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DIPLOMATIC ORIGINS OF ALBANIAN - TURKISH RELATIONS

The Proclamation of the New Turkish Republic and the establishment of new government bodies headed by Mustafa Kamal, marks the first phase of efforts for the diplomatic relations between the two countries. They would be materialized only in early 1920, when circumstances were created for the genuine diplomatic ties between the two countries. Under an agreement between the government out of Lushnja Congress (January 28 to 31) in 1920 and that of the Turkish government led by M.Q. Atatürk, was sent to Albania a 25-member military delegation headed by Colonel of division Selahadin Saip Shkoza. This commander of Albanian origin from Prizren, according to the order given by Atatürk, received the Albanian citizenship, was elected MP and during the governing of Iljaz Vrioni's cabinet 1921-1922 served as minister of national defense.

In view of the desire and work to create a good tradition of cooperation between the two newly formed states, which began in the early twentieth, it would be noted a cracking, which started in January 1923, when Greece and Turkey signed an agreement in Lausanne for the exchange of populations. Although, both sides agreed to exclude from this agreement the Albanian population (Çams) who lived in Greece, again Athens as well as Ankara did not stand their commitments. If the government of Athens seized the opportunity to get rid of Muslim Albanian minority within its borders, the Ankara government has strong reasons to favor such an exchange: first, it wanted to reassure somehow the increase of population that had suffered huge losses during war with Greece, and second, to leave the property left by the expatriated became parts of the final accounts shared between the two governments. The same spirit and attitude towards the Çam population was retained by the Turkish representative in the mixed commission, which was created to investigate and revise the exchange of populations, not objecting the Greek government for the systematic violence and the exchange of the Albanian population living in Greece, as well as non-collaboration with the Albanian government to prevent such a genocide. This policy followed by Ankara created, in relations between the two countries, a spirit of incredulity that would last for some time.