

THE TURKISH-SOVIET COOPERATION AND THE RELATION WITH ROMANIA AT THE BLACK SEA IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD

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Abstract. *The first Romanian-Turkish contacts took place on the occasion of the Lausanne Conference (November 20, 1922 – July 24, 1923), the Turkish delegation appealing to the good diplomatic Romanian delegation services¹. Romania witnessed the arrival at the meeting, "arm in arm", of the National Assembly from Ankara – represented by General Ismet Pasha, who became foreign minister – with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics – represented by Gheorghii Vasilievichi Cicerin, Commissioner for Foreign Affairs in the bolshevik-communist government - of Moscow. The expression belongs to the Romanian diplomat, Constantin Diamandy, member of the Romanian delegation, led by I.G. Duca, Minister of Foreign Affairs and was expressed in a conference held in Bucharest on the topic of the "Straits Problem" in 1924². At that time, the Turkish-Soviet alliance was quite threatening for the young states of Central Europe and the Balkans. At Lausanne, on one side are present the Allied and Associated Powers, on the other side is Turkey alone. However, according to the statements of C. Diamandy, "behind Turkey loomed the enigmatic shadow of its alliance with the Soviets"³, the great absentee from Versailles. Also, Turkey presented itself twice victorious in Switzerland - in external military terms, through the victory over the Greek army, achieved by Mustafa Kemal - Ismet Pasha tandem after a tough war – led by massacres and massive displacement of the population – and through the internal victory, the overthrow of the Sultanate, as well as the desire to completely break the ties with the Ottoman past. From the Turkish point of view, the Treaty of Sèvres represented a thing of the past. The Allies were no longer in Lausanne facing a defeated enemy, but a victorious one, and the negotiations had many compromises and concessions.*

Keywords: Ottoman Empire, Turkey, Lausanne, USSR, Balkan Pact, Romania

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¹ Ionuț Cojocaru, *România și Turcia actori importanți în sistemul de relații interbelice (1918-1940)*, Editura Cetatea de Scaun, Târgoviște, 2014, p. 34.

² Constantin Diamandy, *Problema Strămtorilor*, în „*Politica Externă a României*”. 19 prelegeri publice organizate de Institutul Social Român (1923-1924), București, 1924 – www.digibuc.ro, p. 205-223

³ On March 16, 1921, the Soviet Union and Turkey signed a friendship treaty in Moscow, establishing the Soviet-Turkish border in Transcaucasia. For details, see Ionut Cojocaru, *Romania and Turkey*, p. 72