

the Radical Party in which he took no active part until last Winter when Mr. Pashitch turned to him again. He is now considered by many to be Mr. Pashitch's choice as his eventual successor. The cease of Mr. Jifkovitch's retirement from public life, above mentioned, is understood to have been some financial scandals in which he was compromised.

Notwithstanding his illness the Radical newspapers report that Mr. Pashitch receives his two representatives daily as well as Mr. Trifkovitch, the President or Parliament, Mr. Pavle Raditch and other leaders. Some apparently well-informed persons however believe that the frequency at least of these interviews is exaggerated in order to give the impression that Mr. Pashitch is in better condition than he really is and thus to clothe the actions of the Radical party leaders with the weight of his authority. Many also believe that Mr. Pashitch will never again return to active political life and that he is now gradually fading from the political stage.

Prophesies as to Mr. Pashitch's eventual successor or successors are accordingly again heard on all sides. Dr. Nintchitch is stated to be pushed by the King but is not popular in the Radical Party. Mr. Jivkovitch, Dr. Djuritchitch, Mr. Uzunovitch, and Mr. Aca Stanojevitich<sup>423</sup> are among the older leaders who are mentioned while Mr. Velizar Yankovitch and Mr. Laza Markovitch are among the younger ones. It seems clear that great ability will be needed to keep the Radical Party from dividing on Mr. Pashitch's disappearance.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
H. Percival Dodge<sup>424</sup>  
H. Percival Dodge,  
American Minister.

File No. 800-Quintuplicate.

Copy to E.I.C., Paris.

72. 1925., srpanj 20., Izvješće privremenoga otpravnika poslova poslanstva u Beogradu Gordona Paddocka State Departmentu o sastavljanju vlade između NRS-a i HSS-a.

NARA, M 358, R 3, 860h.00/256

[...]<sup>425</sup>

LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, July 20, 1926.

<sup>423</sup> Stanojević, Aleksandar Aco (1852. – ?), političar. Jedan od prvaka NRS-a. Bio je zastupnik u Narodnoj skupštini, potpredsjednik i predsjednik Radikalnoga kluba u Narodnoj skupštini. (*Ko je ko u Jugoslaviji*, 139).

<sup>424</sup> Vlastoručno.

<sup>425</sup> Državni pečat.

Despatch No. 2759.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my Despatch No.2757 (860h.002/55) of to-day's date, reporting the formation of the new Cabinet under Mr. Pashitch, as Prime Minister, which includes only members of the Radical Party and the Croatian Agrarian party of Mr. Raditch.

A post-scriptum in Mr. Dodge's despatch No. 2748 (860h.00/255) of the 13<sup>th</sup> instant, reported that an agreement had been reached between the Radical and Raditch Parties for the formation of a Joint Cabinet which should carry out a common programme. Since the date of Mr. Dodge's despatch, further developments in the internal political situation have led to a definite accord between the two parties mentioned which has resulted in their coalition in the present Cabinet.

In accordance with the desire of the leaders of the two parties, Messrs. Pashitch and Stepan Raditch, it was made known at plenary meetings of the Radical and the Croatian Agrarian Clubs in Parliament on the 14<sup>th</sup> instant that an agreement had been reached which they were requested to sanction. At the meeting of the Radical Club Mr. Gjurichitch, Minister for Equalisation of the Laws, who acted as Mr. Pashitch's representative because of the latter's illness, explained the principal points of the agreement and added that while conducting negotiations with the representatives of the Croatian Agrarian Party he had become convinced of the latter's entire sincerity and was, therefore, persuaded that the agreement would be of incalculable benefit to the State and the people. It may be mentioned that the entire text of the agreement was not made known to all the members of either the Radical or the Croatian Agrarian Clubs. At the Radical Club meeting Mr. Gjurichitch read merely a summary of the agreement which, as reported in the local press, includes the following provisions:

The Raditch Party recognizes the unity of the country and of the State and accepts the present Constitution of Vidovdan in its entirety: It recognizes the Constitutional Monarchy and the ruling Dynasty and accepts the Radical position with respect to the organization of the Army: It also admits the necessity for enforcement of all laws required for complete execution of the Constitution and accepts all bills proposed to date. The Raditch Party on its part insisted as a condition precedent to the agreement that no members of the Independent Democratic Party should be included in the proposed coalition, stating that in view of the enmity which exists in Croatia between that

Party and the adherents of the Croatian Agrarian Party no collaboration with the former was possible. After long consideration and discussion, the Radical leaders accepted this condition.

During the discussion which followed Mr. Gjurichitch's statement to the Radical Club, in which some twenty members took part, the majority declared themselves in favor of immediate approval of the agreement, which they considered an achievement of inestimable importance as a solution of the Serbo-Croatian question and as forming a sufficiently strong majority in Parliament to permit of the accomplishment of productive work. The only objections raised were in connection with the exclusion of the Independent Democrats from the new Cabinet, some of the Radical deputies considering that their party was bound by former promises to Mr. Pribitchevitch, the leader of the Independent Democrats, and his followers. They all declared, however, that they would vote for the agreement in consideration of their confidence in their leader, Mr. Pashitch, and as a matter of fact the agreement was unanimously adopted by the Radical Club. In this connection I may say that in a recent conversation with Dr. Stoyadinovitch, Minister of Finance, he told me that such complete acceptance of the Radicals' conditions on the part of the Raditch Party necessitated some concessions to the latter's susceptibilities and that although his Party regretted the necessity, in view of the vital interests of the State involved in a settlement with the Croats, it was considered that Mr. Pribitchevitch and his adherents would have to be sacrificed since it appeared to be the only possible solution of the situation. He said also that Mr. Pribitchevitch had really been too extravagant in his attacks on the Croatian Party and that it was largely his fault that things had come to such a pass.

The agreement reached was approved on the same day, the 14<sup>th</sup>, by the Croatian Agrarian Club. Mr. Pavle Raditch, the President of the Club, stated that the approval of agreement was in effect a vote of confidence in the leader of the Party, Mr. Stepan Raditch, and in the latter's policy of an accord with the majority of the Serbs as represented by the Radical Party. He refused to permit any discussion of the matter or to hear the objections of the branch of the Party known as the Croatian Union which had been consistently opposed to the new policy of the Croatian Agrarians. Five members representing the Croatian Union voted against adoption of the agreement while the majority of the Club, or some fifty-three members, voted for it.

The adoption of this agreement followed by the formation of the coalition Cabinet has brought about a most important change in the grouping of the political parties of the Kingdom. It has for the time being put an end to the previous political Blocs; the so-called National Bloc consisting of the Radicals and Independent Democrats, and the Bloc of National Accord and Peasant Democracy of the Croatian Agrarians, the Democrats, Slovene Clericals and the Bosnia Mussulmans, thus reducing the opposition to the three parties last-named, aside from the Independent Democrats, the remnant of the Croatian Union and several such numerically insignificant parties as the Germans. This will give the present Radical-Croatian Agrarian Coalition a representation in Parliament of 200 (142 Radicals and 58 Croatian Agrarians), the total number of deputies being 313.

The withdrawal of the Croatian Agrarian Party from the former Bloc was announced in a letter addressed by Mr. Pavle Raditch to Mr. Davidovitch, leader of the Democratic Party, on the 15th instant.

As a result of the new situation created by the Radical-Croatian Agrarian agreement, the King came to Belgrade from his summer villa at Bled on the 15th and on the following day Mr. Pashitch presented the resignation of his Cabinet to His Majesty. As reported in my Despatch referred to above, the new Cabinet was formed and announced on the 18th. It may be interesting to note that the Cabinet was actually formed on the 17th, but as the King, as did his father King Peter, objects to taking any important official action on a Friday, the mandate was not signed until after midnight of the 17th. Following the conclusion of the agreement between the Radicals and the Croatians, the King granted complete absolution to Mr. Stepan Raditch and to five other leaders of the Croatian Party who had been under arrest for several months and all have now been set at liberty. Mr. Stepan Raditch has since addressed telegrams to His Majesty and to Mr. Pashitch praising their wise policy and declaring his full allegiance to the Sovereign and the policy of the new coalition. It is reported that he is going to-day to Bled, where the King returned on the 19th, to have an audience with His Majesty. I was informed yesterday by the Foreign Minister, Mr. Nintchitch, that Mr. Pashitch, who had proposed to leave for Carlsbad yesterday, has suffered a relapse and his departure has accordingly been postponed.

To show the importance which the Radical Party attaches to the present accord, I enclose herewith a translation of an article which appeared on the 18th instant in the official organ of the Party, the SAMOUPRAVA of Belgrade, stating that the agreement concluded is not merely an arrangement between political parties but an agreement among the people which should be greeted by all patriots who place the interests of their country above their own.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
 Your obedient servant,  
 Gordon Paddock<sup>426</sup>  
 Gordon Paddock,  
 Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

Translation of an article in the Belgrade SAMOUPRAVA of July 18, 1925.

File No. 800-Quintuplicate.

Copy to E.I.C, Paris.

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<sup>426</sup> Vlastoručno.