

93. 1927., veljača 28., Izvješće poslanika Johna Dyneleyja Princea State Departmentu u kojem govori o interpelaciji HSS-a protiv ministra unutarnjih poslova Božidara Maksimovića zbog zlouporabe represivnoga aparata prigodom posljednjih lokalnih izbora, kao i o djelovanju Stjepana Radića kao predsjednika zagrebačke oblasne skupštine.

NARA, M 358, R 4, 860h.00/311

[...]⁵¹⁷

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, February 28, 1927.

Despatch No. 180.

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the past two weeks since my last semi-monthly despatch No. 167 (860H.002/72)⁵¹⁸ of February 14, 1927, on the internal political situation, have been unusually quiet. The principal event at Belgrade has been the discussion by Parliament of an interpellation of the Raditch Party against the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Maximovitch, for alleged illegal activities and violence on the part of his subordinates during the recent regional elections. I have reported in my despatch No. 177 of February 25, 1927 a rather unusual incident which occurred on this occasion in Parliament when a half-naked man bearing stripes from blows alleged to be the result of mistreatment at the hands of the local police was brought to the floor by members of the Opposition. The interpellation resulted in a vote of confidence for Mr. Maximovitch of 152 votes to 134.

A complete accord has now been reached between the Radical Party and the Radical Dissidents providing for the return of the latter to the main Party. It will be recalled that the Radical Dissidents (10 deputies) had been excluded from the party in May, 1926, because of their opposition to the late Mr. Pashitch.

The Regional Councils met for the first time throughout the country on February 23rd (See despatch No. 129 of December 4, 1926). It appears, however, that their functioning is going to be greatly impeded by the absence of credits and it is probable that

⁵¹⁷ Državni pečat.

⁵¹⁸ Dopisano rukopisom.

for this reason their activity for the time being will be small. Mr. Stephan Raditch has been elected chairman of the Zagreb Council where his party has an overwhelming majority. It is interesting to note that in spite of his usual peaceful statements Raditch has adopted an extremely violent and by no means "parliamentary" attitude towards the Opposition; which led on the very day of the opening of the Zagreb Council to a fight on the floor between him and a representative of the Croatian Federalists.

I wish to report to the Department as a matter of possible future significance a new tendency of Mr. Raditch to attempt to spread his influence over the provinces of Yugoslavia besides Croatia, which he now entirely controls. It appears his party is changing its name from "Croatian Agrarian" to "National Peasant's Party", with the object of forming a party for all peasant elements in Yugoslavia, as opposed to its limited Croatian character in the past. Mr. Raditch has succeeded in gaining the support of the Montenegrin Federalist Party, which has three seats in Parliament, but he has failed in his negotiations for a fusion with the Serbian Agrarian Party, which has four seats, and whose influence, especially in Bosnia, is growing. On the other hand it is not to be forgotten that the great majority of the population of pre-War Serbia consists of a politically developed agricultural class with strong national Serbian feelings and that it shares entirely the ideas and traditions of either the Radical, or the Democratic party. It is doubtful therefore that the action of any Croat and more particularly of Raditch might meet with success in pre-War Serbia, except perhaps among discontented elements in the South (Macedonia) and in Montenegro. In this connection the refusal of the half socialistic Serbian Agrarians to join the "National Peasant's Party" is quite symptomatic and further emphasises the difficulties toward a clear collaboration between the Serbs and the Croats even if a common economic and social basis exists between the groups.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
 Your obedient servant,
 John Dyneley Prince⁵¹⁹
 John Dyneley Prince,
 American Minister.

File No. 800-Quintuplicate.

⁵¹⁹ Vlastoručno.