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Lushnja Congress and Its Historical Significance (January 21, 1920)

Lushnja (Luşnia) Kongresi ve tarih Önemi (21 Ocak 1920)

Abstract

One of the most important events of the early twentieth century, is undoubtedly the National Congress of Lushnja, held from January 21 to January 31, 1920. The Congress was attended by elected delegates from all over Albania. The purpose of the Congress was to study the internal and external situation of the country and the measures that had to be taken to save Albania from the danger of fragmentation. In this paper we will make an effort to highlight the efforts of the Albanian establishment for the re-establishment of the Albanian state after the First World War. The Congress of Lushnja approved the Constitutional Act for the full independence of Albania and the Albanian state, as well as elected the High Council of 4 people, the regency, which would perform the functions of the head of state and the National Council with 37 people, in function of the parliament. With these acts, this congress showed the world that Albania was formerly independent and indivisible and set to work for the organization of the Albanian state.

Keywords: World War I, Organization of Albanians, Lushnja Congress, High Council, Regency, National Council (Parliament).

Öz

XX. Yüzyılın hemen başındaki en önemli olaylardan biri şüphesiz 21 Ocak-30 Ocak 1920 tarihleri arasında gerçekleştiren Ulusal *Lushnja Kongresi*'dir. Kongreye Arnavutluk'un dört bir yanından seçilen delegeler katıldı. Kongrenin asıl amacı, Arnavutluk'u parçalanma tehlikesinden kurtarmak için iç ve dış durumunu analize edip gereken önlemleri alınması idi. Lushnja Kongresi'nde Arnavutluk devletinin tam bağımsızlığına ilişkin Anayasa Yasası onaylandı ve aynı zamanda Devlet işlerini yürütecek olan 4 kişilikten oluşan Devlet Yüksek Şurası ve 37 kişiden oluşan Ulusal Konseyi seçildi. Kongrede alınan kararlar ile tüm dünyaya Arnavutluk'un bağımsız ve bölünmez olduğunu mesajını verilerek devletleşmeye yönelik hazırlıklar başlandı. Bu çalışmada, Arnavut Devleti'nin Birinci Dünya Savaşı'ndan sonra yeniden kurulmasına yönelik çabalarını ele alacağız.

Anahtar kelimeler: Birinci Dünya Savaşı, Arnavutların savaşı, Lushnja Kongresi, Ulusal Şurası, Devlet Yüksek Şûrası, Meclis.

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Introduction

The situation in Albania after the First World War had evolved significantly, the determination to save Albania at all costs, had included all Albanian patriots, because the political situation that Albania was going through from the danger that was threatening them at the Paris Peace Conference, as well as the inability shown by the Government of Durrës to protect national interests, disturbed various patriots within the country, who set in motion to save Albania. This was done because the compromise of January 13, 1920 spread between Italy, France and England, for the division of Albania between Yugoslavia, Greece and Italy¹, which brought a great increase of anti-Italian feelings among the Albanians, as a result also against the government of Durrës which was labeled as a government with pro-Italian orientation. This accelerated the efforts of a group of patriots and other personalities of the country, such as: Aqif Pashë Biçoku, Iliaz bej Vrioni, Ahmet Zogu, Abdi Toptani, Ali bej Këlcyra etc., to convene a new congress which would discuss the future of Albania². Therefore, the Congress would be a direct reaction against the plans that were being drafted in Paris (Versailles 1919-1920), after they had turned the Albanian territory into a reserve fund to smooth the divergences between them in the region³, as well as against the repressive policy of neighboring invaders, primarily Italian⁴. However, we must underline the fact that the convening of this congress and the preparations for it were not simply the initiative of individuals who had not previously had any connection with each other. It's clearly visible the fact that the epicenter and main promoter of these efforts was a secret political organization, with a prominent nationalist leaven, called the "Krahu Kombëtar". It was founded in 1914⁵.

In December 1919, several meetings were organized in the Halveti tekke of Karbunara, in which the English consul Morton Frederock Iden also participated. The basic issue discussed in these meetings was the organization of a National Assembly, which would take over the fate of the country⁶. In the same tekke, in mid-December 1919, the Organizing Committee was formed with Sheh Ibrahim Karbunara as chairman, Mihal Grameno as vice-chairman, and members Sali Butka, Vasil Tromara etc⁷. The role in this committee was played by Eshref Frashëri, who at this time worked in Lushnja. Sheikh Ibrahim Karbunara sent invitations to the municipalities of Albania to send their delegates at the appointed time, where among other things it was said: "Due to various

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- 1 Muin Çami,"Kongresi i Lushnjës-programi dhe masat për realizimin e tij," *Historical studies*, Tirana: Academy of Science of RPS of Albania: Institute of History, No.2. Year:XLVI (XXVII), 1990, p.101:Oliver Jens Schmitt, *Ballkani në shekullin XX; Një histori post-imperiale*, Prishtinë: Botime Artini, 2021, f.f.139-148.
 - 2 Valentina Duka, *Historia e Shqipërisë 1912-2000*, Tirana: University Book Publishing House, 2007, p.110.
 - 3 Muin Çami," Shqipëria në Konferencën e Paqes më 1919", *Historical studies*, Tirana: Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Albania: Institute of History, No. 1-4, Year: L (XXXIII), 1997, p.131.
 - 4 Muin Çami,"Kongresi i Lushnjës dhe Lufta e Vlorës", *Historical studies*, Tirana: State University of Tirana: Institute of History and Linguistics, No.1, Year: XXIII (VI), 1970, p.197.
 - 5 Albana Mema," Ndikimi italian në krizat politike të viteve 1920-1924", *Historical studies*, Tirana: Academy of Albanological Studies: Institute of History, No. 3-4, Year: LV (LXXII), 2019, p.121.
 - 6 Lush Culaj, "Qëndrimi i Qeverisë së Lushnjës ndaj çështjes kombëtare", *Albanological research- Series of historical studies (further:SHS)*, Prishtina: Albanological Institute-Prishtina, No. 30, 2000, p. 143-163.
 - 7 Tahsim Xh. Demiraj, "Sheh Ibrahim Karbunara figurë e shquar e patriotizmit shqiptar", Newspaper: *Nacional*, Sunday, 22 January 2012, p. 18.

events here and a few months ago in the collective life of our homeland, a reversal is being felt, so as it is known by every patriot, these reversals cause the disruption of the peace of the country, without a doubt the end of the loss of our beloved homeland. The Albanian people, who in recent years have received enough lessons on the ways of their salvation, have reached an agreement recently and are aware that they have decided for a general meeting here in Lushnja “⁸.

The idea and initiative for convening a congress resonated widely. In Lushnja, resolutions of popular rallies, municipal decisions and petitions of progressive organizations began to arrive, which supported the idea of convening the Congress, in one of them, it was said: “Let the homeland rely on the arms of its sons, because this is how our country rises and lives”. “The homeland demands from us bravery, manliness, and all other martyrdoms”⁹. A prominent role in the popularization of this patriotic forum was played by the Albanian press, which mobilized public opinion in favor of the Congress, newspapers such as: “Populli”, “Mbrotjtja Kombëtare”, “Shkumbini”, “Taraboshi”, “Albania”, “Jeta e Re”, they clearly expressed in its pages, through articles and reports, that the Congress shows to the world “what it wants, what it thinks and what is an Albanian capable of doing”¹⁰.

All attempts by the Italian authorities and the Government of Durrës to prevent the holding of the congress ended in failure. Thus, at the request of the Minister of Internal Affairs of the puppet government, Mufit Libohova, the Commander-in-Chief of the Italian troops in Albania, General Piacentini, sent to Lushnja, by motorized means, a battalion of the Albanian militia, ordering the congress to be dispersed by force. However, the Albanian officers, Catholics from Shkodra, after being acquainted with the situation on the spot, not only did not carry out the orders, but began to guard the congress, throughout the days that it held the proceedings¹¹. Also, the Committee “Mbrotjtja Kombëtare e Kosovës” (National Protection of Kosovo) at that time played an important role and influenced many national issues. Therefore, on January 18, 1920, it gave instructions to its delegates in the Congress of Lushnja, regarding the problems it had to raise before this Congress. Among other things, he suggested, as the Government of Durrës has not taken any measures for the freedom of Kosovo, but also those provinces that were included in the territories of the Albanian state in the London Conference in 1913, such as Gashi, Krasniqi, Nikaj, Mërtur, Shala e Sipërme, Kelmendi etc. Then to protest against the Serbian atrocities against the provinces of Kosovo in the international arena. And finally to give an instruction to the delegation in Paris to insist before the Peace Conference on these two points: 1. To seek a simple, independent Albania. 2. The unification of other Albanian provinces¹².

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- 8 Nase Guga, “Premisat historike për thirrjen e Kongresit Kombëtar të Lushnjës”, *Historical studies*, Tirana: State University of Tirana: Institute of History and Linguistics, No.1, Year: XXIII (VI), 1970, p.170.
- 9 Thoma Deliana, “Kongresi i Lushnjës-ngjarje me rëndësi të madhe politike në historinë e popullit shqiptar”, *Historical studies*, Tirana: State University of Tirana: Institute of History and Linguistics, No.1, Year: XXIII (VI), 1970, p.8.
- 10 Kaliopi Naska, “Jehona e Kongresit të Lushnjës në shtypin shqiptar të kohës”, *Historical studies*, Tirana: Academy of Scienc of RPS of Albania: Institute of History, No.2, Year: XLIV (XXVII), 1990, p.151-154.
- 11 Nina Smirnova, *Historia e Shqipërisë përgjatë shekullit XX*, Tirana: Ideart Publications, 2004, p.97-97.
- 12 Xheladin Shala, “Kongresi i Lushnjës dhe Mbretëria Serbo-Kroato-Slllovene”, *Albanological research-SHS*, Prishtina: Albanological Institute of Prishtina, no. IX-1979, 1980, p.168.

On January 21, 1920, the congress of Albanian leaders met in Lushnja with 50 delegates representing from all regions of Albania¹³. As one of the main organizers of the Congress, Sheh Ibrahim Karbunara opened the proceedings by welcoming representatives from all over Albania, as well as praying on behalf of the Muslim faith for the proceedings of the Congress¹⁴. Aqif Pashë Elbasani was elected President of the Lushnja Congress, Sotir Peci as vice-president, Kostaq Kotta and Ferid Vokopola as secretary. The Congress of Lushnja, initially and unanimously decided to declare the Provisional Government of Durrës dismissed, not to recognize the Secret Treaty of London, to respect the borders of 1913¹⁵. He composed a new delegation to the Paris Peace Conference, consisting of: Luigj Bumçi, Mehmet Bej Konica and Mihal Turtulli¹⁶, who had to adhere to the decisions of the congress for a completely independent Albania, opposing any form that would limit this independence and any concessions that would affect in any way the territorial integrity of the Albanian state¹⁷, this radical change of political representation in the Peace Conference, was due to the risk of losing the continuity of this representation and that truncated legitimacy, which was created by a representation, in 1919, after the composition of this commission by well-known and credible patriots to the national cause, and at the same time able to negotiate for national interests in the international arena, created the possibility of preserving this representation¹⁸.

The most important national issue that the Lushnja Congress dealt with was the establishment of the structure of the Albanian state. Approved the foundations of the constitutional legislation of the country “Bazat e Kanunores”, which had the full character of the Constitution or the Statute of the Albanian state, hence the name “Statuti i Lushnjës”(Statute of Lushnja), which recognizes this document in the history of the state and Albanian law, which sanctioned the main principles and bases of the state order in Albania with 6 articles¹⁹, starting from the form of the regime, for which there was a debate among the Albanian nationalism divided in two branches of political thought. One branch was for the form of the monarchy, while the other branch was for the establishment of the republic, due to internal disputes, international legal obstacles, a middle, temporary and transitional solution was found to the issue of the Albanian state regime. They decided to form the High Council²⁰ (The legal position was that of regency). At its head was not foreseen to have any

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- 13 Hysen Kordha, “Parlamenti shqiptar-institucionalizim i unitetit politik shtetëror dhe i demokracisë parlamentare shqiptare”, *Historical studies*, Tirana: Academy of Sciences of Albania; Institute of History, No.1-2, year LIV (XXXVII), 2000, p. 134; Bajram Xhafa, *Historia e Shqipërisë periudha e pavarësisë 1912-1939*, Shkodër, 2006, p. 195; Robert C. Austin, *Fan Noli dhe një revolucion i ikur; Demokracia shqiptare në vitet 1920-1924*, Prishtina, “Koha”, 2011, p.21; Aurela Anastasi, *Historia e të drejtës kushtetuese në Shqipëri (1912-1939)*, Tirana, Publishing House: “Pegi”, 2007, p. 47.
 - 14 Engjëll Sh. Zerdelia, *Kongresi Kombëtar i Lushnjës*, Tirana, Publishing House: “Emal”, 2014, p. 116.
 - 15 Marenglen Verli, “Kongresi i Lushnjës - akt kulmor në Lëvizjen Kombëtare Shqiptare”, *Historical studies*, Tirana: Academy of Sciences of Albania; Institute of History, no. 1-2, Viti: LX (XLIII), 2006, p. 165.
 - 16 Valentina Duka, *Historia e Shqipërisë 1912-2000...*, p.111.
 - 17 Muin Çami, *Shqipëria në rrjedhat e historisë 1912-1924*, Tirana: Publishing House: “Onufri”, p.191.
 - 18 Albana Mema, “Ndikimi italian në krizat politike të viteve 1920-1924”.....p.125.
 - 19 Gramos Hysi, “Organizimi i shtetit shqiptar sipas vendimeve të Kongresit të Lushnjës”, *Historical studies*, Tirana: State University of Tirana: Institute of History and Linguistics, No.2, Year: XXV (VIII), 1971, p. 4.
 - 20 Sali Kadria, *Nacionalizmi shqiptar në vitet 1912-1924*, Tirana: Academy of Albanological Studies:

chairman. This was a wise and practical solution as Albania, as a small country and with a fragile and uncertain international legal and political position, had to affirm its international legitimacy as an independent state, internationally recognized²¹. The High Council (Aqif Pashë Elbasani, Mihal Turtulli, Luigj Bumçi and Abdi bej Toptani), had the task of approving any proposals that would come from the government approved by the senate, had the right in times of crisis to elect the government cabinet, which will enter into force after approval by the senate, if the government is rejected by the senate, then the Supreme Council is obliged to take matters into its own hands, The High Council had no right to dissolve the Senate even if they have disagreements among themselves, the national general meeting dissolves the High Council or dissolves the senate, if one of the members of the High Council resigns, the other three continue in office and as soon as the king comes to the throne, the High Council ceases to exist²².

The government headed by Sulejman Delvina was formed consisting of 6 members: Vice Primeminister E. Frashëri, A.Zogu Internal Minister, M. Konica Minister of Foreign Affairs, S. Peci Minister of Education, K. Prishtina Minister of Justice, N. Çoba Minister of Finance²³. The 37-member senate was elected. In the conditions of foreign invasions, when it would not be possible to hold regular elections, it would perform the functions of parliament. The first meeting of this important state body, which had in its hands the legislative power, took place on March 27, 1920. In the fourth meeting, on 31.3.1920, the complete definition of this state body was made, the parliamentary form and the name “Këshilli Kombëtar”(National Council), as well as the stamp with its name. The Albanian parliament would function under this name from the first day of its opening until the eve of the Constituent Assembly, in January 1924²⁴. These constitutional bodies demanded that the secret Treaty of London not be recognized, as had been demanded since the opening of the Congress, mentioned above, laid the foundations of Albania’s independence and prepared the basic statute of the state²⁵, according to which there was no official religion, separated religion from the state, and ensured religious freedom for all citizens²⁶. This helped the Albanian patriots to consolidate even better the binomial religion and homeland, but the “Statuti i Lushnjës” will be completed later, as the articles of this document, as Hoxha Kadri Prishtina said: “were written very briefly, with a haste ordered by the high interests of the Homeland, under the pressure

Institute of History, 2020, p. 365-366.

- 21 Albana Mema, “Institucionet e kushtetuese të shtetit shqiptar në vitet 1920-1924”, *Historical studies*, Tirana: Academy of Albanological Studies: Institute of History, No.1-2, Year LV (LXXII), 2018, p.148.
- 22 “Dokumente të historisë kombëtare: Kongresit të Lushnjës”, *Hylli i Dritës*, Vjeti XX, Kallinduer 1944, Nr.1, Drejtimi dhe mbarështrimi:, Kuvendi Françeskan Shkodër, p.29.
- 23 Muin Çami, *Kongresi i Lushnjës (1920)*, Albanian Encyclopedic Dictionary, Tirana: Academy of Sciences of Albania, 2008, p.1258.
- 24 Kaliopi Naska, *Këshilli Kombëtar 1920*, Tirana: General Directorate of Archives, 2000, p.16.
- 25 “Shqypnija si Shtet politik”, *Agimi*, Shkodër: Organ i Shoqnisë “VLLAZNIJA” Vjeti II, No. 6, tetuer 1920, p. 81; Botimet e Komisionit të Krentimeve të 25-vjetorit të Vet-Qeverimit 1912-1937, *SHQIPENIJA ME 1937, Veprimi shtetnor gjatë njëzet e pesë vjetve të parë të vetëqeverimit*, vëllimi I, Shtypi “Kristo Luarasi”, 1937, p. 4: “Kongresi i Lushnjës”, *Gazeta Bashkimi i Kombit*, Tiranë, E mërkurë, 15.III. 1944, p. 1: “Dokumente të historisë kombëtare përreth Kongresit të Lushnjës”, *Hylli i Dritës*, Vjeti XX, Fruer 1944, No. 2, Drejtimi dhe mbarështrimi:, Kuvendi Françeskan Shkodër, p. 44.
- 26 Roberto Moroco dela Roka, *Kombi dhe feja në Shqipëri 1920-1944*, Tirana, Publishing House: “Elena Gjika”, 1994, p. 127: Hasan Bello, “Përpyqjet e klerit mysliman shqiptar për vendosjen e mësim-besimit në shkollat shtetërore përgjatë viteve 1920-1924”, *Zani i naltë*, Tirana: Publisher, Muslim Committee of Albania, year (XV), 2012, no.1 (154), p. 67.

of the abnormal time when the Congress of Lushnja convened”²⁷.

At this stage, Albania waged a political battle for the right to exist as a nation-state. The High Council greeted and thanked US President Wilson for his kindness in protecting the rights of the Albanian nation and expressed the hope that they would continue to be a strong support for the national rights of Albanians²⁸. She faced strong and all-out pressure from neighbors who were trying to foment divisive factors. This whole period is characterized by a strong and comprehensive battle of the neighbors who tried to incite divisive factors, multiple political, diplomatic, propaganda battles between the Albanian state on the one hand and neighboring countries on the other²⁹, in a telegram of protest that the Congress of Lushnja sent to the chairman of the Peace Conference, it was emphasized, among other things, that the Albanians were ready to make “all the sacrifices to shed even the last drop of their blood, against any decision that would come in endanger their territorial integrity and full independence”³⁰.

The government that emerged from the Lushnja Congress started its activity in difficult conditions. Its authority was limited to a narrow area of Central Albania, while the rest remained under the control of the Great Powers and mainly of Italy, which had worked for a long time to grant them the right of some custody over Albania, as it had its geopolitical interests to oppose the taking of the Albanian coastline opposite Corfu by Greece³¹. Albania’s neighbors with slander and misinformation about its situation, had cast doubt on the ability of the Albanian state to cope with the difficult situation of the country and to establish a state³², as this period after the First World War, gave a further boost the efforts of the Balkan monarchies to extend their territorial ambitions and to expand as much as possible the economic and influential spaces in the region³³. In addition, the government of Durrës, which remained in the hands of Myfit Libohova and Mustafa Kruja and supported by the Italians, also faced the government as an opposing force³⁴.

One of the problems for solution in the Congress was the choice of the capital of Albania, after the proposals for some cities, such as: Korça, Durrës, Shkodra, in the end Tirana was chosen, a small city in the interior with about 12,000 inhabitants³⁵. Within the country it had to take over the state administration and demand the removal of various invaders from Albania. At the same time, it had to make diplomatic efforts to secure the independent Albanian state its territorial integrity and its recognition in the international arena. In a telegram of the head of the Albanian delegation

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- 27 Gramoz Hysi, “Zgjerimi i Statutit të Lushnjës”, *Historical studies*, Tirana: Academy of Science of RPS of Albania: Institute of History, No.4, 1982, p.71.
 - 28 Paskal Milo, *Politika e Jashtme e Shqipërisë I*, Tirana: Toena Publications, 2013, p.471.
 - 29 Beqir Meta, *Procesi ndërtimit kombëtar në vitet 1920-1930*, Vëllimi II-të, 100 vjet pavarësi: Aktet e Konferencës Shkencore Ndërkombëtare, (Tiranë, më 26-27 nëntor 2012), Tirana: Center for Albanological Studies: Institute of History, 2014, p. 11.
 - 30 Marenglen Verli, “Kongresi i Lushnjës dhe Lufta e Vlorës dy hapat e bashkërenditur të Lëvizjes Kombëtare që shpëtuan Shqipërinë”, *Vjetari*, Prishtina: Kosovo Archive, no. XXXIII-XXXIV, 2005, p. 200.
 - 31 Esilda Luku, *Diplomacia Evropiane ndaj Shqipërisë ndërmjet dy konferencave të paqes (1919-1946)*, Prishtina: Albanological Institute, 2015, p.37.
 - 32 Lush Culaj, “Qëndrimi i Qeverisë së Lushnjës ndaj Çështjes Kombëtare”..., p.149.
 - 33 Lush Culaj, “Çështja shqiptare dhe diplomacia e shteteve vendosëse në konferencë”, *Albanological research-SHS*, Prishtina: Albanological Institute, No. 39-2009, p.206.
 - 34 Valentina Duka, *Historia e Shqipërisë 1912-2000*..., p.112.
 - 35 Robert Elsie, *Fjalori Historik i Shqipërisë*, Tirana: Uegen Publishing House, 2011, p. 326.

in Paris, Mehmet Konica, sent to the Conference of Powers in San Remo, he wrote: “I have the honor to announce that the Albanian people will no longer accept new cuts of their land or foreign intervention and that they are determined to defend by all means the independence of their country within the borders of 1913, accepted by the London Conference”³⁶.

On March 27, 1920, the first parliament of Albania convened, which approved the motion presented by the Supreme Council, in which it was declared that the national goal was full independence and not the protectorate, as well as the protection of the nation. To meet its financial needs, it announced a domestic loan of 2 million gold francs, which would be repaid within two years³⁷. They also expressed their willingness to live “in friendship and harmony” with their neighbors - Greece, the Serbo-Croatian-Slovenian Kingdom and Italy, as well as the hope that, like President Wilson in Paris, they would recognize the ethnic rights of the Albanian people³⁸. The power of the national government extended to the provinces that were under the control of foreign armies, including Shkodra and its environs. The inclusion of Shkodra in the Albanian administration encouraged the Albanian government and patriotic circles to continue their efforts towards the unification of the country³⁹. The administrative apparatus with Albanian officials that the Italians had set up remains intact, but only submitted to the orders of the Tirana government. Without much fuss, the Italian government withdrew its army from these provinces, remaining in Vlora anyway⁴⁰.

The government of Sulejman Delvina, which emerged from this congress, in April 1920, would appear before the National Council where it would report on the achievements of the government and lay out the program for the future⁴¹, aiming at the development of the entire administration, working with numerous absences, so to deal with the administration of the situation, the government issued an interim regulation for the functioning in the sub-prefectures of a covenant commission, which would maintain the tranquility there. While to increase the professionalism of the police, on November 8, 1920, the Council of Ministers decided to bring in English specialists. The government issued the Albanian currency, severely condemned the unconstitutional actions, started the military recruitment, started the establishment of the health system, in the field of education the first educational framework for all Albania was drafted, the primary and infant schools reached 452 with 647 teachers⁴².

The government that emerged from the Lushnja Congress gave the opportunity to leave the brink of collapse, dissolution and liquidation as a state, for this Pastoreli will write: “The

36 *Lufta e popullit shqiptar për çlirimin kombëtar 1918-1920, (Përmbledhje dokumentesh) II*, Pregatitur nga: Muin Çami, Hidajete Luga (Bejtja), Tirana: Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Albania: Institute of History: General Directorate of State Archives of the Republic of Albania, 1976, p.241.

37 *Historia e Shqipërisë dhe e shqiptarëve*, Editor-in-Chief: prof. dr. Hysni Myzyri, Prizren: Sprint, 2001, p.198.

38 Edwin Jacues, *Shqiptarët: Historia e popullit shqiptar nga lashtësia deri në ditët e sotma*, Tirana: Kartë e Pendë, 1995, p.407.

39 Armend Mehmeti, *Diplomacia e Britanisë së Madhe në marrëdhëniet shqiptaro-jugosllave 1919-1939*, Tirana: Academy of Albanological Studies: Institute of History, 2020, p.107.

40 Tajar Zavalani, *Histori e Shqipnis*, Publisher: Phonix & Book House, 1998, p.259.

41 Fatmira Musaj, “Sulejman Delvina në zhvillimet politike të viteve 1923-1924”, *Historical studies*, Tirana: Center for Albanological Studies: Institute of History, no. 1-2, Year: LXIII (XLVI), 2009, p.185.

42 Kastriot Dervishi, *Historia e Shtetit Shqiptar 1912-2005*, Tirana: Publishing House: 55, 2006, p.110-111.

Lushnja meeting really marked the moment when the progressive national revival of the Albanian people reaches its coronation⁴³, this gave the right to join the ranks of consolidated states and nations, in achieving all those social, political and economic conditions that would make Albania a true partner in the European and world society, part of which de jure became on December 17, 1920, when Albania was accepted as a member of the League of Nations⁴⁴, gaining for the first time international recognition as a self-determined state and nation, therefore the Congress of Lushnja and the government that emerged from it, were the continuation of the Albanian National Movement, of the efforts of whole generations to restore the lost freedom, to enjoy national rights and to open the way for the country to develop and progress as an independent Albanian state.

Resume

The Congress of Lushnja was one of the most significant events in the history of the war of the Albanian people against the projects of the Great Powers and the aspirations of neighboring countries, which tried to divide Albania. The Congress established a clear and militant political program, around which the wider strata of the Albanian people were united in a common liberation front. The Congress took a series of decisions of great political importance for the future of the country, such as: not recognizing the secret Treaty of London of 1915, elected a new delegation to the Paris Peace Conference, condemned the pro-Italian activity of the Durrës government and decided to bring it down. The Congress elected a government headed by Sulejman Delvina, the formation of the High Council, which expressed the sovereignty of the Albanian state. The Congress of Lushnja laid the foundations of state organization, with its main constitutional act known as the “Bazat e kanunores së Këshillës së Naltë” or the “Statuti i Lushnjës”, as stated later. The program of the Congress of Lushnja consisted of two directions, the territorial one that the independent Albanian state should have and the second one the international legal status that the independence of this state should have. In the activity of the Government of the first 10 months of the beginning of 1920, supported by its cabinet, implemented the decisions issued by the Congress of Lushnja, secured the territorial integrity of the country and restored its independence, paved the way for internal developments in the political, economic, social and educational field.

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