

STATEMENT

From

Associate Professor Dr. Vladimir Georgiev Stanev,

Faculty of History, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

at

the dissertation of Maria Sashkova Valkova

on the subject of

"Andrei Toshev - statesman, diplomat, politician",

submitted for the degree of Doctor of Education and Science in the professional field 2.2.

History and Archaeology

First of all, it should be pointed out that Andrei Toshev is a significant and interesting figure in our history and it is astonishing that until now he has remained outside the attention of specialists. Maria Valova sets herself the task of filling this gap. The topic of her dissertation has not been fully developed in Bulgarian historiography up to the present moment, in this sense it is indeed topical. The text of the presented study fully corresponds to its title. On the basis of considerable archival material, the life and activities of Andrei Toshev as a diplomat, scientist and politician in the post-liberation history of Bulgaria are examined.

Maria Valkova has made considerable efforts to find, study, analyze, systematize and summarize all kinds of source data from several archives and to offer her own conclusions, which enrich the knowledge not only about the specific historical personality, but also about important events for the national history.

The dissertation is 375 pages long and is divided into three chapters. It has a coherent and scientifically justified structure, the subject and the object of research are clearly outlined.

The work is written in a nice, clear style and is readable. Nicely done are the explanatory notes on almost all the personalities encountered, terms, positions, etc.

In conclusion - a valuable dissertation has been presented, which clearly meets the requirements for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", whose originality is beyond doubt, and contains serious scientific contributions. It is in itself a testimony of formed professional skills.

All of the above gives me the confidence to give a positive assessment of the dissertation "Andrei Toshev - statesman, diplomat, politician" and I can declare that I will confidently vote **for the award of the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" in the professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology to Maria Sashkova Valkova.**

Date: 10.05.2023

Vladimir Stanev