

THE COMPENSATIONS GRANTED IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD TO THE ROMANIAN DIPLOMATS WHO ACTIVATED IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR¹

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Abstract: In this article I tried to identify the diplomats who were compensated by the Romanian state in the Interwar Period, the context and the amounts they received. At the end of the war, the diplomats sent several lists, wishing to be reimbursed with various amounts of money. We noticed two different situations in which they were compensated: a special and a general one. What happened at the beginning of 1922, during the ministry of Gheorghe Derussi, is rather an exception, a special situation, when only four diplomats received compensations after which the Ministry of Finance interrupted the payment. In 1925 and after this year, diplomats were compensated as a result of the decision taken by the Minister of Finance, in October 1925, to grant compensations to those who were officials at the time Romania entered the war and who had suffered damages as a result of this decision.

Keywords: Romanian Diplomats, compensation, First World War, InterWar Period

Introduction

In July 1929, following several unsolved requests, Eugen D. Constantinescu, at that point General Safety Inspector in Cernăuți (Czernowitz, Chernivtsi), addressed a letter to the Romanian minister of Foreign Affairs asking for his assistance: “Your Excellency! Take into account the services brought to the Country for 23 years in the Russian matters by the undersigned and give me the possibility of providing a healthy education for my two boys who have lost their mother [she had died on January 23, 1927 – n. n.] and for whom I cannot get proper clothes out of my modest salary (Lei 4,811)”². The former translator of the Romanian Legation in Petrograd asked compensations of Lei 21,385, after leaving the diplomatic mission along with other Romanian diplomats in January 1918. He failed to get this amount the second time

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² Arhiva Ministerului Afacerilor Externe, București (AMAE), Fund 71/1914 E2, file 75, p. 457.

around, too. The answer received was anything but encouraging: there were no funds for compensations and he was advised to wait for “more auspicious times”³.

Nonetheless, throughout the ‘20s, several Romanian diplomats who had activated in the First World War received compensations from the Romanian state. Under these circumstances, in this paper, my purpose is to identify the persons who were compensated by the Romanian state, their context, as well as the amounts they received. The topic may be extended to study the compensations received by other categories of clerks after the First World War.

The historical sources used for this paper were, most importantly, unpublished documents from the Romanian Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (funds about First World War and personal files of some diplomats such as Dimitrie Iuraşcu and Mihail Arion). For this reason, I chose to insert more quotes. The information’s found in these documents have been corroborated with those from articles and autobiographical literature.

The financial implications of the war on the Romanian diplomats

During the first world conflagration, the Romanian diplomats – heads of mission or legation secretaries, attachés of Romania’s Legations – who had to leave untimely the cities where they were accredited, after suspending the diplomatic relations, took with them only a small part of the “wealth” they gathered in several years. They left in the headquarters of the diplomatic missions, in Sofia, Constantinople, in 1916, in Petrograd in 1918, different objects, hoping that at the end of the war, will manage to recuperate the assets. What happened was very far from it. The Bulgarians, the Turks, the Russians vandalised those headquarters, thus breaching the diplomatic tradition.

At the end of the war, due to an active correspondence with the Ministry of Bucharest, the diplomats sent several lists, some from their memory, of the lost items, wishing to be reimbursed with various amounts of money. For instance, in April 1920, Dimitrie Iuraşcu⁴, former secretary of the Legation in Russia between 1916, sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the losses suffered due to the expelled from Petrograd: a military uniform and a campaign uniform, two pairs of boots, 5 summer suits, 3 pairs of desert boots, 6 silk shirts, various bed linens, a box of hats with 4, a leather suitcase with essentials and two chests. According to his calculations, the amount was Lei 8,900⁵. His colleagues Emil Zarifopol and Eugen Papiniu believed that the

³ Ibidem, p. 458.

⁴ He entered in Romanian diplomacy in December 1913. In March 1916 he was transferred in Petrograd. After he was arrested and expelled from Russia, he was in Iaşi, in February 1918, where the Foreign Ministry was installed (AMAE, Fund Problema 77, Personal Files, Letter I, no. 23, vol. I, no paged).

⁵ AMAE, Fund 71/1914 E2, file 75, p. 4-5.

values they had abandoned represented the equivalent for the amounts of 4,792 Belgian francs and Lei 2,530, respectively⁶.

And such examples may go on. Constantin Diamandi – the former plenipotentiary minister of Romania in Russia, until January 1918⁷ – featured a list made from memory and that according to his own records was incomplete: silverware, weapons, military equipment, as well as 120 bottles of champagne. In his case, the list of list items had around four pages⁸. In May 1920, Carol Harting – vice-consul of Romania – requested compensations of Lei 44,000. The request seems to have been more than justified: “Upon the departure of our Legation from Petrograd, on January 15, 1918, I sacrificed myself for the country and I stayed to monitor the Legation, thus risking my life, health and wealth and, until I left, I accomplished with abnegation my difficult mission”⁹.

The case of George Filaliti¹⁰, the Romanian minister to the Serbian capital, has also made a relevant statement in this respect. The Romanian plenipotentiary requested compensations of approximately Lei 1,428,000. Having to leave the city of Belgrade in the summer of 1914, he left there “my entire movable wealth gathered for more than 30 years of wandering through Europe”: over 50 paintings, two of which signed by Nicolae Grigorescu, sets of silverware, porcelains. The diplomat made a comparative “picture”: the value of the items when purchased and their market value in 1920¹¹. In total, there are approximately 20 diplomats, who sent various requests to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for measures to be taken.

⁶ Ibidem, p. 6,19.

⁷ On the situation of the Romanian diplomats and consuls in Russia, in the last months of the year 1917 and the first months of the subsequent year, including details on the arrest of Constantin Diamandi by the Bolsheviks on New Year’s Eve, December 31st, 1917, see Adrian-Bogdan Ceobanu, *Ultimele zile de libertate, primele zile de închisoare: diplomați și consuli români în Rusia (1917-1918)* in „Analele Științifice ale Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași (Serie Nouă). Istorie, Număr special/Special issue Marea Unire a Românilor (1918) – Istorie și actualitate/ The Great Union of the Romanians (1918) – History and Actuality”, tom LIX/ 2018, edited by Petronel Zahariuc, Adrian-Bogdan Ceobanu, Adrian Vițalariu, Editura Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași, p. 149-170; See also Ministerul Afacerilor Externe al României. Direcția Arhivă Diplomatică, Ministerul Afacerilor Externe al Federației Ruse. Departamentul Istoric-Documentar, *Relațiile româno-sovietice. Documente*, vol. I, 1917-1934, edited by Dumitru Preda, Vitalii Vărațic, București, Editura Enciclopedică, 1999.

⁸ AMAE, Fund 71/1914 E2, file 75, p. 11.

⁹ Ibidem, p. 24.

¹⁰ In some documents or articles it appears spelled with the name Filality. See his Graduation diploma Law Faculty in Paris, where it is spelled Filaliti (Arhivele Naționale Istoric Centrale, Fund George Filaliti, file 4, p. 2).

¹¹ AMAE, Fund 71/1914 E2, p. 44.

The issue of compensation at the end of the war

At official level, the issue of compensations¹² was regulated through several legislative documents of 1918, 1919 and 1921. Decree No. 3795¹³ of December 21st, 1918 comprised 15 articles. The second reads as follows: “the Romanians, the Romanian subjects, the subjects of the allied and neutral states, with the domicile or residence in Romania, as well as the societies, associations, enterprises and institutions of any kind, who would have suffered any direct and indirect material damage because of the war, from the part of either the enemy or the Russian armies or the Romanian authorities, through military works or destructions, robberies (...) are forced to show them through individual or collective statements”¹⁴. The regulations were clear, especially concerning the evaluation: for merchandises and consumption items, it was pursuant to their price when the damage occurred, while for the furniture, buildings, installations, cars, etc., according to both the existing price in January 1919, and the moment the loss was recorded¹⁵. In addition, Article 13 reads that the decisions of the commissions were limited to noting the damage and determining their value, without stating any payment obligation¹⁶. Four months later, in April 1919,

¹² The issue of the destructions and then of the compensations received by the Iași-based authorities at the end of the war has been analysed recently in a study penned by Ionuț Nistor. Several aspects are featured: the legislative framework, the public debates and the restoration processes for the city of Iași (Ionuț Nistor, *În căutarea banilor pierduți. Urmele Marelui Război asupra Iașului* in *Analele Științifice ale Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași* (Serie Nouă). *Istorie, Număr special/Special issue Marea Unire a Românilor (1918) – Istorie și actualitate/ The Great Union of the Romanians (1918) – History and Actuality*, tom LIX/ 2018, edited by Petronel Zahariuc, Adrian-Bogdan Ceobanu, Adrian Vițalariu, Editura Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași, p. 491-516). Also, particularly focused on the process of population and central authorities withdrawal in Iași, in 1916, on the suffering caused by the refuge, by the epidemics, by the lack of spaces, the Romanian historiography left on a second place the process in reverse and the immediate consequences of leaving the city of the „guests”, in the expression of Nicolae Iorga. For example see: *Iași - memoria unei capitale*, Gheorghe Iacob (coord.), Iași, Editura Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, 2008; Ion Agrigoroaiei, *România interbelică: unificare și evoluție economică*, Iași, Demiurg, 2015).

¹³ The decree was sign by King Ferdinand following the report written by the Minister of Finance, Oscar Kiriacescu. After the return of the Romanian administration and the Royal Family, in November-December 1918, measures were taken for the proper function of the state, including by implementing legislative acts granting war compensations.

¹⁴ The decree was published in „The Official Gazette of Romania” („Monitorul Oficial al României”), no. 221, Official Part, December 23rd, 1918/January 5th, 1919, p. 4045-4046 and then republished in Ministerul Finanțelor, *Instrucțiuni Generale. Norme pentru comisiunile și curțile de pagube de război referitoare la Aplicarea decretelor legi cu No. 3795 din 21 decembrie 1918 și No. 1656 din 28 aprilie 1919*, „Cartea Românească, București, 1919, p. 81-85.

¹⁵ *Ibidem*.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*.

Decree No. 1646¹⁷ was issued, which completed the previous provisions. Special commissions were founded for identifying and valuating the war damages, either central commissions or county commissions¹⁸. War damage was clearly defined, pursuant to the law: “any damage, produced in any way, to a person or – movable or immovable – assets, either by the enemy or by the Russian army, and even by the Romanian armies or authorities; in addition, war damage includes the damage incurred by Romanians abroad, produced by authorities or private persons”¹⁹.

The Official Gazette of Romania („Monitorul Oficial al României”) of July 28th, 1921 featured the *Law for liquidating war compensations and amortising the domestic public debt*. As per Article 3, the State supported the people who suffered war damages by offering three billion lei. The Ministry of Finances issued damage coupons, but on a differentiated basis: for the entire values of definitive sentences, if the damage does not exceed Lei 3,000, while for higher amounts, compensations coupons for the quota to receive out of the global amount of three billion lei. In the provinces united with the county, the State supported the people who suffered war damages by providing one billion lei, divided following the same criteria²⁰.

In addition, it must be stated that in November 1921, an *Office of restitutions and compensations from the former enemy countries and the freed territories* was founded, comprising the general commissary for the execution of treaties, in his capacity as president²¹. It also included a delegate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the directors of Finances and of Internal Affairs, from Transylvania and Bukovina or their substitutes, with the help of the auxiliary staff, pertaining either to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or to other ministries, or to the commissions of treaties, as applicable. His mission was to take all necessary investigation and publication measures, either in the country or in the freed territories or former enemy countries, through our legations. The purpose thereof was for all people who suffered damage under the situation stated in the provisions of the treaty to be given back their assets or to be compensated for damages, as the case may be. Another purpose was to determine through their

¹⁷ The decree was signed by King Ferdinand, following the report written by the same Minister of Finance, Oscar Kiriacescu.

¹⁸ The decree was published in „The Official Gazette of Romania” („Monitorul Oficial al României”), no. 11, April 17th/April 30th 1919, p. 567-568 and the republished in Ministerul Finanțelor, *Instrucțiuni Generale. Norme pentru comisiunile și curțile de pagube de război referitoare la Aplicarea decretelor legi cu No. 3795 din 21 decembrie 1918 și No. 1656 din 28 aprilie 1919*, „Cartea Românească, București, 1919, p. 87-93.

¹⁹ *Ibidem*.

²⁰ „The Official Gazette of Romania” („Monitorul Oficial al României”), no. 91, Official Part, July 28th 1921, p. 3505.

²¹ The office operating within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was established at the initiative of Take Ionescu, who held the portfolio at that time.

claims the endeavours – in the name and for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – stated by the treaty. In addition, a Special Service of Recovery and Restitutions was founded, attached to the Commission's Secretariat for the execution of treaties in Bucharest, as well as Recovery and Restitution Offices: in Wiesbaden for Germany, in Vienna for Austria, in Budapest for Hungary, in Sofia for Bulgaria and in Constantinople for Turkey²². This aspect is not of direct interest for the present paper. Still, it must be mentioned that some of the Romanians to recover a part of the assets through the Recovery and Restitution Office in Vienna.

A few months later, in December 1921, the Take Ionescu government was formed, where Gh. Derussi was appointed minister of Foreign Affairs. It was a short-lived mandate, of only one month; he is actually one of the few career diplomats appointed minister of Foreign Affairs. In January 1922, the new head of the Romanian diplomacy Gh. Derussi took the initiative of supporting the Romanian diplomats. Their situation was discussed within the Council of Ministers. The minister of Foreign Affairs believed that among the “persons who suffered damages”, there was a category of “damaged” to whom the state had special and important obligations. “I refer here to our diplomatic and consular representatives, who in those difficult times had the mission of defending the interests of the Country abroad, some of them in diplomatic missions exposed and where they risked losing not only their wealth, but also their life”. Derussi provided only three examples, suggestive from his perspective: Constantin Diamandi, George Filaliti and Pierre Guerin²³. I mentioned the first two above, as heads of the Legations of Petrograd and Belgrade. Guerin's case is all the more interesting as he was not a Romanian citizen. He was the Romanian honorary consul in Moscow, in the First World War. He played an important role in transporting the treasury; the Bolshevik authorities followed him because of his correct attitude towards the Romanian state, reason for which he had to seek refuge to Stockholm²⁴. In the Council of Ministers of January 13th, 1922, the minister of Foreign Affairs was authorised to open an extraordinary credit of Lei 2,000,000 to help the Romanian diplomatic and consular clerks working abroad. Telegrams were sent to certain diplomats, such as Diamandi and Filaliti, to notify them that they would receive certain amounts of money²⁵.

However, how many diplomats received compensations? Only four of them: the two persons mentioned above, Diamandi and Filaliti who received

²² *Organizarea instituțională a Ministerului Afacerilor Externe. Acte și documente*, Volumul II 1920-1947, edited by de Ion Mamina, Gheorghe Neacșu, George G. Potra, Nicolae Nicolescu, București, Fundația Europeană Titulescu, 2004, p. 62-68.

²³ AMAE, Fund 71/1914 E2, file 75, p. 104.

²⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 98.

²⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 102.

Lei 400,000; Guerin the consul, who received 372,500 and the former consul of Romania in Chişinău (Kishinev), Dimitrie Georgescu, who was given Lei 40,000²⁶. The situation of the last was however difficult in early 1918, when the Bolshevik troops searched him in the Chişinău (Kishinev) train station²⁷. After the decision taken within the Council of Ministers, two contradictory situations emerged. On one hand, other requests made by diplomats who had not asked for support previously; on the other hand, the other had not been compensated for damages. The first category includes Mihail R. Sturdza, who in 1914 had been to Albania, at Durazo (Durrës)²⁸, and who asked the amount of Lei 83,300 in February. Furthermore, the diplomat seemed to be slightly ironic in his request: “however, in a very diplomatic style, I thus point out the absence” of the amount requested²⁹. Constantin G. Mano and Egdar Mavrocordat requested 20,000 francs each, to cover their expenses of shipping the furniture left in Constantinople and Vienna. Even Mavrocordat’s wife, Irina, requested the same amount for the same expense. Though initially their requests seemed to have been solved, they eventually did not receive in amounts in question³⁰. The second category includes those who sent various telegrams to the Ministry in the period 1920-1922 and who, upon learning that some were compensated, wanted the same “treatment”. The most vocal of them was Mihail Arion, the former Legation secretary in Petrograd, who requested the amount of 90,838 Swedish krona. The dissatisfied persons (Dimitrie Iuraşcu³¹, Gheorghe Forescu³², Mihail R. Sturdza, Emil Zarifopol), led by Arion, claimed that only the mission heads had been compensated. Moreover, of the 2,000,000 million Lei, only 1,262,500 were distributed. The question made sense: Why was the rest not distributed? There were still 787,500 Lei left³³. A few months later, they

²⁶ Ibidem, p. 127.

²⁷ Ibidem, p. 75.

²⁸ The Romanian Legation in the capital of Albania was established at the end of 1913, the first holder being Mihail Burghele. Romania’s diplomatic mission didn’t last long; the outbreak of First World War forced the diplomats to leave their posts. (Regarding the first extraordinary envoy and plenipotentiary minister of Romania in Albania, see Emanuil Ineoan, *The Portrait of a Romanian Diplomat: Mihail Burghele in Communication, Context, Interdisciplinarity*. Studies and articles, vol. 3 (Section: Education Sciences, coordinator Iulian Boldea, „Petru Maior” University Press, Târgu Mureş, 2014, p. 447-455.

²⁹ AMAE, Fund 71/1914 E2, file 75, p. 159-160.

³⁰ Ibidem, p. 174-175.

³¹ In his memoirs Iuraşcu presents Gheorghe Derussi in negative colors, without mentioning the problem of compensations (Dimitrie Iuraşcu, *Rugina toamnei. Mărturii de diplomat din vremi apuse*, edited by Nicolae Iuraşcu, Editura Partener, Galaţi, 2012, p. 321).

³² Regarding the situation of the Romanian consul in Ismail, see Adrian-Bogdan Ceobanu, *A Romanian Consul at the Margins of the Russian Empire: Gheorghe Forescu in Ismail (December 1916 – March 1918)* in „Plural. Istorie, cultură și societate”, vol. 6, no. 1/2018, p. 63-76.

³³ AMAE, Fund 71/1914 E2, file 75, p. 232-241.

received an answer from the Bucharest authorities: the Ministry of Finances under the pretext stopped the payment that this category of clerks had not been granted such compensation³⁴. Nonetheless, their colleagues had received rather important amounts.

From that moment on, numerous complaints were sent to the ministers of Foreign Affairs of Romania. It is beyond doubt that the diplomats did not receive any answers. For instance, they asked in January 1923 to the standing minister of Foreign Affairs, I.G. Duca, “for Your Excellency to defend personally our interests before the Ministry of Finances”³⁵ – to no avail. On the contrary, diverse incidents emerged with the clerks within the central administration. One of them began in the autumn of 1923, when the diplomats were dissatisfied with the way the Accounting Director defending their interests “so legally and morally grounded”³⁶. After discussing with the representatives of the Ministry of Finances, they blamed him for the way he interpreted the notification of that department, dated April 1922. Hence, the Ministry of Finances would have simply given a notification warning on the situation and they would not have decided on stopping the ordinances, as the director within the Ministry had interpreted. In addition, they complained that the Accounting Directorate failed to analyse in due time the compensation requests and failed to use the amount in question for the interests of the diplomats. Furthermore, following the discussions with the officials within Finances, they could find at any moment a simple solution available to the Ministry: supplementing the budget or budgetary relocations³⁷.

Moreover, the director within central administration would have deemed the collective request as “a lie, a pretend and a scam”³⁸; hence, he provided the answer immediately. In a notification sent to I.G. Duca, he features in details the discussion he had *tête à tête* in his office with Mihail Arion. He proved to him “the lack of grounds for these accusations”. He explained to him first of all that he was not delegated to sign on behalf of the minister and that in 1922, the government stopped the payment “to address more pressing needs”. On a slightly ironic tone, he reminded the “entire Accounting course” that he had taught Arion³⁹, to make him understand that in order to extinguish the rights of the State creditors, the following actions had to be carried out: Liquidation, Ordinance and Payment. A part of the dialogue between the two is worth mentioning here: “Why do you fight with the Accounting Directorate

³⁴ Ibidem, p. 269.

³⁵ Ibidem, p. 255.

³⁶ Ibidem, p. 264.

³⁷ Ibidem, p. 259-260.

³⁸ Ibidem, p. 264.

³⁹ His personal file kept at the archives does not contain details of this incident (AMAE, Fund Personal Files, Letter A, no. 33, vol. I)

(namely with me) and prefer to insult an inoffensive man, who did nothing but his job? Why do you present him in this light? What will the people reading your complaints think and why don't you fight with the Ministry? Arion's reply lacked any arguments: "Mister Popescu, we know it is so, that you have no fault, but we cannot use such language with the Minister; by hitting the Account department, we want our matter to reach the Minister, in order to find a solution for the 4"⁴⁰. The words of the Accounting manager at the end of the discussion synthesise the critical moment of the relationship between: "My dear friend, I do not approve your procedure; this not diplomacy, this is a ...scam"⁴¹. The incident between the two failed to bring a solution to the problem. No measures were taken against them.

Between 1923 and 1925, the Romanian diplomats continued to send diverse complaints to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but to no avail. The situation began changing in the autumn of 1925. In a notification of the Ministry of Finances of October 7th, they mention a fund opened of about Lei 100,000,000 lei for the assistance of "persons who suffered war damages", clerks or pensioners of State, county, commune, for losses concerning furniture or household items that were registered in time by the special War Damages Commissions. Assistance consisted in a quota calculated for the losses concerning furniture or household items. The Ministry of Finances recommended the elaboration of a "table" of clerks⁴² that were active on August 14th, 1916, as well as the place of the loss, the county court, the city county or the Court assessing the damage, the number of the decisions or the number of the damages file⁴³. In order to observe the decision made by Finances, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent form letters to all the diplomatic missions of Romania abroad for the elaboration of such Tables. More precisely, those who were active in August 1916, within the legations and consulates, but with estates in the country, would be compensated, too. Hence, it was a different situation from the one before. In turns, the Romanian diplomats sent notifications with the situation of the staff within Legations, who were active in 1916 and who benefited from court decisions. For instance, Constantin Contzescu, who retreated in Moldavia in 1917-1918, had three court decisions in 1920-1921, providing the following amounts for compensations: Lei 135,000, Lei 16,000 and Lei 163,000.

⁴⁰ AMAE, Fund 71/1914 E2, p. 265-267.

⁴¹ *Ibidem*, p. 267.

⁴² Who is considered a clerk? "Those who, both on August 14th, 1916 and currently have occupied a position provided for in the general State county or commune budget, on a fixed-salary basis, who swear an oath upon beginning service and who have contributed for the Social Security. Officers and lower ranks are considered clerks".

⁴³ AMAE, Fund 71/1914 E2, file 75, p. 349.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs managed to elaborate a Table featuring the names of 45 diplomats, who asked for compensations. We find their names such as Alexandru Em. Lahovari, Alexandru D. Zamfirescu⁴⁴, Nicolae Titulescu, Nicolae Petrescu-Comnen; as well as names of persons who sent numerous complaints to the Ministry in the period 1922-1925. In turns, Emil Zarifopol, Dimitrie Iuraşcu, Gheorghe Forescu, Eugen Papiniu, Alexandru Em. Lahovari (received in August 1926 the amount of Lei 54,000, Iacovaki (Lei 17,500), G. Paraschivescu (Lei 80,000) were compensated. The total amount granted to the diplomats was of Lei 793,954⁴⁵. Ion P. Carp received only Lei 15,600, but he was dissatisfied given that the court decision of February 1921 had acknowledged compensations of Lei 231.250. Through a less common gesture, he decided in November 1926 for that amount to be divided equally between Miss Niculescu and Mrs. Natalia Constantinescu and Gabi Gărdărescu, typists in the central administration of the Ministry⁴⁶. The persons without court decisions would not be compensated. For instance, Arion received money for the damages incurred in the country, but nothing from those incurred abroad, in Petrograd⁴⁷.

After 1926, more requests were sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through which the Romanian diplomats or their descendants asked for more compensations. The case of Eugen D. Constantinescu is relevant in this respect. No court decision was made in his favour, and the Ministry did not have such funds. The last notification sent to the Ministry that I have found dates to 1937. At that point, Satiria Petrescu, the widow of Ioan Petrescu, requested the amount of Lei 7,500, on behalf of her husband. She received the same answer: there were no more funds.

Preliminary conclusions

One of the problems on the agenda of the Romanian governors at the end of the First World War was that of the compensations granted to those who had suffered different damages during the period 1916-1918. Diplomats were among those who received compensations from the Romanian state during the interwar period. Those who were forced to leave the states where they were accredited, as a result of the break of diplomatic relations, or those

⁴⁴ Zamfirescu family lost some of their wealth during First World War. In September 1918, Duiliu Zamfirescu, in a letter sent to his son, Alexandru, was worried about the situation from Fărăoanele (Vrancea county) where they have some properties. Some details in Duiliu Zamfirescu, *Opere*, VIII, *Corespondență M-Z*, edite by Al. Săndulescu, București, Editura Minerva, 1985, p. 299

⁴⁵ AMAE, Fund 71/1914 E2, file 75, p. 357.

⁴⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 445.

⁴⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 374.

who were abroad or in Iași but had properties in the part occupied by the German army.

We noticed two different situations in which they were compensated: a special and a general one. What happened at the beginning of 1922, during the ministry of Gheorghe Derussi, is rather an exception, a special situation, when only four diplomats received compensations (Constantin Diamandi, George Filaliti, Pierre Guerin și Dimitrie Georgescu), after which the Ministry of Finance interrupted the payment; which caused the dissatisfaction of other colleagues that considered the situation unfair. The most vocal of them was Mihail Arion, who, over the next few years wrote several complaints to the Foreign Ministers about the inequality created. In 1925 and after this year, diplomats were compensated as a result of the decision taken by the Minister of Finance, in October 1925, to grant compensations to those who were officials at the time Romania entered the war and who had suffered damages as a result of this decision.