

92. 1927., veljača 11., Izvješće poslanika Johna Dyneleyja Princea State Departmentu o novoj vladi Nikole Uzunovića koje se dotiče i Radićevoga izlaska iz vlade dovodeći u vezu slabije rezultate HSS-a na lokalnim izborima jer je Radić procijenio „da je njegov prethodni savez sa Srbima (radikalima) postao sve nepopularniji među Hrvatima.“

NARA, M 358, R 4, 860h.00/309

[...] <sup>513</sup>

LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, February 11, 1927.

Despatch No. 161

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir;

I have the honor to report that Mr. Stephan Raditch and the members of his Croatian Peasant Party have no part in the Sixth Government of Premier Uzunovitch which was formed on February 1, 1927.

Owing to the irrepressible and irresponsible conduct of Mr. Raditch, the Croatian representatives have been forced from their previous coalition with the Radicals and have thus become open foes of the Government, instead of being, as formerly, unsatisfactory and untrustworthy allies.

In the recent regional elections (Legation's despatch No. 159 of January 31, 1927 860h.00/598), the results of which were regarded as an indication of the strength of the various Yugoslav political groups, the Raditch party suffered some slight losses and this fact is understood by Raditch to show, that his previous alliance with the Serbs (Radicals) was becoming unpopular among the Croats. In fact, Mr. Raditch a few days ago informed an American journalist, Mr. Francis McCormick<sup>514</sup> of Dayton, Ohio, who reported it to me to-day, that the new (sixth) Uzunovitch government could not possible

<sup>513</sup> Državni pečat.

<sup>514</sup> McCormick, Francis. Moguće je da se radi o suprugu Elizabeth Anne O'Hare McCormick, istaknute novinarke, dopisnice *The New York Timesa* koja je u ovo vrijeme objavila i članak iz Jugoslavije („Macedonia prepares for Balkan troubles“, *The New York Times* (New York), 26. lipnja 1927, 14), što je može povezati s izvješćem ovdje. Francis McCormick bio je poduzetnik, uvoznik vodoinstalaterskih dijelova iz Daytonu a državi Ohio.

last, as it is “exclusively Serb”, except the comparatively small Slovene contingent (the Clericals, led by Dr. Koroschetch), and that, therefore, the present coalition ignores the “Great Croatian people”.

It is very interesting to observe that, just before the regional elections, Mr. Raditch emphasized his Croatian nationalism in an address which, even from his distorted brain, seems so bizarre, that a brief comment appears necessary. In this speech, he aroused great resentment among all Serbs by stating that Serbs are not Slavs, but merely the descendants of Rumanian hordes who were compelled to flee from the fury of the Turks; that these so-called Slavs (the early Serbs) had only later become Slavonized in speech by association with Slavonic tribes: The Croats, he added, were the only true Slavs in Yugoslavia.

What feelings of indignation have been aroused among the Serbs, who lose no opportunity of emphasizing their Slavdom, can readily be imagined. It should be remarked, however, that this really wild and unhistoric calumny will do Mr. Raditch little injury among his Croatians, who will accept his compliment to them with delight as they not unnaturally dislike the Serbs, owing to the manner in which Croatia has been treated both politically and economically; and furthermore, the Croats, like the Poles, have a real love of rhetoric as distinct from facts.

It is, of course, well known that the Serbs are as Slavonic as any other tribe speaking a Slav idiom, excepting the Bulgars, who are of recent Tatar origin having come from old Black Bulgary in eastern Russia and superimposed themselves upon Macedonian Slave in the present Bulgarian lands.

The first mention of the Serbs is found in Ptolemy (Sirboi) and in Pliny (Sirbi). It is known that they were an agricultural people, settled in ancient times in Galicia, probably among Celts near the sources of the Wissa and the Dniestr.

About 500 AD. they began to move down to the shores of the Black Sea, possibly driven thither by their encroaching Celtic neighbors in Galicia, and thence they proceeded westward along the left bank of the Danube. This explains Mr. Raditch's idea that the Serbs were originally Rumanians, as they undoubtedly passed at that time through the present Rumanian territory. The Serbs then crossed the Danube and occupied the north-west corner of the Balkan-Peninsula where they have been ever since. They conquered the Illyrian inhabitants akin to the modern Albanians, and probably also another clan of Celts, the descendants of the Skordisti, who had founded Belgrade about 320 B.C. The ancient name of this city, preserved in the Roman records as Singidunum is, I feel sure, only old Celtic Sinni-dunum “Old Town” or “Fort” which would be in modern Irish Sean-Dun (pr. Shan-Doon).

It is curious that the meaning of the name Srb (Serb) is quite unknown. The late Professor Friedrich Hirth, the distinguished Sinologist, informed me orally some years ago, that he had discovered in very ancient Mongol records the name Sr-pi applied to a tribe in central Asia. He was unable to connect this term definitely with Srbi (Serbs), but he admitted the possibility of a connection, as a Slav tribe in Central Asia would have been quite possible at a very early pre-Christian date. It is clear that the so-called Wends,

which is the regular Old German term for all Slavs, of the Prussian Spreewald and the Saxon Lausitz, who still call themselves Sorbi, are closely akin linguistically to the Serbs of to-day, so closely that they understand each other with little difficulty. I have asked Serb government officials why they as Srbi do not cultivate their cousins the Sorbi, but they replied that the Czechs had already got ahead of them, as there is an extensive Czech propaganda among the Wends.

As to Mr. Raditch's Croats (Horvati, Hrvati), the name may originally have been Karpati (Carpathian), showing the original habitat of their first tribal nucleus, but this is not certain.

There can be no manner of doubt that the name Srb was applied to as Slavonic a tribe as was Hrvat (Croat), and that the present Serbs are basically Slavs, tempered with Celtic, Illyrian, some Roman, and much Germanic admixture, which is equally true of the Croats. There is no such thing as a pure race; only predominating elements giving character to a so-called "race".

What effect the exclusion of the Croatian peasant party will have upon the solidity of the present Yugoslav Government must remain to be seen, but I know that King Alexander looks unfavorably upon any policy completely ignoring Croatia, but, like all other right minded Yugoslav leaders, he cannot be expected to tolerate the vagaries of the leader of the Croatian Peasant Party. I doubt very much whether a true solution of the existing internal problems can be attained, so long as Mr. Raditch remains in the political field.

It would be deplorable if his irreconcilable and constantly shifting attitude should tend to bring permanent discredit upon the principle of Parliamentary Government which seems at this moment to be tottering here. The King is reported to have said, for example, that he will no longer "tolerate" the overthrow of ministry after ministry by the Raditch party and in this view he is supported by his military group (the purely Serb White Hand), and he would probably also be backed by the opinion of the purely Serb peasantry, who are heartily weary of the weary of the group they term the Belgrade Ring.

There has undoubtedly been great folly on both sides, but the glaring folly is that of Mr. Raditch.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
 Your obedient servant,  
 John Dyneley Prince<sup>515</sup>  
 John Dyneley Prince,  
 American Minister.

File No. 800-Quintuplicate.

4 Carbon Copies

Received ----- (...) <sup>516</sup>

<sup>515</sup> Vlastoručno.

<sup>516</sup> Nečitko.