

31. Emults St.

Thurlow Square. S.W. 4.

Dear Sir. In a speech recently in the House of Commons, calling attention to Near East matters you spoke of the restoration of Serbia & Rumania, and "the incorporation by Serbia of Montenegro, her access to the sea being made complete by the purchase from Austria of the Port of Spizza, which commands the bay"

I think you were incorrectly reported. Montenegro is an independent Kingdom, and an Ally, and has not the smallest intention of any sort of being incorporated by Serbia, nor does there exist any reason she should be.

Being an Ally in the war — her Standard publicly exhibited in the Tower with that of other Allies; our soldiers receiving medals & decorations from the King of Montenegro (Gods knows for nothing have they done for Montenegro), and other countries have Ministers accredited to the King of Montenegro, &c. &c.

English people today seem to be devoid of elementary ideas of what is honest, what is honorable — for there are some actually working for the destruction of Montenegro in conjunction with the Serbian political propagandists, who are engaged in such a low and poisonous and infamous campaign

of her slanders & calumnies against the
Montenegrin dynasty & people.
As the Foreign Office has "absolutely prohibited" I
am told, the Press here, from correcting,
contradicting or refuting any of these
slanders, attacks on Montenegrins, & anything
in her favor, while allowing anything
against her to appear; no doubt you & many
others here, like the public, here quite
deserved. A gentleman of prominence who
is connected with the Press in an important
way, rightly describes the treatment meted
out to Montenegrins as "infamous". Also
during part of the war, official telegrams
from Montenegrins were forbidden publication
here. The reputation of these slanders - which
are so cowardly - which have been published
in foreign papers have of course not appeared here.
That however has not prevented the eyes of
many people in many countries being
opened as to what has been going on.

I can assure you that the Serbian
"Jugo-Slav" propaganda; has had the natural
consequence of opening the eyes of many
people to the truth; and whatever may be
the reason for the attitude of people here
in substantiating this Serbian mythical idea, it
has of course had the effect of creating the
most bitter antagonistic feeling & discussion
between the Montenegrins and Serbians.
To try to force on people what they do not
want, and to endorse & foster a
campaign against them, is a strange

way of promoting unity!²

Montenegro, as you must know, with your interest in the Balkans, has no diplomatic representatives; though that is needless; & she is also needless here because, as I said, the Press is prohibited from publishing anything in her interests, while anything against her is allowed. But this is now well known and commented on in influential circles, therefore it does harm to Serbia, not to Montenegro.

One would think English people would now have learnt many lessons through Ireland, but they seem incapable of learning any lessons, at all. I have no English blood in my veins, only Scottish, so cannot think as they do. It is true I have the blood of many Kings of England in my veins; but they none of them were English; & England has always been ruled by foreign dynasties. I therefore am unable to see as English people see, or to understand how after the events of the last six or seven years they can remain — in general — so厚ably ignorant of the East of Europe. There is the comparatively small circle of people really interested in the East of Europe — beyond that you must know the general public is ignorant.

You will be aware that the Serbian Prime Minister, M. Pasic, & the Serbians generally, repudiated any idea of independent countries federating on any basis. — they wish to annex and

also their neighbours as subjects of the
disreputable Karaogevitch dynasty of
Serbia, whose history the world knows, & all
do not forget it. The persons who claim
to represent the so-called Jugoslavians, Austrian
subjects, but who of course represent none
but themselves, made a paet al Corfus
with the Serbians to form as one State under
King Peter; & without referring to or consulting
the Montenegrin people & Government or their
Sovereign, they most kindly included
Montenegro in this pretty arrangement
— a gross, arrogant & insolent insult to a
noble King & noble Kingdom.

It had however the effect of at once exciting
suspicion in many quarters, & resentment

Mr. Vesnitch, the Serbian Minister in Paris,
who is also accredited to the King of Montenegro,
had the stupidity & the impertinence after this
to seek an interview with King Nicholas
in order to inquire after His Majesty's
health. The King, — quite understanding
the thing — informed him he was extremely
well — his stomach in fine order — and he
sees cheerful and hopeful over the restoration
of his country by the Allies.

We have here been pleasantly reminded of
the "election" of King Peter to the throne of
Serbia, by the honour done England by his
presence here — in council at Winchester
with Serbian lords who came from Russia —

of Colonel Kostich, one of the Regicides, & the
low & filthy brute, who was the actual
 assassin of Queen Draga; who defiled &
 mutilated her still living body, & threw
 it still living out of the window, where it
 continued to move, where it fell, for some
 time. * This person received the usual courtesies
 accorded to "Mines & Gentlemen", & even dined
 out, though the host was unaware at the time
 of who his "distinguished" victor was, as no
 doubt were our military authorities — but
 it is certainly the Serbian Legation here
 or the Serbian Military Attache here can have
 been ignorant. These things are however
 trifles in their eyes.

Perhaps however the treatment meted out
 to Montenegrin Volunteers & who fought in
 Montenegro, by the Serbians, will illustrate
 what the real situation is. I will be
 aware of course that when Russia gave a
 loan to Montenegro she stipulated
 that there must be a Serbian Staff to the
 Montenegrin army — a great misfortune to
 the latter country — the propositions made
 by this Staff to King Nicholas to make
 peace with Austria, were absolutely rejected
 by the King — hence the calamities on
 the subject. The Volunteers here were from
 America and elsewhere — Montenegrins,
 Bosnians, Herzegovians, Slavonians, &
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the Isle of "Karadjino" ⁴ at Corfu: where again
the Serbians persistently attacked the turks
guns or their & doing all they could to
get them to forswear Montenegro. On account
of their complaints the French ~~of~~ Commanders
ordered an Inquiry, as a result of which
they were organized as a Monteneguin
Unit, under the Monteneguin flag, to serve
under the French, & were promised those
conditions. They were drilled & trained by the French.
& eventually sent to Salonika, & their arms
& equipment sent to the Front where they
fought & were quite happy, being under
General Sarrail. Then arrived the
Serbian Army from Corfu, & at once trouble
began. They were sent to some other position,
deprived of the Monteneguin coat of arms,
dubbed "Bosnian Corps" & forbidden to
even mention Montenegro. They protested
strongly: were sent to Salonika, their officers
arrested, their flag taken from them, and the
men disarmed.

The Serbian Officers tried by threats & bribes
all means to get them to desert Montenegro.
Both Serbian & French officers - all liars -
told them Montenegro not longer existed,
had no Government: that King Nicholas
was a prisoner, deprived of all rights
and placed under the care of the Crown
Prince Alexander of Serbia (his grandson!)
and that he was shut up in a house

and much allowed food by the French - and
their atrocious and insulting falsehoods
~~were~~ repeated over & over again. They of
course did not believe; but said that if there
was no King, no Government, that they (the
Volunteers) would be soldiers no longer, that
were under any circumstances, would they
serve Serbia, or allow the flag of Montenegro
to be dragged in the dust.

The 700 of them were sent as prisoners to
Marseilles & then to Corvone in Corsica
and, threatened by bayonets and revolvers,
were forced to don clothes marked "Prisoners
of War" & mix with the other enemy prisoners.

It must not be forgotten that these were
Volunteers; who would know ~~no flag~~ ^{no King} but
Nicholas & fight under no flag but the
Montenegrin.

After some months a Serbian Officer,
Sekalovitch (?) attracted in some capacity
to the French at Marseilles went to Corsica
& told them that he was sent by King
Nicholas to arrange for their joining some
army, & the King wanted all names,
numbers of nationalities & so on. They
believed; & cheered for the King & Montenegro.

He had them drawn up, on 4 sides:
1. the Montenegrins. 2. Bosnians,
3. Herzegovinians; 4. Bochevi, Caltars,
Slavonians & Banat men. & told the names
etc. They he asked who would
join the Serbian army - not fire;

who would join the French army? no; who
would join the Montequi army? all.

This put him in a fury; he denounced
them & let out that King Nicholas knew
nothing of it at all - he had invented
all that. The Montequis might go free - the
others would remain as prisoners, as they
did. Recently by the intervention of the
Montequi Government some, at least,
have been allowed to go & work at Muratins
etc. in France. Their joy is great to find
that all told them was untrue.

But in doing this - which is one of
the things Sechia has done - Sechia dealt
herself a deadly blow. Many a time
have I here in London, during this
war, named the Sechian political
propagandists here, that they were
overdoing things - some even thanked me
in a timely way - but after many
experiences of a painful & distasteful
kind - ventrality and dishonesty being
exposed - I withdrew from contact with
them at all.

It is right & just Sechia should be restored to
her people & her dynasty - since the latter
is theirs; and I should be glad to see the
"Jugo-Slavs" free if they desire it - but
all that has nothing to do with creating

one large State, comprising them all, and
Montenegro against her will, and all
under the imperious Karagjorgentels.

Montenegro under such circumstances
would become the invincible Ireland
of the Balkans, and aided by the
mountain tribes of Albania would engage
in a guerilla warfare against the Serbians
— that I know — and if you heard the
score into which a Montenegrin speaks
of the idea of coming under "that peasant
Peter Karagjorgentel" you would see how
these nice arrangements here, or in Valparaiso,
will not work out.

Such a State composed of people of Roman,
Greek, Venetian, Hungarian, Teutonic
and Slav (seven Turkish Hord): joined to
Serbians of modern Serbia; and to the
Montenegrins; all with widely different
histories & cultures; & all political dreamers,
would be a Tom Tiddle's land; the prey
done to Teutonic or alien enterprises, influences,
treachery, corruption, and the paradise of
every concession hunter in Europe — &
such a State, chaotic, would push Greece
into the sea, try to override Bulgaria,
and in fact every passion would be
intensified twenty-fold. Their people are, as
yet, only fitted for personal rule; &
want to see ere they can walk.

Then there exists no reason why the

6.
Montenegro should give up their long
maintained independence and discard their
own old & honorable dynasty, Montenegro
like themselves, for such a fate.
It is after their countries are restored, &
when they have recovered from the effects of
the war, that they will decide their own
destinies.

Both King Nicholas & his people have
desired unity with their neighbors - it
is the King who always preached it - but
by that they were meant - no doubt -
sacrificing themselves to please the
Karaogentzets, & Montenegro becoming
the neglected (being banished) province of Serbia!!
Why should they?

The history of the Karaogentzets is well
known; & the accusations against the
eldest prince, Serge (probably made of
murdering his servant; & against Alexander
in connection with the Scragiro affair,
are also known. They have a cousin Paul
who amuses himself here or in Rome
instead of with the army. None are named
- who would marry them? - & if they have
no legitimate descendants, the Karaogentzets
dynasty becomes extinct, & a very bad
thing too for the Karaogentzets & the
Obrenovitch here the curse of Serbia.

The sole heirs then to all Serb Sovereignty,

the eventual heirs, would be the sons of
Prince Mirko (now divorced from his wife) who
are being admirably brought up by their
mother Princess Nathalie, & under the care
of the King.

But apart from dynasties the question
remains the same.

If by war the Austrian subjects became free
& could decide for themselves, it is
more than probable that Bosnia &
Herzegovina & some parts, would join
Montenegro & not Serbia at all. — & many
from Ragusa, Dalmatia etc. will have
nothing to do with Serbia. I have no doubt
they are ready to agree to anything to be
free — but once free! Is it likely the
Croats — the old Kingdoms of St. Stephen's
Crown — will thus forget their history
& be subjects of Peter Karageorges of
modern Serbia.

Yesterday I saw a Russian lady who was
nursing in Serbia, & she told how the
men from the Austrian provinces could
not get on with the Serbians & called the
latter "Slavs", & compared their other
mode of living & ideas, with the somewhat
better conditions in Dalmatia, Bosnia
etc.

Serbia, with a shelled-headed variety
seeks to emulate the Germans, & looks
Prussia of the Balkans & Prussianize her

neighbours — & lately ⁴ one of her writers
wrote of them as "Supermen" in real
Prussian fashion. There are many Montenegros in our
Overseas Forces, most in the Canadian,
& some in the South African and
Australian Forces. They are fighting for
us — & many have died for us — all
believing that in doing so they are
fighting for the restoration of their King
and country. Perhaps try to get at
them. They ^{the Montenegros} say that we would never
accept their services in our army
and then betray their trust — and
no such black deed of treachery is
going to be written in our history.

But our real policy is to link
Montenegro, enlarged & strengthened, into
Albania (by promise of course) as a dual
monarchy; & with Greece keep these
3 states, on the sea, as a base to
control the whole Peninsula, while
France ascending their rights to these
states. In process of time; when
in days of peace they have developed,
& by the natural evolution of time the
peoples will settle all for themselves,

by Federating in some form, & of free will,
& with them will ~~make~~^{make} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~whole~~ ^{whole} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Empire~~ ^{Empire}.

If the Austrian Empire be entirely dissolved
as the unthinking would have; nothing
would remain but the old German Duchy
of Austria & the ^{Tyrol} ~~Tyrol~~ (Austrian Tyrol) - &
14,000,000 or so Teutons would be
thrown into the arms of Germany to shell
her 40,000,000 - and that would be
clear!

Better that Croatia, Dalmatia etc. were one
State with their ~~own~~^{own} ruler; Hungary
with her ruler (they can elect their) and
Bohemia & the Slovaks another with their
ruler - all independent - and federated
with Austria on equal terms under the
Habsburg Emperor; & the Slav with the
& Magyars with them, intrenching the
Teutons (who do not love Germans) quite
behind the latter in checks - & create a
barrier against German advance west.
But we have no need to agitate about
the complete separation of the so-called
Jugo-Slavs (many not Slav at all) from
Austria; and we would resent Austria's
ceding, in or out of war, in the complete
separation of Ireland from our Empire.
The questions are the same.
But in any case the Jugo-Slavs are not
free and never may be - the Austrians

80.

are not beaten, & never maybe; & all ideas regarding Italy may yet be reversed, therefore we have only to follow the honorable course & restore Montenegro to what she has if possible — & after that her people will decide her destiny for themselves. Here in London within the last eight months or less I have seen about 50 Montenegrins & know what they think; & there are always some here — in fact I hear from or see some almost daily, the known and unknown.

There are numbers of things which if they were known would not be to the advantage of some people — but we are in war, and have allies, & have to consider them.

King Nicholas said not long ago that the Powers quite understood his position and that he had no doubt whatever that he would end his days — having reigned already 50 years — in his own land. Also he has often said that if he believed that the real good of his people, & all Serbs, lay in his elimination that he & his would never stand in the way — but he does not believe it, nor do his people, nor do many others, including

myself — & I, for one, think it would be a
real disaster did the independence of this
country vanish, not only to them but to
others. King Melioles — about 75 I suppose,
is old, but hale & hearty — but he is the
link with history & the past which holds
much together, & with his going, much
else that is good will vanish.

None of these peoples have yet arrived
at the stage when they can walk alone,
& govern themselves in reasoned way,
& the more time they get to educate
themselves to it, the better.

That is my protest to your
assumption that Montenegro will be
incorporated in Serbia.

I am told too that lately many Serbians
have professed great annoyance with
Pasitch and in regard to Prince
Alex under whom he may be shot by
someone after the war on account of
the court martial at Salonika & the
executions of the Serbians, General & others,
but I have only heard this & I have not
seen the bodies & do not know all the
facts.

I believe with many that the
Hindostani Raza Gonds are to
become extinct — if we pay any
attention to the famous prophecy, so

9.
much of which came true, they are to
become actual, & the man who is to
bring real happiness & glory to these lands
is to be "a relative of the exiled Obrenovitch"
— not an Obrenovitch — & that would seem
to imply a son of Prince Matthias, who
was a cousin of late King Alexander
Obrenovitch.

It only hopes here & elsewhere would
leave these countries alone, Nature &
Time would work out a solution of
every question that no artificial arrangement
can do — Time means so much.

But not long ago the Prime Minister
asked a foreign prince who was here
"Who is the King of Bulgaria? Is he
not a Bourbon prince?" — which, after
all these years of war is — ! What you
please. Beyond a limited circle
the mass of people ^{here} know nothing even
of the geography or situation of the Balkan
lands — & that I am sure you know.

To commit a cruel wrong against
Montenegro now, & after all she has
suffered, & her infamous treatment, would
be simply fatal.

Look what the Salonika scandal — by
all steps, it is a scandal — has done
by the impotency of the Allies there. The

Austrians have "got rid of", it is said,
500,000 people - Belgrade - Belgrade, Mostar,
Sarajevo & the Montenegrin frontier, and
replaced them, in their lands & property
by Hungarians, German Austrians and
Tyrolese, - Catholics - & who will henceforth
be "Bosnians" otherwise - & this
will so on. Numbers are unreliable of
course; but they were doing the same before
the war.

The Serbians and English supporters have
managed to detract from friendship to
Serbia thousands whom it was ^{their} interest
to conciliate. & the "Poet of Corfu" was
the final blow. As soon as it
is known how our Government aids this
by suppressing mention of Montenegro,
Montenegro & their friends become
inflamed with fury; and adamant
in determination to resist extinction.

Yours truly

C. D. MacKellar