

98. 1927., kolovoz 19., Izvješće poslanika Johna Dyneleyja Princea State Departmentu o političkoj situaciji u Kraljevini SHS ususret predstojećim izborima, te o „nepromijenjenom stanju u Hrvatskoj“.

NARA, M 358, R 4, 860H.00/325

[...] ⁵³⁸

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, August 19, 1927.

Despatch No. 275

~~CONFIDENTIAL.~~

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to my last despatch No. 262 of July 18th, 1927 (860h.00/323)⁵³⁹, on the internal political situation, I have the honor to submit the following report with my observations on the domestic situation in connection with the coming general elections, to be held on September 11th.

The most remarkable feature of the present electoral campaign, so far as the Serbian element is concerned, is a wave of opposition among the younger generation against the heretofore all-powerful leaders. This process has been developing rapidly and so far successfully among the Radical Party chiefly for the reason that no sufficiently influential successor could have been found to late Mr. Pashitch. The Radicals who group themselves around Premier Vukitchevitch do not conceal their intention to take over the conduct of the affairs of their party which still formally remains in the hands of the Central Committee elected at the time of Pashitch from among his closest adherents. The majority of this Committee now consists of completely discredited politicians but it must be kept in mind that personal connections and ties play an important role in this country so that the average elector will not readily abandon his former nominee.

I do not see much exaggeration in the words of a former Radical Cabinet Minister who told me the other day that if the Radicals and the Democrats came to exchange their political programmes but maintained their candidates, the proportion between the votes

⁵³⁸ Državni pečat.

⁵³⁹ Dopisano rukopisom.

for the two parties would practically not be affected. It is therefore very hard to say whether Mr. Vukitchevitch will succeed in attracting the majority of the Radical votes. Meanwhile, almost in every district, two and often three separate Radical lists of candidates have been presented and the Radical opponents of the Government bitterly accuse the latter, probably not without reason, of exercising a pressure upon the elector through officials and police. There is no doubt, however, that whatever the distribution of forces may be among the various branches of the Radical Party in the next Parliament, the party as a whole will come out of the elections considerably weakened. The Democrats in Serbia and the Independent Democrats in the new provinces are most likely to gain from these disputes.

As regards the Democratic Party there are no open signs of a possible split within it for the moment, although the existence of a strong current opposed to the old leader Mr. Davidovitch and supported by the younger members of the party with the Foreign Minister, Mr. Marinkovitch, at the head becomes more and more evident. Mr. Marinkovitch himself stated, however, at a recent public meeting that the rumors attributing to him the intention of forming a separate Democratic Party after the elections are entirely baseless.

The situation in Croatia remains unchanged and, except for an apparent growth of the influence of Mr. Pribitchevitch, leader of the Independent Democrats and implacable foe of the Croatian Agrarian Party, Mr. Stephan Raditch's position seems to be as strong as ever. It will be observed from my despatch No.⁵⁴⁰ of August 18th, mentioning an absurd remark which Mr. Raditch recently made regarding the abdication of the Bulgarian King Boris in favor of King Alexander of Yugoslavia, that Mr. Raditch's mercurial mentality and love for sensational statements has not undergone any change.

I have mentioned in my last despatch on internal conditions certain press reports regarding the conclusion of an agreement between Mr. Vukitchevitch and the leader of the Slovene Clericals, Father Koroshets. It is now announced that this agreement, whose text has not been published, has been concluded at Bled and that the King who was shown the text of the agreement entirely approved it. His Majesty appears to be very much in favor of the present moderate Serbian Radical-democratic Cabinet and knowing his broad ideas as to the duties of a Yugoslav Monarch, as he does not regard himself merely as a Serbian King. I am convinced that he played an active part in the rapprochement between Messrs. Vukitchevitch and Koroshets. It is alleged that the Prime Minister has agreed to the demand of the Slovene Clerical Party to propose to the next Chamber, if he remains in power, to adopt a revision of the Constitution with the view to granting larger rights to the provinces than those provided for in the Constitution. I am inclined to believe that this information is correct.

In promulgating the Decree dissolving the last Parliament the Government declared that it was compelled to do so for the reason that the composition of the Chamber did not permit of the formation of a stable majority. It is quite possible in my opinion that the next Parliament will present from that point of view same lack of solidity,

⁵⁴⁰ Broj nije naveden.

especially in the event of a definite split among the radicals and of a collision between the leaders of the Democratic Party.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
John Dyneley Prince⁵⁴¹
John Dyneley Prince,
American Minister.

File No. 800-Quintuplicate.

99. 1927., rujan 19., Izvješće privremenoga otpravnika poslova Carla A. Fishera State Departmentu o rezultatima provedenih izbora s posebnim osvrtom na rezultate u Hrvatskoj.

NARA, M 358, R 4, 860H.00/327

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LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, September 19, 1927.

Despatch No. 283.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to the Legation's telegram No. 30 of September 12th, 11 A.M. summarizing briefly the results of the general elections, which took place with less than the usual coercion, on September 11th, I have the honor to report that the official returns of the elections are as follows, the figures in brackets showing the composition of the Chamber on the date of its dissolution:

Radicals (all fractions) 113 (141)
Democrats (Davidovitch) 61 (37)
Croatian Agrarians (Raditch) 61 (61)

⁵⁴¹ Vlastoručno.

⁵⁴² Državni pečat.