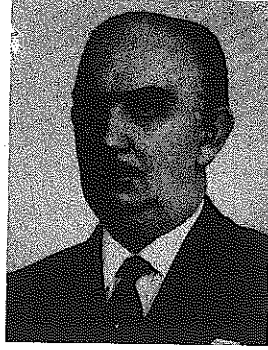


## THE LIFE AND CAREER OF A TURKISH STATESMAN: CEVAT AÇIKALIN

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### INTRODUCTION

Despite the fact that Ambassador Cevat Açıkalın has twice acted as the Secretary-General of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there has been up to now no biography of him. Moreover, astonishing though it may seem, sketches of his life and career are not found in any encyclopedia or political dictionary - Turkish or otherwise. Textbooks pass him by without a mention. Students have never heard of him. So why draw this article-length attention to a man who has hitherto drawn none? Because by any reckoning Açıkalın was one of the outstanding actors of the Turkish diplomatic scene in the 1940s and 1950s.

It is History's loss that Açıkalın did not publish his memoirs in retirement. Neither, unfortunately, did he keep a diary or a large personal ar-

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chive, which would have facilitated the writing of his biography. Consequently his achievements have been largely unsung. This brief article is thus an overdue attempt to fill the gap. I do not propose to make an appraisal of the activities of Açıkalin, but rather give a picture of the man himself, and to attempt some estimate of what he stood for, and signified. It is intended to make a small contribution to a better understanding of an eminent but long neglected personage by endeavouring to fully utilise the sources that are available.

### FAMILY AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Açıkalin was born in İstanbul in 1901 and grew up in the Bebek quarter of the city<sup>1</sup>. He belonged to a family well established in the political and intellectual life of the old Ottoman Empire, which was soon to pass into history but not without leaving to some among the younger generation the legacy of an open-minded cosmopolitanism, a wide participation in Europe's multilingual structure, and a keen enjoyment of the style and elegance in the material and spiritual pleasures of life<sup>2</sup>. His father Ali Cevat (1858-1930) joined the Imperial Secretariat as Eight Secretary on 29 June 1880 after graduating with distinction from the College of Administrative Sciences. Following a successful and unbroken service of twenty-eight years, he was appointed Acting First Secretary on 4 August 1908, being confirmed in the appointment five days later. He relinquished the post on 28 April 1909, the day after Sultan Abdülhamit II was deposed, and retired from public service. For his father Açıkalin had a deep affection and respect. In him he found a consoling friendship and mental companionship.<sup>3</sup>

1 Since systematic records of such particulars were not customarily kept at those times, Açıkalin's exact date of birth - the day, the month and even the year - is not known. Some references put it as 1898. See, for instance, *Who's Who in the Middle East*, London, 1945, p.341 and *The International Who's Who*, London, 1949, p.4. In his handwritten curriculum vitae delivered to the Secretariat General of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Açıkalin mentions that his date of birth is 1901. Sources like the personnel records of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirm that he was born in 1901.

2 Ali Fuat Türkgeldi, *Görüp İşittiklerim* (What I Saw and Heard), Ankara, 1987, pp.16, 21, 28 and 112.

3 Mehmet Tevfik Biren, *II. Abdülhamid, Meşrutiyet ve Mütareke Devri Hatıraları* (Recollections of the Periods of Abdülhamid II, Constitutionalism and Armistice), İstanbul, 1993, vol.I, pp.16-17, 32, 34, 44-46, 152, 456, 461-462 and vol.II, pp.122-127.

Açıklalın's parents had named him Muhittin Mehmet Cevat. He was the elder child of a family of two children.<sup>4</sup> At his death notices published in the Turkish press, the name of his younger sister is mentioned as Hatice Açıklalın.<sup>5</sup> In 1926 he married with Rukiye Celadet (Uşşaklı), with whom he was to share the last forty-four years of his life. His wife was by all accounts a charming, vivacious, fashionable and intelligent lady. She spoke a number of foreign languages. Their home quickly became a centre of gracious and extensive hospitality, reflecting the many and stimulating interests they shared.<sup>6</sup>

As the descendant of Yıldız Palace officialdom, Açıklalın enjoyed a privileged upbringing and fine education. Açıklalın's father impressed him with the value of western education. He received his primary and secondary education in the French-oriented Galatasaray high school where his love of learning and intelligence became evident to his teachers. He stood out at once beyond his contemporaries as one endowed with exceptional abilities. He rose rapidly in the school. He managed eventually to be virtually head of his class. Then he proceeded to a distinguished undergraduate career at the University of Geneva, graduating with a law degree after three years of study. This period exerted a profound influence on his thinking and reoriented his intellectual pursuits more towards the foreign languages. While in Geneva, Açıklalın began to take part in student political activities. He met the other Turkish students in Switzerland, whose nationalist aspirations and grievances against foreign invasion of Turkey he shared.<sup>7</sup>

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4 Archives of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Curriculum Vitae of Cevat Açıklalın: Member of Republican Senate appointed by the President, Personal File no. 174. (Henceforth referred to as "C.V.C.A.")

5 Cumhuriyet, 26 May 1970.

6 Feridun Cemal Erkin, *Dışişlerinde 34 Yıl. Anılar-Yorumlar (34 Years in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Recollections-Comments)*, vol.I, Ankara, 1987, p.144.

7 C.V.C.A. Also Faik Reşit Unat (Ed.), *İkinci Meşrutiyetin İlanı ve Otuzbir Mart Hadisesi; II. Abdülhamid'in Son Mabeyn Başkatibi Ali Cevat Beyin Fezlekesi (Proclamation of the Second Constitutionalism and the Incident of 31 March: Report of Ali Cevat Bey, the Last First Secretary of Abdülhamid II)*, Ankara, 1985, pp.XII and XV.

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CAREER

His father's background meant that Açıkalın came from a milieu not unusual in the diplomatic profession. The imperial foreign policy experience after 1878, conducted under the strict supervision of the central government - that is, Yıldız Palace and Abdülhamit II - had played a major role in preparing the first truly professional diplomatic personnel in the Ottoman era. Some of the most eminent and educated members of the Ottoman middle elite joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Therefore it is no surprise that after completing his university studies, Açıkalın entered foreign service and worked as secretary at the Consulate-General of Geneva on 1 March-30 October 1922, then served again as secretary to the Turkish delegation at the financial-economic committee of the Lausanne Peace Conference which started its deliberations on 20 November 1922. During the conference he had frequent personal contacts with İsmet (İnönü), the chairman of the Turkish delegation and Hasan (Saka), the delegate who later respectively became the Prime Minister and President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister of the Republic.<sup>8</sup> Upon the signature of the Lausanne Treaty on 24 July 1923, he returned to Ankara and was appointed the Deputy Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 9 October 1923.

Açıkalın acted as an energetic, ambitious and highly competent legal officer. His industriousness, geniality, and linguistic facility sustained him along a gently rising trajectory of diplomatic postings. After serving as the Second Secretary at the Legation of Warsaw between 18 May 1924 and 15 November 1925, he became the Chief Deputy Legal Adviser of the ministry. On 3 May 1926 he left his office in order to assume the post of the Legal Adviser to the government of Afghanistan. He was then in the prime of life and equipped with immense and precious legal knowledge. His

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid. Also Lozan: 1922-1923 (Lausanne: 1922-1923), Publication of the Directorate General of Research and Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Ankara, 1973, p.6 and Bilal Şimşir, Lozan Telgrafları: 1922-1923 (Telegrammes of Lausanne: 1922-1923), vol. I, Ankara, 1990, p. 104.

nomination caused a marked degree of alarm among some of the foreign representatives in the Afghani capital. For they saw him as a clever diplomat with a wide expertise necessary to enable him to make his presence felt in the country. Açıkalın turned out to be a true friend of Afghans and it cannot be said that his services in the signature of the second Turco-Afghan Treaty Friendship in 1928 in Ankara - recapitulating most of the clauses of the previous 1921 agreement upon the ratification of which the respective ministers in Ankara and Kabul were raised to the status of ambassadors - were negligible. He also gave legal advice to the government of Afghanistan in its disputes over the boundary with Iran.<sup>9</sup> Subsequent to his return to the ministry on 8 June 1929, he was appointed the First Secretary to the Legation of Prague and on 27 May 1930 he was transferred to the Legation of Belgrade in the same capacity.<sup>10</sup>

Açıkalın became Counsellor at the Teheran Embassy on 26 December 1930 and was transferred to the Moscow Embassy in the same capacity on 27 August 1931. He returned to Ankara on 29 May 1933 and was appointed the Chief of the Private Cabinet of the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 9 January 1934. Known as Muhittin Mehmet Cevat Bey till 1934, he officially adopted the surname Açıkalın when the law related to surnames was passed that year. Married to the sister of the former wife of Kemal Atatürk, he attracted the attention of the chief of state while still a young man.<sup>11</sup> He was astute and perceptive and had, in fact, one of the sharpest minds in the foreign service. His way of speaking was strong, direct and simple. His ideas and stock of knowledge kept pace with his fluency of speech and writing. He had physical stamina and much patience. Açıkalın, a man of great sense of duty, was also hard at work.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid. For Açıkalın's activities as Legal Adviser in Kabul see Bilal Şimşir, *Diplomatlarımız (Our Diplomats)*, Ankara, 1996, pp. 322-323.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. See also Edward Weisband, *Turkish Foreign Policy: 1943-1945. Small State Diplomacy and Great Power Politics*, Princeton, 1973, p.55.

<sup>12</sup> Oğuz Gökmen, *Bir Zamanlar Hariciye: Eski Bir Diplomatın Hatıraları I ( Once Upon a Time Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Recollections of a Former Diplomat I )*, İstanbul, 1999, p. 35.

Serving successfully as Legal Adviser since 26 November 1935, Açıkalm progressed through the hierarchy and was promoted to the post of Director-General of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 29 March 1937, reaching the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary on 30 January 1938.<sup>13</sup> This able jurist-diplomat acted as the secretary-general of the Turkish delegation which took part in the Montreux Straits Conference of 22 June - 20 July 1936 and he had had most to do in contributing to the drafting of the Turkish proposals and counterproposals during the proceedings.<sup>14</sup>

Açıkalm soon became one of the most influential Turkish diplomats and due his key role in the Hatay affair he rose to prominence. 1938 was the pivotal point in his career. In June of that year he participated in the Turco-French staff talks as a diplomatic expert at Antakya. After the military entry of Hatay by the Turks on 5 July 1938 the district began to be administered jointly by the French and the Turks. It was known as Turco-French condominium. On 15 July 1938 Açıkalm began to function in Hatay as Turkish Envoy Extraordinary having the same powers as the Delegate of France, Colonel Robert Collet. The Turkish press welcomed the selection of Açıkalm and praised his diplomatic skills. All administrative decrees, henceforth, were issued jointly by the two representatives. Both men were to supervise the application of the Turco-French military agreement signed at Antakya on 3 July 1938 and the forthcoming Assembly elections. Açıkalm's term as Envoy Extraordinary in Hatay in the years 1938-1939 was of considerable diplomatic, political and administrative importance. He proved to be a canny diplomat and an efficient administrator. In his dealings with the French, Açıkalm was a superb negotiator with an immense confidence in his own professional abilities. As negotiator, em-

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13 C.V.C.A.

14 Actes de la Conférence de Montreux Concernant le Régime des Détroits, 22 juin - 20 juillet 1936. *Compte Rendu des Séances Plénières et Procès-Verbal des Débats du Comité Technique*, Liège, 1936, p.19. Semih Günver, *Fatin Rüştü Zorlu'nun Öyküsü* (Story of Fatin Rüştü Zorlu), Ankara, 1985, p. 23. For Turkish proposals and counterproposals during the proceedings of the Montreux Straits Conference see in particular *Montreux ve Savaş Öncesi Yılları: 1935-1939* (Montreux and Pre-war Years: 1935-1939), Publication of the Directorate General of Research and Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Ankara, 1973, pp. 60-130.

pathy and integrity were his greatest dexterity. His energy, his courage, and calm were legendary. He commanded admiration and respect, both for his personal character and for his achievements.<sup>15</sup>

Here was a diplomat at the top of his form, sensitive to his opponent's position, aware of the pressures being brought to bear, and yet conscious of, and struggling against, the possibility that his own views may have become coloured. It was Açıkalın's skill that steered the negotiations between Turkey and France clear of the obvious rocks in their path. His abilities as a diplomat were widely recognised. He was showered with praise from all sides. Açıkalın's star was in the ascendant.

Açıkalın was the most senior member of the delegation which accompanied Şükrü Saracoğlu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the frustrating but significant journey to the Soviet Union soon after the outbreak of the Second World War. The Turkish delegation suffered considerable abuse in Moscow where it stayed nearly for a month, 25 September-17 October 1939, to try to forge an agreement with the Russians suddenly allied to Nazi Germany. Their failure at this time to arrive to an understanding with the Russians, and the Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs Vyacheslav Molotov's bluster which bordered on insult, deeply coloured Açıkalın's perceptions of Kremlin's post-war designs.<sup>16</sup>

Açıkalın was one of the closest associates of Numan Menemencioğlu, the Secretary-General and the demigod of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The latter was the former's mentor in the foreign service. The two men had deep mutual understanding and regard. They saw eye to eye. Açıkalın was, in his own way, quite as competent a diplomat as Menemencioğlu and consequently he was promoted to the post of the First Deputy of the Secretary-

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15 For detailed accounts of Açıkalın's role and activities in the settlement of the question of Hatay see especially Tayfur Sökmen, *Hatay'ın Kurtuluşu için Harcanan Çabalar* (Efforts Exerted for the Liberation of Hatay), Ankara, 1992, pp. 13-15, 105-106, 110-111 and 114 and Abdurrahman Melek, *Hatay Nasıl Kurtuldu* (How Hatay was Liberated), Ankara, 1966, pp. 55, 59-60, 66, 70, 73, 76-77, 79-80 and 84. Also Erkin (1987), p. 109. Moreover, for a French opinion see René Massigli, *La Turquie devant la Guerre: Mission* (Ankara 1939-1940, Paris, pp.78-79).

16 See in particular Feridun Cemal Erkin, *Türk-Sovyet İlişkileri ve Boğazlar Mesclesi* (Turco-Soviet Relations and the Question of the Straits), Ankara, 1968, pp.140-156.

General on 9 January 1940. He also acted as the Chairman of the Inter-ministerial High Liaison Committee. Everyone remarked his present eminence and predicted his future fame.<sup>17</sup>

Between 14 August 1942 and 15 August 1943 Açıkalın represented Turkey as Ambassador to the Soviet Union. Moscow was naturally one of the most important postings in those years, as it is now. He endeavoured to improve the current tense relations between the two countries and achieved the desired result on the matter. In a particularly sensitive assignment such as Moscow he stood steadfast under pressure. He was calm and forceful. He was a strong man, who made his influence felt through the power of his personality. He dealt successfully with difficult persons like Molotov. He struck his colleagues as intelligent and tough, and he seems to have won their reluctant admiration for his ability to "hold his liquor".<sup>18</sup>

In 1943 Menemencioğlu, being the Minister of Foreign Affairs for a year, appointed Açıkalın as Secretary-General and brought him back from Moscow. There was a firm friendship between them and by 1943 Menemencioğlu had come to regard Açıkalın as his most trusted colleague. Clearly, Açıkalın became Secretary-General with the great advantage of having the confidence and support of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In his new position he was situated so as to have a far wider range of issues than he had been an ambassador. With respect to Turkey's policy towards the Soviet Union, Açıkalın took office with ideas that he developed over the previous year. Although always junior to Menemencioğlu, he played a particularly important role as Secretary-General not only because of his friendship with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, but on account of President İnönü's personal trust in him. Açıkalın seems to have impressed İnönü with his fluency of speech and power of argumentation. One of Açıkalın's first innovations upon becoming Secretary-General was to institute a practice whereby all diplomatic correspondence and cables were trans-

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid., p.140.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., pp.207-208. Weisband (1973), p. 54. Also Milliyet, 26 May 1970.



mitted immediately to İnönü. This procedure enabled the President to be apprised of diplomatic messages and intelligence reports as soon as they were received. İnönü could thus keep abreast of developments as easily as Menemencioğlu or other officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Therefore it was no wonder that Edward Weisband quotes İnönü as saying: "Cevat Açıkalın was always close and useful to me."<sup>19</sup>

While in Moscow, Açıkalın came to apprehend that Russians might attempt to transform the Turkish entry into the war into an excuse to establish themselves militarily in Turkey. Although not a policy-maker in the sense that he could act independently of İnönü or Menemencioğlu, he took part in most major policy decisions between 1943 and 1945. On Turkey's possible entry into war, Açıkalın participated in the first and second Cairo Conferences respectively between Menemencioğlu and Anthony Eden, the British Foreign Secretary on 5-8 November 1943 and between İnönü and Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister and Franklin Roosevelt, the American President on 3-6 December the same year.<sup>20</sup>

On 11 October 1945 Açıkalın succeeded Ruşen Eşref Ünaydın as Ambassador to Britain, thereby acquiring the post that he had wanted and been expected to get for so long. He had, as he realised, President İnönü, to thank for the London plum, the most prestigious post the Turkish foreign service then had to offer. For the Court of St. James's was not the only destination within the bounds of possibility. Since the end of the Second World War, it was rumoured that he was to be assigned either to London or to Moscow, a change-over in both capitals being known to be imminent. It was always Açıkalın's practice to equip himself as thoroughly as possible for any service he undertook. For his ambassadorship in Britain he built up a large library of books in European languages. He tried to make himself a master of the English language. Considering the formidable and intractable nature of many of Europe's problems in the immediate post-war

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<sup>19</sup>Weisband (1973), pp. 35 and 55.

<sup>20</sup>Erkin (1987), pp.133-134, 136, 142 and 144-145. See also Hugh Knatchbull-Hugessen, *Diplomat in Peace and War*, London, 1949, p. 187.

years, it is scarcely surprising that Açıkalın found his diplomatic tasks in London more difficult than any that he had previously encountered. With the intensification of the cold war in the late 1940s, Açıkalın's responsibilities expanded slowly but steadily. Although he played a secondary role in shaping Turkey's initial approach to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), he became increasingly influential as membership to NATO emerged as a fundamental principle of Turkish foreign and defence policy.<sup>21</sup>

Açıkalın was brought to Ankara by Fuat Köprülü, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, on 5 February 1952 and was appointed for the second time as Secretary-General. The assignment clearly derived from Köprülü's very positive assessment of Açıkalın's past professional performance. Thus twice running it was offered him a prized opportunity for serving his country actively at the moment of its urgent need. In every one of his employments Açıkalın rendered most valuable service. He held the post of the Secretary-General for two years, putting the administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on a sound basis. At the same time he performed the duty of presiding the Interministerial Central NATO Council.<sup>22</sup>

During the last seven years of his professional life he represented Turkey as Ambassador to Italy, a post which he held with great distinction. Açıkalın was a perfect transmission belt between Ankara and Rome. He learned the Italian language and mastered the intricacies of the Italian domestic and foreign political scene in the latter half of the 1950s. In Italy, Açıkalın demonstrated in a marked way the skills and intellectual abilities that had contributed to his reputation as a gifted diplomat. He knew that an ambassador tends to be as good as the sources of information upon which he depends. He knew too, that those making or seeking to influence foreign policy in any country do not constitute a homogenous group with a unified point of view. Thus in Rome he made every effort to meet as many

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21 Ibid., pp.155 and 268.

22 Ibid.

people as possible so as to acquire the broadest range of information: he never restricted his contacts to the political and social elites important though these were, but also sought out journalists, academics, businessmen, churchmen, soldiers, turcophiles, and any Turkish subjects living nearby.<sup>23</sup>

Just as important, he understood the difference between diplomats - men on the spot - and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the men at home responsible for fashioning a coherent foreign policy from the diplomats' reports. He learned early in his career that some men on the spot at times lose sight of the wider foreign policy picture, either because they are too consumed with the job at hand to see beyond it, or because they feel that other problems facing the country pale in comparison with their own. Açıkalın never lost his perspective. He always spoke clearly and forcefully in offering assessments and counsel to his own government, and then used all his tactical skills to make Turkish policy effective on the local scene. He retired from the government service at his own request on 25 October 1961.<sup>24</sup>

### **POLITICAL LIFE**

Açıkalın's contribution to his country went far beyond the diplomatic field. Appointed member of Republican Senate by the President Cemal Gürsel on 26 October 1961, Açıkalın was a modernist in the tradition of İnönü, with secularism and reformism two of his persistent characteristics. He was the epitome of political moderation, a practitioner of politics as the art of the possible whose goal was a liberal, democratic Turkish society. Before he entered Parliament, this senior diplomat had been watching the political scene with a keen interest. He actively took part in the works of the Committees of Foreign Affairs, Press and Broadcasting and Tourism of the Senate. He made twenty-four speeches in the Senate Assembly, mostly

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<sup>23</sup> C.V.C.A. Erkin (1987), pp. 420,440,450,452 and 489. Kemal Girgin, *Hariciye Tarihimiz* (Our History of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Ankara, 1994, p.138.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

on the issues of foreign policy and international relations. He was amiable and well regarded, speaking with lucidity, forthrightness, and humour. Nobility of thought and expression, clarity of language, and, depth of understanding and perception characterised his power of oratory. As an experienced ambassador, he was a political asset to the Republican Senate. A warm, energetic man Açıkalın's responsibilities brought him into intimate contact with the political leaders of the country. His tenure of senatorship was ended on 2 June 1968 and due to his frail health he was unable to be appointed for another term.<sup>25</sup>

### PERSONALITY TRAITS

Açıkalın was slim and agile. Being a man of refinement and culture, he was self-assured, elegant and sophisticated. In whatsoever stage of his career or in whatsoever circumstance, Açıkalın's appearance, had a magnetism which attracted wide attention and set him apart from other men. He was, by nature, softhearted and soft-headed. He was a model of calm and monumentally phlegmatic. Humility, generosity, an affectionate capacity for friendship and breadth of outlook were typical of Açıkalın. His experiences of different societies in Europe and Asia had greatly broadened Açıkalın's outlook so that he was tolerant of other ideas and opinions, which he always tried to understand even when he did not agree with them. He was quick-witted and well informed. He read voraciously. His reading was broad, covering everything in print that attracted his penetrating intelligence, in particular law and history as they revealed the experiences and emotions of the human race from its beginning. And with his brilliant mind and indefatigable industry he developed his linguistic gifts to the full. His interest in foreign languages dated from student days. He had a thorough knowledge of French, English and German. He spoke Greek, Persian and Italian fluently. Nor were his gifts only linguistic. Another of Açıkalın's qualities was tremendous energy. He was mentally

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<sup>25</sup> Fahri Çoker, *Türk Parlamento Tarihi: Cumhuriyet Senatosu Üyelerinin Özgeçmişleri* (History of the Turkish Parliament: Curriculum Vitae of the Members of Republican Senate), vol. I, Ankara, 1996, p. 651.

alert, quick in his grasp of ideas. This prominent diplomat and politician possessed a charismatic personality, sharp insights, exceptional professional skills, and a piercing sense of humour, which helped him to circumvent the most difficult situations. His sense of timing was impeccably accurate.<sup>26</sup>

All who knew Açıkalın were impressed by his intellectual qualities. No visionary, he approached the challenging issues of international relations with legal integrity and realistic analysis, but also with disarming optimism and a spirit of good will. Those who worked with him remember his practical good sense and his conciliatory attitude towards all interpersonal and international questions.<sup>27</sup> Not surprisingly, the French ambassador at Ankara in 1939-1940, René Massigli, recognises Açıkalın as a diplomatic fencer with sound judgement.<sup>28</sup> Despite the international recognition he attained, he remained a modest man who courteously but firmly managed most of the time to stay away from the lime-light of newspaper interviews. Although he delighted in being kept informed of what was going on, he unfailingly spoke kindly of colleagues and gave everyone the benefit of doubt.

## CONCLUSION

Açıkalın and his wife died as the result of a car accident in Sapanca on 24 May 1970. Their tragic death came as a tremendous shock to their countless friends and acquaintances all over Turkey. Açıkalın was 69 and was survived by a sister, a son, a daughter and two grandchildren. The simplicity and reserve of his funeral were in sharp contrast to the public attention generated by the news of his death. He was buried in the Rumelihisar graveyard close to his boyhood haunts and the scenes of his early youth in İstanbul. Turkish newspapers printed the news of his death on their front

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<sup>26</sup> Nimet Arzık, *Bitmeyen Kavga: İsmet İnönü (Unending Quarrel: İsmet İnönü)*, Ankara, 1966, p. 95. Zeki Kumeralp, *Sadece Diplomat (Just Diplomat)*, İstanbul, 1981, pp. 31-32.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.* Açıkalın and Massigli knew each other from their days at the Lausanne Peace Conference where, in fact, they had laid down the grounds for personal friendship.

<sup>28</sup> Massigli (1964), p.79.

pages on 26 May 1970 together with obituaries and photographs of the deceased. Obituary notices lamented the death of a much venerated personality, invaluable for his wisdom, knowledge and goodness.

The absence of earlier studies should not be taken to signify that Açıkalın was a figure of little account. Although scarcely remembered by the young generation, he twice stood out as a gifted Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who played a vital and at times even central role in Turkey's international relations during the 1940s and 1950s. Resourceful and disciplined, Açıkalın was a diplomat of outstanding ability both in conditions of peace and war. The persistence, the concentration on the essential and the endless capacity for bold negotiation made him important. Such a dedication to duty and high standard of public service deserves to be commemorated. Many have described him as ranking among the dozen most influential Turkish ambassadors of the twentieth century. He therefore deserves a biography.

## ÖZET

Cevat Açıkalın (1901-1970) T.C. Dışışleri Bakanlığının iç ve dış teşkilatında 1922 ila 1961 yılları arasında çeşitli kademelerde başarıyla görev yapmış bir diplomattır. Açıkalın 1936'da Montrö Boğazlar Konferansına katılan Türk heyetinin genel sekreterliğini üstlenmiş ve 1938-1939'da Hatay Fevkalade Murahhaslığında bulunmuştur. Dışışleri hizmetinde yetenekleriyle temayüz etmiş ve bilgisi ve çalışkanlığıyla üst makamların takdirini kazanmıştır. Ayrıca, iki defa Dışışleri Bakanlığı Genel Sekreterliği ve Moskova, Londra ve Roma'da maharetle Büyükelçilik yapmıştır. Bu makamlarda zeka inceliği, hukuk muktesebatı ve müzakerecilik gücüyle Türkiye'ye değerli hizmetler ifa etmiştir. Açıkalın, 1961-1968 yılları arasında Kontenjan Senatörlüğü de yapmıştır. Adıgeçen, üstün meziyetleri ve seçkin kişiliğiyle sayılan ve sevilen bir devlet adamı idi.

**Anahtar Kelimeler** : Büyükelçi, Genel Sekreter, Senatör.

**ABSTRACT**

Cevat Açıkalın (1901-1970) is a diplomat who had a distinguished career in the Turkish foreign service between 1922 and 1961. Açıkalın acted as the secretary-general of the Turkish delegation to the Montreux Straits Conference in 1936 and he functioned as Turkish Envoy Extraordinary in Hatay in 1938-1939. Furthermore, he acted twice as the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and served ably as ambassador in Moscow, London and Rome. In these capacities he provided invaluable services to Turkey. Açıkalın was also a senator between 1961 and 1968. Owing to his superior virtues and distinguished personality, Açıkalın was a much respected and adored statesman.

**Key Words :** Ambassador, Secretary-General, Senator.



Sicil No: 174

CUMHURİYET SENATOSU  
ÜYELERİNE MAHSUS

HAL TERCÜMESİ KAĞIDI

*P. C. Kontonjani* C. Senatosu Üyesi *M. Cevat Açıkalın*



Vekâletler arası Yâsar İhtisat Komisyonu  
Riyasetini ifa etmiştir. 1942 de Moskova  
B. Elçiliğine, 1943'te Vekâlet Umumî  
Katıplığına, 1945 Londra B. Elçiliğine  
1951 dekrarı Vekâlet Umumî Katıplığına  
ve ikide edilen Vekâletler arası Merkez  
Nato Heyeti Riyasetini Tâsis etmiştir.  
3/8/54 de Roma B. Elçiliğine Tâsis  
etmiştir. —