

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIPLOMATIC SYSTEM IN THE MOLDAVIAN COUNTRY¹

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ABSTRACT

In the present study the authors will refer to the international recognition of the independence of the Moldavian Country as a state entity created in the middle of the XIVth century, as well as the genesis and consolidation of the diplomatic system during the time of the sovereigns Alexander the Good and Stephen III the Great, which represents a rich experience in the field and rich historical traditions that were capitalized during the independence of the state (August 1991) and the establishment of its diplomatic and consular service at the contemporary stage.

The diplomatic system of any state defines, for the most part, its own development and subsequent evolution. Diplomacy is a historical category and its significance has evolved over the centuries, being associated with domineering diplomas (of the country's sovereigns), other official state identification documents and the results of agents who were sent to establish and maintain relations between sovereigns within the framework of interstate cooperation. With the emergence and consolidation of the state that received the name of Moldavian Country, it is obvious that it wanted to establish relations with other states in order to ensure a better development. This also required the creation of political-military coalitions and alliances, the knowledge of political intentions and the military capabilities of the sovereigns of other states. Achieving such an objective required, which is still valid, a well-structured political system that would have allowed a state to consolidate its position on the international arena.

In this thematic context, valuable studies are related to the issues on the history of establishing and asserting the Moldavian Country as a state on the historical map of Europe. The emergence of medieval states was a crossroad event in universal history. The state has managed the further development of political, social, economic and cultural life in the territory that controlled it. The state has also organized its defense system and established relations with other countries. The formation of the medieval state in general and, implicitly, of the Moldovan state is the result of a process of unification of the pre-existing prestate formations as social, economic and political development of the society.

¹ This is the official name of the Moldavian state entity, which existed about half a millennium (the middle of the XIV-XIX centuries), officially called the Moldavian Country (in Latin transcription: Terra Moldoviensis, and in the official language of this state, Old Slavonic - Moldavskaia Zemlea, in Cyrillic Transcription) See from Stephen the Great- Making the Glory of Moldavia.

Taking into account what has been said, namely the emergence and development of the diplomatic service of the Republic of Moldova. It has an interesting evolution, being based on a well-defined historical context, close to the emergence and interaction of state institutions, highlight of peculiarities and tendencies of constitution, and the prospects of perfecting all its components.

Here we will find that only in recent years authors from the State University of Moldova have elaborated and published special studies dedicated to aspects of the genesis and formation of diplomatic services in the Moldavian Country², diplomatic activity of the main sovereigns of this state structure - the sovereigns Alexander the Good (Alexander I of Moldavia) and Stephen the Great (Stephen III of Moldavia), who in total led the country for eight decades consecutively³. Researchers have also analyzed in their studies the process of getting state independence and its consolidation in time and space (subjects that are reflected in a recent academic study published in 3 volumes⁴), and so on.

Thematic publications on the issue are mainly based on the documentary sources of its time, in particular, various chronicles. In this case, we can refer to the chronicler Miron Costin. He was the son of the hunter Iancu Costin who, together with his whole family, have fled to Poland, saving their lives from the Turks. They returned to homeland only after a few decades. M. Costin held high state functions, including the governor. He was responsible for foreign policy and state chancellery from 1675 until the end of 1683 when he withdrew definitively from state activity). It was also the case when, in 1683, after the defeat of the Ottoman army, M. Costin, as a participant in the siege of Vienna (in the Ottoman camp), he was imprisoned by the Polish king, Jan Sobieŝki, but himself amnestied, giving one of his castles near the town of Stryi (now - in Ukraine), where the chronicler has done a scholarly activity for a few years. The chronicler is the author of the famous documentary sources: *The Cornicle of the Moldavian Country*, *The Chronicle of Moldavia and Muntenia (1677)*, *Polish Poiema in verses (in Polish)*, etc.

Also, in the given context, we can highlight the first chronicle of Moldavia, which was written at the instigation of the great sovereign of all times (XVth century). The researchers attributed the conventional title – *The chronicle of Stephen the Great*, as well as *The chronicle of Hungarians*, written by John of Tárnave (Küküllö), the official chronicler of the Hungarian King Ludwig I the Great, the Polish chronicler of the same period, Jan Dlugosz, etc.

As a whole, these documentary sources and the bibliography analyzed confirm that the emergence and development of the diplomatic service of the Republic of Moldova has a complicated evolution of the state institutions, highlighting the particularities and tendencies of formation, and the prospects of perfecting all the components of the Moldovan diplomacy.

Among the many valuable thematic studies which were published in the Republic of Moldova and abroad, there can be emphasized the special monograph on the establishment and

² Roman A. *Genesis and establishment of diplomatic service structures in the Moldavian Country* // In: Theory and practice of public administration. International scientific and practical conference. Chisinau, 2018, 606 p. Pp. 157-165; C.Eșanu, M.Bantuș, J.Cornovan. From the history of the diplomatic service of Moldavia. Chapter IV of the Diplomatic Service: Theory and Practice. Pp. 70-81. Chisinau, MSU, 2010, 400 p.; Jeremiah I. External relations of the country of Moldova in documents. Chisinau, 2013.

³ See: Roman A., Stepaniuc V., Lavric A. *Stephen the Great - the maker of the glory of Moldavia*. Historical study. Chisinau, 2018, 336 p.; Roman A. Ibidem, Chapters I, II, III, VI, VII, VIII and X. - Pp. 7 - 136, 179-295 and 317-330.

⁴ Roman A. *Moldavia within the system of international relations from the 14th - 17th centuries*. Chapter 3 in // The History of Moldavia. In 3 volumes. Vol. I. Chisinau, 2016, pp. 161-208.

consolidation of the Moldavian Country, the well-known historian Stefan S. Gorovei from Iasi (the former capital of Moldavian state for about 3 consecutive centuries, currently in Romania) as well as his study *The diplomatic activity of Ioan Tautu*⁵.

The author in a temporal context demonstrated that initially the problem approached began to be studied in the XIXth century (by the reputed scientist A.D. Xenopol who mentioned that "*each time mirrors in the historical works the people's knowledge of their past*", as well as one of the great masters of our historiography B.P. Hasdeu, etc.) and in the first half of the century XX - Academics N. Iorga and D. Onciul. In a special chapter there is an analysis of the consolidation of the Moldavian Country's independence and the establishment of the first diplomatic contacts with the neighboring sovereigns. The author concludes that the sovereign brothers Peter I and Roman I of the Musatin family, who led the country for about two decades at the end of the XIV century, had also a great influence. During this period, there was completed the process of integrating the other territories in the area between the Eastern Carpathians, the Dniester River and the Black Sea coast (the Black Sea) within the political borders of the Moldavian Country. Thus the sphere of influence of the country's foreign policy was substantially expanded, being noted by a more active involvement of Moldovan diplomacy in interstate relations in Central and Eastern Europe. For example, following the international recognition of the new state of Moldavia, through a royal diploma issued on the 2nd of February in 1365 by the Hungarian sovereign Ludovic I the Great (1342-1382), there followed the negotiation and signing of the Moldo-Polish Treaty (on September 26, 1387, in Lvov, Poland, by the sovereigns of both neighboring countries), which was in fact the first international treaty of the Moldavian State, as well as the first contact between the sovereigns of Moldavia and Moscovite Rus', Petru I and Dmitri Donsko (1386). This allowed the emergence of the new Moldavian state entity as an independent state within the international relations system.

The attempt of the very succinct reflection of the investigated problem, with its own research methods, shows that the systemic and structural-functional approach allows the follow up of the emergence, evolution and efficiency of the Moldovan diplomatic system established during that period between the middle of the 14th and 19th centuries.

Favorable international premises to state construction in the East space of the Carpathian Mountains were created in the first half of the 14th century. King of Hungary Ludwic I of Anjou took advantage of weakening the dominance of the Golden Horde in the Eastern Carpathian regions, triggering various activities to liquidate Tatar domination and secure access to the Black Sea. Initially, a political-diplomatic action took place, creating an alliance against the Golden Horde in Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic (triggered a Tatar military campaign against the Polish kingdom, the Siret fair being devastated) in 1335. Then in 1345 the Hungarian sovereign undertook a military expedition against them.

There are several interpretations for the name of Moldavia and the term Bogdania. It is worth mentioning the information of a chronicle discovered by C. Rezachevici in Krakow, which reflects the history of Moldavia from the 13th century to the year 1622, a source that reminds of "Bogdania or the country of Bogdan, because this ruler was a founder". "*The Bogdania appellation*, considers C. Rezachevici, has been preserved for a time by the native folk tradition, recorded by Giacomo di Pietro Luccari" in a work published in Venice in 1605.

The new state's independence is recognized, primarily by the King of Hungary. It has also established various relations with several countries. Since its first decades of existence, Moldavia has had to bear the pressure of the powerful neighboring states, such as the kingdoms of Hungary, Poland, but also the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, all three being engaged in a vast expansionist

⁵ Gorovei S. S. Diplomatic activity of Ioan Tautu. Iasi, 2001.

action, which was especially favored by the political and military decline of the Golden Horde and the gradual and irreversible backlash of Tatar domination to the East of Europe.

In such a tense international situation, the rulers of the Moldavian Country had to comply adequately with geopolitical developments in this region of Europe in order to ensure the vital interests of the state, displaying extraordinary diplomatic capabilities. The completion of the process of creating the Medieval state of Moldavia and the achievement of state independence have triggered a complex of political and organizational activities of internal and external order for establishing specialized structures for the promotion of foreign policy. The reign was the ultimate central institution in the state apparatus, which included the most complex attributions from the foreign policy and diplomacy field. At the head of state and the reign was the monarch, called Great Voivode (ruler) or "the master of the Country".

According to the *Moldavian Chronicle of Krakow*, as well as the famous work of the sovereign scientist D. Cantemir *Descriptio Moldaviae*, etc., the ruler of the Moldavian Country had various diplomatic powers and his main function was the representation of the state in foreign policy, in bilateral relations and multilateral interstate ones. The ruler, in principle, determined the directions of the foreign policy of the state, including: to declare war, to conclude peace and various armistices (agreements), to sign international treaties, etc. Also, the ruler had the prerogative to receive messengers or to provide diplomatic support to his subjects abroad.

The geopolitical changes in Central and South-Eastern Europe during the last third of the fourteenth century - the beginning of the fifteenth century determined the sovereigns of the country of Moldavia to define very clearly the main foreign policy instruments. The most influential neighbors were two Catholic countries, the Kingdom of Hungary and the Kingdom of Poland, as well as the great Islamic power - the Ottoman Empire.

The ruler Peter I Mușat, being the first Moldavian sovereign with the longest sovereignty (between 1375-1391/1392), made a substantial contribution to the determination of the country's foreign policy and the establishment of its diplomatic service. This sovereign considered that "inter-state alliances and treaties with neighboring countries play a very important role in the formation of the general system of foreign policy of the Moldavian state entity" and their character represented "a new, promising vector of Moldova's activity in the field of foreign policy. Nicholae Iorga, characterized the new ruler as follows: "Peter Mușat thus remained lawful, as one who came through his mother from the founder's blood". He knew how to be recognized by the new king of Poland. "Because he was a good diplomat to counteract the Hungarian kings' claims to restore control of the East Carpathian space or even to incorporate Moldavian territory, he established beneficial relations with both neighboring countries on the northern and southern borders of the country - with Poland's King Wladislaw II Jagello and with Mircea the Elder, Wallachian ruler. The Moldo-Polish bilateral relations were complex despite the planned intentions to be based on the relations of suzerainty and vassality, they manifested through various commercial and military, cultural and dynastic relations. Peter I Mușat permanently took into account the imminent danger, generated by Hungary. Thus, since March 1387, the Hungarian factor has been appeared again in politics, as a result of the interregal crisis in the Kingdom of Hungary, through the coronation of the King Sigismund of Luxembourg.

The official political relations between the Moldavian Country and the Kingdom of Poland in that complicated geopolitical situation were established in the middle of September, in 1387, when the ruler Peter I Mușat, assisted by five "supreme councilors" - members of the Ruler's Council: Giula, Burlea, Stanciul and Stanislav - arrived in Liow (Lviv) on a diplomatic mission, where negotiations were held at the highest level. Here for almost half a month the negotiations

lasted with King Wladislaw II Jagiello, in the presence of the Metropolitan of Kiev (which, according to the chronicler's writings, at the beginning of the inter-state negotiations, gave the Ruler Peter I to kiss the cross). They ended with the Moldo-Polish international treaty, signed by the sovereigns of the two countries on September 26, 1387, the first political act that regulated the vassal-suzerainty relations between the Moldavian Country and the Kingdom of Poland. Thus, Moldavia has been included in the alliance system of the powerful international actor in Central and Eastern Europe - the Polish-Lithuanian state.

The Sovereign of the Moldavian Country signed the first international treaty with the Kingdom of Poland with the following official title: Petrus Waiwoda dei Gratia dux Terrae Moldaviae (Peter the Voivode, the ruler of Moldavia), introducing the rule to seal the international documents signed with the Great Lordly Seal. The structure of the treaty signed by both sovereigns consisted of two international acts that were approved separately - the first, by the ruler and the great boyars who accompanied him in the negotiations, and the second was the Polish Royal Hrisov. This diplomatic act of vassality determined, for a considerable period of time, the orientation of the foreign policy of the Moldavian state, aimed at effectively countering Hungary's claims to restore its control over Moldavia. However, some historiographical assessments consider that the Liow Treaty for the Polish King was less favorable, because "the only profit Poland had of this suzerainty" laid in ensuring its trade route to the Black Sea.

This treaty was confirmed by two written acts, signed separately respectively by the great voivode (approved with a great ruler seal) and by the five great boyars of the country (who also co-approved it with personal seals).

Thus, it can be concluded that the Moldavian-Polish international treaty, signed by the sovereigns of the two countries, was the first political act made publicly that regulated the relations of vassality-suzerainty between the Moldavian Country and the Kingdom of Poland. As a consequence, for the first time, Moldavia was included in the alliance system of the Polish-Lithuanian state. It predetermined, for centuries, the vector of Moldavia's external orientation, overcoming the expansionist claims of the Hungarians, stating the special way in the history of the country.

From the text of the signed document it is concluded that at the center of the Moldavian-Polish negotiations and the content of the treaty was the issue of the territorial delimitation between the Moldavian voivode ship and the Polish-Lithuanian Union. In particular, the historical region around the towns of Hotin, Hmeliov, Cecina (near Cernăuți), called Cepenit Country, was part of Moldavian Country (which later belonged to the Principality of Galicia). As a result, the treaty established the so-called eternal boundary between both states, which delineated the territories of Moldavia to those of Poland, following then the Colacin River route, between Snyatin and Sepinti, across the Bolohov Plain to Dniester River, at the point marked Potoc village, further down the Dniester River to the Black Sea. As a result of signing the Moldo-Polish international treaty, Peter I Mușat had to give up control of Podolia, the document stipulating that over the bank of Dniester River there is Russia's (Kyiv) Country.

Externally, having been on the throne for a relatively long period, more than a decade and a half of Peter I Mușat, it was characterized by the extension of the sphere of implementation the foreign policy of Moldavian Country, more active involvement of the Moldavia diplomacy in interstate relations in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as the international recognition of its statehood, even with the status of Poland's vassal country. The first international treaty of the Moldavian Country becomes a traditional international formula in the bilateral relations between

the two neighboring states, which are renewed periodically, simultaneously with the change of the rulers of the throne or of the Polish sovereigns.

The evolutionary process of the foreign policy and diplomatic activities of the Moldavian Country, based on the first experience accumulated for half a century after the establishment of the Moldavian statehood, has witnessed a continuous development and the highest level of consolidation of its role in the European international system during the 15th century. Although this period is the most glorious stage in the development of Moldavian diplomacy and the consolidation of the international status of Moldavia, there have also been dramatic controversies in the respective European international context. The essence and content of the external activities of the Moldavian state in the 15th century is divided into two distinct stages:

- The first, which includes the years 1400-1432 and 1457-1504, when the rulers Alexander the Good (the grand-nephew of the founder of the Musatin dynasty) and Stephen the Great - the grand-nephew of the mentioned ruler - determined the main vectors of the Moldavian foreign policy in order to promote the national interest and realized the most efficient diplomatic activities for this cause, contributing substantially to the becoming of Moldova's important actor of international relations in medieval Europe.
- The second stage was dramatic in character and tragic through results for Moldavia's integrity and well-being. Temporally, it included a quarter century (1432-1457) and is characterized by substantial territorial losses, internal political struggles and martial destructions, obvious human losses, which have led to the diminishing of the country's role on the international arena; Therefore, only in 25 years on the throne, there were 16 rulers, the majority of them getting it with military and political-diplomatic support from the outside.

The finale of the 14th century saw a dynastic crisis, which eventually ended with the arrival of the ruler Alexander I, later called "the Good", the son of the former ruler Roman I and Anastasia (she was descended from Koryatovich branch of the Lithuanian dynasty of the Gedymins, being the nephew brother of Peter I Muşat.

Alexander the Good came to the reign of the Moldavian Country, who was military supported by Mircea the Elder (the ruler of Muntenia) who wanted an ally in the seat of Suceava. This was, however, regarded not so good by the Polish suzerain Wladislaw II Iagiello, as well as by Witold, the great Duke of Lithuania, the king's cousin, who claimed another contender at the throne of Moldavia - Ivascu, the son of Peter I Muşat. Thus, for the purpose of detensioning the bilateral relations, already on 25 March 1400, in Brest, Poland there were recorded the first Moldo-Polish diplomatic contacts. Later on, despite the tradition that had existed for almost two decades, Alexander I, assisted by 15 great boyars, has concluded a new treaty with the Polish king on 12 March 1402. This document recognized the territory's suzerainty, which was by its essence the reconfirmation of the clauses of the first Moldo-Polish vassal treaty as early as 26 September 1387.

Following the treaty concluded in 1402, the relations between Moldavia and the Polish-Lithuanian state became peaceful. The latter needed peace on his southern borders, because the Polish-Lithuanian state had just engaged in a tough war against the Teutonic Order. It was a war that had led the Polish king Wladislaw Iagiello to change his attitude towards Alexander, after several attempts to remove him from the throne. Alexander the Good was a peaceful ruler, hence the nickname "the Good", a good farmer, continuing the extension of politics led by Roman I Voievod. The Moldavian Country stretched slowly from the nucleus it had formed. Alexander the Good's Moldavia stretched to the Black Sea, including the White Fortress at the Dniester River (a large fortress from the old Byzantine era, then owned by the Genovese merchants). At the moment

when Moldavia became mistress on this region, the White Fortress was still in the hands of the Genovese who accepted the Moldavia voivode.

Alexander the Good's foreign policy was generally determined by the nature of the relations that his country had with neighboring powers and is characterized as a peaceful policy due to the tact with which he judged the political and military events in the south-East of Europe. From the analysis of the succinct information that has been preserved in particular, the emphasis is placed on not attracting the people into adventurist actions and the prudence adopted in the measures taken in connection with the attitude manifested by the neighboring powers towards Moldova. He showed a good knowledge of the political situation in these countries, their military potential and was well informed about their internal weaknesses. In this way, he managed to defend, over a period of more than three decades, the territorial integrity of his country. The agreement between Poland and Hungary, concluded in Lublau on the 15th of March 1412, represented a great danger for Moldavia, being the first agreement to divide a Romanian territory into spheres of influence. The agreement was not enforced, because Alexander always honored his obligations resulting from the acceptance of the Polish king's suzerainty and the Polish-Hungarian contradictions. It predicted that, in the case of Alexander's non-participation in the anti-Ottoman campaign considered, Moldavia would be divided between the two leaders, Suceava and Cetatea Alba belonging to Poland, and Hungary - Roman and Chilia.

At the beginning of the XVth century, the issue of the anti-Ottoman struggle became a stringent one for the Christian world, the fact which argued that the European states were obliged to join forces and contribute to the ceasing of the Ottoman avalanche. This obligation was given a legal character embodied in international treaties to which many states could join. In this context, the Treaty of Lublau presented an anti-Ottoman alliance concluded between Poland and Hungary. But, alongside the officially declared goal, the signatory countries have also sought to solve their own hegemony interests. Hungary was not willing to forget its "rights" over Moldavia, and Poland did not want to give up its "suzerainty", which, although nominal, offered to the European feudal world a priority over Hungary. Following the negotiations, Hungary and Poland reached a "mutuo concordatum" (mutual understanding), according to which "the so-called Moldavian" (Alexander the Good) was obliged to fulfill the command of the Polish king and to help the Hungarians in the fight against the Ottoman Empire. Therefore, the mobilization of the Moldavian troops and the participation, together with the Hungarians, would take place only at the command of the Polish King Wladislaw Jagiello. At the same time, Alexander the Good was not obliged to satisfy the King Sigismund's request for help if the Moldavian Ruler was busy fulfilling his vassal obligations to the Polish king.

One of the characteristic features of its foreign policy is, of course, the lack of aggression towards the neighboring feudal, a fact recognized by most historians who have dealt with it. There were, of course, cases when it was forced to deviate from these peaceful principles of its foreign policy but, generally regarded, it is characterized by defensive measures and by the effort made to spare the country by the desolate invasions of foreign armies. He was compelled, however, to participate in coalitions directed against one or the other of the neighboring countries and to organize campaigns against the one he considered the most dangerous for his country. In general, he has endeavored to maintain a stable balance of political forces in the Southeast and Central Europe. By participating in such struggles, he did not pursue the invasion of foreign lands, and if, at the end of his life, he claimed the possession of the Pocutia. He wanted to defend his rights over a province that had become his property by virtue of a contract perfectly lawfully concluded by the King of Poland, Wladislaw Jagiello, with the rulers from Moldavia. This province had been

pledged by the Polish king, the Moldavian (Peter I Musat), as early as 1387, in return for a sum of money borrowed from them and unpaid for several decades.

Another characteristic feature of the foreign policy of Alexander the Good, is, at least until 1420, the date of death in the battles with the Turks of Mihail, the ruler of the Romanian Country, the son of the good friend and his ally, Mircea the Elder, close collaborative ties and good neighborliness with it. They have greatly contributed to maintaining the political balance in the area surrounding the two states. Also, in 1420, the first Turkish attack on Moldova took place. Attacked at the sea, Chilia and the White Fortress, are defended with own forces of the Moldavian ruler. At the end of his reign he allied himself with Hungary and with the Teuton Order against Poland, in order to finally take possession of the Land of Pocutia, which continued to be pawned by the Polish king for the unfinished financial loan. Thus, in November 1430, a Moldo-Polish conflict arises from the interference of the Polish kingdom in Moldova's internal affairs and attempts to propagate Catholicism. Namely in this context, the critical moment was recorded when the relations of the Moldavian ruler with the King of Poland reached the maximum level of tension.

After decades of internal instability, Stephen III the Great came to the throne of the country in 1457 - the voivode with the longest and most glorious reign in the multi-secular history of Moldavia, with the greatest multilateral impact. The historical study "Stephen III the Great and Saint - Maker of the Glory of Moldova", written by the team of authors Alexandru Roman, Victor Stepaniuc, Aurelian Lavric, but also other relevant and important works have been written on this subject. On April 12, 1457, Stephen, the son of Bogdan II, defeated his uncle Peter Aron, the brother-in-law, in Dolheshti, near Suceava.

Diplomacy is judged by results, and the results of *Stephen's diplomacy are wonderful, being focused on the so-called "never two concomitant enemies" principle.* This ruler was different from others because he knew how to use the circumstances, rivalries and envies of their neighbors.

An important chapter of Stephen the Great's foreign policy was that of relations with the Ottomans. He acted to bring on the Walachian throne a ruler to anti-Ottoman politics. In 1470 the Moldavian ruler refused to pay the tribute to the Gate, and in 1472 he established relations with Venice.

The official cartographer and historian of the King of Poland, Bernard Wapowski, noted the following: "Stephen's courage and success were renowned to neighboring peoples for experience in military affairs and the famous acts committed against the Turks, Tartars, and Hungarians". Also in Eastern Europe, the illustrious Russian historian N.M. Karamzin gave the following appreciation to Stephen the Great: "Courageous in dangerous situations, hard in distress, modest in happiness ... he was a miracle for rulers and peoples, with small means he did great deeds". The Greek (Orthodox) faith, the similarity in customs, the use of the same language in church and public affairs, the unusual minds of both Russian and Moldovan rulers, the agreement of benefits and rules – all constituted a natural connection between them". On this ground, he declared that Stephen the Great, through his great deeds, "stirred up the admiration of the monarchs and peoples". The Pope of Rome, Sixt IV on March 20, 1476, already in the 5th year of his pontificate, sent a letter to the Moldavian ruler, Stephen the Great, acknowledging the Moldavian voivode's merits in stopping the Ottoman offensive and calling him "true athlete of the Christian faith".

In promoting the overall foreign policy and instigating diplomatic activities, Stephen the Great relied on the diplomatic apparatus composed of his superiors from the Princely Court. Among the most experienced diplomats who were sent frequently by Stephen the Great at the head of the official messages abroad across the country were: Şendrea, and from 1481 - Luca Arbore, Boldur, Vlaicu, Gangur, Cristea Arbure, Harman and Luca and others. Luca Arbure played an important role as the goalkeeper of Suceava. Thanks to the knowledge of the Slavic languages (Old Slavic and Polish) as well as the Latin one, determined the voivode to send Luca Arbure with certain tasks to the Grand Cnezat of Moscow, to Poland, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, etc. Of great importance was the Moldavian message led by Luca Arbure to King Alexander of Poland in Lublin (located in south-eastern Poland) on 22 November 1503. Historical sources attest that the message was headed by a "Luca walachus" in order to regulate relations with Lesat Country in the litigation problem of Pocutia (a border territory between the two countries, constantly disputed after the reimbursement by Poland of the financial loan granted to the ruler of Moldavia Petru I Muşat, as mentioned before). Among other well-known diplomats during the reign of Stephen the Great was also I. Tamblac, who led the message in Venice. Giurgea led the message in Lithuania in 1496. I. Tautul and Isac were sent in 1497 in Poland. Also, many other diplomats contributed to strengthening the independence of the Moldavian Country.

Through his remarkable activity in the sphere of foreign policy, Stephen the Great inaugurated a new era of the international affirmation of Moldavia. Due to the political role Moldavia has assumed in the conditions of the Ottoman offensive, it gained an international prestige that attracted the appreciation and alliance of great powers engaged in the anti-Ottoman confrontation.

Also important was the contribution of Moldavian diplomats from the modern period in the diplomatic service of other countries. Among them are: Nicolae Milescu Spatarul from the of Moldavia Country - in the Ottoman Empire, the West of Europe, Russia, China, etc. Antioh Cantemir represented very well the Russian Empire in the main European states, including 6 years as an ambassador to London and 6 years to Paris; Alexander Scarlat Sturza was the right hand of the Russian Emperor Alexander I at the Vienna Congress of Peace, etc. They have made a substantial personal contribution to the process of regulating modern interstate relations between different states of Europe and Asia.

Through the skillful tactics of the messages and the sovereigns' abilities to conclude alliances and reach consensus, Moldavia's diplomacy has succeeded to develop and align itself with the specific standards of the international system of that period.

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