

Chamber". On another occasion Mr. Raditch spoke very bitterly of the Bosnian Mussulmans and offended their religious feelings. The Slovene leader Father Koroshets has for his part declared that while his entire party was completely satisfied with the present accord with the Serbs, it considered any sort of agreement with Mr. Raditch absolutely impossible.

I am coming more and more to the point of view that the present lack of accord between the Serbs and Croats is due more to the intransigent attitude of the highly irascible Mr. Raditch than to the procrastinating methods of the phlegmatic Serb.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

John Dyneley Prince⁵⁵⁴

John Dyneley Prince.

File No. 800-Quintuplicate.

103. 1928., siječanj 2., Izvješće poslanika Johna Dyneleyja Princaea State Departmentu o krizi vlade i stvaranju Seljačko-demokratske koalicije dogovorom Stjepana Radića i Svetozara Pribićevića.

NARA, M 358, R 4, 860H.00/338

[...]⁵⁵⁵

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, January 2, 1928.

Despatch No. 351.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Legation's despatch No. 335 (860h.00/336)⁵⁵⁶ of December 4th 1927, on the internal political situation, and to report that in spite of all the efforts of the Prime Minister, Mr. Vukitchevitch, to strengthen the position of his

⁵⁵⁴ Vlastoručno.

⁵⁵⁵ Državni pečat.

⁵⁵⁶ Dopisano rukopisom.

Government, it is felt here that the present Cabinet is too weak and unpopular to remain in power for any considerable length of time. It seems certain, therefore, that the present Cabinet will have to resign as soon as any other political combination is strong enough to replace the Radical-Democrat-Slovene-Bosnian Mussulman coalition headed by Mr. Vukitchevitch. This situation is accentuated because the Government has to meet not only the attacks of the Opposition, (Croatian Agrarians and Independent Democrats) whose militant attitude might become quite embarrassing, but also because of the discontent shown on many occasions by several governmental members of Parliament. These attacks are mostly directed against the lines of least resistance, i.e., the Government's policy of Serbian hegemony in Croatia and South Serbia (Macedonia).

As regards Croatia, the fact that it has been completely eliminated from the present large coalition has brought about a curious and rather unexpected agreement between the two heretofore implacable foes, Mr. Raditch and Mr. Pribitchevitch. Ever since the last general elections, the Croatian Agrarians and the Independent Democrats have acted in complete harmony and the present tendency in the two parties is to oppose the governmental coalition which they accuse of neglecting the Croatian interests.

Press reports hint that Mr. Vukitchevitch is contemplating the passage of a series of administrative and police measures tending to bring about an improvement in the situation in South Serbia, and mention very wisely in their comments that no such measures can be effective unless the central authorities proceed without delay to the complete reorganisation of their administration in South Serbia, which is alleged to be worse than in any other part of the country. Without entering into the question of the respective merits of the ideas of the parties directly interested in the Macedonian question, I believe that I am justified in stating that from whatever angle the present situation in South Serbia be regarded, the fact of the numerous comitadji attempts which took place last autumn, is a proof of the defective condition of the central administration.

This incapacity to remedy the situation has been especially evident during the trial at Skoplje in the beginning of December of some twenty students, all of Macedonian origin, accused of having been in touch with the Macedonian Internal Revolutionary Organisation and of having collected information regarding the Yugoslav Army and gendarmerie in order to facilitate the movements of the comitadjis in their raids. This trial was followed very closely by the Italian and the Bulgarian press and from what I have heard from the Bulgarian Legation here I understand that the decision of the Tribunal condemning most of the accused students to hard labor, met with much indignation in Bulgaria. The local press gave very complete reports on the trial, and Foreign Minister Marinkovitch when questioned by me regarding it, stated that the trial was quite fair and that anyone reading the Belgrade press could make up his own mind as to the guilt of the students. In spite of a brilliant defense by Mr. Pavelitch⁵⁵⁷, a leading deputy and member

⁵⁵⁷ Pavelić, Ante (1889. – 1959.) odvjetnik, političar. Bio je tajnik Hrvatske stranke prava, zastupnik u Narodnoj skupštini. Nakon proglašenja kraljeve diktature 1929. emigrirao u Italiju gdje je osnovao Ustašu – hrvatsku revolucionarnu organizaciju s ciljem osnutka nezavisne Hrvatske. Sudjelovao je u organizaciji atentata na kralja Aleksandra u Marseilleu 1934. Nakon uspostave Nezavisne Države Hrvatske 1941.

of the Croatian Federalist Party, the judges gave more credit to the results of the preliminary inquiry, which was very unfavorable to the accused, than to Mr. Pavelitch's arguments that the Skoplje students were working only for the establishment of a union between the two Slav peoples. The defense maintained that the activity of the accused was no more illegal than that of the Croatian Federalist Party, which is advocating the organization of the State on a federalist basis and striving for better relations with Bulgaria. The students themselves alleged that they were driven to sign the reports of the preliminary inquiry under duress and I am quite confident that their statements that mental oppression and even tortures were used against them is entirely correct. Material proofs showing real guilt and illegal activities in connecting confidential information on the disposition of the Army were submitted only against the two leaders, condemned to twenty years of hard labor, whereas the condemnation of the other students, (only seven out of twenty odd were declared innocent), is, in my opinion a result and at the same time a proof of the unfortunate conditions which still prevail in Serbian Macedonia, where the blind chauvinism of the Serbs asserts itself as soon as the question of Macedonia is touched.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
John Dyneley Prince⁵⁵⁸
John Dyneley Prince,
American Minister.

File No. 800-Quintuplicate.

Copies to E.I.C., Paris.

104. 1928., ožujak 12., Izvješće poslanika Johna Dyneleyja Princa State Departmentu o političkoj situaciji u Kraljevini SHS u kojem govori o žestokoj borbi novih partnera HSS-a i SDS-a (Seljačko-demokratske koalicije) „protiv vladine politike srpske dominacije“.

NARA, M 358, R 4, 860h.00/341

[...]⁵⁵⁹

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, March 12, 1928.

vratio se iz Italije i postao poglavnikom Nezavisne Države Hrvatske prema fašističkom i nacističkom totalitarnom uzoru. Odgovoran za državnu represiju, koncentracijske logore i masovne zločine. Nakon Drugoga svjetskog rata emigrirao u Austriju, Italiju, zatim Argentinu gdje je 1957. preživio atentat jugoslavenskoga agenta. Umro je u Madridu 1959. (*Hrvatska enciklopedija*, sv. 8 O-Pre (Zagreb: Leksikografski zavod Miroslav Krleža, 2006), 334).

⁵⁵⁸ Vlastoručno.

⁵⁵⁹ Državni pečat.