

43. 1923., srpanj 30., Izvješće konzula u Zagrebu Josepha F. McGurka poslaniku Henryju Percivalu Dodgeu s „komentarom političkih odnosa u Hrvatskoj“ u kojemu se prenosi pogled „određenih krugova na prijedloge uhićenja i suđenja Radiću kao na vladin pokušaj da izazovu njegovu reakciju, odnosno da otvoreno izađe s jasnom izjavom protiv vlade“, kao i da „oni koji poznaju Radića (a to je lokalno opće mišljenje) vjeruju da on neće učiniti takvo što jer je previše vješt da bi vladi dao prigodu da ga diskreditira pred njegovim sljedbenicima u bilo kojem pogledu“, ali i da se na „prijetnju uhićenjem i tužbom gleda kao na vladin pokušaj da Radića natjeraju da napusti zemlju“.

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LOCAL POLITICAL COMMENT.

From Consul (...) ²³⁸

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Zagreb, S.C.S.

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Regarding the local political situation it may be said that in so far as the policy of the Croatian Bloc is concerned the situation has not changed materially during the course of the present year. The beginning of the year found the Radic Party following its old policy of non-participation and passive resistance. The elections in April returning the Radic Party in Croatia-Slavonia, the Clericals in Slovenia, and the Moslems in Bosnia, with a large majority for each of the parties mentioned, particularly the Radic Party in Croatia-Slavonia, helped to solidify the general policy in those provinces of non-participation and resistance to the centralized government in Belgrade. It may be said that the elections as far as Croatia-Slavonia is concerned practically swept the other political parties from the field and left the Croatian Peasant Republican Party (the Radic Party) as the "Croatian Bloc".

Notwithstanding the dislike with which Radic, the leader of the Croatian Peasant Republican Part, is held by certain so called intellectuals and other non-members of that party, the continued non-compromise attitude of the Radical Government in Belgrade toward aspiration for autonomy in Croatia-Slavonia and Slovenia has brought the

²³⁸ Vlastoručno., nečitko.

so called intellectuals and others to at least give moral support, if not open support, to Radic and his party.

During the past few weeks local newspapers have been re-printing articles purporting to be copies of articles appearing in Belgrade papers. The basis of these articles has been the proposed arrest and prosecution of Mr. Radic by the Government under charges of lese majeste', treason, etc., based on his utterances in recent speeches, particularly his speech of July 14th delivered at a conference of party followers. Local editors appear to take the humorous side in quoting the above mentioned articles and in some instances have resorted to ridicule. The general opinion locally seems to be that Mr. Radic will not be arrested as such an act on the part of the Government would place him in the light of a political martyr before his constituents and at the same time tend to further widen the breach between the Government and the genuine local adherents to Yugoslav unity, who for the present while not altogether favorable to Radic and his party and in no way sympathizing with the Republican element in that party, are to a certain extent solidly behind him in the stand he has taken against the Radical Government in Belgrade and its so called policy of centralization, and Serbian domination of the kingdom.

It is the writer's opinion that the Radic party is not a separatist party. Radic himself has continually reiterated this in his many speeches, and his party's tendency to Republicanism not a movement for or toward Croatian Republic carved out of the present Kingdom, but for and toward a Republican form of Government to replace the present form of Government. On the other hand to follow Mr. Radic in his speeches and his statements to his adherents and party one may gather the idea that he vacillates between praise of the present dynasty and adherence to it, and ridicule and veiled threats and insinuations for²³⁹ its overthrow.

So far as the present and immediate future is concerned there does not appear to be anything on the political horizon to indicate a change in the present situation, the policy of passive resistance through non-participation in the government of the Kingdom will be continued by the Croatian Bloc.

In certain circles the proposed arrest and prosecution of Mr. Radic by the Government is looked upon as an attempt to force his hand, that is to force him to come out and make a straightforward declaration against the Government. Those who know Radic, (and it is the general opinion locally) believe that he will do no such thing as he is far too crafty to give the Government an opportunity to in any way discredit him before his followers. The threat of arrest and prosecution is also looked upon as an attempt on the part of the Government to force Mr. Radic to flee the country. If such is the case it is apparent that Mr. Radic has no intention of leaving the country, and it is not believed that he would do so unless actually deported by force.

So far as an actual revolutionary movement or outbreak is concerned such a thing appears to be far from possible and danger from this quarter is very remote. It is a

²³⁹ Dopisano rukopisom.

well known fact that the peasants have not sufficient arms to attempt to make a stand against the government troops in the event of an uprising.

The recent newspaper articles quoted from Belgrade papers to the effect that supplies of ammunition and stands of arms had been found secreted through this section by a society of veterans who served in the Austrian armies is without foundation and is looked upon here as a huge joke.

The writer has discussed the local situation, informally with many Croatians of different shades of political faith and the general opinion is that there appears to be no solution of the political situation in sight; and that things will remain very much as they are, practically dormant and non-participation policy carried on indefinitely; and any steps toward a solution, aggressive or conciliatory, must come from Belgrade.

The Fiume question.

The local attitude toward the Fiume question apparently has not changed since the beginning. Popular opinion here among all shades of political faith, while actually claiming Fiume as Yugoslav territory and looking forward to the time when Fiume may be incorporated into the Yugoslav state, are willing to accept the alternative made by²⁴⁰ the Treaty of Rapolla whereby Fiume becomes a free city or state, and not under Italian domination as the Yugoslavs insist it is under the present regime. So long as Fiume remains as it is in the eyes of the Yugoslav just so long will dissatisfaction remain in Jugoslavia over this state of affairs, and the determination of the Yugoslavs to refrain from using the port, thereby causing it to eventually parish through stagnation, will continue indefinitely.

Regarding the domination and support of Fiume by Italy two opinions are advanced: That Italy cannot and will not continue to support and keep up its occupation of the port of Fiume with the port of Trieste an actual competitor; the logical outcome of this policy would be an attempt at annexation by Italy. On the other hand it is generally believed that Italy's policy in supporting and dominating Fiume is to prevent it falling toward Jugoslavia, and to eventually destroy that port as a competitor of Trieste.

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44. 1923., kolovoz 22., Izvješće poslanika Henryja Percivala Dodgea State Departmentu u kojemu se govori o Radićevom odlasku iz Kraljevine SHS za koji je još „prerano procijeniti kakav će utjecati proizvesti (...) u Hrvatskoj“, gdje „uobičajeni optimizam prevladava i najčešće se govori da će popularnost gosp[odina]. Radića koja je počela venuti nakon izbora (...) sada trpjeti još veći pad“.

²⁴⁰ Dopisano rukopisom.