

## The Work of Georgian Diplomats at Paris Conference

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***Abstract:** Paris Peace Conference which started after the end of the World War I to create better political weather in the world took place from January 1919 until December 1920. Georgian delegation joined Paris Conference from March 1919. Except political issues delegation took informational and propagandistic work, fulfilled consulate duty, had the right to conduct economical cases, etc. Allied states discussed the problem of Georgia in international policy viewpoint; they cared about unstable situation in the Caucasus.*

*The most important issue was that leading states had to acknowledge Georgian independence. This was promoted by the treaty between Bolshevik Russia and Georgia signed on 7 May, 1920 in which Russia acknowledged Georgia as a sovereign country.*

***Keywords:** Paris conference, Georgian Diplomats, Acknowledgement of Georgian independence*

### **Introduction**

Representatives of Georgian democratic republic conducted active diplomatic work with the European countries. Young state had sent its delegation in the Paris peace conference which started in 1919 during which 44 states established first international organization in the world The League of Nations. The delegation of Georgian democratic republic conducted a lot of work for its membership, but this attempt was unsuccessful.

### **Main Part:**

We find some key processes of acknowledging Georgian democratic republic as an independent country in the memories of Georgian diplomat ZurabAvalishvili in which the author has well summed up lots of political processes and tries to elucidate the readers in real situations at the beginning of the 1920 when in Russia, Soviet governance had priority in internal conflicts. Constituent states regarded it necessary to lock Bolshevism among Russian borders and protect outer countries from its penetration. The decision of England, France and Italy really considered the viewpoint to acknowledge Georgian democratic republic as De facto on 11 January, 1920. The decision of aliens was joined by Japan in February and Belgium in August. Earlier, on September 15, 1919, Argentina acknowledged Georgian sovereignty. The recognition of Georgia in international field was promoted by the treaty of Soviet Russia and Georgia signed on May 7, 1920. On its bases Russia recognized Georgian independence.

In spring 1920, Soviet Russia succeeded in internal conflict. Major European governments (England and France) decided to create new policy and it result was: Direct and indirect interference in Russian cases. Policy character of aliens is elucidated in the note issued on February 24, 1920 which said:, Aliens can't establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet government until it follows terror way. Outer states whose independence was known by

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aliens were given advice to restraint from attacks towards Soviet Russia, but in case Russia attacked outer states in their legal borders, aliens would assist them” [1,pg 96]. De facto recognition of the three countries (Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia) of Trans Caucasia showed that they should hope help from England. England initiative for establishing the trade cooperation with soviet Russia made hope that later it would be easy for England to fulfill the role of mediator of establishing peaceful neighboring relations between Russia and Trans Caucasian republics, England needed the base and it was Batumi. Besides the fact that until 17 October, 1919, Batumi was formally occupied by Britain, according to the new law, at the end of the given year Britain armies should leave Batumi but in February, 1920 this decision was rejected and Englishmen stayed in Batumi. Exactly in this period the issue to make the truce with Ottoman Turkey and to establish the East arose “[1,pg 98.] Georgia and Armenia were interested with preparing the truce with Ottoman Turkey, especially with collaborating Armenian status, as while working they couldn’t neglect the issue of mutual border of Trans Caucasian republics.

In order to define Armenian borders special committee was created from the representatives of England, France, Italy and Japan. Among disputable issues was a very important question- to insure Armenia with the corridor on the Black Sea. According to Armenian delegation, the corridor should be given to Armenia in Trebizond Vilayet as well as Minor Asian coasts should be given to Armenia.

Thus, the future Armenia would include nearly the whole LaziatanSanjak on which Georgian delegation declared its rights in front of Paris conference, in the major 1919 memorandum dedicated to the conference. On February 25, 1920, Gerogian delegation was invited in the above mentioned committee in order to give definitions about the districts of Lazistan and Batumi. Georgian ambitions on LazistanSanjak (Trebizond Vilayet) and the part of BaiazetSanjak (ErzrumVilayet) were based on certain data of history and ethnography and on well-established viewpoints among Georgian society.

In front of commission the member of Georgia delegation Z.Avalishvili explained Georgian opinion about Batumi in details; Batumi’s district was inseparable part of Georgia. “Georgia is agreed to make all guarantees and ensure international trade requirements of neighboring republics in Batumi” [1,pg204.] Head of the commission kept in mind the difficulty of Batumi population that Georgians didn’t make the majority of residents there.

Thus, Georgian delegation tried to solve Batumi issue by agreement of three republics of Trans Caucasia. The agreement implied to recognize Batumi and Batumi region as a part of Georgia and later they linked to one another the issue of demarcation Georgia and Armenia and appearance of Armenia on the Black Sea.

The highest committee comprehended committee’s opinion and liked quite another plan about Batumi-declare Batumi as Porto Franco (free town) and give it little parts from the surrounding territories and split the main part of Batumi between Georgia and Armenia. Lazistan was declared as autonomic unit under Armenian Sovereignty. They should have established free transit on Trans Caucasus. Mingled armies (France, England and Italy) would capture Batumi. International commissioner would be settled in Batumi who would be appointed from the League of Nations.

Attaining agreement between the delegations of Trans Caucasian republics became more and difficult as the political goals of Azerbaijan and Armenia were too far from each other “Azerbaijan didn’t give up its interests and “protected” Ottoman Turkey in front of Armenia.

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On 17 April, 1920, a meeting among the delegations of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan was held together with the representative of English government. A lot of things cleared up at the meeting: Delegations of Azerbaijan and Armenia proved that they didn't make Georgian rights disputable about Batumi and Batumi region. The most important was the opinion of Zurab Avaliani who was the member of Georgian delegation: Acknowledging Georgian sovereign rights on Batumi and strong protection of the interests of neighboring states in Batumi port. These were those issues which could become the bases of agreement. In order to attain the goal it was urgent to declare agreement in front of Higher Council. But unfortunately agreement failed. The deadline of the agreement was April 20, 1920 but the deadline time was up and three Trans Caucasian republics couldn't agree on Batumi region.

**Conclusion:** Thus first and the only attempt by European states to seriously decide public and international future of Trans Caucasian republics on the bases of their independence failed.

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