
Re: A. Jakira

(formerly reported as Jakera and Jackera and Iakira)
United Communist Party: National Secretary.

by C.J. Scully

DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 939, case 202600-1775-1.

Report Made At: New York, NY.

Date When Made: 4/30/21.

Period For Which Made: 4/30/21.

Report Made By: C.J. Scully.

Title and Character of Case: RE: A. JAKIRA, formerly reported as JAKERA and JACKERA and IAKIRA: UNITED COMMUNIST PARTY: NATIONAL SECRETARY.

Facts Developed: New York, NY.

For information in connection with current investigation of above named United Communist Party organizer, the following is a summary of data on file at this office in connection with above named, whose correct name is ABRAM JAKIRA.

May 3rd, 1919 † — An envelope bearing a post office time-stamp cancellation under this date, and the return address of “SECOND RUSSIAN BRANCH OF THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY” is addressed to ABRAM JAKIRA, and contains a mimeograph letter issued by the NEW YORK STATE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY, with the signature of LINDGREN (whose identity as SIEBERT is at present a matter of investigation), and a letter in the Russian language in the handwriting of JAKIRA.

October 15, 1919 — On this date ARCHIN F. KEY issued to A. JAKIRA membership card #499 in the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY, the *original* card

in possession of this office at this writing. JAKIRA, according to this card, is a member of the SECOND RUSSIAN BRANCH OF THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY.

December 10, 1919 (Recorded) — is the date of a letter in the handwriting of JAKIRA, with the subscription “YOURS FOR COMMUNISM” and his signature, written on the letterhead of the NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY, FEDERATION OF RUSSIAN BRANCHES, this letter enclosing carbon copy of a letter dated December 11, 1919, addressed to A. JAKIRA, *Secretary*, RUSSIAN FEDERATION and signed (no name appearing) “EXECUTIVE SECRETARY” [Alfred Wagenknecht].

November 1, 1919 — Carbon copy of letter in files at this office on letterhead of EMERGENCY STATE COMMITTEE OF LEFT WING SECTION, SOCIALIST PARTY, NEW YORK (957 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn) bearing the typewritten signature E. LINDGREN, SECRETARY, is headed “MINUTES OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE — COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY,” and quotes the minutes of a meeting held October 29, 1919, at 957 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, at which LINDGREN was chairman and later was nominated and elected as TEMPORARY STATE SECRETARY. In conclusion the letter states: “Members of the Committee present were: BERNSTEIN, JACKIRA (the subject — JAKIRA), O<*illeg.*>,”

†- This date is clearly erroneous, as the Communist Labor Party was not organized until the first week of September 1919.

DEWILT, SAVAGE, KOSSOVE, and SUBK~~illeg.~~....” (File: Communist Labor Party: Exec. Comm. — R-170-D).

November 14, 1919 — Following report (verbatim) of Special Agent M.J. Davis, under date of Nov. 13 and 14, 1919, is self-explanatory (File: Martens, Reports, June to Dec. 1919 — R-61-E).

On November 10th [1919], Informant Abraham GOODMAN, 1521 Union Street, Brooklyn, who is employed as a bookkeeper by the Chatham Printing Co., #1 East Broadway, New York City, came into the office and handed Agent CONNELLY a copy of the circular entitled “HANDS OFF SOVIET RUSSIA,” issued by the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY. The informant stated that this circular had been prepared in his shop and had been sent to one A. JAKIRA, #504 Canal Street, New York City, who is said to be the medium through which bundles of these circulars were being shipped to various cities.

On November 13th, I called at the American Railway Express Company office in the vicinity of #504 Canal Street, but JAKIRA was not known to them. I then proceeded to drug store, occupying Nos. 502 to 508. The proprietor of the drug store, one HAYUNGAS, stated he has lived in that house for the past 20 years, but has never hear of the name JAKIRA. He Stated that Station #33 of the New York Post Office is in his store, and that he shall keep a watch fro any bundles going out under that name. This proprietor is a citizen of the United States and during the war was a member of the Mayor’s Committee of New York.

I then proceeded to the office of the Chatham Printing Co., #1 East Broadway, where I interviewed the proprietor, Mr. TRACHTENBERG. Upon questioning him regarding the circular mentioned, he stated it had not been printed in the shop, furthermore, that while he used to print a good deal of radical literature, he had given up the work for the past six months.

This evening Goodman came to the Bureau office with a copy of the Russian paper “PRAVDA.” This paper bears a line reading as follows: “INTERNATIONAL LINOTYPE COMPANY, 125 Canal Street, New York City.” The informant advises that this concern makes up the composition for the paper and sends it to the Chatham Printing Company, who do the actual printing. The finished work is then delivered to various persons at #110 West 40th Street, and Mr. Goodman then exhibited to me an order to his company signed “D. OLDFIELD,” whom Mr. Goodman says has an office at #110 West 40th Street, New York, and also that D. Oldfield was, until recently, manager of the Russian newspaper “NOVYI MIR,” and is now undoubtedly working for Martens.

I made a photostat copy of the paper mentioned, which will be placed in our files. (Same attached to file at this office). This order would seem to bear out previous reports that MARTENS was financing “PRAVDA” and other Russian Propaganda newspapers. It is probable that in the near future we will be able to definitely show OLDFIELD’s connection with Martens, at which time his order for the newspapers will be of use. The informant also stated that JAKIRA is

located at the 40th Street address, and received from the Chatham Printing Company, from time to time, a quantity of circulars and pamphlets in both Russian and English, which are mailed to various parts of the United States. In the future our informant will take receipt of all such literature and permit us to photograph them. These transactions are not entered on the books of the CHATHAM PRINTING COMPANY, but are handled personally by the proprietor and paid for in advance.

Reading the circular “HANDS OFF SOVIET RUSSIA,” the informant again stated that this circular was printed by his company and that the proprietor [Trachtenberg] had lied to the writer [Agent Davis] when he said he had not printed them. I then called his attention to the fact that the label named on this circular could not be distinguished, and he replied that when the circulars are printed a small piece of paper is placed over the name so that it could not show on the circular when finished. This informant also brought to the office a pamphlet printed in the Russian language, which, when translated by Agent [Victor J.] Valjavec, read: “AN ACCOUNT BY LENIN ABOUT BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY” and also “THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT.” This pamphlet, he stated, was ordered by the above-named JAKIRA, and 10,000 copies were delivered to him at 110 West 40th Street. This pamphlet, although not fully translated, is plainly Bolshevik propaganda. The back page of it contains an advertisement of the magazine “SOVIET RUSSIA,” which is issued from Martens’ office, 110 West 40th Street, City. The informant advised that many other pamphlets of this kind are printed and also delivered to the 110 West 40th Street address, but the proprietor of this concern has been careful about entering such transactions on his books for fear of investigation. Informant will report any further information to this office. (no additional information received)....

November 30, 1919 — Old file, not giving source of information, contains card: “JAKIRA - IAKIRA — L lectured November 30th, 1919, at #1538 Madison Avenue, New York City; is now employed at office of Martens.

December 28, 1919 — Memo on file under above date (File: Communist Labor Party: Central Committee — R-170-D) contains copy of a circular letter signed by A. HUBSCHER, Exec. Sec. Local NY and Bronx and the heading “EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE — Special Meeting” and gives minutes of same, held Sunday afternoon, December 28th, COMRADE DOLGIN acting as chairman. Concludes “A motion was passed that the EDITORIAL BOARD consist of COMRADES WINTER, COLES, JAKIRA, BERNSTEIN, and DOLGIN, to act as Editorial Board for a mimeographed paper to be known as “THE WORKERS’ HERALD”...until such time as

we can afford to print a regular weekly....”

December 29, 1919 — Is the date of a warrant issued for the arrest of Alien JAKIRA, #761/443 No. 54811/395, for violation of Immigration Act of October 16, 1918, bond fixed at \$10,000. Not executed, alien having left this district for parts unknown.

January 8, 1920 — On this date Agent E.L. Newman, reported as follows (verbatim):

By direction of Agent Scully I accompanied Agents Rathbun, Francisco, [Edward] Anderson, [Albert] Weitsman, and Gurevich to the offices of the Chatham Printing Company, #2 East Broadway, New York City. After serving the search warrant on proprietor TRACHTENBERG, he showed us 10,000 membership cards for the COMMUNIST PARTY, 10,000 postcards for the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY, 4,000 copies of “NASH SHLACHES,” as well as 4,000 copies of “CLASS STRUGGLE” in Yiddish, and 1,000 circulars on the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY in Newark. He claims that he had orders for 2,000 and that 1,000 had been delivered.

When questioned, TRACHTENBERG stated that JAKIRA of 208 East 12th Street, City, and ordered the 10,000 postal cards above referred to. He volunteered that the KAMPF paper is printed by the UP-TO-DATE PRESS, 195 Canal Street, New York. He volunteered the information that ERNST (correct name should be EUGENE) KRUG ordered the 4,000 copies of NASH SHLACH. KRUG was in the place at the time we served the search warrant and was taken into custody and brought down to the office and questioned at length by Agent Francisco. Agents Weitsman and Gurevich have searched KRUG’s house and brought all his effects to this office.

TRACHTENBERG further volunteered information that the paper “PRAVDA” is printed by the International Type Setting Machine Company, 125 Canal Street, New York, and that one EPSTEIN is the proprietor of said place. I reported the above facts to Agent Scully orally.... (Lists literature seized, no connection with JAKIRA).

(Above filed: Reports: Communist Party; Jan. 1-8/1920).

January 10, 1920 — (File: Eugene Krug, R-170-E {Krug a member of COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY, for whom warrant #54709/863 was issued at Detroit}).

In a statement made to Agent Francisco on above date, EUGENE KRUG stated he had been at the office of the CHATHAM PRINTING CO above referred to to make payment for a Ukrainian paper called “NA SHILON” [???], which newspaper advertises itself as “Official organ of the

COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY.” (Date of same: Jan. 1920, Vol. II, Edition #1). KRUG claimed to be the editor of this newspaper and although efforts were made to determine the source of his financial backing, no information could be secured. Agent Francisco expressed the opinion that he believed “that a man of the name of JAKIRA is the one who was securing the money to support this periodical.” Our informant stated that he had overheard KRUG converse with JAKIRA over the telephone and KRUG told the informant that JAKIRA was connected with MARTENS’ Office, and to verify this information the informant ascertained from the telephone company the name of the subscriber of the number called by KRUG.... This man admits being a member of the Communist Labor Party....

From a source not designated, an old card on file indicates that JAKIRA is “an active member of RUSSIAN BRANCHES of the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY; has called conference of the CLP RUSSIAN BRANCHES for January 17th, 18th, and 19th, 1920.”

January 10, 1920 — Letter on file (Letters: Communist Party, Jan. 1-22, 1920 — letter of 1/10/20) addressed ton this date to Edward J. Brennan, Esq., Division Superintendent, Chicago, Ill.:

During the recent investigation of the Communist Party and Communist Labor Party, there was found in the office of the headquarters of the former organization, a copy of a letter addressed to one A. JAKIRA, which letter reads as follows:

“A. JAKIRA,
New York City.

Send to Arthur Proctor, 204 North Clark Street, Chicago, Ill. 5,000 copies of the “HANDS OFF SOVIET RUSSIA” leaflets at once. This comrade is the CLP Secretary in Chicago and he wants the leaflets in time for their meeting in celebration of the Russian Revolution.

IMPORTANT— Comrade proctor has had two sets of picture slides made, 70 slides to the series, the slides being pictures of the Russian Revolution. He offers a set to us, but we cannot use them in Cleveland for we cannot hold meetings there. We suggest that you use them in New York. We have asked Comrade Proctor to send them direct to you. The cost will be \$19.00. They will enliven your meetings. Note enclosure.

Yours in Comradeship,

(carbon bears no signature)
[Alfred Wagenknecht]
Executive Secretary.”

The above is sent to you for such information as you deem warranted.

Signed (Division Supt.) [Quiesser]

In file “Communist Party: Letters: January 23-31, 1920” is a copy of a letter addressed to “Dear Comrade Dorosevich” and bearing the typewritten signature of A. JAKIRA, written on the letterhead of the FEDERATION OF RUSSIAN BRANCHES OF THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY OF AMERICA, 1664 Madison Avenue, New York City, which reads as follows:

I received your letter of the 30th of November. Our representative will be on time. Try to arrange so that each slide shall have the same conditions, let the representative from the Central Committee make the report, then let our representative make his report, then you can give the final word of both of them, and so on. I also want to ask you to settle this question at this meeting. There is lots of work on hand. Unite with some branch and get down to real work. Our branches in Philadelphia, Lynn, Central Falls, Dover, Camden, and others that recently left the Central and united with us are doing wonderful work, they organize lectures, meetings, spread literature. They erected a harmonious organization in their branches. They organize new branches, etc. Follow their example.

Yours for Communism,

A. Jakira.

February 16, 1920— Report of G.E. Hudson, Fresno, Calif., reports letter seized under search warrant, addressed to L. LIEBERMAN, 520 <illeg.> St., Fresno, Cal., bearing return address, “ASCH, J., 1468 Amsterdam Ave., New York City,” reading as follows:

Feb. 9, 1920.

Dear Comrade Lieberman:

All mail for the Federation Branches of the CLP should be addressed to:

J. ASCH, “for J.,”
1488 Amsterdam Ave.,
New York City.

Yours for Comm.,

(sgd.) A. JAKIRA.

February [10], 1920 — Letter postmarked Grand Central Station, NY, Feb. 10, 1920, 2 am notifies F. WALLSOP, 1625 Los Angeles St., Fresno, Cal. to send all mail for Federation of Russian Branches of the CLP to J. ASCH, 1488 Amsterdam Avenue, New York City, “for J.” and is signed “Yours for

Comm., A. JAKIRA,” evidently a mimeograph copy of same sent to L. LIEBERMAN, referred to above.

(Hudson Report 2/17/20 — CLP Reports: Jan.-Feb. 1920).

February 12, 1920 — Letter sent by F. WALSOFF, County Jail, Fresno, Cal. to A. JAKIRA, 908 (??-208??) East 12th St., NYC. Registered #1946, bearing return address “F. WALSOFF, 117 F Street, Fresno, Cal.” Written in Russian, as follows:

January 13, 1920.

Secretary of Russian Federation of
Communist Labor Party in America,
<illeg.> Branch:

[Esteemed???] Comrade:

I received your letter, for which I thank you. The booklets and stamps I received three days before your letter reached me.

Fifteen comrades have received their booklets [party cards] and everything is in good shape now. Now listen to what I want— Send me at once books and also papers in the German language. Why haven't you sent me what I asked for? Don't hold it back. Send it quick. This is the best place for distribution. Send what I ask for at once.

You must know that LIEBERMAN was arrested a week ago and taken to Los Angeles on the 10th [of Jan. 1920], and the woman also, and on the 11th she was let go and on the 14th they were admitted to \$4,000 bail. Greetings and well wishes. Let us wish for the good of the people. We will not have to suffer much longer, for we have suffered enough.

Your Comrade,

(signed) F. WALSOFF,
2516 Los Angeles, [Fresno] Cal.

(File: CLP Reports, Jan.-Feb. 1920, Hudson Report 2/12/20).

February 3, 1920— Letter addressed to [Frank R.] Stone, Newark office, advising of money order issued at Passaic Station #2, Passaic, NJ, to A. AIKIRA (JAKIRA) of 1664 Madison Avenue, NYC, requesting Agent Stone to locate JAKIRA, who was then “wanted” on deportation warrant.

(File: Letters: Communist Party, Feb. 1920, 2/3/20).

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

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