

DOKUMENTI

The following retail index figures cover the table given above:

Flour	1	47,8	43,5	47,8	47,8
Beans	1	136,4	136,4	145,5	145,5
Potatoes	1	80,0	160,0	80,0	80,0
Coffee	1	73,7	84,2	84,2	89,5
Sugar	1	87,5	87,5	89,6	89,6
Rice	1	78,6	85,7	85,7	85,7
Beef	1	61,2	65,8	65,8	65,8
Lard	1	80,0	80,0	84,4	84,4
Milk	1	81,8	72,7	63,6	63,6
Eggs	1	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Fuel	1	74,0	68,0	70,0	70,0

59. 1924., studeni 10., Izvješće privremenoga otpravnika poslova Gordona Paddocka State Departmentu o političkoj situaciji nakon pada Davidovićeve vlade i odnosu radikala i demokrata prema Radiću.

NARA, M 358, R 3, 860H.00/223

[...] ³²⁷

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, November 10, 1924.

Despatch No. 2490.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my despatch No. 2485 of October 27th last, relative to the internal political situation and its developments after the resignation of Mr.

³²⁷ Državni pečat.

Davidovitch's Cabinet. Three possible solutions of this situation were indicated therein, viz: a mandate for new elections, another Davidovitch Cabinet, or a Coalition Cabinet.

During the past two weeks the King has in fact made a further effort to reach such a solution of the crisis, but without success since it became evident that agreement among the various parties was impossible. Realizing this, the King finally granted a mandate for elections to Mr. Pashitch, leader of the Radical Party, as reported in my telegram No. 47, dated November 7, 3 P. M. The events which preceded this were as follows:

On October 28th the King conferred a mandate to form a Coalition Cabinet on Mr. Timotievitch, a Democrat known for his desire for an accord with the Radicals. In accordance with this mandate the proposed Cabinet was to carry on the policy outlined in the declaration made by the late Davidovitch Government upon its entry into office (See Mr. Dodge's despatch No. 2427 of August 18th last), and was to present to Parliament the bills for the laws on War Invalids and Corruption in Office, and the State Budget. The proposed Cabinet was also charged with the duty of pursuing the policy designed to bring about an accord with Croats.

However, Mr. Timotievitch³²⁸ found it impossible to accomplish his mission and was obliged after negotiations lasting eight days to return his mandate to the King. In the course of these negotiations the opinions of the various in their statements on this subject.

The Radical Party's condition with respect to participation in a Coalition Government were stated as follows in a letter addressed to Mr. Timotievitch: "1. In accordance with its traditional policy the Radical Party desires and has always sought to bring about an accord among the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes to the end of effecting unity of the States and of the people. The Party agrees to such an accord and to collaboration with a government formed by Mr. Timotievitch. 2. The Radical Party agrees to the working programme proposed by Mr. Timotievitch for the reason that the laws provided therein also formed the principal points in the programme of the former Radical Government. 3. The Radical Party demands a strict and uniform application of the laws with respect to all and particularly with respect to those who seek by propaganda to spread indiscipline in the Army and thus destroy the foundations of our State and those who attack the King". This last point is, of course, a reference to Mr. Raditch's recent speeches and reported activities. At the same time the Belgrade "Samouprava" (official Radical organ) published an article commenting on the Radical Party's conditions which concludes with the following statement: "What the Radical Party will not accept in any event is to continue the policy of Mr. Davidovitch or to collaborate in any manner with Stephan Raditch".

The Croatian Party's view of a Coalition Government is expressed in a telegram sent by its governing committee to Mr. Davidovitch, as follows: "We consider the maintenance of the Bloc as absolutely necessary on condition that it insist on its right to form

³²⁸ Timotijević, Kosta (1869-?), odvjetnik, političar. Bio je član JDS-a, zastupnik u Narodnoj skupštini, ministar pravosuđa (1919. – 1920.), unutarnjih poslova (1921. – 1922.), bez resora (1929. – 1932.). (*Ko je ko u Jugoslaviji*, 151).

a government because it represents a majority in Parliament; otherwise, it should at once commence an implacable movement of opposition in Parliament and among the people”.

Finally, the position of the Democrats, which represents the viewpoint of all members of the Limited Bloc, appears from the following communiqué of the Democratic Club issues after the statement of the Radical Party: “The Democratic Club considers that the reply given by the Radicals to Mr. Timotievitch does not agree with the mandate granted him by the King and it concludes from to-day’s article in the “Samouprava” that the Radical Party does not propose to continue the policy of the late (Davidovitch) Government as provided in the mandate to Mr. Timotievitch”.

As mentioned in my despatch referred to above, it may be seen that Mr. Raditch is really the pivot around which the political struggle revolves. On one hand the most important Serbian party, the Radicals, refuse absolutely to collaborate with him as they consider him to be a harmful and even criminal element. On the other hand the Democrats, representing the Serbian minority, as well as the Slovenes and Bosnia Musselmans, who together compose the Limited Bloc, attach such importance to an accord with the Croats that they consider it impossible to break with the Croat Party of Raditch. It is quite probable that many members of the Limited Bloc believe Raditch to be a dangerous ally but consider that under existing conditions it would be preferable to recognize his really great influence among the Croats than to abandon their efforts to come to an understanding with the latter.

On the same day that Mr. Timotievitch returned his mandate, November 6th, the King granted the mandate for elections to Mr. Pashitch and the composition of the latter’s Cabinet was announced. This Cabinet is composed entirely of Radicals and Independent Democrats. A list of the Ministers is enclosed herewith. In view of the state of Mr. Pashitch’s health, Mr. Trifkovitch has been included as Minister without portfolio in order to represent Mr. Pashitch when the latter is unable to attend to his duties as Prime Minister. Mr. Trifkovitch is an old member of the Radical Party who enjoys a certain influence in the Party and has always been a staunch supporter of Mr. Pashitch’s policies. It is probable that his position in the Cabinet, however, will be largely nominal and that he will act merely as the mouthpiece for Mr. Pashitch. Mr. Nintchitch, as Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Stoyadinovitch, as Minister of Finance, are already known to the Department. The other minister, among whom is Mr. Pribitchevitch, leader of the Independent Democrats and an extreme partisan of a centralist and ultra-nationalist policy, have all heretofore held Ministerial positions with the exceptions of Mr. Maximovitch³²⁹, Minister of the Interior, and General Trifounovitch³³⁰, Minister of

³²⁹ Maksimović, Božidar (1886.-?), pravnik, političar. Bio član Glavnog odbora NRS-a, zastupnik u Narodnoj skupštini, ministar unutarnjih poslova (1924. – 1927.), prosvjete (1929. – 1932., 1939. – 1941.), pravosuđa (1932. – 1934.), bez resora (1932.)

³³⁰ Trifunović, Dušan (1880. – 1942.), divizijski general. U Kraljevini SHS bio je stručnjak za albanska pitanja u Delegaciji na Mirovnoj konferenciji, ministar vojske i mornarice (1924. – 1926.). (Bjelajac, *Generali i admirali*, 294).

War. Mr. Maximovitch is thirty-eight years of age and a lawyer by profession. He was first elected deputy in the elections of March 1923 and apparently enjoys considerable reputation for ability in his party. General Trifounovitch is an officer of the General Staff who distinguished himself during the war and was at one time Aide-de-Camp to the King. It seems probable, however, that the principal role in the Ministry of War will be played by General Pashitch³³¹, now Chief of the General Staff and formerly Minister of War under the last Radical Government, whose influence in the Army is considerable. It may be added that the retirement of Mr. Marinkovitch as Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is one of the most capable among Yugoslav statesmen, is to be regretted.

The new Government has not published any declaration but the principal lines of its future policy appear to be indicated in an article which appeared in the "Samouprava" of the 8th instant, a translation of which is enclosed herewith. It should be understood that this paper is, as before mentioned, the official organ of the Radical Party and that its articles may be taken as authoritative. The most significant passages in this article appear to be the statement that the Government on the basis of national unity undertake to reestablish absolute respect of the laws, being of the opinion that in this respect the Davidovitch Cabinet has been guilty of error, and the statement that the Government will see that all actions from whatever source directed against the State will be suppressed by the laws which prohibit such activities.

There is also enclosed a translation of an extract from an article in the Belgrade "Politika" (Independent) of the same date, commenting on the reasons for the failure of the policy of the late Davidovitch Cabinet.

After the formation of the new Cabinet the leaders of the Bloc issued a proclamation, a translation of which is enclosed herewith, addressed to all supporters of a national accord. This proclamation characterizes the new Government as partisans of national hatred, corruption violence and illegality and calls upon the people to pronounce themselves in the coming elections for parliamentary principles and the sovereignty of the popular will and in opposition to the interference of irresponsible factors and absolutism.

It was mentioned in my despatch referred to above that possibly the most hazardous solution of the situation would be the formation of a Cabinet elections. It was also mentioned that a mandate to the Radical Party for elections would be taken in Croatia as a direct challenge and that such elections might conceivably be conducted under pressure and lead to serious disorders. It should be remembered that the new Government controlled only some 135 seats in the last Parliament as against some 178 seats of the Opposition. Also, that in Yugoslavia many of the prominent parties are based not only on political concepts but on racial and religious distinctions, as for example the Croatian Party, the Slovene Clerical (Catholic) Party, the Yugoslav Mussulman Organization

³³¹ Pešić, Petar (1871. – 1944.), armijski general. U Kraljevini SHS bio je šef vojne delegacije na Mirovnoj konferenciji (1919.), ministar vojske i mornarice (1922.), poslanik u Belgiji (1929., 1931. – 1935.), poslanik u Čehoslovačkoj (1930.). (Bjelajac, *Generali i admirali*, 242).

(Bosnia Party), the German Party and the Djemiat (Turkish) Party. Under these conditions it is not likely that the Radicals and Independent Democratic will gain the support of any considerable number of adherents of these parties unless a certain pressure is brought to bear during the elections. Should such a course be adopted, it may happen that in certain regions where the opposition is organized and where the majority of the population is hostile to the policy of the existing Government, especially in Croatia, any attempt to exert pressure would lead to active resistance. This, however, is certainly appreciated at Belgrade and it would appear that the King had granted the mandate to Mr. Pashitch only because there was no other possible issue after the failure of his repeated endeavors to bring about the formation of a coalition.

This decision may also be due to certain disclosures regarding the relations of Mr. Raditch and his party with the Soviet authorities. In this connection the Press Bureau (under direction of the Foreign Office) has to-day addressed a communication to the press, a translation of which is enclosed herewith. This communication purports to explain why the King objected to the participation of the Raditch deputies in the Government and declined to receive Mr. Matchek, the Croatian Deputy who was recently elected Vice-President of Parliament. It will be observed that the reason given are the statements made by Mr. Raditch as to a continuation of his relations with the Bolsheviks and two recent visits of Mr. Matchek to the Soviet Legation at Vienna, where he presumably went to confer with the Soviet representatives with regard to future activities of the Croatian Party. This communication may possibly explain the reason why the King requested Mr. Davidovitch's resignation in view of his Government's dependence on the Croatian Party for a majority.

Parliament was convened to-day for the purpose of hearing the Decree dissolving the Chamber and fixing the date of the new elections, for February 8, 1925. It is rumored that as Mr. Raditch's immunity as deputy ceases with the dissolution of Parliament, the Government proposes to take measures for his arrest. It is also rumored, however, that Mr. Raditch has either already left or is prepared to leave the country. In any event, it is reported that he has left his residence at Zagreb.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
 Your obedient servant,
 Gordon Paddock³³²
 Gordon Paddock,
 Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

1. List of members of the New Cabinet.
2. Translation of Article in Belgrade "Samouprava" of November 8, 1924.³³³
3. Translation of Article in Belgrade "Politika" of November 8, 1924.³³⁴

³³² Vlastoručno.

³³³ „Nova vlada“, *Samouprava* (Beograd), 8. studenoga 1924.

³³⁴ „Epilog“, *Politika* (Beograd), 8. studenoga 1924., 1.

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4. Translation of Proclamation of Opposition Bloc, from Belgrade papers of November 8, 1924.³³⁵

5. Translation of Communication of Press Bureau of November 10, 1924.³³⁶

File No. 800-Quintuplicate.

Copy to E.I.C., Paris.

60. 1924., studeni 24., Izvješće privremenoga otpravnika poslova Gordona Paddocka State Departmentu u kojem se dotiče utjecaja „hrvatskog pitanja” na političku situaciju u Kraljevini SHS u kojem se spominje i mišljenje Marka Trifkovića u ime NRS-a da nikada neće surađivati s Radićem jer se on proglasio protivnikom svega što je „Srbima drago: slavne povijesti naroda tijekom rata, vojske i dinastije Karađorđevića.“

NARA, M 358, R 3, 860h.00/224

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LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, November 24, 1924.

Despatch No. 2498

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my despatch No. 2490 of the 10th instant, relative to the internal situation, reporting the formation of a Cabinet for elections presided over by Mr. Pashitch.

The recent ministerial crisis which lasted almost one month was preceded by a prolonged period of latent uncertainty due to questions of deep political significance but more ostensibly to the question of relations between the Serbs and Croats. This has been

³³⁵ Sažetak „iz beogradskih novina od 8. studenoga 1924.“ Vidi: „Epilog – proglas šireg bloka“, *Politika* (Beograd), 8. studenoga 1924., 2.

³³⁶ Sažetak „iz beogradskih novina“ *Vreme i Politika* od 10. studenoga 1924. Vidi: „Zašto g. Maček nije primljen u Dvoru – Komunique Biroa za Štampu“, *Politika* (Beograd), 10. studenoga 1924., 3.

³³⁷ Državni pečat.