

DOKUMENTI

Sir:

The Department has received and read with interest your despatch No. 1446 of July 15 in which you submit information regarding the separatist movement in Croatia. Your reply to the specific questions placed before you in the Department's instruction of June 3rd, last, has been most helpful and it is desired that you continue to submit information regarding any important political developments in Croatia.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
For the Secretary of State:
William Phillips²⁰⁷

860h.00/150

38. 1922., kolovoz 15., Odgovor konzula u Zagrebu Alfreda Thomsona poslaniku Henryju Percivalu Dodgeu na dopis State Departmenta od 17. srpnja 1922. o odnosu Hrvatskoga bloka prema „neslavenskim“ nacionalnim manjinama.

NARA, M 358, R 2, 860h.00/153

Belgrade, August 19th, 1922.

Despatch No. 1511

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt on the 11th instant of your Instruction No. 325 dated July 17th last (File No. 860H.00-147), acknowledging the receipt of My Despatch No. 1374 of June 1st last, enclosing and commenting upon a report from the American Consul at Zagreb in regard to recent political conditions in Croatia, and desiring me to request the Consul to elucidate the second paragraph of page 2 of his report with reference to three points therein specified.

I immediately sent a copy of the material portion of your Instruction to the Consul and I beg to enclose his reply herewith which I have just received. The phrase "Slav minorities" instead of "non-Slav minorities" to which he refers is the result of a clerical error in my own letter to the Consul.

²⁰⁷ Potpis pečatom.

DOKUMENTI

I may add the following comments to the Consul's report:

Undoubtedly the Croatian Block endeavors to foster the interests of racial minorities throughout the Kingdom but the result of its endeavors in this respect have been extremely slight thus far except in Croatia itself here majority of non-Slav minorities form part of the Block. Indeed the Block would seem to possess little influence of any kind out of Croatia. In the Voivodina (i.e. Baranya, Batchka and Banat), the German (Schwab) and Hungarian minorities have lately shown a tendency to form political parties of their own on racial lines, as a German party and a Hungarian party. This tendency is not favorably considered by the other parties and in fact the better political opinion here is against the formation of parties on racial lines.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant

H. Percival Dodge²⁰⁸

H. Percival Dodge

American Minister

Enclosures:

Report from the American Consul at Zagreb dated August 15th 1922 entitled "Elucidation of Statements concerning non-Slav minorities"

File No. 800-D

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Zagreb, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes,

CONFIDENTIAL.

August 15, 1922.

SUBJECT: Elucidation of Statement concerning Non-Slav Minorities.

The Honorable

H. Percival Dodge,

American Minister,

Belgrade.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm receipt of your instruction of August 11th, saying that the Department requests an elucidation of the following statement in my report of May 29, 1922:

²⁰⁸ Vlastoručno.

“The second resolution deals with the question of non-Slav minorities and claims the same rights for such minorities as they enjoy in the United States.”

The office copy of my report shows that the words: “Non-Slav minorities” were used, and not simply “Slav minorities.”

Non-Slav minorities refer principally to persons living in this Kingdom who are of the Teuton and Magyar races.

The Croatian Block fosters the interests of these racial minorities in the Kingdom as a whole and not simply Croatia.

Regarding the expression: “claims the same rights for the minorities as they enjoy in the United States” this means that race should be no prejudice to the advancement, in public or private service, to persons in a racial minority provided they are good citizens. This point requires the following explanation: While in America a Teuton or Magyar considers himself an American as soon as he becomes naturalized as such, in Jugoslavia and many of the newly constructed states, race is considered first and an often involuntarily acquired citizenship comes second, the Teuton considering himself a German or Austrian having little interest in his new citizenship, and often having little interest in the local official language. However these minorities have been safeguarded against all possible oppression in the “minority clauses” of the Treaties of Versailles, Saint-Germain and Rapallo, and the Croatian Bloc is using the above propaganda to gain the sympathies of these racial minorities and particularly their votes in election. While the Croatian Bloc would not advocate the appointment of a person of the Teuton or Magyar race to the position of Cabinet officer, Provincial Governor or any other very high office, it would not discriminate against him because of race if he desired one of the lesser public positions provided he placed his Jugoslav citizenship above his racial leanings and provided he knew the local language as well as the native Slav element.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Alfred R. Thomson²⁰⁹

Alfred R. Thomson,

Consul

Enclosure:

Two copies of this despatch.

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²⁰⁹ Vlastoručno.