

SERVIA.

RENEWAL OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SERVIA BY EUROPEAN POWERS AND PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY THE AMERICAN MINISTER TO THE KING OF SERVIA.

Mr. Wilson to Mr. Hay.

No. 35, Servian series.]

AMERICAN LEGATION,
Athens, April 7, 1904.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the official journal of April 1 announces the transfer of several of the officers concerned in the murder of the late King and Queen. Colonel Maschin, brother-in-law of Queen Draga, and one of the leaders of the conspiracy, has been appointed chief of the general staff; Colonel Popovitch, who was also prominent in the events of last June, has been removed from the post of aide-de-camp general of the King and has been given command of the Belgrade army division. Many other officers who were given posts about the King by the revolutionary government have been appointed to various regiments and their places filled by persons who were not implicated in the conspiracy.

The result of this measure has been that the chief objection of the powers against renewing diplomatic relations with Servia has been removed, and Russia immediately announced the appointment of M. Goubastoff, at present minister to the Vatican, to succeed M. Tcharykoff as minister at Belgrade. Italy has also informed King Peter that the Italian minister will immediately ask for an official reception, and it is expected that the other countries will soon follow the example of Italy and Russia.

I have, etc.,

CHARLES S. WILSON.

Mr. Wilson to Mr. Hay.

No. 37, Servian series.]

AMERICAN LEGATION,
Athens, April 19, 1904.

SIR: Referring to my dispatch No. 35 of the 7th instant, I have the honor to report that * * * several countries have renewed diplomatic relations with Servia.

Doctor Von Dumba, the Austrian minister, was expected to return to his post at Belgrade on the 11th instant, and the new Russian minister, M. Goubastoff, has been instructed to proceed to Belgrade immediately after presenting his letters of recall at the Vatican, and a telegram to the Greek papers announces that the Italian minister returned to his post on the 18th instant.

I have, etc.,

CHARLES S. WILSON.

Mr. Jackson to Mr. Hay.

No. 40, Servian series.]

AMERICAN LEGATION,
Athens, May 14, 1904.

SIR: I have the honor to report that upon my arrival in Belgrade on the 6th instant I put myself in communication with the Servian foreign office, calling upon Mr. N. Pachitch, the minister of foreign affairs, getting acquainted with him and various other officials, and leaving with him a written request for an audience with the King for the presentation of my credentials. Within twenty-four hours my calls were returned, and on the afternoon of May 7 I received a communication in which it was stated that King Peter would receive me on Monday, the 9th.

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A short time before the hour set for the audience I was called for at my hotel by the acting marshal of the court, and was taken by him to the palace in a gala court carriage, with outriders and accompanied by a cavalry escort. In the courtyard of the palace the guard presented arms and a band played "Hail Columbia," soldiers lined the palace stairs, and about a dozen adjutants and court officials awaited me in the anteroom. As I entered the reception room from one end the King entered at the other, and His Majesty walked forward to meet me. After the formal speeches in French, translations of which are appended hereto, the King took the President's letter from me,^a gave me his hand, and asked me to accompany him to another room, where we sat down and where the conversation was of an informal character. In this room we were followed by the minister of foreign affairs, the acting marshal of the court, and the King's private secretary (his cousin), and refreshments were served according to the national Servian custom. His Majesty subsequently took me to still another room, where I was presented to the crown prince, the princess, and the several other younger members of the royal family who happened to be in Belgrade at the time. After a few minutes' informal conversation the King rose and I took my departure. Before leaving the palace the adjutants and other officials were presented to me, and on passing through the courtyard the guard again presented arms, and the American air was played a second time. I was brought back to my hotel with the same escort which had accompanied me to the palace—an officer, 24 men, and several noncommissioned officers.

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I have, etc.,

JOHN B. JACKSON.

[Inclosure 1.]

Text of Mr. Jackson's speech on presenting his credentials to King Peter of Servia, May 9, 1904.

SIRE: I have the honor to hand to Your Majesty the President's letter accrediting me as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America. I have been charged to convey to Your Majesty the best

^a Not printed.

wishes of the President and the American Government for the prosperity of Servia under Your Majesty's reign. My instructions are to endeavor to advance the interests and prosperity of the American and Servian governments, and to render myself acceptable to Your Majesty. I shall endeavor to carry out these instructions to the best of my ability.

[Inclosure 2.—Translation.]

Text of King Peter's reply.

MR. MINISTER: In receiving from your hands the letter of His Excellency the President of the United States of America, by which you are accredited near my person as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, I beg you to assure the President, as well as the Government of the Republic, that I am deeply touched by the good wishes which they have expressed for me and for Servia, and that, sharing the sentiments which animate them, and of which you are the interpreter, I shall neglect nothing which may realize and facilitate a closer rapprochement between our two countries.

As to you, Mr. Minister, I take pleasure in informing you that the selection of yourself as minister is especially agreeable to me, and that you may also count upon the cooperation of my Government in the accomplishment of your task.

CORONATION OF KING PETER OF SERVIA.

Mr. Jackson to Mr. Hay.

No. 44, Servian series.]

AMERICAN LEGATION,
Athens, June 14, 1904.

SIR: * * * I have the honor to report that the anointing of King Peter of Servia has been postponed, and that it is now semi-officially stated that a ceremony (whether of anointing, coronation, or both) will take place on August 29, 30, and 31. It is possible, however, that the date may again be changed. It is expected that special representatives will be sent from Russia, Italy, and Montenegro, and that possibly Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria may be present. Other countries, it is said, will be represented by their ministers at Belgrade, and if that should prove to be the case, and no contrary instructions are received from you, I shall arrange to go to Belgrade from Roumania, taking Mr. Wilson with me, and to be present with my colleagues. I have been informed, informally, that a letter will eventually be sent giving notice of the proposed coronation, but not having the character of an invitation.

New German and Italian ministers have been appointed at Belgrade, and the other members of the diplomatic corps are living in that city and carrying on official business in the usual manner. * * *

I have, etc.,

JOHN B. JACKSON.

Mr. Hay to Mr. Jackson.

No. 10, Servian series.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 8, 1904.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 44, Servian series, of the 14th ultimo, in regard to the proposed coronation of King Peter of Servia.

In view of your report that it is expected that special representatives will be sent from Russia, Italy, and Montenegro, and that other countries will be represented by their ministers at Belgrade, and that if that should prove to be the case you will arrange to go to Belgrade, taking Mr. Wilson with you, I have to say that your purpose to attend the coronation is approved, if no unforeseen objection appear.

I am, etc.,

JOHN HAY.

Mr. Jackson to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

AMERICAN LEGATION,
Belgrade, September 21, 1904.

(Mr. Jackson reports that the coronation of the King of Servia took place this day.)

Mr. Jackson to Mr. Hay.

No. 52, Servian series.]

AMERICAN LEGATION,
Sofia, September 26, 1904.

SIR: * * * The coronation took place on the 21st instant, in accordance with previous arrangements. The ceremony, I understand, was strictly according to the rites of the Orthodox Church. It lasted about two hours and a half, and was quite impressive. The King received the crown from the Metropolitan and placed it on his head himself. The diplomatic corps attended the ceremony, and subsequently it was received by the King, when the Italian minister congratulated His Majesty in the name of the sovereigns and chiefs of states represented by it. The Italian, Austrian, French, and German ministers had presented letters to the King prior to his coronation; the Russian, Roumanian, and Greek ministers presented similar letters at the reception which followed, and at the same time verbal congratulations were presented by the Turkish and Belgian ministers and myself. The next evening a dinner was given at the palace, to which the chiefs of mission were invited, and at which the Italian minister spoke again, after King Peter had drunk the health of the sovereigns and chiefs of states who were represented. The hereditary prince and princess of Montenegro and a special Bulgarian mission were present at the fêtes, all other countries, as mentioned above, being represented by their regularly accredited ministers. The fêtes included a gala performance at the National Theater, a military review, a ball at court, races, and a sham battle. Belgrade was filled with visitors, foreign and native; the city was appropriately decorated and quite prettily illuminated on the evening of the coronation itself. There were numerous foreign correspondents present, and detailed reports of the event have no doubt appeared in the American papers before this.

I have, etc.,

JOHN B. JACKSON.