

Diplomatic structures of the Democratic Republic of Georgia (1918-1921)

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Abstract: *The article covers three main topics: The first concerns the establishment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Georgia and its activities aimed at establishing diplomatic relations with as many foreign countries as possible. The second topic discusses and clarifies the embassies and consulates that foreign states opened in Georgia. The third research topic focuses on identifying and specifying the Georgian diplomatic missions that existed abroad.*

The paper focuses on the extremely difficult geopolitical conditions under which the above-mentioned institutions were established – conditions created by Soviet Russia, which, compared to the old monarchical Russia, pursued even greater expansionist goals.

The present article is the initial part of a broader research work. It is based on materials from 1918-1921 found in the press and scattered throughout scholarly literature. Its purpose is to collect and systematize these materials, with further research to continue through the study of archival sources.

As the research shows, the young and still unrecognized Democratic Republic of Georgia managed to establish contact and diplomatic relations with many countries. Its independence was recognized de jure only on January 27, 1921 – just a few weeks before Georgia was invaded by Soviet Russia.

Keywords: *South Caucasus, Diplomatic recognition, embassy, consulate, First Democratic Republic.*

Introduction

After the declaration of independence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia began the process of establishing diplomatic relations with foreign countries. In the scholarly literature reflecting the relations between Georgia and other nations, the relevant materials are scattered. The aim of this article is to collect and

briefly present information about which countries had Georgian embassies, consulates, and representative offices between 1918 and 1921. It also lists the diplomatic missions of foreign states that existed in Georgia during that period. During its three years of independence, Georgia managed to establish diplomatic relations of various levels with several dozen countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Before the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the independent republics of the South Caucasus were established, these bodies already had predecessor structures. In the Transcaucasian Commissariat, Evgeni Gegechkori, in addition to serving as chairman, also held the position of Commissar for Foreign Affairs and Labor. When the Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic was formed and declared its independence, Akaki Chkhenkeli became both the head of government and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. When, on November 26, 1917, the Executive Committee of the National Council of Georgia was created, several commissions were also established to perform the functions of various parliamentary committees. Among them, the Foreign Affairs Commission was headed by Akaki Chkhenkeli. These few facts are recalled here to show that both Akaki Chkhenkeli and Evgeni Gegechkori had already gained experience in diplomatic service before they successively assumed the responsible post of Minister of Foreign Affairs of independent Georgia.

Akaki Chkhenkeli held the position of "Foreign" Minister in the first coalition government and was the one who took the initial steps toward establishing the structure of the foreign affairs office. However, starting in June, he was already in Europe, dealing directly with Germany's po-

litical circles to resolve urgent and high-priority diplomatic issues. In Georgia, the ministry's activities were in practice directed by Noe Ramishvili.

From November 1918, after the Germans left Georgia and the country's foreign policy orientation shifted toward the Entente, Chkhenkeli was replaced as minister by Evgeni Gegechkori. Akaki Chkhenkeli wrote the following in his diary: "The day before yesterday I received a radio message from N. Zh. – the head of government – informing me that Evgeni Gegechkori has been appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs in my place, while I am to remain here as ambassador... My replacement is quite appropriate; this had to happen, and I myself was thinking of suggesting it. Indeed, now that the victorious Entente stands at Georgia's doorstep, it is only fitting that someone else should hold the portfolio of Minister of Foreign Affairs. This parliamentary practice is certainly proper. In such a case, the cabinet itself should also be reshuffled, but that is probably impractical, as suitable candidates are not so easy to find"¹.

During the three years of independence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia conducted highly active and energetic work. It established direct relations with both neighboring and distant countries; carried out extensive efforts to achieve *de facto* and *de jure* recognition of the country; organized embassies, consulates, and representative

offices in many states; and made numerous attempts to establish normal or at least peaceful relations among the Caucasian states within the region, among other significant initiatives.

An essential part of the ministry's structure consisted of the Deputy Ministers: Konstantine Gvarjaladze, Konstantine Sabakhtarashvili, and Nikoloz Kartsivadze. Former Minister Akaki Chkhenkeli wrote in his diary entry dated November 6, 1919: "Kotsia Gvarjaladze – he has matured and broadened, though he still lacks salt; he is not yet capable of playing the role of a statesman. "At that time, "Kotsia" (Konstantine) was a 35-year-old diplomat. In one of his letters, Akaki Chkhenkeli listed Gvarjaladze's intensive diplomatic activities throughout 1919, carried out personally and often together with Avalishvili and Ghambashidze. These included meetings with the British Foreign Secretary; the delivery of a memorandum to the Japanese Ambassador to the United Kingdom; meetings with the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Italian delegation, and the U.S. delegation; as well as with representatives of several other countries and the chairman of the Paris Peace Conference etc.

The Social Democrat K. Gvarjaladze was described in an interesting way by the Socialist-Federalist émigré Niko Urushadze: "He was undoubtedly distinguished by his worldview, by his personal approach to fundamental issues, and

by his own understanding of them... He had never been a devotee of the Russian spirit – that legacy inherited from Asia, which denies the individual and corrupts the human personality. Moreover, and fortunately, none of the spineless variants of Russian Menshevism had any influence on him. He found his spiritual and intellectual nourishment in European humanist socialism, which he saw as devoted to the freedom of both the individual and the nation... Konstantine Gvarjaladze was, without question, a Georgian national figure; at the same time, an unwavering Georgian Social Democrat... For two or three decades he moved within influential European socialist circles, where, to the best of his ability and with tireless energy, he defended the interests of Georgia"².

Konstantine Sabakhtarashvili came to the position of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs by a different path. In 1917, he was elected Mayor of Batumi as a result of local self-government elections. Afterwards, Sabakhtarashvili was appointed Deputy Minister. He also served as Georgia's Ambassador to Italy and played an important role in establishing friendly relations between Georgia and Italy. He led the Georgian governmental mission that arrived in Italy at the end of 1920 and was instrumental in securing financial and economic assistance for Georgia. K. Sabakhtarashvili actively participated in many other diplomatic and political processes carried out by Georgian representatives working in Europe. In

October 1918, Akaki Chkhenkeli advised Noe Zhordania whom the head of government should send to the upcoming Paris Conference and, more broadly, to represent Georgia on the European diplomatic stage. He wrote that Karlo Chkheidze and Kaki Tsereteli were essential choices, as they had a “great reputation” in Europe: “Even small children in Europe know Tsereteli and Chkheidze,” he remarked, and continued: “It may also be possible and useful to send Kolia Kartsivadze – he knows the language, is well educated, and would be a good assistant in the work”, N. Kartsivadze was also a Social Democrat, but he belonged to the dissident group of Alioni (“The Dawn”) members.

The remaining Georgian figures active on the diplomatic and political stage were appointed as ambassadors, consuls, or held various positions within diplomatic structures in different countries. They did not all belong to the Social Democratic Party – in fact, many were National Democrats or Socialist-Federalists. However, as was acknowledged at the time, party affiliation played only a minimal role in their work abroad. Diplomats operated under the instructions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Minister, following the general state policy and orientation.

The number of direct employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was around 50 people, or perhaps slightly fewer. The Ministry was composed of the following structural units: The Minister, the Director of the Ministry, the Vice Director, the

Legal Adviser, and the Minister’s Secretary; The Personal Department, which included the Head of the Minister’s Personal Office, a Clerk, and a Typist; The Political Department, which consisted of the Head of Department, the Head of the European Section, and the Head of the Asian Section. These sections included clerks, administrative staff, and translators; The General Department, which had a Head, a Clerk, an Assistant, and a Chancellery; The Information Bureau, which consisted of a Head, a Clerk, a Chancellery, and translators. In addition, the Ministry included Diplomatic and Economic Divisions, an Accountant, an Assistant, a Registrar, a journalist, and Diplomatic Couriers (Messengers). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was accountable to the Parliament and later to the Constituent Assembly.

Georgia’s Diplomatic Services Abroad

Earlier, and especially after Georgia’s de facto and de jure recognition of independence, our country opened embassies and diplomatic missions in many foreign countries. First and foremost, it was crucial to establish embassies in leading states and appoint ambassadors.

In Germany, following Akaki Chkhenkeli, Vladimir Akhmetelashvili was appointed as Georgia’s Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador. The embassy was located on “Brückenallee” in Berlin. Thanks to Vladimir Akhmetelashvili’s energetic

and patriotic efforts, the embassy also became a center of Georgian culture. Let us briefly recall a few characteristic episodes from the activities of Georgian representatives working abroad.

On February 22, 1921, when the Red Army was attacking Tbilisi, Vladimir Akhmetelashvili met with the President of the Weimar Republic and requested that “he and the German government immediately (of course, in secret correspondence) intervene in the war between Georgia and Soviet Russia and exert appropriate influence on Moscow”. Akhmetelashvili and the Georgians asked Ebert to summon the Russian ambassador from Berlin and demand a cessation of the war in Moscow; they also requested that the German ambassador visit Lenin in Moscow and influence him, among other measures³.

In neighboring Ottoman Turkey, in Constantinople, the government commissioner was Konstantine Gvarjaladze, the consul was Ioseb Gogolashvili, and the economic representative was Ivane Chavchanidze. Earlier in Ottoman Empire, Georgia’s first ambassador was a well-known leader of the Socialist-Federalist Party, Grigol Rtskhiladze (May-October 1920). After the Republic of Angora emerged on the political scene, Georgia’s ambassador was appointed as the second Socialist-Federalist, Svimon Mdivani (from December 17, 1920).

Georgia was the first state to recognize Mustafa Kemal’s Turkey. The embassy was distinguished by a large

staff: military adviser – General Alexandre Eristavi; administrative officer – Aristo Chumbadze; attachés – Meliton (Osman-Bey) Kartsivadze and Zia-Beg Abashidze; two officers – Emkhvari and Lieutenant Dimitri Shalikashvili; and two soldiers – messengers. Dimitri Shalikashvili was the father of Generals John-Malkhaz and Otar Shalikashvili. The famous John-Malkhaz Shalikashvili served as the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1993 to 1997. It was natural that for Georgia, normalizing relations with the main Entente powers and establishing representations in those countries was of utmost importance. Opening an embassy in France was perhaps the most ambitious, notable, and at the same time – almost a historical irony. Georgia’s plenipotentiary ambassador, Akaki Chkhenkeli, handed over his credentials to President Alexandre Millerand in Paris, at the Élysée Palace, on the very day the army of Soviet Russia entered Tbilisi – February 25, 1921. Perhaps the French did this as a form of subtle protest against Bolshevik Russia. However, as one member of the Georgian delegation, S. Asatiani, recalled, in practice, “the country’s representation presented to the President of France represented nothing and no one”.

Although the Georgian embassy in France and other European countries operated after the fall of Georgia’s First Republic, it still embodied independent Georgia in diplomatic terms for many years. Akaki Chkhenkeli, as ambassador, was granted broad pow-

ers. His representation was not limited to France alone. He was:

“Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Representative of the Democratic Republic of Georgia before the governments of France, Great Britain, and Italy. He is tasked with defending Georgia’s interests before all allied governments. He is also responsible for protecting Georgia’s interests at all international conferences, sessions, and other forums. Akaki Chkhenkeli is authorized, if necessary, to sign treaties, conventions, decisions, and protocols on behalf of the Georgian government, except in cases requiring special approval or subsequent ratification by the government. Akaki Chkhenkeli is also mandated, on behalf of the Democratic Republic of Georgia and the Georgian people, before the governments of His Majesty in Sweden, Spain, Romania, Portugal, Norway, Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, France, Great Britain, Belgium, and Italy. In this capacity, he is authorized to conduct negotiations on all political, economic, financial, and other matters, and to sign all agreements and treaties. His credentials give him the right to affix the proper signatures and seals. The government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia fully entrusts Akaki Chkhenkeli to sign all declarations on behalf of the Georgian government”, This was all reported in the document outlining A. Chkhenkeli’s mandate⁴.

Members of Georgia’s embassy in France also included Sosipatre Asatiani – secretary; advisers Zurab

Avalishvili and Mikheil Sumbatashvili; and others: A. Zhorzholiani, A. Kutateladze, M. Skobelev, N. Jugheli, and V. Voitinsky. The Georgian embassy in France existed until 1933.

The process of appointing Georgia’s ambassador to Great Britain was complicated and somewhat delayed. Akaki Chkhenkeli sent credentials to Davit Gambashidze as early as November 1918; Gambashidze was well known in Western European diplomatic circles. He had published several works promoting Georgia’s strategic relevance for the West, and particularly for Britain. On March 14, 1919, D. Gambashidze sent his credentials to the British Foreign Office, requesting recognition as the official representative of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, but he was refused. After Georgia’s de facto independence was recognized, a renewed request was again denied. The Georgian diplomat was consoled with the explanation that he was still considered Georgia’s unofficial representative in His Majesty’s kingdom. In fact, Davit Gambashidze, Mikheil Sumbatashvili, and Konstantine Gvarjaladze acted as Georgia’s unofficial representatives, but none were recognized by London at the level of ambassador.

Only Akaki Chkhenkeli was recognized by Great Britain with the status of plenipotentiary ambassador, after Georgia’s de jure independence was acknowledged. In this capacity, Chkhenkeli was received by the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Curzon, on March 17, 1921, at the same time

when, on the night of March 17–18, the government of the First Democratic Republic of Georgia left the fallen and occupied country to go into exile abroad.

In Italy, the Democratic Republic of Georgia was represented by Konstantine Sabakhtarashvili; the embassy's first secretary was Giorgi Machabeli; the economic representative was Mikheil Qaukhchishvili; and the consul was Giorgi Apkhazi. Machabeli's contribution was significant in concluding beneficial financial and economic agreements with Italy.

Mikhako Tsereteli wrote about him: "Giorgi Machabeli entered diplomatic service as soon as his liberated homeland had its own diplomacy. Specifically, he first worked in Austria, and then became the consul and soon thereafter the diplomatic representative (ambassador) of independent Georgia in Italy. His work in Rome will remain invaluable and unforgettable in the history of our country's final period"⁵.

As for Georgia's representations in other countries around the world, Giorgi Guramisdze Sharadze, listing the ambassadors and representatives appointed abroad, names Andria Dekanozishvili, one of the contemporary leaders of the Socialist-Federalist Party, as Georgia's representative in Argentina⁶.

In many countries, opening diplomatic missions was hindered by the state's lack of funds. In this regard, the example of the Scandinavian countries is noteworthy. A state in

severe economic difficulty could not maintain its diplomatic missions. Initially, Mikhako Tsereteli was appointed as Georgia's representative in the Kingdom of Sweden in October 1918. For several months, Aristo Chumbadze also worked in the mission with him, and he soon became Georgia's representative in Sweden. He also tried, through his representation, to cover Norway. As it appears, for a certain period, Aristo Chumbadze also performed the functions of Georgia's representative in Denmark. At least, on December 15, 1918, Akaki Chkhenkeli wrote to the Georgian government that Konstantine Gvarjaladze had received the necessary consent from Denmark's Foreign Minister, noting: "Chumbadze will go there – that is, to Copenhagen"⁷.

Moreover, Chkhenkeli believed that Georgia should maintain its representation in the Scandinavian countries.

He wrote on October 17, 1919: "The Scandinavian states and our representation with them is an entirely positive matter, which I do not think is worth less than what is spent on the representative (2,000 francs per month)"⁸.

However, soon the Georgian government was forced to close its missions in the Scandinavian countries. This function was assigned to Georgia's ambassador in Germany, Vladimir Akhmeteli⁹.

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gia's ambassador in Germany, Vladimir Akhmeteli.

Switzerland did not recognize Georgia's independence, but a Georgian mission existed there, and a designated diplomatic representative, Mikheil Sumbatashvili, was active. His work was first based in Bern and later in Geneva. Sumbatashvili's special activity was connected with the League of Nations, which unfortunately did not end successfully. After the League of Nations refused to recognize Georgia, the government recalled Sumbatashvili from Switzerland – first to Britain, then to France, and finally back to Britain. It should also be noted that Vladimir Gurjidge served as the mission's first secretary, while Khariton Shavishvili represented the government before the League of Nations.

In Belgium, Georgia's representative was Anton Zhorzholiani, and the attaché was Alexandre Kutateladze.

In Manchuria, Harbin – Nikoloz Jishkariani.

In the United States – Ilia Goldman.

In Czechoslovakia – Giorgi Aiolo.

In addition, Georgia had economic representatives in Europe and America: Ioseb Eligulashvili, Nikoloz Jaqeli, Mate Skobelev, and Simon Shifrin¹⁰.

The First Republic of Georgia maintained particularly close relations with newly independent post-imperial states and had diplomatic missions of various levels in almost all of them.

Among neighboring countries, in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the first official representative of Georgia was

the Social Democrat Nikoloz Kartsivadze, who served briefly as Georgia's plenipotentiary ambassador. Kartsivadze was succeeded in the ambassadorial post by Grigol Alshibaya. His tenure lasted from 1919 until November 1920, after which Gabriel Khundadze took over in December. Throughout the three-year period, the position of Consul General was held by Levan Tumanishvili.

In the Ukrainian People's Republic, Georgia's ambassador from 1919 to 1921 was the Social Democrat Bictor Tevzaia. Apparently, his performance in this post did not satisfy Akaki Chkhenkeli. Tevzaia did not send sufficient information to Tbilisi about the political developments taking place in Ukraine. Moreover, he demonstrated wavering regarding the question of Georgia's independence. Chkhenkeli's patience was finally exhausted when the Georgian diplomatic representative attended some Russian unification conference. In November 1918, Chkhenkeli sent a letter to Tevzaia, accusing him of "betraying Georgia's interests". Indeed, there were also wavering elements among the Georgian Social Democrats. At least, Chkhenkeli held similar opinions about Irakli Tsereteli and Karlo Chkheidze.

In Poland, the diplomatic mission of the Democratic Republic of Georgia was headed by Giorgi Sidamon-Eristavi. The mission enjoyed the great patronage of the Polish authorities, as was fitting given the mutual solidarity between the Georgian and

Polish peoples. The mission included: secretary – Sergo Kurulishvili, and legation attaché – Nikoloz Feradze.

Foreign States' Representatives in Georgia

As for representatives of foreign states in Georgia, a probable list was published by the newspaper “Sakartvelos Respublika”, which listed those who congratulated the Chairman of the Georgian government, Noe Zhordania, on the de jure recognition of the country's independence. Specifically, the newspaper reported that:

“On February 6, at the palace, the following representatives of foreign states visited the Chairman of the Republic's government and congratulated him on the legal recognition of the Republic of Georgia:

1. The High Commissioner of Great Britain, Stkos (likely Stoks),
2. The High Commissioner of France, Chevalier,
3. France's military representative, Colonel Corbeil,
4. Representative of the German diplomatic corps, Rauscher,
5. Ambassador of Italy, Cerutti,
6. Consul of Italy, Franzoni,
7. Diplomatic representative of the RSFSR, Sheinman,
8. Representative of the American Relief Committee, Elverg,
9. [Number missing],
10. Representative of the Ottoman Grand National Assembly, Kiazim Bey,
11. Representative of the Republic of Poland, Ostrowski,

12. Vice-Consul of the Netherlands, von Allen Stein,
13. Consul of Norway, Sonlom,
14. Vice-Consul of Spain, Barsegian,
15. Representative of Greece, Skeferis,
16. Diplomatic representative of Finland, Colonel Berkvist,
17. Representative of the Czechoslovak National Council, Svatosh,
18. General Consul of Persia, Moda-Zet Dovleh,
19. Diplomatic representative of the Azerbaijani Soviet Republic, Najafov,
20. Diplomatic representative of the Armenian Soviet Republic, Shaverdov,
21. Diplomatic representative of Armenia, Katzen,
22. Consul of Estonia, Paul,
23. Consul of Latvia (likely Lithuania), Dailide,
24. Representative of the Assyrian Soviet Committee”¹¹.

According to this list, the Chairman of the Georgian government was congratulated on de jure independence by representatives of 19 foreign states. Among them, three states had two representatives each: France, Italy, and Armenia. In addition, the 9th number is missing from the list, and at the very end, it was the representative of the Assyrian “Council” who congratulated Georgia – not the “Soviet Council,” as written by Giorgi Sharadze on page 146 of his work.

For greater accuracy, below is a list of foreign state representatives compiled according to contemporary scholarly sources. Alongside this, we briefly note some of the foreign representatives who played an important

role in developing positive relations with Georgia, regardless of the fact that the First Georgian Republic ultimately ended poorly.

Ulrich Karl Paul Rauscher – Representative of the Weimar Republic (Germany) in Georgia, arrived in December 1920, and was present on January 8, 1921. A minor clarification is necessary here, as the reception of foreign representatives at the Tbilisi palace and the official congratulations took place on February 6. It is noteworthy that during the war waged by the Soviet occupiers, Rauscher “constantly stood alongside the democratic authorities of Georgia”¹². Prior to him, the German Empire’s Caucasian expedition had a diplomatic representative in Georgia, Count Friedrich Werner von Schulenburg (October 20, 1918), and a military representative, General Kressenstein. Before Rauscher’s arrival, the Weimar Republic’s representative was Count Driuffer (1920).

Claude Bayfield Stokes – Arrived in Tbilisi in September 1920 as the British High Commissioner. Colonel Stokes was a pro-Georgian figure, which he reflected in reports sent to London. On arrival, he was met in Tbilisi by the future Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, who requested Britain’s support for Georgia. Before Colonel Stokes, the British High Commissioner was Sir John Oliver Wardrop¹³ (from August 1919 to spring 1920).

France’s High Commissioner in Georgia and the South Caucasus – Initially, this was Damien de Martel (February 1920). Before him, a tem-

porary French mission operated in the region. De Martel served as France’s High Commissioner in Transcaucasia for several months. Prior to him, the post was held by Colonel Chardin and then by de Noncour.

The new French commissioner to Georgia and the South Caucasus, Abel Chevalier, arrived in Georgia on December 2, 1920. It is important to emphasize the French diplomat’s friendly attitude and support for Georgia. Chevalier remained in Georgia until the days of the Soviet occupation, leaving the country only on March 13. “This is the murder of a small socialist country by Moscow communism,” Abel Chevalier wrote to the French Foreign Minister regarding the fall of the First Georgian Republic.

Compared to Great Britain, the other Entente powers played a smaller or secondary role in the Caucasus region. Nevertheless, France, Italy, and the United States – which joined the anti-German bloc the latest – had certain interests in Russia and the South Caucasus. President Wilson’s administration did not recognize the right of the South Caucasus states to independence except for Armenia. However, the U.S. High Commissioner, Colonel Haskell, considered it necessary, upon his arrival in Azerbaijan, to make clear that he would treat the Transcaucasian republics on an equal footing and was not solely focused on supporting Armenia. “I treat all the republics in the South Caucasus¹⁴ equally,” he

stated in Azerbaijan. "My goal is to prevent conflicts among the republics in the South Caucasus", Nevertheless, Haskell's position – which did not involve other notable support – could not counterbalance his and his country's pro-Armenian tendencies.

The U.S. consuls were replaced sequentially as follows: Felix Willoughby Smith (1918-1919); John Quimby Woody (May 1919); John Randolph (1919-1921); Charles Krath Mozier (1921).

Representatives of other states can be listed in alphabetical order:

- Argentina – Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador: Lucas Eiregeira.
- Belgium – Consul: Mellery.
- Spain – Representative, Vice-Consul: Barsegian.
- Kingdom of Italy – Envoy: Vittorio Cerutti (1920-1921), Military Representative: Colonel Gabba.
- Kingdom of the Netherlands – Consul: von Aldenstadt; Vice-Consul: von Allen Stein.
- Norway – Consul: Konrad Sundlo (1919-1920); Gurski.
- Ottoman Empire – Ambassador: Abdul Kerim Pasha (from September 3, 1918); Kiazim Bey (from November 13, 1920, until the occupation).
- Papal States / Representative of the Pope in Georgia – Bishop Gabriel Morionti.
- Greece – Consul: Manuilis Stefanos' son, Manuilidis; Skeferis (January 1921).
- Persia / Iran – General Consul: Zoka-ed-Dowleh; Taga Khan (1920).

- Finland – Representative in Georgia: Colonel Henrik Björkquist (1918-1921).

- Switzerland – Consul in Georgia: Berlemont.

- Czechoslovakia – Consul in Georgia: Jaroslav Svatosh (1918-1921).

Among the states that emerged on the territory of the former Russian monarchist empire, Georgia always had difficult relations with Soviet Russia and Armenia, which was also reflected in the activities of these countries' representatives in Georgia. The Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Diplomatic Representative of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, Sergey Kirov (May 29, 1920 – October 12, 1920), who was a personal friend of Stalin, was known for making statements that reflected a double standard toward Georgia. He was later succeeded by Aaron Sheinman (October 12, 1920-1921), who provided intelligence information to his government's agencies while simultaneously assuring Georgian leaders that in February 1921, Georgia faced no threat from Soviet Russia.

The ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Armenia was initially Arshak Jamalian (1918-1920). During the Armenia-Georgia conflict, the Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered a note of protest to him. After a brief representation by Evangulov in March 1920, Tigran Bekzadian was appointed as the Armenian ambassador to Georgia (April 1920 – November 1920).

Georgia's First Republic, in particular, maintained especially supportive relations with post-imperial independent republics: Poland, Ukraine, the Baltic states, and the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan.

The ambassadors of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, in succession, were Mamed Yusuf Jafarov (June 1918 – May 1919) and Faris Bey Vekilov (May 1919 – April 1920).

Václav Ostrowski¹⁵, son of Viktor, had already been Poland's representative in Georgia since 1918. It is clear that he sympathized strongly with independent Georgia; however, he was "forced not to take firm steps until the decision of the Supreme Allied Council". In March 1920, the Polish government appointed Titus Filipowicz as the head of the mission in the South Caucasus, to whom Ostrowski was to report. In 1921, Filipowicz was succeeded by Wiktor Białobrzeski. Successively, the representatives of the Ukrainian People's Republic in Georgia were: Oleksiy Kulynskiy (July 20, 1918 – November 1, 1918) and Lev Lesniak, from November 11, 1918, until the fall of the Democratic Republic of Georgia.

By May 26, 1918, the Regional Council of Lithuanians in the Caucasus was already functioning in Tbilisi. It congratulated the National Council of Georgia on the declaration of independence through a special resolution. The resolution was signed by the Chairman of the Lithuanian Regional Council in the Caucasus, F. I. Dailid. Frants Ivanovich Dailide,

also known as Pranas Dailid, was among those who congratulated the Chairman of the Georgian Government, Noe Zhordania, on *de jure* independence. At that time, Pranas Dailid was the head and consul of the Lithuanian Republic's representation in Georgia, which had been operating since August 30, 1918¹⁶. As noted above in a previous remark, in the February 10 issue of "Georgia's Republic", the congratulator was mistakenly listed as a representative of Latvia instead of Lithuania.

The consul of the second Baltic state, Estonia, in Georgia remained Johannes Kirkmann until December 1920. From December 1, 1920, he was succeeded by Sergei Paul, who was among those congratulating Georgia on the *de jure* recognition of its independence on February 6, 1921¹⁷. An excerpt from the congratulatory text of the Estonian diaspora to the Presidium of Georgia's Constituent Assembly reads: the Estonian community wishes Georgia "the best future and the strengthening of the freedom already achieved, while also expressing full confidence that the Georgian people will advance toward progress and civilization". The message further states: "This highly solemn day is all the more joyful for Estonians because Estonia also celebrates such a political victory today. Both liberated peoples move forward hand in hand toward the consolidation of their independence"¹⁸.

Georgia also hosted the consulate of the third Baltic state, the Republic of Latvia, which was opened in March 1920¹⁹. The first consul was

Oskars Bumanis, who served until June 5, 1920, and was succeeded by Jānis Purinš (until May 1921).

Conclusion

The materials presented in this article once again demonstrate that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs actively ensured and expanded the Democratic Republic of Georgia's relations with the outside world. Georgia's diplomatic missions abroad were composed of personnel with high levels of state responsibility.

Notes

- ¹ Akaki Chkhenkeli, *Diaries*, Volume One, 1918–1921, Edited by Zurab Gaiparashvili, Commentaries by T. Kakhetlidze, M. Bakhtadze, S. Chanturidze, D. Chumburidze, G. Javakhishvili, T. Khetashvili, TSU Publishing, 2021, p. 29.
- ² Lela Saralidze: “Konstantine Iagorisdze Gvarjaladze”, *Encyclopedia-Lexicon the Democratic Republic of Georgia*, 2018, p. 97.
- ³ Dodo Chumburidze, *Akaki Chkhenkeli – Statesman, Diplomat, Patriot*, “Universal”, 2018, p. 158.
- ⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 238.
- ⁵ Lela Saralidze, “Georgia’s Representation in Western European Countries”, *The Democratic Republic of Georgia. Encyclopedia-Lexicon*, Chief Editor: Dimitri Shvelidze, TSU Publishing, 2018, pp. 378–381.
- ⁶ Giorgi Sharadze, *The First Democratic Republic of Georgia and Foreign Policy*, Tbilisi, 2003, p. 251.
- ⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 155.
- ⁸ Dodo Chumburidze, *op.cit.*, p. 173.

During its brief period of independence, the Georgian government and political class managed to establish diplomatic relations of various ranks with several dozen foreign countries, both near and far. At the same time, the new Georgian state presented itself to the international community as a peaceful country with high democratic values and cultural standards, founded on interesting humanitarian principles – a state whose full potential, unfortunately, could not be fully realized.

- ⁹ I. Kv. E., p. 196.
- ¹⁰ Lela Saralidze: “Georgia’s Representation in the Scandinavian Countries”, *The Democratic Republic of Georgia. Encyclopedia-Lexicon*, p. 383.
- ¹¹ Lela Saralidze, “Recognition of Georgia’s Independence”, in *the encyclopedia-lexicon, mainly*, pp. 371–372.
- ¹² Sakartvelos Respublika [“The Republic of Georgia”], On the legal recognition of Georgia’s independence. Greetings, February 10, 1921.
- ¹³ Giorgi Astamadze, “Ulrich Rauscher”, *Encyclopedia-Lexicon*, p. 329.
- ¹⁴ Irakli Iremadze, “Claude Stokes”, *Encyclopedia-Lexicon*, pp. 419–420.
- ¹⁵ *Ibidem*.
- ¹⁶ Idem, “Ostrovsky Vaclav”, *Encyclopedia-Lexicon, op.cit.*
- ¹⁷ Nikolay Javakhishvili, *Essays on the History of Georgian-Baltic Relations*, Tbilisi, 2019, pp. 138–144.
- ¹⁸ *Ibidem*, Preface, p. 159.
- ¹⁹ “The Republic of Georgia”, “Greetings”, February 8, 1921.

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