

DOKUMENTI

been uneventful since the date of my last despatch. It is reported that the Prime Minister, Mr. Pashitch, after being much benefited by his cure at Carlsbad has gone to Evian-les-Bains, on Lake Geneva, and is not expected to return to Belgrade before the middle of next month. It is probable that Dr. Nintchitch and possibly Mr. Raditch will take advantage of their sojourn at Geneva to confer with Mr. Pashitch.

There appears at this moment to be nothing of further interest in this connection to report.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Gordon Paddock⁴³⁹
Gordon Paddock,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

File No. 800-Quintuplicate.

Copy to E. I. C., Paris.

76. 1925., studeni 9., Izvješće poslanika Henryja Percivala Dodgea State Departmentu o političkim događajima u Kraljevini SHS između kojih je dotaknuto i pitanje dodjele ministarskoga mjesta Stjepanu Radiću, kao i „kraljevoj želji o uključenju“ Ljubomira Davidovića u seljačko-radikalisku koaliciju.

NARA, M 358, R 4, 860h.00/265

[...]⁴⁴⁰

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, November 9, 1925.

Despatch No. 2668.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

⁴³⁹ Vlastoručno.

⁴⁴⁰ Državni pečat.

The two weeks which have elapsed since my Despatch No. 2851 of October 26th last, relative to the internal political situation here, have not been marked by any event of special importance.

Upon the return to Belgrade of the King from his country estate at Topola and of the Queen from Rumania where she went for a short visit to her parents, their Majesties left for several days shooting in Croatia. On passing through Zagreb the King stopped there for one day to visit the Historical Exhibition and received a warm welcome. He also had a conversation with Mr. Stephan Raditch. Before leaving Belgrade the King had also had a conversation with Mr. Davidovitch, the leader of the Democratic Party. This reception of Mr. Davidovitch, the first since the formation of the Radical-Raditch Cabinet, has given rise to reports that the King desired to see the present Coalition extended by the inclusion in it of Mr. Davidovitch and his⁴⁴¹ partisans. Such reports, however, appear to have at present no serious foundation and their eventual realisation would undoubtedly meet with a strong opposition on the side of the Radical Party, and perhaps also on that of the Croatian Agrarians.

Meanwhile the situation of the Cabinet appears to remain strong and the matter of Mr. Stephan Raditch's entrance into it continues to be on the order of the day. Although nothing positive is known regarding this matter, it is understood that Mr. Raditch desires to have either an important portfolio in the present Cabinet or to be appointed Minister without portfolio. It is reported that he would not be satisfied either with the portfolio of Public Works or of Social Politics which are alleged to have been offered to him by the Radicals. In this connection may be mentioned that according to a report which has recently circulated here, Mr. Raditch's intention is, after entering the Cabinet, to leave for the United States to make propaganda for the return of the Yugoslav emigrants and to ascertain the possibility of placing a loan among them.

As reported in my Despatch referred to above, Parliament is at present debating the War Invalids Bill which is continuing to meet strong opposition on the side of the Opposition parties. This Bill has been especially criticised by deputies of the Croatian Union and the Raditch dissidents who allege that it does not treat equally Serbian and former Austro-Hungarian officers. The reply of the governmental parties is that while assistance is being granted to War invalids who fought against Serbia on humanitarian grounds, Serbian invalid officers are to receive help also on a mark of the country's gratitude.

On the 23th ultimo the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Nintchitch, made a reply in Parliament to the interpellation addressed to him by the Democratic deputy Dr. Andjelinovitch⁴⁴² regarding the attitude of the S.H.S. Kingdom in the recent Graeco-Bulgarian conflict. A summary in translation of this reply and of the Statement of the

⁴⁴¹ Dopisano rukopisom.

⁴⁴² Angjelinović, Budislav Grga (1886. – 1946.), odvjetnik, političar. Bio član Narodnoga vijeća SHS-a u Zagrebu te povjerenik Narodnoga vijeća za javnu sigurnost u Zagrebu. Prije Prvoga svjetskoga rata bio je pravaške orijentacije, 1919. pristupio JDS-u u kojoj je bio do 1928. Izraženi režimski političar, pristaša

interpellant which followed are enclosed in my Despatch No. 2867 of the 9th instant. On the same date another interpellation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs regarding Fascist activity at Zara was deposited by the Independent Democrat deputy Dr. Grisogono.⁴⁴³ This matter is reported in my Despatch No. 2866 of the 8th instant.

On the 30th ultimo Parliament adopted the War Invalids Bill on general reading by 180 votes against 64, the entire Opposition voting against it, except the Serbian Agrarian Party. On the same date a somewhat acrimonious discussion took place in Parliament between the Minister of Agrarian Reform, Mr. Pavle Raditch, and one of the Agrarian deputies during which the former stated that members of the Agrarian Party were behaving in Parliament only for the purpose of making their electors believe that their representatives were doing something and that such tactics might be qualified as Communistic. The deputy in question protested and stated that he was not a Communist and for his part had never visited Moscow, or had relations with Todor Alexandrov, the late leader of the Bulgarian Macedonian Organisation, thus obviously referring to Mr. Stephen Raditch's former activities.

After the vote on the War Invalids Bill, Parliament adjourned for a week until November 5th ostensibly because of All Saints and All Souls days but apparently in fact to give time to Mr. Pashitch to reach some conclusion regarding the inclusion of Mr. Stephan Raditch in the Cabinet. These parliamentary holidays so soon after the beginning of the session and at a moment so much legislation is pending have called forth considerable criticism in the press which had declared that the entire country is now waiting an energetic and fruitful Parliamentary activity is the more needed because the situation in the country can by no means be considered satisfactory: industry is fighting a crisis, work is being reduced, unemployment is accordingly increasing and many important questions among them the housing question remain unsettled.

The deputies of the various parties availed of the recess to make political propaganda. In the speeches recently delivered leading ideas of the more important parties, in connection with the new situation after the Radical-Raditch agreement, have again been set forth. Dr. Koroshets, leader of the Clerical Slovene Party, has lately been making great efforts to gain partisans outside of Slovenia and has visited Dalmatia for this purpose. He there delivered several speeches especially attacking Raditch and his new policy and declared himself in favor of new elections to be held under a coalition Government thus permitting the first free elections in the country. He stated that Mr. Raditch had abandoned his former ideas only to escape from prison. As regards external policy, Dr.

Orjune. Ministar u vladi Antona Korošca (1928.), poslanik Kraljevine Jugoslavije u Pragu i Beču (1929. – 1934.). Bio u emigraciji od 1941. do 1945. (*HBL*, 1 A – Bi, 166).

⁴⁴³ Grisogono, Prvislav (1879. – 1969.), političar. Bio član Pokrajinske vlade za Dalmaciju od druge polovice 1918. Sudjelovao u osnivanju JDS-a 1919., kasnije se sa Svetozarom Pribičevićem odvojio u SDS, protivio se dogovoru i koaliciji stranke s HSS-om. Za vrijeme diktature približava se režimu. Bio je poslanik Kraljevine SHS u Pragu (1936. – 1938.), zatim u Varšavi (1938.). Emigrirao iz FNRJ 1949. u Pariz gdje je živio do smrti. (*HBL*, 5 Gn – H, 218-219).

Korochets stated that the "Golden International" met at Locarno under the lead of capitalistic England against the Red International. Russia on the other hand had gained all Asia by its policy. If Yugoslavia wished to secure its position in the Balkans it must reckon with Russia the more so because the Yugoslav people would find a friend in Russia.

The Raditch Party also availed of the recess to make propaganda in Slovenia, Dalmatia, Bosnia and Montenegro. It is reported, however, that considerable nervousness has been observed in the recent meetings of this Party which has resulted in frequent clashes. Although the latter are being explained as personal differences, they are believed to be really on account of the growing dissatisfaction among the Raditch voters against the official policy of the party.

Mr. Pribitchevitch, leader of the Independent Democrats, has recently again spoken against the present coalition and called Mr. Stephan Raditch the Super-Minister who talks about the business of all the Ministers while the Ministers themselves remain silent.

One of the leading members of the Democratic Party, Dr. Kumanudi, has recently likewise attacked the present Government in a speech made at Zagreb. He also stated that the present situation may be qualified as a "crisis of Parliamentary Government" because in all parties at present the Party leader is a despot who can force the members of his Club to do as he pleases. Parliament thus ceases to be the true mouthpiece of public opinion. In this connection I may quote an interesting article which has recently appeared in one of the local papers in which the following is stated: "Political parties in Yugoslavia do not represent public opinion but the result of skillfully worked out electioneering mathematic's. These parties have lost contact with the people and fight against each other regardless of public interests. The result is that one Parliament after another is incapable of work and what is really needed to restore the true spirit of parliamentary Government is the education of the public and the awakening of a feeling of public responsibility."

On the 5th instant the Council of National Defense held a meeting in the Palace under the Presidency of the King. The members of the Council are the Prime Minister, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, War and Marine, Finance and Communications and the Chief and Assistant Chief of the General Staff. From what I hear regarding this meeting I understand that the question of the change of the orientation of the S.H.S. Kingdom's policy was considered in view of the altered Italian, Bulgarian and Greek situations.

It has recently been reported that the coronation of the King, which has several times been adjourned, might take place in the Spring and that it will be followed by visits of Their Majesties to Rome, Paris, London and Bucharest. This report however lacks confirmation.

On the 5th instant Parliament resumed its sittings and proceeded to the second reading of the War Invalids Bill. On the following day two deputies of the Independent Democratic Party addressed interpellations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on press reports and reports from private sources concerning the alleged imminent return to Hungary of Otho the son of the late Emperor Charles. This interpellation states that these reports have been productive of serious anxiety as the return of the Hapsburgs would mean the return to the old bellicose and imperialist régime in Hungary.

The interpellations addressed to the Foreign Minister in connection with the recent attack of the Fascisti at Trieste against a Yugoslav newspaper are reported in my Despatch No. 2866 of the 8th instant. I have also mentioned in that Despatch the demonstrations against Italy which took place in the same connection on the 8th instant in various cities of Yugoslavia. I may add that at a meeting of the Croatian Union held yesterday at Zagreb Dr. Trumbitch, the leader of the Croatian Union, delivered a speech attacking Italian policy, after which a resolution was adopted protesting against the attitude of official Italy and urging the Yugoslav Government to take the necessary steps with a view to insuring the rights of Yugoslav minorities in Italy. The resolution concludes by stating that the "Yugoslav authorities are requested to take all necessary measures in order that our Western frontier especially at the sea, may be put in a state of entire security against any eventual and unexpected enemy attack".

In closing I may mention an amusing incident which however throws a most unfortunate light upon the relations between the different authorities of the Yugoslav Government. This is a conflict which has lately arisen between the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs and the Ministry of Communications. the Minister of Communications has been endeavoring to eradicate a number of abuses which have grown up in his Ministry which has always had the reputation of being particularly saturated with political "graft". First he denounced the arrangement made by his predecessors with the Yugoslav Navigation Syndicate for the Danube. Then he cancelled all free passes on the railways of which there are said to have been an inconceivably large number. In doing so however the passes necessary to the employees of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs were also, no doubt inadvertently, cancelled so that these employees could no longer use the railway trains for the purpose of keeping the telegraph wires in repair. Instead of making ordinary representations, which would probably have made this matter right, the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, no doubt already extremely irritated by other matters against the Ministry of Communications, immediately ordered all the telephone apparatus taken from the railway stations so that the railway officials were no longer able to use them in the operation of the train service. At this point the conflict threatened serious public danger and the Cabinet, no doubt chiefly impelled by Mr. Pashitch, was obliged to take the matter in hand. At present it is stated that the conflict in ended and the necessary free passes restored to the Ministry of Posts which has also restored the station telephones.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
 Your obedient servant,
 H. Percival Dodge⁴⁴⁴
 H. Percival Dodge,
 American Minister.

File No. 800-Quinuplicate.

Copy to E.I.C., Paris.

⁴⁴⁴ Vlastoručno.