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DIPLOMATIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE AZERBAIJAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND NORTH CAUCASUS

In an effort to boost relations with other states and protect its interests, the Azerbaijani government (1918-1920) delegated its diplomats to the North Caucasus. Diplomatic missions were being established upon mutual consent between relevant countries. Amid challenging military and political conditions, diplomatic representatives of the Azerbaijan Republic and the subjects of the North Caucasus served as a mouthpiece of the state interests of their countries.

Jafar Bay Rustambayov was delegated to the Kuban People's Republic, while Abdurahman Akhverdov was assigned to serve in the Mountain Republic, in order to maintain diplomatic ties; Pasha Bay Sultanov was appointed the consular agent in Rostov-on-Don (1). Diplomatic representatives of the North Caucasus cooperated with Azerbaijan.

Jafar Bay Rustambayov was born in the Kutkashen settlement (presently the city of Gabala) in 1884. He graduated from the University of Kharkiv with a degree in medicine. In 1905-1910, he was a member of the Socialist Revolutionary (SR) Party. He practiced medicine in the Crimea. He shared the ideas of the local Muslim population regarding the independence of Crimea. Following the takeover of Crimea by the Volunteer Army of General A.I. Denikin in the early 1919, Rustambayov returned to Baku. The government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic offered Rustambayov the post of the republic's diplomatic representative in Kuban. As is

known, the Legislative Rada (Council) was founded in Kuban on September 2, 1918. The democratically established Provincial Government was its executive body (2).

Following his appointment to this post in mid-February, Rustambayov left for Yekaterinograd (presently Krasnodar). The Rada of Kuban issued accreditation in Yekaterinograd for the representative of Azerbaijan, along with those of Astrakhan, Minsk, Kiev, the Great Don Army, Georgia, Armenia and Persia.

Meanwhile, the Denikin offensive unfolded in the North Caucasus. The Denikin stand-off with the Kuban Cossacks aggravated after the June 13, 1919 speech made by the head of the Kuban Provincial Rada Nikolay Ryabovol, who criticized the Denikin regime. That same night, he was shot dead in the lobby of the Palas Hotel by an employee of Denikin Special Council. Following the death of N.S. Ryabovol, his deputy, Sultan Shahin Girey, a descendant of the Crimean khans from the Kurgokov mountainous village of the Batalpashy department, became the chairman of the Kuban Rada. During the Rada debacle Denikin arrested him along with another mountainous area member of the Rada, Murat Gotagogu, and ordered him to leave the country. Thus, the Denikin regime was established. During this time J. Rustambayov was defending the interests of ADR citizens who were not willing to be subjected to the Denikin call to active duty. He was issuing relevant documents upon request. J. Rustambayov also strongly

Abdurahman Bay Akhverdov

advocated for Denikin's refraining from sending Kuban Cossacks to counter Dagestanis. Furthermore, the command of the Volunteer Army accused Azerbaijan of providing military aid to the nations of Dagestan, which led to the souring of relations between the two sides. Major de Nonancourt, chief of the French military mission in the Caucasus, suggested that the Azerbaijani government "agree to the control of the allies at any time in order to prove its peaceful intentions, which would be aimed at verifying that no military assistance is further provided to the highlanders of the North Caucasus and Dagestan either directly or indirectly" (3). Foreign Minister M. Y. Jafarov noted that Azerbaijan adheres to a policy of non-interference when it comes to the clashes between the North Caucasus nations and the armed forces of southern Russia. In response to the Britons' statement that General Denikin "knows for a fact from available documents about Azerbaijan's involvement in the Dagestan uprising", J. Rustambayov said "the government could not be held responsible for the actions of individual Azerbaijani citizens and my government could not have and did not take an active part in it". (4) The diplomatic representative of the Azerbaijan Republic to the Kuban Government reported that the Volunteer Army was carrying out blockade of Azerbaijan and Georgia, providing Armenia with bread and shells through Novorossiysk and Batum. According to Volunteer Army officials, Armenia served as their forefront area "in the struggle against Azerbaijan, which would be taken over by the Volunteer Army sooner or later" (5).

Gen. Holmen, who succeeded Gen. Briggs as chief of the British mission at the Denikin headquarters, arranged a meeting between Azerbaijan's diplomatic representative in the Kuban government, J. Rustambayov (6) and Gen. A.S. Lukomsky, since A.I. Denikin was not in Taganrog at the time. However, he also refused to negotiate neutralization of Dagestan, while stressing that the Volunteer Army had no intent of encroaching upon Azerbaijan's integrity (7). Thus, the negotiations of any kind that were being conducted by Rustambayov did not result in the conclusion of an agreement on neutralizing Dagestan.

In November 1919, White Guard officers attempted to arrest Rustambayov, but he managed to escape and return to Baku through Novorossiysk. In February 1920, Rustambayov was appointed ADR's Deputy Minister of Commerce, Industry and Food. He served in this capacity until the Bolsheviks came to power. Prior to his arrest,



he was engaged in private medical practice in Baku and Azerbaijani provinces.

Abdurahman Bay Akhverdov was delegated to Temir-Khan-Shura, the capital of the Mountain Republic, in accordance with an order of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic, to serve as the head of Azerbaijan's diplomatic mission there from February 11, 1919. The appointment was announced while he was in Tiflis. Acting chairman of the Mountain Republic's Council of Ministers, Duke Tarkovsky, approved Akhverdov's appointment. Akhverdov reported to the Azerbaijani foreign minister that he arrived in Temir-Khan-Shura on March 28; he was hosted by the head of the Mountain Republic's government on March 30 and handed over his credentials to him. On March 31, Akhverdov met with all ministers and later that day he attended a meeting of the Union Council where a round of applause was given in honor of Azerbaijan and its Government.

"Notification of the acting Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Mountain Republic, Duke Tarkovsky, to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic F. K. Khoyski



Mahammadyusif Jafarov

regarding the consent granted for the appointment of A. Akhverdov as the diplomatic representative of Azerbaijan in the Mountain Republic.

Not earlier than February 11, 1919.

The government signifies its agreement to the appointment of Abdurahman Bay Akhverdov as the diplomatic representative of Azerbaijan.

Acting as Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Duke Tarkovsky." (8).

Akhverdov concluded that the idea of joining Azerbaijan was being discussed in the influential circles of the Mountain Republic's government. In particular, this suggestion was made by Gen. Mikail Khalilov, a companion of the Minister of War (9). On May 30, 1919, Akhverdov offered to rename the diplomatic mission he was heading the "Diplomatic Representation of the Azerbaijan Republic in the North Caucasus." (10)

On April 4, Akhverdov held a meeting of Azerbaijani citizens residing in Temir-Khan-Shura, suggesting that they conduct a census and elect a merchant leader. In an effort to assist the needy Azerbaijani families, Akhverdov asked his government to send 10,000 rubles. He also requested 20,000 rubles "to set up a network of agents to work on the ground; ideological hunters are available..."

(11) On April 6, 1919, the Azerbaijani government ruled on rendering military aid to the North Caucasus nations. The ruling noted that Azerbaijan could not send permanent military units to the Mountain Republic, but deemed it appropriate to "informally send volunteer detachments" there. All issues relating to the recruitment and dispatch of interested persons were vested in the political parties represented in the Azerbaijani parliament. In addition, special healthcare groups were to be sent to the Mountain Republic to provide medical aid, and 142,500 rubles were allocated for the purpose. Moreover, the Azerbaijani government allocated intermittent interest-free loans worth 1 million to 10 million rubles to the Mountain Republic. It also facilitated and oversaw the Mountain Republic government's participation in the issue of bonds of the Transcaucasian Commissariat in the amount of 80 million rubles. Azerbaijan concluded three agreements with Georgia to that end (Afterwards, Georgia and Armenia issued bonds without consent of the Azerbaijani Government, while the question concerning the Mountain Republic's involvement in this matter remained unresolved) (12).

A. Akhverdov asked the Government of Azerbaijan to send in Azerbaijani officers to aid the Chechens, saying that "this could have a moral impact on the combatants". Akhverdov reported that there were more Chechen militiamen than Denikin supporters, but they were not organized and disciplined. Akhverdov asked to send a small detachment that would at least reach Khasavyurt. Ingush representatives also met with Akhverdov. (13)

According to Akhverdov, as of April 15, 1919 "the issue of Dagestan's accession to Azerbaijan was being discussed very seriously". Upon the request of many public figures, he asked the Azerbaijani side to provide consent to that effect in principle.

"The groundwork is ready as four out of the ten provinces have long been in favor of accession, while the rest are covertly dreaming of the same thing. Only locals are making an effort in this regard. Gen. Khalilov, a former companion of the minister of war, is due to arrive in Baku in the coming days to table this issue. I kindly request that this matter be expedited. If Rowlenson's informal statement does not hold water and the Volunteer Army moves further southward, Dagestan will not be able to count on reliable protection; in that case let me talk to the Government about sending one Azerbaijani regiment to Shura, given that Azerbaijan's fate also

depends on the reliable protection of Dagestan. The troops will enjoy a cordial welcome and further developments will take their due course.” (14)

According to Akhverdov, the Chechens “were also inclined to join Azerbaijan.” It was particularly noted that the head of the North Caucasus Emirate (the territory of a part of Chechnya, which was part of Chechnya, Dagestan, Ingushetia, Kabarda and Ossetia from the fall of 1919), Uzun Haji, spoke in favor of joining Azerbaijan (15). The point is that in this period the Volunteer Army was waging battles in the territory of the Terek province, in particular, in Ingushetia and Chechnya. As is known, Denikin had set out a goal to abolish all the newly established sovereign states and restore “a united and indivisible Russia.”

Akhverdov’s report indicates that the idea of Dagestan’s accession to Azerbaijan came to the forefront after the visit of the Azerbaijani mission amidst the community of local influential persons and among some members of the Union Council, especially representatives of those provinces that were in close vicinity of Azerbaijan, including Kyuri, Samur, Kaytago-Tabasaran, Avar and the city of Derbent. Local lawmakers told A. Akhverdov that “since they had been linked to Azerbaijan economically from time immemorial, our political merger would be desirable as well.” Akhverdov did not give them a straightforward answer, but assured them that “if the entire nation wants this, I assume that Azerbaijan would not refuse to accept them.” (16)

According to Akhverdov, a considerable part of Dagestan’s provinces supported acceding to Azerbaijan. Moreover, volunteers were arriving and financial assistance was being delivered from Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani representatives stepped up their activities in Dagestan. They established contacts with a popular organization called the League of Unity, Independence and Progress of the Highlanders of the Caucasus, set up by young local intellectuals (17).

Although the diplomatic mission of Azerbaijan based in Temir-Khan-Shura was officially disbanded on October 1, 1919, an Azerbaijani consular agent issuing passes for those seeking to travel from the North Caucasus to Baku was still active in Petrovsk (18). Following the Sovietization of Dagestan, sporadic resistance to the imposition of Soviet rule and the struggle for independence continued in some areas. On April 1, 1920, an Azerbaijani diplomatic mission headed by A. Akhverdov was launched under the North Caucasus Defense Council.

Pasha Bay Sultanov. Scarce information is available about Pasha Bay Sultanov. Along with Pshemakho Kotsev, the future Prime Minister of the Mountain Republic, Sultanov was a member of the Kuban Provincial Executive Committee, a body of the Provisional Government in Kuban instituted by its commissioner K. Bardizh (19). According to the minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Kuban regional government held on January 13, 1918, government official Pasha Bay Sultanov reported on two officers from the Don region who were recruiting volunteers from among the highlanders (20).

Alikhan Kantemir. Alikhan Gadoyevich Kantemir was born on May 9, 1889 in the Karagach village of the Terek province. He graduated from the Vladikavkaz Lyceum. He also graduated from the St. Petersburg University majoring in Law and Kiev University. An attorney-at-law. He was a Socialist Revolutionary. In 1918, he was a comrade-in-arms of the Interior Minister of the Transcaucasian Commissariat. He closely collaborated with the first national government of the Azerbaijan Republic. He was a member of government of the Mountain Republic as an associate of the foreign minister (21). Kantemir served as a diplomatic representative of the Union of Mountainous Nations of the Caucasus in the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

On January 5, 1919, Kantemir asked Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Republic Fatali Khan Khoyski to provide a short-term loan worth 10 million rubles. Kantemir and Azerbaijani Minister for Food K. Lizgar signed an inter-governmental agreement between the Republic of the Union of Mountain Nations of the Caucasus and the Azerbaijan Republic on the supply of grain crops from January 9, 1919 (22).

On February 26, 1919, Kantemir officially appealed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic over the actions of the Volunteer Army in the territory of the Mountain Republic. Kantemir sought “support from the Transcaucasian republics, in particular, fraternal Azerbaijan.” It was not long before the Azerbaijan Republic responded to the appeal. On March 6, 1919, the Azerbaijani foreign minister sent a note to the military governor of Baku, Gen. W.M. Thomson, saying, “the Azerbaijani government certainly cannot be a silent witness to the unequal struggle of the kindred mountainous nations in the cause of defending their physical existence and their sacred rights to independent existence against the impending reactionary forces. Therefore, the Azerbaijani government, of course, will deem itself obliged to come to the aid of the mountainous

peoples by all the means at its disposal in this difficult time of their state and political life..." (23)

In his appeal to the Azerbaijani foreign minister dated February 26, 1919, Kantemir reported that the Volunteer Army was conducting warfare against civilian population, in defiance of the will of the nations of the North Caucasus, the Parliament and Government of the Mountain Republic, and had reached Grozny. The command of the Volunteer Army demanded that the Government of the Mountain Republic resign and intended to divide the Union into national districts. However, according to Kantemir, the Mountain Republic's parliament "dismissed all the demands put forward by the Volunteer Army and suggested that the Government defend independence by all means with the support of fraternal Azerbaijan, with whose people highlanders are linked by blood and the traditions of unshakable friendship." (24)

On April 26, Kantemir sent a note to the governments of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and the allied command on the instruction of the head of the Mountain Republic's government P. Kotsev, protesting the Volunteer Army's actions in Chechnya. It stated that no agreement had been reached between Denikin and representatives of the Mountain Republic and the latter's government decided to "continue military defense operations against the Volunteer Army and would strive to cleanse from it the republic's unlawfully and violently occupied areas." In a letter, the commander of the British troops in Petrovsk assured Kotsev that Denikin would not press ahead with military action as he had reached agreement with the Chechens, Ingush, Balkarian and Ossetian people on restoring peace and was awaiting a decision of the Peace Conference concerning the independence and borders of the states formed on the ruins of the Russian Empire. In exchange, the government of the Mountain Republic was to allow the Volunteer Army to enter Petrovsk in order to fight the Bolsheviks and to tackle their elimination in the cities and villages in the republic's territory (25).

On May 14, 1919, A. Kantemir and A. Butayev represented the Mountain Republic at a regular session of the Transcaucasian Conference focusing on the territorial commission-related issues. During the meeting held on May 19, Kantemir voiced the focal point of the Mountain Republic delegation's stance:

1. Resolution of territorial disputes among the republics of the Caucasus should be based on the principle of self-determination of nations through the expression of free will of the population of the disputed areas.

2. A dispute could be raised only over adjacent areas.

3. In case voting of the population in the disputed districts fails to ensure an absolute or established majority of votes, the dispute must be resolved on the basis of the principles of domestic and economic inclination of the disputed district to any particular state.

Kantemir supported solution of territorial disputes in keeping with the self-determination principle or in the worst-case scenario on the basis of economic indicators. All these issues were put on the back burner in the wake of the ensuing military-political developments (26).

In May 1919, Dagestan was occupied by the Volunteer Army. The activity of the Government and Parliament of the Mountain Republic was suspended.

Chief of Staff of the Dagestan Defense Council, Osman Osmanov, queried at a meeting of the Council, held on October 4, 1919 in the Levashi village and chaired by A. Kantemir, "What kind of real assistance can we expect from the outside?" Kantemir replied, "We understand perfectly well that Dagestan is unable to wage a long war on its own without outside help. But the tragic nature of our situation dwells upon the fact that one way or another we have to defend ourselves against the dark reactionary forces. The Allied Majlis (Council) in Transcaucasia has taken the known steps to obtain outside help and continues working in this regard. We think that our closest natural neighbors, Azerbaijan and Georgia, will not leave us alone in this difficult moment of mortal danger. But at the same time, we must leave no stone unturned and organize our forces for frontline combat. We need to set aside all internal disputes and personal discords, if they exist indeed, and reinforce our borders after forcing out the enemy. We cannot rely on outside assistance unless we show vitality and capacity for state-building." (27)

A specific decision was passed at a meeting of the Defense Council on October 15 in the Buglen village in Nizhny (Lower) Jengutai to start talks with Azerbaijan and Georgia (28).

Although representatives of the Mountain Republic did not attend the fifth meeting of the Caucasus Conference held on May 29, 1919, A. Kantemir participated and addressed the event as a representative of the Mountain Republic in Azerbaijan. (29)

On November 25, 1919, Kantemir handed over to the foreign minister of the Azerbaijan Republic a letter to the Azerbaijani government from the chairman of the North Caucasus Defense Council, Sheikh-ul-Islam Ali-Haji Akushinsky. Since no reply was given to the let-

*Leaders of the Mountain Republic.
Tapa Chermoyev is seated in the center*



ter, a similar appeal was made to the Azerbaijani foreign minister on December 4 (30).

In 1921, Kantemir emigrated first to Turkey and then to Germany (31). On June 15, 1926, the Caucasus Independence Committee (CIC) was established in Istanbul. The committee was comprised of members of the Committee of Caucasus Confederalists, Social Democrats and Musavat supporters, including M.E. Rasulzade, M. Vakilov (Azerbaijan), Sayid Shamil and Alikhan Kantemir (from the North Caucasus), N. Ramishvili and N. Magalashvili (Georgia) (32).

In the 1930s, Kantemir headed the North Caucasus People's Party and acted as the editor-in-chief of the "North Caucasus" magazine, which was published in Paris in 1934-1939. In 1954, he took charge of the Elmejele magazine in Munich, which was published by the Institute for the Study of the Soviet Union in Russian, English and Turkish. In 1961, he established the Caucasus Committee in Munich. He died in Munich on April 16, 1963.

Bagadur Bay Malachikhan. Bagadur Gamzat Bay Malachikhan was born in 1882 in the Ashilta village of the Untsukul district of the Dagestan province. He served as the Zagatala governor from January 1920 until the Soviet period.

It is worth mentioning that on June 26, 1918, the Muslim National Council of the Zagatala province expressed the population's willingness to remain as part of Azerbaijan and passed a decision on accession to the Azerbaijan Republic (33).

Prior to his appointment as the Zagatala governor, he held the position of the authorized representative of the government of the Republic of the Union of the Mountainous Nations of the Caucasus. He signed a number of important documents while in this capacity. According to the report made to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic by the interim diplomatic representative of the Republic of the Caucasus Highlanders Union at the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic B. Malachikhan, the Republican armed forces repelled an attack and a group of Bolsheviks was arrested, in accordance with the orders issued by the Temir-Khan-Shura commander and with the approval of the head of government P. Kotsev and Minister of War of the Republic of the Union of Caucasus Highlanders Jamalutdin Musalayev. The detainees were accused of an attempt to overthrow the Mountain Republic and annex Dagestan to Soviet Russia (34).

On November 28, 1918, authorized representatives

of the Azerbaijan Republic, Minister of Commerce and Industry Behbud Khan Javanshir and Minister of Finance Mammad Hasan Hajinsky, and the Mountain Republic's Bagadur Bay Malachikhan and Ibrahim Bay Heydarov signed a new treaty in Baku. According to the agreement, the Mountain Republic's government was to receive a loan in the amount of 10 million rubles from the Azerbaijan Republic for a two-year term, effective November 1, 1918. 3 million rubles were allocated to the Mountain Republic in November, while the remaining 7 million rubles were to be disbursed in December of the same year. If the government of the Mountain Republic concluded an agreement with Georgia on joint issuance of banknotes, the loan provided by the Azerbaijan Republic was to be repaid within six months from the date of the first release of these banknotes. If the Mountain Republic asserted its authority in agricultural areas, it was to repay the debt with grain crops. The Azerbaijani government gained the right to buy bread at a market price through its representatives throughout the territory of the Mountain Republic (35).

According to B. Malachikhan, the Volunteer Army's incursion into the Mountain Republic cost the local population "significant loss in terms of human casualties and a lot of destroyed and burnt-down villages." The Volunteer Army's actions in the Dagestan province took a toll on the situation in Chechnya where riots flared up again. The Chechen and Ingush uprisings also swept through Gudermes, and two special squads were sent in from Petrovsk to quell them (36).

Malachikhan returned to Dagestan in the Soviet period. In August 1920, he was detained in Kumukh and sent to Temir-Khan-Shura. Though he was released soon thereafter, he was taken into custody on several occasions again. In July 1941, he was executed by shooting.

Alibay Takho-Godi. Alibay Takho-Godi was born on August 15, 1892 in the mountainous village of Urakhi of the Dagestan province. He graduated from the Vladikavkaz Russian Gymnasium and then Moscow State University with a major in Law. In April 1917, he returned to Dagestan and joined the socialist group. As the alignment of forces changed in Dagestan with the departure of the White Guards and the strengthening influence of the Bolsheviks, the composition of the Defense Council of Dagestan and the North Caucasus was altered as well. The documents of the Defense Council evidently indicate that A. Takho-Godi took over the correspondence with the government of the Azerbaijan Republic from Alikhan Kantemir and became the diplomatic represen-

tative of the Defense Council of the North Caucasus to the Azerbaijani Government.

The point is that the Volunteer Army occupied Dagestan and took over Derbent, despite the Britons' promises. A special state defense committee was established in Baku. On May 9, 1919, the ADR's Ministry of Foreign Affairs instituted its own agency in Petrovsk that was tasked with informing the Azerbaijani government about the ongoing developments.

Both the manner of appeals and the demands being put forward changed. On February 22, 1920, A. Takho-Godi asked the head of government of the Azerbaijan Republic to allocate assistance to the highlanders that would be sent to the provisional government, i.e. the Defense Council of the North Caucasus Republic (37). In addition, he appealed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic, demanding that the Volunteer Army detachment evacuated from the city of Krasnovodsk to Baku be interned. According to Takho-Godi, the detachment was to be dispatched to Petrovsk (38). Heydar Bammam, the diplomatic representative of the North Caucasus Republic in Georgia and Armenia, told the North Caucasus Defense Council that the latter is deemed in Georgia as a backer of Bolsheviks and as hostile to Georgia (39). Takho-Godi was seeking to establish a customs checkpoint on the border with Azerbaijan and opposed the circulation of Baku bonds under the pretext of what was regarded as embezzlement of Dagestan raw materials by "Azerbaijani and Turkish agents of commercial capital." (40) The document does not indicate what raw materials were referenced. In fact, it was Azerbaijan that was providing comprehensive humanitarian aid to the fraternal nations of Dagestan, while Takho-Godi's hostile attitude was due to his certain views regarding the democratic Azerbaijani government.

ADR Foreign Minister F. Khoyski said in a letter addressed to the diplomatic representative of the North Caucasus Defense Council in Azerbaijan dated March 16, 1920 that "the Azerbaijani Government, which has always adhered to the point of view of recognizing the independence of the Mountain Republic, has been trying by all means available to render support to the mountainous nations in their heroic struggle for freedom and independence."

"Despite a number of ordeals that befell the mountainous peoples, the Government remains committed to this stance and is ready to further do its utmost to facilitate meeting the just demands of these nations and provide them with all possible assistance," the letter said (41).

Rashid Khan Kaplanov

In a bid to establish bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and the North Caucasus, a delegation comprising MPs A.D.Pepinov and R.Vakilov, the head of the government's administration, Parviz Mirza, and others, left Baku for Grozny on April 19. They greeted the Congress of the Nations of the Mountain Republic and held talks with political leaders of the North Caucasus. Ahmad Bay Pepinov was mandated by the Central Committee of the Azerbaijan Social Democratic Party and the parliamentary faction of Socialists, while Rahim Vakilov had been granted a mandate by the Presidium of the ADR Parliament. The delegation also included Ivan Yelansky, a former yesaul (a Cossack military post) who served as the second secretary of the diplomatic mission of the North Caucasus Republic in Azerbaijan, and his wife, Kristina Petrovna Yelanskaya, a relative of A. Takho-Godi. All of them had permits issued by the diplomatic representative of Dagestan Defense Council Andreyev (42). A. Takho-Godi, the diplomatic representative of the Defense Council of the North Caucasus Republic to the Azerbaijani Government, reported to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic that Dagestan intellectuals were considering several scenarios for further unfolding of developments: 1. establishing a united coalition power of the people in the Mountainous territory; 2. upholding the idea of independence of the Mountain Republic through negotiations with the Bolshevik authorities (43).

From 1921, A. Takho-Godi was a member of the government of the Dagestan (Autonomous) Soviet Socialist Republic, holding high-ranking positions, including those of People's Commissar of Labor and People's Commissar of Justice; from 1925 he served as the People's Commissar of Education, simultaneously acting as Deputy Chairman of the DSSR Council of People's Commissars. He was a member of the USSR Central Executive Committee (CEC) and sat on the presidium of the Dagestan CEC, and also participated at the second nationwide Soviet congress, as well as the eighth and eleventh All-Russian Soviet congresses. In 1937, Takho-Godi was arrested by the USSR People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, convicted of affiliation with a counter-revolutionary group and subsequently executed by shooting.

Conclusion. All branches of government began to function in the short time of the existence of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. This time period sheds light



on the history of ADR diplomats' activity in the North Caucasus and vice versa, the track record of diplomacy in Azerbaijani history. Sovietization put an end to the diplomatic ties of the de-facto recognized independent Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

Scrutinizing the work of diplomats and the ADR's overall diplomatic efforts 100 years later, one arrives at a conclusion that these statesmen, who worked in challenging and sometimes extreme conditions, were doing their job precisely and in a concerted manner. But first and foremost, they worked without errors and flaws for the sake of their nation, without trampling on the interests of their neighbors. These people worked tirelessly and harmoniously because they believed in their cause and the bright future of their people. Azerbaijani diplomats were making the history of the diplomacy of their state as they were aware and confident that this was necessary for the future fate of their homeland. The methods employed in their diplomatic activity are being studied today. This experience will also be relevant and worthy of emulation in several centuries. We are grateful to the honorable diplomats of our Motherland and praise be to them! 🌟

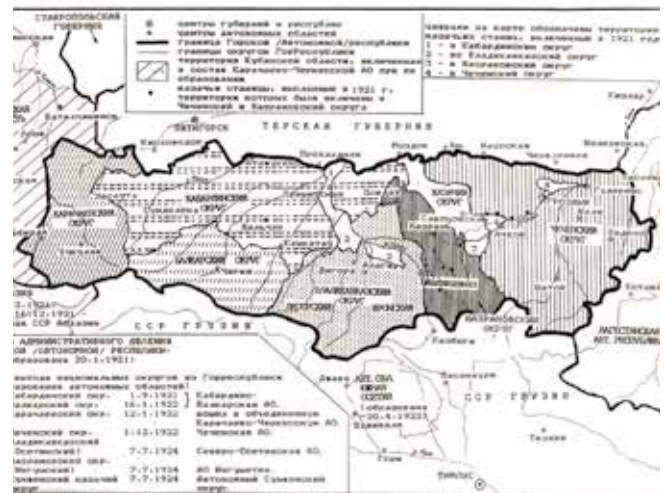


*North Caucasus leaders, government members of the Mountain Republic.
A drawing by Yevgeny Lansere, eyewitness of the developments*

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