

DOKUMENTI

Enclosures:

1. Translation from the Belgrade "Pravda" of October 12th 1922, containing the text of the resolution of the Democratic party.
2. Translations from the Belgrade "Samouprava" and "Demokratia" of October 14th and 13th 1922, containing respectively the resolution of the Radical party and the additional resolution of the Democratic party;
3. Translation from the Belgrade "Balkan" of October 18th 1922, containing the speech of Dr. Hausler.

File No. 800-D

Copies to Bucharest and Sofia.

40. 1922., prosinac 18., Dodatak Izvješću br. 1746 Henryja Percivala Dodgea State Departmentu: Izvješće konzula u Zagrebu Josepha F. McGurka poslaniku Henryju Percivalu Dodgeu o „lokalnoj političkoj situaciji“ u kojemu se govori o raspadu radikalsko-demokratske koalicije o čemu je „hrvatski pogled bio da je političko pitanje sada postalo jasno i da će puno lakše postići dogovor sa strankom (Radikalna stranka sada ima kontrolu) koja ima jedinstvenu politiku, nego što se to moglo s prošlom radikalsko-demokratskom koalicijom“.

NARA, M 358, R 3, 860H.00/162

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Zagreb, Kingdom of the S.C.S.,
December 18, 1922.

SUBJECT: Local Political Situation

The Honorable,

H. Percival Dodge,
American Minister,
Belgrade.

Sir:

It is asserted that the Cabinet crisis which has just been solved in Belgrade was provoked directly by the Congress of the independent politicians, which took place in

Zagreb on September 10th. Among those who participated in this Congress were Mr. Davidović²¹⁶, then president of the Democratic Party, Mr. Ribar, then president of the Skupstina (Parliament), Mr. Voja Veljković, ex-Minister and many other. The guiding idea of the Congress was that the Serbo-Croat dispute should be settled by means of a compromise. The above mentioned members of the Democratic Party gave their support to this policy, and developed an activity among other members of the Party in order to win them over to this policy.

This led to a very animated discussion in the ranks of the Democratic Party at the Party Congress on October 14th and 15th ultimo in Belgrade, although the policy initiated by the Zagreb Congress was not directly approved nevertheless a free hand was given to the president to continue any discussions which he thought were in the interest of the Party and within its programme.

Another result of this attitude of the Serbian politicians was participated in the above Congress was to provoke a change in the policy of the Croatian Block, who declared their willingness to abandon their policy of passive resistance and to take an active part in the Parliament. In accordance with this declaration, Mr. Radic, President of the Croatian Block and leader of the Croatian Republican Peasant Party, got in touch with the politicians in Belgrade through Mr. J. Smodlaka²¹⁷, former delegate at the Peace Conference, Mr. T. Tomljenović²¹⁸, ex-Ban of Croatia, and through the members of the group of politicians whose mouthpiece in the Zagreb paper "Slobodna Tribuna".

There were several meetings between Mr. Radic and the Belgrade politicians. Mr. Radic declared that unless the politicians in Belgrade did something which would clearly show that they are willing to settle the Serbo-Croat dispute by means of agreement and compromise, he would have no justification before his electors for leading the Croatian Block to Belgrade.

In order to show his good will, Mr. Radic has emphatically declared that he and his Party consider the Serbo-Croat quarrel as an internal one, and that he, his Party and his followers will defend the integrity of the Yugoslav State against any foreign interference or attack, and especially against Italy. This attitude of Mr. Radic was not agreeable to a group called the Frankists who were also members of the Croatian Block, and who

²¹⁶ Davidović, Ljubomir (1863. – 1940.), političar. Bio uključen u donošenje Krfske deklaracije. Osnivač i predsjednik JDS-a. Bio je predsjednik vlade 1919. i 1924. godine. Oponent kraljeve diktature uvedene 1929. (*Hrvatska enciklopedija*, sv. 3 Da-Fo, 41).

²¹⁷ Smodlaka, Josip (1869. – 1956.), odvjetnik i političar. Bio je član Jugoslavenskoga kluba u Carevinskom vijeću i sudjelovao u donošenju Svibanjske deklaracije 1917. Bio član Središnjega odbora Narodnoga vijeća SHS-a. Bio član Zemaljske vlade za Dalmaciju. Sudjelovao u izaslanstvu Narodnoga vijeća SHS-a u Beograd i proglašenju ujedinjenja s Kraljevinom Srbijom 1. prosinca 1918. Sudjelovao u delegaciji na Mirovnoj konferenciji u Parizu 1919. – 1920. Bio poslanik u Vatikanu, Berlinu i Madridu. Nakon izbijanja Drugoga svjetskog rata priključio se partizanskom pokretu (1943.). (*Hrvatska enciklopedija*, sv. 10 SI-To, 63).

²¹⁸ Tomljenović, Tomislav (1877. – 1945.), odvjetnik i političar. Bio je podban (1919.) te ban Hrvatske i Slavonije (1920. – 1921.). Bio je član JDS-a do 1923. godine. Pristupio HSS-u 1925. godine. Napustio politički život nakon Radićeve smrti 1928. (*Hrvatska enciklopedija*, sv. 10, 801-802.).

have only three seats in the Parliament. The relations between this group and the Croatian Block were severed. Mr. Radic publicly accused the Frankists of being under the influence of some Croat emigrants, who are subventioned by the Italians and the Magyars (Hungarians) to work against the integrity of Yugoslavia. It appears that Mr. Radic in his new policy has the strong backing of his peasant masses and has no fear of losing them.

During the Cabinet crisis, Mr. Radic had empowered Mr. Davidovic to count on his seats if he (Mr. Davidovic) were called upon to form the government. This government in the conception of the Croatian Block should have been a government of National concentration as the Croatian Block required that Mr. Protic, with the followers from the Radical party and the Agrarians (Zemljoradnici) should also participate in the new government. In this way the internal quarrels would have been made harmless. In this way the internal quarrels would have been solved by means of a compromise and all the available energies would have been concentrated on the economic reconstruction and a united front would have been offered to foreign interference.

Mr. Pasic has, however, succeeded in obtaining the mandate from the King to form any government he likes. He has done so already. His new government is practically purely Radical.

The point of view taken in Croatia is that perhaps this solution is one of the best. In this way the Serbian element will be grouped around Mr. Pasic after the next elections, in which it is expected that the Democratic Party will be greatly reduced in its numbers. The Croatian elements will be grouped around the Croatian Block.

The Croatian view is that the political issue is now clearly out and that it will be more easy to come to an agreement with a party (The Radical Party now in control) having a definite policy, than with the former Radical-Democratic coalition.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
J. F. McGurk,
American Consul.

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Jfm/hum.

41. 1923., travanj 3., Izvješće poslanika Henryja Percivala Dodgea State Departmentu o postizbornim koalicijama i stavu Stjepana Radića u kojemu se donosi da je u vrijeme predizborne kampanje u Hrvatskoj stav radikala bio da su Radićevi kandidati zanemarivi te da su učinili sve napore da bi spriječili izbore demokrata zbog čega su „znajući da nemaju nikakvih šansi za izborom radikalskih kandidata, naložili svojim članovima, uključujući sve, od mnogih dužnosnika, radikale, da učine sve napore u korist Radićevih kandidata.“

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