

Documents about the Story of the Hungarian-Libyan diplomatic connections

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The aim of this study is to introduce sources that came to existence during the official and non-official negotiations between Hungary and Libya started at the end of the 1950s. In the mirror of these we can get an objective picture about the steps of the Hungarian diplomacy towards the Libyan partner.

This work used mainly those diplomatic documents from the National Archives of Hungary that have reference to Libya. Most of the documents are from the State Department and from the embassy of the People's Republic of Hungary in Cairo. Furthermore, some documents are from the Washington, Moscow and Belgrade embassies of the People's Republic of Hungary¹.

The formation of the independent Libya

After the 2nd World War a plan was born for rebuilding the independence of Libya. Concrete steps were only made at the time of signing the Paris peace treaty. In February of 1947 Libya was declared to become a United Nations trust territory.

The period between 1947 and 1949 was spent with negotiations of the great powers. England and Italy and even the Soviet Union were trying to get right for administering the area.

However these negotiations did not lead to any results.

¹ Before 1945, the amount of documents about Libya found in the National Archives of Hungary (hence fore abbreviated as MOL) is small. All the documents referring to the area forms mainly the Italian material until 1945 (MOL K63 Olaszország). Of course this is explained by the historical past of the country.

Documents referring to Libya after 1945 can be found at scores MOL KÜM KIS ORSZÁGOK LÍBIA 1945–1964 TÜK XIX-J-1-j and MOL KÜM KIS ORSZÁGOK LÍBIA 1945–1964 ADMIN XIX-J-1-j until 1964.

Documents referring to Libya after 1964 can be found at scores MOL KÜM LÍBIA/YEAR/TÜK XIX-J-1-j and MOL KÜM LÍBIA/YEAR/ADMIN XIX-J-1-j in an annual disassembly.

Seeing the helplessness of the great powers the United Nations made a resolution about the independence of Libya at its fourth session on November 21, 1949. This resolution had to be brought to effect until January 1, 1952.²

On December 24, 1951, the country became a constitutional monarchy named as The United Kingdom of Libya. The head of the state was King Idris I., head of the Senussis.³

The artificially made state seemed to be the poorest and least capable of living state at that time. Until the start of the oil searching, the main source of income of the country was the rent for military bases, and the foreign financial support that mostly came from the USA and from Great Britain.⁴ The income from several taxes and additions contributed to this. The GDP was only 36 dollars in 1951. Old iron collected from the battle-fields and esparto grass produced the bigger part of the export of the country.

So it can be stated that at the beginning of the 1950s Libya was characterized by a strong commitment towards the western powers both in political and economic sense. Though from the middle of the decade the new state started to participate in the international political life more and more actively and covered a devious distance at the imagined international scene.⁵ As a result of the opening the country participated at the Bandung conference and preferred the politics of non-commitment. The country formed diplomatic connections with numerous socialist nations.⁶

The beginnings of Hungarian-Libyan negotiations and the admission of diplomatic connections

Hungarian-Libyan connections cannot be said to be active in the 1950s, they were only formal.⁷

By the end of the 1950s, kind of political exploratory talks started between the two countries. The first searchable writing certifies that in February-March of 1958 Libya turned to the Washington ambassador of Hungary asking him to support the admission of Libya into the Executive Commission of the UNESCO.⁸ Our ambassador suggested the possibility of the admission of diplomatic connections verbally. The representative of

² Adrian Pelt, deputy secretary-general of the United Nations became the officially mandated administrator of the organization in the Libyan case.

³ Libya became a Federal Kingdom of three colonies. Its territory was 1 750 000 square kilometers. Its population was 1 150 000. His full name was Sajed Mohammed Idris el Madi es Senussi.

⁴ The US built up its military base in Wheelus Field, 8 kilometers from Tripoli. Britain held military bases in Benghazi and in El-Adem. Libya got an estimated \$20 million rent for the bases.

⁵ MOL KÜM KIS ORSZÁGOK LÍBIA 1945–1964 TŰK XIX-J-1-j packet 3, March 16, 1964. Rácz Károly's (ambassador in Baghdad) report on the situation of Libya to the State Department.

⁶ It took up diplomatic connections with the Soviet Union among the socialist countries.

⁷ We used to send and receive telegrams at the time of bigger national holidays from the end of the 1950s. MOL KÜM KIS ORSZÁGOK LÍBIA 1945–1964 ADMIN XIX-J-1-k packet 2, Telegrams.

⁸ MOL KÜM KIS ORSZÁGOK LÍBIA 1945–1964 TŰK XIX-J-1-j packet 3, March 13-14, 1958. Washington – Libyan request towards Hungary.

Libya found it interesting and thought that it would be a bigger chance if the strengthening of them would strengthen the commercial connections as well.

A month later a meeting was held in Washington. That time the Hungarian ambassador visited the Libyan partner, asking for support for a speech at an upcoming ILO conference.⁹ The meeting was held in good atmosphere and they talked not only about actual political questions but also about the political and economic situation of Hungary and Libya. Our ambassador raised the possibility of linking the commercial connections more tight. The Libyan ambassador replied in writing that his country is open to widen these connections with Hungary.

After 1958 our diplomatic position did not strengthen until 1964, but our economic position developed significantly.¹⁰ Hungary exported goods to Libya to the value of 2,9 million Cft in 1960, 21,9 million Cft in 1962, 17 million Cft in 1963, 21,9 million Cft in 1964. The import was 0 Cft.¹¹ The Libyan export was thought to be important because the foreign partner paid in hard foreign currency (in dollar).

Besides, Hungarian commercial companies represented themselves at Tripolis International Fair from 1963. The Fair has been organized since 1960.

The next admission of connections was made on December 21, 1964, when a report was sent into the Department of State from Szipka József.¹² He was the Hungarian ambassador in Moscow. In his report, he informed the Hungarian authorities that Salem Ben Lamin, the newly accredited Libyan ambassador in Moscow visited him on 19th in the given month. [1] After reciting the international situation and economic possibilities of his country, he outlined which countries had Libya already kept as its connections.¹³ He declared that the interest of Hungary in Libya would be welcomed.

László János evaluated Szipka's report at the State Department in an official note and he suggested the tightening of the connections.[2]

After evaluating the report, Rácz Pál, ambassador of Hungary in Cairo, who also covered the representation of Hungary in Sudan and Yemen, was informed via telegram. He was informed about the events happened in Moscow and was ordered to visit the Libyan

⁹ MOL KÜM KIS ORSZÁGOK LÍBIA 1945-1964 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 3, April 28, 1958 Washington - meeting the Libyan ambassador.

¹⁰ MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1966 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 80, April 22, 1966. Commercial connections with Libya.

¹¹ Cft means Currency Forint. This was a settling rate in our foreign trade.

¹² MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1966 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 80, 91-11 Forming diplomatic connections with Libya. It has to be noted here that all the documents of the negotiations about the admission of diplomatic connections could only be found at this document number until 1966. So this document number will be referred at quotations./ Moscow, December 21, 1964. Szipka József's (ambassador in Moscow) report to the State Department.

¹³ The Soviet Union, Czech-Slovakia and Yugoslavia from the socialist countries took part in the meetings. Romania and Poland represented themselves by Cairo, though Bulgaria represented itself by Tunis. The German Democratic Republic ran a commercial branch-office in Tripoli.

ambassador seated in Cairo and initiate forming diplomatic connections between the two countries on an embassy level, verbally.¹⁴[3]

Mr. Mahmoud El-Khoga saw Rácz on January 27, 1965. The ambassador reacted positively to what was said and promised to submit certain directed proposals to the government. After the visit, our ambassador sent a report into the State Department in which he evaluated the shaping of the situation being positive. [4]

After that the Political Committee of The Central Committee of Hungarian Socialist Working Party (HSWP) discussed the previous steps and evaluated them. On February 15, 1965, the Committee agreed on the admission of the diplomatic connections of The People's Republic of Hungary and The Kingdom of Libya on an embassy level and on sending Rácz Pál to the Kingdom of Libya as an ambassador of Hungary.¹⁵ Afterwards suggestions were made to the State Department to begin the negotiations.¹⁶[5]

The next months of 1965 spent without any important events for the two countries. The Libyan partner did not reply to the invitation from Cairo and did not get in touch with any embassies of Hungary.

It has to be mentioned here that the Ministry of Foreign Trade tried to build up a commercial branch-office in Tripoli in 1965, but in no vain.¹⁷ Libya thought that if the sender country opened a branch-office and did nothing more, it would degrade the interstate connections of the receiver.

The State Department sent our Cairo ambassador to Libya in March, 1966 to inform about the cause of the slow procedure.¹⁸

Rácz stayed in Libya from 1st to 10th March, 1966. He turned up at many parts of the country and negotiated with several leader politicians. During his ten-days travel our ambassador visited a part of the embassies in Tripoli, then he traveled to Beida to meet Ahmed al Bisti Secretary of State. Till he arrived to Beida, the Secretary of State had gone to Tripoli, so one of his deputies, Farag Ben Glaiel welcomed Rácz. Rácz reviewed the aims of his trip and asked about the diplomatic intentions of the Libya partner. The deputy seemed to be ready to change summaries, even right that time, but our ambassador informed him that he was not ready for that. Rácz promised the politician to hand in the certain files at the Libyan embassy in Cairo as soon as Libya strengthened its decision.

The ambassador gave account of his experiences in his travel report sent to the State Department.¹⁹ The Hungarian partner made an other official visit to Libya during March,

¹⁴ MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1966 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 80, 91-11 Forming diplomatic connections with Libya. January 21, 1965. An order to Rácz Pál from the State Department.

¹⁵ Algerian ambassador, Mátyás László's name cropped up first during the meeting of the Political Committee. Finally, Rácz Pál was accepted.

¹⁶ MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1966 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 80, 91-11 Forming diplomatic connections with Libya. February 15, 1965 A proposal to the Political Committee of the HSWP Central Committee.

¹⁷ Here the events took two different strings. One with the aim of founding diplomatic connections. This was the intention of the State Department. The other one was the intention of the Ministry of Foreign Trade to strengthen the position of Hungarian companies in Libya. Both ministries wanted to reach their aims separately.

¹⁸ MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1966 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 80, 91-11 Forming diplomatic connections with Libya. Between March 1 and 10, 1966. Rácz Pál traveled to Libya.

1966.²⁰ Orosz István, employee of the Ministry of Foreign Trade traveled to Libya to inform about the difficulties that arose in founding the commercial branch-office.

He failed to reach development during the negotiations with the State Department. The visit of Rácz Pál got forgotten and Libya could not report on the moving of the diplomatic connections. After arriving home, Orosz István gave account of the events happened abroad in his travel report.²¹

After the arrival of the reports in April, 1966 at the State Department, all the files in connection with Libya were examined in order to see everything clear. After the inquiry the rapporteurs came to the conclusion that the first more emphatic step had to be made by us, so a written decision had to be created in Hungary about the idea of admission diplomatic connections. In possession of these, Comrade Rácz has to make a written summary and handle it to the Libyan partner.

Being influenced by this, the resolution approved by the Central Committee of the Political Committee of HSWP in February 1965 was dug out at the State Department. Then, Secretary of State, Péter János submitted it to the government of the People's Republic of Hungary. the resolution became accepted on May 18, 1966 in the resolution numbered 3156/1966.²²[6]

After accepting the government regulation Rácz Pál was informed by the State Department about the inboard in June 4, 1966. He was ordered to handle a written summary to the Libyan partner.²³[7]

Our ambassador visited Mr. Mahmoud El-Khoga on June 19, 1966. He handed in the English version of the summary. The Libyan ambassador thanked the written summary and assured Rácz about a quick reply.²⁴[8]

Arriving back to his residence our Ambassador sent a hopeful report to the State Department. [9]

However the Libyan partner did not sign its intention to strengthen the connections at any of our embassies until the summer of 1967.

At the end of 1966 something important happened that is in connection to the topic of this study.²⁵

¹⁹ MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1966 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 80, 91-11 Forming diplomatic connections with Libya. March 21, 1966. Rácz Pál's travel report on his Libyan visit.

²⁰ MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1966 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 80, 91-11 Forming diplomatic connections with Libya. Between March 17 and 25, 1966. Orosz István, officer at the Foreign Trade Ministry visited Libya.

²¹ MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1966 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 80, 91-11 Forming diplomatic connections with Libya. April 9. 1966. Orosz István's travel report.

²² Regulation numbered 3156/1966 of the Hungarian Revolutionary Workers' – Farmer Government.

²³ MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1966 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 80, 91-11 Forming diplomatic connections with Libya. June 4, 1966. report and order to Rácz Pál in Cairo from the State Department.

²⁴ MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1966 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 80, 91-11 Forming diplomatic connections with Libya. June 24, 1966. report from Rácz Pál, Cairo ambassador to the State Department.

²⁵ MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1966 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 80, 91-11 Forming diplomatic connections with Libya. December 20, 1966. report of the Consul Department to the Secretary of State

In December 1966, Mr. Abdurazzag Misallati, Libyan ambassador accredited to Belgrade, notified the Hungarian State Department that he is intended to visit our country.

The aim of his visit was to visit a compatriot of him who was spending his 1 year 2 months of jail sentence.²⁶

The State Department asked for information from the National Commander of Penal Authorities, and then ensured a date for the ambassador's visit. However, Mr. Misallati was asked to go to the State Department first, for being informed about the case. The ambassador signed in at 2 p.m. on December 19 at the Consular Department. He was informed about the state of the Libyan citizen and was told to visit the prisoner next day. The officers of the Consular Department gave details about the connections of the two countries and outlined the all-time Hungarian steps towards Libya. The ambassador did not know anything about that, but also promised to urge the case, if it is possible. Afterwards, he left the building of the State Department and resigned at Hotel Gellért.

The afternoon after the meeting, a phone call was made to the State Department from the National Commander of Penal Authorities. The officer of the Consular Department was informed that the papers were mixed because of an administrative mistake.

According to the new information the prisoner was said to handle a plea of mercy to the Presidential Committee. The plea was evaluated positively. The Libyan citizen was not in jail, but was staying at Budapest Sport Hotel with a penalty of home leaving. Afterwards, the leaders of the Consular Department hold a meeting and agreed on inviting the ambassador again and told him about the events, as they would have happened thanks to his arrival.

The ambassador arrived in the evening. He was informed that 'the prisoner handed in a plea of mercy to the Presidential Committee. The plea was evaluated positively. The reason for that are the positive developing connections between the two countries and the interest of Libya in Hungary. Furthermore, the family situation of the prisoner helped the events. So the State Department could help the case in a good way. Hema Mohamed Abdalava will be informed about the decision of the Presidential Committee tomorrow.' Afterwards, the ambassador said that his government must appreciate this gesture.²⁷

There were no negotiations made between Hungary and Libya in the first months of 1967. The foreign affairs documents about the next few months are quite incomplete. It is for sure that Rácz Pál was planning to travel to Libya in April. There are no sources whether he traveled there or not.

After that, the events started to accelerate. At the beginning of June, 1967, the Libyan partner notified us in a summary that they were ready for the admission of diplomatic connections with the People's Republic of Hungary from the 1st of July, 1967.

After that, the Hungarian Secretary of State handed in the government regulation numbered 3156/1966 to the Presidential Committee of the People's Republic of Hungary on June 27, 1967. The Presidential Committee ratified the regulation and numbered it

²⁶The Libyan citizen, driving drunken hit a bicyclist in Eger downtown, who died of his injuries.

²⁷After the case the Secretary of State wrote a letter to the Attorney General warning him to prevent an other case like that because it was extremely difficult to put everything to the interest of the service of foreign affairs.

177/1967. Then Losonczy Pál, president of the Presidential Committee of the People's Republic of Hungary signed the document.²⁸[10]

On August 4, our embassy informed the Libyan partner that the supreme decision about starting the official connections was born

On September 18, 1967, Libya made Hungary know through its Belgrade embassy that its government appreciated Rácz Pál's nomination and were ready to welcome him.²⁹[11]

In October 1967, Rácz was supplied with the letter of credence, signet and signals needed for the accreditation, and was ordered to make the introductory visit to Libya by the State Department.³⁰[12]

Our new Libya ambassador left from Cairo to Tripoli on November 10, 1967, for handing over his letter of credence. This was made on November 30. [13]

After handing over the letter of credence Rácz Pál stayed one more week in Libya. Afterwards, our ambassador arrived back to his official seat in Cairo from where he reported his experiences and the Libyan events.³¹[14]

Events after 1967

After the admission of the diplomatic connections a quality development could be noticed in the relationship of the two countries. Besides the strengthening of political and economic connections scientific, technical and cultural cooperation started between Hungary and Libya. In result, Hungary made several agreements with the North-African country.

Rácz Pál represented our country in Libya until 1968. Then he made an official farewell visit to Tripoli in July.³² Szarka Károly followed him as ambassador. He handed the letter of credence to King Idris I., at the beginning of February 1969.³³

The numerous official affairs requires buying residence, and employing a constant staff in Tripoli. The People's Republic of Hungary got an opportunity for that in 1971.

²⁸ MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1967 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 64, 91-116 Number 177/1967 resolution of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic. The information was published in Hungarian press (Népszabadság, Népszava) on July 2, 1967

²⁹ MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1967 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 64, 91-116 September 19, 1967 ambassador Marjai József's report from Belgrade to the State Department.

³⁰ A separate resolution was born about Rácz Pál and the surrender of the needed documents. Unfortunately no referring source material can be found.

³¹ MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1967 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 64, 91-116 December 21, 1967. Rácz Pál's report to the State Department about the handing of his letter of credence.

³² MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1968 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 63, 91-1 Between July 8 and 19, 1968. Rácz Pál makes a farewell visit to Libya.

³³ MOL KÜM LÍBIA 1969 TÜK XIX-J-1-j packet 63, 91-1 March 14, 1969. Szarka Károly's Libyan travel report from Cairo to the State Department.

Conclusion

To sum up, it can be said that through the ten years from the first official meeting to the ratification of connections to a formal level, our diplomats did quite a hard work, which made a strong base for the further creation of a deep connection. The good connection can be felt even these days, because the Republic of Hungary still represents itself on an embassy level having its seat in Tripoli, Libya.

Attachments

1. Ambassador Szipka József's report from Moscow

The Embassy of the People's Republic of Hungary

301/Szt/1964

Top secret!

Moscow, December 21, 1964

Subject: Introductory visit of the Libyan Ambassador

Made in 3 copies

2 copies for the center

1 copy for the embassy

On the 19th of the given month Libyan Ambassador Salem Ben Lamin visited me. During the longer conversation that developed he was interested whether I was aware of the participation of Hungary at the International Fair in Tripoli.

He said that the socialist countries like The Soviet Union, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia would participate in that. The Tripoli International Fair has quite a short history. It is only four years old. According to his opinion it could be interesting for Eastern-European countries. He told me that they import mainly building materials /cement, steel...etc/ and they feel that their connections with European countries are able to be improved on this base. He emphasized that their economic connections with Yugoslavia are quite intensive. For example about 200 Yugoslavian people work in Libya today.

He mentioned Poland and Romania would accredit their Cairo ambassadors to Libya and he raised his personal point of view that Libya would welcome if Hungary showed interest towards connections with country.

The ambassador talked about the foreign affairs of his country in details. He emphasized that its base is formed by peaceful living next to each other and non-commitment. He emphasized that his country is standing on the ground of Arab and African unity. In connection with this, he mentioned that his country gave a huge help to the liberation struggle of Algeria and Tunisia. He talked endlessly about that according to his view, small states that would suffer from a possible atom-war the most have to fight in the front lines for living next to each other peacefully and for the total ban of atom weapons.

He said that on his point of view, those who attack Libya for having foreign bases in its territory are unfair. Historically what happened is that British and American forces freed the country from rule of the Italian fascism and having the lack of all material tools, in the 1st years of the country there was urgent need for all outer financial support. In this

situation the question to withdraw the foreign forces from the territory of the country was certainly impossible. Despite, he emphasized that in his opinion, the elimination of the Libyan foreign bases in Libya would be current.

Szipka József
Ambassador

2. State Department aide-mémoire and suggestion to the admission of the diplomatic connections

District IX. Regional Department
László János attaché

Top Secret!

Subject: Admission of the Hungarian-Libyan diplomatic connections

.....description on Libya

Libya has been improving its official connections with socialist countries as well. According to the accessible records from the socialist countries, The Soviet Union, Czech-Slovakia and Yugoslavia have embassies in Tripoli, Poland and Romania accredit their Cairo ambassadors to the Libyan capital.

During the consultation held between the representatives of the Czech-Slovak and Hungarian State Departments recently, the Czech-Slovak comrades reported that they regard the building of an embassy in Tripoli an impetuous step. Hence they decided to accredit their Tunisian ambassador to Tripoli after remanding their ambassador. This was found to be burdensome from the Libyan party and it was announced in a memorandum that the accreditation of a certain ambassador is required who has a residence in Libya too.

The admission of the diplomatic connections between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Kingdom of Libya was not initiated by neither of the parties officially yet.

Moscow ambassador Comrade Szipka József reported that Salem Ben Lamin who made an introductory visit to him 'mentioned that Poland and Romania will accredit their Cairo ambassador to Libya and suggested on his personal point of view that it would be certainly welcomed from the Libyan party if Hungary showed interest towards the connections with Libya as well.'

.....description on Libya

Suggestion:

1. Since the admission of the official connections with the Kingdom of Libya is actual and it would also be actual for the improve of our commerce. Reacting to the Moscow Libyan ambassador's personal initiation we should issue the admission of the diplomatic connections with the Libyan Kingdom on an embassy level.

2. After the admission of the diplomatic connections we should accredit Comrade Mátyás László, Algerian ambassador of ours to Tripoli leaving his present commission untouched at the same time.
3. We should order our Moscow or Cairo ambassador to initiate negotiations at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Libya for the admission of the diplomatic connections.

Budapest, January 7, 1965

3. The order of the State Department to Rácz Pál to initiate the admission of the diplomatic connections verbally

Top Secret!
00345/1965.

Admission of the Hungarian-Libyan diplomatic connections

To the Embassy

Cairo

During his visit to Comrade Szipka, the Moscow ambassador of the Libyan Kingdom expressed his personal opinion that Libya would welcome if Hungary showed interest towards connections with Libya.

As for our adjudgement, the admission of the official connections with the Kingdom of Libya is actual and it would also be actual for the improve of our commerce. Since the management of the State Department decided that we initiated steps for the admission of the diplomatic connections with the Libyan Kingdom on an embassy level.

According to the mentioned above we request Comrade Ambassador to visit the Libyan ambassador in Cairo and initiate verbally the forming of diplomatic connections between the two countries on an embassy level. Of course we cannot build an independent embassy in Tripoli because of financial problems.

We also inform Comrade Ambassador that our authorities has not made any regulations about the admission of the connections. We would make the certain steps for that after the Libyan government has also expressed its pleasure for the admission of the connections. So the change of memoranda and the agreement concerning publication will be made after the birth of the regulation.

We are sending our Moscow ambassador's report and the aide-mémoire on the subject above of the Department to inform Comrade Ambassador.

We request Comrade Ambassador to inform the Center about Your steps in the Subject above by telegram as well continuously.

Budapest, January 21, 1965
Tóth Elek

Head of Department

4. Rácz Pál's report on the visit to the Libyan ambassador**Embassy of the People's Republic of Hungary**

28/1/Sz.T./1965

Made in 5 copies**Center: 4 copies**

Embassy: 1 copy

Top secret!

Cairo, January 28, 1965

**Subject: Admission of the Hungarian-Libyan
diplomatic connections****Ref. Number: 11345/1965**

With reference to the regulation numbered above I am reporting the followings:

On January 27 I visited Mr. Mahmoud El-Khoga, the Cairo Ambassador of The Kingdom of Libya.

According to the central rule I initiated the forming of the diplomatic connections between the two countries on an embassy level. The ambassador reacted to our initiative on a very positive way. He stated that personally he agrees on the forming of the diplomatic connections and would submit a certain resolution to the government. He hopes to inform us about a positive reply soon.

During the conversation I informed the Ambassador about the main foreign affairs aims of the People's Republic of Hungary. Within the scope of this, I said how the relation of our country and Arab nations developed and tightened in the previous years. I let him know that Hungary participated at the International Fair in Tripoli in the last two years and we were taking part that year as well. I referred to the possibility of the forming and improving of economic and technical connections.

The Ambassador, who has only been in diplomatic service for ten months and has been working at an unidentified economic field, showed interest to the admission of our connections. He announced that many socialist countries have embassies in Libya. From ambassadors seating in Cairo, the Polish, the Pakistani and the Indian ones are accredited into Libya.

He announced that the connections between the United Arab Emirates and Libya widened greatly and misunderstanding cleared in the previous one year. It appeared at the latest leaders' meeting held in Cairo that the Arab countries were uniform in the main questions and nothing could estrange them.

Finally, the Ambassador suggested that I should visit the International Fair in Tripoli that would be held in the near future.

Rácz Pál
Ambassador

5. Regulation of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of HSWP about the admission of the Hungarian-Libyan diplomatic connections

HSWP Foreign Affairs Department
45/PJ/1965
00345

Urgent!
Top secret!

Proposal
to the Political Committee of HSWP Central Committee

The Political Committee, in its December 1, 1964 resolution about the connections between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Arab countries, declares that 'we should be aimed to widen the economic connections and afterwards initiate the admission of the diplomatic connections...' with Libya.

Our commercial connections with Libya are already of great volume but are showing a constant improvement. So our export to Libya was 17 million Cft in 1963 and 21,9 million Cft in 1964. On the other side, we did not transact any import. Some of our companies participated at the International Fair in Tripoli in the last two years and we are participating at the Fair of 1965 as well.

The improvement of the economic connections forms a base for forming diplomatic connections with The Kingdom of Libya. This seems to be expedient for improving our connections so we suggest the State Department start negotiations with the Libyan government about the admission of the diplomatic connections between the two countries. Furthermore, we suggest that in the case of the admission of the diplomatic connections we accredit Comrade Ambassador Rácz Pál to Libya.

From the socialist countries, The Soviet Union, Czech-Slovakia and Yugoslavia has an embassy in Tripoli. Poland and Romania accredited their Cairo ambassador into Libya.

Plan of regulation

The Political Committee of the Central Committee of HSWP agrees on the admission of diplomatic connections between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Libyan Kingdom on an embassy level and on Cairo Ambassador Rácz Pál's accreditation to Libya.

Budapest, February 15, 1965

Péter János Puja Ferenc

6. Government regulation about the admission of the Hungarian-Libyan diplomatic connections

Hungarian Revolutionary Worker – Farmer Government
copy number 5

Made in 44 copies

To: members of parliament,
Comrade Kiss Károly,
Comrade Puja Frigyes

Resolution numbered 3156/1966 of the
Hungarian Revolutionary Worker-Farmer Government
about the admission of the Hungarian-Libyan diplomatic connections and Ambassador
Rácz Pál's accreditation

The Hungarian Revolutionary Worker-Farmer Government

1. accepts the forming of diplomatic connections between the People's Republic of Hungary and the United Kingdom of Libya on an embassy level and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Rácz Pál's accreditation to Libya leaving his commission of leading the Cairo Embassy and his accreditation to Yemen and Sudan untouched.
2. assigns the Secretary Of State to propose in both cases to the Presidential Committee of the People's Republic.

Budapest, May 18, 1966

Fock Jenő

Deputy-chairman of the Hungarian Revolutionary Worker-Farmer Government

7. Order of the State Department to Rácz Pál to hand over a written summary to the Libyan partner

Top Secret!

112812/2

**The admission of the Hungarian-Libyan
diplomatic connections**
68/sz.t. and 002256/sz.t. own

Embassy
Cairo

With reference to Comrade Ambassador's report numbered above we announce that the Hungarian Revolutionary Worker-Farmer Government, with its resolution number 3156/1966 agrees on the forming of diplomatic connection between the People's Republic

of Hungary and the United Kingdom of Libya on an embassy level. Moreover, it agrees on Rácz Pál's accreditation to Libya leaving his earlier delegations untouched.

Since we experienced during the investigation aiming the admission of the diplomatic connections between the two countries that the Libyans were expecting the initiative in a written form. Agreeing on Comrade Ambassador's suggestion we request You to hand over a memorandum to the Cairo ambassador of Libya and please announce in it that led by the building of fruitful connections between the two countries, the Hungarian government is ready to form diplomatic connections with the United Kingdom of Libya on an embassy level. In the case of his interest You can state in words that we are not planning to establish any embassies and are intended to accredit Comrade Ambassador to Libya.

We request Comrade Ambassador hand over the memorandum. Furthermore, please report on the reaction of the Libyan partner.

Budapest, June 4, 1966.

Tóth Elek

Head of Department

8. Rácz Pál's written summary to the Libyan party about the admission of the Hungarian-Libyan diplomatic connections

68/2/1966

The Embassy of the Hungarian People's Republic in Cairo presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Kingdom of Libya and upon the instruction of its Government has honor to communicate the following.

Lead by the principle of peaceful coexistence and friendly relations among nations and being desirous to develop further the fruitful cooperation between the two countries the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic expresses its willingness to establish diplomatic relations and to exchange diplomatic representatives with the Kingdom of Libya on the level of Ambassadors.

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Libya is kindly requested to forward the above communication to its Government and to inform this Embassy of their position.

Waiting for the communication of the answer the Embassy of the Hungarian People's Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the Kingdom of Libya the assurances of its highest consideration.

Cairo, June 19, 1966

9. Rácz Pál's report to the State Department on having handed over the written form of the English memorandum

Embassy of the People's Republic of Hungary

68/2/Sz.T./1966

Made in 5 copies

Center: 4 copies

Embassy: 1 copy

Top secret!

Cairo, June 24, 1966

Subject: Admission of the Hungarian-Libyan
diplomatic connections

Ref. number: 002812/1

Attachment: 1 item

After that Cairo Ambassador of Libya Mahmoud El-Khoga declared that our nation could expect a favorable welcome about the case of the admission of diplomatic connections, I handed over the attached memorandum to the Ambassador on June 19.

The Ambassador stated that our formal and written initiative greatly supported the case to be submitted by the government and was sure that their reply would be favorable. The Ambassador also said that he would travel for vacation to Libya in a few days' time. He will take the memorandum with him and make further steps personally towards a positive reply. According to his publication we can expect him to handle the greeting reply in the first half of September after arriving back from his vacation.

He raised whether I would be accredited to Libya as well in the case of the admission of diplomatic connections. I announced him that this is the idea since we are not planning to build up an embassy in Libya.

Afterwards, I conversed with the Ambassador about the Arab conference. The Ambassador emphasized that Libya is a neutral, non-committed country and its neutrality prevails in the Arab world as well. They keep themselves away from the evolving rows in the Arab World.

Rácz Pál
Ambassador

10. Regulation of the Presidential Committee

Regulation number 177/1967 of the Presidential Committee of the People's Republic

The Presidential Committee of The People's Republic of Hungary decides on the admission of the diplomatic connections between The People's Republic of Hungary and The United Kingdom of Libya.

Budapest, June 27, 1967

Losonczy Pál
President of the

Presidential Committee of the People's Republic of Hungary

Cseterki László
Secretary

11. Belgrade Ambassador's report on the acceptance of Rácz Pál's accreditation by the Libyan partner

Embassy of the People's Republic of Hungary

202/1/sz.t./1967

Made in 3 copies

Top Secret!

Belgrade, September 19, 1967

Subject: Consent to Comrade Rácz Pál's nomination as Libyan ambassador

2 copies to the center

1 copy to the embassy

As I have previously reported by telegram, the Libyan embassy on Belgrade announced in its attached petitioned memorandum in original – with reference to the Aide memoire of August 4, 1967 – that the government of the Kingdom of Libya agreed on Rácz Pál's nomination as Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary into the Kingdom of Libya.

Marjai József
Ambassador

The memorandum of the Libyan party is attached:

Embassy
of the Kingdom of Libya
Belgrade

No 268

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Libya in Belgrade presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of Hungary and, with reference to the Embassy Aide-memoire of August 4, 1967, has the honor to inform them that the Government of the Kingdom of Libya has agreed on the nomination of His Excellency Rácz Pál as Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Hungary to the Kingdom of Libya.

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Libya in Belgrade avails itself of this opportunity to renew the Embassy of the People's Republic of Hungary the assurances of its highest consideration.

Belgrade, September 18, 1967

To: The People's Republic of Hungary
Belgrade

12. Directives to Rácz Pál in connection with his nomination from the State Department

Top secret!
00912/4

The handing over of Rácz Pál's letter of credence
3 copies

Embassy
Cairo

On the occasion of the upcoming handing over of Comrade Ambassador's letter of credence we are sending his letter of credence as attachment, the plan of speech given at the handing over both in English and Hungarian. Furthermore, the information material about the Libyan-Hungarian connections.

As we have earlier mentioned by telegram, the handing over of the letter of credence should be timed in a way that the November 20 opening exhibition of TRANSELEKTRO in Tripoli could join originally.

It is for sure that the two Hungary-related even following each other and would take favorable effect drawing the attention to the improving of Hungarian-Libyan connections.

Visits in relation to the handing over of the letter of credence offer a good possibility for us to inform the Libyan leaders on a certain extent about our country and foreign affairs introducing the basics of our foreign affairs aims especially in consideration of the maintained relations with Arab nations. It might be referred here to that besides having successfully improving traditional relations with several Arab countries we are trying to form good relations with all Arab countries now. Moreover, we consider the tightening of our greatly improving connections with Libya essential. We believe that beyond the already formed and deepening political connections it would be of an advantage for both of the two countries to form and deepen the cooperation on a multi-level. Internally, we consider the successful improving of our economic and commercial connections of extreme importance.

The carrying out of our aims directed to cooperation would be helped to a great extent if the ambassador were accredited soon in Budapest. It should be also referred to that having the opportunity we would gladly welcome a Libyan foreign representation in our country indeed.

It would be essential and have positive effect if Comrade Ambassador outlined in details the opinion of our government about the crisis in the Middle-East referring to those statements and practical activities with which we gave support to the elimination of the consequences of the Israel aggression, to the anti-imperialism fight of the Arab people.

We request Comrade Ambassador to kindly inform us about his experiences, impressions during his Libyan travel and about the connections of the two countries and his suggestions and further problems.

Budapest, October 26, 1967

Tóth Elek
Head of Department

13. Rácz Pál's speech to King Idris I. and telegrams home

Your Majesty,

I consider it a great honor to be able to hand Your Majesty my credentials by which the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic has accredited me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Your Majesty.

This solemn occasion acquires special significance in view of the fact that this is the first time a diplomatic representative is accredited between the Hungarian People's Republic and the Kingdom of Libya, which is a manifestation of the successful development of relations existing between our countries.

May I, on handing my credentials, convey to Your Majesty the sincere best wishes of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic for the prosperity of the Kingdom of Libya and the personal happiness of Your Majesty. I wish the traditional bond of friendship to strengthen further between the Hungarian people and the Arab peoples, including the people of the Kingdom of Libya with an ancient culture and a heroic past. The Presidential Council and the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic attach a great importance to the relations between our countries and have the intention of developing them further particularly in the field of our economic and cultural cooperation.

As your myself, the profound sympathy I felt toward the Libyan people adds to the pleasure I have in accepting this honoring mission of dedicating my activity to promoting and supporting the development of stronger and closer relations between our countries. I will spare no efforts to perform my mission for the mutual benefit of our peoples, and I hope that this endeavor I can count upon the trust of Your Majesty and the support of the Government of the Kingdom Libya.

Rácz Pál's telegram from Libya. December 1, 1967

I handed the letter of credence to King Idris I. in Tripoli on 30th of given month. In his reply speech he greeted our leaders and thanked the Arab people for their support. He emphasized the importance of improvement of our economic connections. He hopes that our country can participate in the realization of the improvement plan of Libya by forming diplomatic connections. After the handing over the King welcomed me on a private audience. Secretary of State Bisthi, Royal Advisor Muntasser were also present. I introduced Commercial Counselor Jenőfi István to the King.

14. Rácz Pál's travel report on the occasion of the hand-over of his letter of credence

Embassy of the People's Republic of Hungary

4/2/Sz.T./1967

Made in 5 copies

Center: 4 copies

Embassy: 1 copy

Top secret!

Cairo, December 21, 1967

Subject: the handing over of the letter of credence in Libya

Attachment: 2 items

I left for Libya from Cairo on November 1 to hand over the letter of credence. That experiment of mine, particularly to note down the time for the handing over of the letter of credence in advance through Comrade Jenőfi and the Libyan embassy did not succeed. It was announced from the Libyan side that they could only set the date at the scene, after my arrival. I expected to get the letter of credence before the beginning of ramadan. Since the Libyan sorrowful circumstances this could only happen on November 30. Though because of this event, my stay in Libya became longer as I had earlier expected. Actually I waited less than other ambassadors (Swiss, Greek, Yugoslavian, Italian) who handed over their letters of credence the same time as me. The Swiss ambassador waited for the longest (three months) for handing his letter of credence.

The handing over of the letter of credence is extremely circumstantial in Libya with regards to its geographical character, the distance and the difficulties of traffic. The official capital of the country is Beida where the Secretary of State normally receives the copies of the letters of credence. But it happens that the Secretary of State spends a longer time in Tripoli, 1300 kilometers from Beida. In this case we have to travel there. The King usually stays in Tobruk, which is situated at the other side of the country and he receives the letters of credence there. The introductory meetings take place in Tripoli, where the ministers and the leaders of the country can be reached the most and where the diplomatic missions seat. I had luck because King Idris traveled to Tripoli at the end of November to receive the Turkish president who was preparing for an official visit (actually the Turkish president cancelled his visit because of events in Cyprus). On the other hand the King did not return to Tibruk so he could receive the ambassadors.

After my arrival to Beida Shaloff Foreign Affairs Secretary received and invited me for lunch. He advised me to move to Tobruk because the King would stay there for a week. It happened this way and I managed to hand over the copy of the letter of credence to the Secretary of State in a short period of time.

The new session of parliament opened on November 20 in Beida. This was regarded as a significant event in the country because the head of the new government, President Bakhus introduced the program of his government. The leaders of the diplomatic missions were invited to the opening of the session. Despite that I had not handed over the letter of credence I was also invited. I traveled to Beida from Tripoli, with many other ambassadors waiting for handing over their letters of credence, where I took part in the opening of

the parliamentary session. Here I had the opportunity to meet and have a talk with several local leaders.

As I have already reported, Secretary of State Bisthi and Royal Advisor Muntaser were present at the handing over of the letter of credence. The King replied very shortly to my speech that was translated into Arab by the Secretary of State (He must have learned the speech by heart because he said it in fluent Arabic without using any notes.)

After the handing over of the letter of credence I could stay for not exactly a week so I could only meet few Libyan leaders. Ramadan also hindered me in making more visits.

I was welcomed by the President, the Information Minister. I visited the Governor of Tripolitaina, Salem El-Maned, the major of Tripoli, Mahmoud Alhodzsa (former ambassador in Cairo), the President of the Tripoli International Fair, Ahmed M. Lahsairy and at the President of the Electrical Committee Ali Anis (latter has the rank of president and is important for us in an economic sense).

After the handing over of the letter of credence the Czech-Slovak ambassador gave a dinner in my honor where leaders of all friendly missions took part. As for myself I invited the friendly diplomats at the exhibition hall of Transelektro Commercial Company.

...foreign affairs and internal situation of Libya, experience

...suggestion for the future

Rácz Pál
Ambassador