

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

Finding aid prepared by Hoover Institution Library and Archives Staff  
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434 Galvez Mall  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA 94305-6003  
hoover-library-archives@stanford.edu  
URL: <http://www.hoover.org/library-and-archives>

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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

**Physical Location:** 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.

## Use

For copyright status, please contact the Hoover Institution Library & Archives

## 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

## Biographical Note

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 Abkhaziiian 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 Abkhaziiian 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 Beria, 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 Beria, 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 Abkhaziia 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 Abkhaziia, 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.

### **General**

#### **Undated, unidentified**

box 1, folder 8

#### **General**

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

**Kuchuloriia, 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**

**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**

**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**

box 1, folder 36

**Letter to N. Lakoba asking him to familiarize himself with the case of Comrades Sadzhaia and TSaralov 1924 November 19**

**Scope and Contents**

Includes L. Beriia's signature on the letterhead of the Tanscaucasian CheKa (secret police).

box 1, folder 37

**Secret service travel identification card for protection of comrade Leon Trotsky 1925 January 27**

box 1, folder 38

**Letter to N. Lakoba concerning two sick workers 1928 September 14**

box 1, folder 39

**1929 October 29**

box 1, folder 40

**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**

box 1, folder 41

**Letter "the copy of our report note" 1932 July 26**

box 1, folder 42

**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**

box 1, folder 43

**Georg (possibly Georgii Sturua) 1925 January 26**

box 1, folder 44

**TSanava, Sergei 1925 August 7**

box 1, folder 45

**Orakhelashvili. M., secretary of the Transcaucasian Regional Communist Party Committee 1926 January 4**

**Lakoba, Mikhail (N. Lakoba's step brother) 1926**

box 1, folder 46

**Strictly confidential undated**

box 1, folder 47

**He was assigned to Leon Trotsky as head of the secret police guard during Trotsky's stay in Abkhaziia 1926 May 23**

box 1, folder 48

**V. Pantsulai, famous Georgian Menshevik. He is expressing concern about Russian policy in Georgia in general and in Abkhaziia in particular 1926 June 10**

box 1, folder 49

**Tuskiia, S. 1927 June 16**

box 1, folder 50

**Inal-ip, N. 1927 October 4**

box 1, folder 51

**Gugushvili. V. 1927 November 1**

box 1, folder 52

**Birvava, P. 1927 November 8**

box 1, folder 53

**Bzhalava, Manuchar 1929 April 19**

**Stalin, Joseph 1929-1934**

box 1, folder 54

**Letter to Stalin in which N. Lakoba talks about his (N. Lakoba's) upcoming trip to America "for purchasing of planting material of citrus trees" undated**

**Scope and Contents**

Includes draft and final version.

box 1, folder 55

**Expressing disagreement with the decision of the Georgian Bolshevik Party's Central Committee (Tsetlin's commission) regarding the Abkhaziiian case, which recommended removing N. Lakoba from the position of president of the Central Executive Committee of Abhaziiia 1929 October 19**

box 1, folder 56

**Response to Stalin's letter of October 19 1929 late October**

box 1, folder 57

**Short evaluation of N. Lakoba's essay "Stalin i Khashim," which was published in October of the same year as an illustrative brochure by the Abkhazian party press (20,000 copies) 1934 August 12**

box 1, folder 58

**Chichinadzhe letter 1931 March 10**

box 1, folder 59

**Fedorov, Professor, letter regarding N. Lakoba's health 1931 July 20**

box 1, folder 60

**Eliava, SHalva, Deputy People's Commissar of the Foreign Commerce of the USSR 1931 August-November**

box 1, folder 61

**SHaginian, Marietta, poet 1932 October 16**

box 1, folder 62

**Letter on stationery of the "Chairman of the All Union State Association Sovmongtvtorg" 1932 May 18**

box 1, folder 63

**Karpov, L. 1932 November 23**

box 1, folder 64

**Leideker, S. 1933 February 9**

box 1, folder 65

**Note from the Director of the Kholodnorechensk construction project (Stalin's "dacha" - summer vacation residence) 1933 February 20**

box 1, folder 66

**CHakvetadze, head of "Traktotsentr" 1933 November 15**

box 1, folder 67

**Kalandiia, Markoz 1933 November 29**

box 1, folder 68

**Ivashchenko, Mikhail 1934 January 11**

box 1, folder 69

**Office memo on the stationery of the Chairman of the State Political Administration 1934 February 26**

box 1, folder 70

**Agrba, Z. 1934 October 15**

box 1, folder 71

**Petiaev, S. People's Commissar of Agriculture of Abkhaziia 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**

### **Speech drafts**

box 2, folder 8-10

#### **Undated**

box 2, folder 11-13

#### **1930s**

box 2, folder 14

#### **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**

#### **Stalin i KHashim: 1901-1902 gogy, (nekotorye epizody iz Batumskogo podpol'ia), Sukhumi 1934**

box 2, folder 21

#### **Theses of the manuscript undated**

box 2, folder 22

#### **Holograph and typescript undated**

box 2, folder 23

#### **Printed copy 1934**

box 2, folder 24

#### **Ot VI k VII S'iezdov Sovetov ASSR Abkhazii, Sukhumi, printed copy 1935**



box 2, folder 25

**Speech praising the project of the new Soviet Constitution 1936**

box 2, folder 26

**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 27

**Speech, "Progress report on the question of storage of tobacco supplies in Abkhaziia" 1936 January 4**

box 2, folder 28

**Order, directions and requests ("strictly confidential") for building a two room cottage 1936 October**

box 2, folder 29

**Strictly confidential letter from investigator Pertsov 1937 February 17**

### **Subject File 1914-1936**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Arranged chronologically.

box 2, folder 30

**Evaluation of work methods of Comrade TSeitlin in the city of Gudauta undated**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Typescript. Includes handwritten notes.

box 2, folder 31

**Letter to Anton Ivanovich from unidentified correspondent undated**

box 2, folder 32

**Survey, "Agriculture of Abkhaziia - base of the Soviet food industry" (pp. 8-24 are missing) undated**

box 2, folder 33

**Questionnaire for "The history of the civil war in Abkhaziia" undated**

box 2, folder 34

**Letter (21 pages) from the people of the Abkhaziiian Autonomous Republic to Comrade Stalin undated**

box 2, folder 35

**Complaint regarding false accusations to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia, unidentified undated**

box 2, folder 36

**Reference material about geranium planting undated**

box 2, folder 37

**Bank document and check 1914 October 14**

box 2, folder 38

**Appreciation letter to Doctor Sil'chenko 1921**

box 2, folder 39

**Miriantsev, Georgii, promissory note 1923**

box 2, folder 40

**Case of bandits CHkhopeliia and Sichinava. Includes list of crimes committed 1924**

box 2, folder 41

**Minutes of meetings, Caucasian Regional Control Commission, Russian Communist Bolshevik Party 1924-1925**

box 2, folder 42

**Kadyrov, Seid, report ("strictly confidential") on the national question in Georgia 1929 May**

box 3, folder 1

**Kolokolkin, V., note early 1930s**

box 3, folder 2

**Danchin, Valerian Dmitrievich, curriculum vitae 1930 August 7**

box 3, folder 3

**Council of the Tkvarchel'skii collective farm, progress report 1931 January-August**

box 3, folder 4

**Rubtsov, L. I., description of the local tree "prutniak" or "Avraamovo derevo" (Vitex Agnus Castus) 1934 December 31**

box 3, folder 5-6

**Excerpts from the newspaper Pravda 1935 April 5, 19**

box 3, folder 7

**KHatuntsev, letter to his doctor 1936 October 14**

**Photographs undated**

**Scope and Contents note**

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

**N. Lakoba**

box 3, folder 8-9

**Portrait**

box 3, folder 10

**On a tribune**

box 3, folder 11

**In a parade**

box 3, folder 12

**In automobile**

box 3, folder 13

**In the airplane named after him Looking through an open window**

**N. Lakoba with Soviet and party officials**

box 3, folder 14

**Joseph Stalin, Mikhail Kalinin, and others**

box 3, folder 15

**Sergo Ordzhinikidzhe, Semen Budennyi, and others**

box 3, folder 16

**L. Beriia, A Khandzhian, and others**

box 3, folder 17

**L. Beriia, N.A. Lakoba, and V.D. Lakoba on steps of Smetsky family dacha**

## **Scope and Contents**

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.

box 3, folder 18

**N. Lakoba, L. Beria, Sarie Lakoba (N. Lakoba's wife), and others**

box 3, folder 19

**Group of delegates (including N. Lakoba) of the VIIth All-Union Congress of the Council of People Deputies**

box 3, folder 20

**Guests at home**

box 3, folder 21-22

**Guests in the Botanical garden**

box 3, folder 23

**Friends on a wooden bridge**

box 3, folder 24

**Lev Kamenev with hunting trophies**

box 3, folder 25-26

**In his native village Lykhny with Moscow guests**

box 3, folder 27

**Group of people in front of the Duke's home in Lykhny village**

box 3, folder 28

**Abkhazian party**

box 3, folder 29

**Two other horsemen**

box 3, folder 30

**Horsemen in mountains**

box 3, folder 31

**Group of people sitting on a bench**

box 3, folder 32

**Bolsheviks in an automobile**

box 3, folder 33

**L. Beria in N. Lakoba's car**

box 3, folder 34-35

**L. Beria, Nina Gegechkori (his wife), Svetlana Stalina and others (on a ship)**

box 3, folder 36

**Series of photographs depicting L. Beria flirting with a woman**

box 3, folder 37

**L. Beria, Khandzhian, and Musabekov**

box 3, folder 38

**L. Beria on a tribune**

## **Friends and family**

box 3, folder 39

**Vasilii Stalin, Nina Gegechkori (L. Beria's wife), and Sarie Lakoba (N. Lakoba's wife)**

box 3, folder 40

**Nina Gegechkori (L. Beria's wife), Svetlana Stalina, Sarie Lakoba (N. Lakoba's wife), and Nazie Dzhikhashvili (N. Lakoba's relative)**

box 3, folder 41

**Iakov Dzhugashvili (Stalin's son), Svetlana Stalina, and Rauf Lakoba (N. Lakoba's son)**

box 3, folder 42

**Sergo Ordzhonikidze with Rauf (N. Lakoba's son), group picture**

box 3, folder 43

**Svetlana Stalina and L. Beria**

## **Funeral**

box 3, folder 44-46

### **General**

box 3, folder 47

### **Memorial service**

box 3, folder 48

**L. Beria helping to carry N. Lakoba's coffin**

box 3, folder 49

**Funeral wreath from L. Beria and his wife Nina Gegechkori**

box 3, folder 50

**3 strips of contact prints**

box 4

**Album with inscription "To Comrade Lakoba" 1933 September**

### **Scope and Contents**

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