

UDC 341.7(477:479.24)“1918/1920”
DOI 10.24919/2519-058X.28.287554

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Bibliographic Description of the Article: Mustafazade, P. (2023). The Initiative to Establish Diplomatic Contact between the Ukrainian People's Republic and Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. *Skhidnoievropeyskyi istorychnyi visnyk [East European Historical Bulletin]*, 28, 116–124. doi: 10.24919/2519-058X.28.287554

**THE INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC CONTACT
BETWEEN THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
AND AZERBAIJAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

Abstract. *The purpose of the research is to highlight the history of diplomatic relations between the governments of the Ukrainian People's Republic and the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1918 – 1920 and determine the active role of Vasyl Kuzhym and Yusif Vazirov. The methodology of the research is based on the application of historical chronological and comparative methods. Inductive and deductive methods have also been used to reconstruct certain historical events based on historiographical sources. The method of analysis contributed to the understanding of the international situation in the specified period and the role of Azerbaijan-Ukrainian relations. Inductive and deductive methods have been also used to reconstruct certain historical events according to historiographical sources. The scientific novelty consists in the fact that it is the first attempt to analyze diplomatic contacts between the Ukrainian People's Republic and Azerbaijan Democratic Republic based on a collection of historical materials collected by the Azerbaijan and the Ukrainian historians. The specified historical period was previously studied in the context of relations between Ukraine and the Transcaucasian republics. This article is an attempt to give an assessment of rapprochement level between Ukraine and Azerbaijan. The Conclusion. The main reason for the diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Ukraine development issue was the lack of financial resources, the presence of an external threat, in particular the Bolsheviks and their desire to eliminate the independence of the republics. The diplomatic relations between the Ukrainian People's Republic and the first Azerbaijan Republic (1918 – 1920) were friendly and at the same time had a strategic focus. The Azerbaijani students studied in the Ukrainian universities, the Ukrainians, who lived mainly in Mughan region of Azerbaijan had their official representative, who supported their rights.*

Key words: Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, Ukrainian People's Republic, diplomat, Parliament, Yusif Bey Vazirov, Vasyl Kuzhym

ІНІЦІАТИВА ВСТАНОВЛЕННЯ ДИПЛОМАТИЧНИХ КОНТАКТІВ МІЖ УКРАЇНСЬКОЮ НАРОДНОЮ РЕСПУБЛІКОЮ І АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСЬКОЮ ДЕМОКРАТИЧНОЮ РЕСПУБЛІКОЮ

*Метою статті є висвітлення питання історії дипломатичних відносин між урядами Української Народної Республіки та Азербайджанської Демократичної Республіки в період між 1918 – 1920 рр., а також визначення активної ролі Василя Кужима і Юсіфа Везірова. **Методологія дослідження** базується на використанні історично-хронологічного та порівняльного методу. Для дослідження окремих історичних подій за історіографічними джерелами використовувалися також індуктивний і дедуктивний методи. Метод аналізу сприяв розумінню міжнародної ситуації вказаного періоду та ролі азербайджано-українських відносин. **Наукова новизна** статті пов'язана з тим, що у ній на основі української і азербайджанської історіографії, а також деяких архівних відомостей Державного Архіву Азербайджанської Республіки, вивчається історія дипломатичних відносин Азербайджанської Демократичної Республіки та Української Народної Республіки (1918 – 1920) через призму діяльності їх представників в умовах тогочасної складної політичної ситуації. Якщо раніше вказаний період досліджувався у контексті відносин України та Закавказьких республік, то в цій статті є спроба дати оцінку рівню зближення України і Азербайджану. **Висновки.** Головною причиною проблеми розвитку дипломатичних відносин була недостатність фінансових коштів та присутність зовнішньої загрози, а саме більшовицької, яка проявлялася у бажанні радянської влади підкорити інші держави та ліквідувати їхню незалежність. Незважаючи на ці перепони, дипломатичні відносини між Українською Народною Республікою та першою Азербайджанською Республікою (1918 – 1920) були дружніми і водночас мали стратегічну спрямованість. Азербайджанські студенти навчалися в українських ЗВО, українці, які проживали переважно в Муганській області Азербайджану, мали офіційного представника, тобто могли звертатися до уряду Азербайджану при будь-яких обставинах, що стосувалися їх прав та обов'язків.*

***Ключові слова:** Азербайджанська Демократична Республіка, Українська Народна Республіка, дипломат, парламент, Юсіф Бей Везіров, Василь Кужим.*

The Problem Statement. The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, which historians sometimes call the First Republic, like the Ukrainian People's Republic, sought recognition of independence by the world community, primarily the Allies. At the beginning of the 20th century, the Azerbaijani and the Ukrainian representatives found themselves in a very difficult situation, since without international support, the struggle for independence would have been difficult and long. While the Central Rada of the Ukrainian People's Republic relied on neighboring Poland with which the secret Treaty of Warsaw (Petliura-Pilsudski Alliance) was signed, the first Republic of Azerbaijan was aware of the Ottoman Empire's strategic role in the liberation mission of the Turkic peoples.

Given these political developments, the need to establish diplomatic relations was one of the main conditions for the international recognition of states. The next important fact is the lack of financial resources, which limited the possibility of setting up a permanent diplomatic representative office. It can be said with certainty that the Azerbaijani and the Ukrainian governments at the beginning of the 20th century shared common goals and values. Thus, amid these developments, the establishment of diplomatic relations was one of the main conditions for the international recognition of states.

The scientific relevance of the article is connected with the fact that in the conditions of threat and pressure of great powers, the importance of international cooperation is increasing. The rapprochement of Ukraine and Azerbaijan has cultural, historical, political and economic grounds. The study of this issue is part of the history of international relations and diplomacy. History proved that the national movements of small and large nations that

fought for autonomy, and later for independence, are powerful and have a lot of influence. In this context, attention should be paid to the development trends of the Azerbaijani-Ukrainian relations in 1918 – 1920s. The purpose of this study is to study the attempt of the Azerbaijani and the Ukrainian diplomats to establish friendly relations between the republics in the conditions of the White and Bolshevik Russia policies, emphasizing the role of some famous statesmen (Vazirov, Kuzhym, Kraskovsky).

The Analysis of Recent Research and Publications. The issue of the history of diplomatic contacts between the government of the Ukrainian People's Republic and the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic since 1918 and before the official establishment of the Soviet power among the Ukrainian historians was studied by Irina Matiash "Activities of the Extraordinary Diplomatic Mission of the Ukrainian People's Republic in the Caucasus (1919 – 1921)" (Matiash, 2018). This article contains valuable archival material and the author's personal analysis of the activities of the UNR diplomatic mission in the Caucasus; Oleh Kupchik in the article "The Diplomatic Relations Establishment Between Ukraine and Azerbaijan in 1918 – 1920" covered the events of this period, noted the significant contribution to the Ukrainian-Azerbaijani relations development by such diplomats as Yusif Vezirov, Ivan Kraskovskyi, and Vasyl Kuzhym. Viktor Matvienko's monograph "The Ukrainian Diplomacy 1917 – 1921: In Post-Imperial Russia" (Matvienko, 2002) also deserve attention. This is the first and important work in which the issues of the UNR diplomatic mission in the Caucasus are investigated. The author examined in detail the issue of the Caucasian direction of the Ukrainian diplomacy in 1918 and analyzed the problems of the Ukrainian diplomatic mission in the Caucasus in 1919 – 1920.

Some facts about the life and activities of Yusif Vazirov in the encyclopedia of the Azerbaijan People's Republic (Azerbaycan Xalq Cumhuriyyet Ensiklopediyasi) is a contribution to the study of Vezirov's ideology and life position. Among the Azerbaijani scholars, Jamil Hasanli's work "The History of the Foreign Policy of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic" also should be noted (Hasanli, 2009). In this paper, the author on the basis of important archival facts, examines the issue of Azerbaijan's foreign relations with the leading states of the world and the position of the Azerbaijani diplomats in the 1918 – 1920s, their perseverance and aspiration for the recognition of Azerbaijan on the international arena.

The monograph contains some materials on Y. Vazirov's diplomatic activities in Istanbul, Kyiv and the Crimea. Ismail Musa in the work "Azerbaijan In The System of The International Relations, March, 1917 – April, 1920" (Musa, 2011) analyzed the first steps of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the main principles and goals of the Azerbaijani diplomats, their struggle for state integrity. Orkhan Vazirov (who was Y.Vazirov's son) wrote a book about the life and work of his father, which is called "The First Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Ukraine and Turkey" (Vazirov, 2007).

Foreign political events in the history of Azerbaijan in the period 1918 – 1920 were analyzed by Nasibzade "Foreign Policy of Azerbaijan 1918 – 1920" (Nasibzade, 1996). The objects of this research were the foreign policy of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the political situation in Azerbaijan after the February revolution, and the Azerbaijani diplomats' activities outside their country.

The Central Rada (Council) of the Ukrainian People's Republic extended the process of establishing friendly relations with the new republics to the Caucasus as well. The representatives of the Caucasus were for the Ukrainian revolution and the Central Rada formation with their government at the congress of peoples' sincerely. There were the

following delegates: Y. Baratashvili was from Georgia, M. Vekilov – from Azerbaijan and others, who recognized the leading role of the Central Rada in the creation of a democratic federation and used its state experience (Datskiv, 2009, p. 279).

On April 29, 1918, with the German troop's support, a coup took place, which proclaimed General Pavlo Skoropadskyi the Hetman of the Ukrainian State. By his decree, Hetman Skoropadskyi dissolved the Ukrainian Central Committee and the Small Council, and canceled the laws issued by them.

The Purpose of the Research. One of the most important reasons for friendly relations between countries was political support in the desire to become independent; therefore, the main goal of the article is to prove the existence of an initiative to develop diplomatic relations between the UNR and the ADR in an unstable international political situation.

The Results of the Research. The analysis of historical events allowed us to come to the conclusion that an initiative to establish diplomatic relations between the governments of the Ukrainian People's Republic and the ADR was an attempt to move away from the influence of imperial ambitions, to build political, economic and cultural relations on an equal basis. The greatest merit in this direction was the activity of the Azerbaijani and the Ukrainian diplomats.

On 10 October, 1918 a commissariat consisting of Jelil Sadikov (Chairman), Yusif Salekhov (Assistant) and Mir Jalal Mir Taliyev (Secretary) was elected at the general meeting of Azerbaijanis in Kyiv. Before “establishing contact with the Azerbaijani government”, he was supposed to “protect the interests of the citizens of Azerbaijan”. The Ukrainian state actually recognized all the state entities that emerged in the post-imperial space at that time... Ukraine turned out to be the only international partner for the Transcaucasian republics, which actually recognized their independence and established diplomatic relations, accepting the plenipotentiary representatives of their governments” (Matvienko, 2002, pp. 181–182). It is possible to disagree with the opinion of the Ukrainian historian, because along with Ukraine, the Ottoman Empire and Iran also played an important role in the process of recognition of Azerbaijan. The Ukrainian representatives took care of the situation of their citizens in Azerbaijan, so the Chairman of the Ukrainian Council addressed the Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan with a request on behalf of 10 thousand Ukrainian citizens living in Azerbaijan to consider the desire of the Ukrainians to have two representatives in the Republic of Azerbaijan (from 22.01.1919) (The National Archive Department of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Baku – NADRA, 1919, f. 895, d. 1, № 32, p. 1). On January 30, 1919, the Ukrainian National Council decided unanimously that the interests of the Ukrainians would be represented in the Parliament of Azerbaijan by V. Kuzhym, a man with true republican and independent views (NADRA, 1919, f. 896, d. 1, № 32, p. 2). He became the Vice-Consul of Ukraine in Azerbaijan, which will be mentioned later.

The Ukrainian historians explained the importance of establishing diplomatic contacts with the states of the Caucasus as a need to promote and ensure mutually beneficial trade contacts. In the telegram of the Minister of Trade and Industry of Azerbaijan dated February 3, 1919, there was information that “since Georgia could not provide Azerbaijan with such products as sugar and bread, it was necessary to turn to distant Ukraine for them. But in order to have successful communication with Ukraine, it was necessary to take care of establishing the correct connection through the Black Sea and to free the transit through Georgia. “On December 26, 1918, the Ministry concluded a transit agreement with Georgia. After that, the Ministry began to conclude trade agreements with solid companies and individuals for the exchange of goods with Ukraine” (NADRA, f. 1610, d. 11, № 10, p. 1 rev.s.).

This information makes us understand that the relations between Azerbaijan and Ukraine were built not only in the political direction, but also in the trade direction.

The primary task of these governments, both the Azerbaijani and the Ukrainian, was the solution of national territorial sovereignty. In the summer of 1918, the governments of the Ukrainian state of Pavlo Skoropadskyi and the ADR agreed on an exchange of the representatives. Then the UNR Directory replaced the Hetmanate (Ukrainian State), which was overthrown on December 14, 1918.

In such a difficult domestic political situation in the country, the definition of foreign policy goals caused discussions. Despite these circumstances, the first Ukrainian diplomatic mission in the Caucasus was created by order of the Directory of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian People's Republic No. 76 of 1919. (NADRA, f. 1610, d. 11, № 76).

Characterizing the existence of the UNR and ADR it is necessary to analyze the political portraits of V. Vynnychenko (who held the position of head of the government of the UNR) and M. Rasulzade – the head of the National Council of the ADR. Despite the fact that the Soviet historiography did a lot to convince our compatriots and the whole world that both Vynnychenko and M. Rasulzade were bourgeois nationalist revolutionaries, the historians confirm their uncompromising struggle for the statehood in difficult conditions. These people were the representatives of the ideology of the statehood and the national culture.

In turn, the main goals of the foreign policy of the ADR were: 1) stopping the armed violence of neighboring Armenia against the Azerbaijani people; 2) to oppose the Russian policy of a single and indivisible state, which violated the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (Musa, 2011, p. 56). These goals could be considered not only external, but also internal at the same time.

During his visit to Istanbul, the Chairman of the ADR Parliament Alimerdan Bey Topchibashev met with the diplomatic representatives of Russia, the USA, Italy, and Ukraine to discuss the international situation at the Paris Peace Conference (Nasibzade, 1996, p. 148), cause the government sought to maintain ties with other countries in order to gain their support and recognition. The emigrants were another way of support. The Azerbaijani historians, in particular Nasiman Yagublu, emphasized rightly that “Mamad Emin Rasulzade tried to rely on emigrants from countries that fell under the dependence of Russia. With the help of these people, he wanted to create military political centers to fight against the Bolsheviks. The department closely cooperated with the representatives of Ukraine, Great Britain and émigré politicians of the Caucasus” (Yaqublu, 2015, p. 84).

On February 8, 1918, Ivan Kraskovsky handed over credentials to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Fatali Khan Khoyskyi. Then, Lev Lysnyak was appointed as the new consul general of the Ukrainian People's Republic in Tiflis (with jurisdiction over the same Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan). As an experienced manager and diplomatic worker, I. Kraskovsky established contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. His first appeals to the Georgian Foreign Policy Department concerned assistance in the payment of the extraordinary diplomatic mission of the Ukrainian People's Republic of Ukraine, received from the Ukrainian side by the Georgian Mission in Kyiv, 500,000 rubles (Yaqublu, 2015, p. 84). I. Kraskovsky managed to achieve recognition of L. Lisniak as General Consul by the foreign policy departments of Armenia (May 16) and Azerbaijan (August 5). Considering that in Baku, it was not possible to resume the activities of the consulate due to the lack of funding and the tense political situation, and local Ukrainians needed the protection of their rights and official support, I. Kraskovsky submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian People's Republic a proposal to establish the post of honorary Vice-Consul of

the Ukrainian People's Republic of Azerbaijan in Azerbaijan and to appoint the head of the Ukrainian Council in Baku O. Golovan. However, O. Golovan worked on it for less than two months. Then he refused, citing his advanced age (Matiash, 2016, p. 123).

On July 20, 1918, the Pole Oleksiy Kulinskyi was appointed General Consul of the Ukrainian state in Tiflis (with jurisdiction over Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia). During her dismissal from the post of consul general in Tiflis, already during the UNR Directory, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs accused her of conducting an anti-Ukrainian policy in the Caucasus, compromising the Ukrainian representation, as well as activities incompatible with consular work. After this incident, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian People's Republic continued to conduct a strict selection of candidates for consul positions. Later, Yevhen Zasyadka was appointed consul in Batumi (Denisenko, 2013, p. 203). I. Kraskovsky was completely satisfied with the work of Ye. Zasyadka, who were the consular agent of the 1st rank in Batumi: "Given the great importance of Batumi as the key to the Caucasus and its best port on the Black Sea" (Matvienko, 2002, p. 186) he understood the prospects of deepening diplomatic contacts with these states. Later, the Ukrainian diplomatic mission in the Caucasus was headed by G. Kraskovsky. His powers extended to Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. Shortly after his arrival, I. Kraskovsky informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian People's Republic that he handed over credentials to the heads of the governments of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan during official meetings. The representatives of the diplomatic corps in Tiflis met the Ukrainian ambassador without special emotions. Only the Polish and the Lithuanian representatives agreed to official visits. Commissioner John Oliver Wardrop, the representative of Great Britain, whose sphere of political and economic influence was in Transcaucasia at the time, refused to accept I. Kraskovsky as a state representative, but met him as a private person. Such a position did not indicate the readiness of the British administration to recognize an independent UNR. However, the meeting itself was perceived by the Ukrainian diplomats as a positive fact (Matiash, 2018, p. 79).

On January 1, 1920 with the assistance of the Head of the Ukrainian Extraordinary Mission, Ivan Kraskovsky, it was agreed with the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry, that Vasyl Kuzhym would perform the duties of the Vice-Consul of the Ukrainian People's Republic in Azerbaijan. He was Pavlo Skoropadsky's son-in-law.

The Vice-Consulate of the Ukrainian People's Republic was located in Baku at 13 Istiglaliyat Street (In Azeri means "Independence"). The Honorary Consul stated that the Ukrainians live in Dzhevatskiy and Lenkoransky poviats of Mugan region, which was called the "second Ukraine", in a difficult situation (in destroyed houses, without funds, food and clothing), and asked for the allocation of land plots for them to carry out agricultural work

In March 1920, the head of the Extraordinary Mission I. Kraskovsky instructed V. Kuzhym to take a work trip to Ukraine. He was carrying a diplomatic entourage, and he had to receive funds for the needs of the mission from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian People's Republic. But he was unable to return to Baku, because in April the Bolsheviks captured him and announced the formation of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. V. Kuzhym held the position of Vice-Consul in Baku for at least one month, as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian People's Republic of Ukraine conducted an official inspection regarding the misuse of funds in the Vice Consulate. The guilt of V. Kuzhym was not established and it remained unknown. Thus, the Ukrainian leadership sought to establish official relations with the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, since "the Caucasus was one of the centers of the national political life of the Ukrainians" (20,000 people lived in Mugan region alone) (Denisenko, 2013, p. 207).

The main obstacle to the development of diplomatic relations between the Azerbaijani and the Ukrainian peoples was Bolshevism and Russia's desire to Sovietize these territories. All the ultimatums given by the Soviet government of the Ukrainian People's Republic were rejected by S. Petlyura and V. Vynnychenko. That is why; Russia started a war against the Ukrainian People's Republic, which, in turn, did not have combat-capable armed forces that would effectively counter Russia's attack.

Thus, analyzing the above-mentioned historical facts, it could be stated that the internal political instability of both the Ukrainian People's Republic and the first Republic of Azerbaijan created foreign policy problems, since the leading countries of the world considered them as part of Russia and the Bolshevik government. When it came to an independent diplomatic line of the Ukrainian People's Republic, this caused problems for the new government, because the opening of a diplomatic mission required financial resources. The main goals of the UNR were the liberation of the territory from the Red Army and the White Guards, then friendly ties with various countries were lined up. In this regard, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was in a similar situation, which definitely influenced the formation of friendly relations with other countries.

If the government of the Ukrainian People's Republic was able to solve its main problem that was the question of independence than opening of diplomatic missions and the signing of various agreements with other countries would be possible and even necessary. Unfortunately, all these issues prevented the UNR from establishing long-term diplomatic contacts with other countries, including Azerbaijan.

On the Issue of Life and Activity of Yusif Vazir

The establishment of the representative office of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Kyiv was initiated by the Azerbaijani student association headed by a native of the city of Shusha, a graduate of the Faculty of Law of the University of St. Volodymyr in Kyiv by Yusif Vazir (Chemenzeminli). (Yusif Vazir Chamanzaminli; 1887 – 1943). After the February Revolution of 1917, Yusif Vazir returned from Halychyna, where fate had thrown him during World War I. Despite being evacuated together with the University of St. Volodymyr in 1915 in Saratov and work in the Saratov Court Chamber, he did come to Kyiv, from where he went to the front. Yu. Vazir took the pseudonym “Chemenzeminli” in honor of the name of the village where three brothers lived, who helped his family survive after the untimely death of his father.

Yusif Vazir (Chemenzeminli), the founder of the Azerbaijani society in Kyiv, was to take the post of ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Ukrainian State, Poland and the Crimea. However, the ambassador did not reach Kyiv, he stopped due to the capture of many Ukrainian territories by the Bolsheviks in Simferopol. The commissariat continued to work in Kyiv until the arrival of the Bolsheviks (Denisenko, 2013, p. 359). In the encyclopedia “The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic”, the date of appointment of Vazir as ambassador to Ukraine was indicated as January, 1919 (Azerbaycan Halq Cumhuriyyeti Ensiklopediyası, 2004, p. 289). Although the Azerbaijan newspaper No. 30 dated November 4, 1918 stated: “At the government meeting Yu. Vazir was appointed a political representative in Ukraine” (Azerbaycan qazeti (1918 – 1919), 2022, p. 56). In the same newspaper, No. 32 of November 6, 1918, it was written: “The Azerbaijani government has decided to appoint Yu. Vazir as a political representative in the Crimea” (Azerbaycan qazeti (1918 – 1919), 2022, p. 101). It is also important to note that the Azerbaijan newspaper very often mentioned the events in Ukraine on the pages of the foreign news section. There was also a speech by M. E. Rasulzadeh in the newspaper, who during his speech in Ganja noted: “Our situation (meaning political – P. Mustafazade. Author) is similar to the situation in Ukraine. This is

related to the “goals of the Russian revolution” and Russian revolutionaries living with the poisoned idea of “Great Russia” (*Azerbaijan qazeti* (1918 – 1919), 2022, p. 292).

The main task of the newly created diplomatic mission was to familiarize society with Azerbaijan, which, unfortunately, was considered an integral part of the Russian Empire, that is why Y. Vazir wrote numerous articles about the culture, history, and economy of Azerbaijan (Vazirov, 1997, p. 80). The book “Azerbaijan Autonomy”, which Y. Vazir wrote while still in Kyiv, was published in Baku. Yes, he became the first to promote the idea of independence and fight for it (*Azerbaijan Halq Cumhuriyyeti Ensiklopediyası*, 2004, p. 289). Yusif Vazir's activity had both creative and a political character. Thus, in his publications he spoke about the important attributes of the state: the people, the national territory (means state) and the national government (*Azerbaijan Halk Cumhuriyyeti Ensiklopediyası*, 2004, p. 290).

Y. Vazir was always interested in the situation of the Azerbaijani students, he wrote about their problems and made efforts to help them. The difficult situation of the Azerbaijani students is confirmed by a letter from student Habib Babazadeh. He wrote that the Azerbaijani students in Russia, especially in Ukraine, had many difficulties, they were unemployed. In order to provide for themselves, “our students were forced to engage in such activities that did not correspond to student traditions” (*Azerbaijan qazeti* (1918 – 1919), 2022, p. 313).

During his studies in Kyiv, Yu. Vazir created a youth organization called “Society of Compatriots of the Caucasian Students”, which held cultural evenings and theater performances called the “Night of the East”.

Yusif Vazir was appointed a diplomatic representative not only in Ukraine, but later in Turkey. In Istanbul, Yu. Vazir was received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Turkey hoped to strengthen the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. Turkey could influence the independence movement in Azerbaijan (Hasanli, 2009, pp. 290–291).

Analyzing the biography of Yu. Vazir, one can understand that his life was quite difficult, because, despite all the difficulties, his main legacy was not only his literary work, which is widely studied in Azerbaijan by philological scientists and historians. Yu. Vazir's political, namely diplomatic activity is of interest and is even relevant in modern historiography and needs deeper research.

The Conclusion. Firstly, the main reason for the problem of the development of diplomatic relations was the lack of financial resources. Secondly, in the face of an external threat, namely the Bolsheviks and their desire to eliminate the independence of the republics. These two main reasons influenced the history of diplomatic relations between the first Republic of Azerbaijan and the UPR.

Some diplomats such as Kraskovsky, Lisniak, Kuzhym, and Vazir made efforts to improve foreign policy relations between their countries in the difficult socio-political and economic conditions prevailing at beginning of the 20th century. The Azerbaijani and the Ukrainian diplomacy was at the stage of formation, but at the same time there was a struggle for statehood and autonomy. Based on the above, it can be stated that the diplomatic relations between the Ukrainian People's Republic and the first Azerbaijan Republic (1918 – 1920) were friendly and at the same time had a strategic orientation. However, due to certain reasons, they were not fully developed.

Acknowledgement. The author would like to express sincere gratitude to all members of the editorial board for the advice provided during the preparation of the article for publishing.

Funding. The author did not receive any financial support for the publication of the article.

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*The article was received December 07, 2022.
Article recommended for publishing 30/08/2023.*