Mihail Pâclianu – A Romanian Diplomat in the Nordic Countries (1919-1928)

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Abstract

Mihail Pâclianu was the longest-serving diplomat to have led a diplomatic mission in the Scandinavian countries. He was also the diplomat who represented Romania's interests in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland between 1922 and 1928. However, the post of head of mission in Northern Europe did not charm Pâclianu. He would have preferred to stay in Switzerland (he led the Bern legation from 1912 to 1919) or be transferred to areas he already knew well (Turkey and Egypt). However, he complied to his government's decision to appoint him to the head of the Stockholm legation, which was less important than the Bern legation. In the Scandinavian countries, Pâclianu focused his activity on promoting the image of Romania. He attempted to establish links with political, intellectual and economic elites, as well as to reorganize the network of honorary consulates. He also got involved in the economic sphere, where he agreed to sign agreements which, however, did not strengthen trade ties between Romania and the Scandinavian countries. He led the diplomatic mission in the Scandinavian countries at a time when the region was of secondary importance to the Romanian government. As a result, he did not receive the special support of the Bucharest leadership and did not receive the diplomatic personnel necessary to deal with the entire geographical

Rezumat

Mihail Pâclianu a fost diplomatul cu cel mai lung mandat la conducerea unei misiuni diplomatice din Țările Nordice. El a fost, totodată, diplomatul care a reprezentat între 1922 și 1928 interesele României în Suedia, Danemarca, Norvegia și Finlanda. Cu toate acestea, postul de șef de misiune în nordul Europei nu l-a atras pe Pâclianu. El ar fi preferat să rămână în Elveția (a condus legația în perioada 1912-1919) sau să fie mutat în zone pe care le cunoștea deja (Turcia și Egipt). S-a conformat însă deciziei guvernului de a-l numi la conducerea legației de la Stockholm, care era inferioară ca importanță legației de la Berna. În țările nordice, Pâclianu și-a concentrat activitatea spre promovarea imaginii României, a încercat să construiască legături cu elitele politică, intelectuală și economică, precum și să reorganizeze rețeaua de consulate onorifice. S-a implicat și în domeniul economic, acolo unde a mijlocit semnarea unor acorduri, care, însă, nu au dinamizat legăturile comerciale dintre România și țările nordice. El a condus misiunea diplomatică din țările nordice într-o perioadă în care pentru guvernul român zona respectivă era de importanță secundară. De aceea, el nu s-a bucurat de o susținere deosebită a liderilor de la București și nu a primit nici personal diplomatic pe măsura ariei geografice și a „dosarelor” pe care le administra legația. Dispunând de mijloace financiare și umane

area and with the “files” administered by the legation. Nevertheless, with limited financial and human resources, Pâclianu succeeded in contributing to the promotion of Romania’s interests in Scandinavia, making a good impression, as evidenced by the reaction of the Scandinavian press at the conclusion of his mission and at his death (July 1928).

reduse, Pâclianu a reușit, totuși, să contribuie la promovarea intereselor României în țările nordice, lăsând o bună impresie, fapt vizibil prin reacția presei scandinave în momentul încheierii misiunii, precum și la moartea sa (iulie 1928).

Keywords: Mihail Pâclianu; diplomat; diplomatic mission; Romania; Nordic Countries

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Acknowledgements

This work was supported by a grant of Ministry of Research and Innovation, CNCS - UEFISCDI, project number PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2016-1477, within PNCDI III.

This article focuses on the activity of the longest-standing chief of diplomatic mission of Romania in the Nordic countries. Mihail Pâclianu headed the Romanian legation in the Swedish capital between 1919 and 1928, also being accredited to Denmark, while in 1922-1928 he represented Romania’s interests in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland. In fact, the diplomatic mission from the Nordic countries was the last in his diplomatic career, as Pâclianu died shortly after its conclusion, in the summer of 1928. Starting from these facts, I will focus on the context in which Pâclianu was appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary in the Nordic countries, attempting to answer several questions: how did Pâclianu get appointed in the Nordic countries? In which context did he begin his diplomatic mission in Stockholm? Also, I am interested in analyzing the initiatives Pâclianu took and how he managed to deal with the shortage of staff at the diplomatic representation he led. Who were his main collaborators? Did he identify real collaboration opportunities between the Romanian state and the Nordic countries?

A Diplomat’s Rise

Mihail M. Pâclianu was born on April 27, 1867 in Foșcani, in a boyar family that owned land in the Putna County. With a Law degree from Paris, he was eligible for a position in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thus, in July 1889, he submitted a request to the ministry, in which he asked to be appointed ‘supernumerary attaché’ according to the organizational laws of

the department of Foreign Affairs¹. His request was granted by the ministry as it was, in fact, the first step taken by some of the young men aspiring to a diplomatic career. Thus, in August 1889, Pâclianu became supernumerary attaché, being assigned a position in the ministry's central administration². In October, however, Pâclianu passed the legation attaché's exam³. Consequently, at the end of October, Pâclianu became legation attaché and was transferred to Romania's legation in Paris⁴. For a young man at the beginning of his career Paris was particularly attractive because Romania's legation in the French capital, then headed by Vasile Alecsandri, was among the most prestigious of Romania's diplomatic missions. In Paris, he covered political issues, as well as the general consulate's management. He returned to Bucharest quite soon, where he held, for a short while (October-December 1891)⁵, the position of chief of cabinet for the ministers Constantin Esarcu and Alexandru Lahovari. In January 1892, Pâclianu was appointed legation attaché at Romania's diplomatic mission in Brussels from where, after a few months (in May 1892), he was transferred to the Paris legation. Once more in the French capital, Pâclianu was promoted from legation secretary class II to class III⁶. At the end of 1893, however, he was transferred to Romania's diplomatic agency in Sofia, where he also managed the consulate. However, as he worked in a ministry with limited staff, moving young diplomats from one diplomatic mission to another according to need was normal. In this context, Pâclianu was moved, in early 1896, to the Petersburg legation, from where he was transferred to the Constantinople legation after only a year and a half. He did not work long in the capital of the Ottoman Empire, either.

In July 1897, Pâclianu returned to the ministry's central administration, where he was appointed Director of political affairs and litigation. He practically held an important position in the ministry's

¹ Arhivele Diplomatice ale Ministerului Afacerilor Externe al României [The Diplomatic Archives of the Romanian Foreign Ministry, hereafter AMAE], fund 77, Mihail Pâclianu's personal file, vol. I, unpagued.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

architecture, being later temporarily appointed (between 1900 and 1905), on multiple occasions, secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs⁷. In this context, Pâclianu was appointed diplomatic agent of Romania in Egypt in 1906⁸. He was Romania's first diplomatic representative in Cairo and, alongside Nicolae Mișu, the diplomatic agent in Sofia, the chief of the only two diplomatic agencies of Romania at the time⁹. Though the Egypt agency was distinguished more through its commercial and consular function rather than its political representation (it held a marginal political role from the perspective of Romania's interests), it allowed Pâclianu to garner experience at an international level. Thus, in 1912, after Romania's legation in Bern was left without an occupant because of Nicolae B. Cantacuzino's recall, Pâclianu was appointed to lead the diplomatic mission in the Swiss capital¹⁰. Even though, initially, the Bern legation was mainly preoccupied with economic connections, the outbreak of war and Switzerland's neutrality status increased this diplomatic mission's political importance, bringing Pâclianu in the upper echelons of Romania's interests abroad. He managed to stay legation chief until the end of the war at a time when there were several waves of recalls and appointments at the top of Romanian diplomatic missions during the war. His uninterrupted presence in Bern between 1912 and 1919 showed that the Romanian leaders cherished his work. He also made a good impression in Switzerland, where he collaborated well with the federal authorities, with the press, and with the members of the Romanian community. Nevertheless, in 1919, the Romanian government decided to replace Pâclianu as chief of the Switzerland legation, sending him to a different destination – Sweden.

⁷ Ibid., vol. IV, unpagued.

⁸ Pâclianu wrote, in 1905, a memorandum justifying the need to open a diplomatic agency in Egypt. See details in Gheorghe Țărescu, Sever Cotu, Nicolae Nicolescu, *România – Egipt: 90 de ani de relații diplomatice. Culegere de documente* (București: Romanian Tourism Press Publishing House, 1996), 18-35.

⁹ The Sofia diplomatic agency, established in 1879, became legation in 1909 (*Organizarea instituțională a Ministerului Afacerilor Externe. Acte și documente*, volume II, 1920-1947, edition supervised by Ion Mamina, George G. Potra, Gheorghe Neacșu, Nicolae Nicolescu (București: Fundația Europeană Nicolae Titulescu, 2006), 539).

¹⁰ Nicolae Ureche, *Relațiile României Mari cu Elveția 1918-1940* (București: Editura Enciclopedică, 2016), 23-24.

From Bern to Stockholm

In April 1919, Mihail Pherekyde, president *ad interim* of the Council of Ministers, sent Ion I.C. Brătianu, who was in Paris at the time, a telegram in which he informed him that it was necessary that diplomatic representatives be sent to Belgrade, Prague and Warsaw. As a reply, at the end of May 1919, Ion I.C. Brătianu telegraphed the secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nicolae Docan, informing him of his decision. Brătianu proposed that the Warsaw and Prague legations, that were about to be opened, be led by Alexandru G. Florescu and Dimitrie I. Gr. Ghika, and at the same time, he wished to switch the diplomatic chiefs of mission in Bern and Stockholm¹¹, Mihail Pâclianu and Gheorghe Derussi¹². Unlike Pâclianu, who kept his position in Bern throughout the war, Derussi had been recalled and dismissed by the Marghiloman government¹³, returning as chief of the diplomatic mission in Stockholm at the beginning of 1919¹⁴. Furthermore, despite his closeness to the Conservative-Democrat Party led by Take Ionescu, Derussi was able to maintain good relationships with Ion I.C. Brătianu, which contributed to his appointment at the head of the Bern legation¹⁵.

Even if Pâclianu was immediately informed of the proposition and asked to agree, the Bern diplomat's answer was slow to come. It was only on June 22/July 3, 1919 that the diplomat gave an answer to the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under the excuse that the telegram proposing that he should move to Sweden, was extremely late in arriving. In fact, Pâclianu took some time to consider, seeking to find the best answer to a proposition that was not to his liking. One can grasp from his reply the dissatisfaction for having to leave Switzerland after seven years, a country

¹¹ Romania established a legation in Sweden in November 1916. First, the legation was led by a chargé d'affaires (Grigore Bilciurescu) and from April 1917 it was headed by Gheorghe Derussi (Paul Oprescu, "Stockholm și Oslo (Christiania)", in vol. *Reprezentanțele diplomatice ale României*, vol. II (București: Editura Politică, 1971), 100-103).

¹² AMAE, fund 77, Mihail Pâclianu's personal file, vol. III, unpagued.

¹³ AMAE, fund 77, Gheorghe Derussi personal file, vol. II, unpagued.

¹⁴ Oana Popescu, *România și Danemarca în prima jumătate a secolului XX* (Târgoviște: Editura Cetatea de Scaun, 2010), 50.

¹⁵ AMAE, fund 77, Gheorghe Derussi personal file, vol. II, unpagued.

where he had managed to build relationships in the diplomatic, political, economic and intellectual milieus. There were several significant accomplishments in his portfolio, pertaining to propaganda, as well as the completion of economic deals between Romania and Switzerland¹⁶. Even if Pâclianu was well thought of by Alexandru Vaida-Voevod, an important member of the Romanian delegation at the Peace Conference¹⁷, it seems that Brătianu wanted a new breath at the head of the Romanian legation in Switzerland. Under these circumstances, Pâclianu wrote: 'I am willing to accept the Stockholm position, inferior in importance to that of Bern, if I am at the same time accredited in two other Scandinavian courts or at least in Copenhagen'¹⁸. Still, Pâclianu would have wanted to occupy a different position. He suggested to the leaders of Romanian diplomacy that he was willing to accept the Constantinople legation bearing in mind his experience in Egypt, where he had been diplomatic agent of Romania between 1906 and 1912¹⁹. Since the relations between Romania and the Ottoman Empire, as former enemy states, were far from clarified, and Brătianu wanted Derussi in Bern, Pâclianu had no choice but to accept the Stockholm position²⁰.

On August 10 the Swedish authorities gave him their agreement and on August 30, through a decree issued by King Ferdinand, Pâclianu was appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of Romania in Sweden, starting with September 1, 1919. However, it was not until October 11 that Pâclianu handed in the recall letters to the Swiss authorities²¹.

Pâclianu got a 'consolation prize', however. Starting with November 1, 1919, he was appointed diplomatic representative of Romania

¹⁶ About his activity in the field of foreign propaganda, see Adrian Vițalaru, *Nicolae Petrescu-Comnen – diplomat* (Iași: Editura Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, 2014), 36-66.

¹⁷ *Alexandru Vaida Voevod. Scrisori de la Conferința de Pace Paris-Versailles, 1919-1920* (edited by Mircea Vaida-Voevod, Cluj-Napoca: MultiPress Internațional, 2003), 96.

¹⁸ AMAE, fund 77, M. Pâclianu's personal file, vol. III, unpagued.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ On July 10, 1919, Pâclianu's agreement was requested in Stockholm.

²¹ AMAE, fund 77, Mihail Pâclianu's personal file, vol. III, unpagued. See also Adrian Vițalaru, "Romanian Diplomats in the Scandinavian Countries (1916-1947)", *Revista Română de Studii Baltice și Nordice*, Vol. 6, Issue 2 (2014), 155-156.

at the Royal Danish Court²². Thus, one of his terms for accepting to leave Bern was met. This decision of the Romanian authorities was part, however, of the Romanian patterns of diplomatic representation in Northern Europe, since as early as the diplomatic mission in Denmark was opened, in May 1917, the Stockholm chief of legation was also accredited in Copenhagen²³.

Having arrived in Stockholm on June 17, 1920, the Romanian diplomat presented his accreditation letters to King Gustav V on July 2. Thus, the official beginning of Pâclianu's mission in the Nordic countries did not happen until July 1920, ten months from the moment he had been appointed through royal decree. It is difficult to say what Pâclianu did during this time. He perhaps prepared his departure and tried to become familiar, as much as possible, with the relations between Romania and the two kingdoms where he was accredited: Sweden and Denmark. We know that until he started his mission, Pâclianu travelled to Romania, where he was received by King Ferdinand and Queen Marry. The Romanian sovereigns instructed him to send the Swedish king their condolences on the death of his son (Prince Erik, who died in 1918), informing him, at the same time, of the dynastic connections between the two kingdoms²⁴.

From October 1919 until June 1920, the Stockholm legation command was ensured by Mihail Arion, who had arrived in Sweden by 'ricochet', after the members of the Romanian legation in Petrograd left the Russian territory²⁵.

Minister Plenipotentiary of Romania in Northern Europe

Thus, in the summer of 1920, Mihail Pâclianu started his mission in the two Scandinavian kingdoms in a relaxed atmosphere, enjoying a

²² AMAE, fund 77, Mihail Pâclianu's personal file, vol. IV, unpagued (Royal Decree of November 11, 1919).

²³ Between 1917 and 1919 in Copenhagen activated a chargé d'affaires - Constantin Langa-Rășcanu (*Organizarea instituțională a Ministerului Afacerilor Externe...*, volume II, 541; Popescu, 48).

²⁴ AMAE, fund 77, Mihail Pâclianu's personal file, vol. IV, unpagued.

²⁵ Arion had previously activated at Romanian legation in Russia.

cordial reception in Stockholm, as well as Copenhagen²⁶. Pâclianu's connections to the Scandinavian world had been minimal until 1919 (with the exception of his time working in Petrograd and perhaps with some links established with the Swedish Red Cross in the years of the First World War²⁷). However, he was an experienced diplomat, with three decades of diplomatic activity of which no less than 13 as chief of diplomatic representations.

In April 1922, in the context of budget, political and economic strategic reorganizations of Romania's international representation, Pâclianu was accredited as well in Norway and Finland. Practically, from 1922 until the end of his mission, at the beginning of 1928, he was the only Romanian chief of mission in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland. Thus, in 1922, his work in Northern Europe took on a different dimension. The appointment of one single Romanian representative for all the Nordic countries, with the headquarters in Stockholm, as well as the diplomatic mission's reduced staff, were impediments in the development of relations between Romania and the four European states. In fact, these realities show the Bucharest administration's blatant disinterest in the Nordic states. For instance, in 1924, Pâclianu was dissatisfied with the fact that the legation was "burdened with work" and only had one secretary and one translator²⁸. In spite of his demands, Pâclianu did not have a more numerous staff at his disposal. This is why, it was necessary that the chief of mission and the legation secretary collaborated closely. During his time in the Nordic countries, Pâclianu collaborated with Mihail Arion (1920), Ion Condurachi (1920-1922), Gheorghe Lecca (1922, 1923-1927), Alexandru Gurănescu (1927-1928), as well as C. Flondor (chargé d'affaires in Denmark, for a while).

²⁶ See the description of the two accreditation ceremonies made by Mihail Pâclianu (AMAE, fund 77, Mihail Pâclianu's personal file, vol. IV, unpagged).

²⁷ Mihail Pâclianu together with Nicolae Gracoski, the delegate of the Romanian Red Cross in Switzerland, corresponded with the Swedish Red Cross on the situation of Romanian prisoners in the Central Powers states. See Archives of International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, CG 1 A 15-32 - Romanian Red Cross (1914-1918).

²⁸ Popescu, 51.

Under these circumstances marred by staff shortages, Pâclianu tried to develop the honorary consulate system in the Nordic countries and build a close connection with the honorary consuls²⁹. The honorary consuls of Romania in Norway, for example, had the mission to monitor the defamatory articles about Romania in the Norwegian press, as well as of keeping M. Pâclianu informed. For example, in the summer of 1923, the honorary consul from Oslo informed Pâclianu on the publication of an article favoring Hungary's revisionist policy in "Aftenposten". The honorary consul responded by publishing an article co-written with Pâclianu in the same newspaper³⁰.

In fact, one of M. Pâclianu's constant directions in his diplomatic activity was to promote the image of Greater Romania in the Nordic Countries and especially to correct the negative information about the Romanian state. We could say that Pâclianu's attitude was rather 'reactive' before this type of news, than 'proactive'³¹.

Despite all this, the Romanian diplomat sought to forge the best possible relations in the Swedish society, as well as close connections with the royal families and political leaders from the other Northern states where he officially represented the Romanian state. For example, between 1923 and 1924, Pâclianu organized 'a series of lunches', some followed by balls, which the Swedish minister of Foreign Affairs, members of the diplomatic corps as well as the Swedish king's brother, attended³². Such events, despite being part of the diplomatic life's daily routine, prove that Romania's legation in Stockholm made an effort to play a pro-active part in its 'social milieu'. We think that these events must, however, be connected to the actions taken by other Romanian diplomatic missions at the same time. This 'image assault' is closely connected to the Romanian-Soviet dispute which, around the time of the Vienna negotiations (March-April 1924), took the shape of the propaganda dispute manifesting in the European press, in academic milieus, as well as 'drawing rooms'. Not incidentally, Pâclianu was carefully keeping track of the intelligence

²⁹ Ibid., 50.

³⁰ AMAE, fund 71/1920-1944, Norvegia, vol. 4, 183.

³¹ Ibid., 183, 197.

³² AMAE, fund 71/1920-1944, Suedia, vol. 1, 17.

coming from the USSR, bearing in mind that the Stockholm legation was an observation point for the Soviet space³³.

At this time, Pâclianu tried to recruit the honorary consuls' support in the publication of articles in which they would affirm the legitimacy of the Romanian state's claim to Bessarabia. Accepting Pâclianu's suggestions, Romania's honorary vice-consul in Trondheim published a few articles on the topic³⁴. Other members of Romania's consular network in the Nordic countries followed him. Pâclianu himself intervened in the Swedish press, giving interviews on the topic of Bessarabia and dispatching propaganda materials, conveyed to him from Bucharest, to Swedish newspapers³⁵. The press interventions in the Nordic countries of Romania's chief of diplomatic mission, as well as those of the honorary consuls, occurred in the context of the Tatar-Bunar protest trial³⁶. Thus, in the last months of 1925 and the beginning of the following year, Pâclianu coordinated a press campaign which aimed at emphasizing the Romanian authorities' perspective on the case³⁷, thus countering Bolshevik and communist propaganda.

The collaboration with honorary consuls, however, was not always satisfactory to Pâclianu. This is why he asked, in 1926, that the Romanian government would replace the Romanian honorary consul in Oslo. Additionally, after the Trondheim honorary vice-consul's resignation in 1926, a consul with whom he had not collaborated closely, Pâclianu requested that the Bucharest authorities should close the consular office³⁸. Consequently, despite Pâclianu's involvement, the Romanian honorary consulate network did not reach the desired scope, nor did those appointed for the honorary representation of the Romanian interests fulfil their mission as expected by the chief of the Stockholm legation.

From the perspective of the economic relations between Romania and the Nordic states, Pâclianu's efforts focused on regulating the terms of

³³ Ibid., 18-21.

³⁴ Ibid., fund 71/1920-1944, Norvegia, vol. 4, 197-198.

³⁵ Ibid., 199.

³⁶ The riot occurred in September 1924 and the participants' trial took place between August and December of 1925.

³⁷ AMAE, fund 71/1920-1944, Norvegia, vol. 4, 211, 214.

³⁸ Ana-Maria Despa, *România și Norvegia în prima jumătate a secolului al XX-lea*, doctoral thesis (Târgoviște: 2013), 66-67.

commercial exchanges. In 1923, for instance, a provisional commercial agreement between Romania and Denmark was signed³⁹. At the same time, given that the Romanian-Norwegian commercial agreement had lapsed in April 1922, Pâclianu pleaded for the signing of a new document. This goal was met in October 1924, when the exchange of notes provisionally regulating the commercial relations between Romania and Norway took place⁴⁰.

His diplomatic mission in Northern Europe ended on February 1, 1928, as a result of a 'renewal' at the top level of Romanian diplomatic representations. Two other generational colleagues ended their career at the same time as Pâclianu: Alexandru Emanoil Lahovary and Constantin G. Nanu. The minister of Foreign Affairs, Nicolae Titulescu, prepared however an honorable exit for them, as the trio were members of the Superior Diplomatic Council⁴¹. Unlike Lahovary and Nanu, he worked briefly in the Superior Diplomatic Council as he passed away on July 12, 1928.

What is Pâclianu's heritage after his diplomatic mission in the Nordic countries ended? Alexandru Gurănescu, Pâclianu's collaborator and the diplomat who headed the Stockholm legation as *ad-interim* chargé d'affaires at the end of 1927 and the beginning of the following year, was quite critical of the Swedish diplomatic mission's activity. In a report sent to Bucharest on October 1, 1927, the diplomat assessed the relations between Romania and the Nordic countries, as well as the way in which the Romanian state was perceived by the public opinion in these countries. He thought that '(...) the cultivated public opinion, without showing straightforward hostility, sees us in a false, imprecise way. As a state, we are considered unstable and without substance and, as individuals, unreliable and incorrect in the current affairs, be them political, economic or private'⁴². Gurănescu thought there were two causes explaining this phenomenon: 'enemy propaganda' and the lack of organization of the

³⁹ Popescu, 89.

⁴⁰ Despa, 67-68.

⁴¹ AMAE, fund 77, Mihail Pâclianu's personal file, vol. IV, unpagged.

⁴² AMAE, fund 71/1920-1944, Suedia, vol. 25, 26.

diplomatic mission and consular offices⁴³. Gurănescu's criticism was not only directed at Romanian diplomats in the Nordic countries, but also at those who led the destinies of the Romanian diplomacy. 'We didn't do anything against this new propaganda for we did not foresee these countries' importance and the role they are called – though eccentrically placed geographically – one by one or together, to play both in the League of Nations or as simple pawns in the international politics game'⁴⁴. He thought that, since Finland was a member of the League of Nations' Council, the Romanian diplomacy had to pay greater attention to the collaboration with the Helsinki authorities⁴⁵. In conclusion, Gurănescu considered that a reorganization of Romania's representation in the Nordic countries was necessary, as well as the creation of a 'propaganda office'⁴⁶. A consequence of Gurănescu's suggestions was the appointment of a press attaché in Stockholm who was to manage the analysis of the press in the Nordic countries⁴⁷. This move must also be understood in the context of the changes in the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs leadership after Nicolae Titulescu took over.

Conclusions

From the perspective of Păclianu's career, it is difficult to say whether it is the Swiss period or the Nordic one that was the peak of his diplomatic career. One can claim that his mission in Switzerland, especially during the war, was more visible to the authorities in Bucharest than his activity in the Nordic countries. Nevertheless, his position as legation chief in the Nordic countries was, still, quite convenient for a diplomat lacking specific skills. It was a remote, but quiet post for a diplomat at the end of his career. Although he was the longest standing chief of diplomatic mission in Romania in the Nordic countries, the 1919-1928 years were a time when Romania's connections to the four Northern European states went through a period of stagnation and even involution. It was as late as

⁴³ Ibid., 26 v.

⁴⁴ Ibid., 27.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid., 27 v.

⁴⁷ Despa, 65-66.

1927 that the new minister of Foreign Affairs, Nicolae Titulescu, sought to revive Romania's relations with the Nordic states. To implement such a policy, however, he decided he needed new staff.

Mihail Pâclianu made, however, a good impression in the four capitals he was accredited in. This was visible when his mission came to an end, as well as a few months later, on his demise. In the context of this unhappy event, his family and the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs received letters of condolence from the four Nordic states, and Pâclianu's work was mentioned in positive terms in the press.

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