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CONTACTS OF GREEK AND BULGARIAN JOURNALISTS', WHO COME TO TURKEY, IN ANKARA AND ISTANBUL DURING II. BALKAN CONFERENCE (20-26 OCTOBER, 1931)

Abstract:

Second Balkan Conference, which is an important step for the Balkan Union, was held in İstanbul in 20-26 February 1931. Turkey made a great effort for this conference to be successful.

Association of Journalists, invited Greek and Bulgarian journalists to Turkey to both monitor the conference efforts and to make a favour for the hospitality shown in Greece and Bulgaria.

And to monitor the second Balkan conference a crowded group of journalists came from Greece and Bulgaria who will maintain their researches and observations in İstanbul then in Ankara in 20-26 October.

This study will include the researches done by this group of journalists during their visit to İstanbul and Ankara who were invited to Turkey by Association of Journalists.

Keywords:

Second Balkan Conference, Greek Journalists, Bulgarian Journalists, Istanbul Association of Journalists, Contacts and reviews

Introduction

Turkey's foreign policy strategy in Balkans after Treaty of Lausanne was asserting no claims or demands on former Balkan territories, and preserving the 'status quo' agreed in Treaty of Lausanne¹. For this reason, Turkey wanted to revive the relationships with Balkan states, and signed bilateral treaties of friendship with Albania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia accordingly².

Meanwhile. Balkan States tried to solve the problems and conflicts via treaties and agreements inter se. Thus, the relationships between Balkan States got better during 1925-1929³. Eventually, relationships between almost all Balkan States got better by 1929, and the way required for a cooperation in Balkans was paved.

First serious attempt to establish Balkan Union was made by "International Peace Bureau", the headquarters of which was in Geneva⁴. The Bureau decided to hold an unofficial conference among Balkan States, and the first conference to be hold in Athens, Greece⁵.

First Balkan Conference was held in Athens, with participation of Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Greece and Yugoslavia⁶. In the First Balkan Conference held in Athens, it was decided that, the Second Balkan Conference would be held in Istanbul one year later.

A crowded group of journalists came to Turkey from Greece and Bulgaria in order to watch the Second Balkan Conference to be held in Istanbul and Ankara on 20-26 October.

Second Balkan Conference to be held in Istanbul was very important for Turkey, and started to make provisions months ago⁷. Dolmabahce and Yildiz Palaces were selected

¹ Mehmet Gönlübol-Cem Sar, **Olaylarla Türk Dıs Politikası**, s.106.; Mehmet Gönlübol-Cem Sar, **Atatürk ve** Türkiye'nin Dış Politikası(1919-1938), Atatürk Araştırma Merkezi Yay., Ankara 1990, s.96

² Türkiye'nin Balkan devletleri ile imzaladığı başlıca antlaşmalar şunlardı; Arnavutluk ile 15 Aralık 1923'te Ankara'da imzalanan Dostluk Antlaşması, Bulgaristan'la 18 Ekim 1925'te Ankara'da imzalanan Dostluk Antlaşması, Yugoslavya ile 28 Ekim 1925'te Ankara'da imzalanan Dostluk Antlasması. Bkz. Gönlübol-Sar. Olaylarla Türk Dıs Politikası, s. 106-107; Gönlübol-Sar, Atatürk ve Türkiye'nin Dış Politikası, s.96. Ayrıca bkz. Türkiye'nin Siyasal Anlaşmaları(1920-1945), C. I, Türk Tarih Kurumu Yay., Ankara 1989, s.245-391; İsmail Soysal, "Balkan Paktı, Ord. Prof. Yusuf Hikmet Bayur'a Armağan, TTK Basımevi, Ankara 1985, s.133-134; Türkiye'nin Dış Politikasında 50 Yıl, Cumhuriyet'in İlk On Yılı ve Balkan Paktı(1923-1934), Dışişleri Bakanlığı yay., Ankara 1973, s..308-368. Hasan Dilan Berke, Türkiye'nin Dış Politikası 1923-1939, Alfa Yay, İstanbul 1998, s.87.

³ Balkan devletleri arasındaki ilişkiler 1925 döneminde yavaş yavaş düzeltilmişti: Romanya ile Yugoslavya 1921 İttifak Antlasması'ndan beri Kücük Antant cerçevesinde ve Fransa'nın desteğine sahip olarak, zaten sıkı isbirliğini sürdürüyorlardı. Bulgaristan'ın, Makedonya sorunu nedeniyle Yugoslavya(Sırp-Hırvat-Sloven) devletine takındığı olumsuz tutumda bir iyileşme başlayınca 1929 Eylülünde sınır işleri konusunda bir antlaşma yapılmıştı. 1930 ortalarında Bulgar Hükûmetinin Makedonya örgütüne karşı önlemler alması üzerine iki devlet arasındaki gerginlik son bulmuştu. Diğer taraftan, Yunanistan'ın Yugoslavya(Sırp-Hırvat-Sloven) devletiyle 1929 Martında imzaladığı Antlaşma ile aralarındaki pürüzler son bulmuştu. Yunan-Bulgar sınırı üzerindeki gerginlik ise 1926'dan beri oldukça hafiflemişti. Bkz. İsmail Soysal, "Balkan Paktı", s.142.

⁴ M. Murat Hatipoğlu, Yakın Tarihte Türkiye ve Yunanistan(1923-1954), Ankara 1997, s.160.; Eski Yunan Başbakanı Papanastasiu, bu teklifini Evrensel Barış Kongresi'nin 27. oturumunda yapmıştı. Bkz. Aptülahat Akşin, Atatürk'ün Dış Politika İlkeleri ve Diplomasisi, TTK Basımevi, Ankara 1991, s.259

⁵ Bkz. Gönlübol-Sar, Olaylarla Türk Dış Politikası, s.107; Gönlübol-Sar, Atatürk ve Türkiye'nin Dış Politikası, s.96.; Melek Fırat, "1928-1939 Yunanistan'la İlişkiler", Baskın Oran(ed.), Türk Dış Politikası, Kurtuluş Savaşından Bugüne Olgular, Belgeler, Yorumlar, Cilt. I, İletişim Yay., İstanbul 2001, s.350.

⁶ Hatipoğlu, a.g.e., s.160.

⁷ İkinci Balkan Konferansı'nın hazırlık çalışmaları ile ilgili haberler Ağustos ayı sonlarından başlamak üzere Eylül ayı ve bilahare de konferansın toplanacağı Ekim ayının 20'sine kadar gazetelerde yer almıştır.

as the places to hold the meetings for this conference. Opening meeting of Istanbul Conference would to be held in Dolmabahce Palace, and other meeting would be held in Yildiz Palace⁸. It was decided that last meeting of the conference would be held in Ankara, Turkish Grand National Assembly, General Assembly Hall.

As preparations for Second Balkan Conference continued, Hakki Tarik Bey, as President of Istanbul Association of Journalists, contacted with Greek and Bulgarian Associations of Journalists, and invited Greek and Bulgarian journalists to Istanbul⁹. Greek and Bulgarian associations of journalists embraced this invitation, and notified that their journalists would accompany the committees to come to Istanbul for the conference¹⁰.

After it was certain that Greek and Bulgarian journalists would come to Istanbul, newspapers started to publish news about them¹¹. First journalists to come to Istanbul were Greek journalists¹². Greek journalists, who departed with the committee to represent Greece in the Second Balkan Conference, arrived in Istanbul by sea on October, 15, Thursday¹³.

Bulgarian journalists were expected arrive on October, 19¹⁴. As expected, Bulgarian journalists arrived in Istanbul by train, on October 19, Monday. Bulgarian journalists were welcomed in Sirkeci Station by a group formed by President of Istanbul Association of Journalists Hakkı Tarık Bey, administrators of the association Istanbul journalists, and some persons who represented the city and the government¹⁵. Bulgarian journalists were going to stay in Perapalas during their stay in Istanbul as the guests of Istanbul Association of Journalists¹⁶.

Gazeteciler istasyonda Matbuat Cemiyeti Reisi Hakkı Tarık, Şehir Meclisinden Kemal Ömer, Ticaret Odasından Hakkı, Halk Fırkasından Rüknettin, Vilayet Katibi Umumîsi Ekrem Beylerle gazetecilerimiz ve Bulgar kolonisine mensup bir cok zevat tarafından İstikbal edilmişlerdir" **Hakimiyeti Milliye**, 20 Teşrinievel 1931, nr. 3688

⁸ Konuyla ilgili Cumhuriyet'te yer alan "İçtimalar Yıldız Sarayı'nda alenî olacak" başlıklı bir haberde "İlk celsesini Dolmabahçe Sarayında aktedecek olan Balkan konferansı'nın müteakip içtimalarını Yıldız Sarayı'nın merasim köşkünde yapacaktır. İçtimaları herkes dinleyebilecektir" denilmekteydi. Bkz. **Cumhuriyet**, 15 Eylül 1931, Nr. 2643

⁹ Cumhuriyet gazetesinde çıkan bir haberde "İstanbul Matbuat Cemiyeti Balkan Konferansı münasebeti ile Yunan ve Bulgar gazetecilerini İstanbul'a davet etmiştir. Yunan ve Bulgar murahhasları bu daveti memnuniyetle kabul etmişlerdir" denilmektedir. Bkz. **Cumhuriyet**, 14 Eylül 1931, Nr. 2462.

¹⁰ Cumhuriyet, 9 Eylül 1931, Nr. 2637.

¹¹ Şehrimize Gelecek Yunan ve Bulgar Gazetecileri", **Cumhuriyet,** 9 Teşrinievvel 1931, Nr. 2667; **Cumhuriyet**, 15 Teşrinievvel 1931, Nr. 2673.

¹² Hakimiyeti Milliye'de çıkan "Balkan Konferansı İçin" başlıklı haberde "Balkan Konferansı'na iştirak edecek olan 50 Yunan murahhası Perşembe günü İstanbul'a geleceklerdir" denilmekteydi. Bkz. **Hakimiyeti Milliye**, 14 Teşrinievel 1931, Nr. 3682.

¹³ Hakimiyeti Milliye gazetesi verdiği haberde "Balkan Konferansına iştirak edecek olan Yunan murahhasları bugün saat 15 de Ankara vapuru ile şehrimize geleceklerdir. Aynı vapurla Yunan gazetecileri de gelmektedir. İstikbal hazırlıkları yapılmaktadır. İstanbul gazetecileri bir vapurla kendilerini karşılayacaktır" demekteydi. Bkz. Hakimiyeti Milliye, 15 Teşrinievel 1931, Nr. 3683.

¹⁴ Bulgar gazetecilerin ise pazartesi günü sabahleyin İstanbul'a gelecekleri ve Yunanlı gazeteciler gibi karşılanacakları ve bunlardan bir kısmının Perapalas oteline yerleştirilecekleri belirtiliyordu. **Cumhuriyet**, 15 Teşrinievvel 1931, Nr. 2673. Aynı konudaki bir diğer haber için bkz. **Cumhuriyet**, 17 Teşrinievvel 1931, Nr. 2676.

¹⁵ Bulgar gazetecilerinin gelişini Hakimiyeti Milliye "İstanbul'a gelen Bulgar Gazetecileri" alt başlığıyla şöyle duyuruyordu:

[&]quot;Esbak Ziraat Nazırı M. Vasilof'un riyasetinde Bulgar gazetecilerden mürekkep bir heyet bu sabah 12.20'de şehrimize gelmişlerdir.

¹⁶ Cumhuriyet, 20 Teşrinievvel 1931, Nr. 2678

Istanbul Association of Journalist prepared a very tight schedule for their Greek and Bulgarian guests. Greek guests rested until noon on October, 16, Friday at Istanbul Palas Hotel. Afternoon on the same day, Greek visitors were taken on a city tour, and shown some museums and mosques¹⁷.

First official contact of Greek journalists in Istanbul was with Istanbul Provincial Directorate of Republican People's Party¹⁸. Second official contact of Greek journalists in Istanbul was with Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in Fener. Greek visitors were admitted by Patriarch Fotiyos Efendi, in the great ceremonial hall¹⁹.

A dinner was hosted in the honour of Greek and Bulgarian Journalists on 19 October Monday²⁰. The dinner was held in Macka, Park Hotel, re-founded in Tevfik Pasa's mansion. Professional conversations occurred between Turkish, Bulgarian and Greek journalists during the friendly atmosphere of the dinner.

One of the main duties of Greek and Bulgarian journalists during their stay in Istanbul was to follow meetings of Second Balkan Conference closely, and convey information about these meetings to their countries and the journals they worked for.

Journalist visitors followed meetings of Second Balkan Conference, which started on October, 20, Tuesday closely. These journalists, who worked at the offices allocated for them at Yildiz Palace, tried to convey developments about the conference from Istanbul to Athens and Sofia day to day.

Greek and Bulgarian journalists spent their time out of the conference in accordance with the schedule prepared for them, and visited various historical and touristic places, and attended dinner parties and balls organized by governmental and non-governmental organizations in their honour. They sometimes attended visits and dinner parties organized for them by Istanbul Association of Journalists.

According to the schedule, Balkan Conference members and journalists who observed the conference had a tour of Istanbul Bosporus on 23rd October Friday afternoon on a steamer of Şirketi Hayriye. After Bosporus tour, visitors came to Beylerbeyi palace. After touring the palace, the visitors attended tea party held in their honour²¹. A ball was held for Second Balkan Conference members in the evening the same day in Dolmabahce Palace in the name of city of Istanbul²².

After commission studies from the morning till noon on 24th October Saturday, a tour was organised in the afternoon for the members who participated in Balkan Conference. Conference members, other guests and journalists attended this tour. Conference member and journalists got to Buyukada on a steamer allocated by Navigation Administration. After the tour on the island, Istanbul Chamber of Commerce and

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¹⁷ Cumhuriyet, 17 Teşrinievvel 1931, Nr. 2676.

¹⁸ Hakimiyeti Milliye, 19 Teşrinievel 1931, Nr. 3687

¹⁹ Hakimiyeti Milliye, 19 Teşrinievvel 1931, Nr. 3687.

²⁰ Yemek ile ilgili program önceden hazırlanmıştı. Nitekim konuyla ilgili olarak Cumhuriyet gazetesinde çıkan bir haberde "Matbuat Cemiyeti misafirler için bir merasim programı hazırlamıştır. Misafirlerin şerefine Pazartesi günü akşamı Maçka'da Tevfik Paşa konağında yeni tesis edilen Park otelinde 120 kişilik bir ziyafet verilecektir. Bu ziyafette misafirlerden ve İstanbul matbuat mümessillerinden maada Vali, Kolordu Kumandanı, Yunan ve Bulgar sefir ve konsolosları İstanbul'daki ecnebi gazetecilerde hazır bulunacaklardır" deniliyordu. **Cumhuriyet**, 16 Teşrinievvel 1931, nr. 2674

²¹ Hakimiyeti Milliye, 24 Teşrinievel 1931, Nr. 3692.

²² Hakimiyeti Milliye, 24 teşrinievel 1931, Nr. 3692.

Industry hosted a tea party at Yacht Club in honour of guests. Guests and journalist got back to Istanbul at 8.30 in the evening on the same steamer²³.

A group of 30 journalists, formed mostly by Greek and Bulgarian journalists went to Ankara on the same train with participants of Balkan Conference²⁴. If desired, the journalists, who went to Ankara could stay in Ankara until Republic Day Ceremonies to be held on October, 29, as guests of Hakimiyet-i Milliye (National Sovereignty) newspaper²⁵.

Balkan visitors, including Greek and Bulgarian journalists attended lunch party, given in their honour by Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Tevfik Rustu (Aras) Bey at Ankara Palas. After lunch, Balkan Conference committees and journalists came to Turkish Grand National Assembly and got into meeting hall of the Assembly.

After a short time, President Mustafa Kemal Pasa came to meeting hall with Prime Minister İsmet Pasa, President of the Assembly, and Ministry of Internal Affairs. Subsequently, head of committees presented all the members in their committees to President Mustafa Kemal Pasa. Mustafa Kemal Pasa complemented every member presented to him one by one. Presentation of the committees to the President ended with the presentation of Greek and Bulgarian journalists²⁶.

Following the conference session held in Turkish Grand Natinal Assembly, conference members and Greek and Bulgarian journalists were taken to Gazi Farm with cars, in accordance with their schedule. Here, Prime Minister Ismet Pasa contacted every committee member and journalist one by one, and wanted to learn what they thought about Ankara and the conference.

After the program in Gazi Farm, Greek and Bulgarian journalists and conference members got back to Ankara Palace to rest, and attended the Presidential Orchestra Concert held in Turkish House in the evening of the same day.

Before the concert given in former Turkish House building, President Mustafa Kemal Pasa was closely interested in Bulgarian and Greek journalists. After the concert, Balkan guests departed for Istanbul, on two trains allocated for them. Pasa was closely involved with Bulgarian and Greek journalists personally.

All Greek journalists hosted by Hakimiyet-i Milliye newspaper departed Ankara, for Istanbul. Bulgarian journalists planned to stay in Ankara for another day. Bulgarian journalists planned to stay in Ankara for another day. Turkish journalists were closely interested in Bulgarian journalists, who stayed in Ankara, and they had a very busy schedule of trip and research visits, and on 27th October.

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²³ Hakimiyeti Milliye, 25 Teşrinievel 1931, Nr. 3693.

²⁴ Bugün 10,50 ve 10, 40'da gelen iki terenle Balkan Konferansı azaları ve misafir Yunan ve Bulgar gazetecileri Ankara'ya gelmişlerdir." Haber için bkz. **Hakimiyeti Milliye**, 26 Teşrinievel 1931, Nr.3694.

²⁵ **Hakimiyeti Milliye,** 25 teşrinievel 1931, Nr.3693.Cumhuriyet gazetesi, gazetecilerin Ankara gidişleriyle ilgili şu bilgiyi okuyucularına duyuruyordu: "Balkan murahhasları ile birlikte gelen 30 kişilik Balkan Gazetecileri kafilesi "Hakimiyeti Milliye" gazetesinin misafiri olacaklardır. Gazeteciler arzu ettikleri takdirde Cumhuriyet Bayramına kadar burada kalacaklardır." Bkz. **Cumhuriyet**, 26 Teşrinievvel 1931, Nr.2684

²⁶ Cumhuriyet gazetesi, gazetecilerin Cumhurbaşkanı Mustafa Kemal Paşa ile tanıştırılması ile ilgili olarak şu bilgiyi vermektedir "Gazi Hz. En son olarak Yunan ve Bulgar gazetecilerini kabul buyurdular. Takdim merasimi bu suretle nihayet buldu ve konferansın son celsesi açıldı." **Cumhuriyet**, 27 Teşrinievvel 1931, Nr. 2685.

Conclusion

In the afternoon on 27th October, Bulgarian journalists attended in some tour and research programs with President of Istanbul Association of Journalists Hakkı Tarık Bey and Ankara journalists. Bulgarian journalists departed Ankara for Istanbul by train on 27th October.

Greek journalists who went back to Istanbul, attended in some visits and researches on 28th October Wednesday. Greek visitors visited Karaagac abattoir first, and Reji factory and Liqueur factory then. Guest journalists who went back to Istanbul went to Istanbul Press Association and management of some newspapers published in Istanbul for farewell visits²⁷.

Greek journalists departed from Istanbul for Athens on October, 29, on Patris ship. After coming from Ankara, Bulgarian journalists started to leave our country. Some Bulgarian journalist left Istanbul on October, 28, some on October, 29, and some on October 30 by train for their country.

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http://www.iises.net/proceedings/17th-international-academic-conference-vienna/front-page

²⁷ Cumhuriyet bu ziyareti "Yunan gazetecileri Veda Ettiler" alt başlığıyla şöyle duyurmaktadır: "Bugün memleketlerine dönecek olan Yunanlı meslektaşlarımız dün Akşam matbaamıza gelerek veda etmek nezaketinde bulunmuşlardır. Gördükleri hüsnü kabul ve samimiyete bir kez daha teşekkür etmişlerdir." Bkz. **Cumhuriyet**, 29 teşrinievvel 1931, Nr. 2687.