

Democratic Party) and therefore all parties are in favour of the Serbo-Croatian agreement which has greatly mollified the Serbo-Croatian question. The Republican movement has at the same time entirely ceased and King Alexander is just as popular with the Croats to-day as he is with the Serbians.

The Moslem question is now being solved by the forming of a close coalition between the Davidovic Democratic party and the Spaho Yugoslav Moslem organization. It is considered probable that this close coalition will result in a fusion of both parties.

There still remains the question of the Clericals which is much more difficult, particularly as clericalism is limited to Slovenia and has accordingly a special Slovenian character. It is hoped, however, that as the relations between the State and the Vatican are again good since the settlement of the St. Hieronymus incident at Rome<sup>451</sup> a concordat will be made and that thereby the bitterness of the opposition of the Clericals will take a milder form, although there is still more or less discontent over the alleged failure of the Government to adequately protect Slovenian industries.

The internal struggle will probably develop in the near future in the direction of the putting in order of the administration, settling the finances, removing the effects of politics among the officials and combatting corruption.

The impression which the Serbo-Croatian agreement has made abroad may be summed up as follows: The friends of the State are pleased therewith and the enemies of the State are disappointed, both agreeing on one point, namely, that the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes has thereby become stronger.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

800 Leslie A. Davis

LAD/rs American Consul

79. 1926., veljača 17., Izvješće poslanika Henryja Percivala Dodgea State Departmentu o Radićevom govoru protiv papinskoga nuncija u Kraljevini SHS, te posljednjoj ispriči ministra vanjskih poslova Momčila Ninčića zbog takvog Radićevog ponašanja.

NARA, M 358, R 4, 860H.00/277

[...]<sup>452</sup>

LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, February 17, 1926.

<sup>451</sup> Nesuglasice oko Zavoda sv. Jeronima.

<sup>452</sup> Državni pečat.

Despatch No. 2977.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

My Despatch 2974 (860h.00/274)<sup>453</sup> of the 15th instant, on the general political situation, reported on page 7 a speech made by Mr. Stjepan Raditch in Parliament on the 11th instant ostensibly for the purpose of furnishing to the Radicals a satisfactory explanation of his extraordinary utterances during his recent political tour. It was observed however that his speech was devoted in good part to an attack against the Papal Nuncio here, Monsignor Pellegrinetti, whom Mr. Raditch accused of having gone beyond his official functions and of having made speeches during his recent trip to Hercegovina and Dalmatia for the purpose of furthering the cause of the Popular (Catholic) Party. It was further mentioned in my despatch that Monsignor Pellegrinetti was considering making a diplomatic incident of this speech, considering that it was contrary to international comity for a Cabinet Minister to make a speech in Parliament attacking a duly accredited foreign diplomatic Representative.

Monsignor Pellegrinetti informs me that he took occasion to express his opinion somewhat frankly to the Director of the Protocole of the Foreign Office, informing him that unless suitable apology was made by the Foreign Minister, he would call a meeting of the chiefs of the Diplomatic Missions at which he would suggest that a collective protest should be made to the Foreign Minister, Dr. Nintchitch, to whom he also expressed his view of the matter. Dr. Nintchitch immediately replied that he had never heard any complaints against Nuncio for exceeding his official functions either from Belgrade or from any of the places where the latter had recently spoken, that he regretted extremely remarks made by Mr. Raditch in Parliament, which he had heard with the greatest surprise, and that he intended to make a statement in Parliament within a few days in which he would express the Government's regret at this violation of international comity.

Monsignor Pellegrinetti informed me that he was entirely satisfied with Dr. Nintchitch's reply and would consider the incident as settled if Dr. Nintchitch actually made the statement which he had outlined. The Nuncio added that he had received no instructions from the Vatican as to this incident and that Dr. Nintchitch, in conversation with him, had emphasized the uncontrollable and impulsive character of Mr. Raditch.

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<sup>453</sup> Dopisano rukopisom.

DOKUMENTI

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
H. Percival Dodge<sup>454</sup>  
H. Percival Dodge,  
American Minister.

File No. 701-Quintuplicate.

Copy to E. I. C., Paris.

February 23, 1926.

I reopen my Despatch, which there has been no opportunity to send, in order to enclose a summary in translation of the statement made in Parliament by Dr. Nintchitch as promised to Monsignor Pellegrinetti. It will be observed that this statement is in reply to two interpellations addressed to the Foreign Minister, one by an Independent Democratic Deputy and hostile to the Nuncio, and the other by a Clerical Deputy and accordingly in his defense. In the course of his reply to these interpellations, Dr. Nintchitch declares that Mr. Raditch had authorised him to state that he had meant nothing offensive to the Nuncio and regretted that certain of his remarks had been incorrectly interpreted. He further declares that in his opinion the names of foreign Representatives should not be used in parliamentary debates, that he has expressed his regret to the Nuncio that his name was so used, and that during his residence here the Nuncio had never exceeded the limits of his functions since it should be remembered that in addition to being the Representative here of the Vatican, Monsignor Pellegrinetti is also the Apostolic Delegate.

Monsignor Pellegrinetti has now informed me that these statements of Dr. Nintchitch have entirely satisfied him and that he considers this incident as closed.

H. Percival Dodge<sup>455</sup>  
American Minister.

Enclosure:

1.- Summary in translation of Article from the Belgrade press of February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1926, containing a statement made in Parliament by the Foreign Minister, Dr. Nintchitch.<sup>456</sup>

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<sup>454</sup> Vlastoručno.

<sup>455</sup> Vlastoručno.

<sup>456</sup> Sažetak „iz beogradskih novina“. Vidi: „Izjava g. dr. Ninčiča“, *Politika* (Beograd), 21. veljača 1926., 1.