEDIA made frequent trips from Germany into other countries, especially Switzerland, a known base of operations for the RIS.

Germany
e. At the end of 1946, a French officer, Major CHENKELI, working for the British IS, visited Munich. That he was scheduled for an assignment for the British in Berlin somehow became known to Mrs. Michael KEDIA in Paris, who passed the information on to the Russians. CHENKELI was not sent to Berlin.

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Heidelberg Comment: Two CHENKELI (TCHENKELI) brothers were members of the Georgian Menshevik group in Paris. Akari CHENKELI was Georgian ambassador to France; his brother Kita, a scientist, was in Hamburg during the war and was sent to Switzerland in 1945 to arrange American contacts for the Georgians (S-Memorandum #8, LWX-213). No other CHENKELIs are known.

f. ~~KOBIASHVILI~~, another close friend of the KEDIA-TSOMAYA-ALCHIBAYA group, was formerly an officer in the Polish army. According to his own account, he was taken prisoner by the Russians in 1939 but "escaped" after shooting "several commissars."

Heidelberg Comment: ~~KOBIASHVILI~~ is probably identical with Rittmeister Simon ~~KOPIASHVILI~~, listed in S-Memorandum #8 as formerly of the Polish army, appointed battalion commander in the Legion stationed in Dresden in February/April 1945.

2. When the American forces occupied Bavaria, KEDIA, ALCHIBAYA, and their German associate Professor von MENDE (alias METREVELI) crossed the border into Switzerland. They were immediately apprehended by the Swiss and turned over to the American border CIC, for whom they offered to work. After a short interrogation in Frankfurt, their services were accepted. TSOMAYA and ALCHIBAYA work for CIC Munich; KEDIA is in Switzerland. Von MENDE is allegedly working for the British IS in the British Zone of Germany.

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Heidelberg Comment: Source's account of the recent careers of KEDIA and his friends differs slightly from the facts recorded in S-Memorandum #8 and the extensive debriefings of the group contained in the TAILSPIN reports. MAGHLAKELIDZE's information is forwarded principally as background on Georgian reaction to KEDIA and his circle.

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