

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 Croats 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 Yugoslavia over this state of affairs, and the determination of the Yugoslavs to refrain from using the port, thereby causing it to eventually perish 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.

800

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.

DOKUMENTI

NARA, M 358, R 3, 860h.00/184

[...] ²⁴¹

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, August 4, 1923.

Despatch No. 1979

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to Mr. Paddock's Despatch No. 1971 of the 25th ultimo, relative to the internal political situation, I have the honor to enclose to you herewith a copy of a Despatch dated the 30th ultimo prepared by Mr. J. F. McGurk, American Consul at Zagreb, touching the political situation in Croatia, Slavonia and Slovenia and the Fiume question.

I shall report at an early date regarding the situation in Croatia and Slavonia in so far as I am able to from this Capital, but meanwhile I may state that I generally concur with the statements in the Consul's report. According to present reports however it would appear that Mr. Raditch has now actually left Croatia, although his present whereabouts seem to be unknown here. I am also informed by Mr. Nechitch²⁴², acting Assistant Foreign Minister, that although Mr. Raditch's immunity from arrest as a Deputy to Parliament was raised at the Government's request, there is no intention at present, unless he further pursues what are described as his treasonable utterances, to proceed against him. I may also state that I generally concur in what the Consul reports as to the Fiume question.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
H. Percival Dodge²⁴³
H. Percival Dodge,
American Ministers

²⁴¹ Državni pečat.

²⁴² Nešić, Ljubomir. Pomoćnik ministra vanjskih poslova Momčila Ninčića. U diplomatskoj službi Kraljevine Srbije služio je u konzularnim predstavništvima u Turskoj, Tirani (i poslanik), Skadru, Pragu. Bio i poslanik Kraljevine SHS u Sofiji. (*Ko je ko u Jugoslaviji*, 105). Dragan Bakic u svojoj ga je knjizi opisao kao „Srpskoga Eyre Crowa“, poznatoga kao jednog od najučinkovitijih službenika britanskoga Ministarstva vanjskih poslova. (Dragan Bakic, *Britain and Interwar Danubian Europe. Foreign Policy and Security Challenges, 1919-1936* (London-New York: Bloomsbury Academic, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc., 2017, 200, bilj. 85).

²⁴³ Vlastoručno.

DOKUMENTI

Enclosure:

1. – Copy of report from the Consul at Zagreb relative to the political situation in Croatia, Slavonia and Slovenia, and the Fiume question.²⁴⁴

File No. 800-D

45. 1923., kolovoz 22., Izvješće poslanika Henryja Percivala Dodgea State Departmentu o stanju u Hrvatskoj i „nestanku Stjepana Radića“.

NARA, M 358, R 3, 860h.00/186

[...]²⁴⁵

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, August 22, 1923.

Despatch No. 1993

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to my Despatch No. 1979 of the 4th instant, relative to the political situation in Croatia and the reported disappearance of the Croatian Peasant leader, Mr. Stjepan Raditch, I have the honor to inform you that, although at present all doubts concerning Mr. Raditch's flight from Yugoslavia and presence in London are at rest, for some days his actual whereabouts appeared to mystify the Government authorities. It is now apparently well-established that he left Croatia in the deepest secrecy without a Yugoslav passport, passing over the Croatian frontier by the aid of some of his peasant adherents and going to Vienna. Here, according to press reports, he had interviews with representatives of the Croatian revolutionary party in which he declared that he expected to have a warm welcome in London since British policy had always been against French policy in Central Europe. The late Bulgarian Coup d'Etat had been aided by England. He further stated that he did not anticipate returning to Croatia until his revolutionary

²⁴⁴ Vidi dokument br. 43.

²⁴⁵ Državni pečat.