

preparations to celebrate throughout the Kingdom about the middle of May his eightieth birthday. This celebration will undoubtedly reach magnificent proportions and form the apotheosis of a life which whatever his political enemies may say and whatever its many defects, has brought wonderful advantages to his country.

In closing this Despatch, which is already too long, I enclose summaries in translation of two speeches which were delivered at political meetings on last Sunday, the 14th instant, by Mr. Raditch, at Broad in Croatia, and by Mr. Voja Marinkovitch, at Zagreb. The former is in Mr. Raditch's somewhat naive style and purports to describe the foreign and internal policy of the Cabinet, the latter especially from the point of view which Mr. Raditch would like to have generally believed. Mr. Marinkovitch's speech is of another order and without going into much detail gives some general appreciations on Yugoslav political life which should be heard oftener by his compatriots and are entirely true. It is hardly too much to say that Mr. Marinkovitch's political intelligence and statesmanlike breadth of view are far above those of probably all of his compatriots in public life.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
 Your obedient servant,  
 H. Percival Dodge<sup>467</sup>  
 H. Percival Dodge,  
 American Minister.

Enclosures:

1. Summary in translation of speech made by Mr. Raditch on March 14, 1926;<sup>468</sup>
2. Same of speech made by Mr. Voja Marinkovitch on the same date.<sup>469</sup>

File No. 800-Quintuplicate

Copy to E. I. C., Paris.

**81.** 1926., travanj 25., Izvješće privremenoga otpravnika poslova Gordona Paddocka State Departmentu o Radićevim kritikama rada vlade zbog kojih ga je Uzunović prisilio na ostavku u vladi, pojavi frakcija unutar HSS-a zbog „Radićeva autoritarnog vođenja stranačke politike“, Radićevim potezima protiv disidenata, uvjerenju vlade u Beogradu da je Radić, s Vladkom Mačekom i Josipom Predavcom još uvijek pod velikim utjecajem sovjetskih vlasti u Moskvi.

NARA, M 358, R 4, 860h.00/281

<sup>467</sup> Vlastoručno.

<sup>468</sup> Sažetak „iz beogradskih novina od 15. ožujka 1926.“ Vidi: „G. St. Radić u agitaciji“, Politika (Beograd), 15. ožujka 1926., 3-4.

<sup>469</sup> *Pravda* (Beograd), 15. ožujak 1926.

DOKUMENTI

[...] <sup>470</sup>

LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, April 25, 1926.

Despatch No. 3059.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my despatch No. 3004 of the 12th instant, reporting the resignation of Mr. Pashitch's Cabinet and the formation of a new Cabinet under Mr. Ouzounovitch for the continuation of the Radical-Croatian Agrarian coalition, and to report the developments in internal political situation which have occurred since that date.

It was mentioned in my previous despatch that there were indications that the new Cabinet would not be lasting and such has proved to be the case. On the 10th instant, two days after the formation of the new Cabinet, Mr. Stjepan Raditch delivered a speech in a small town in Croatia, in which he stated that he had discovered great abuses in the Ministry of Communications, against which the Minister, Mr. Miletich, had taken no measures. On the following day Mr. Miletich presented his resignation to the Prime Minister in a letter stating that he did not care to sit at the same table with such a "scoundrel and vagabond" as Stephan Raditch. Mr. Miletich was so aroused by Mr. Raditch's attack on his administration that he not only refused to modify his expressions at Mr. Ouzounovitch request but gave a copy of his letter to the press. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, the Cabinet was reorganized, Mr. Ninko Peritch<sup>471</sup>, a Radical, being appointed Minister of Finance and Mr. Vassa Yovanovitch<sup>472</sup>, another Radical and former Minister of Agriculture, taking the portfolio of Minister of Communications. On the same day, Mr. Raditch made an attack in the press on another Radical Minister, Mr. Simonovitch<sup>473</sup>, Minister

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<sup>470</sup> Državni pečat.

<sup>471</sup> Perić, Ninko (1886. – 1961.), pravnik, političar. Bio je član NRS-a, zastupnik u Narodnoj skupštini, ministar socijalne politike (1922. – 1924.), financija (1924.), vanjskih poslova (1926. – 1927.), predsjednik Narodne skupštine (1927. – 1928.), poslanik Kraljevine Jugoslavije u Bukureštu (1935. – 1936.).

<sup>472</sup> Jovanović, Vasa (1874.-?), odvjetnik, političar. Bio je član NRS-a, zastupnik u Narodnoj skupštini, delegat Kraljevine SHS u Ligi naroda, ministar poljoprivrede i voda (1925. – 1927.), (*Ko je ko u Jugoslaviji*, 61).

<sup>473</sup> Simonović, Milan (1881.-?), pravnik, političar. Bio je član NRS-a, zastupnik u Narodnoj skupštini, ministar agrarne reforme (1923., 1925.), ministar socijalne politike (1925. – 1926.), pravosuda (1926., 1937. – 1939.). (*Ko je ko u Jugoslaviji*, 135).

of Social Politics, calling him a gambler. He also made disparaging remarks about several other Radical members of the Cabinet.

The continued attacks by Mr. Raditch on his Radical colleagues in the Government finally forced Mr. Ouzounovitch, in order to assure his own party's support of his Cabinet, to request Raditch to present his resignation. This he did on the 14th instant and at the same time gave an explanation to the press, a translation of a summary of which I enclose herewith, which is interesting as showing the Radical Party's views as to Mr. Raditch's further participation in the Cabinet. It will be observed that Mr. Ouzounovitch while desirous of maintaining the coalition with the Croatian Agrarians, is absolutely opposed to Mr. Raditch's remaining in the Cabinet. The latter, however, refused to resign and informed Mr. Ouzounovitch that if he had insisted on his demand it would mean the end of the accord between the Radicals and the Croatian Agrarians. This point of view did not meet with the approval, it should be noted, of all the Croatian Ministers. On the following day Mr. Ouzounovitch presented the resignation of his Cabinet to the King and was immediately granted a mandate to form a new Government. Two Croatian Ministers, Messrs. Nikitch<sup>474</sup>, former Minister of Forests and Mines, and Shouperina, former Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, decided to enter the new Cabinet, which was formed on the 15th instant and included the same Ministers as the former Cabinet, with the exception of Mr. Stephan Raditch, Minister of Public Instruction, Mr. Paul Raditch, Minister of Agrarian Reform, and Mr. Kraiatch, Minister of Commerce and Industry. The portfolios of the last two Ministers were assumed temporarily by Messrs. Shouperina and Nikitch, respectively.

This expression of disapproval of the methods of their leader by two members of the Raditch Party threatened to cause a scission among the Croatian Agrarians. It appears furthermore that certain other Croatian Deputies were dissatisfied with the autocratic attitude of Mr. Raditch in conducting his Party's affairs. During the week following the formation of the new Cabinet, seven Croatian deputies joined Messrs. Nikitch and Shouperina and informed the President of Parliament that they would form a separate Croatian Parliamentary Club independent of Mr. Raditch. To prevent the growth of this split in his Party Mr. Raditch called a meeting of the Central Committee of the Croatian Agrarian Party at Zagreb on the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant. The discussions that took place at this meeting have not been made public, but it is understood that Mr. Raditch showed more moderation than might have been expected from him under the circumstances. I enclose herewith a translation of the resolutions unanimously adopted at the meeting by the fifty-one deputies of the Party attending. It will be seen therefrom that the Party while expressing in the strongest terms its confidence in Mr. Raditch and leaving it in his hands to find a solution of the situation, emphasized the necessity of pursuing a policy of

<sup>474</sup> Nikić, Nikola (1885.-?), pravnik, političar. Kao član HSS-a bio je ministar šuma i ruda, kasnije prešao u NRS, bio i ministar pravde. (*Ko je ko u Jugoslaviji*, 105; Zvonimir Kulundžić, *Politika i korupcija u kraljevskoj Jugoslaviji* (Zagreb: Stvarnost, 1968, 140-141)).

national accord based on the continuation of the agreement concluded last summer between the Radicals and the Croatian Agrarians. The resolution states further that it is essential that parliament should put into execution the working programme elaborated at that time and that the interpellations regarding corruption which have been submitted to Parliament should be discussed in an impersonal manner. The tone of this resolution is quite moderate and it was evidently adopted with a view to using it as a basis for further negotiations. It is interesting to note that the resolution makes no mention of the members of the Party who had expressed their disapproval of Mr. Raditch and it is reported that they have since been informed that no action will be taken against them and have been invited to return to the fold.

It appears from the recent developments in the affairs of the Croatian Party that Mr. Raditch has been much under the influence of certain leading members of his Party, as Messrs. Matchek and Predavets, whose credentials as deputies were never approved by Parliament and who are believed to have been in close relations with the Russian Soviet Government at the time when Mr. Raditch visited Moscow in 1924. I may mention that there is still a suspicion in Belgrade that Mr. Raditch has never sincerely abandoned his leanings towards Moscow and that the abrupt change in his policy when he accepted the accord with the Radicals was with a view to disrupting that Party and undermining the position Mr. Pashitch who is an inflexible enemy of sovietism. Whatever Raditch's hidden desires may be, there would seem to be no doubt that his inconsistent and often violent actions may be largely attributed to his irritable, unbalanced and ambitious character.

The Belgrade press has recently published a series of articles on various affairs involving prominent members of the Croatian Party and particularly against Mr. Matchek, who is accused of having used his influence for promoting certain illegal affairs and particularly in connection with agrarian reform. Mr. Matchek was not present at the meeting of the Croatian party mentioned above and explained his absence by the necessity of first answering the accusations which had been brought against him. By reference to my despatch No. 3056 of the 24th instant, the possible connection of Mr. Kraiatch, another prominent member of the Croatian Party and former Minister of Commerce, with the alleged attempt at extortion by employees of his Ministry in the case of the Standard Oil Company will be observed.

The fact that Mr. Raditch's policy has been approved by his party has probably put an end to further action on the part of the dissident Croatian Ministers. It is reported that the seven members who joined Messrs. Nikitch and Shouperina have informed Mr. Raditch that they would return to the party under his direction. Nevertheless, the further fact that the Central Committee's resolution emphasized the necessity of continuing the coalition would lead one to believe that the temporary withdrawal of these members may have had some effect on the Committee as well as on Mr. Raditch, which may become quite important in the future development of events.

It was reported yesterday that a representative of Mr. Raditch had visited Mr. Ouzounovitch and informed him that Mr. Raditch was ready to continue the coalition

on the condition that Messrs. Nikitch and Shouperina be excluded from the new Cabinet. According to the latest reports available, Mr. Ouzounovitch declined to accept this condition and Mr. Raditch's representative returned to Zagreb for the latter's instructions.

The question of the continuation of the Radical-Croatian coalition appears at present to depend not only on an agreement between the Prime Minister, Mr. Ouzounovitch, and Mr. Raditch but on the result of a most serious conflict between Mr. Pashitch and Mr. Ljuba Yovanovitch. This matter was mentioned in my despatch No. 3033 of March 29th last, and in my despatch No. 3044 of the 12th instant it was reported that Mr. Pashitch had called a meeting of the General Committee of the Radical Party to be held to-day and to-morrow. It has in the meantime been reported that this meeting was convened for the purpose of discussing this conflict, which it was supposed until recently could be settled by a reconciliation between these two leaders of the party. The breach has been widened, however, by a letter which Mr. Yovanovitch addressed to his followers in his electoral district in Dalmatia, in which he stated that Mr. Pashitch was too old and too far from an understanding of events of the day to continue his political career. He also intimated in this letter that Mr. Pashitch's children had been involved in corruption. Mr. Pashitch has replied to this letter in an interview with a correspondent of the Belgrade *POLITIKA*, a translation of a summary of which is enclosed. Mr. Pashitch's remarks appear the more interesting from the fact that he has very rarely expressed himself so openly as on this occasion. After stating that he still finds himself quite fit both mentally and physically to continue his political career, Mr. Pashitch alludes to the fact that he has for forty years been the head of the Radical Party whose object has always been the unification of the country, and that the various governments over which he has presided since the War have succeeded in consolidating the Kingdom. He mentions among other achievements, the settlement of the Croatian question and states that there is no anxiety to be felt on this head in the future as it is on the right road. He adds that his conception of the duties of a modern statesman is to avoid anything resembling bolshevism and that the Radical Party is ready to continue its work in raising the moral, physical, cultural and economic level of the country. In conclusion Mr. Pashitch states that he has always been an opponent of corruption and that he would do nothing to prevent the trial and condemnation, if guilty, of his only son. He considers, however, that a special and impartial committee should be appointed to conduct an inquiry in all such affairs from the formation of the Yugoslav Kingdom, in 1918, to date.

It is understood that since the publication of Mr. Yovanovitch's letter Mr. Pashitch proposes to insist that the General Committee of the Party take action against Mr. Yovanovitch for his expulsion from the Radical Party. It is possible that notwithstanding Mr. Pashitch's great influence and prestige his proposal to expell Mr. Yovanovitch from the Party will meet with certain opposition since Yovanovitch also has the sympathy of many in his party, of which he has been a member for over forty years. Whatever the decision of the Committee may be in this affair, there is no doubt that this dispute has been very injurious to the Radical Party.

## DOKUMENTI

The question of continuation of the Radical-Croatian coalition will depend much upon the solution of this conflict for, as stated before, Mr. Raditch has succeeded in gaining the approval of his party and a break in the Radical ranks might lead to some other political combination. It should be noted that the present Government has not a majority in Parliament without the support of the Croatian Party. It is, therefore, possible that it may resign before the meeting of Parliament on May 5<sup>th</sup> next.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant

Gordon Paddock<sup>475</sup>

Gordon Paddock

Chargé d'Affairs ad interim.

Enclosures:

- 1.- Translation of statement by Mr. Ouzunovitch in the Belgrade press of April 15, 1926.<sup>476</sup>
- 2.- Translation of Resolution of Central Committee of the Croatian Agrarian Party in the Belgrade press of April 23, 1926.<sup>477</sup>
- 3.- Translation of summary of statement by Mr. Pashitch in the Belgrade POLITIKA of April 23, 1926.<sup>478</sup>

File No. 800-Quintuplicate

Copy to E. I. C., Paris.

**82.** 1926., svibanj 18., Dopis State Departmenta poslaniku Johnu Dyneleyju Princeu od 18. svibnja 1926. u kojem se traže detaljnija izvješća o „Bijeloj ruci, tajnom vojnom društvu“ za koje se prema izvješću američke vojne obavještajne službe vjeruje da ima izniman utjecaj na državnu politiku. Dodatno, traže se i podatci o njima suprotstavljenom vojnom društvu „Crnoj ruci“.

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<sup>475</sup> Vlastoručno.

<sup>476</sup> Sažetak „iz beogradskih novina od 15. travnja 1926.“ Vidi: „Radićevci ne napuštaju Radića – Izjava g. Uzunovića“, *Politika* (Beograd), 15. travnja 1926., 2.

<sup>477</sup> Sažetak „iz beogradskih novina od 23. travnja 1926.“ Vidi: „Za sporazum s radikalima – Rezolucija“, *Politika* (Beograd), 23. travnja 1926., 4-5.

<sup>478</sup> Sažetak „iz beogradskih novina od 23. travnja 1926.“, „G. Pašić o pismu g. Lj. Jovanovića“, *Politika* (Beograd), 23. travnja 1926., 1.