

64. 1925., siječanj 29., Dodatak Izvješću br. 2555 Henryja Percivala Dodgea State Departmentu: Izvješće konzula u Zagrebu Leslieja A. Davisa u kojemu prenosi razmišljanje Ante Trumbića o HRSS-u i njihovim metodama djelovanja.

NARA, M 358, R 3, 860H.00/230

February 2, 1925.

I reopen my Despatch to enclose a copy of a further report which I have received from the Consul at Zagreb containing a summary in translation of a speech delivered at Zagreb on the 28th ultimo by Dr. Trumbitch.

I also enclose a translation made by the Legation of a letter addressed by Mr. Raditch to the General Secretary of the Peasants' International in June last to Mr. Raditch. This has now been given to the press by the Minister of the Interior as well as certain minutes of a meeting of the Peasants' International relating to a meeting at which Mr. Raditch's letter was considered and fully approved. It will be observed that in his letter Mr. Raditch states that his party's purpose is to unite the peasants and workmen to form a peasant and workmen's State and that his party is ready in case of extremity to have recourse to revolution.

A report is now current that the Government intend to remove the lists of the Raditch Party candidates as candidates of a party dangerous to the existence of the State. Authority for this is stated by Radicals to be given in the Law for the Protection of the State which has already been mentioned. In this way voters desiring to vote for Raditch candidates would either be obliged to abstain from voting or would presumably vote for the Democratic Party candidates. Although Radical leaders inform me that this question has not yet been decided, I incline to doubt whether the Government would proceed to such extreme measures. Mr. Davidovitch, the Democratic leader, is stated to be hoping that the Government may decide on this step and not to be at all displeased that Mr. Raditch is under arrest and so prevented from making more speeches embarrassing to the Opposition Block, Mr. Davidovitch lately informed the London "Times" correspondent here that Mr. Raditch, although his political ally, had never given him any information as to his intention of going to Moscow. I learn also from the "Times" correspondent that Mr. Seton-Watson and Mr. Wickham Steed, who saw much of Mr. Raditch during his London visit in November, 1923, considered him an "impossible fool".

H. Percival Dodge³⁷³
American Minister.

Enclosures:

- 1.- Copy of political report dated January 29th 1925 from the American Consul, Zagreb, to the American Minister, Belgrade;
- 2.- Translation of letter addressed by Mr. Raditch to Mr. Smirnov, from Belgrade "Politika", Jan. 30, 1925.³⁷⁴

³⁷³ Vlastoručno.

³⁷⁴ „Organ Seljačke Internacionale i g. Radić – Međunarodni seljački savet i Hrvatska seljačka stranka“, *Politika* (Beograd), 30. siječnja 1925., 2.

DOKUMENTI

Dodatak br. 1: Izvješće konzula u Zagrebu Leslieja Davisa poslaniku Henryju Percivalu Dodgeu.

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Zagreb, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes,
January 29, 1925.

The Honorable

H. Percival Dodge,
American Minister,
Belgrade.

Sir:

I have the honor to report to the Legation concerning the political meeting held at Zagreb last Sunday, January 25th, by Dr. Ante Trumbic, candidate of the Croatian Union for the Skupstina:

The meeting is considered here not only as a vehement expression of the solidarity of the Croatian bourgeoisie and intelligentsia with the HRSS (Hrvatska Republikanska Seljacka Stranka – Croatian Republican Peasant Party) and the imprisoned president and leaders of that party, but also as a political event of great importance, as it is said that Dr. Trumbic endeavored to indicate the clear line of the Croatian policy both as regards its aims and its methods.

Aims of the Croatian Peasant Party as Stated by Dr. Trumbic.

As regards its aims, Dr. Trumbic emphasized repeatedly that the Croatian people claim the right of self-determination, and in order that this right might be exerted without pressure or prejudice he claimed full sovereignty for the Croats.

The right of self-determination is claimed, as pointed out in the speech of Dr. Trumbic, with only one aim in view anti that is that Croatian people be given a chance of negotiating by their sovereign will the agreement for a common State for the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and of having an equal voice in the drawing of the terms thereof. He considers the Serbs and Slovenes as brothers and he assures them that they will never be betrayed by the Croatian people, who only wish to live with them in brotherly union, as equal with equal, without pressure of force or destroying influence of corruption which, he asserts, has already destroyed the Administration, credit abroad, and justice in the country.

He protested against the action of Dr. Nincic, who in December visited Rome and Paris in order to alarm Europe against a fictitious Bolshevist danger in Jugoslavia, saying that this was only an electoral manoeuvre which Mr. Nincic undertook in the interest of his party irrespective of the interests of the State.

He energetically protested against the declaration Dr. Spalajkovic³⁷⁵ made in Paris where he attempted to present the struggle of the Croats as a conspiracy of the ex-Austro-Hungarian citizens who long for the restoration of the Habsburg Monarchy, asserting this interview was an infamous attempt to discredit the Croat movement before Western Europe and America.

He pointed out the fact that a few days ago the Croatian sculptor Ivan Mestrovic made a speech at a banquet in New York where he emphasized his peasant origin and protested most vehemently against the attempt of the Belgrade Government to influence the results of the election by depriving the Croats, who comprise one-third of the total population of the State, of their right to vote, on the ground that they are Bolsheviks.

Methods of the Croatian Peasant Republican Party

As regards the methods of the Croatian Peasant Republican Party, Dr. Trumbic declared his unflinching faith that justice must ultimately win in a struggle against force and injustice. "With feelings of justice and legality the Croatian people have entered the struggle and they will stick to it. With legal and moral arms only shall we fight our opponents. We shall not abandon these positions, and no force or provocation however great will move us therefrom. "Obznana" (law for the protection of the State) is a treacherous shot in the heart of the Croatian people but it will miss its aim, as it is protected by the armor of the spirit of right and justice, which no force can destroy." With these words Dr. Trumbic characterized the methods of the struggle.

The speech was followed by tremendous applause and when Dr. Trumbic left the hall where the meeting was held he was cheered as a national hero by great crowds in the streets, as the writer personally saw from his residence, until the police dispersed the crowds to prevent more serious demonstrations. The reports of the speeches and of the meeting have, as could be expected here, made a favorable impression upon the people in this city.

The meeting was attended also by numerous peasants, most of whom were delegates or executive members of the HRSS organisations in the provinces. There were also delegates from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Professor Hakija Hadzic³⁷⁶ spoke in the name of the Mussulmans of Bosnia and Herzegovina, strongly protesting against the Government trying to declare the Bosnian Mussulmans being Yugoslavs of the purest stock strongly resent these intentions of the Government and that the Club of Bosnian Mussulman Members of Parliament have sent a protest to this effect to the Government.

³⁷⁵ Spalajković, Miroslav (1869. – 1951.), političar, diplomat. Bio je član NRS-a, ministar bez resora (1920.), poslanik Kraljevine SHS-a u Parizu (1922. – 1935.).

³⁷⁶ Hadžić, Hakija (1883. – 1953.), političar, profesor. Član Jugoslavenske muslimanske organizacije, odbacio 1935. odluku o pristupanju JMO-a režimskoj Jugoslavenskoj radikalnoj zajednici. Suosnivač i predsjednik Muslimanske organizacije Hrvatske seljačke stranke 1936. Nakon osnivanja Nezavisne Države Hrvatske surađivao s ustaškim režimom, ušao u diplomatsku službu NDH. Emigrirao 1945. u Austriju, zatim u Siriju gdje je i umro. (Zdravko Dizdar, Marko Grčić, Slaven Ravlić, Darko Stuparić, ur., *Tko je tko u NDH. Hrvatska 1941.-1945.* (Zagreb: Minerva, 1997), 148).

DOKUMENTI

The representatives of high finance and industry were not present, owing, it is said, to fear of possible vengeance from the present Government.

The meeting was optimistic and the voters were asked to come in full numbers to the polls on February 8th, in spite of the rumors that the Government intends to withhold the ballot boxes of the HRSS, which would indicate that the leaders of the Croat politics who are still at liberty have decided against the policy of "abstinence" (not voting) in case of these boxes not being issued. Followers of the HRSS in the districts of Novi Sad and Subotica have already been instructed to vote for Davidovic, as the courts have not accepted the HRSS candidates in these districts, basing their decision on the "Obznana", where the HRSS was declared an illegal party.

A copy of the Zagreb "Hrvat" (organ of the Croatian Union), of January 26, 1925, containing the speech of Dr. Trumbic in full and a detailed report of the meeting is enclosed herewith as of possible interest to the Legation. Additional copies will be sent if desired.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Leslie A. Davis³⁷⁷
Leslie A. Davis
American Consul

Enclosure:

Copy of "Hrvat" of January 26, 1925³⁷⁸

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LAD/rs

65. 1925., veljača 6., Izvješće konzula u Zagrebu Leslieja A. Davisa Henryju Percivalu Dodgeu o posjetu Ljubomira Davidovića Zagrebu.

NARA, M 358, R 3, 860H.00/232

COPY FOR THE DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN CONSULATE

Zagreb, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes,
February 6, 1925.

³⁷⁷ Vlastoručno.

³⁷⁸ Prilog nije snimljen na mikrofilm.