

Relations Between Turkey and Hungary in the Democratic Party Period (1950–1960)

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Abstract: *The decennium historical process in Turkish political history between 1950 and 1960 is called the Democratic Party (DP) era. During this period, important issues took place in Turkish foreign policy. Our aim is to reveal the political, commercial and social relations between Turkey and Hungary in the light of archive documents within the scope of important events in Turkish foreign policy. The aim of this article is to emphasise how the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 affected the relations between the two countries and to prove with documents that Turkey supported Hungary during the revolution. This study has been created by benefiting from archive documents, national newspapers and copyrights from both target countries. The study also commemorates the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, which erupted 65 years ago this year. Finally, this article entitled Relations between Turkey and Hungary during the Democratic Party Period (1950–1960) is a qualitative study prepared using the document analysis technique.*

Keywords: *Democratic Party; Diplomacy; Hungary; Commerce; 1956; Turkey.*

Introduction

This study dealing with the relations between Turkey and Hungary during the DP period is divided into two parts. In the first part, the period from 1923, which was the proclamation of the Republic, to 1950 is examined. From the point of view of the examined topic, it is essential to explore all the historical and diplomatic antecedents that led to the flourishing of Turkish-Hungarian relations during the rule of the Democratic Party. In this chapter, the diplomatic, commercial and political relations between the two countries have been

revealed with contemporary records. In the second part, documents have been put forward on what kinds of measures were taken by the two countries to improve the nexus between Turkey and Hungary during the DP period between 1950 and 1960.

Turkish-Hungarian relations are based on a deep antiquity in historical terms. The first of these is the results of the studies carried out by Hungarian scientists representing various disciplines on the ethnic origins of Hungarians, their homeland and their historical past. The second is the nature of the connection between Hungarian and Turkish languages in terms of language structure (Korkmaz 2012: 154; Pavlina 2019: 132–133). Hungary has had deeply rooted relations with both the Ottomans and Turkey since the establishment of the Turkish Republic (Bodó 2016: 97–98). In particular, relations with Hungarians who lived under Turkish rule for one and a half centuries during the Ottoman Empire period (1541–1686) has become stronger in the cultural context due to the research started in the scientific field in the 21st century (Çolak 2000: 415). After the defeat of the freedom struggles of the Hungarian people, the current Turkish state granted asylum to the forced refugees at all times. Thus, after defeat in the Rákóczi War of Independence (1703–1711), Ferenc Rákóczi II., Imre Thököly, Ilona Zrínyi and the Transylvanian princely court fled to Turkey, and so the first Hungarian civil government minister, Lajos Kossuth, arrived in Turkey in 1849. Hungary, in return, contributed to Turkey's development in the field of natural sciences and industrial development. Few know that during the Ottoman siege of Constantinople (1453), several Hungarian legacies were present in the Turkish camp, negotiating for the sake of the city, and the largest of the cannons destroying the city walls were made for the sultan by a Hungarian from Transylvania named Orbán (Finkel 2005: 48). Ibrahim Müteferrika (Cluj-Napoca, c. 1674 – c. 1745) of Hungarian origin, was the founder of the first Turkish printing house (Hopp 1974: 126–131) and is also worth mentioning. Count Ödön Széchenyi (Bratislava, 14 December 1839 – Istanbul, 24 March 1922), the organiser of the fire brigade in Hungary and Turkey, was the son of István Széchenyi, who held the position of Minister of Transport in the first independent Hungarian civilian government, the Batthyány-government. Successive Turkish sultans valued his work, he received several honors and he was the first Christian to receive the title of pasha without having to leave his faith. Széchenyi served as commander of the Turkish Fire Brigade as a 'firepasha', a lieutenant general (Rocsik, 1938). All of these examples prove that, despite the wars between them, their relationship is based on mutual respect for each other and their intertwined historical past.

This situation as explained above clearly reveals the serious and deep relations that have long existed between Turks and Hungarians. Following the establishment of the Turkish Republic by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881 – 10 November 1938) on 23 October 1923 (Doğan, 2003) which went through a dif-

difficult economic process after the Turkish War of Independence, apart from its political and cultural relations with Turkey, the Hungarian Government also established economic relations. Hungary, which was politically alone in Europe especially during World War I, had realised that it was difficult to cooperate with other countries and had further strengthened political and economic relations with the new state called Turkey (Tunç – Şahin 2017: 156). Thus, it can be said that the necessary environment had been created for the cooperation between Hungary and Turkey to reach a remarkable level in the field of economy as well as political and cultural affairs since the first years of the Republic.

At the end of World War II, in which the Turks did not join, Turkey started a multi-party life, and important steps were taken towards democracy. The DP, which emerged as a new party after leaving the Republican People's Party (RPP) in 1946, succeeded in becoming the ruler alone by taking the power from the RPP with the elections in 1950. The DP, which remained in power for 10 consecutive years from 1950 to 1960, left its mark on Turkish political life (Tunç – Şahin 2017: 156). During this period, very important developments took place in Turkish foreign policy. Turkey became a member of numerous international organisations, and the most cardinal of these was to achieve NATO membership.

As in previous periods, strong diplomatic relations with Hungarians were paid attention to during the DP era. During this period, serious steps were taken to develop social connections as well as commercial and political relations with Hungary. Particularly during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, Turkey's support for the Hungarian people brought the two countries closer to each other.

The aim of this study, entitled *Relations between Turkey and Hungary in the Democratic Party Period (1950–1960)*, is to contribute to the scientific studies previously conducted on the relations between the two countries. There are articles, books and theses on the relations between the two countries concerning the first years of the Republic. However, it has been determined that there are no studies specifically related to the relations between the two countries during the DP period. With this article, we aim to overcome this deficiency and to contribute to scientists working in this field.

Relations with Hungary before the Democratic Party Period

After the Turkish Republic was established on 29 October 1923, a Friendship Treaty was signed with the Kingdom of Hungary on 18 December 1923. In this agreement, it was stated that necessary steps would be taken for the establishment of good relations between the two countries and for the happiness and welfare of both states. The treaty in question was signed in Istanbul and put into effect by being published in the Official Gazette on 7 April 1924 (Official Gazette, 7 April 1924, 68: 3). The agreement guaranteed each other's citizens 'full freedom of movement and establishment, free trade and industry, legal

protection, the most favourable treatment with regard to the acquisition of movable and immovable property, and equality with nationals in the payment of taxes' (Dávid 2004: 13). The fact that Hungary was among the countries with which Turkey signed the first friendship treaty immediately after the foundation of the Republic, clearly reveals the importance of the new state to Hungary and that it wanted to establish good relations.

As of 1926, bilateral relations between Turkey and Hungary became more regular. The reason for this is that in 1926 Turkey appointed Vasif Bey as the envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Budapest, the capital of Hungary (Saral 2019: 159–171). Subsequently, a new commercial agreement was made between the two countries. However, due to some bureaucratic problems, the agreement in question could only be put into effect in September 1927 (Özgiray 1997: 76–77). The compliance with the Lausanne Trade Agreement of the Trade Agreement which entered into force in 1927 enabled the trade potential between the two countries to increase.

Hungary's participation in industry and infrastructure development was the highest it had ever been. According to a report by the ambassador dated 1927, there were 1000–1200 Hungarians living in Turkey in that year, of whom 300–400 arrived during 1926. Most of them were construction workers and worked as day laborers. The most influential Hungarians, also mentioned by name by the ambassador, were Béla Kriszt, the chief engineer of the Chemin de Fer Orientaux and the president of the Hungarian Association, and Béla Vondra, the director general of civil engineering at the Ankara Ministry of Public Works. The report also mentioned that there were no Hungarian schools at that time, no Hungarian teachers and no Hungarian-language newspapers (Hungarian National Archives, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Repertoire, Presidential Department 1 / S Papers /OL K60/ 1927–I/7, 2490/kig) 1927). In 1927, further job opportunities were opened up for Hungarians, as the minister of commerce informed the Budapest Chamber of Engineers at the beginning of the year that engineers and metalworkers were being sought at the Yerköy and Kirlekale ammunition factories in Turkey (OL K60 1927–I/7, 72010/II. 1927).

The Turkish Ambassador to Hungary Nurettin Ferruh Bey (Alkent), negotiated with the Hungarian government for the neutrality and reconciliation agreement signed between Hungary and the Italian government in 1928. Nurettin Ferruh Bey was authorised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to carry out these transactions (Prime Ministry Republic Archive (PMRA), Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 1. 4. 4.). This situation reveals that Hungary attaches importance to Turkey in its foreign relations and acts jointly with Turkey on some issues.

In order to further develop the existing friendship and relations between Turkey and the Kingdom of Hungary, it was decided to sign a neutrality, compromise and arbitration agreement in 1929. The Turkish ambassador to Hungary Behiç Bey (Erkin) and the foreign affairs minister of the Kingdom of Hungary Lajos

Walko was appointed to carry out these transactions (Official Gazette, 17 April 1929, 1170: 6948). As well as with many countries, after this agreement, steps were taken to develop trade with Hungary and to further increase the existing potential. Zekai Bey, Mustafa Şeref Bey and Menemenli Numan Bey were assigned to perform this task (Official Gazette, 17 April 1929, 1170: 6948). These agreements and delegations are important in terms of showing what steps have been taken in the seventh year of the establishment of the Turkish Republic to further develop the relations between the two countries in many aspects.

By 1930, several stores had been established between Turkey and Hungary and there had been several exchanges of letters in this regard. In this context, numerous sheep and goats were purchased from Hungary on 20 January 1930 (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 8. 3. 9.). Later on, many breeding animals were also purchased in Hungary in accordance with the agreement signed with Austria and Hungary on 3 September 1930 (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 13. 57. 5.). Veterinarians had been assigned for the examination of animals purchased from Hungary (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 14. 62. 11.). In 1930, when trade between Hungary and Turkey was increased, and in this context, on 2 September 1930, Hungarian Prime Minister Count István Bethlen made an official visit to Turkey (PMRA, Code: 30. 10. 0.0; Place No: 232.564.11).

The purpose of Bethlen's visit was to recruit Turkey against Petite (Little) Entente. Bethlen, who met with President Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, stated that they intended to avenge the loss of the previous war against the entente but the biggest obstacle was the Paris Agreement. On the other hand, the Turkish president declared that Turkey could not support Hungary in this matter and requested information about the thoughts of the Kingdom of Hungary regarding the Balkan Union which was planned to be established. Turkey's Prime Minister İsmet Paşa, who attended this meeting enunciated that the relations between Turkey and France were particularly good and that it would be preserved, also Bethlen expressed the benefits of the cooperation between Hungary and Italy (Çolak 2009: 37–38). Bethlen's visit to Turkey shows the importance of the further development of the relations between the two countries, but also clearly demonstrates that the two nations had different views on some issues, especially those concerning the Petite (Little) Entente.

After the negotiations of the Hungarian Prime Minister Count István Bethlen in Turkey, Prime Minister İsmet Paşa made an official visit to Budapest, Hungary on 11 October 1931. In conjunction with this visit of İsmet Paşa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Tevfik Rüşdü Bey and Turkey's ambassador to Hungary Behiç Bey (Ergun) also took part (PMRA, Code: 30. 10. 0.0; Place No:220.481. 15.). The purpose of İsmet İnönü's visit was to give profitability to Count Bethlen's visit to Turkey (Özyürek 2018: 12). During the meetings held there, the issues of establishing relations between Turkey and Italy and the process of joining the Turkish League of Nations were discussed (Duran – Çalik Orhun 2017: 564). It can be

interpreted that the official visits made by both countries at the highest level, one year apart, show that Turkey and Hungary worked to establish strong relations.

In 1932 there was a change of government in Hungary. In the letter sent by the new government established by Gyula Gömbös to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it was reported that the necessary actions would be carried out for the continuation and development of relations with the new Hungarian government as in the previous period. The same wish was expressed in the reply letter sent by Turkey, and it was emphasised that relations with Hungary would be further improved (PMRA, Code: 30. 10. 0.0; Place No: 232.564. 19.).

In 1933 both Hungarian Prime Minister Gyula Gömbös, and Minister of Internal Affairs Ferenc Keresztes-Fischer made official visits to Turkey (Pesti Hírlap 21 October 1933, 55 /223–248/: 3). During the meetings held by the prime minister's visit to Turkey, existing relations were further strengthened (Çolak 2019: 177). Ferenc Keresztes-Fischer, who informed the press about his visits to Turkey, stated that Hungary's aim was to reach an agreement between Turkey and Bulgaria to draw a new map of Europe (PMRA, Code: 30. 10. 0.0; Place No: 232.566. 4.). This can be interpreted as Turkey and Hungary acting jointly in some foreign policies.

In 1934 two important decisions were made between Turkey and Hungary. One of these decisions was to extend the duration of a law adopted in 1932 with the support of the Kingdom of Hungary. In this context, the Agreement on Extradition and Legal Aid signed between the two countries on 29 May 1932 was reaffirmed on 6 May 1934 (Official Gazette 10 May 1934, 2697: 3762). The second concerned actions aimed at strengthening the commercial, cultural and social relations between the two countries. In this context it was decided to establish delegations to improve commercial, cultural and social cooperation between Turkey and Hungary, and to include representatives of the Ministries of National Education, Agriculture, Customs and Monopoly and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs among these delegations (PMRA, Code: 30. 10. 0.0; Place No: 232.566. 16.). This decision can be interpreted as important in terms of showing that serious steps were taken by the two countries in order to ensure comprehensive cooperation between Turkey and Hungary in many fields in the first years of the Republic.

The year 1934 was fruitful in collaborations. The Hungarian Nitrochemistry plant received an order worth 1.5 million pengős from the Turkish army to transport trotyl explosives and to build a factory producing such materials. Builders János Dávid and his son, together with a Turkish company, won the tender set by the city of Ankara for the construction of a large-scale stadium and a modern horse racing ground worth 3 million pengős. The engineering design of these buildings was also entrusted to a Hungarian, László Kovács. It was a great step forward that, as a result of the amendment of the trade agreement between the two countries, increased the framework of Hungary's trade in goods by 1

million pengős during the year (OL K63 1935-32/1, 2/pol. 14 January 1935). Also in 1935, the operation of the Hungarian Nitrochemistry Factory in Turkey, which produced explosives for the Turkish army, was extended for another 1–1.5 years. Another positive feature is the construction of the Ganz-Danubius Factory's power plants in Diyarbakir and Ödemiş. As a result of close cooperation in the energy sector, six other Anatolian cities' power generators were built and equipped by Hungarian companies before World War II (Dávid 2004: 13). It is understood that in 1935 necessary actions were carried out for the extension of two previous agreements with Hungary. In this context, the agreement between Turkey and Hungary signed in 1933 and extended in 1934, was extended again on 22 July 1935 (Magyar Gyáripár February 1934, 25 (1–12): 19). Similarly, as a result of the negotiations made in Budapest for a new trade agreement with the Hungarians on 1 September 1935, the 1934 Turkish-Hungarian Trade Agreement was extended again for a certain period (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 58. 75. 20.).

Attaching great importance to the development of cultural relations with Hungary, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk took a very important step in 1935. The step in question was the opening of the Hungarian Language and Literature (Hungarology) Department at the Faculty of Language, History and Geography in Ankara University. In this context, a well-known Turcologist in Hungary, László Rásonyi, was invited to Turkey and appointed a professor in the same department (Duran 2020: 2769). László Rásonyi wrote *inter alia* the 'Onomasticon Turcicum. Turcic Personal Names' (Rásonyi 2007). The opening of this department which is an extremely important thing in terms of the recognition of Hungarian culture and literature in Turkey can be considered beneficial for the Turkish people to know Hungarians well.

According to the documents obtained from the Presidential Archives of the Republic of Turkey and the Hungarian National Archives, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Repertoire, Presidential Department Papers, it is understood that there are continuous commercial agreements between Turkey and Hungary and that the existing agreements were extended. In this context, the duration of the two previous trade agreements made in 1937 was extended and a new trade agreement was signed (Közgazdasági és Közlekedési Tudósító 7 April 1937, 10/1–23/). Negotiations for a new trade agreement between the delegations were made and, the Turkish – Hungarian Trade and Disbursement Agreement was signed on 1 July 1937 (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 80. 96. 13.). The practical Hungarian contribution to the development of the economy was realised in the fact that the Hungarian State Machine Factory, despite very large German competitors, received an order to build seven iron bridges in Turkey (OL K63 1938-32/1, 31/pol. 1937., 1938).

As it is understood from the documents, agriculture and husbandry constituted a very important part of the trade between the two countries. Having made

serious efforts for the development of agriculture and husbandry in the first years of the Republic, Turkey imported many breeding animals from Hungary and established farms to breed them. Breeding shops between 1925 and 1935 had a turnover of more than 3,000,000 pengős (Dávid 2004:16). For example, in 1934 alone, 650 horses were transported from Hungary to Turkey (OL K63 1935-32/1, 2/pol., 14 January 1935). Dr. Ferenc Csiky was at the forefront of the continuous maintenance of the business relations in this field. He was the director general of the Turkish state studs on 100,000 hectares. It was also to his merit that by preparing an expert opinion on Turkish animal husbandry, a Hungarian, the rector of the Budapest University of Veterinary Medicine, Oszkár Wellmann, was appointed (Dávid 2004: 13).

In the first years of the Republic, several Hungarian experts were invited to Turkey and employed in various jobs, mostly within agriculture between 1937 and 1942. In this context, Hungarian experts consisting of 23 people in total were employed in the Ankara High Agricultural Institute, the Ankara Agricultural Tools Factory, the Karacabey Stud Farm, the Karacabey Merinos Breeding Farm, Sultan Suyu Stud and State Agricultural Enterprises in order to improve the agricultural areas and raise quality animals from 1937. In addition, Hungarian experts were occupied in other fields as well, especially in railway construction and science works (Yıldırım 2012: 136).

On 20 December 1939 the Judicial Induction and Consular Agreement was signed between Turkey and Hungary. One of the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Numan Menemencioğlu, delegated on behalf of Turkey, and Zoltán Máriássy, exceptional negotiator and ambassador of Hungary to Ankara, delegated on behalf of the Kingdom of Hungary (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 84. 63. 12.). This agreement was signed as a result of the delegation's actions under the chair of the aforementioned persons determined by the two countries. With the agreement in question, both parties undertook to accept the other party's chief consuls and deputy consuls in their respective countries (Official Gazette 27 December 1939, 4395: 13021). For this reason, the signing of the Judicial Induction and Consular Contract facilitated the opening of an embassy and diplomatic work for both sides.

On 1 May 1940 in Budapest, the magazine *Honi Ipar* reported on page 19 that 'The Hungarian-Turkish trade is in balance' (Honi Ipar 1 May 1940, 33/1-13/: 19). In 1941, a trade agreement was signed between Turkey and Kingdom of Hungary. Before this agreement, Hungary's ambassador to Turkey was changed. In this context János Vörnle was appointed to replace the current ambassador Zoltán Máriássy (PMRA, Code: 30. 10. 0.0; Place No: 130.933. 16.). Meanwhile, in 1939, Ruşen Eşref Günaydın was appointed to replace Turkish Hungarian ambassador Behiç Erkin. A further Trade and Payment Agreement was signed between the two countries on 22 September 1941 during the terms of both new ambassadors. With this agreement, the import and export products to be

made between the two countries were determined and the policies to be applied in this regard were also regulated (Official Gazette 25 September 1941, 4921: 1737–1738).

There was no conflict between Turkey and Hungary during World War II. As it is known, Hungary participated in this war from 1941 with the compulsion of Germany, and Turkey which did not enter the war, and continued its politics based on peace. During World War II, dignitaries and leading names in Hungary who supported war and who objected it both intended to attract Turkey to their side to achieve their objectives. An article in *Magyar Szemle* in 1943 by Lajos Fekete specifically drew attention to the paramount importance of historical research in the Balkans and Turkey (Fekete 1943: 140–144). In this very year, on 25 April 1943, the *Közgazdasági Értesítő* informed readers on page 562, ‘that the circular 478 of the Hungarian National Bank dated April 1943 states that a new agreement has been concluded between the two governments on the regulation of Hungarian-Turkish commodity cereals and the payments arising thereof. It enters into force on 22 March 1941 and maintains the provisions of a similar agreement in force until 1 June 1941, which entered into force until 1 June 1941, with the exception of minor derogations’ (*Közgazdasági Értesítő* 25 April 1943, 38/1–26/: 562). In Budapest on 20 July 1944, *Magyar Gyáripar* on pages 12 and 14 also published news related to Turkey on three topics: ‘The new Hungarian-Turkish exchange and payment agreement entered into force on the 1st of the current month, which in principle contains the data of the contract in force last year. The National Association of Hungarian Manufacturers is happy to provide further information’; ‘In Turkey, natural resources have never been systematically searched for so far. During soil exploration, rich chromium, coal and iron deposits have now been discovered in Asia Minor. In addition, oil, as was later found, huge tungsten ore deposits fell under the picks of the researchers. Impeccable tungsten was found along the Istanbul-Ankara railway line’; and ‘The Turkish Ministry of Economy is studying plans for a cement plant to be built next to Adana, which would produce 100 tons of cement per day’ (*Magyar Gyáripar* 20 July 1944, 35/1–8/: 12, 14).

Seeing the approaching German and Russian danger, some Hungarian statesmen sought ways to reach an agreement with the allies and had secret negotiations with the British in Istanbul. Learning about these events, the Axis Countries occupied Hungary on 19 March 1944, and deposed Prime Minister Miklós Kállay, who wanted to be arrested after the occupation, and took refuge in the Turkish Embassy in Budapest. After the Soviet Army entered Budapest in 15 February 1945, members of the Turkish embassy and citizens arrived at Istanbul in April 1945 by the train allocated by the Soviet Union (Saral 2006: 138–139). This information also suggests that the Republic of Turkey did not have a bad diplomatic relationship with Hungary before or during the war period, and struggled to improve relations as much as possible.

Therefore, with the developments after World War II, Turkey temporarily suspended diplomatic relations with Hungary from 1 April 1945. However, as the two countries did not want to stop the cooperation, the relations continued from where they left as a result of the step taken by Hungary. In particular, new Prime Minister Zoltán Tildy emphasised in the government program that existing political relations with Turkey should be initiated as soon as possible (Çalik 2015: 38). For this purpose Turkey appointed an ambassador, Agah Aksel, to Hungary again in on 1 January 1946 (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 111. 53. 20.). Likewise, it was decided by the Hungarian government to appoint Rudolf Joó as the ambassador to Turkey (PMRA, Code: 30. 10. 0.0; Place No: 131.941. 3.).

On 2 May 1949 the new Turkish – Hungarian Trade and Payment Agreement was signed by Turkey and Hungary, depending on the resumption of diplomatic relations (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 119. 43. 15.). Making the trade agreement in question can be considered to be of serious importance in the context of increasing trade volume and developing relations between the two countries which had been doing well since the early years of the Republic.

Relations in the Democratic Party Period

On 1 January 1950 Celal Hazım Tepeyran was appointed Turkish ambassador to Hungary in the first era of the DP. The office of Tepeyran continued until 1954 (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 121. 96. 9; Şimşir 2006: 35). During the DP period Andreas Bertalan Schwarz, professor of law at the University of Budapest, was appointed chair of the Civil Law Department of the Faculty of Law of Istanbul University for a five-year period on 1 September 1950 (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 124. 85. 3; Özkorkut 2019: 491). Having stayed in Turkey for many years and studied articles, Schwarz made serious contributions to the development of both Turkish law and articles of Turkey.

During the DP period, publications from some countries including Hungary were banned, as was their entry into Turkey. The main reason for this was the allegations that these publications created communist propaganda. That is why it could have happened that some publications in 1951 from Romania and Hungary which were sent to Turkey were sent back (Yılmaz – Doğaner 2006: 158). With a decision taken by the Council of Ministers on 14 December 1951 within the scope of one of the DP's policies and efforts to prevent the spread of communism in Turkey, the entry of Romanian and Hungarian publications to Turkey was absolutely prohibited. In particular, the pamphlet entitled "1 May", which was published by the Communist Party in Hungary and which praised communism, was prohibited from entering and being published in Turkey (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 127. 91. 13.). In addition, the import and distribution of the newspaper *Hungarian People's Republic* published in Hungary

in Turkish, which was considered to praise communism was also prohibited (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 127. 95. 9.).

It is understood that during the DP period, emphasis was placed especially on Hungarian experts to be employed in Turkey in important fields. In this context Béla Offeri, a telecommunication expert, who was invited from Hungary, was allowed to be employed within the General Directorate of the Post Office (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 125. 28. 15.). In Turkey in the early years of the Republic many Hungarian experts were employed in different business areas during the DP period. This contributed to both the improvement in Turkish business industries and the development of relations between Turkey and Hungary.

Hungarian scientists contributed to the development of Turkish universities and to progress in scientific fields. Hungarian researchers, who were assigned to both Ankara and Istanbul universities during these periods, helped both universities develop in scientific fields. In this context a Hungarian academician was appointed to the Faculty of Literature in 1952, just like the appointment made to the Istanbul Faculty of Law in 1951. The name of this person was Dr. János Eckmann, a specialist in Turkish Language and Literature (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 128. 7. 3.). From the date Eckmann was appointed to Istanbul University until 1961, he played an important role in Turkey both in terms of his studies on the development of the Turkish language and in terms of training many experts in the field of Turkish linguistics (Sertkaya 1973: 2). As explained above, in the early years of the DP, Hungarian experts were employed in some fields, especially in universities. It can be thought that this had positive results for the two countries, because Hungarian experts working in Turkey were valued as cultural ambassadors between the two countries and brought the Turkish and Hungarian states closer to each other.

In 1953, it was decided to increase the credit margins determined in the trade and payment agreements with Turkey and Hungary. In this context, in accordance with the decision taken by the Council of Ministers on 5 November 1953, the loan margin with Hungary was increased to 2 million dollars. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was authorised to sign the agreement draft on behalf of the government by making mutual correspondence with the representatives of the countries of Poland and Israel (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 133. 87. 10.). Increasing the credit margin with Hungary was important in terms of showing that the trade volume between the two countries was improved.

By 1953, the relationship between Hungary and the Soviet Union had become even more tense and problematic. The first mobility from the Hungarian side to Turkey in this period was the official visit of Sándor Rónai, who served as President of the National Assembly of Hungary. Due to the Peace Offensive initiated by the USSR after the death of Joseph Stalin in 1953 (Zubok, 1995), Ronai made an official visit to Turkey, and tried to emphasise that they had good relations with Turkey. During his visit, Ronai invited the Turkish Parlia-

mentary Council to Hungary to revive the traditional cooperation between the two countries (Çalik 2015: 39).

Trade relations between the two countries were also intensified. The loan margin was determined to be USD 500,000 in Article 5 of the Payments Agreement signed between Turkey and Hungary in Ankara on 12 May 1949. Since the said date, it was stated that the existing credit share was not sufficient, especially since the developments in the economic industry of Turkey increased the exchange opportunities with Hungary and therefore it was increased in 1953. In 1954, it became obvious that the current loan margin was the main reason for the decrease in Turkish exports to Hungary. In order to solve this problem, an additional protocol was signed between Turkey and Hungary on 9 February 1954 to increase the loan margin again. It was ensured that the loan margin would further be increased in commercial relations between the two countries (Official Gazette 27 April 1954, 8698: 9093). This information and these agreements played an important role in the diplomatic relations between Hungary and Turkey in the DP period as before the DP era.

As in the first periods of the Republic, many Hungarian refugees were hosted during the DP period, and some of them held high positions in governmental offices. In this sense, it was decided on 18 June 1956 that Electrical Telecommunications Specialist Pál Belati, one of the Hungarian refugees, would work for a fee of 10,000 Turkish Liras at the Istanbul University Faculty of Electricity for a certain period of time (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 140. 60. 5.). The postings show that Hungarian experts were occupied by Turkey and refugees of Hungarian origin were supported. This was not only between Turkish and Hungarian political and commercial terms, but it was also evaluated as contributing to the development of social relations. In 1950, the year the DP came to power, Cemal Hazım Tepeyran was appointed ambassador to Hungary. In 1956 there was a change in the Turkish ambassador to Hungary.

On 17 January 1956 former Kabul ambassador Cemal Yeşil was appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 141.112. 10.). Yeşil, who continued in this post until the end of the DP rule in 1960, served during the 1956 revolution in Hungary.

The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was influential in the development of relations between Turkey and Hungary. In order to understand the subject, brief information should be given about the events. The fact that the 1956 revolution which started with a great mobilisation of intellectuals, students and workers in Hungary, and which was administered by the ruling group formed by the workers, had a 'spontaneous' feature along with the boundaries of the revolution. The outbreak of the Hungarian Revolution on 23 October 1956 saw Imre Nagy elevated to the position of prime minister on 24 October as a central demand of the revolutionaries and common people. Nagy's reformist faction gained full control of the government, admitted non-communist politicians, dissolved

the ÁVH secret police, promised democratic reforms and unilaterally withdrew Hungary from the Warsaw Pact on 1 November. The Soviet Union launched a massive military invasion of Hungary on 4 November, which Hungarians still remember as a national day of mourning.

The 1956 Hungarian Revolution turned into a war of freedom over time, and the resistance of the Hungarians was followed with great interest by the Turkish people. The Turkish, who previously supported the honourable struggle of the Hungarians, they provided assistance to the Hungarians again in 1956. During these days when Cemal Yeşil served as the ambassador, the Turkish press, especially *Milliyet*, followed the events in Hungary with great interest and constantly published supporting messages (Yağcı Aksel 2014: 96–100). Other than *Milliyet*, newspapers *Hürriyet* and *Zafer* also continued to support the justified demands of the Hungarians with their headlines.

Selim Sarper, the permanent delegate of the United Nations representing the Turkish Republic at the meeting of the United Nations Council on the occasion of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, stated that he condemned the incidents carried out by the USSR Army in Hungary on behalf of Turkey and heavily criticised the Soviet delegate who was his counterpart. He also declared that he supported the application made by the Hungarian government to the United Nations Security Council regarding the situation. It was not just the ruling DP, but other political parties, notably the Freedom Party, also supported the Hungarian people. Apart from the ruling and opposition parties, many non-governmental organisations throughout the country organised various activities to support the people of Hungary. Not content with these, the Turkish government opened its gates to the Hungarian nation who struggled for their freedom and had to leave their country (Çalik 2015: 40).

On 21 November 1956 the Hungarian Relief Activity Initiative Committee, which was active in Germany at the time when the Turkish people supported the revolution in Hungary, wrote a letter to Prime Minister Adnan Menderes in which Hungarian people requested help from the Turkish government. It asked for the monetary relief to be sent to the International Red Cross Society in Geneva under the name of aid collected for the Hungarian people as a result of the efforts conducted in Turkey (PMRA, Code: 30. 1. 0.0; Place No: 6. 31. 29.). As stated above, Turkey supported the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and the resistance of the Hungarian people, as Hungary was described as a sister country from the very beginning, and this message was constantly sent.

Within the scope of the efforts to help the Hungarian people, the Turkish Red Crescent started its activities in order to meet the needs of 500 refugees, and decided to carry out joint activities with the General Directorate of Land and Settlement. Refugee camps were established in the Sirkeci, Pendik and Zeytinburnu districts in Istanbul, especially for those who fled Hungary and became refugee in Turkey. The Turkish government officials, who saw the Hun-

garian refugees as guests in Turkey, made the necessary arrangement for their comfort, and signed an agreement with the Free Hungarian Association. They also assigned cooks to prepare national Hungarian dishes for the Hungarian refugees. The number of Hungarians arriving at Turkey from the first days of 1957 gradually increased, and as of 27 February 1957, the number of Hungarian refugees living in Turkey reached 507 (Çalik 2015: 41).

A letter of thanks was sent to Fahrettin Kerim Gökay, the governor and mayor of Istanbul by United Nations High Commissioner James M. Read for acceptance and assistance of Hungarian refugees. Read declared that he was grateful that Hungarian refugees were assisted and hosted in Istanbul (PMRA, Code: 30. 1. 0.0; Place No: 116.734. 26.). It can be interpreted that Turkey, who intended to play an important role in the development of the relations between the two nations, attracted the attention of the world, and was supported by the United Nations.

On 31 July 1957, a letter of thanks was sent to President Celal Bayar by István Fáy, the president of the Hungarian Liberation Society, which operated in Argentina. In this letter, István Fáy stated that the great sympathy and aid given to Hungary by the Turkish government and the Turkish nation during the resistance of the Hungarian people against the Soviet Union, was a source of consolation for the people in difficulties and therefore they were grateful to Turkey (PMRA, Code: 30. 1. 0.0; Place No: 41.244. 21.). It is revealed from this letter that Turkey gave Hungarians all the help it could during the revolution and provided material and immaterial supports as well.

After the revolution, commercial relations between Turkey and Hungary resumed and some activities were carried out by the Turkish government. In this context, with the article published in the *Official Gazette* on 17 August 1957, additions were made to the existing foreign trade regime regarding the goods to be imported from Hungary and the loans for the goods to be purchased were redefined (Official Gazette 26 October 1957, 9742: 18078). The regulation shows that both the commercial life in Hungary returned to normal and commercial relations with Turkey and Hungary were resuming from where they were left.

On 10 April 1959 the *Heti Hírmondó* reported that President of the Turkish Republic Celal Bayar sent greetings for Hungary's national holiday on the commemoration of Liberation Day (4 April), the date Hungary was occupied by the Soviet Union (Heti Hírmondó 10 April 1959, 3/15/: 2). Like the resumption of commercial relations with Hungarians after the revolution, it was seen that Hungarian professionals had also started to arrive in Turkey again and they were assigned to various institutions. For example, Artúr Stern, one of the Hungarian medical professionals, was assigned to Ankara Hospital on 5 September 1959 (PMRA, Code: 30. 18. 1.2; Place No: 153. 51. 5.). Likewise, with a decision taken on 20 January 1960, M.Sc. Mihály Búza was assigned under the command of the General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration

to a so called “MTA”. In March 1960 in Budapest, *Külkereskedelem* magazine reported that Hungarian-Turkish trade in goods was growing. Negotiations governing the 1960 trade in goods took place in Ankara between the Hungarian People’s Republic and Turkey. As a result of the negotiations, a protocol regulating the trade of the two countries in 1960 was signed, which provides a way to increase the trade turnover of the two countries. Hungary mainly supplied chemicals, pharmaceuticals, various hardware and instruments to Turkey, where it mainly bought agricultural products, tobacco, cotton, leather, and citrus fruits. According to the advertisement on the last page of the magazine, the Hungarian KLM-MALÉV airlines connected **Budapest directly** to Istanbul by that time (*Külkereskedelem* March, 1960, 4(1–12): 23).

The ‘softening’ between the states that started in 1960, the last year of the DP, and which was a result of normalisation process in Turkish-Russian cooperation, positively affected the diplomatic relations of Hungary. With the missions raised to the embassy level on 8 September 1967, political relations were enhanced to a higher level and the relations were further improved (Çalik 2015: 41).

Conclusion

The Ottoman-Hungarian and then Turkish-Hungarian relations had a profound effect on the language, culture and history of both peoples. This close relationship and mutual sympathy was also manifested when before the proclamation of the Turkish Republic a struggle for independence was fought in Turkey and the Republic was declared after a difficult period. Especially strong connections were established in the field of diplomacy and finance, which brought the two nations closer together in the cultural field as well.

This situation has continued increasingly since the proclamation of the Republic which was accordingly the establishment of the new Turkish state. One of the countries where the Turkish Republic established its first embassy was Hungary. However, until 1960 Turkey was not represented at the ministerial level in Hungary, but only as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary. With the appointment of the first envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Hungary in 1926, commercial agreements were made immediately between the two countries, and Turkey started to both export to and import from Hungary. It is necessary to highlight the import activity in the field of animal husbandry.

In the first years of the Republic, governmental visits were made at the highest level in order to further develop relations between the two countries, especially diplomacy and trade. First, the Hungarian president visited Turkey and then the Turkish prime minister went to Hungary. During both visits, various agreements were made in the field of trade and politics. Meanwhile, Hungary joined the war alongside the Axis countries, but Turkey chose not to.

This situation, however, did not harm the relations between the two countries, and Turkey and Hungary continued their friendly relations.

During the Democratic Party era revolutionary innovations were made in several fields in Turkey and numerous official structures were established. In these new institutions, especially foreign professionals were employed and among them a remarkably large number of Hungarians.

In Turkey, there was a power change in 1950 with the DP coming to power after 27 years of single party rule. In this new era there were some alterations in Turkish foreign policy. The Turkish Republic, which is a member of many international organisations, most notably NATO, continued its good relations with Hungary. As in the first periods of the Republic, commercial, political and social cooperation with the Hungarian government were further developed in the DP era. Hungarian academics appointed to engineering and medical faculties of universities in Istanbul, made serious contributions to the advancement of these universities. In addition, Hungarian lecturers working in the field of Turkish Language and Literature in the Faculty contributed scientifically to revealing the origin of the Turkish language with their research.

The terms of the commercial agreements made with Hungary in the first years of the Republic were extended during the DP period and new agreements were made in addition to these. This situation continued until 1956. However, due to the revolution in Hungary in 1956, commercial relations had to be suspended for a short time. The Hungarian people, who experienced difficult times due to the Soviet Union, had serious problems in foreign policy in this period, and despite the fact that there were no conflicts of interest between them, cooperation had to be suspended with Turkey under Soviet pressure. During the Hungarian Revolution in 1956 the Turkish people and the Turkish government expressed their solidarity with and supported Hungarian people.

During the Hungarian Revolution, letters of thanks were written to the Turkish government and people for the support given. Relief associations operating for Hungarian freedom fighters, especially in Germany, Argentina and other countries, wrote letters to both President Celal Bayar and Prime Minister Adnan Menderes in order to express their gratitude for the assistance. In addition, official letters of thanks were sent to Turkey by the United Nations for helping the Hungarians. These documents in the Presidential Republic Archive can be considered proof of the support given to the Hungarian people by Turkey.

After 1956 many people had to flee their homeland or were exiled. Following this process closely, the Turkish Republic opened its gates to many Hungarian refugees and hosted them in Istanbul. Aid campaigns were initiated by the Turkish Red Crescent and non-governmental organisations for the refugees who were placed in camps established in various parts of Istanbul, and all the needs of the refugees were met during their stay in Turkey.

With the end of the revolution in Hungary, official relations between the Turkish and Hungarian governments were restarted and various agreements were made to normalise relations, particularly trade. Inter-state relations especially improved in 1960, the last year of the DP government, due to the political conjunctural situation in the world, and stable political relations were established between Turkey and the Soviet Union, which positively affected the cooperation between Turkey and Hungary. Relations based on mutual respect and friendship between the two countries continues to this day.

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