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POLISH DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTIONS IN KHARKIV

(Review of the publication: Diplomatic Offices of the Polish Republic in Kharkiv: the History and the Present

(Дипломатичні представництва Польської Республіки в Харкові: історія та сучасність), L. Zhvanko /

translated into Polish by T. Dovzhok. Kharkiv:

Golden Pages, 2020, 160 p., ill.)

The modern foreign policy and Foreign Policy Office of Ukraine was formed on the evolution of historical traditions based on the international and diplomatic experience of the Old Russian State, Galician Rus, the Zaporozhian Army, the Hetmanate, the Ukrainian People's Republic (UNR), the Ukrainian State during Hetmanate, the Western Ukrainian People's Republic (ZUNR), the Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic (USRR), and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (URSR). During the national revolution of 1917–1921, a separate government institution (the General Secretariat from the beginning, then the People's Commissariat and finally the Ministry) was created as an executive authority; its activity was directed and coordinated by the Government of Ukraine and the institution was responsible for the formation and implementation of state policy in the field of foreign relations. It was during the struggle for Ukraine's national independence in 1917–1921 that the active foreign policy and diplomatic activity of different Ukrainian states took place, as well as the beginning of the creation of foreign diplomatic offices in Ukraine.

In 1918 there was the Department of Political Affairs (since January 23rd 1918, the Department of State), created by the Decree of the Regent Council of the Polish

Kingdom. Among its tasks was working through various topics in the field of foreign policy and consular tutelage. At the same time, the priority task of the Department of State was the establishment of a diplomatic office in the Ukrainian capital. On October 12, 1918, a Polish diplomatic mission led by Stanislaw Vankowicz arrived in Kyiv and conducted quite long negotiations with Dmytro Doroshenko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian State. On November 5, 1918, S. Vankovich presented Hetman Pavlo Skoropadsky credentials with a letter expressing his hope for the earliest possible establishment of diplomatic relations. The development of a network of consular offices, in particular the Polish Diplomatic Offices in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odessa and Elisavetgrad, was declared a priority. At the beginning of February, 1919 there was even functioning in Kharkiv the Polish Consular Agency headed by the lawyer and the known figure of the local Polonia Wolodymyr Kwiatkowsky. But first the fall of the Ukrainian State, then the weakness of the Directory's power, the Bolsheviks' aggression and the Polish-Bolsheviks' war slowed down the processes of the development of Ukrainian-Polish diplomatic relations until 1921.

The work of Lyubov Zhvanko, Professor, Doctor of Historical Sciences, leading specialist of the research part of the Kharkiv State Zooveterinary Academy, member of the Scientific Society of the History of Diplomacy and International Relations, devoted to the activities of diplomatic missions of the Polish Republic in Kharkiv during 1921–2020. The publication was prepared as part of an internship at the Ivan Vyhovsky Award under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda. The scientific internship took place in Lublin at the Marie Skłodowska-Curie University (October–December 2017) and the Jagiellonian University in Krakow (January–March 2018).

In structural and logical terms, the book includes an introduction by the Consuls General of the Republic of Poland in Kharkiv Piotr Stahanczyk and Janusz Jablonski, the author's preface, structural elements on the origins of diplomatic relations between Poland and Ukraine, the Embassy of the Polish Republic in Kharkiv in 1921–1924, Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Kharkiv in 1924–1934, Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Kharkiv in 1934–1937, Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Kharkiv in 1995–2020 and cooperation with Polonia, information on Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Polish Republic and their employees in Kharkiv in 1921–1939, biographical notes of the heads of Polish Diplomatic Offices in Kharkiv in 1921–1937 and 1995–2020, list of the sources used, list of abbreviations and information about the author. We want to pay special attention to the fact that such detailed information on the structure and activity of Diplomatic Offices of the Polish Republic in Kharkiv became possible thanks to the processing of documents and materials from the collections of the Archive of Acts of the New and Central Military Archive in

Warsaw, as well as from the National Library in Warsaw, Scientific Library of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Scientific Library of Maria Skłodowska-Curie University in Lublin and State Scientific Library named after V. Korolenko in Kharkiv.

The publication is notable for its highly artistic design and the large number of photos. In particular, illustrative material was provided by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Kharkiv, taken from the collections of the Digital National Museum in Warsaw, published sources and Internet.

Altogether the publication, and here we agree with Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Kharkiv (2016–2020) Janusz Jablonski, gave the opportunity to mention dozens of diplomats and consular officials who created conditions for a better common future. The book became a new significant publication on the history of Ukrainian-Polish diplomatic relations, expanding the horizons of cooperation between Ukraine and the Republic of Poland; it contains new knowledge about its local and regional slices, including memorable and casual.