

DOKUMENTI

cause. I accordingly sent you my telegram No. 17 of August 22, 1 P.M. in which I embodied the substance of Mr. Gavrilovitch's remarks. I also mailed the copies of this telegram to our Embassies at London, Paris, Berlin, Rome and Brussels and to our Legations at The Hague, Bern and Vienna.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
H. Percival Dodge²⁴⁷
H. Percival Dodge,
American Minister.

Enclosure:

1.- Translation from Article from Belgrade "Politika" of August 21st 1923 containing the text of the Resolution of the "National Croatian Representation".²⁴⁸

File No. 800-Quintuplicate

Copies to Bucharest, Prague and Sofia.

46. 1923., rujan 6., Izvješće poslanika Henryja Percivala Dodgea State Departmentu o Radićevom odlasku u inozemstvo u kojem u se prenose informacije iz Ministarskog savjeta da se čine „ozbiljni napori u prikupljanju dokaza protiv gosp[odina]. Radića i njegovih najbližih suradnika, te da će brojna uhićenja uskoro uslijediti“.

NARA, M 358, R 3, 860H.00/188

[...]²⁴⁹

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, September 6, 1923.

Despatch No. 2008.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

²⁴⁷ Vlastoručno.

²⁴⁸ „Nova akcija Radićevaca“, *Politika* (Beograd), 21. kolovoza 1923., 4.

²⁴⁹ Državni pečat.

Sir:

Referring to my Despatch No. 1993 (860h.00/186)²⁵⁰ the 22nd ultimo, relative to the flight from Yugoslavia of the leader of the Croatian Peasants' Party, Mr. Stjepan Raditch, and to the internal political situation, I have the honor to inform you that on the 23rd ultimo Mr. Velizar Yankovitch²⁵¹, acting President of the Council of Ministers in the absence of Mr. Pashitch, issued a communiqué which appeared in the newspapers of the 24th ultimo and of which a translation is enclosed. It will be observed that, after retracing the details of Mr. Raditch's flight and journey to London, practically as given in my Despatch, he stated that the present activities of Mr. Raditch and of his party were engaging the special attention of the Government which has taken the necessary steps in order that all persons who have undertaken or shall undertake any movement whatever against the existing constitutional order, against the integrity of the State or against the interests of the country in general shall suffer all the severity of the law. The Belgrade "Vreme" of the 31st ultimo undertakes to state the measures which Mr. Yankovitch refers to. These are the strict application of the law for the protection of the State and of the other laws for this purpose existing in Croatia-Slavonia. It will be remembered, as reported at the time, that the law for the protection of the State, was passed by the Provisional Parliament some two years ago in view of the Communist activities which were then becoming threatening and that this law was a few months later the cause of the assassination by several Communists of the excellent Minister of the Interior who was the author of the law in question, Mr. Milorad Draschovitch.

According to the "Vreme", the measures to be adopted under the laws in force are two-fold, that is of a police and judicial character, the former being similar to those taken against the communists. It further states that political action will also be taken and especially that the Radical party will endeavor to form political combinations tending to weaken and paralyze the Croatian Peasant Party. Administrative measures will reinforce this activity and in the first place the liquidation of the present provincial administration by the application of the law passed by Parliament about a year ago, and reported at the time, for the division according to the principles contained in the Constitution of the country into Departments (Jupania), none of which may contain more than 800,000 inhabitants. Proceedings will be taken against the leaders of the Peasants' Party and individual breaking the laws but not against the Peasants' Party as whole. Parallel with these measures, the "Vreme" states the steps will be taken to improve economic and social conditions in Croatia and special attention will be paid to assisting farmers and the improvement and simplification of the administration. Whether or not all these measures are actually contemplated, it may probably be accepted that the "Vreme" article gives approximately the present views of the Government.

²⁵⁰ Dopisano rukopisom.

²⁵¹ Janković, Velizar (1880. – 1964.), ekonomist, političar. Član NRS-a. Bio ministar gospodarstva (privrede) Kraljevine Srbije prije Prvog svjetskog rata. U Kraljevini SHS obnašao dužnosti ministra poljoprivrede, financija, prometa. (*Ko je ko u Jugoslaviji*, 54).

I learn from Cabinet Ministers that serious efforts are being made to collect evidence against Mr. Raditch and his principal lieutenants and that numerous arrests will soon follow, Parliament being asked to raise immunity of Deputies of the Peasants' Party whom it may be considered desirable to arrest. I am assured however that no special legislation in connection with these trials will be asked for or will be necessary but that all the proceedings will be conducted according to the laws now in force. One arrest has now already taken place. Mr. Raditch will himself be tried in absentia, unless he should decide to return.

Certain effects of Mr. Raditch's departure, both upon his own party and the other parties of the "Block", the Popular Clerical Party and the Mohammedan Party, already are beginning to show themselves, although as yet not decisively. The Peasants' Party is evidently a good deal disturbed, certain of its members threatening departure from its ranks. One of these, Dr. Churmin, even lately came to Belgrade where he had an interview with Dr. Yankovitch. The purpose of his action is however extremely obscure although it has resulted in his being expelled from the Peasants' Party which, has also issued warnings to several other of its members whose steadfastness appeared to be weakening. The movement for the formation of a new party, comprising members of the "Block", is still in an inchoate stage but the Croatian Union, which comprises a number of the Croatian intellectuals and is affiliated with the Peasants' Party in the Block, shows signs of restiveness.

The Radical Government has seized the occasion to make very evident advances to Dr. Korochetz, the leader of the Popular Clerical Party, and with this end in view the King, accompanied by the Radical President of Parliament, Mr. Ljuba Yovanovitch, the Acting President of the Cabinet, Mr. Yelizar Yankovitch, and other Radical Ministers, has lately on two occasions made official visits to Ljubljana, the first being on the occasion of the Eucharistic Congress and the second on that of the opening of the Ljubljana Samples Fair. Both of these visits afforded ample opportunities for conversations between the Radical and Popular Clerical leaders, the chief of whom, Dr. Korochetz, was invited to visit the King at his country estate at Bled (Velders)²⁵². Nothing is accurately known as yet as to the results of these conversations but the opinion seems general here that the Clerical Party may be brought by some concessions to support the Government, thus giving it a working majority in Parliament. It may be hazarded that such concession would touch chiefly upon the question of the application to Slovenia of the law above mentioned for the suppression of the present historical provinces and the substitution of small departments (Jupania). Dr. Korochetz has always been in favor of a certain degree of autonomy for Slovenia, such autonomy not however going so far as a local Parliament but insisting upon the retention of the historical frontiers of Slovenia. The question therefore is largely one of reaching a compromise between the application of the existing law and Dr. Korochetz' principles. It is believed that the Government might be willing to suspend indefinitely the application of this law in Slovenia while applying it in Croa-

²⁵² Veldes, njemački naziv za Bled.

tia-Slavonia and in other portions of the country. Meanwhile the Peasants' Party is apparently somewhat alarmed and is threatening Dr. Korochetz with invasion of his political preserves in case of his defaulting in his present allegiance to them.

The Mohammedan Party of Dr. Mehmed Spaho is still preserving silence and evidently the turn of events in touch with all that is going on, is evident from the constant conferences which Dr. Spaho continues to have both in Zagreb and Ljubljana.

In closing I may inclose a translation of an article which appeared in the Belgrade "Politika" of the 28th ultimo, containing information stated to have been given to that organ by the Foreign Minister, Dr. Nintchitch, regarding the failure of Mr. Raditch's visit to London and a message stated to have been received from the British Government touching his stay there. Lately the Belgrade press has taken little interest in Mr. Raditch and has only published extracts of letters stated to have been addressed by him from London to his adherents, giving the names of person with whom he has conferred. It is generally observed that these persons are all of small or no political importance, and as the Buxton brothers²⁵³, well-known enemies of Serbia.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
H. Percival Dodge²⁵⁴
H. Percival Dodge,
American Minister.

Enclosures:

- 1.- Translation of article appearing in all the Belgrade newspapers of August 24th 1923;²⁵⁵
- 2.- Translation of article from the Belgrade Politika of August 28th 1923.²⁵⁶

File No. 800-Quintuplicate.

47. 1923., studeni 19., Izvješće poslanika H. P. Dodgea State Departmentu o zasjedanju Narodne skupštine i odnosu „Radićeve stranke“ HRSS-a u kojem se iznosi i mišljenje da „Radićeva stranka (...) još uvijek nije izgubila previše od svoje snage zbog izostanka svojega vođe, ali da će ako se, a što se čini puno vjerojatnije, gosp. Radić duže vrijeme ne vrati u Hrvatsku, njegova stranka izgubiti snagu i, moguće je, podijeliti na dvije ili tri skupine od kojih će najumjerenija doći u Beograd (...)“. U dodatku izvješću donose se nacrti razgovora s istaknutim političarima i jednim predstavnikom iz gospodarstva na temu Radićeva odlaska.

²⁵³ Buxton, Noel Edward i Buxton, Charles Roden.

²⁵⁴ Vlastoručno.

²⁵⁵ Vidi: „G. Janković o Radiću“, *Politika* (Beograd), 24. kolovoza 1923., 2.

²⁵⁶ „Rijeka – Radić. Radićeva „diplomatska akcija“, *Politka* (Beograd), 28. kolovoza 1923., 2