

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.

Despatch No. 389

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the internal political situation, since the Legation's report No. 382 of February 27, 1928, has been characterized by an especially bitter campaign of the opposition (Croatian Agrarians and Independent Democrats) against the Serb-domination policy of the Government. Messrs. Raditch and Pribitchevitch, the two leaders of the opposition, are very disgruntled because the Croats have been left out of the new Coalition and they have been most rhetorical in their denunciation of everything connected with Belgrade.

In the discussion in parliament of an interpellation regarding the alleged scandalous condition of the Belgrade jail, Mr. Raditch used epithets that led to a free-for-all fight in which many deputies received blows and minor injuries. While the official record of Mr. Raditch's observations has been suppressed, I understand from a reliable source, that his remarks were somewhat as follows: "If the present conditions continue the day will come when all of the people will revolt and those at present governing the country will be put in jail together with the King in whose name they presume to act." This resulted in the majority excluding Mr. Raditch from three sessions of parliament on the charge of *lèse majesté*. The opposition, as a sign of protest, absented themselves from the Skupština for the three days, and Mr. Raditch threatened to take his deputies back to Zagreb. Though Mr. Raditch was dissuaded from his intention of boycotting the Parliament, presumably at the instance of the King, the opposition continues to refuse to participate in the discussions of the Budget Bill.

Mr. Raditch made another statement which is certain to be acclaimed by the Miss Durham school of thought, to the effect that Serbia provoked the World War with the deliberate intention of acquiring the Dalmatian Coast. This remark drew forth so much indignation from the deputies, including certain of the allies of Mr. Raditch, that he was obliged to alter his observation by saying that he merely intended that the involved pre-war Balkan situation was the immediate occasion for the War, – though Serbia could not be held guilty for its outbreak.

The tension between the Government parties and those from Croatia has become so acute that it is entirely likely that the Cabinet will be obliged to resign after the passing of the Budget Act for the fiscal year beginning April first.

The one encouraging feature of the situation for those who desire to see the present Triune Kingdom prosper, is the fact that the present Government has succeeded in

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conciliating the Slovenes and the Bosnians more than has been possible since the formation of the State. The present rulers of the Radical Party have shown considerable toleration toward the new province, and the ultra-Chauvinistic clique that surrounded the former Mr. Pashitch have, at least for the time being, lost much of their influence. There is no doubt that if the Croatian people, with their undoubted superior culture, were represented by less demagogic leaders than Messrs. Raditch and Pribitchevitch, a real Serbo-Croatian rapprochement, which so many hope for, would be much nearer to realization.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
John Dyneley Prince⁵⁶⁰
John Dyneley Prince.

File No. 800-Quintuplicate.

Copy to E.I.C., Paris.

105. 1928., lipanj 2., Izvješće poslanika Johna Dyneleyja Princea State Departmentu o ratifikaciji Nettunskih konvencija u Narodnoj skupštini, nepovoljnom položaju u dobivanju kredita od američko-britanskih banaka što je uzrokovalo „rastući val nezadovoljstva protiv vlade“.

NARA, M 358, R 4, 860h.00/350

[...] ⁵⁶¹

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Belgrade, June 2, 1928.

Despatch No. 444

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report as follows in connection with the existing political situation.

⁵⁶⁰ Vlastoručno.

⁵⁶¹ Državni pečat.