

Nicolae Petrescu-Comnen and the Romanian-German Relations in 1928

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Abstract

1928 was an important year for Romanian-German relations. It was the year when the agreement settling the economic dispute between the two countries was signed, opening the way for the German participation in the endeavours meant to stabilize the Romanian currency, leu, and the foreign loan the Romanian authorities wanted to obtain. However, our study focuses on how Nicolae Petrescu-Comnen, the new Minister Plenipotentiary of Romania in Berlin, sought to address the diplomatic cooperation with the German authorities, who, at first, regarded him with scepticism. During 1928, Comnen tried to improve Romania's image in the German media, creating a press office and initiating contacts with the main German news agencies and newspapers. For him, this element was essential as it would help loosen the relations between Bucharest and Berlin. In the summer of 1928, when negotiations were in deadlock, Comnen proposed a set of measures to revive discussions. He was of the opinion that the Romanian state should not miss once again the chance to solve old disputes with Germany, which would have allowed the initiation of a stronger economic cooperation between the two countries. Although Comnen was not part of the negotiating team, his relations with the German politicians and bankers and his expertise in German policy have contributed to the success of the negotiations. The signing of the Romanian-German agreement on November 10 is therefore the result of the diplomatic activity of the Romanian ambassador in Berlin.

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