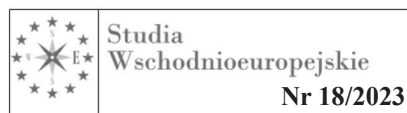


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Formation of Azerbaijani-Polish relations Activity of Poles in Azerbaijan during the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920)

M.A.Rasulzade, a prominent state figure of Azerbaijan, ideologist of the Azerbaijan National Liberation Movement and the creator of our first democratic state, specified three main reasons for Azerbaijan-Poland relations: "Affiliation of Azerbaijan to the family of Caucasian peoples, prevalence of local Turk nation in the country and, finally, suppression of this people by the Russian imperialism".¹

M.A.Rasulzade noted that Azerbaijanis always remembered the period when the bravest sons of Poland were interested in Shamil's heroic struggle. As it has been known, at that period the Poles helped the Shamil's liberation movement with artillery and arms. Colonel Teofil Łapiński and his group of 200 warriors waged a fight for freedom of Caucasus.

It should be noted that non-recognition of the partition of Poland by Turkey inspired everlasting respect in this people towards the Turks.

Political figures of Azerbaijan which was among the peoples under the Russian oppression have built solid relationship with Polish politicians. We should also pay attention to the relations established between our and Polish representatives in the State Duma of Tsarist Russia within the framework of these relationships. At the same time this cooperation continued in the famous "Federalist Society". It was created by representatives from other provinces of the First Imperial Duma. Prominent political figure Aleksander Lednicki and later Head of the Azerbaijan Parliament Alimardan bey Topchubashov were the members of the presidium of this society."²

¹ Mehmed Emin Resulzade. Azerbaydzan w walce o niepodleglosc. Azerbaydzanskie wydawnictwo narodowe Warszawa, 1938. p. 165.

² Mehmed Emin Resulzade. Azerbejdzan w walce o niepodleglosc. Azerbejdzanskie wydawnictwo narodowe, Warszawa 1938, p.165-167

It should be noted that first sources on the history of Azerbaijan-Poland relations date from the 15th century. First correspondence related to political relationship between the two nations had been started from that period.

And in the 18th century, information about Azerbaijan was published in writings of Tadeusz Krusiński, Włodzimierz Broniewski, Jan Potocki who visited the Caucasus region between 1740 and 1796.³

From the 19th century onwards, relations between the two nations rose to a new level of development. Both peoples of similar fates (both of them were occupied by Russia at that time) were also actively building cultural relations.

Aleksander Chodźko, a student of famous Azerbaijani orientalist Mirza Jafar Topchubashov, has played a great role in the interest displayed by celebrated Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz in Oriental theme.⁴

Later, M. C. Topchubashov translated Mickiewicz's poems into Farsi.⁵

A Polish poet, Tadeusz Łada - Zabłocki (1813-1847), who was sent into exile to the Caucasus, mentioned in his writings many facts relative to Azerbaijan that are worth careful study. The main scene of events described in "Caucasian Essays" and "Mahmudbey" by famous writer Władysław Strzeliński (1820-1846) was beautiful lands of Azerbaijan Lan-karan, Baku, Shamakha and Garabagh.⁶

A talented Polish writer, J. Strusiński also visited Azerbaijan, learnt the Azerbaijani language and later wrote a story entitled "Gulshad" which was published in 1872.⁷

It should be noted that from the 19th century onwards prominent Azerbaijani scientists and literary figures also visited Poland where could establish strong ties. In the first half of the 19th century, Abbasgulu Agha Gudsı, a famous Azerbaijani scientist and writer was one of those who took the first steps in this sphere.⁸

There are valuable facts evidencing his visit to Warsaw and creative ties between A.A. Gudsı and T. Łada - Zabłocki.⁹

³ Mieczysław Ingot, "Polacy piszący na Kaukazie pierwszej poł. XIX w.", Pamiętnik Litercki, Warszawa 1957

⁴ Г. Абдуллабекова. Темы и инспирации Азербайджана в Польской литературе XIX века. Баку, «Озан», 1999, p. 36

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ М.Рафили. Первый азербайджанский просветитель Бакиханов. (Литературный Азербайджан, 1941, N2, с.75

⁹ Ibid,с.76

A celebrated Azerbaijani writer, Ismayil bey Gutgashenli also made a major contribution to the formation of Azerbaijani-Polish relations.¹⁰

His book entitled “Oriental Stories” published in French in Warsaw is a significant source for studying the history of the relationship between the two nations. Great thinker, dramatist Mirza Fatali Akhundov also made a contribution to Azerbaijani-Polish relations. In 1876, a well-known Polish virtuoso violinist M. Antoni de Koncki visited Tbilisi. Having met the musician, M.F.Akhundov dedicated his poem “Wanda” to the violinist’s daughter who was standing out for her competence, spacious mind and high level of polemic culture. The writer even wished Azerbaijani girls would be as competent and progressive-minded as she was.¹¹

It is also worth noting is that celebrated orientalists Mirza Kazim bey, Mir Jafar Topchubashov, Mahammad Sadig Aghabeyzade also played an invaluable role in the development of oriental studies in Poland.¹²

Goychay-born Mahammad Sadig bey Aghabeyzade had been working about 17 years (1927-1943) in the Lwów University (founded in 1661 by Polish King, Jan Kazimierz) and educated a generation of talented orientalists.

And in the early 20th century more than thousand Poles lived in Azerbaijan. The Poles who were living in Baku had own monthly scientific and cultural Faris newspaper in an edition of 200 copies. The newspaper editor was I. Wojniłowicz. The first issue of the newspaper came out on January 22, 1907. And in 1908, its edition was stopped.¹³

The writings of Adam Mickiewicz¹⁴ and Henryk Sienkiewicz¹⁵ and articles related to them were published in the Kaspi newspaper published in Baku. At the same period Polish writer Adam.Asnyk’s work was staged. And the Kaspi newspaper kept on publishing Poland-related articles and information.¹⁶

Articles on the cultural and political life of Poland were published in the following newspapers and journals edited in Azerbaijan in the early 20th century: Molla Nasraddin, Taza hayat, Sadayi-Gafgaz, Achig soz¹⁷, Sovgat.¹⁸”

¹⁰ М.Рафили. Тюркские западники. Автореферат канд. Дисс. Ленинград, 1936

¹¹ М.Рафили. Мирза Фатали Ахундов. Баку, Азернешр, 1939, с. 88-89

¹² Г.Абдуллабекова. Темы и инспирации Азербайджана в Польской литературе XIX века. Баку, «Озан», 1999, с.95-96; 211.А.К.Рзаев. Азербайджанские востоковеды XIX века. Баку, ЭЛМ, 1986

¹³ Г.Абдуллабекова. Темы и инспирации Азербайджана в Польской литературе XIX века. Баку, «Озан», 1999, с. 120

¹⁴ «Каспий», 1898, N268

¹⁵ «Каспий», 1898, N71

¹⁶ «Каспий», 1898, N72

¹⁷ “Açıq söz”, 07.11.1916; 16.“Açıq söz”, 24.01.1917

¹⁸ M.N.Qaragözov. Polşa məsələsi. Bakı, Sovqat”, 06.12.1916

Information about Azerbaijan-Poland relations held a specific place in the Achig Soz newspaper, edited and published by M. A. Rasulzade. In 1916, the Achig Soz newspaper published an obituary notice of Henryk Sienkiewicz death.¹⁹

An article on the event which was held in Baku in tribute to the memory of Henryk Sienkiewicz was published in the issue of Achig Soz newspaper of January 24, 1917. This event was organized on January 22 by the Polish Society and gathered about 40 Poles.

After a representative of the Poles declared the event open, representative of Georgian, Jewish, Czech, Polish and Latvian peoples also delivered their speeches. Mehdi bey Hajinski, Ali Sabri Gasimov, Sara khanim Akhundova, Nariman Narimanov, Rza Zaki Latifbeyov, Alimardan bey Topchubashov spoke on behalf of Azerbaijani intellectuals. The speech of M.A.Rasulzade was very impressive and aroused much interest in the event participants.

In the early 20th century, a well-known Polish petroleum producer Stefan Rylski formed the Polish Committee in Baku and this Committee rendered aid to Polish refugees.

At the same time there was the Polish House functioning in Baku. The Polish House often held cultural events and organized interesting performances.²⁰

It should be noted that later a Polish writer Stanisław Strumph – Wojtkiewicz wrote a novel on the life of the Poles who were living in Baku entitled “My returning home”, and Stefan Żeromski wrote the novel “Przedwiośnie” beginning in early XXth century Baku.

We can list many facts evidencing close relations between the Azerbaijanis and the Poles. A well-known Polish orientalist Władysław Kościuszko gave interesting information on famous scientist and poet Mirza Kazim bey in his writings published in 1858. He wrote that Mirza Kazim bey lived in Poland for 18 years and had learnt Polish well. At the same time he dedicated a nice poem to Warsaw. There are also few poems in Polish devoted to the theme of religion among Mirza Kazim bey’s poetic patterns.²¹

In his report “Literature in modern Azerbaijan” delivered in 1936 in Paris, M.A.Rasulzade disclosed interesting facts on the poems of famous Azerbaijani poet Mahammad Hadi.²² In his speech, M.A.Rasulzade noted that the poems written by M.Hadi excited strong interest. In these poems M.Hadi described horrors of war and military battles in the Carpathians where he happened to be as well as made wise philosophical conclusions.

¹⁹ “Açıq söz”, 07.11.1916

²⁰ Г.Абдуллабекова. Темы и инспирации Азербайджана в Польской литературе XIX века. Баку, «Озан», 1999, с. 123

²¹ N.Yaqublu. Azərbaycan-Polşa əlaqələrində M.Ə.Rəsulzadənin rolu. B., “Adiloğlu”, 2007. s.34

²² М.Э.Расулзаде. Современная литература Азербайджана. Париж, 1936. с.11-17

Actually, the Poles who lived under the regime of Tsarist Russia were kind about the Azerbaijanis whenever possible.

Publication of the *Ekinchi* newspaper, the first sample of our national press, was taken kindly by Baku Governor Starosielski, Polish by birth.

Polish capitalists also represented the Baku oil sector among the Rylski brothers can be mentioned. The Asadullayev brothers' oil company transported oil to Poland where many oil depots were located.

And lawyer Stanisław Wąsowicz, Polish by birth, was a member of the first Azerbaijani Parliament formed in 1918. According to the rules established in the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920), representatives of ethnic minorities could have only one mandate (or deputy seat). S. Wąsowicz always supported the Azerbaijan national identity idea and Musavat Party's position in his speeches during the parliament sessions.

Polish intellectuals also took part in the new democratic state building. Engineers and law experts exhibited activity in this sphere. Polish officers played a significant role in the formation of the Azerbaijan Army. General Maciej Sulkiwicz, Polish and Tatar by birth, was the Chief of Staff of the Azerbaijan Army and later was shot by Bolsheviks.

It should be noted that in 1918-1920, Polish Tatars also played a great role in the first Azerbaijan state building and strengthening. Among them there were general-lieutenant Maciej Sulkiwicz (1865-1920), who was the Chief of Staff of the Azerbaijan Army till the Bolshevik occupation in April 1920.²³

Head of the Office of the Council of Ministers, publicist and historian Leon Nayman - Kryczyński (1887-1939)²⁴, his brother, Deputy Minister of Justice Olgerd Nayman - Kryczyński (1885-1939) and other Poles whose active participation is noteworthy. About 20 Polish Tatars in total worked for military and governmental agencies of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

General-lieutenant Maciej Sulkiwicz (according to some sources, Mahammad, and according to other data, Suleyman Sulkiwicz) had made an invaluable contribution to the process of a strong army formation in Azerbaijan. M.Sulkiwicz, who was appointed the Chief of Staff of the Azerbaijan Army by order of Military Minister Samad bey Mehmandarov on March 1919, showed genuine selflessness in the work on forming the Azerbaijan National Army.²⁵

²³ Arastun-Bej. General Maciej Sulkiwicz (1865-1920). *Rocznik Tatarski*. t.1, Wilno, 1932 y

²⁴ Leon Kryczyński. Aleksander Sulkiwicz (ps. Czarny Michał, 1867-1916). *Rocznik Tatarski*, t.1, Wilno, 1932

²⁵ V.Quliyev. Polşa tatarları Azərbaycan dövlətçiliyinin xidmətində: general Masey Sulkeviç. "525-ci qəzet", 2 dekabr 2006-cı il; I.N.Yaqublu. Cümhuriyyət Qurucuları. B., "Nurlar", 2018, s.391-397

Another representative of Polish Tatars, Olgierd Nayman Mirza Kryczyński, held the position of prosecutor in the Court of Appeal and later the position of the Deputy Minister of Justice. His brother, Leon Nayman Mirza Kryczyński, was the director of the Office of the Council of Ministers and the editor of the government official agency.²⁶ Another Pole also held the position of the director of the Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Pole Muchrański held the position of the director of the Office of the Ministry of Control, and Alexander Pótorzy was the head of one of departments of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

It should be noted that the policy pursued by the Tsarist regime in Azerbaijan prohibited training of specialists from among the nationals. And in the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, representatives of other nations including the Poles were involved in the process of the new society building.

The Poles held various positions in the territory of Azerbaijan at that time: doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc. One of the most beautiful architectural patterns of Baku, the Ismailiyya Palace, intended for the Muslim Charity Society was also constructed by a Polish engineer, Józef Płoszko.

The Poles showed genuine selflessness in fighting against the Bolsheviks in various regions of Azerbaijan. Polish officers: Eugeniusz Dunin - Marcinkiewicz, captain Jerzy Kłossowski, captain Czarniecki, captain Pawłowski, captain Tomiszyn and others distinguished themselves in the Ganja armed rebellion.

Having formed the artillery within our national army which was headed by Colonel E. Dunin-Marcinkiewicz, they fought fearlessly against the Bolsheviks. The artillery headed by Poles played a special role in the success achieved by the Azerbaijan troops in Mususlu, Hajigabul, Kurdamir and Alat battles. The artillery also took an active part in retaking Baku from the enemy with the assistance of the Turkish neighbors on September 15, 1918.

Turk officers headed by Nuru Pasha, said: "The Turkish infantry can do everything backed by the Azerbaijani Artillery." When Baku was released, Polish officers were decorated with Turkish orders "For Courage". At the same time, they were thanked officially by the Azerbaijani government. After the Turks had left the territory of Azerbaijan according to the Armistice of Mudros, the Poles gave strong support to the national army building process. They had high ranks in the system of Azerbaijani Army. One of the divisions comprised of the light artillery was headed by Charkiewicz, and the horse artillery was headed

²⁶ Azərbaycan Cümhuriyyətinin qurucuları. B., 2018, "Elm və Təhsil" s.105-116

by Dunin-Marcinkiewicz. And the infantry was headed by Colonel Dziewulski and Captain Śnietłowski. The Poles who held various positions also could be found in cavalry regiments of the army. All Poles in the Azerbaijan National Army always were held in respect regardless of their ranks.

With the support of the Poles a munitions maintenance enterprise was established in Baku. The Poles were producing shells at this enterprise. Colonel Dunin-Marcinkiewicz and Captain Rodziewicz took an active part in these activities.

M.A.Rasulzade in his book "Azerbaijan in its Struggle for Independence" published in Polish listed names of the Poles: "I met not only Polish Tatars but also ethnic Poles in Azerbaijan enterprises. Of course, we can't give here a complete list of their names for technical reasons. However I'd like to mention the names of some Poles who played a great role in the life of the Azerbaijani state: investigating magistrate Czesław Gutowski, Assistant Prosecutor Czesław Kłossowski, Assistant Prosecutor Kazimierz Żepski, Assistant Prosecutor Komarowski, notary public Zygmunt Bieliński, judge Żakowicz, judge Pacewicz, Head of the Office of the Ministry of Justice Kisielewski, etc.

As one can see, the Poles were in the majority in the legal sphere. At the same time some of them held various positions in government agencies."²⁷

It should be noted that the Poles always supported our country in recognition of Azerbaijan by foreign states. Azerbaijani representatives established close relations with Polish representatives during the Versailles conference. They often met Ignacy Jan Paderewski and other Polish representatives in Paris.

It is known that one of 23 states which recognized Azerbaijan was Poland. A special delegation headed by the Ambassador Tytus Filipowicz, appointed from Tbilisi (the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in USSR and USA afterwards) visited Baku at that period welcomed by head of Polish Consular Office, Stefan Ryłski.

After the occupation of Azerbaijan by the Bolsheviks in 1920 the first large rebellion was excited in Ganja. An artillery officer Stankiewicz, was killed in a bloody battle against the Bolsheviks like thousands of local residents, soldiers and officers.

There are many aspects in the history that brought the two nations together. These facts are yet more proof that good and frank relations were established between the two peoples.

²⁷ Mehmed Emin Resulzade. *Azerbejdzan w walce o niepodleglosc*. Azerbejdzanskie Wydawnictwo Narodowe, Warszawa 1938, p. 173-175

VIKTOR VIKTOROVICH KLENEVSKI (1883 –)
SOCIAL SECURITY MINISTER (of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic)

Viktor Viktorovich Klenevski, the Social Security Minister of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, was born in February of 1883 in the city of Yelizavetpol (Ganja – Ed.). He was an ethnic Pole. He graduated from the University and was a lawyer.

After graduation, W. Kleniewski worked in Tbilisi in the public service. He was the head of the department for employment of refugees and a member of the Tbilisi District Court.

In Tbilisi, he was in charge of refugees from the Caucasian front line and sought to provide them with job. At that period, Kleniewski acquired greater authority in this sphere. As a result, he was appointed he head of the Refugee Department in the Ministry of Social Security of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. Minister K.Lizgar contributed to the invitation of Kleniewski to Azerbaijan.

In December of 1918, W. Kleniewski being the head of the delegation reviewed the status of refugees and prepared a detailed report on urgent measures to be taken for improving their difficult situation. This report was distributed among the Parliament members.

On March 14, 1919, W. Kleniewski was appointed the Social Security Minister as a representative of the Slavic-Russian Society in the 2nd (or the 5th by total number) Cabinet of Ministers established by N.Yusifbeyli. He held this office till the resignation of the government in December 24, 1919.

While holding the post of minister, he placed a priority on charitable activity, cared for neglected children, and took part in government meetings and administrative sessions.

As the Minister, W. Kleniewski spoke at the 55th meeting in the Azerbaijani Parliament held on July 14, 1919.

About 13 issues were discussed at the meeting held under the chairmanship of H.Aghayev with the participation of secretary A.Jovdat (Pepinov – Ed.). The 12th item of the agenda was the problem of Moslem refugees from Armenia, and the 13th item was devoted to aid for Zangazur refugees. A.Amirjanov spoke on both items.²⁸

M.Rafiyev, R.Aghabeyov, H.K.Saniyev, S.M.Ganizade, A.Ashurov, A.Kazimzade, M.Hajibabayev also spoke to these issues.

²⁸ Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti (1918-1920). Parlament (stenoqrafik hesabatlar); 2 cildə I c., Bakı: Azərbaycan, 1998. s.830

After the second speech of M.Rafiyev, the floor was given to Social Security Minister (or according to the Chairman's introduction – the Charity Minister) W. Kleniewski. He noted in his speech: "The government makes every effort to help refugees. But how could we help them? We should provide them with basic necessities of life. The subsistence minimum is 600-800 rubles per month. As you see, today no state including Azerbaijan can afford such costs. We need to allocate 40 million rubles to provide this minimum. The Patronage Ministry's (Social Security – Ed.) function is to provide refugees welfare and on the other side to find all possible ways for economic revival. Above all else, we need to teach and to have them to work. The Ministry is now organizing the network of workshops in Garabakh. The claim of one of the speakers that these "workshops remain on paper" is wrong. Because these workshops of the Ministry started to open recently and already opened in Aghdam, Barda and Garabakh."²⁹

In his speech, W. Kleniewski noted that his Ministry is finding ways to provide refugees with job, food and make them productive member of society.

He stated that the Ministry opened a hospital in Khankandi and presented it to the Ministry of Health, though it is fall outside its authority.

W. Kleniewski attributed deficiency of doctors and medics to the low salary 670 rubles. He noted that doctors' salaries must be increased. He also added that at present medical groups are organized and first of all this work is carried out in Garabakh. At the same time, W.Kleniewski noted that 15 feeding centres and a hospital were opened and restoration of ruined houses started. He also told that building of the road from Surakhany to Mardakan would cost 3.5 million rubles.

At the end of the speech W. Kleniewski proposed to create a commission consisting of representatives of the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Labor as well as of prominent locals and parliament members to make refugees stay at their place.³⁰

W. Kleniewski was a close friend of K. Lizgar, the acting Minister of Food in the Cabinet formed by F.Kh.Khoyski on December 26, 1918. They both were the members of the Slavic-Russian Society established in Tbilisi in 1918.

The telegram No.315 of this society to the Allied Troops Headquarters on December 7, 1918 indicates the assignment of five members to the Azerbaijan Parliament.³¹

After the resignation of N.Yusifbeyli's government in December of 1919, W. Kleniewski also resigned as the Minister. Later he went to the city of Petrvosk and then was

²⁹ Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Arxivi, f.895,s.1,i.100,v.123

³⁰ Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Arxivi, f.895,s.1,i.100,v.124

³¹ Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət təhlükəsizliyi Xidmətinin Arxivi, PS – 12174 sayılı K.Lizqara aid istintaq işi, v.25

arrested by the counter-intelligence as the Azerbaijani minister. He remained in custody for 2 days and then left for Rostov. His aim was to find a job. There he'd been sick for some time and in May of 1920 he became a responsible executive of Don-Rost (The Don Regional Department of the Russian Telegraph). Then he was sent on a business trip to Tbilisi.

W.Klenewski was arrested on November 18, 1920 in Vladikavkaz by an employee of the Extraordinary Commission Mirko.³²

At the moment of arrest he had a 30-year-old wife Klavdiya Andreyevna and a 8-year-old daughter Xenia.

On December 1-2, 1920, W. Kleniewski was brought to Baku. And on December 3 he was interrogated by investigators of the Azerbaijan Extraordinary Commission. His main offence charged was that he was the Minister of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

After the severe process of investigation he was persuaded to cooperate with Bolsheviks. In addition, he sent an application of the same contents to Chairman of the Extraordinary Commission Khanbudagov on December 12, 1920.³³

On December 25, 1920, an investigator of the Azerbaijani EC Ponomaryov made a decision to release Klenewski who was charged as the "Musavat Minister" from arrest.

There are no data available on W. Kleniewski's life after the arrest.

MACIEJ ALEKSANDROVICH SULKIEWICZ (1865 – 1920)

CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF OF THE AZERBAIJANI ARMY

Famous military man, Lieutenant General **Maciej Aleksandrovich Sulkiewicz** was born in the family of Tatars settled in the Kemeyshi homestead in the territory of present Lithuania in 1865

Maciej Sulkiewicz who made a substantial contribution into creation and development of the Azerbaijan National Army was born in a migrated Tatar family which settled in the territory of present Lithuania in the 14th century. The place of his birth was called Kemeyshi, Lida district, Viena province.

Why these people are often called 'Polish Tatars'? V.Guliyev writes: "This ethnic minority was mentioned in various sources as "Lithuanian Tatars", "Polish Moslems", "Lipcani". However, from the early 20th century they have been predominantly mentioned as Polish Tatars because the historical territories where Tatars settled in a compact form including the

³² L.Şüküroğlu. Cümhuriyyət hökuməti repressiya məngənəsində. II c. B., 2000, s.106

³³ L.Şüküroğlu. Cümhuriyyət hökuməti repressiya məngənəsində. II c. B., 2000, s.115

Grand Duchy of Lithuania were the parts of Rzeczpospolita (Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth) which is considered the predecessor of modern Poland.”³⁴

M. Sulkiewicz's name is mentioned in different ways in various sources: Matthew, Maciej, Suleyman, Mahammad, etc. However he was mentioned as Matthew in archival documents and in the protocol and documents related to his arrest.

M. Sulkiewicz's father Alexander was the colonel of the Hussars Regiment.

M. Sulkiewicz was born on June 20, 1865 in the Kemeyski homestead. Researcher V. Guliyev writes in his research paper about M. Sulkiewicz: “Although the Tatar language was not used in their family, he was raised as a real Tatar and Moslem. Like the most of Tatar aristocracy who lived in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Poland shaped his future path – Maciej was raised as a soldier.”

He got his military education in the cadet school of Voronezh and Mikhaylovsk Artillery Academy in Petersburg. On October 3, 1888, he entered the General Staff Academy of the Russian Empire. In 1883, he started his service in the Army of Tsarist Army, and was awarded the following ranks within a short time: the first officer rank in 1886, colonel – in 1899, Major General - in 1910, Lieutenant General - in 1915.

M. Sulkiewicz was awarded the St. Stanislaw order for military merits and was appointed the chief adjutant of the Odessa Military Region Staff.

In 1904-1905, he took part in the Russo-Japanese war and was awarded the Order of Saint Anna, Second Degree, and the Order of Saint Vladimir, Fourth Degree.

In 1912, M. Sulkiewicz became the Chief of the 7th Army Corps Staff, and during the World War I he was the commander of the Moslem Corps.

It was the Port Arthur front where he met the founders of the Azerbaijan Army General Samad Bey Mehmandarov and Aliagha Shikhlinski.

After the bourgeois revolution in February of 1917, the All-Russian Congress of Moslems (May 1-11, 1917) played an important role in revival of Turk-Moslem community living under the oppression of Russia. This congress passed a resolution “About Military Organizations” for protection of Turk-Moslem population safety. And a decision on formation of the Soldier Council was made at another All-Russian Congress held on July 21-31, 1917.

According to the Congress Resolution, Maciej Sulkiewicz was charged with formation of military units consisted of Moslem soldiers and officers.

³⁴ V. Quliyev. Polşa tatarları Azərbaycan dövlətçiliyinin xidmətində: Masey Sulkeviç. “525-ci qəzet”, 9 dekabr 2006-cı il

Another important period of M.Sulkiewicz's activity was connected with Crimea. In 1918, he came to Crimea and was elected to the post of the Chairman of the Crimea Government (Prime Minister) and the Minister of Internal and Military Affairs. Germans gave him considerable support in this process.

Following the withdrawal of German troops from Crimea, A.Denikin occupied Crimea and on November 15, 1918 M.Sulkiewicz had to hand over power to the Second Crimea Regional Government and was succeeded by Solomon Krym.

Tatars called M.Sulkiewicz, who had great authority in Crimea, Suleyman Pasha as a sign of esteem.³⁵

After that event, M.Sulkiewicz came to Azerbaijan and was known as Mahammad here. Initially, he was the commander of the First Moslem Corps in Ganja. On March 26, 1919, he was appointed the Chief of the General Staff of the Azerbaijan Army.³⁶ His wife, Maryam khanyim, worked in the H.Z.Tagiyev's Girl's School and was an active member of the Baku Moslem Charity.

On June 9, 1919, M.Sulkiewicz joined the State Committee formed by initiative of President of the Council of Ministers N.Yusifbeyli upon the recommendation of the Azerbaijani Parliament.

In June 1919, M.Sulkiewicz signed the military agreement between Azerbaijan and Georgia on behalf of the government.

There are relevant military documents signed by M.Sulkiewicz in the State Archive of the Azerbaijan Republic. These documents make it possible to study his activities in military ranks.

M.Sulkiewicz was a demanding commander and Chief of the General Staff. There are the following notes in Order No.5 dated May 17, 1919 signed by M.Sulkiewicz: "Errors are always likely. Money allocated from the public treasury must be spent for the purpose intended and reflected in documents. High care for the army and treasury interests will inspire more praise and appreciation."³⁷

M.Sulkiewicz also attached prime significance to national self-determination of the Army of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. There are interesting notes in his Order No.561 dated of August 10, 1919 while being the Chief of the General Staff. The Order states that banners of infantry regiments and cavalry as well as other squadrons of the Azerbaijani Army and mi-

³⁵ Ş.Nəzirli. Güllələnmiş Azərbaycan generalları. B., 2006, s.59

³⁶ N.Yaqublu. Cümhuriyyət Qurucuları. B., 2018, s.394

³⁷ Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Arxivi, f.2894,s.1,i.4,v.135

lilitary schools should bear an inscription “Azerbaijan” on one side and an inscription “Allah is with us, victory is close!” on the other side. It was noted that the pattern on the Timur-i-leng’s tomb in Samarkand should be applied to the edge strips of the banner.³⁸

Another order of the Ministry of Military Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic dated of August 19, 1919 states: “Military pilot Afshar khan Teymurchin is enrolled to the Army of the Azerbaijan Republic in the rank of lieutenant and will receive the junior officer’s salary, food supplies and dressing as of 17 August.”³⁹

The order was signed by the Military Minister, General of Artillery S.Mehmandarov and Chief of the General Staff Lieutenant General M.Sulkiewicz.

It was noted that 3 officers of the 1st and 2nd infantry divisions were sent to the General Staff Headquarters for training and subsequent service in the General Staff by Order No. 433 of September 24, 1919 signed by Generals of Artillery of the Ministry of Military Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic A.Shikhlini and M.Sulkiewicz.⁴⁰

It was noted that Colonel Kochladze was appointed the Commander of the Military Railway School by Order No. 459 of October 7, 1919 of Minister for Military Affairs S.Mehmandarov and Chief of the General Staff M.Sulkiewicz.

The order indicates that there was a separate Military Railway School in the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.⁴¹

The Azerbaijani Ministry of Military Affairs played an important role in formation of legitimacy and promotion of public and social stability protection in Azerbaijan. It was noted in Order No. 564 prepared in 8th of December 1919 by the Minister for Military Affairs S.Mehmandarov and Chief of the General Staff M.Sulkiewicz that based on the Resolution by the State Defence Committee dated 27th of November, permanent militia (police) units were formed in many regions of the republic.⁴²

M. Sulkiewicz took an active part in carrying out of military operations in the frontier zone between the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and Armenia, Nakhchivan, Nagorny Karabakh and Mughan regions, and in protection of territorial integrity of the newly established state.

It was noted in the report signed by Minister for Military Affairs S.Mehmandarov and Chief of the General Staff M.Sulkiewicz on July 7, 1919, and addressed to Prime Minister

³⁸ Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Arxivi, f.2894,s.1,i.4, v.149

³⁹ Ibid, i.3,v.135

⁴⁰ Ibid, i.4,v.138

⁴¹ Ibid,v.139

⁴² Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Arxivi, f.2894,s.1,i.4, v.141

N. Yusifbeyli that control should be tightened over Khachmaz region against the background of activation of Denikin's forces as well as over Garabakh and Ganjabasar regions that were under threat of Armenian invasion.

In his letter to Governor-General Kh. Sultanov dated September 7, 1919 M. Sulkiewicz noted that Armenians would never reconcile with full loss of Garabakh and make every effort to occupy it. In light of this, he called for keeping garrisons at full force in Khankand (future Gorus) to control Armenians.

M. Sulkiewicz also considered it important to form infantry and cavalry guerrilla regiments from skilled and courageous people among the local population. At his suggestion, 4 squadrons consisted of 20-40-year-old locals were created for protection of these territories.

In the period of formation of a strong army by efforts of M. Sulkiewicz and other Azerbaijani generals, Russian Bolsheviks occupied Azerbaijan with the 60,000 (or 70,000 according to some sources) military forces.

Bolsheviks started to arrest generals from the first day of the occupation. M. Sulkiewicz was arrested on May 8, 1920.

M. Sulkiewicz's case no. PS-17-46 is stored in the State Security Service of the Azerbaijan Republic. He is mentioned as Matthew in these documents.

It is known that M. Sulkiewicz was detained based on the arrest warrant no. 438 of the Special Department under the Military Revolutionary Council of the 11th Army of the RSFSR.

The arrest warrant indicates that he was 54 years old and lived at Telefonnaya street-6, house no. 10 in Baku as well as contains other data.⁴³

It is known that no investigation was conducted during the arrest of M. Sulkiewicz.

This case contains a telegram of the Special Department of the Extraordinary Commission in Moscow requesting information on Sulkiewicz. This telegram bears the inscription made by pencil: "executed by shooting".⁴⁴

An official document of June 17, 1920 which is stored in the State Security Service of the Azerbaijan Republic indicates that he was executed by shooting based on a charge of "counter-revolutionary activities" and his case was transferred to the archive.

Some researches indicates that his last words before the execution were: "I'm happy to die like an officer of the Moslem Army!"⁴⁵

⁴³ Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət təhlükəsizliyi Xidmətinin Arxivi, PS – 17046 sayılı M. Sulkeviçə aid istintaq işi, v.1

⁴⁴ Ibid, v.9

⁴⁵ Ş.Nəzirli. Güllələnmiş Azərbaycan generalları. B., 2006, s.64

Head of the General Department of the Diplomatic Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic arrested by Bolsheviks in Baku wrote about M.Sulkiewicz in his book "Shot generals of Azerbaijan": "As he bid farewell, he told me with complete confidence that he's being taken to execution. Although we never thought we'd get the chance to stay alive, we gave solace to him. I must point out that the general carried himself with dignity and courage. A few days later we read about execution of "counterrevolutionaries". Mammad bey Sulkiewicz was in the list of shootees".⁴⁶

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE AZERBAIJAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

LEON KRYCZYŃSKI

(1887 - 1939)

Famous public figure Leon Kryczyński was born in the family of General Konstantin Kryczyński in Vilnius on September 25, 1887. He graduated from the Law Department of the Petersburg University and then worked as the chief clerk in the government of the Republic of Crimea. He came to Azerbaijan in 1918, after the collapse of the government of Maciej Sulkiewicz in Crimea. Here, he worked as the Chief Clerk of the Cabinet of Ministers in the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and played an important role in the development of Azerbaijani nationhood.

Leon Kryczyński works were published under various pseudonyms Arslan bey, Leon Kryczyński, Leon Mirza Naymanski, etc.

L.Kryczyński worked in the justice system of Poland. He was the district judge in the Polish cities: Zamość and Gdynia.

L.Kryczyński was a creative person and published many historical, religious, ethnographic and military articles in various newspapers and journals "Tatarski Rocznik", "Lud", "Przegląd Islamski", "Słowo", "Kurier Wileński", "Wschód", "Życie Tatarskie".

He was the editor-in-chief of the "Tatarski Rocznik" journal in 1932-1938. It should be noted that a prominent statesman of Azerbaijan M.A. Rasulzade wrote a congratulatory article titled "Aleykum-salam" for the first issue of this journal.

L. Kryczynski's wrote that his cousin Zina Kryczyńska married General Firudin bey Vezirov (1850-1925) who was the commandant of Baku 1919-1920.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

It should be noted that L. Kryczyński was appointed the Chief Clerk of the Cabinet of Minister of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic by order of May 8, 1919 and at the same time he was the editor of the official newspaper “The Azerbaijan Republic Government Herald”. L. Kryczyński also was the Head of the Special Department of the Azerbaijani Cabinet of Ministers for a while.

In September of 1919, L. Kryczyński addressed the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and offered to form a commission for collection of documents and materials related to the colonial policy of the czarist regime.

The commission for collection of archival documents “About the Russian policy directed against Islamic peoples of Trans - Caucasus” headed by L.Kryczyński was formed at order No.59 dated October 13, 1919 of M.Y.Jafarov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic of that period. The commission was comprised of: 1) Konstanty (Kerim) Sulkiewicz – the record keeper of the chancellery of the Cabinet of Minister; 2) Ali Yusif Yusifzade – a poet; 3) Mahammad bey Aghayev – the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (later known as Mahammad Aghayev, the professor of the Michigan University).

From December of 1919, Head of the Legislation Department of the Azerbaijani Parliament Huseyn bey Mirzajamalov was involved in the work of the commission. The commission activities were funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the 6-month period of its activities the commission headed by L. Kryczyński prepared and published the collected documents “Reports on the Russian policy in remote regions” consisted of three parts. All charges were paid by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This commission carried out activities till the Bolshevik revolution in April 1920.

These collected documents reflected the colonial policy pursued by tsarist Russia in respect of Azerbaijan Turks in 1863-1920. After the occupation of Azerbaijan by the Bolshevik Russia in 1920, L.Kryczyński got a passport of citizen of Lithuania with the assistance of the Azerbaijan consul in Lithuania in July of the same year, and went to Moscow and Vilnius.

After the occupation of Poland in 1939, L.Kryczynski was arrested and murdered by the Germans with 12 thousand of other Polish intelligentsia (“Intelligenzaktion”) representatives between the fall of 1939 and early spring 1940 in Piaśnica/Wejcherowo.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Azərbaycan Cümhuriyyətinin qurucuları. B., 2018, “Elm və Təhsil”, s. 105-116

**DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE
OF THE AZERBAIJAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OLGIERD KRYCZYŃSKI
(1884 – 1941)**

Olgierd Najman-Mirza-Kryczyński was born on October 22, 1884 in Vilnius. He was a public and political figure of Poland. He graduated from the Petersburg University of Law in 1908. He worked in judicial agencies in Vilnius and Turkestan. He was the prosecutor of the Chamber of Appeals in the Crimea People's Republic. He was the Deputy Minister of Justice of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

Then, he became the prosecutor of the Vilnius Supreme Court, and from 1932 he was the prosecutor of the Warsaw Supreme Court. He headed the Tatarian Culture and Education Association. He is the brother of the famous Tatarian, Polish and Azerbaijani public and state figure, historian and journalist Aslan bey Kryczyński.

It should be noted that O. Kryczyński was one of the main authors of the idea of the Caucasian Confederation while serving in the Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan. The idea of integration of three South Caucasian states into a confederation was the main item of agenda of the Conference held on April 7, 1920 in Tiflis. One of the key goals of the meeting was also the settlement of certain contentious problems in South Caucasus by negotiations. The following persons represented Azerbaijan at the Conference: Chairman of the Azerbaijani Parliament H.Aghayev (President of the Board), Minister of Foreign Affairs, diplomatic representative under the government of Georgia F.Vekilov, and Deputy Minister of Justice O. Kryczyński. Representatives of Georgia and Armenia also took part in the Conference.

Even though the meeting was not completed, it was decided to create an organization "The Council of Transcaucasian Republic" for development of connections among three South Caucasian states upon an initiative of Azerbaijani delegation. The project of this organization was developed by O. Kryczyński. This project which included 24 articles was approved at the meeting of the Conference on April 22, 1920.

After the occupation of Azerbaijan by Russian Bolsheviks O. Kryczyński left the country.

After that, O. Kryczyński wrote an article related to the 15th anniversary of Prime Minister F.Kh. Khoyski's death. This paper was published in the 14th issue of "Severniy Kavkaz" journal in 1935. In this article, he noted that F.Kh.Khoyski was killed by an Armenian

terrorist.

In the other article titled “For the 15th Anniversary of the independence of Azerbaijan” L.Kryczyński shared his thoughts on the period of the Republic.

In 1939, when Soviet troops occupied Wilno (Vilnius), O. Kryczyński was arrested. Murdered by the Soviet NKVD in Smolensk, June 2th 1941.⁴⁸

**STANISLAV STANISLAVOVICH WANSOWICZ (1889 –)
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POLISH COMMITTEE
IN THE AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC**

Stanislav Stanislavovich Wansowicz was born on May 8, 1889 in an aristocratic family. He graduated from the Law Department of the Petersburg University. He served in the Tzarist Russian Army as an officer.(1)

S. Wąsowicz held the post of the secretary of the Poland Consular Agency in Baku.

S.Wąsowicz was arrested by Russian Bolsheviks on August 14, 1920.

As follows from his case No. PR-20193 in the State Security Service of the Azerbaijan Republic, he remained in custody till December of 1920. At the moment of his arrest, S.Wąsowicz had a 28-year-old wife and a 5-year-old son.

S. Wąsowicz stated in his testimony that he had long been living in Baku and knew all Poles in the city.⁴⁹

S. Wansowicz was subsequently released from arrest.

Summary

This article is about the activities of the Polish people in Azerbaijan.

The article investigates the activities of Poles at the end of the 19th and start of the 20th century as well as in the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920). The Poles dealing with various sectors had great significance in development of the oil industry and formation of the architectural appearance of Baku city and, directly participated at the process of state establishment in Azerbaijan.

The article presents brief but important information about historical roots of Azerbaijani-Polish relations and the individuals who contributed to foster these ties.

⁴⁸ V.Quliyev. Polşa tatarları Azərbaycan dövlətçiliyinin xidmətində: Kriçinski qardaşları. “525-ci qəzet”, 26 aprel 2008-ci il

⁴⁹ Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət təhlükəsizliyi Xidmətinin Arxiv, S.S.Vonsoviçin PR – 20193 sayılı istintaq işi. v.20