

DOKUMENTI

safer for the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes than an arbitrary attempt to force an unwelcome centralization on a variegated population.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
John Dyneley Prince<sup>500</sup>  
John Dyneley Prince  
American Minister.

File No. 800-Quintuplicate.

**88.** 1926., kolovoz 2., Izvješće trećega tajnika poslanstva Carla A. Fishera State Departmentu o političkoj situaciji u Kraljevini SHS, nedavnim poplavama, Radićevim protutalijanskim govorima u Dalmaciji i zagovaranju federacije s Bugarskom.

NARA, M 358, R 4, 860H.00/293

[...]<sup>501</sup>

LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, August 2, 1926.

Despatch No. 58.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to despatch No. 50 (860h.00/290)<sup>502</sup> of July 19<sup>th</sup> 1926 on the internal political situation, the Legation has the honor to report that during the past two weeks the Government has been principally engaged with financial measures looking toward a reduction in State expenditures in order to cover the losses suffered from the recent floods. The principal of these measures provides for a reduction of the authorized budget

<sup>500</sup> Vlastoručno.

<sup>501</sup> Državni pečat.

<sup>502</sup> Dopisano rukopisom.

expenditures for the present fiscal year by ten per cent. It appears that the Prime Minister, Mr. Ouzounovitch, in demanding this saving from his Cabinet colleagues pointed out that the Government had to have recourse to such an extraordinary measure for the reason that the budget would not have been balanced otherwise. Mr. Ouzounovitch also emphasized that since Yugoslavia is primarily an agricultural country, its agricultural prospects must not be lost sight of when making disbursements.

The adoption by the Government of another important measure providing for the reduction of State expenditures has been announced in the official Gazette of July 27th, 1926. It consists in the reduction of the allowances (for high cost of living) to State officials and officers of all ranks by from three to thirty per cent. It may be added that these allowances represent the larger part of the officials' remuneration and therefore the financial effect of this measure may be considerable. This decision naturally met with great discontent on the part of thousands of State officials who possess highly developed organization and whose importance politically is strong. It would therefore be only fair to add that the Government showed unusual courage in this matter.

During the last few days the rivers have begun to recede and an it is probable that the danger from further floods has now passed. It is impossible at present to obtain exact data regarding the losses suffered by the country but the Legation has been informed by the Director of the Department of Waterways<sup>503</sup> that definite data will be available in another six weeks. He mentioned, however, that he believed the losses to be less than thought at first and that they would be less than three billion dinars, which is the figure mentioned in the Legation's last despatch on the internal situation. Incidentally, the Director of the Department of Waterways, who is a Frenchman, expressed great admiration for the action of Yugoslav troops in saving the population in the flooded areas and for their work on the dikes, saying that the soldiers performed seemingly superhuman acts.

The division in the Croatian Agrarian party which followed the expulsion from the party of Mr. Nikitch, the present Minister of Woods and Mines, reported in the Legation's despatch first referred to above, has not lead so far to further developments. It seems probable that Mr. Raditch does not wish to hasten events, since Mr. Nikitch's action in Croatia on the formation of a separate party appears to have met with more success than was expected by the leaders of the bulk of the Croatian Agrarian Party.

Mr. Raditch, who finds it practically impossible to abstain for any length of time from some sensational action, made a speech in Dalmatia a week ago in which he attacked Italy and advocated a union with Bulgaria. His attacks against Italy accompanied as usual by quit disparaging remarks have, however, become so frequent that they remain more or less unnoticed, because of Mr. Raditch's well known demagogism. Mr. Raditch's words in favor of a union with Bulgaria have been severely criticized in the Belgrade press, particularly in view of the recent attacks of Bulgarian comitadjis in South Serbia. It appears that the opposition parties, and particularly Mr. Davidovitch's Democrats and Mr. Spaho's

<sup>503</sup> Direktor hidrotehničkoga odjeljenja.

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Bosnian Mussulmans are beginning to nurse a serious grievance against Mr. Raditch, which is interesting to note since it indicates that Mr. Raditch's chances of using the Opposition as a threat against his Radical allies is not as great as it was a year ago, when he succeeded in overthrowing the Radical Cabinet by forming a Coalition with the Opposition.

A group of officers of the Czechoslovak General Staff School handed by a French general has recently arrived at Belgrade and will remain in Yougoslavia for some time as guests of the S. C. S. Ministry of War. Officially they were much fated, although it may be added that the feeling of the Serbs toward the Czecks are not of such a nature as to transform an official reception into a more spontaneous manifestation of sympathy.

I have the honor, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
For the Minister:  
Carl. A. Fisher<sup>504</sup>  
Carl. A. Fisher,  
Third Secretary of Legation.

File No. 800-Quintuplicate.

Copy to E. I. C., Paris.

**89.** 1926., rujan 27., Izvješće poslanika Johna Dyneleyja Princea State Departmentu o rekonstrukciji vlade u kojem se spominje da bi na mjesto ministra socijalne politike trebao doći Stjepan Radić.

NARA, M 358, R 4, 860h.00/297

[...]<sup>505</sup>

LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, September 27, 1926.

Despatch No. 93

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

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<sup>504</sup> Vlastoručno.

<sup>505</sup> Državni pečat.