

77. 1925., studeni 1925., Izvyješće Henryja Percivala Dodgea State Departmentu o „značajnome šoku“ nakon objavljivanja govora Stjepana Radića u Ljubljani u kojem je žestoko napao talijansku fašističku vladu.

NARA, M 358, R 4, 860h.00/268

[...] <sup>445</sup>

LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, November 28, 1925.

Despatch No. 2888

~~CONFIDENTIAL.~~

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

My Despatch No. 2882 (860H.00/266)<sup>446</sup> of the 23<sup>rd</sup> instant mentioned the departure of Mr. Raditch on a political tour through Slovenia and his first speech made at Ljubljana. On the first brief telegraphic reports had been received here concerning this speech when my Despatch was written and enclosed in the pouch. On the following day when the full text of this speech was received it caused a considerable shock as a large portion of it was seen to be devoted to a bitter attack upon the Italian Fascist Government. I enclose a summary in translation, which the Legation has prepared, of this extremely long speech made from the text published in Mr. Raditch's own organ, the "Dom". On page 2 of this summary, Mr. Raditch will be observed to hit at Greece but pages 3 and 4 devoted an attack on the Fascist Government in the course of which Mr. Raditch warns them that "it is a flagrant provocation of Italy to declare openly that Dalmatia is an Italian province and declares in reply that in case of an attack by her "entire world would say to Italy that she has violated the principle of nationality which is at present so highly valued.... Every one must know that if the Fascisti merely cross the frontier, Italy will have against her a hundred million men who will arise from the Baltic to the Black Sea." Mr. Raditch ended his speech as follows: "My coming to Slovenia means that the present Slovenia with God's help must be united by the League of Nations with Slovenia's indisputable ethnographic boundaries".

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<sup>445</sup> Državni pečat.

<sup>446</sup> Dopisano rukopisom.

The Belgrade morning newspapers of the 25<sup>th</sup> instant contained a correction of Mr. Raditch's speech, stated to have been by himself after reading the press reports which he states were not correct, especially those published by the Belgrade newspapers. In this correction, of which I enclose a translation, Mr. Raditch will be seen to retract the greater part of his attack against Fascist Italy although his revised text is still sufficiently indiscreet and ill-timed.

In the evening of the same day, the Belgrade newspapers contained a second explanation by Mr. Raditch, a translation of which is also enclosed. In this second statement Mr. Raditch will be seen to devote himself to an attempt to prove that his Ljubljana speech contained nothing unfriendly to Mr. Mussolini for whom he declares that he can have "only feelings of the utmost correctness and loyalty".

I learn that upon the receipt of the first press reports of Mr. Raditch's speech Foreign Minister, Dr. Nintchitch, was greatly annoyed and immediately so informed Mr. Raditch, Dr. Nintchitch's act was apparently what lead Mr. Raditch to issue his first statement. Upon Mr. Raditch's return to Belgrade Dr. Nintchitch at once requested him to come to the Foreign Office, where Mr. Markovitch, the Assistant Foreign Minister, informs me Mr. Raditch at Dr. Nintchitch's request wrote before him the second statement. I also learn that immediately after reading the first report of the speech, the Italian Minister, General Bodrero, called upon Dr. Nintchitch and Mr. Markovitch and expressed profound astonishment and great annoyance at it, stating that he had as yet received no instructions from Rome but feared that he would receive very serious ones from his Government. He was informed of the annoyance of the Foreign Office and of the steps which had already been taken to have Mr. Raditch retract the offensive portions of his speech. I understand that although Mr. Raditch's retractions are not taken seriously and there is little doubt that he said what was first reported in the press, General Bodrero has made no representations.

Mr. Raditch's speech is deplored and has been doubtly unfortunate in view of the recent Zagreb in view of the recent Zagreb incident (Despatch No. 2879 of the 20<sup>th</sup> instant)<sup>447</sup> and of the present anxieties here, regarding the possible plans of Fascist Italy (Despatch Nos 2873 of the 15<sup>th</sup> instant and 2874 of the 15<sup>th</sup> instant). Whether the castigation which he has received will make Mr. Raditch mora careful in the future when talking of foreign affairs remains however to be seen.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
 Your obedient servant,  
 H. Percival Dodge<sup>448</sup>  
 H. Percival Dodge.  
 American Minister.

<sup>447</sup> Dopisano rukopisom: 760H.65/314.

<sup>448</sup> Vlastoručno.

## DOKUMENTI

Enclosures:

- 1.- Summary in translation of Mr. Raditch's Ljubljana speech taken from the Zagreb "Dom" of November 25, 1925;
- 2.- Translation of First statement of Mr. Raditch from the Belgrade press of November 25, 1925;<sup>449</sup>
- 3.- Translation of Mr. Raditch second statement from the Belgrade evening newspapers of November 25, 1925.

File No. 710-Quintuplicate.

Copies to Embassy, Rome, and E.I.C., Paris.

November 30, 1925.

I reopen my Despatch, which there has been no opportunity to send, to add that during the Parliamentary session of the 28<sup>th</sup> instant. dr. Nintchitch replied to an allegation of the Independent Democratic leader, Mr. Pribitchevitch, that Mr. Raditch had only made rectifications in his speech after the intervention of the Minister of Foreign Power, declaring that Mr. Raditch had made his rectifications entirely of his own accord.

During a long speech which he made in Parliament on the 29<sup>th</sup> instant on the Budgetary Twelfth Bill, Mr. Raditch again took occasion to mention his Ljubljana speech, stating that he regretted the misunderstanding to which it had given rise and then singing an eulogy of Italy in which he stated that "a Europe without Italy would be like a garden without birds" and that "if only on account of her music, Italy's existence was justified". He further compares the possible loss to Italy of Mr. Mussolini as equal in importance to the possible loss of Mr. Pashitch to Yugoslavia. Mr. Raditch's encomiums to Italy are fulsome but possibly not wholly without malice. A translation of their substances will be found in my Despatch on the internal political situation to be dated the 7<sup>th</sup> proximo.

H. Percival Dodge<sup>450</sup>

78. 1926., veljača 18., Dodatak izvješću br. 2983 Henryja Percivala Dodgea: Izvješće konzula u Zagrebu Leslieja A. Davisa poslaniku Henryju Percivalu Dodgeu u kojemu se donosi presjek političkih događaja i posljedica u Hrvatskoj tijekom 1925. godine s naglaskom na ulazak HSS-a u vladu, kao i njihovo snalaženje i aktivnosti u poziciji vladajućih.

<sup>449</sup> Prema neimenovanim „beogradskim novinama“. Vidi npr. „G. Radić demantuje svoj govor u Ljubljani...“, *Politika* (Beograd), 25 studeni 1925., 2.

<sup>450</sup> Vlastoručno.