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POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN AZERBAIJAN AND ARMENIA:

M.KH.TEKİNSKY'S ACTIVITY

ABSTRACT

The government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920) established permanent missions in order to regulate relations with other states and protect the rights and interests of Azerbaijanis residing in those countries. One of these ambassadors was appointed to the state where the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic experienced the most problems (conflicts between peoples, territorial disputes) - the first Republic of Armenia. The activities of the first ambassador appointed to the Republic of Armenia, Mammad Khan Tekinsky, were of political and diplomatic importance for the Azerbaijani government. Although Tekinsky tried to establish good-neighborly relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the first months of his appointment as ambassador (March-April), subsequently ensuring peaceful relations was impossible due to territorial disputes and the aggressive attitude of Armenians towards the Azerbaijani population.

This article examines M.Kh. Tekinsky's activities in Armenia comprehensively based on archival documents and existing scientific literature, systematizes the results, and determines that the ambassador's activities focused on both at protecting the rights and interests of Azerbaijanis remaining within the borders of Armenia and at preventing the military-political processes occurring in the surrounding territories from being directed against Azerbaijan.

During his activity as ambassador in Armenia, Tekinsky negotiated with the Armenian government, in agreement with the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, to resolve the problems of the Azerbaijani population suffering from armed attacks and repression, and was able to mediate in the rescue of a certain part of the population from oppression and their relocation to secure areas, as well as providing financial assistance to the people in need. As a result of Tekinsky's activities to prevent military intervention by Armenia in regions that Azerbaijan Democratic Republic considers own historical territory, defensive measures were implemented in areas such as Nakhchivan and Karabakh, and the Azerbaijani government was informed about the position and movements of the British and American missions in the region.

Keywords: Tekinsky, Ambassador, diplomacy, Azerbaijan, Armenia.

AZERBAJCAN VE ERMENİSTAN ARASINDAKİ SİYASİ İLİŞKİLER:

M.H.TEKİNSKİ'NİN FAALİYETİ

ÖZ

Azerbaycan Demokratik Cumhuriyeti hükümeti (1918-1920), diğer devletlerle ilişkileri düzenlemek ve bu ülkelerde yaşayan Azerbaycanlıların hak ve çıkarlarını korumak amacıyla daimi temsilcilikler kurdu. Bu büyükelçilerden biri, Azerbaycan Demokratik Cumhuriyeti hükümetinin en çok sorun yaşadığı (halklar arasındaki çatışmalar, toprak anlaşmazlıkları) devlete, yani ilk Ermenistan Cumhuriyeti'ne atandı. Ermenistan Cumhuriyeti'ne atanan ilk büyükelçi olan Mammad Han Tekinski'nin faaliyetleri, Azerbaycan hükümeti için siyasi ve diplomatik öneme sahipti. Tekinski, büyükelçi olarak atanmasının ilk aylarında (Mart-Nisan) Ermenistan

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ve Azerbaycan arasında iyi komşuluk ilişkileri kurmaya çalışsa da, daha sonra toprak anlaşmazlıkları ve Ermenilerin Azerbaycan halkına karşı saldırgan tutumu nedeniyle barışçıl ilişkilerin sağlanması imkansızdı.

Bu makale M.H. Tekinski'nin Ermenistan'daki faaliyetlerini arşiv belgelerine ve mevcut bilimsel literatüre dayanarak ele aldığı, sonuçları sistemleştirdiği ve büyükelçinin faaliyetlerinin hem Ermenistan sınırları içinde kalan Azerbaycanlıların hak ve çıkarlarını korumaya, hem de çevre bölgelerde yaşanan askeri-siyasi süreçlerin Azerbaycan'a yönelmesini önlemeye odaklandığını tespit etmiştir.

Tekinski, Ermenistan'daki büyükelçilik görevi sırasında, Azerbaycan Demokratik Cumhuriyeti Hükümeti'nin mutabakatıyla, silahlı saldırı ve baskılara maruz kalan Azerbaycan halkının sorunlarının çözümü için Ermenistan hükümetiyle müzakerelerde bulunmuş, nüfusun bir kısmının baskıdan kurtarılıp güvenli bölgelere nakledilmesinde aracılık etmiş, ayrıca ihtiyaç sahibi halka maddi yardımda bulunmuştur. Tekinski'nin, Ermenistan'ın Azerbaycan Demokratik Cumhuriyeti'nin tarihi toprağı olarak gördüğü bölgelere askeri müdahalesini önlemeye yönelik faaliyetleri sonucunda Nahçıvan ve Karabağ gibi bölgelerde savunma tedbirleri alınmış, Azerbaycan hükümeti bölgedeki İngiliz ve Amerikan misyonlarının pozisyonları ve hareketleri hakkında bilgilendirilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Tekinski, Büyükelçi, diplomasi, Azerbaycan, Ermenistan.

INTRODUCTION

Historical studies reveal that Diplomatic institutions have performed an important role in the establishment and development of interstate relations since ancient times - starting from the 4th millennium B.C. At first, such institutions were individual persons - ambassadors - appointed by the heads of states and sent to another state with various assignments and returning after accomplishing their mission. Later, commencing from Ancient Greece, these ambassadors temporarily settled in the territory of other states and became persons playing an important role in the implementation and development of interstate relations, and they were provided the right to immunity.

In addition, embassy activity in Azerbaijan has an extended history, occupying an important place in the foreign policy of ancient Azerbaijani states (Aratta, Lullubi, Kutı, Manna, Midia, Atropatena, Albania), and subsequently medieval Azerbaijani states - the Shirvanshahs, Garagoyunlu, Aggoyunlu, Safavid and etc. states. Diplomatic communications with different states have been accomplished in Azerbaijan since ancient times through specially appointed persons. Embassies commenced to be established in foreign countries during the reign of the Aggoyunlu state, from the second half of the 15th century.¹

The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic – ADR government (1918-1920), which focused on establishing relations with other states on the principles of peace and mutual collaboration in foreign policy, attempted to benefit maximum of the state's capabilities to achieve this purpose. A personnel system implementing foreign policy was formed and ambassadors were appointed to foreign states. The principal functions of these ambassadors were to participate in the organization of bilateral political relations and the protection of the rights of the Azerbaijani people in the territory of a foreign state. One of these ambassadors was appointed to the state where the ADR government experienced the most problems (conflicts between peoples, territorial disputes, ethnic oppression against the Azerbaijani population) - the first Republic of Armenia. The first appointed ambassador was Mammad (Mahammad) Khan Tekinsky. M.Kh. Tekinsky's activities in the Republic of Armenia provided political and diplomatic importance for the ADR government.

This article examines the problem of M.Kh. Tekinsky's activities in Armenia in more detail based on sources and existing scientific literature, systematizes the results, and determines that the ambassador's activities focused both at protecting the rights and interests of Azerbaijanis remaining within the borders of Armenia and at preventing the military-political processes occurring in the surrounding territories from being directed against Azerbaijan.

The activities of Tekinsky have been examined in detail in the relevant sections of the article; however, these issues have also been briefly outlined in the introduction. Thus, the biography and activities of Tekinsky, one of the important figures in the history of Azerbaijani diplomacy, attract attention with its interesting moments. Orphaned at the age of 2, Tekinsky was adopted by an Azerbaijani general and educated. Although he held various government positions in his professional life, his main official activity coincided with the period when he was an ambassador to Armenia (January-August, 1919). Although Tekinsky attempted to improve Azerbaijani-Armenian relations from the day he commenced his activities in Armenia, the territorial disputes between the two states did not allow for the establishment of normal relations. Territorial claims in the South Caucasus resulted in military intervention. The Azerbaijani government opposed Armenia, considering these territories own historical land. The deterioration of relations between the two countries also affected the direction of Tekinsky's activities. The Azerbaijani government requested Tekinsky for information related the oppression and persecution of Azerbaijanis

¹ "Azerbaycan diplomatiyası. Ümumi məlumat." <https://files.preslib.az/projects/azdiplomacy/a1.pdf>, 30.01.2025 Time. 14:15

in Armenia, and considered Azerbaijan had to implement countermeasures. Tekinsky also informed the government of the Azerbaijan that Armenia's military missions to Nakhchivan, Zangezur and Karabakh should be prevented. Tekinsky's information about the movements of the Armenian armies and the Entente forces helped the Azerbaijan government implement countermeasures and defend the territories where considered Azerbaijan territories. Tekinsky's information regarding the situation of Azerbaijanis and events on the border was considered interference in Armenia's internal affairs, and he was declared "persona non grata". The Azerbaijani government terminated Tekinsky's ambassadorial activities.

The subject matter explored in this study remains highly relevant in the current geopolitical context. After the 44-day war between Azerbaijan and Armenia (September 27 - November 10, 2020) and the anti-terrorist operation against the separatist forces remaining in Karabakh (September 19-20, 2023), a new geopolitical situation has emerged in the South Caucasus region. In this new condition, the specifics of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia, especially the processes of signing of a peace treaty, have commenced to obtain relevance in the South Caucasus region and in the global political arena. Considering the fundamental role of diplomacy in the establishment and development of interstate relations, the study of the problem of official Azerbaijani representations in Armenia (in this study, in the example of M.Kh. Tekinsky) may have practical significance in terms of supporting to define the correct conclusions from past historical processes, avoid future mistakes, and determine an effective strategy for the peace process for the purpose of the development of peaceful relations between the countries and the region.

1. Methods and Review of Sources

Although the problem examined in the article has been studied by a certain number of scholars, in this article the problem is investigated in more detail on the basis of existing scientific literature and new archival documents. In the study, scientific articles and archival documents (in the State Archives of the Republic of Azerbaijan and in collections of published documents from England, Turkey, Armenia) related to Tekinsky were analyzed, and scientific literature from 1918-1920 was reviewed.

When studying the purposes and objectives of the research work, general scientific methods such as ideographic method (descriptive) (events are described in a logical sequence), comparative analysis and synthesis (events involved in the study are studied on the basis of sources and existing scientific literature, comparisons are made, and the results are analyzed) were applied. In addition, retrospective (for a better understanding of the object under study, a slightly earlier period is referred to, the causes and essence of the events are investigated), historical-systematic (the events are studied in a complex manner) methods of historiography were applied.

Various studies exist related M.Kh. Tekinsky's activities in Armenia, and his biography. Azerbaijani researchers A.Pashayev,² N.Mustafa³ have published a series of articles about Tekinsky, emphasized Tekinsky's work for the ADR and Azerbaijanis. For the first time, A.Pashayev discovered archival documents regarding Tekinsky's biography in the state archive of the Odessa region and emphasized them in his article. Among these documents, he also discovered a photograph of M.Kh. Tekinsky taken on June 12, 1901 in A.Hordshtein's photo studio in Tbilisi and submitted to Novorossiysk University.⁴

Armenian authors argue that Tekinsky, in addition other Muslim organizations in Iravan, were considered by the Armenian government as spies attempting to debilitate inside the country, and Turkey have supported the Azerbaijani population with weapons and the ADR government with money to accomplish this intention.⁵ Tekinsky was called an ambassador-spy due to the encrypted telegrams he sent to the government of the ADR regarding the military-political situation in Armenia. Even among Armenian researchers, a separate article was written by V. Virabyan dedicated to Tekinsky's activities.⁶

Armenian authors who evaluate Tekinsky's activities as illegal espionage⁷ approach the issue subjectively and act solely from the interests of their own states. Thus, intelligence activity (Special activity of relevant state

² Ataxan Paşayev, "Məmməd xan Təkinski kimdir?", *Xalq qəzeti*, 18 iyul 2010, p. 6.

³ Nazim Mustafa, "Xalq Cümhuriyyəti dövründə Azərbaycanın Ermənistandakı daimi nümayəndəliyinin fəaliyyəti.", *Xalq qəzeti*, 28 may 2015, p. 9.

⁴ Paşayev, op.cit., p.6.

⁵ Flora Ghazaryan, Mirkamran Hüseyinli, "Armenian and Azerbaijani History Textbooks: Time for a Change", *Caucasus Edition: Journal of Conflict Transformation*, no. 5/1, Tbilisi, 2022, p. 80.

⁶ Vanik Virabyan, "Revealing The Khan Tekinsky Conspiracy (from the history of counterintelligence of the First Republic of Armenia)", *Fundamental Armenology*, no. 1/13, Yerevan, 2021, p. 51-79.

⁷ Vanik Virabyan, "The Suppression Of The 1919 Anti Armenian Unrest Of The Muslim Population In The Zod-Basargechar Region And The Restoration Of The Territorial Integrity Of Republic Of Armenia In The Context Of The Activity Of Colonel Clive Temperley, The Military And Political Representative Of Great Britain", *Fundamental Armenology*, no. 2/16, Yerevan, 2022, p. 86; Virabyan, "Revealing The Khan..." p. 69; Vanik Virabyan, "Armenian-Azerbaijani territorial conflict and the Karabakh issue in the context of the activities of the military and political representation of Great Britain in the Republic of Armenia and Transcaucasia in 1918-1920", *Fundamental Armenology*, no. 1/15, Yerevan, 2022, p. 67; Alik Gharibyan, *The Issue of Nagorno-Karabakh in 1918-1920 and Great Britain*, YSU Press, Yerevan, 2014, p. 87; Ghazaryan, Huseynli, op.cit., p. 80

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bodies aimed at obtaining and analyzing information related to the protection of the country's national interests in political, economic, social, scientific-technical, military and other areas, accomplished with the purpose of ensuring national security)⁸ is considered one of the secret affairs of the state existing in every country and serves the security interests of the country to which the intelligence officer belongs.

A certain number of Tekinsky's materials were sent to the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister, in encrypted form. However, all written information sent to and from Tekinsky was inspected by the Armenian government. The Armenian government could also decrypt encrypted telegrams. At first, the Armenian government was assisted in this inspection by the Armenian intelligence officer Tigran Devoyants (Devo). Devoyants had learned the methods of decrypting encrypted telegrams from the British. After the Sovietization of Azerbaijan, in 1920, these materials were published in Iravan under the title "Secret Documents (Page of Intelligence Activities of Azerbaijan)".⁹ The Armenian author Virabyan emphasized: "*Tekinsky was one of the most experienced and promising diplomatic and intelligence employees of Azerbaijan, and his neutralization and prevention of conspiratorial steps was one of the most successful and skillful actions implemented by the Armenian Intelligence Service, especially Tigran Devoyants*".¹⁰

Special intelligence activities have existed in any country since ancient times, and although this was perceived as a "negative deal" within the rival country, it was considered a legitimate and important work for the other side in wartime. Considering that there was a war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Tekinsky was not a spy personally and simply transmitted the intelligence information he received to the ADR government in the form of encrypted telegrams, in my opinion, it would not be correct to call Tekinsky himself a spy at that period. For Armenia, the act, which was considered espionage and illegality, was considered a necessary step considered by Azerbaijan in wartime to prevent aggression and protect the rights of the Azerbaijani population. On the other hand, since the ambassador's property and belongings were considered inviolable and encrypted messaging was allowed,¹¹ the seizure of letters by the Armenian government moreover might be considered an illegal act. However counterintelligence was also operating in Armenia, and if they were monitoring this correspondence, as mentioned above, this would be part of the measures considered by that country for its own security. Considering all the above arguments, it can be concluded that accusing Tekinsky of illegal activities and calling him a spy and considering him an undesirable person was not the right approach.

Another important studies related Tekinsky were researched by his compatriot, Turkmen Turkologist M. Soyegov. In this study, M. Soyegov investigated the lineage of the Turkmen surname "Tekinsky" and published his research on the life of M.Kh. Tekinsky, a representative of this lineage, one of the most important figures in Azerbaijani history and diplomacy.¹²

Another Azerbaijani researchers investigated the problem of the activity of Tekinsky, such as E. Kelbizade,¹³ N. Yaqublu,¹⁴ and R. Safarov,¹⁵ are also important.

Since Tekinsky's activities occupied an important place in the foreign policy of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, there is information about his activities in books and monographs from the period.¹⁶

Letters, telegrams, and financial reports on Tekinsky's activities as a diplomatic representative are preserved in the archives (in Azerbaijan, England, Türkiye, Russia, Armenia). These documents allow us to determine the directions and specific features of Tekinsky's activities.

2. M.Kh. Tekinsky's Role in Diplomacy of Azerbaijan

The first ambassador of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920) to the Republic of Armenia, Mahammad (Turkmen scholar M. Soyegov notes that the name is pronounced as "Mammet" in Turkmen)¹⁷ Khan

⁸ "Kəşfiyyat və əks-kəşfiyyat fəaliyyəti haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikasının qanunu. 29 iyun 2004-cü il." https://e-qanun.az/framework/5454_03.05.2024 Time: 11:40

⁹ Kamran İsmayılov, *Azərbaycanın Naxçıvan bölgəsi regional hərbi-siyasi proseslərdə (1917-1920)*, Turxan NPB, Bakı, 2019, p. 64.

¹⁰ Virabyan, "Revealing The Khan..." p. 62.

¹¹ "Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and Optional Protocols. 1961. Article. 24, 27" https://www.oas.org/legal/english/docs/viennaconvdiplomrelat.htm_12.09.2024 Time: 11:04

¹² Мурадгелди Соегов, "О знаменитостях первых десятилетий XX века, носивших нехарактерные для туркмен фамилии с окончаниями -ский и -ская: Мамед-хан Текинский", *Этническая культура*. no. 3/3, Чувашия, 2021.

¹³ Эльнур Кельбизаде, "Мухаммед хан Текинский - История дипломатии", https://www.kaspiy.az/muxammed-xan-tekinskii-istoriya-diplomatii_12.06.2024 Time: 12:14

¹⁴ Nəsiman Yaqublu, *Cümhuriyyət qurucuları*, Nurlar, Bakı, 2018.

¹⁵ Rafiq Səfərov, "Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin dövlət xadimi və tanınmış diplomatlarından biri - Məmməd xan Təkinski (1879-1938)", <http://milliarxiv.gov.az/az/memmed-xan-tekinski-1>, 19.08.2024 Time: 11:05

¹⁶ Ильгар Нифталиев, *Геноцид Азербайджанцев в Ираванской Губернии (1918-1920)*, Элм, Баку, 2017; İsmayılov Musayev, *Azərbaycanın Naxçıvan və Zəngəzur bölgələrində siyasi vəziyyət və xarici dövlətlərin siyasəti (1917-1921-ci illər)*, Bakı Universiteti nəşriyyatı, Bakı, 1998; İsmayılov, op.cit.

¹⁷ Соегов, op.cit., p. 11.

Tekinsky was born in 1879 (Sometimes 1880 is indicated)¹⁸ in the Akhal-Teki valley of Central Asia (Turkestan). In 1881, his parents were killed in the fight against the Russian army attacking the Goytepe fortress, and Ehsan Khan Kelbali Khan oglu Nakhchivansky, a colonel of the Russian army and a representative of the Kangarli lineage, adopted the 2-year-old Tekinsky as his son. Tekinsky, who was delivered to Nakhchivan, was raised under the supervision of Jafargulu Khan.¹⁹ It is also assumed that Tekinsky was a descendant of the Turkmen khans. Soyegov explains this based on the title “Khan” in his name.²⁰ However, on the other hand, he could have accepted the title “Khan” due to his stepfather Ehsan Khan. A. Pashayev, based on the notes of Lieutenant Korobkov, adjutant of the Absheron regiment (May 26, 1890), states that even the Russians did not determine exactly whether the title “Khan” existed.²¹ The loss of his parents and the trauma he suffered affected Tekinsky’s life, he suffered from nervous system diseases and depression. Despite this, he was considered an educated and capable child.²² Tekinsky is one of the representatives of the Turkic people who acquired science and higher education in the territory of Tsarist Russia. Thus, he first studied at the First Men’s Gymnasium in Tbilisi, graduated in 1901 and entered the Mathematics Department of the Physics and Mathematics Faculty of the Novorossiysk Imperial University in Odessa. Tekinsky was expelled from that faculty in 1902 due to non-payment of tuition fees. Then he paid his tuition fees and on September 9, 1903, by the decision of the board of the Novorossiysk Imperial University, he was reinstated to the first year of the law faculty of university (he again experienced the same problem due to tuition fees in 1905-1906) and graduated that faculty in 1908.²³

After graduating school, Tekinsky served in the army of Tsarist Russia and then worked in law enforcement, judicial, and prosecutorial bodies in the South Caucasus.²⁴ Some sources state that Tekinsky temporarily served as Minister of Foreign Affairs in the first government of the ADR and was a member of parliament.²⁵

Tekinsky was a member (as a lawyer) of the Azerbaijan Extraordinary Investigation Commission (Established in July-August 1918, this commission was supposed to accurately record all cases of violence, identify the perpetrators and the extent of the damage caused)²⁶ in July-December 1918. from January 29 to October 1 (Soyegov and Virabyan note until October 10.)²⁷, 1919 the diplomatic representative of the ADR in the Republic of Armenia, from October 1 to April 28, 1920 he served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the ADR.²⁸ As Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, Tekinski participated in negotiations with the Polish representative for the Caucasus, Vladyslaw Ostrowski, and the emergency mission, the British High Commissioner in the Caucasus, Oliver Wardrop.²⁹

After the collapse of the ADR and the establishment of Soviet power in Azerbaijan, Tekinsky worked for a while at the People’s Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan SSR. In 1922-1926, he was a member of the Bar Association of the People’s Commissariat of Justice of the Azerbaijan SSR, and subsequently worked as a legal advisor in state institutions. He was one of the intellectuals subjected to repressions by the USSR, and on November 18, 1937, he was arrested by the State Security Body of the Azerbaijan SSR accused of being a member of a counter-revolutionary nationalist, insurgent, and terrorist organization. He denied the accusation. On March 18, 1938, Tekinsky was sentenced to death, and this decision was executed on the night of March 21-22. Tekinsky was acquitted in 1955.³⁰

In addition, Armenian researcher Virabyan inform that Tekinsky was observed in Tabriz in 1922.³¹ In view of the availability of this information, two hypotheses could be proposed: Perhaps Tekinsky went to Tabriz to avoid persecution after the collapse of the ADR by Soviet Russia, however later returned to his country. In addition, his observation in Tabriz could have been for business or travel purposes. Complete information about Tekinsky’s activities in Tabriz is unrecognized.

Before Tekinsky, the regulation of Azerbaijani-Armenian relations was officially accomplished through the representative office in Georgia. The absence of direct official contact with Armenia also created certain difficulties in solving the problems of Azerbaijanis residing there. Although there was no diplomatic representative in Armenia, organizations operating in Irevan – the Muslim National Council, the Irevan Muslim Charity Society,

¹⁸ Yaqublu, op.cit., p. 462; Соегов, op.cit., p. 11.

¹⁹ Кельбизаде, op.cit.

²⁰ Соегов, op.cit., p. 11.

²¹ Paşayev, op.cit., p.6.

²² Paşayev, op.cit., p.6.

²³ “Tarixdə iz qoyanlar: Azərbaycanın Ermənistandakı səfirləri - İrəvanda növbəti diplomatımız.” <https://modern.az/reportaj/329539/tarixde-iz-qoyanlar-azerbaycanin-ermenistandaki-sefirleri/>, 09.08.2024 Time. 12:00.

²⁴ Кельбизаде, op.cit.

²⁵ Yaqublu, op.cit., p. 462.

²⁶ Anar İsgenderli, *Realities of Azerbaijan: 1917-1920*, Xlibris Corporation, USA-Turkey. 2011, p. 70-72.

²⁷ Соегов, op.cit., p. 12; Virabyan, “Revealing The Khan...” p. 61.

²⁸ *Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti Ensiklopediyası*. C. 2, Ed. Y.M.Mahmudov, LİDER nəşriyyat, Bakı, 2005, p. 399-400.

²⁹ Кельбизаде, op.cit.

³⁰ Соегов, op.cit., p. 13.

³¹ Virabyan, “Revealing The Khan...” p. 54.

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the Iravan Province Compatriots' Organization (chairman Teymur bey Makinsky – later the diplomatic representative of the ADR in the Republic of Armenia) informed the ADR government regarding the problems of Azerbaijanis.³² After the appointment of the diplomatic representative (Tekinsky), the ADR government commenced to be provided with complete and official information. Tekinsky's diplomatic activity was a influential support for the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in obtaining comprehensive information regarding the Azerbaijani population remaining within the borders of Armenia, and the population of the border regions suffering from Armenian aggression, the political and military situation, and the position of foreign representatives. This support of Tekinsky disturbed the Armenian government, and as a countermeasure, protest notes commenced to be directed to the government of the ADR. In the letters sent by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia A. Khatysyan to the government of the ADR, Tekinsky was accused of interfering in the internal affairs of Armenia and was demanded to take measures. Identifying that the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic did not recall Tekinsky, the Armenian government declared him "persona non grata". Tekinsky was forced to resign.³³ On August 12, Tekinsky arrived in Baku.³⁴ The government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic decided that Tekinsky would not move to Iravan again and Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev was appointed in his place.³⁵ The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, M.Y. Jafarov, noted in a letter sent to M. Tekinsky on September 28, 1919, that the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic significantly appreciated his activities.³⁶ After M.Kh. Takinsky, the diplomatic representatives of the Azerbaijani People's Republic in the Republic of Armenia were Miryusif Mirbabayev (mission advisor), Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev, and Teymur Khan Makinsky.

Tekinsky's activity as a diplomat could be assessed as a patriotic personality with impressive business skills. Documents preserved in the Azerbaijani state archives regarding Tekinsky demonstrated this fact. Examining the contexts of letters and telegrams that during his diplomatic representative period, Tekinsky accomplished the instructions of the ADR government and effected to protect the rights and interests of Azerbaijanis and his state, and was able to resist situations that emerged a threat to his life (he was subjected to pressure from the Armenian government due to encrypted telegrams). Another feature of Tekinsky's activity was that he was a diplomatic representative in a state where was in conflict and war with the ADR. This situation was considered additional responsible and dangerous compared to a diplomatic mission in a state at peace. All of the above demonstrates that Tekinski had a unique and strong position in the history of Azerbaijani diplomacy.

3. M.Kh. Tekinsky's Activity Regarding to Azerbaijanis in Armenia

Tekinsky's ambassadorial activity was also directed preventing the ethnic cleansing policy against Azerbaijanis in Armenia. Tekinsky was appointed as ambassador to Armenia on January 29, 1919,³⁷ and commenced his work in March.³⁸ The reason for Tekinsky's delayed commencement in the Republic of Armenia was that the government of the ADR was expecting for the approval of Tekinsky's candidacy by the Armenian government. In addition, the Armenian state also nominated a number of ambassador candidates to work in Azerbaijan, however the Azerbaijani government disagreed.³⁹ Due to these factors, the commencement of the ambassadorial activity of the Azerbaijani representative in Armenia delayed. Accompanied by Baku Governor Rashid bey Akhundzade, Police Chief (qalabeyi) Yadigarov, Vice Governor Akhijanov, and non-governmental officials, Tekinsky departed from Baku by train for Iravan on February 20, 1919.⁴⁰ Tekinsky was welcomed respectfully by the Armenian government. Thus, in March and April 1919, Tekinsky adressed letters to the government of the ADR stated that Armenian officials emphasized the need to establish friendly relations with Azerbaijan, and that the Catholicos (bishop) would appeal to the Armenian people to live in peace with Muslims.⁴¹ Tekinsky additionally emphasized that he had promised fuel oil to the Armenian church and had requested the government of the ADR for 200 poods of oil for this purpose. The government of the ADR agreed to dispatch 1 tank of fuel oil.⁴²

³² Nazim Mustafa, *İrevan şəhri. Türk-İslam varlığı nasıl yok edildi*, Berikan Ofset Matbaa, Ankara. 2015, p. 87; Nazim Mustafa, "Xalq Cümhuriyyəti..." p. 9.

³³ Nazim Mustafa, "Azərbaycanın Ermənistandakı ilk diplomatik nümayəndəsi Məhəmməd Xan Təkinski", https://www.azerbaijan-news.az/az/posts/detail/azerbaycanin-ermenistandakı-ilk-diplomatik-numayəndəsi-mehemmed-xan-tekinski-188069_09.08.2024 Time. 10:13

³⁴ *Azərbaycan qəzeti 1918-1920. İyul 1919*, C. 11, Red. Teymur Kərimli, ADA Universiteti. Bakı 2024, p. 252-253.

³⁵ *Azərbaycan qəzeti*, C. 11, p. 427.

³⁶ Mustafa, "Azərbaycanın..."

³⁷ *Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti (1918-1920). Parlament (Stenoqrafik hesabatlar)*, C.1, Azərbaycan nəşriyyatı, Bakı 1998, p. 155-156; ARDA (Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Arxivı) *По вопросу о назначения Дипломатического Представителя Азербайджанской Республики в Армении*, F.970/S.1/İş.149/V.24, 29 января 1919.

³⁸ Virabyan, "Revealing The Khan..." p. 63.

³⁹ *Azərbaycan qəzeti 1918-1920. Fevral 1919*, C. 5, Red. Teymur Kərimli. ADA Universiteti, Bakı 2022, p. 83.

⁴⁰ *Azərbaycan qəzeti*, C. 5, p. 312-313.

⁴¹ Nifətəliyev, op.cit., p. 49;

⁴² Səfərov, op.cit.; Nazim Mustafa, "Xalq Cümhuriyyəti..." s. 9.

Since the first periods of his activity, Tekinsky commenced to accomplish the instructions of the ADR government in the direction of regulating relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia, resolving territorial and border issues. A conference was planned to convene in March 1919 in order to reach an agreement on regulating territorial and border issues between Azerbaijan and Armenia, in addition Georgia, and to compile a joint statement at the Paris Peace Conference in order to achieve the confirmation of the independence of the South Caucasus states in the international arena. Regarding this issue, Tekinsky submitted a note from the ADR government to the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The note provided: To compile an act addressed to all states connected the mutual recognition of the independence of the states established in the South Caucasus; those states cooperatively defend themselves at the Paris Peace Conference; those states organize a combined defense against foreign occupation; each state resolves border and other disputed issues by agreement, and if this is impossible, by arbitration; the refugee issue should be regulated; the venue of the conference should be determined as Baku or Tbilisi; the South-West Caucasus Republic, which includes Batumi and Kars, was also established to ensure its participation in the conference to be convened.⁴³

The government of the Republic of Armenia responded to this note by emphasizing that the government of Armenia recognizes the independence of Azerbaijan and Georgia, however will agree to adopt a joint act to inform world powers about recognition only after the border issues are resolved. The response to the note also indicates that the government of Armenia does not object to including the refugee issue on the agenda of the conference, however Armenia disagree to the participation of the South-West Caucasus Republic in the conference. Although the government of Armenia agreed that the venue of the conference would be Tbilisi, the time of the conference could be determined after communication between the states.⁴⁴ The conference was postponed due to the delay agreeing on the agenda of the conference and other issues related to the conference, and the commencement of the military settlement of border issues between Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. Due to these factors, the conference to resolve peace and border issues between the parties were delayed and could solely be conducted in November 1919.

Despite the efforts to establish cooperation between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the Armenian government's initiation of ethnic cleansing in Iravan and the surrounding areas promoted the Azerbaijani population of those places to write complaints to the local representatives of the Azerbaijani government, requesting the prevention of the massacres. Prior to Tekinsky, the Azerbaijani population had appealed to the Muslim Communities in Iravan. Subsequent to the fact that Tekinsky was appointed the official representative of the ADR in Armenia, Azerbaijanis addressed letters to this representative regarding ethnic oppression.⁴⁵

In early June 1919, in order to facilitate assistance to Muslim refugees in Armenia, the ADR government requested permission to open a representative office of the Ministry of Social Security (Peace, Charity and Welfare Control) of the ADR in Iravan via Tekinsky.⁴⁶ This representative office initiate operating and Azerbaijan government decided to send 10,000 poods of flour to Tekinsky for distribution to the Azerbaijani population.⁴⁷ In addition, via Tekinsky and his administrative staff, the ADR government additionally provided financial assistance to Azerbaijani refugees from Armenia in Nakhchivan.⁴⁸

On June 10, 1919, the Azerbaijani government requested Tekinsky to compile statistics on the massacres implemented by Armenia against Azerbaijanis in and around Iravan, the destroyed villages, and the plundered property.⁴⁹ Therefore, Tekinsky informed the government of the ADR about the ethnic cleansing committed by the Armenian government and army against Azerbaijanis in and around Iravan, and emphasized the importance of assistance. Based on Tekinsky's information in this regard, the "Azerbaijan" newspaper published information about the massacres, persecution, and oppression of Azerbaijanis in Armenia.⁵⁰

In early July, Armenia declared mobilization and assembled almost entire army close to the Boyuk Vedi (Great Vedi). The priests announced a holy war against the Boyuk Vedi. Azerbaijan's armed intervention was saving the Muslims. When Tekinsky addressed this matter with Khatsov, he asserted that *his actions were justified, and supported by Colonel Plowden and the American mission.*⁵¹

⁴³ *Azərbaycan qəzeti 1918-1920. Aprel 1919, C.7*, Red. Teymur Kərimli, ADA Universiteti, Bakı, 2023, p. 247-248.

⁴⁴ *Azərbaycan qəzeti, C. 7*, p. 248-249.

⁴⁵ Нифталиев, *op.cit.*, p. 31-55; Nazim Mustafa, "Qərbi Azərbaycan..." s.24-34

⁴⁶ *Azərbaycan qəzeti 1918-1920. İyun 1919, C. 9*, Red. Teymur Kərimli. ADA Universiteti, Bakı, 2023, p. 114.

⁴⁷ *Azərbaycan qəzeti, C. 9*, p. 155.

⁴⁸ *Azərbaycan qəzeti 1918-1920. İyul 1919, C. 10*, Red. Teymur Kərimli. ADA Universiteti, Bakı, 2024, p. 439-440; *Azərbaycan qəzeti... C. 11*, p. 230.

⁴⁹ İlgar Niftaliyev, Derived from the history of Azerbaijani Diplomatic Mission in Armenia (1918-1920). *İrs jurnalı*. no. 2-3/39-40, Bakı 2019, p. 104; ARDA *Дипломатическому Представителю Азербайджана Текинскому. Министра Иностранных Дел*, F.970/S.1/ İş.85/V.3, 10 июня 1919.

⁵⁰ ARDA *Положение мусульмань в Армении. Газ. Азербайджань*, F.970/S.1/İş.85/V.4-7, 29 июня 1919.

⁵¹ *Документы Британского национального архива по истории Южного Кавказа 1918-1920 годов*. Т. 1/1, Ред. Я.М.Махмудова, составь Н.А.Максвелл. Баку 2020, p. 383.

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On July 16, Tekinsky forwarded a telegram to the ADR Foreign Minister, indicating that "Boyuk Vedi is one of the areas where the Muslim position is most prominent in Armenia. Plowden left Tbilisi, reporting for the benefit of the Armenians." The telegram transmitted on July 19 indicated that "*Boyuk Vedi had been bombed, Armenia had ignored written protests, and on the contrary, written protests led the Armenians to believe that we were powerless, and that the condition of Muslims was deteriorating.*"⁵² The Armenians subjected Boyuk Vedi to ethnic cleansing by committing massacres.

One of the Armenian authors, Virabyan, associated the ethnic cleansing with the rebellion of the Azerbaijani population against the Armenian state, encouraged by Tekinsky (and indirectly by the ADR). According to him, the Armenian government's sending of troops against the Azerbaijanis in the Boyuk Vedi provided to suppress the revolt against the state.⁵³ However approximately 10,000 km² of territory allocated to the Armenian state when the state was established did not include the Boyuk Vedi.⁵⁴ In this instance, the defense of the population of the Boyuk Vedi by the defense of their land was a natural process and did not have the character of a rebellion against the state. In July 1919, Tekinsky informed his government regarding the situation in the Boyuk Vedi, requesting for military assistance, emphasising that "*if assistance was not provided, the lives of Muslims will be threatened.*"⁵⁵ In addition, Tekinsky conducted discussions with Khatsov, the Armenian Foreign Minister, who protested against the counter-action of the ADR government regarding the events in the Boyuk Vedi, and informed him that this action was justified and supported by the American (Plowden) mission.⁵⁶ Tekinsky's information additionally revealed that Armenians propagate speculations about the existence of "subversive" Muslim committees in Iravan in order to discredit and destroy Azerbaijanis. Therefore, Azerbaijanis in Armenia were subjected to persecution and arrests.⁵⁷

Tekinsky's activity in the direction of the establishment of the Azerbaijani-Armenian government-parliamentary joint commission organized to investigate the situation of the population suffering from armed conflicts is additionally significant. In the summer of 1919, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the ADR requested information from Tekinsky on the activities of the Azerbaijani-Armenian government-parliamentary joint commission established to investigate the situation of the population suffering from armed conflicts and the participation of European and American representatives in the activities of that commission.⁵⁸ In a report submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on June 2, Tekinsky confirmed that the participation of the Frenchman Puadebar in the joint commission was approved and that the participation of the Englishman Rucker was desired.⁵⁹ As a result of the negotiations, on July 10, 1919, an agreement was reached to appoint two representatives each from Armenia and Azerbaijan to the Azerbaijan-Armenia joint government-parliamentary commission.⁶⁰ The French captain Puadebar was appointed to the commission as a representative of the foreign mission in the Caucasus.⁶¹

In the context of the persistent conflicts, the proceeding oppression against Azerbaijanis, and the Armenian side's failure to enable the commission's activity, ensuring the operation of this mission was impossible.⁶² In July 1919, the representative of Azerbaijan in Armenia forwarded a note to the Armenian government and demanded to conclude illegal activities directed against Muslims. The Armenian government's response declared that such illegal actions and violence did not exist in Armenia and that Tekinsky's note was an interference in the internal affairs of Armenia.⁶³ However, sources prove that this response of the Armenian state did not reflect the truth. Thus, the telegram of the British representative in Tehran, Sir P. Cox, dated December 22, 1918, emphasized: "*The Consul of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tabriz requested the Spanish Consul to report to the British and United States governments on the massacres committed by Armenians against the Muslim population in the Caucasus.*"⁶⁴ P. Cox also noted that the Armenian National Council in Iravan invited Armenian refugees (Armenians who fled

⁵² *Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti. Böyük Britaniyanın arxiv sənədləri*, Red. Y.M.Mahmudov, tərt. ed. N.Ə.Maksvell, Çəşoğlu, Bakı 2008, p. 202; İsmayılov, op.cit., p. 74.

⁵³ Virabyan, "The Suppression...", p. 86, p. 103.

⁵⁴ *İrəvan xanlığı. Rusiya işğalı və ermənilərin Şimali Azərbaycana köçürülməsi*, Red. Y.M. Mahmudov. CBS., Bakı 2010. p. 26; *AXC. BB arxiv sənədləri*, p. 104-112; *Документы Британского*, Т. 1/1, p. 199; Армен Хачикян, *История Армении (краткий очерк)*, Эдит Принт, Эрван. 2009, p. 170; *Azərbaycan Cümhuriyyəti 1918-1920 (Osmanlı Arşiv Belgeleri)*, haz. Q.E.Şükürov, V.V.Qafarov, Bilnet Matbaacılık və Yayınçılık. A.Ş., İstanbul 2018. p. 205; *Azərbaycan qəzeti*, C. 11, p. 144.

⁵⁵ *AXC. BB arxiv sənədləri*, p. 202.

⁵⁶ *AXC. BB arxiv sənədləri*, p. 383.

⁵⁷ *AXC. BB arxiv sənədləri*, p. 199-202.

⁵⁸ ARDA *Дипломатический Представителю Азербайджана Текинскому. Из Министра Иностранных Дел. Эривань*, F.970/S.1/İş.83/V.7, 1919.

⁵⁹ ARDA *Шифрованная телеграмма из Эривани. Министру Иностранных Дел. Дипломатический Представитель Текински*, F.970/S.1/İş.83/V.8, 2 июля 1919.

⁶⁰ ARDA *Британским, итальянским и французским миссиям. Министру Иностранных Дел*. F.970/S.1/İş.83/V.10, 10 июля 1919.

⁶¹ ARDA *Г. Министру Иностранных Дел Азербайджанской Республики. Представитель Французской Военной Миссии на Кавказе для г. Баку*, F.970/S.1/İş.83/V.32, 26 июля 1919.

⁶² Nərimin Xanməmmədova, *Transkafkasyada (Güney Kafkasya) Devletlerarası İlişkiler ve Mülteci Sorunları (1918-1920)*. *Akademik Tarih ve Düşünce Dergisi*, no. 6/4, Türkiye 2019, p. 2600.

⁶³ *AXC. Parlament...*, p. 626.

⁶⁴ *AXC. BB arxiv sənədləri*, p. 171.

the Ottomans after 1915) to appropriate the Muslim property, and that Muslims objected to Armenians possessing those properties, and that a analogous situation existed in Karabakh.⁶⁵

Since July 1919, the Azerbaijani population of Zangibasar had arrived at Iravan and appealed to Tekinsky regarding the plundering and theft by Armenians, the killing a number of their compatriots by Armenians on the road, and the indifference of their complaints to Armenian government officials.⁶⁶ Informing the government of the ADR regarding the attack of the Armenian army on the Azerbaijani population in Zangibasar in August 1919, Tekinsky wrote: *"I request you to prevent the attack of the Armenians on the population of Zangibasar by entire involvement of necessary measures."*⁶⁷

The Azerbaijani government additionally provided Tekinsky with information about the government's international relations. This information supported Tekinsky determine the direction of relations with the Armenian authorities. In a telegram forwarding to Tekinsky on August 3, 1919, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the ADR M.Y. Jafarov noted that relations had been established with the mission of the Kingdom of Italy, which replaced the British mission in the South Caucasus, since July 31, that Italy desired to establish friendly relations with the ADR and that economic cooperation had commenced, and that the Italians would defend the interests of Azerbaijan at the Peace Conference.⁶⁸

Tekinsky, who informed the ADR government related the unbearable conditions of Azerbaijanis in Armenia, considered to allocate necessary funds to support them and organize their resettlement to the territory of Azerbaijan. Based on this information, the ADR government provided humanitarian aid to Azerbaijanis in Armenia via public organizations and achieved the resettlement of several Azerbaijanis from Armenia.⁶⁹

At the 56th session of the parliament of ADR on July 17, 1919, Garabey Garabeyli declared: *"Hundreds of telegrams and petitions received from Armenia (Iravan) that the Muslim population is suffering from massacres in front of the eyes of the official Armenian state. It is impossible for Muslims to reside in Armenia. They have expelled the population from Muslim villages. They request them to move and reside in their villages. However they do not enable them into the village, informing that if there are 45 houses in the village, they are completely populated with Armenians and no more Muslims can come. Although complaints are directed to the Armenian government regarding these illegal actions, the armenian government did not implement countermeasures."*⁷⁰

The government of the ADR issued warnings to prevent these illegal actions by Armenia. In July 1919, the representative of Azerbaijan in Armenia forwarded a note to the Armenian government demanding conclude to illegal actions directed against Muslims. The Armenian government's response declared that such illegal actions and violence did not exist in Armenia and that Tekinsky's note was an interference in the internal affairs of Armenia.⁷¹

Tekinsky's efforts to protect the rights of Azerbaijanis residing in Armenia and his summons to the ADR government for political assistance in this matter dissatisfied the Armenian government, and Tekinsky's activities were assessed as espionage against the state. Al. Khatisyan emphasized in a note sent to the Azerbaijani government: *"It was revealed in Tekinsky's activities that he supported movements against the Republic of Armenia and peace in the country."*⁷² Tekinsky, who was considered a "persona non grata" (undesirable person) in Armenia, was withdrawn by the ADR government and appointed as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan.⁷³

Thus, the researches indicate that Tekinsky struggled by all possible means to protect Azerbaijanis in Armenia from massacres and plundering. Despite his restricted facilities during his period as an ambassador (only informing the ADR government as much as possible regarding the socio-political situation in Armenia), Tekinsky managed to protect a certain part of Azerbaijanis from massacres and plundering. Thus, with Tekinsky's support, contacts were established with public organizations and a certain number of Azerbaijanis who were subjected to pressure and persecution were relocated to secure areas.

4. M.Kh. Tekinsky's Activity to Prevent Military Aggression

An important factor in Tekinsky's activities was his warning Azerbaijan government regarding the Armenian Republic's military aggression against the territory of the ADR. Based on the information what Tekinsky sent, the

⁶⁵ AXC. BB arxiv sənədləri, p. 171.

⁶⁶ *Azərbaycan qəzeti*, C. 11, p. 48-49

⁶⁷ Virabyan, "Revealing The Khan..." p. 69.

⁶⁸ ARDA *Дипломатическому Представителю Азербайджанской Республики Текинскому. Министр Иностранных Дел Джафаров*, F.970/S.1/İş.149/V.14, 3 августа 1919.

⁶⁹ Musayev, op.cit., p. 176-177.

⁷⁰ AXC. *Parlament...*, p. 625-626.

⁷¹ AXC. *Parlament...*, p. 626.

⁷² Virabyan, "Revealing The Khan..." p. 70.

⁷³ Virabyan, "Revealing The Khan..." p. 70.

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ADR government organized the defense of the territories and implemented military and diplomatic measures to protect the population in the frontline areas from massacres. Tekinsky also participated in the exchange of notes between the parties regarding the Azerbaijani-Armenian military conflict.

Tekinsky's information related the movement of the Armenian army and the massacres along the front was mostly encrypted. In addition, notes and warnings manifesting the territorial claims of the Armenian government and correspondence reflecting the response of the ADR government to them were exchanged via Tekinsky. In the telegrams dispatched by Tekinsky to the Azerbaijani Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and representative of the ADR in Tbilisi, Mahammad bey Aliyev, information was provided regarding the military situation in Nakhchivan, Karabakh, Kars, and Zangezur, the number of troops, the military, financial, and food aid of the Allied Powers to Armenia, and the movement of the British and American missions.⁷⁴

In April 1919, Tekinsky informed the government of the ADR that Armenia had declared mobilization, that 6 more patrol battalions and 6 infantry regiments had been formed, and the composition of these troops, the number of soldiers and equipment.⁷⁵ Based on this information, the ADR government increased the number of troops in Karabakh and fortified defense. The Armenian government, which has territorial claims to Karabakh, protested this situation.⁷⁶ It is observed that Tekinsky decisively conveyed the position of the Azerbaijani side in the struggle around Karabakh to the Armenian side. Armenian Foreign Ministry had protested the establishment of the Karabakh Governor-General by the ADR and the activities of Governor-General Khosrov-pasha bey Sultanov. Therefore, on June 25, 1919, by representing the ADR government, Tekinsky reported to the Armenian Foreign Ministry that the Shusha, Zangezur, Jabrayil and Javanshir districts were undisputed territories of Azerbaijan, that Governor-General Kh. Sultanov's appointment to this post was confirmed by the Allied Command (The mission of the Entente countries in the Caucasus.) on April 3, and that Armenia's protest was assessed as interference in the internal affairs of the ADR, and that law and order was ensured in Karabakh.⁷⁷ This information from Tekinsky supported the ADR government to fortified its position in Karabakh and prevent the occupation by Armenia. As a result of the military and diplomatic (negotiations with representatives of foreign countries) measures implemented, the Armenian armed forces were unable to committed ethnic cleansing in Karabakh.

Tekinsky's information was a support to the ADR government in preventing the Armenian government's military intervention in Zangezur. Tekinsky wrote to the Azerbaijani government on August 13, 1919, that the Azerbaijani army should take Zangezur within 2 weeks and advance to Kemarli. Therefore, urgent action should be accomplished without declaring war.⁷⁸ Azerbaijan deployed army to Zangezur and commenced military operations to reclaim this territory. Meanwhile, the Allied mission also mediated and eventually succeeded in the parties' participation in peace negotiations in Tbilisi. At the conclusion of the Tbilisi conference, which occurred on November 21-23, an agreement was signed and the parties assumed the responsibility of ceasing military operations in Zangezur.⁷⁹ Although law and order were maintained for a while, in December 1919 the Armenian army again intervened militarily in Zangezur. On April 27, 1920, as a result of the collapse of the ADR and the subsequent political processes, the west of Zangezur was occupied by Armenia.

Tekinsky's information also indicates that he was striving to prevent military intervention by Armenia in the Nakhchivan region of Azerbaijan. Tekinsky stated that in May 1919, the Armenian army advanced into Nakhchivan, that a note of protest was presented to Armenia, and that the ADR government should immediately deploy military forces on the defensive position.⁸⁰ The ADR government commenced to implement military procedures against aggression. The military situation in Nakhchivan was analyzed by the representative in Iravan, Tekinsky. Tekinsky's information clarified that the Sharur-Nakhchivan region could mobilize a regular army of 6,000, armed with cavalry, mechanical weapons and single-barrel guns. The British also admit that they fought effectively. In addition, Tekinsky's information was reported that the Armenians had flour supplies that could provide the army for 8 months, that the Armenians had received 200 miles (military equipment, fuel) for 1.5 million rubles from the British, and that after the British departed the region, Armenians considered the liberation

⁷⁴ *AXC. BB arxiv sənədləri*, p. 199-202.

⁷⁵ Gharibyan, op.cit., p. 87.

⁷⁶ Virabyan, "Armenian-Azerbaijani..." p. 67.

⁷⁷ *Azərbaycan qəzeti*, C. 10, p. 42.

⁷⁸ Gharibyan, op.cit., p. 201-202.

⁷⁹ *Armenia in documents of the U.S. Department of State 1917-1920*, Comp. and transl. by G.G.Makhmourian, Ed. A.V.Gambaryan, Institute of History NAS of Armenia, Yerevan 2017, p. 348-349; ARDA *Соглашение между председателем правительства Хатисьяном, представляющим правительство Армении и председателем правительства Усуббековым, представляющим правительство Азербайджана*, F.970/S.1/İş.95/V.13, 27 ноября 1919; ARDA *Mutual agreement between Prime Minister Khatissian, representing the government of Armenia, and Prime Minister Ussubbekoff, representing the government of Azerbaijan*. F.970/S.1/İş.95/V.14, 27 November 1919.

⁸⁰ Nazim Mustafa, "Xalq Cümhuriyyəti..." p. 9; Səfərov, op.cit.

of Armenia in collaboration with Denikin, one of the leaders of the troops fighting for power in Russia against the Bolsheviks.⁸¹

Assessing the situation, the Azerbaijani government deployed troops to Nakhchivan and besieged this territory. A 10,000 powerful Azerbaijani army under the command of Turkish officer Khalil Bey established a position in the Shardissi (Sharur-Deralayaz – J.N.) region and on July 27 ADR proposed to Armenia concluding hostilities and the recognition of Sharur-Deralayaz and Nakhchivan within the territorial boundaries of Azerbaijan. The Armenians, who considered the deficiency of weapons and ammunition an opportunity, did not accept the proposal and proceeded the military offensive, however were defeated and retreated to Kemarli.⁸²

Tekinsky is additionally reported the May 3, 1919 agreement between the Armenians and the British regarding the territory of Nakhchivan before published in press. Tekinsky endeavored to prevent the agreement from being implemented by informing the ADR related the movements of foreign missions. He noted in his telegram: “General Milne and Thomson, with whom I negotiated about procedures to be implemented regarding Nakhchivan, have returned to Tiflis. I consider my protest was ineffective. I suppose that an agreement regarding Nakhchivan has been signed between the British General Davy and the head of the Iravan delegation, Dro.”⁸³

In addition, Tekinsky informed the government of the ADR regarding the military intervention of the Armenians in Nakhchivan by supporting of the British⁸⁴, and recommended implemented diplomatic countermeasures and the initiation of negotiations with the British mission in the South Caucasus.⁸⁵ In a telegram dispatched from Iravan to the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ADR in July 1919, Tekinsky demanded that not a single pood of fuel oil or kerosene be allowed to be sent to the Armenians until the Muslim peasants returned to their homeland and their captured lands were returned to them.⁸⁶ In this case, the Azerbaijani government ceased the transportation of fuel oil and kerosene allocated for the Armenian railway in connection with the military aggression in Nakhchivan. This product was of strategic importance for the Armenian army and was extensively applied for military purposes.

After the temporary Armenian rule was illegally established in Nakhchivan with the help of the British (for only 2 months - June-July 1919), the Armenian press propagandized that the population welcomed the Armenian officials. However, Tekinsky reported that the local Azerbaijani population solely accepted the British demands, did not desire Armenian rule, and expected support from the ADR, and recommended that military intervention be necessary.⁸⁷ Such information assisted the ADR government executed immediate procedures. Due to the official protest of the ADR to the British⁸⁸ and military measures,⁸⁹ the support of the Ottoman military forces (According to the Treaty of Batum of June 4, 1918, the ADR could receive military assistance from the Ottoman, and Nakhchivan was considered Ottoman territory)⁹⁰, and the protests of the Azerbaijani population, Armenia’s administration over Nakhchivan endured until July, 1919. By the end of July, official Armenian representatives had been already expelled from Nakhchivan.

Tekinsky’s encrypted telegrams, information related the movement of the Armenian army, and the activities of foreign missions were considered espionage by the Armenian government and declared him "persona non grata" in August 1919.⁹¹ In September 1919, the ADR government decided to conclude Tekinsky’s ambassadorial activities. Subsequently, M. Mirbabayev proceeded ambassadorial activities for a while as the Mission Advisor.⁹²

Thus, the information provided by Tekinsky on the situation and number of Armenian troops supported the ADR government to organize defense and altered the situation to its advantage by negotiating with foreign missions in the South Caucasus. Due to the procedures accomplished by the ADR government, extensive territories, including Karabakh and Nakhchivan were rescued from Armenian aggression, however parts of the territories of Zangezur, Daralayaz, Gazakh, and Basarkechar were occupied by Armenia. Consequently, these territories occupied by Armenians remained within the borders of the Armenian state when the Armenian SSR was established in November 1920.

⁸¹ *Документы Британского*, Т. 1/1, p. 381-382.

⁸² *Документы Британского*, Т. 1/1, p. 420.

⁸³ ARDA *Баку срочно Министру Призрения из Эривани. От Дипломатического Представителя Текинского*, F.970/S.1/İş.149/V.27, 1919.

⁸⁴ *Azərbaycan xalqına qarşı...* 2011, p.114; ARDA *Дипломатическому Представителю Азербайджана Текинскому. Министра Иностранных Дел Джафаров*, F.970/S.1/ İş.87/V.4, 29 июня 1919.

⁸⁵ Musayev, op.cit., p. 157.

⁸⁶ *АХС. ВВ архив сənədləri*, p. 200.

⁸⁷ Musayev, op.cit., p. 158-159.

⁸⁸ *Документы Британского*, Т. 1/1, p. 409.

⁸⁹ *Документы Британского*, Т. 1/1, p. 436, p. 420.

⁹⁰ *Azərbaycan Cümhuriyyəti...*, p. 220-222.

⁹¹ *Azərbaycan qəzeti*, С. 11, p. 427

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CONCLUSION

The activities of embassies, in addition to being proposed at protecting the rights and interests of compatriots living in a foreign country, and assist regulate relations between countries. Tekinsky's activities in Armenia (January-August 1919) coincided with the period when the Armenian government subjected the Azerbaijani population on its territory to ethnic cleansing and continued military aggression against the territory of the ADR on the basis of territorial claims. Therefore, although Tekinsky believed in the improvement of relations between the two countries at the early period of his appointment, he subsequently clarified, according to the information he received, the Armenian state intended to subject Azerbaijanis on its territory to genocide and deportation and to proceed military aggression. Therefore, the direction of preventing the indicated intentions in Tekinsky's activities is pronounced.

Another course in Tekinsky's activities was directed in protecting the population and territory of the border regions with Armenia from Armenian aggression. Due to Tekinsky's activities in this direction, the Azerbaijani government was informed in advance of events and military interventions on the border and pursued diplomatic and military countermeasures. Consequently, the ADR was able to protect a number of territories (Nakhchivan, Karabakh) from Armenian aggression.

In the modern period, the activities directed in establishing and developing relations between countries are additionally of importance in the missions of embassies. In this regard, in the current period, the appointment of mutual official representatives (who temporarily perform the function of ambassadors, since the conclusion of a peace treaty is a prerequisite for opening an embassy, it is impossible to appoint an ambassador) could additionally have a positive effect on the establishment of Azerbaijani-Armenian relations and the negotiation of a peace treaty in accordance with the interests of both countries and within the framework of the principles of international law. The presence of such official representations in the territories of both countries could also accelerate the resolution of the issues of the return of the population that has previously migrated from both countries.

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic – ADR government (1918-1920), which focused on establishing relations with other states on the principles of peace and mutual collaboration in foreign policy, attempted to benefit maximum of the state's capabilities to achieve this purpose. A personnel system implementing foreign policy was formed and ambassadors were appointed to foreign states. The principal functions of these ambassadors were to participate in the organization of bilateral political relations and the protection of the rights of the Azerbaijani people in the territory of a foreign state. One of these ambassadors was appointed to the state where the ADR government experienced the most problems (conflicts between peoples, territorial disputes, ethnic oppression against the Azerbaijani population) - the first Republic of Armenia. The first appointed ambassador was Mammad (Mahammad) Khan Tekinsky. M.Kh. Tekinsky's activities in the Republic of Armenia provided political and diplomatic importance for the ADR government.

This article examines the problem of M.Kh. Tekinsky's activities in Armenia in more detail based on sources and existing scientific literature, systematizes the results, and determines that the ambassador's activities focused both at protecting the rights and interests of Azerbaijanis remaining within the borders of Armenia and at preventing the military-political processes occurring in the surrounding territories from being directed against Azerbaijan.

The biography and activities of Tekinsky, one of the important figures in the history of Azerbaijani diplomacy, attract attention with its interesting moments. Orphaned at the age of 2, Tekinsky was adopted by an Azerbaijani general and educated. Although he held various government positions in his professional life, his main official activity coincided with the period when he was an ambassador to Armenia (January-August, 1919).

Although Tekinsky attempted to improve Azerbaijani-Armenian relations from the day he commenced his activities in Armenia, the territorial disputes between the two states did not allow for the establishment of normal relations. Territorial claims in the South Caucasus resulted in military intervention. The Azerbaijani government opposed Armenia, considering these territories own historical land. The deterioration of relations between the two countries also affected the direction of Tekinsky's activities. The Azerbaijani government requested Tekinsky for information related the oppression and persecution of Azerbaijanis in Armenia, and considered Azerbaijan had to implemented countermeasures.

Tekinsky also informed the government of the Azerbaijan that Armenia's military missions to Nakhchivan, Zangezur and Karabakh should be prevented. Tekinsky's information about the movements of the Armenian

armies and the Entente forces helped the Azerbaijan government implement countermeasures and defend the territories where considered Azerbaijan territories.

Tekinsky's information regarding the situation of Azerbaijanis and events on the border was considered interference in Armenia's internal affairs, and he was declared "persona non grata". The Azerbaijani government terminated Tekinsky's ambassadorial activities.

Although the problem examined in the article has been studied by a certain number of scholars, in this article the problem is investigated in more detail on the basis of existing scientific literature and new archival documents. In the study, scientific articles and archival documents (in the State Archives of the Republic of Azerbaijan and in collections of published documents from England, Türkiye, Armenia) related to Tekinsky were analyzed, and scientific literature from 1918-1920 was reviewed.

Various studies exist related M.Kh. Tekinsky's activities in Armenia, and his biography. Azerbaijani researchers A.Pashayev, N.Mustafa have published a series of articles about Tekinsky, emphasized Tekinsky's work for the ADR and Azerbaijanis. For the first time, A.Pashayev discovered archival documents regarding Tekinsky's biography in the state archive of the Odessa region and emphasized them in his article. Among these documents, he also discovered a photograph of M.Kh.Tekinsky taken on June 12, 1901 in A.Hordshtein's photo studio in Tbilisi and submitted to Novorossiysk University.

Armenian authors argue that Tekinsky, in addition other Muslim organizations in Iravan, were considered by the Armenian government as spies attempting to debilitate inside the country, and Turkey have supported the Azerbaijani population with weapons and the ADR government with money to accomplish this intention. Tekinsky was called an ambassador-spy due to the encrypted telegrams he sent to the government of the ADR regarding the military-political situation in Armenia. Even among Armenian researchers, a separate article was written by V. Virabyan dedicated to Tekinsky's activities.

Another important studies related Tekinsky were researched by his compatriot, Turkmen Turkologist M. Soyegov. In this study, M. Soyegov investigated the lineage of the Turkmen surname "Tekinsky" and published his research on the life of M.Kh. Tekinsky, a representative of this lineage, one of the most important figures in Azerbaijani history and diplomacy.

Another Azerbaijani researchers investigated the problem of the activity of Tekinsky, such as E. Kelbizade, N. Yaqublu, and R. Safarov, are also important.

Since Tekinsky's activities occupied an important place in the foreign policy of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, there is information about his activities in books and monographs from the period.

Letters, telegrams, and financial reports on Tekinsky's activities as a diplomatic representative are preserved in the archives (in Azerbaijan, England, Türkiye, Russia, Armenia). These documents allow us to determine the directions and specific features of Tekinsky's activities.

When studying the purposes and objectives of the research work, general scientific methods such as ideographic method (descriptive) (events are described in a logical sequence), comparative analysis and synthesis (events involved in the study are studied on the basis of sources and existing scientific literature, comparisons are made, and the results are analyzed) were applied. In addition, retrospective (for a better understanding of the object under study, a slightly earlier period is referred to, the causes and essence of the events are investigated), historical-systematic (the events are studied in a complex manner) methods of historiography were applied.

The activities of embassies, in addition to being proposed at protecting the rights and interests of compatriots living in a foreign country, and assist regulate relations between countries. Tekinsky's activities in Armenia (January-August 1919) coincided with the period when the Armenian government subjected the Azerbaijani population on its territory to ethnic cleansing and continued military aggression against the territory of the ADR on the basis of territorial claims. Therefore, although Tekinsky believed in the improvement of relations between the two countries at the early period of his appointment, he subsequently clarified, according to the information he received, that the Armenian state intended to subject Azerbaijanis on its territory to genocide and deportation and to proceed military aggression. Therefore, the direction of preventing the indicated intentions in Tekinsky's activities is pronounced.

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POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN AZERBAIJAN AND ARMENIA: M.KH.TEKİNSKY'S ACTIVITY

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