

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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FROM:

NO.

DFB 31938

DATE

TO	ROOM NO	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FILED		
1. <i>Stc</i>		JAN 21 1954	JAN 21 1954	<i>Kab</i>	
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3. <i>SR/FI</i>		JAN 25 1954	JAN 25 1954	<i>W. Sam</i>	
4. <i>SR 14</i>		JAN 25 1954	JAN 27 1954	<i>J. H. C.</i>	
5. <i>STC/SID</i>		FEB 1 1954	FEB 1 1954	<i>J. H. C.</i>	
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7. <i>Germany</i>		FEB 4 1954	FEB 5 1954	<i>M</i>	
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DATE 13 JAN 1954	

COORDINATION WITH FBI

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2008

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

NO BASIC DOCUMENT

Document No. DFR-31938

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Federal Bureau of Investigation

Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

Dear Sir:

For your information, I am enclosing communications which may be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

1222 1/14

(Upon removal of classified enclosures, if any, this transmittal form becomes UNCLASSIFIED.)

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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6-10-53

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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FORM NO. 1
THIS PAGE ORIGINATED AT

SEATTLE

SECRET

REPORT MADE AT SEATTLE; WASHINGTON	DATE WHEN MADE 10/26, 11/10, 18, 27/53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY REESE H. CHIPMAN	jrp
TITLE Mr. NICHOLAS ARMIN KOEHLER, nee Ludmilla Sommering, was., Mrs. Nikolaus Armin Koehler, Mrs. L.A. Koehler, Mrs. L. Koehler, Ludmilla Sommering, Ludmilla Sommering, Mrs. Jurgis Sommering, Mrs. Ludmilla Jonavicius, "Milla"			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R	
SYNOPSIS				

Subject advised she was employed by the North Caucasian National Committee in Berlin and Munich, Germany during World War II and subsequently. Subject denied ever having been employed by Red Army in East Germany or having any connection with Soviet Espionage activities. Subject related she was a friend of NINA KIKODSE, suspected Soviet agent at Berlin, Germany from the latter part of 1943 to the end of 1944 or early 1945 and again at Munich, Germany from May or June, 1945 until approximately Dec., 1949. Subject said KIKODSE continually talked of espionage and intrigue, but subject believed KIKODSE did this to impress people. Subject doubted KIKODSE is or ever was an espionage agent for either Russia or Germany although KIKODSE had certain papers in her possession indicating a connection with the Geheim Feldpolizei (German Field Police). Subject furnished background information concerning KIKODSE and indicated the latter appeared to be anti-Communist although her mother was residing at Kislovodsk - Georgia, U. S. S. R. Subject heard of several individuals whom KIKODSE suspected as being Soviet agents, but could furnish no pertinent information concerning these individuals. Subject recently moved to Fort Ord Village, California, where her husband, NICHOLAS ARMIN KOEHLER is employed as an interpreter for the Army Language School.

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This is a negative report and makes no recommendation for clearance or disapproval.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
<i>[Signature]</i>		
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		INDEX <i>[Signature]</i> 59
8 - Bureau (REG.) 6-(65-61141) 2-(65-60521)	2 Washington Field (info.) (REG.) (65-6219) 1 Los Angeles (info.) (REG.) (65-5681) 3 Seattle (65-3256)	

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SE 65-3256

DETAILS:

AT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Subject was interviewed at Seattle on October 28, 1953 at which time she furnished the following information:

PERTINENT DATA CONCERNING HER OWN ACTIVITIES

Investigation concerning subject was originally instituted at the request of Confidential Informant Seattle T-1, another Government Agency which conducts security investigations, on the basis of information received by T-1 that subject at one time was an associate of one NINA KIKODSE, a suspected Soviet Agent probably at Munich, Germany about 1946 or 1947.

Seattle T-1 also advised that subject was an employee of the North Caucasian National Committee in Berlin and Munich, Germany both during and after World War II and that immediately following World War II she was employed for a time by the Red Army in East Germany; also that she was reported to have been friendly with a Mr. TAMBIEV-KABARDA, a North Caucasian, active in emigre affairs in New York City. T-1 further advised that at some time in her career, probably in Germany, the subject denounced NINA KIKODSE as a Soviet Agent although subject and KIKODSE appeared to be rather close friends at the time of the denunciation.

NORTH CAUCASIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN BERLIN AND MUNICH

Subject advised that she was employed periodically by the North Caucasian National Committee in Berlin, Germany in 1944 and that she later was employed by this same committee periodically at Munich, Germany about 1947. She advised that she acted as an interpreter for the above committee and explained that this committee was organized by persons from the Caucasus in Russia who had drifted to other European countries during the past 30 years and who were hopeful that as a result of World War II they could resettle in the Caucasus under a Government of their own or be represented in a new Soviet government in the event the Stalin regime were overthrown. They were comprised mostly of white Russians and other refugees who were strongly anti-Communist and desirous of the overthrow of the Communist government in Russia.

SE 65-3256

Subject stated she knew of no persons in this organization whom she would suspect of being engaged in espionage activities.

SUBJECT DENIES EMPLOYMENT WITH RED ARMY IN EAST GERMANY

Subject advised that World War II ended May 9, 1945. Subject said that approximately the end of April, 1945 the Russians occupied Neukloster, Germany and registered the population of the town. She and her mother were registered along with the rest and the Russians attempted to persuade her and her mother to go back to Latvia. She stated that they had heard that conditions were very poor in Latvia and consequently they decided they would not return there, and therefore decided to go to Berlin in an attempt to get a permit to go to the U. S. Zone of Germany. In attempting to enter the U. S. Zone at night they misjudged their directions and ended up in the British Zone at Lubeck. After being questioned by British authorities for two or three hours she and her mother were released and eventually through Latvian friends were able to go to Munich, Germany where they stayed for the following three years.

Subject denied that she had ever been employed by the Red Army in East Germany. She advised that she can speak Russian quite well, but has a definite accent, and added the Russians would not have trusted her in view of her previous residence in Germany and Latvia.

TAMBLEV-KABARDA (North Caucasian Committee, New York City)

Subject advised the name TAMBLEV-KABARDA sounded very familiar but added she could not definitely place this individual or furnish any information concerning him.

SUBJECT DENIES ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES

Subject declared she has never engaged in any Soviet espionage activity or has no definite knowledge that other persons with whom she is acquainted have engaged in such activities. She stated, however that a former friend of hers, NINA KIKODSE, whom she knew in Berlin and Munich, Germany, was suspected by many people of being a Soviet espionage agent.

NINA KIKODSE

Subject advised she first met NINA KIKODSE in Berlin, Germany some time during the year 1943 through a girl from the Caucasus named SUMRUD (last name not recalled). KIKODSE and SUMRUD resided together for a short time near Oliverplatz in the West Berlin Section. Since

KIKODSE could not speak German well, and purposed herself to be a writer, the subject offered to assist KIKODSE in translating KIKODSE's stories from Russian to German.

She related that KIKODSE never appeared to have any steady employment; that she had numerous love affairs, usually of very short duration, some of them with persons of dubious character and background. Subject could not furnish any specific information with respect to any of these individuals. She said that KIKODSE claimed that she was born in 1917, however, subject suspected that she was born around 1912. KIKODSE told subject her father was an engineer and her mother a doctor. They separated before the first world war and her father died during or shortly after the revolution in a railroad accident. KIKODSE related that her father occupied a high position during the Czar's Regime and KIKODSE was raised in aristocratic fashion with French and German nurses, etc. As a small girl she knew all the names and was able to distinguish the uniforms of all the famous Czar regiments. After the death of her father, KIKODSE was raised by her mother who was employed as a doctor at the famous Resort of Kislovodsk in the Caucasus.

KIKODSE informed subject that she married very early, about 16, to a man of Polish origin named JAKENITSCH and they resided in Moscow and Leningrad. At one time KIKODSE was reported that she studied Russian language and literature in colleges in the above cities, apparently never graduated. Subject believed that KIKODSE at the time became interested in newspaper work and started writing since she had demonstrated a certain amount of technical knowledge in the newspaper publishing and editing field. Subject did not believe that KIKODSE was regularly employed, however, since her four husbands were reportedly well off and she did not need to work for a living. She divorced JAKENITSCH and married a general whose last name subject recalled as VRONSKY or VORONSKY. He reportedly disappeared during the purge following General Tukachevsky's conviction. Subject could furnish no data concerning KIKODSE's subsequent husbands. KIKODSE told subject that when she was married to VRONSKY who was working in the military command of the District of Leningrad they resided in the Hotel "Europe" in Leningrad where Ambassador of the U. S. Bullitt was staying. KIKODSE claimed to have seen HULLITT several times, but never talked to him.

KIKODSE informed subject at one time that she once worked as a sales girl in a perfume store in Tiflis, Georgia, U. S. S. R., which employment was presumably right before the war in 1939. Subject believed KIKODSE had also spent time in Rostov and Taganrog prior to World War II.

KIKODSE informed subject that at one time she was urged to join the Communist Party in Russia but avoided it by claiming that she felt unworthy. Subject knew of no other organizations to which KIKODSE belonged and was of the opinion KIKODSE was not affiliated with any kind of organization either in Berlin or Munich, Germany. KIKODSE was ostensibly strongly opposed to the Georgian Committee in Berlin during the war and appeared to be very strongly anti-Communist. She professed hatred of the Soviet Regime.

Subject believed KIKODSE to be of Greek Orthodox religion and said she did believe in God, however, a clergyman probably would have difficulty in describing her beliefs since her religion always seemed to the subject to be a confused mixture of funny superstitions, complete nonsense and ignorance.

Subject said KIKODSE made friends very easily even with complete strangers, but retained very few friends due to her difficult personality. She said KIKODSE is very suspicious by nature and had the disgusting tendency to call everyone whom she did not like a Soviet spy. Subject stated that many of KIKODSE's friends appeared to be professional black-marketsters, criminals and other dubious characters, but subject did not suspect any of these of being a spy.

Subject furnished a written memorandum concerning her knowledge of KIKODSE; the latter part of which is set forth verbatim:

"Personally I don't believe that NINA K. was either a German or a Soviet spy. She probably gave the Germans some information during the war, however I doubt the value of any information she could possess. As to her being a spy for the Soviets - I don't think they would trust her, or that anybody besides some fertile Hollywood brains would try to use her as a spy. But she regarded herself as an authority on espionage, secret service etc., was always hinting her association with such organizations (German or American) with the result that half of the people who knew her, were convinced that she is a Soviet spy.

Subject advised, however, that she did not entirely discount the possibility KIKODSE may have worked with Soviet or German intelligence at one time since she seemed to have some knowledge of their operations and techniques. She also recalled that on one or two occasions KIKODSE had exhibited some sort of paper issued by the Wehrmacht Feldpostamt, the German Secret Police, at which time KIKODSE claimed to have some

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connection with this organization. KIKODSE also added that she came to Berlin in 1943 at about the time the State of Georgia was overrun by the Germans. Subject again met KIKODSE at UNNRA University in Munich, Germany about May or June, 1946 when KIKODSE enrolled but did not attend. Subject stated this university was a meeting place for foreigners in Munich at that time. Subject and KIKODSE again resumed their friendship at Munich and subject confirmed information relative to KIKODSE's residence at Munich from about June, 1946 to approximately December, 1949 when subject left for the United States. She advised that KIKODSE has also attempted to come to the United States without success. She has not corresponded with KIKODSE since coming to this country.

Subject further described KIKODSE, as furnished in her statement, as follows:

"As to her health - she has a pelvic inflammatory disease and probably has had it for a long time and is afraid of surgery. As far as her mental condition is concerned I would like to quote a medical dictionary in a description of the mental disease 'paranoia' - 'chronic, psychotic entity characterized by fixed, but ever-expanding systematized delusions of persecution. General characteristics are sensitive, suspicious, jealous, brooding nature; excessive self-consciousness, fixed ideas, developed into well-systematized, logical delusions, megalomania (A psychosis characterized by ideas of personal exaltation & delusions of grandeur), rare hallucinations, repressed homosexuality, inability to make concessions.' This description fits exactly her mental condition.

Subject advised that KIKODSE was a "fantastic liar, preferring to lie when the truth would serve just as well. She was extremely gregarious and talked a constant stream". Subject felt that this trait plus her instability and her habit of constant lying would preclude the possibility of subject's being engaged in espionage at the present time.

Subject recalled that KIKODSE claimed someone had attempted to poison her approximately during the summer of 1949. However, subject believed KIKODSE was lying and could not furnish any further details.

In her summary concerning KIKODSE, subject continued as follows:

"About NINA K. writing - she was too lazy to write much, half of her stories existed only in her imagination, but from what I

have seen I must say that she had a certain gift for writing, a good command of the language and a wonderful fantasy, which she was using daily, inventing brand new versions of her past and present.

"I would like to add that she is a product of the Soviet system with its always present suspicions, investigations and complete lack of trust. Everybody there is trying to conceal something about ones past by changing names, birthplaces and addresses. Some seem to get used to it to such a degree that they use it as a kind of protection even when it is entirely out of place and date.

"Seattle, 11/2/53."

Subject advised that she associated with KIKODSE because the latter was a very colorful, talkative, interesting person of warm personality who in spite of her many faults was potentially a very fine person. She said that on many occasions she had heard others denounce KIKODSE as a Soviet spy but subject paid no attention to these denunciations since she felt they were without any basis in fact.

Subject did recall that KIKODSE spent a short period of time at Bad Reichenhall, which has been alleged to have been a focal point of Soviet espionage. Subject stated that she did not believe that Bad Reichenhall could be a focal point of Soviet espionage as it is "too small and everyone knows everyone else".

WRITINGS OF KIKODSE

Subject advised that she still has three or four short stories which KIKODSE wrote in Russian and which were given to the subject for translation. One of these stories captioned "The Suicide of an Important Communist in U. S. S. R." reflects an anti-Stalin, anti-Communist viewpoint.

The story concerns a man who threw himself out of the window of the "Tbilisi" Hotel presumably in some large city in Russia. A large crowd which gathered was dispersed by the Secret Police who pointed revolvers at the passers and even arrested those who came too close. Immediately rumors spread that JOSE DIAZ an important Spanish Communist leader had committed suicide. The local NKVD spread their own rumor that despairing of an "incurable disease" DIAZ had committed suicide.

Then the directives from headquarters arrived stating that DIAZ died in his own bed, striking rumors of suicide. The story then describes the funeral in which the faces of the members of the Georgian Government bore an indifferent and annoyed expression. The story continues that STALIN had maintained silence concerning the death and that was the truth known, DIAZ, a passionate Spaniard, devoted to the Communist idea, had committed suicide after seeing the "complete breakdown of all his ideals brought about by Soviet reality". It continued "profoundly disappointed as to the practical possibility of realization of Communism, this honest leader of the Spanish Communist movement, faithful to his Communist creed, preferred the death of a martyr and threw himself down on the paving stones of the 'Ibilia'". The story continued that STALIN's reaction was one of powerless rage which lasted two days, not only that DIAZ and the other Spaniards had lost the Civil War in which STALIN had invested millions, but DIAZ had also dared to die in such a scandalous manner. The story concludes with the following line: "the most important Spanish Communist perished by suicide and that in the leading Communist country of the world, the U. S. S. R."

The subject advised that this story was typical of the writings of NINA KIKODSE.

COMMENTS CONCERNING INDIVIDUALS

Subject was interviewed concerning individuals who were named as associates of NINA KIKODSE and some of whom were suspected Soviet Agents. Subject furnished the following comments:

Where she could not identify these individuals, the word "no" will be utilized.

- A. NIKOLAUS BARATOFF. Subject advised she is not acquainted with BARATOFF but believes she heard KIKODSE talk about this man on several occasions, however, subject could not recall any details.
- B. IVAN SHIASHVILI. No.
- C. MICHAEL KEDIA. Subject related that KIKODSE talked constantly of MICHAEL KEDIA, especially during the period in Berlin from late 1943 to approximately January, 1945. KIKODSE informed subject that KEDIA was an executive in the Caucasian Department of the S. D. (Sicherheits Dienst -- German Secret Service). According to KIKODSE's story, KEDIA had spent time in

Paris. After the war he was supposedly living in Switzerland, according to KIKODSE. Subject also heard from several other persons whose names she cannot recall that KEDIA was "highly placed". She said KIKODSE was enamored with KEDIA but the affection was not mutual and subject believes that KEDIA soon tired of KIKODSE and was avoiding her, as on one occasion in Berlin subject and KIKODSE observed KEDIA in a cafe and he appeared to obviously avoid NINA KIKODSE.

Subject advised she had no specific knowledge of KEDIA's activities and could not say whether he had ever been engaged in espionage activities.

- D. ERICH ENGELHAUPT; Erich Hengelhaupt. Subject heard of ERICH ENGELHAUPT many times from NINA KIKODSE during their acquaintance in Berlin. ENGELHAUPT was MICHAEL KEDIA's superior according to KIKODSE. Subject never saw ENGELHAUPT or knew him personally and could furnish no data concerning his activities.
- E. MICHAEL VON ALSCHIBAYA. No.
- F. MIKHAIL KUR'KIN. No.
- G. BARON GEORGIE WRANGEL. Subject advised that she has heard of a Russian general by this name who reportedly died in the 1920's in Belgium. She also advised that an individual, last name WRANGEL, came to Seattle, Washington from Lethonia. He is reportedly a displaced person who is working for some shipping company in Seattle.
- H. LEONID VASILII-DASCHKOV. No.
- I. Dr. GEORGE WEPCHADZE. No.
- J. Dr. EDWA D KONECSHNI. NINA KIKODSE talked about this individual, stating that he was not a doctor and subject believes that KIKODSE might have considered him as a spy. Subject never met KONECSHNI and could furnish no further comments.

- K. ~~IUGA KASEISHILI~~. Subject could not recall this individual, nor ~~SCHALVA ODISCHARIA~~, whose name was linked to ~~KASEISHILI~~.
- L. ~~ROMAN FARSIN~~. No.
- M. ~~ALEXANDER ZOMAYA~~, aka. Tsomais. Subject was under the impression that ZOMAYA had been mentioned by KIKODSE as being a member of the S. D. with ~~MICHAEL KADIA~~. Subject recalled that KIKODSE reportedly hated this individual. Subject stated it could be that she had ALEXANDER ZOMAYA confused with ~~MURSE VON ALSCHIBAYA~~. (It is known that KIKODSE considers ~~ALSCHIBAYA~~ as an enemy.)
- N. ~~GLEB BENFEN~~. No.
- O. ~~MANFRED KOPPE~~. No.
- P. ~~GABONIA~~ (full name unknown); ~~GONIA~~ (fm); ~~PACSELIA~~ (fm). No.
- C. ~~Major RUMANTZEV~~. Subject related that she had heard KIKODSE speak of this individual and KIKODSE had said RUMANTZEV had attempted to persuade KIKODSE to become a Soviet agent. KIKODSE claimed she escaped from him since she did not wish to become a Soviet agent. Subject heard through KIKODSE that RUMANTZEV had been connected with the Russian Repatriation Commission in Salzburg.
- R. ~~HANS DRESSLER~~. No.
- S. Professor ~~NIKOLAI BRUNNER~~. Subject recalled that Professor BRUNNER was a member of the staff of UNNRA University in Munich, however, subject was not well acquainted with BRUNNER and could not furnish any information as to his being a leader of the Committee for the Liberation of the Russian People. She could not recall the degree of association, if any, between Professor BRUNNER and NINA KIKODSE.
- T. ~~ARMIN SCHNEFF~~. No.

OTHER INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED BY SUBJECT

- U. Dr. ~~VLADISLAV KALUSKI~~. Subject related that ~~ND KIKODSE~~ was on extremely friendly terms with an old Professor at UNNRA.

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University at Munich during the period 1946 to 1949. She stated this professor is Dr. VLADISLAV KALUSKI, who subsequently came to the United States and approximately one year ago was residing at 161 North 5th Street in Brooklyn, New York.

V. PRINCE GURIELLE. KIKODSE claimed that PRINCE GURIELLE, a famous perfume manufacturer in New York City was KIKODSE's uncle or cousin. This individual may be identical with the PRINCE GURIELLE who reportedly is now the husband of HELENA RUBENSTEIN, well known beauty specialist in New York.

W. WATSHWADSE (full name unknown). Subject recalled a man whose last name was WATSHWADSE who was a prominent sportsman in Munich, Germany about 1948 and 1949. He claimed to have been in a concentration camp in the U. S. S. R. possibly near Tiflis in Georgia. KIKODSE informed subject that this individual went to the United States and KIKODSE had received letters from him probably from New York City.

X. MISCHA (last name unknown). Subject recalled that NINA KIKODSE had a friend, MISCHA (lma), a man of Jewish extraction. Subject once saw MISCHA visiting KIKODSE at Red Reichenhall. Subject talked with MISCHA at this time and he expressed a desire to go to the United States. A short time later KIKODSE informed subject that MISCHA had been a member of the Red Army.

Subject recalled that she spoke with MISCHA in Russian and that he was a short, fat man who had fair hair and complexion. Subject saw him only once on the above occasion.

SUBJECT MOVED TO CALIFORNIA

On November 27, 1953 subject telephonically advised that her husband, NICHOLAS ARMIN KOEHLER, had received an appointment as an interpreter in the Army Language School at Monterey, California. She stated that she and her husband would move within the next few days and could be located c/o Ord Village, Fort Ord, California or through the Army Language School.

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