

## DOKUMENTI

had explained fully the situation to the King and reminded him of the Raditch Party's Republican programme. The King had agreed to everything but the following day he had apparently forgotten everything that had been agreed upon. Dr. Koroshetz declared that he had no idea what had occurred to change the King's mind. It might have been some influence of the "White Hand". Dr. Koroshetz added confidentially that he considered the King to be neurasthenic and too weak to cope with the present situation. He must however right the unconstitutional situation which had resulted from his solution of the late crisis, namely the placing in power for over five months of a Cabinet supported only by a minority of the Chamber. This might be done either by calling together Parliament in extraordinary session or by its dissolution and calling for elections. Although he did not mention it, Dr. Koroshetz would however probably not admit of an election under the control of the present Cabinet.

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51. 1924., lipanj 13., Izvješće privremenoga otpravnika poslova Gordona Paddocka State Departmentu o „političkoj situaciji u Kraljevini SHS-a“ u kojem se donose i obavijesti o Radićevu boravku u inozemstvu ističući da je „prema posljednjim informacijama Radić napustio Beč i otišao u Moskvu pridobiti potporu sovjetskih vlasti.“

NARA, M 358, R 3, 860h.00/212

[...]<sup>282</sup>

### LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, June 13, 1924.

Despatch No. 2368

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to Mr. Dodge's despatch No. 2350 of May 30<sup>th</sup> last, relative to the mandate granted by the King to Mr. Pashitch to form a working Cabinet and the subsequent prorogation of Parliament. In his despatch No. 2364 (/211)<sup>283</sup> of the

<sup>282</sup> Državni pečat.

<sup>283</sup> Dopisano rukopisom.

6th instant, Mr. Dodge has reported the effect produced by this procedure as evidenced by a manifesto issued by the leaders of the Democratic, the Slovene Clerical and the Bosnia Mussulman Parties and other statements by member of the Opposition.

In continuation of this subject I have the honor to enclose herewith translations of the following statements which have since appeared in the public press at Belgrade: (1) A proclamation of the Democratic Party published at Belgrade on June 7<sup>th</sup>; (2) a summary of a speech delivered at Belgrade on June 8<sup>th</sup> by Mr. Pribitchevitch, leader of the independent Democrats now allied with the Radical Party, and (3) an extract of an article published on June 4<sup>th</sup> by Mr. Raditch, leader of the Croatian-Republican Party, in his organ – the “Slobodni Dom” – at Zagreb.

It is believed that these statements may be of interest as throwing further light on the relations of the various parties and their attitude with respect to the forms of government which they advocate.

It will be observed that the Democratic Party's Proclamation, after characterizing the existing Government (referred to as the National Block) as a group steeped in corruption whose only aim is to gain more money, takes the position that the latter's policy is directed towards a division of the country, whereas the Democratic Party desires a reconciliation of the various branches of the people and consolidation of the country. The Proclamation asserts that the prorogation of Parliament and the continuance in power of a Government actually in the minority are unconstitutional and in direct violation of the sovereign rights of the people. It claims that the participation of the Croatian deputies inaugurated a new era in Parliament and that the Opposition Block was formed with the object of supporting the Constitution by insistence on the right of the majority to govern. It states that the present Government has virtually expelled the Croatian representatives from Parliament by a coup d'état and that the country will accordingly be ruled by a Government which does not enjoy the confidence of the people. It announces that it is the desire of the Democratic Party that the Monarchy shall remain intact but declares that this will be possible only in case the representatives of the Supreme Power (the Crown and the People) respect the limitations of their authority as fixed by the Constitution. It refers to the present situation as a return to the era of political reaction when immoral politicians brought about the ruin of the Supreme Power. This would appear to be an allusion to the downfall of the former Obrenovitch Dynasty<sup>284</sup> and, as such, to imply a veiled threat to the existing Karageorgevitch Dynasty. It concludes by demanding the dismissal of the present “anti-parliamentary” Government and the immediate convocation of Parliament.

It will be noted that in its claims to represent the policy of consolidation of the country the Democratic Party would seem to have adopted the principle consistently adhered to by the Radical Party.

<sup>284</sup> Obrenović, dinastija. Vladala Srbijom 1815. – 1842. i 1858. – 1903. Posljednji vladar Srbijom iz ove dinastije bio je kralj Aleksandar Obrenović koji je ubijen u vojnom prevratu 1903. godine. Na srbijanskom prijestolju zamijenila ih je dinastija Karađorđević.

Mr. Pribitchevitch in his speech takes exception to the opposition's accusations that his party desires to hinder a friendly understanding between the Serbs and the Croats which, he states, has in fact been reached on the part of the non-separatist elements in Croatia. He says that the appearance of the Croatian deputies at Parliament was due to the fact that Mr. Raditch had failed to obtain support abroad for his anti-nationalist policy. The most interesting point in his speech appears to be his denial that his party stands for a policy of violence. Violence he defines as transgression of the law and he argues that the lawful suppression of propaganda aimed at the establishment of an autonomous or independent Republic within the Yugoslav Kingdom cannot be characterized as violence. He adds that his party's aim is the suppression of separatist tendencies.

It will be seen that Mr. Raditch's article openly advocates the establishment of a Republic and calls upon the Serbian peasant people to take advantage of the present opportunity to deal with their rulers in the same manner as the Croats treated those who wished to rule them against their will.

It has been mentioned in the Legation's previous reports on this subject that the position of the Radical and Independent Democratic Parties is that the present Opposition Block, composed of the regular Democrats, the Slovene Clerical and the Bosnia Mussulmans, does not represent a majority unless in combination with the Raditch Croats. The Government parties further assert that there can be no actual coalition of the Opposition Block<sup>285</sup>, and Raditch party except for the single purpose of overthrowing the existing Government since, unless those parties alter their policies, their<sup>286</sup> conceptions of government are diametrically opposed. The announced advocacy by the Democratic Party of a consolidated State under a Constitutional Monarchy is evidently at complete variance with Mr. Raditch's continued appeals to the people to overthrow the existing Government and establish a Republic.

I may add that it is reported to-day from reliable sources that Mr. Raditch has left Vienna, where he has been residing since his return from England, for Moscow; the object of his visit to Russia being evidently to obtain the support of the Soviet authorities. His recent efforts to obtain British support in England are already known to the Department.

The Legation will, of course, continue to keep the Department informed of further developments in the situation.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Gordon Paddock<sup>287</sup>

Gordon Paddock,

Charge d'Affaires ad interim.

<sup>285</sup> Dopisano rukopisom.

<sup>286</sup> Dopisano rukopisom.

<sup>287</sup> Vlastoručno.

## DOKUMENTI

Enclosure:

1. Translation of Proclamation of the Democratic Party published on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1924.<sup>288</sup>
2. Translation (Summary) of Speech on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1924, of Mr. Pribitchevich.<sup>289</sup>
3. Translation (Extract) of Article published by Mr. Raditch on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1924.<sup>290</sup>

File No. 800-Quintuplicate.

Copies to Bucharest, Sofia and E. I. C., Paris.

52. 1924., kolovoz 4., Memorandum razgovora jugoslavenskoga poslanika u Washingtonu Ante Tresića Pavičića s predstavnikom Odjela Bliskoistočnih poslova (Division of Near Eastern Affairs) o stanju u Jugoslaviji i odnosima s Italijom u kojem je izrazio i mišljenje da će se odsada „Pašićeva stranka“ sve više dezintegrirati jer je „Pašić star čovjek i njegova je politika zastarjela.“

NARA, M 358, R 3, 860H.00/215

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

#### MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH DR. ANTE TRESICH PAVICHICH<sup>291</sup>, YUGOSLAV MINISTER.

August 4, 1924.

The Yugoslav Minister gave me a general survey of the situation in Yugoslavia as a result of the recent Cabinet crisis. He said that in his opinion the party of Pashich would tend to disintegrate from now on. Pashich was a very old man, and, in the Minister's opinion, was advocating policies which were out of date. He had the idea of greater Serbia rather than a federated Yugoslav State. The new Premier, Mr. Davidovitch was a great personal friend of his, the Minister said. On the other hand, the Minister of Foreign Affairs was not his friend and he felt it not unlikely that he would be leaving his post here in Washington. In any event he would be rather glad to get back into Yugoslav politics, which he felt were now entering a most interesting stage.

<sup>288</sup> *Vreme* (Beograd), br. 886, 7. lipnja 1924.

<sup>289</sup> *Vreme* (Beograd), br. 888, 9. lipnja 1924.

<sup>290</sup> *Slobodni dom* (Zagreb), br. 23, 4. lipnja 1924.

<sup>291</sup> Tresić Pavičić, Ante (1867. – 1949.), književnik i političar. Bio je zastupnik u Carevinskom vijeću u Beču od 1906. Za vrijeme Prvoga svjetskog rata bio je interniran zbog protuaustrijjskoga raspoloženja. Bio u diplomatskoj službi Kraljevine SHS od 1919. do 1927. kao poslanik u Madridu i Washingtonu. (*Hrvatska enciklopedija*, sv. 11, Tr-Ž, 2009, 31).