

## DOKUMENTI

separation from Jugoslavia, another and very serious question would arise and under these circumstances we certainly should not force Croatia to remain in Jugoslavia against her will. These other deputies have been elected by various other parties. There are 10 in the Democratic party from Croatia itself, 5 in the Croatian union, 2 in the Radical party and others in the other parties. These deputies are Croats.

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20. 1920., prosinac 18., Dodatak izvješću br. 668 Henryja Percivala Dodgea State Departmentu: Izvješće konzula u Zagrebu Alfreda Thomsona poslaniku Henryju Percivalu Dodgeu o „političkoj situaciji u Hrvatskoj“ u kojoj se prenose i razmišljanja Milana Rojca i Milovana Zoričića da se Stjepana Radića i njegovu stranku ne može shvatiti ozbiljno kao i da je „Radić s iznenađenjem doživjeo uspjeh svoje stranke na izborima“, te da su „on i njegovi zastupnici voljni raditi u Skupštini u Beogradu“.

NARA, M 358, R 2, 860H.00/95

### AMERICAN CONSULATE

Zagreb, Jugoslavia, December 18, 1920.

Subject: Political Developments in Croatia and Slavonia

The Honorable H. Percival Dodge,

American Minister,

Belgrade.

Sir:

I regret to report that in my paper of December 9, on the subject of the “Demonstration of the Peasant Republican Party at Zagreb”, I used the word Slovenia meaning Slavonia. I made this error consistently throughout my report.

During the week ended today. (December 18<sup>th</sup>), local interest has centered chiefly in Belgrade, as the authorities in the capital have more direct contact with the leaders of the Peasant Republican Party than do the local officials.

The forced retirement of the Ban of Croatia and Slavonia (Mr. Laginja) was no surprise to the local population as he was a representative of the Croatian Unionist Party<sup>154</sup> which only secured three deputies to the Belgrade Parliament in the recent elections. He was understood to have leanings toward, and hopes for the support of Raditch's party.

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<sup>154</sup> Hrvatska zajednica.

During the past week, Mr. Raditch has had several conferences with the peasant republican deputies elected to Parliament, with the result that four of these deputies have just gone to ZEMUN (across the river from Belgrade) to confer with the Belgrade authorities as to the conditions under which the forty-nine delegates of the Peasant Republican Party will take seats in Parliament. The party desires that its delegates shall enter the Parliament free of all obligations toward the Serbian Government. Order No. 86 of the regulations promulgated by the Serbian authorities for the recent election and entrance of the deputies into the Parliament, requires that new deputies shall take an oath of office in which they swear to support the King of Serbia. The Peasant Republican deputies will demand that they be allowed to sit in the Parliament which is to form the constitution of the Yugoslav state, unhampered by such oath to the support of the King of Serbia. It is believed here that the Belgrade authorities will waive the oath requirement. Radich will endeavor to avoid allowing himself to be placed in a position of compromising his promises to the peasants. All blame and responsibility will be diverted to the four deputies sent to Belgrade if they fail in their mission.

Such men as the Vice-Ban (Dr. Royc, now the chief local executive authority), and Dr. M. Zoricic (Counsellor or Secretary to the Provisional Government of Croatia and Slavonia) do not take Radich and his party seriously, and say that Radich was surprised with the success of his party in the recent elections and that he and his deputies are ambitious to work with the Parliament at Belgrade; but, like all demagogues, they find themselves in an awkward position with respect to rash and impossible promises made to an illiterate constituency. The promises involved: abolition of compulsory military service, lower taxes and an independent republic in which the principal positions should be held by peasants.

Throughout Croatia and Slavonia, many peasant villages believed that a republic actually existed in this district since December 8<sup>th</sup>. Such incidents as the removal of pictures of the Serbian Royal family from public places have resulted in prompt action on the part of Serbian Gendarmes, a few arrests and no great resistance on the part of peasants. The local authorities like to believe that the peasants consider themselves as having been deceived by Radich.

The celebration of the Prince Regent's Birthday (December 17<sup>th</sup>)<sup>155</sup>, was intentionally made very much more imposing than the usual holiday ceremonial. As usual, the Consula de carri re of the six nations having offices here, were provided with special invitations to the Te Deum, ball, et cetera. No anti-Serbian demonstrations occurred on that day.

I have the honor to be Sir,  
 Your obedient servant,  
 Alfred R. Thomson<sup>156</sup>  
 Alfred R. Thomson  
 Consul.

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<sup>155</sup> Aleksandar I. Karadordevi  rod n je 16. prosinca.

<sup>156</sup> Vlastoru no.