

Croats and Slovenes

Friends of the Entente in the World War

*A few official Documents derived from
the Archives of
the Imperial and Royal Military Commands*

Published

BY

Franjo BARAC, D. D.

LATE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB

PARIS

LANG, BLANCHONG & Co's PRINTING

7, Rue Rochechouart, 7

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PREFACE

Jugoslavia, the Serbo-Croato-Slovene (S. H. S.) State is passing from hell to purgatory. At the end of a struggle waged throughout several centuries against the Turks, the Serbs succeeded at last, at the cost of immense sacrifices, in setting up a Kingdom of their own. Disinherited by fate, the Croats and Slovenes as well as the Serbs of old Austria-Hungary had to endure the crushing load of the Austro-Hungarian yoke even after the creation of modern Serbia. Then came the war, — the world war for the deliverance of weak peoples enslaved by imperialist force. Heroic but tiny Serbia took up the challenge of haughty German militarism at the moment when she had barely laid down the arms she had been obliged to take up against the treacherous attack of her eastern neighbour. The Dance of Death began. The Croats and Slovenes of Austria-Hungary were placed in a most painful predicament. So far as circumstances permitted, they had with all their heart and soul and by practical collaboration participated in the Balkan wars, directing every effort towards the realisation of the great aim dreamed of by the Slavs, — the Balkans for the Balkan peoples. And now that their fate was directly at stake and it was an immediate question of their liberty, their rights, their millennial aspirations, to which they had sacrificed hundreds of thousands of their very best, — on the day when they instinctively divined that the dawn of a better age was arising, they were languishing in fetters imposed by an overwhelmingly powerful army, surrounded by police and gendarmery, leaving them not the slightest chance of resistance. Truly a tragic fate for a nation which had for centuries shed rivers of blood to protect the civilization and liberty of the West.

The double-headed eagle struck its sharp and piercing claws deep into the flesh of its wretched slaves, the Slovenes and Croats. The inquisitorial spy system of the astute detectives of a Police-run State ferreted out the "traitors" and haled them

ing a sense of morality and justice. Natural law gained the victory over unjust man-made law. The more the State raged with all its military and civil force against the Croats and Slovenes, the more closely they drew together and united so as to be able under the inspiration of democratic and ethical principles to repel, or at least to paralyse, the brute force of their oppressors. Almost all classes took part in this struggle, each in its own way, — native members of the Government, native clergy, national political parties, professional classes, peasants, business men, industrialists, working men, soldiers, — each did his best to demolish the edifice of the State stone by stone and thus to destroy the vehicle of mighty imperial militarism. Of course this was not done straightway in public. But everything was undermined and obstructed by political, social, economic and military action carried on in silence and obscurity. Little could be done in the broad daylight of publicity. One day something was done to sustain the national conscience; the next there was a discussion of the social and economic consequences of the war; news filtered through of Yugoslav troops who deserted and joined the ranks of the Entente; under various pretexts the State was refused what it needed for war purposes, — be it men or food for the army, or credit, or ready money, etc.. In this way every one took part in the struggle against this enemy State. Every one knew what was demanded of him. Everything was organized and results followed like a natural harvest springing from the good grain cast upon well-prepared soil. No one knows the extent of the organization nor yet who are the responsible leaders. There are cases of "treachery" at the front; sabotage, boycott, revolts and real guerilla warfare become increasingly frequent; defeatism is manifest in all its forms; desertions increase wholesale, — and all this is the direct effect of the conscious activity of the press and the organized propaganda in favour of liberation and the ideals of the Entente.

We do not propose to estimate here how much this systematic and persistent "sapping" of the Croats and Slovenes helped to prevent the Central Powers from being all the time successful against the Entente; but one thing is certain, and that is that the Croats and Slovenes have done much to shorten the war, by a few months at least, thus saving hundreds of thousands of human lives and milliards of money. Beyond all doubt and question the Croats and Slovenes have done their full duty, at least in so far as deplorable circumstances permitted them to do so. Their agitation at home and at the front, no less than the

active part played by the "Jugoslav legions" (composed on the one hand of Serb, Croat and Slovene deserters and prisoners of war, and on the other of Serb, Croat and Slovene volunteers from America) on various battlefields — notably in the Dobrudja and on the Salonica front, — has already found a fair measure of recognition in the various Entente countries.

In the following pages we reproduce a few documents translated verbatim from the official originals. These official reports from Austro-Hungarian military headquarters bear witness — at least to small extent — to the conduct of the Croats and Slovenes during the world war (1).

The originals are at the disposal of everybody and can be consulted at the Hotel Beau-Site, Room 31, 4, rue de Presbourg.

It goes without saying that this is only a small number of the documents in existence. The vast war archives of the late Monarchy of Austria-Hungary have by no means been fully examined as yet, and it must be borne in mind that not all the documents are in the possession of the young Jugoslav State. Not until all the documents are collected and collated will it be possible to write the true history of the revolutionary activity of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes of the late Habsburg Monarchy. A perusal of the documents published here, the dates they bear and the localities where they were drawn up are sufficient, however, to give an idea of the history of our revolution.

These documents are eloquent in themselves and I abstain from all further comment. The acts censured in these communications throw a strong light upon the national conscience and the clearly defined aim pursued by the Croats and Slovenes. How great the strength of purpose, boldness and contempt of death required to work thus systematically and persistently against the Austro-Hungarian State which left no stone unturned to stifle the smallest breath of liberty by the most revolting acts! The revolutionary agitation did not triumph, alas! without our having to lament many victims. Several tens of thousands of persons of every age and sex had to pay with their lives for the

(1) The Jugoslav Committee has already in part given publicity to the attitude and acts of Slovenes and Croats in various lectures and in articles published in the press or in special pamphlets.

Consult *inter alia*: *The Southern Slav Bulletin* 1915-1919, London Edition: 20, Ashburn Place, S. W. 7: *In Darkest Europe: Austria-Hungary's Effort to Exterminate her Jugoslav Subjects*; *Austro-Magyar Judicial Crimes*; *A Bulwark against Germany*, by B. Vosnjak; — (these publications and many others to be obtained at the Jugoslav Committee — Paris, 17, rue Cadet) — *the Habsburg Monarchy*, by H. W. Steed (Comtable & Co. Ltd.); *the Balkans, Italy and the Adriatic*, by R. W. Seton-Watson (Nisbet & Co.) *The New Europe* (Eyre et Spottiswoode).

conquest of liberty. There was not a day during the war when the gallows, the execution platoons and the cells of the casemates were not fulfilling their dismal purpose. It should be specially pointed out that the sufferers were mostly people who had never shouldered a rifle. The burnt villages of Srem and Bosnia, ravaged Dalmatia and Istria, blood-soaked Slovenia, are so many melancholy monuments — worse than those left behind them by the Turks — of Austro-Hungarian brutality in our lands. Whole regions were depopulated, several tens of thousands of Yugoslavs interned, and the filthy goals of Marburg, Leibnitz, Gmünden, Möllersdorf, Doboj, Tuzla, Arad, and so many other places were stained with the blood of Yugoslav martyrs.

Nevertheless the Yugoslav people survived its second Kosovo. It rejoices in that it has succeeded in rearing the foundations of national unity upon the bones of its own dead. It is proud of the fact that all its parts — Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, — have to the best of their power cemented with blood the solid bases of the young unitary State. It is conscious that each of its children — Serbs, Croats and Slovenes — is even to-day prepared to lay down its life for its beloved mother *JUGOSLAVIA*.

FRANJO BARAC, D. D.

In 1908, on the occasion of Bosnia-Hercegovina's annexation by the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, an insurrectionary movement was contemplated in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Croatia-Slavonia and Dalmatia. The general international situation, however, and that within the Habsburg Monarchy in particular, was not favourable to an enterprise of the kind at the time. The Note of General Sheuere, Military Commander in Zagreb, which we reproduce below, proves the existence of a revolutionary plot in the Yugoslav provinces in 1908.

Under O. N. 2.682. I. and R. Military Command

November 17, 1914.

Sheuere writes to the High Command about the propagandist activity ever since 1908, referring to the telegram of October 8, 1908, No 707/16 reporting that the Serbian Minister for Foreign Affairs conferred with the Yugoslav Club with reference to the transfer of arms, etc... across the Drina for the purpose of organising an insurrection in Bosnia and Hercegovina, and that Babic, Gjalski, Supilo, Medakovic and Grgic would receive instructions from Belgrade.

Furthermore, under No. 1065-B of October 17th 1908 information was given that the "Committee for Organizing Insurrections in our Yugoslav Lands" had decided on October 5th 1908 to request arms, etc... from the Minister, and to ask Messrs. Babic, Gjalski, Supilo and Medakovic to prepare immediately "all that is necessary to instigate a revolt throughout their territories, Every thing that these persons should mention as being necessary for the attainment of this object was to be placed at their disposal". The insurrection was to be carried out by bands organized within the country.

DOCUMENTS

I

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB
—
O. N. 805.

To the Royal Provincial Government
of Croatia-Slavonia-Dalmatia

Zagreb

Zagreb, August 19, 1914.

During the last days it has frequently occurred in Zagreb — and presumably also in the provinces — that the population has been agitated by false alarmist news and the most incredible rumours.

It is to be assumed that certain elements spread these false rumours on purpose among the population, in order to provoke despondency and exploit the latter for their own ends.

The Military Command has the honour to prefer the official request that the proper authorities be instructed to proceed with the greatest severity against the dissemination of false rumours.

It is also to be recommended to give general publicity to the foregoing, supplied with suitable comment.

(sgd) SCHEUERE,
General of Division.

Received by the Executive of the, Royal Provincial Government of Croatia-Slavonia-Dalmatia in Zagreb.

Dep. N° 5.470

August 20, 1914.

II

I. AND R. LOCAL ARMY
COMMAND

—
K. N° 114

To the Royal Government Commissioner
Vukovar

Brcko, September 12, 1914.

I have the honour to inform you, that within the last days the railway at Mitrovica has been damaged by Serbian artillery fire, in a way almost inconceivable without signalling on the part of the local population, and that moreover between Ruma and Indjija, i. e. in a sector occupied by our troops, the track has been blown up, for which act in all probability the local population is responsible.

These occurrences and the disposition generally prevailing in Syrmia render it necessary to take the most stringent measures, in pursuance of the decree of the Royal Hungarian Prime Minister, No. 6538 of 1914, and that of the Superior Local Command No. 913 of 1914

I. and R. 5th Army. Local Command. K. No 114.

To The Royal Provincial Government of Croatia-Slavonia-Dalmatia.

Zagreb

Brcko, September 12, 1914.

For official intimation

(sgd) LANDWEHR COLONEL.

III

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB

—
O. N. 1775

Appeal against the War

To the Royal Provincial Government
of Croatia-Slavonia-Dalmatia

Zagreb, September 26, 1914.

Enclosed two appeals were found by a patrol of gendarmes on a hill visible a long way off, near Dragalj (Bocche di Cattaro), fastened to a pole.

There is reason to believe that these appeals were not manufactured in Montenegro, but elsewhere.

Their introduction into other parts of the Monarchy seems likewise probable.

I request that all subordinate authorities and officials be informed of the above and called upon to deliver any such appeals they may happen to find to their superiors, who are to inform the Military Command thereof.

Identical instructions forwarded to the Royal Provincial Government of Croatia-Slavonia-Dalmatia and the Royal Government of Fiume.

(sgd) SCHEUERE,
General of Division.

A

Copy I (Original in Serbo-Croatian)

Brother Slavs. :

Listen wherever you may be !!

The hour has struck, the great hour of your final liberation from the German yoke. Your insolent oppressors with their inherent grossness have not shrunk from saying latterly that the Slavs are only good enough to serve as fertilizer of the fields where German culture is to grow and thrive. And every means

is welcome to them, so long as they can humiliate, disgrace and deride Slavdom.

But God will not suffer injustice and the end of German insolent tyranny is at hand!

The attempt of the German Ghazis to strangle the Serbian people in Serbia and Montenegro has met with powerful resistance on the part of Great Russia, our constant protectress and her puissant allies, France and England, joined in their turn by Belgium, Portugal, Egypt, and even distant Japan!

Now all Europe desires to carry out the chastisement of the German Ghazis, who have been denounced even by their former Allies — Italy and Rumania.

16 millions of your protectors are advancing united and of one accord, arms in hand, to wipe off the face of the earth every thing that lives and breathes in German, and the mighty Anglo-French fleet is closing all the seas to them, so that they may die of hunger.

The Germans have no hope left to them, and the last hour of their ruin is striking!...

Already partitioned Poland of old is united with Russia, as a special unit. Already a brotherly hand is tendered from Great Russia to the Russian people kept under the yoke in Galicia. And through this hour the Serbian provinces of Austria, too, shall find union with their liberators, Serbia and Montenegro.

Brother Slavs!

Do ye also rise against the German Ghazis! Arise all, wherever ye may be! Fall jointly upon the common Enemy! Free yourselves by Force of Arms! Win your Rights with Blood!

Show the Germans that they lied when they said that you were but a fertilizer for their *Kultur*!

Brother Slavs!

Better an honourable death for freedom than a life of shame in German bondage.

Therefore seek your freedom.

Now or never!!!...

B

Copy! (Original in German)

Austro-Hungarian and German Brothers !!!

Listen to a serious, sincere Word !!!

The whole World is against you !!!

The war which your Governments embarked upon so wantonly for the purpose of crushing feeble Serbia, has become transformed into a punitive Expedition against Austria-Hungary and Germany. Your clumsy diplomats were not clever enough to conclude new alliances before the war. But they have managed to destroy great Bismarck's work, and to detach your old allies — Italy and Rumania — from the Triple Alliance.

Now it is not only Serbia, Montenegro and Russia who are fighting against Austria-Hungary and Germany, but also France, England, Belgium, Portugal, Egypt and even Japan !!!

Your generals are no cleverer than your diplomats. The Austrian and German armies have so far had nothing but trouncings. The German *War-plan* — first the French and then the Russians — has definitely come to grief. The English and French fleets are supreme in all the seas and are even now in the Blue Adriatic.

There is no hope now of giving a fortunate turn to the badly begun war, because

- 5 million Russians,
- 3 » Frenchmen,
- 1 » Englishmen, Belgians and Portuguese, and
- 1/2 » Serbs and Montenegrins,

in all 9 1/2 million soldiers, stand close to the Austro-Hungarian and German frontiers.

A sad fate is in store for Austria-Hungary and Germany. Only a speedy peace can save something of the Austro-German territorial domain.

If you do not wish to lose all; if Austria-Hungary and Germany are not determined to commit a hideous suicide, you should, as speedily as possible — if it is not too late — demand an honourable peace from your reckless Governments.

There is really no object in further fighting !!!

They must not waste your blood and treasure for nothing!

IV

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB

O. N. 1764

Measures against pan-Serbian Propaganda

To His Excellency I. and R. Privy Councillor
Dr. Ivan Baron Skerlec
Ban of the Kingdoms of Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia

Zagreb, September 26th. 1914

On the grounds of the report of the I. and R.
5th. Army Command
5th Local Army Command

K. N. 116 of September 21th, which was also brought to my notice, I consider myself justified in assuming that Your Excellency will subject the subordinate official personnel, whether high or low, to a most searching enquiry and inexorably dismiss from office each one who has been at all remiss in dealing with seditious agitation.

As I know from Your Excellency, Syrmia used to be considered loyal, and only a few individual, not altogether irreproachable officials were at once, at the beginning of the mobilisation, replaced by others.

How far the countryside was in truth reliable has been revealed by regrettable facts.

If the administrative authorities had proceeded with all the vigour of their office — I need only recall the seizure of arms — it would have been impossible to mistake the politically hostile sentiments of this population.

That this was nevertheless the case argues that it was not a matter of being mistaken, but of hushing up the true state of affairs, a throwing of dust into the eyes.

It is impossible that all authorities of every kind in this region, had they been watchful and not wilfully stricken with blindness, should have failed to see that the hostile population hangs

around railways and telephone lines, damages them, marks the houses of the loyal population as to be burnt, turns the weapons (which appear to have been left in its possession) against our own men, or that popes inscribe the initials of the hostile King in full view of all upon the church towers!!!

And all this was done in Syrmia which was considered reliable!

What would have happened in the case of an enemy invasion in districts which were from the outset branded as Serbophil or unreliable?

(sgd) SCHEUERE,
General of Division.

V

Telegram from Potiorek, received in Zagreb 3/10/1914.

Excellency Ban Baron Skerlecz
SssTuzla387 146 2 10 05

Zagreb.

O. N. 817/OK Enquiry conducted by Field Marshal Szurmay reveals that our men were fired upon from houses in Bezanija west of Zemun, and that there has been concealment of enemy soldiers. In pursuance of the suggestion of Field Marshal Szurmay I urgently request evacuation to the interior of Croatia of all male inhabitants over 15 years of age from this parish and all others in which similar things have occurred to be effected as speedily as possible, and a strict enquiry to be made in co-operation with the Military Command in Zagreb and Army Group Command in Petrovaradin with assistance of Government Commissioner Hideghety. Guilty parties to be handed over to court martial to be summarily dealt with.

(sgd) POTIOREK.

VI

I. AND R. 5TH ARMY COMMAND

LOCAL ARMY COMMAND

K. N. 163

To the Royal Provincial Government of
Croatia-Slavonia-Dalmatia

Zagreb

Brcko October 3rd 1914.

Op No. 494/ OK of the High Command of the Balkan Armies.

Native civilians rendering themselves guilty of any of the criminal acts quoted in Art. 14 of the Military Penal Code (signalling, assistance of any other kind rendered to the enemy, damaging of telegraph wires, etc...) are throughout the Monarchy amenable to military (Landwehr) penal jurisdiction. For these crimes martial law has been proclaimed. In cases of urgent necessity the Military Commands are to proceed independently (without consulting a judge-advocate, etc...) in virtue of Pt. 1., Art. 513 and 515, of the Service Regulations and Pt. 11. Art. 61 of the same.

Ordinance of the I. and R. High Command No. 913.

In case of hostile attitude on the part of the local population the application of the War Exigencies Law is often urgently necessary; as e.g. the taking and killing of hostages, burning down of villages, measures against well-poisoning, decimating of the local population, etc...

In the application of these reprisals due circumspection and the needful consideration are to be observed, so as to restrict these measures to cases of absolute necessity.

The foregoing orders are to be brought to the notice of the civil population.

Copy in conformity with draft approved by His Excellency the Commander of the Army.

LANDWEHR.

Received by the Executive of the Royal Provincial Government
of Croatia-Slavonia-Dalmatia in Zagreb, October 6, 1914.
O.N. 7050.

VII

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB

N. O. 2171/11

To His Excellency Privy Councillor
Dr. Ivan Baron Skerlec.
Ban of the Kingdoms of Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia
Zagreb

Zagreb October 23rd, 1914.

As it has been established that communications by visible signals has taken place on Bosnian soil, the Military Command concludes that this system of signalling has its starting-point in the territory of the Kingdom of Croatia-Slavonia.

A Commission will be despatched for this purpose, to which the Criminal Officials of the Royal Provincial Government should be attached.

I therefore beg to request that you will permit the Prefect of Police Klobucaric, detective Todorovic, and Dr. Bedekovic to accompany the Commission.

I incidentally beg you to permit the said officials to cross the frontier, in case the clues should take them into Bosnian territory.

Of course the Military Command will assume all responsibility for this action upon foreign territory.

As the matter is very urgent, kindly reply by telephone (19-92).

(sgd) SCHEUERE
General of Division.

VIII

In the dispatch of November 2nd, 1914 O.N. 2590, addressed to the Army G.H.Q., G.H.Q. of the Balkan Forces and the Departmental Office of the Ministry, Military Commander Scheuere writes as follows :

(several lines omitted)

The country is deeply penetrated with treachery against our army which is fighting with enthusiasm, gallantry and heroism. This treachery has already cost thousands and thousands of lives of officers and men who are loyal to the Emperor, and from the depositions of all the wounded it transpires, that no one fears the enemy, but that all have feared treachery at the front, to left and right, in the rear, from the trees and houses...

By treachery every movement of our troops was and is still immediately communicated to the enemy; the enemy artillery is served by scouting and observation service, and helped by signals to get the range with lightning rapidity. Light signals, smoke signals, the placing of the hands of church-tower clocks, herds of cows or geese, imitation of animal noises, the exhibition of black-and-yellow flags, etc., etc. indicated reinforcements and movements of troops. It has even been proved that information concerning our own and enemy positions, events of the war, military movements, etc... has in an hitherto inexplicable way penetrated far into the interior inhabited by Serbs.

The writer then proceeds to lay the blame chiefly upon the Orthodox clergy and the native educated classes, who have for years been guilty of agitation in this spirit.

IX

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB
—
N. O. 2682

President of the Diet Medakovic, pan-Serb.

To

Zagreb, November 17, 1914.

..... If these hypocritical elements continue in power, it is quite on the cards that at the end of the war with Serbia, there will yet be a reckoning with the domestic enemy in Croatia-Slavonia.

If the pan-Serbian propaganda is really to be suppressed, then it cannot be done with kindness and all manner of consideration. In my opinion it will be quite sufficient to give practical effect to the demands put forward in the Ultimatum to Serbia in our own country, word for word, in so far as they apply to our local conditions; because it surely cannot be considered as exaggerated severity, if we do not employ more rigorous measures against our own, disloyal, pro-Serbian citizens, than those which His Majesty, despite his benevolence and that knowledge of mankind which are throughout the world esteemed as unique, felt constrained to demand even from the Serbian enemy.

I therefore consider that the time has come seriously to consider the advisability of dissolving the Croato-Slavono-Dalmatian Diet. This is the sole and speediest way of purging it of elements, which might suitably be deputies in Serbia, but certainly not in Austria-Hungary.

SCHEUERE,
General of Division.

X

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB
—
N. O. 3050

Dissemination of alarmist rumours among the population.

To His Excellency I. and R. Privy Councillor
Dr. Ivan Baron Skerlec.
Ban of the Kingdoms of Croatia, Slavania and Dalmatia
Zagreb

Zagreb, November 26th 1914.

It has been brought to the knowledge of the Military Command that already from the beginning of the war a secret society has been active in Zagreb for the purpose of systematically undermining, by the dissemination of false news, the already none-too-great faith of the populace in the success of our arms.

Not only are the most incredible alarmist reports about reverses sustained by our troops, ostensibly obtained from reliable sources, spread from mouth to mouth, not only is the attitude of neutral States represented as doubtful, or even directly hostile to the Monarchy, but these pernicious elements even attack our well-tryed, admirable generals and invent mendacious reports of treachery and consequent suicide, other tragic demises, etc...

After the brilliant successes of our troops in Serbia, certain villainous individuals seek to depress the joyous mood among the Croat population by circulating lying reports about the taking of Serbian villages (Mitrovica in Serbia, Sabac), where Croat flags (which were the first to be hoisted) are said to have been torn down by Magyar troops and replaced by Hungarian flags, about collisions and bayonet-fights between Croatian and Hungarian troops supposed to have taken place even in Zagreb (!), etc... etc...

That these unspeakable lies only too easily find credence in Zagreb, however insane they may be, or at least give rise to

doubts lest they should be true after all, is fairly evident from the depressed mood of the population.

In spite of all precautionary measures, *foreign papers are likewise smuggled into the country* and passed round, imparting to the tissue of lies sketched above an appearance of official confirmation, because of course only *such papers* are selected for clandestine introduction as can serve the purpose of the seditious gang, intent on disseminating inflammatory news.

I beg to request Your Excellency to have even *foreign consuls* resident in Zagreb unobtrusively watched.

I moreover beg that the Government Commissioners, the S.d.d.s., Police and gendarmerie be instructed, at last to proceed with energy and effect against these disgraceful machinations, as I am bound to conclude that the gossip of the town must have also reached the ears of the agents of these authorities.

Finally I beg to inform Your Excellency, that certain bank officials in Zagreb are said to have dissuaded individual citizens from subscribing to the War Loan (S.d.d.s. has knowledge of this).

A copy of this letter (which is of *military importance*) to Your Excellency will be forwarded to Army G.H.Q., the G.H.Q. of the Balkan Forces and the War Control Office.

(sgd) SCHEUERE,
General of Divisions

XI

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB

O. N. 3297

To His Excellency I. and R. Privy Councillor
Dr. Ivan Baron Skerlec
Ban of the Kingdoms of Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia
Zagreb

Zagreb, December 10, 1914.

Your Excellency's request of November 26th ult. under O. N. 3050 has received the following reply from the I. and R. Army G. H. Q. under K. N. 2200, December 1st:

"Every means must be employed to lay hands upon the ring-leaders of the secret organization for the dissemination of disquieting news and to render them harmless by interning on a charge of suspicion of espionage or of sedition."

The Military Command therefore has the honour to prefer the request that the Provincial Government jointly with the Military Command should compose a valid statement concerning all past rumours, append to this text an appeal to all loyal readers pointing out how foolish such rumours are and that it is the duty of all patriots to denounce persons who spread such lies, so that both originators and disseminators may be brought up for condign punishment.

All newspapers to insert this notice two days running.

At the same time all newspapers to be requested independently to publish articles calculated to foster enthusiasm. Copies of such articles to be sent to the Provincial Government and the Military Command.

I have the honour, etc. etc...

In the absence of the Military Commander

Signature illegible.

XII

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB
—
N. O. 3550

To His Excellency D. and R. Privy Councillor
Dr. Ivan Baron Skerlec
Ban of the Kingdoms of Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia
Zagreb

Zagreb, December 28, 1914.

A few days ago the Prefect of Police *Klobucaric* received his dismissal from this post and incidentally also from the post of Chief of the Secret Police.

I do not know whether Your Excellency is aware of this fact; I am only struck by the coincidence that this step should follow immediately upon the proposal submitted by the Military Command to recommend the exceptional services rendered by him in the Defensive Military Intelligence Department for some special recognition from the Highest quarters.

Simultaneously the Chief of Police *Mraovic* was also contemplating the dismissal of Detective *Todorovic*, who had likewise rendered signal service in the Defensive Intelligence Department.

As I have since learnt upon enquiry, there has been since the 1st. of last June a Central Office for Defensive Intelligence Service attached to the Provincial Government.

The ordinances of the Service regulations "Instruction for military Intelligence Service" are naturally also binding upon this Central Office.

Military Intelligence Service must above all be promoted by the Royal Provincial Government of Croatia-Slavonia-Dalmatia as Central Office, and the personnel of the gendarmery, Police, Revenue, administrative departments, Post and Telegraph and Railway Services are bound to assist the Military Intelligence Service within the limits of instructions issued by the Provincial Government.

These instructions, regarding the prosecution of espionage and assistance to the Military Intelligence Service, were forwarded to the Divisional Command under the designation of Transilation *ad* O. N. 135. Res. of 1913 (confidential), and they are still in force, as no instructions more recent have come to hand.

In these instructions we read under 11:

The united collaboration of the political and military authorities in the Intelligence Service is an absolute necessity.

In order to ensure this necessity, I feel compelled to give the following orders:

Under Point 1., last paragraph:

"Although the active participation of the gendarmery in the Intelligence Service is already provided for with special ordinances, such collaboration is hereby for obvious reasons also rendered incumbent upon the political and police authorities."

Point 2 says:

"The military Intelligence Service throughout the Kingdom of Croatia and Slavonia is directed by the General Staff Section of the 13th Army Corps, etc..."

Point 3, last paragraph but one:

"In view of strict secrecy it is advisable and useful that official transactions concerning the Military Intelligence Service should, whenever at all possible, be carried out verbally."

Point 4:

Supervision of communications at the frontier.

"Foreign frontier communications must be strictly supervised..."

"Of importance for the military authorities (especially at the frontier) are: — the maintenance of secret communications with foreign countries, journeys of suspicious foreigners and foreign officers, etc..."

"All demands and wishes of the military authorities with reference to the Military Intelligence Service are always to be met with prompt attention and deference".

I fancy that hereabouts, where the number of native citizens sympathising with the foreign State of "Serbia" is particularly considerable, the Central Office for the defensive Intelligence Service would thereby have found a fruitful field for activity and could have rendered the military Command important services. As a matter of fact this Central Office was a total failure.



I do not know what information Your Excellency has received in this matter, but the Military Command has on the strength of its own observations received the impression that the authorities in question had not done their duty as they ought to and could have done, because no exceptions and no special considerations can be tolerated in regard to any given person in dealing with native citizens sympathizing with foreign States. At the present moment Chief of Police von Mraovic appears to have assumed all the Intelligence activity, at least locally, without paying any consideration to the Central Office.

Departmental Councillor von Mraovic told me himself that scarcely any documentary material is sent to him; indeed, that after domiciliary searches such material is always transmitted straight to Your Excellency by the Chief of Police. The reason why the Central Office is so completely set aside is unknown to the Military Command, nor do I know whether Your Excellency has received or given special instructions.

But the Military Command has received no information in the matter.

During the whole period of mobilisation — which is now 5 months — the Chief of Police has not once made a report to the Military Command, to the effect that this or that had been discovered.

Thus the Military Command received no assistance at all from this department either, in the matter of Military Intelligence, although such assistance is directly commanded.

But not only was no assistance forthcoming, but the Chief of Police even presumed to forbid the police officials, who were bound to report, to go to the Military Command. Beyond doubt the causes for the dismissal of the Prefect of Police Klobucaric are to be sought there.

An eloquent proof of the ideas entertained by the present Chief of Police concerning his duties and his methods of assisting the Military Command in the matter of defensive Intelligence is to be found in the communication which I have received, to the effect that it was contemplated to subject "military persons" to "some" surveillance.

This surely requires an explanation.

To begin with I really cannot tolerate such presumption and I further beg Your Excellency to give orders for the strictest enquiry into this matter, so that I may learn the reason which provided occasion for the contemplation of such surveillance.

If the Central Intelligence Office, together with all the Provincial Government authorities, had assisted the Military

Command in the matter of Intelligence as they were in duty bound to do, and as the security of the State imperatively demands it, more light would have been shed upon all treacherous activities, and the Military Command would have been spared an unpleasant correspondence entailing much loss of time.

I take the liberty of reminding Your Excellency in this connection of the understanding between the traitors at home and the enemy (which is so irksome to our armies in the field) and to point out that even Your Excellency was so ill-informed that Your Excellency could describe Sylvania as loyal and reliable.

I therefore beg Your Excellency to proceed to a radical remedy as regards the improvement of the Military Intelligence Department, by causing instructions to be given to the Central Office to the effect that it is to carry out its functions as touching the Military Intelligence Service in a manner corresponding to the importance of this service to the army and incidentally to the Monarchy.

This necessitates however, that the said office is really given due scope for its activities.

I also beg that the late Prefect of Police Mr. *Klobucaric*, who has proved himself so signally useful and really places his work in the interests of duty before all personal considerations, may be attached to the Central Office.

Besides this it is highly necessary that a military representative should be attached to this department.

Seeing that the Provincial Government has issued instructions to all its subordinates, always to be prompt and helpful to the Military authorities in all their demands and wishes as regards Military Intelligence, I venture to hope that *Your Excellency* will also fulfil my request, and I beg for a satisfactory decision at your earliest convenience.

Finally I take the liberty, with reference to the fact that sundry documents were sometimes taken first to the Military Command, taken away, in fact, by the members of the Military Commissions, to mention (in order to avoid all misunderstandings) that it really does not matter where the documents are handed in first — as the Provincial Government and the Military Commands presumably pursue the same object, — the principal thing being that material should have been found and not got mislaid.

No documents were handed in here first, except such as might be supposed to be of military importance or to afford clues for further proceedings.

Your Excellency is surely aware of the fact that according to the rules of the "Narodna Odbrana" it is a special and import-

ant duty for foreign members to keep in touch with Serbia. The discovery and examination of any new member of the "Narodna Odbrana" is therefore of military importance and this is also the reason why the Military Command takes a lively interest in ensuring that domiciliary searches should take place *at the right time* and as a surprise and that such results as concern the point of view of Military Intelligence should first be examined by the Military authorities.

I have the honour etc. etc...

(sgd) SCHEUERE
General of Division.

XIII

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB

O. N. 841

To

Zagreb, February 1915.

As Military Commandant of Zagreb I am of opinion that from the moment of the declaration of war all politics ought to be altogether set aside, and that *from the military point of view the only matter in question is to discriminate between the loyal population, faithful to the dynasty and therefore reliable, and the so to say quite unreliable population, strongly inclined to high treason, lèse-majesté and trafficking with the enemy!*

On the 17th of last August I met *Dr. Frank and Dr. Horvat* for the first time, and that by chance. The two gentlemen had called on my Chief of Staff and complained that the appeal touching the demonstration which was to take place that evening contained a passage which had made a very painful impression upon the loyal Croats. The passage said that... *no section of the population was to be provoked.* Perhaps it was a fortunate coincidence that I met the two gentlemen that day, as otherwise there might possibly have been unpleasant incidents.

I now explained to the gentlemen how the appeal had been made at my instance.

On August 15th the Mayor called on me and requested my permission for a torch-light procession for a preliminary celebration of August 18th, the Emperor's birthday. At the same time he asked me to place *two Infantry Companies* at his disposal in order to *protect the procession.*

I told the Mayor that I was not in favour of a torch-light procession as an accident might easily occur in the crowd, but that I would gladly give my consent to a lantern procession, rendered impressive by its numbers. There could be no question however of my placing half a battalion of Infantry at his disposal, because if the townspeople with the Mayor at their head desired to organ-

ize a loyal demonstration, they must also jointly with the police and the gendarmes themselves be responsible for peace and order. This object could surely be obtained, were a sufficiently large Committee formed and the Mayor to issue a patriotic appeal, the chief point in which was the announcement that on the evening of August 17 an exclusively loyal demonstration was to take place in honour of His Majesty's birthday. In order to make this festivity worthy of the occasion each participant must fully realize that no cheers except for His Majesty and the Monarchy are to be heard.

Then I pointed out expressly that the appeal must lay stress upon the conviction that all who took part in the demonstration would surely be inspired by feelings of the purest loyalty, but that it would be necessary for each to have an eye on the other, lest this loyalty should become too exuberant; in other words, if any other cries or cheers are uttered, the person who utters them must at once be recalled to reason by his neighbour. I also told the Mayor, if you speak in this way to the people, and if the townspeople really wish to express what is promised here, it will prove more efficient than three Infantry battalions.

After the Serbian raid into Syrmia, and the disgraceful acts of the local population, supposed to be considered loyal, the assumption was justified that the Serbian evil would be even more deeply rooted and more widely ramified in the other counties, and that in a parallel case even worse outrages were to be expected there!

For this reason I recently felt bound to consider the formation of a Croatian Volunteer Corps.

It is true that in agreement with the Government, the Government Commissioner in Zagreb had organized a corps on these lines, i. e. the incentive had already been given in August 1914.

At that time the Government Commissioner assured me that university students, intermediary scholars, burgesses and working men would each at once furnish a platoon of from 50 to 60 men. We were even told, that further platoons would certainly present themselves of their own accord.

This is what the Government promised; but the facts resulted in a fiasco, since after two months' effort the Government Commissioner merely succeeded in raising a platoon of intermediary scholars and in prevailing upon the corps of veterans also to raise one platoon.

This fact is distinctly calculated to cause one to ponder the reasons for the fiasco.

By the fact that the Military Command was anxious to proceed merely in accordance with the military instructions, regardless of the political importance of given individuals, whereas the Provincial Government did not proceed in an unprejudiced manner against political persons, and thence a divergency in the conception of duty became apparent, an harmonious co-operation was only rarely possible.

Owing to the privileged position of the Serbo-Croat-Coalition the pan-Serbian propoganda has probably taken root quicker and more thoroughly than had been expected even in Serbia!

Enclosure 2.

A list of the members of the "Narodna Odbrana" in Syrmia. Highly interesting, because it shows only too plainly that the professional classes certainly belong everywhere to the "Narodna Odbrana". The sequence "parish priest, school-master, inn-keeper, merchant, advocate" is constantly repeated. But how can this fact be explained and justified?

Has the Government been in ignorance of all this?

Enclosure 3.

Translation of a few passages of the publication of the "Narodna Odbrana" for 1911, especially of the parts referring to the society's activity in Croatia-Slavonia.

Highly interesting! — Here you realize the truth of *Arsinov's* words!

Interesting to note the appreciation of the activity of the clergy, the scholastic profession, of the *Privrednik*, of the Serbian Bank, the honour paid to the traitors, the significance of lectures, and the unconditional demand for the keeping in touch with Serbia. This fully explains the constant betrayal of our movements, transports of troops, positions, etc...

The dissolution of the *Privrednik* and vigorous proceedings against the Serbian Bank in the interests and for the benefit of the State was suggested to the Provincial Government by O. N. 3771, of 20/12, 1914. Result unknown.

The value of the Serbo-Croat Coalition — as then constituted — to the *Monarchy*, is therefore more than open to doubt. To realize this may be disagreeable for the politicians, but in the end the safety of the State demands that even the latter should be duly considered.

In my estimation the time has come for a complete change of

venue, because much can yet be saved, if the time is not allowed to pass unutilised. The Croats not only want to take an active part in the Monarchy's fight for existence; but they also want to bring their own fight for existence against the Serbs within the Kingdom of Croatia to a conclusion.

Thus it is, and not otherwise, and whatever the politicians may believe, think and say will not alter the facts of the case!

In June 1913 several desertions took place from the IV/53 Infantry Battalion belonging to the 8th Mountain Brigade, without special importance being attached to the matter. When I was given information and expressed my astonishment at the fact that it was possible for Croats to desert to Serbia, a Sergeant of the Reserve gave me the following answer:

"The Croats are loyal to the Emperor, but the Emperor doesn't like us. The Magyars don't understand us, also we don't want to become Magyars; that is why the Croats turn to the Serbs who at least understand their language."

At the time I did not understand these words, nor did I attach any importance to them; now that I am here and obliged to get a personal insight into local conditions and am now fairly well-informed, I may say that these plain words express all that the Croat people feels and thinks, they explain the past and plainly and openly foretell the future, if the regime of hitherto is persisted in!

Unfortunately owing to this primitive logic, a good many Croats have already, at least outwardly, taken on a Serbian tinge.

In general, however, it may be said that the present generation of Croats still may be described as unconditionally loyal and faithful to the Dynasty; these Croats will also remain loyal to the Emperor, but the children of this generation may only too easily become different!

Therefore the present issue at stake is whether this possibility is to be furthered in the interests of the Monarchy or utterly destroyed?... But this will scarcely be decided by politics alone.

XIV

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB
—
O. N. 3545

Copy of Copy.

Unrest among the Orthodox population

To.

Zagreb, May 30th. 1915.

The Order issued by the Command of the Balkan Forces K. No. 738, 1915, to be published in full:

"According to information received from the Military Command in Mostar, a cheerful mood has for several days past been noticeable among the Orthodox population; it transpires confidentially that they are supposed to have heard news of a *political change to our disadvantage*.

The Orthodox population within the Army sector is to be unobtrusively watched, and anything noticeable to be reported. Negative reports are not to be submitted.

Insurrectionary movements are to be stifled in the germ with draconian severity; in the case of hostile action, the persons in question, if caught red-handed, to be cut down by the intervening troops."

Similar methods are to be observed within the area of the Military Command.

The local authorities in conjunction with the gendarmes are to keep the Orthodox population unobtrusively under observation and in case of need to demand adequate assistance.

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB
—
O. N. 3545

Unrest among the Orthodox population.

To the Executive of the Royal Provincial Government of Croatia-Slavonia-Dalmatia

Zagreb

Zagreb, May 30th. 1915

(sgd) SEIPKA,
Major-General.

Please take note.

XV

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB

- 1. Int. Dep. Army G. H. Q.
Commander on the S.E. Front
F.P.O. 11
- 2. 5 op. G.H.Q.F. P.O. 305
- 3. 5 A.E.C. F.P.O. 81
- 4. Evid. O. Vienna
- 5.

SEALED

Chief of Staff

To be despatched in two envelopes, K.N. to be written on the one inside and N. alone without K. on the outer; seal!

Zagreb, July 10th 1915,

In spite of the 10 months' war with Serbia, in spite of the notable executions of native citizens for assisting the enemy at the time of his incursion into Syrmia and Bosnia there has latterly been an alarming increase in the number of cases of grossest insult to the person of H. M. the Emperor and King; outbreaks of deeply-felt, only forcibly controlled hatred against everything friendly to the dynasty and the Monarchy, curses upon the exalted wearer of the Crown, glorification of King Peter and the Serb realm, expressed by men and women alike, are of daily occurrence....

... It is impossible to pursue a Croatian pro-dynastic policy, as this course is openly obstructed by the Government...

... The Serb is — wherever possible — protected; he may curse the Emperor, nothing is done to him, because the Government protects, supports him; he can extol Serbia, he will not be severely punished...

... A strong, vigorous personage, inclining neither to the one party nor to the other, and whose Government would keep in view only the one great goal of the entire Monarchy, might still retrieve much, before it is too late,

Evidence bearing out these statements is available.
To be forwarded 1-5.

XVI

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB

Captain Francis Hocevar of
the I. and R. I. R. No 53.

Conditions in Croatia-Slavonia

To The General Staff Section of the I. and R. Military Command
Zagreb

Zagreb, August 8th 1915.

... The Government persisted in seeing nothing in this movement but the harmless symptoms of sundry hot-heads. Only the Sarajevo murder called attention to the serious nature of these symptoms. On the eve of this event, the situation in the Monarchy was still so favourable to the Serbs that many a Croat considered that it would be better to become a Serb and to take up the pan-Serbian Idea than to keep to the path of loyalty as a Croat. And on the strength of this reasoning many adhered to the Serbs and their ideas.

Owing to the Dualist form of the State they had in any case no hope of help from Austria, so they looked to the pan-Serb realm for the fulfilment of their wishes. Indeed, the propaganda for this realm promised them everything that their own Government refused to concede to them.

So we saw great sections of the Croats gradually becoming completely captivated by the Serbian Idea, which was naturally bound ultimately to aim at the union of the Serbs of the Kingdom with the Serbs and Croats of the Monarchy and Bosnia-Hercegovina in one great Serbian Empire.

Thus arose the Serbo-Croat Coalition, which has however always been involved in discord and discomfited by the various Hungarian Governments, including the present.

Apart from this Coalition stood and still stands the "Party of the Right" (Frank Party) which by its party programme repudiates the Agreement and refuses to recognize the Serbs as a nation, and so was from the outset not to be won over to the Coalition.

The remarkable thing in all Serbo-Croat Coalitions is that

their efforts have always proved more profitable to the Serb than to the Croat principle. This fact is at once explained if we recall that the purely Croatian Opposition to Hungary is in the main of a *State-constitutional* nature, whereas the Serbian Coalitionist Opposition has hitherto borne a purely national and economic character. Meantime the Hungarian Government would permit no attempt to shake the constitutional *Status quo*, while it favoured the "Serb Nationalist" aspirations — still failing to recognize them as pan-Serbian — at the expense of the Croats. The train of thought assumed the following concrete form : — If in consequence of the opposition of the Hungarian Government the union does not seem realisable under Habsburg and *within* the Monarchy, then it must be accomplished under another dynasty and in another State formation. No matter by what means...

... The plainly visible Serbian trend of the Government, which is pursued quite obviously in spite of the war, bodes no good. The appointment of an I. and R. General as Governor would, in Croat opinion, be calculated to ease the situation and not incur opposition even among the Serbs. According to men of Count Tisza's entourage, the R. Hungarian Prime Minister thoroughly approves of such a step and is said to have already considered it himself.

(sgd) HOCEVAR,
Captain.

XVII

SEALED

Chief of Staff

To be despatched in two envelopes K.N. to be written on the one inside, and N. alone without K. on the outer; seal!

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB

Evid. Office, Vienna

Croats in America

Zagreb, September 8, 1915.

A letter and newspaper from America arrived for the editorial office of the local paper "Pokret," but were stopped by the censor. Enclosed translation of letter. The original and the paper were sent in to S.d.d.s.

The "Pokret" is a Coalition paper, the tone of which is not as frankly Serbophil now as in peace time, but which leaves nothing to be desired in the matter of the "neutrality" of its judgment. Considering its tone, the paper might very well appear in Switzerland, as it nowhere shows the slightest vestige of patriotic feeling or Austro-Hungarian bias.

This explains why the letter from America was sent to this paper in particular.

In the letter the following is of interest :

You can see from the letter that the agitation for the formation of a "Jugoslavia" has permeated all classes of society and that the agitators abroad belonging to all Southern peoples at bottom pursue but the one goal.

This goal is the Union of all Slav peoples in the South of Europe in one realm, the realm of "Jugoslavia."

There are differences of opinion in so far as one party of these agitators aspires to found this new realm as an independent sovereign State, another party would like to bestow it upon an English Prince and yet others are waiting for the victor and would like to hand over this realm to the victor.

These differences probably spring from the origin of the funds drawn by the agitators.

But all are agreed in this that "Jugoslavia" must not be surrendered to Italy's influence, and that not one particle of the coast from the Sdokka (Isonzo) to Albania is to go to Italy.

All these agitators are directly hostile in their attitude towards the Kingdom of Italy. Italy's war has made all these people close their ranks.

The circumstance that Russia and Serbia were unable to prevent Italy's claims to Croat and Serb Dalmatia is visibly causing the more cautious of these agitators to turn away from the Russo-Serbian side, and the party which aims at bestowing "Jugoslavia" upon the victor increases in importance.

According to local opinion the importance of this agitation lies solely in the fact, that the fundamental principle of the agitators — "Union of all Southern Slav lands in one realm" — has gained ground even within the Monarchy. The "patriotic" partisans are for the federation of this realm with the Monarchy under Habsburg; the others, who do not share the belief in the Monarchy's ability to transform itself, look upon union under the Serbian flag as more suitable, because more realisable.

The principle "Narodno Jedinstvo" (National Unity) has for a long time past found a strong body of adherents among the educated classes and is the chief foundation of the agitation for the union of all Southern Slavs in one nation and one State.

The principle of "Narodno Jedinstvo" takes up the line that the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes are one nation, exhibiting differences in writing and confession, but recognizing no difference in the language.

Building upon this premise the agitation for the union of this "one great" nation (which at present is still temporarily living under Austrian, Hungarian, Serbian and Montenegrin allegiance) in one great national realm appears plausible to all members of this nation and the actual union as something desirable.

Although these axiomatic wishes and conceptions in themselves are perfectly clear in the lives and minds of the peoples, yet the notions concerning the way in which this idea is to be realized, are very far from clear, — because the possibility of realization depends solely upon the issue of the world war.

Should the war end well for Russia, the desired union will be hoped for from that quarter; should the war end well for the Monarchy, the outlook for the union will be less confident owing to the view that Dualist Austria-Hungary would not permit the formation of a third great realm, even within the complex of the Monarchy.

For this reason a Russian victory is on the whole more desired, than a victory of the Monarchy.

XVIII

SEALED

Chief of Staff

To be despatched in two envelopes K.N. to be written on the one inside and N. alone without K. on the outer; seal!

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB

Int. Dep. of Army High
Command F.P.O. 11.

Evid. Office Vienna.

High Treason and Lèse-Majesté. Trials in Croatia-Slavonia.

Zagreb, September 9th 1915.

As an illustration of the fact that the Coalition of the Croats and Serbs entails advantages only for the latter, we enclose a report of the proceedings in high treason trials in Croatia-Slavonia.

This report shows that for 1751 prosecutions for high treason, lèse-majesté and disturbance of the public order there were 902 convictions.

Besides this the Public Prosecutor's Office has received further information concerning some 3000 similar cases, in which however it was impossible to prosecute for want of witnesses.

ENCLOSURE

Lèse-Majesté, High Treason, Insult to Members of the Exalted Dynasty and Disturbance of the Public Order in Croatia-Slavonia.

..... The seditious agitation which has manifested itself since the accession of Peter Karageorgevic in the mass of the Greek-Orthodox population and the (relatively small) Serbophil section of the Catholic population of the South of the Monarchy, and more especially the wholesale occurrence of the crimes of lèse-Majesté, high treason, insult to members of the exalted dynasty and disturbance of the public order are phenomena familiar as regards their causes and incentive to every one acquainted with Croatian conditions. What is less explicable is the fact that within the last few months the civil authorities in Croatia-Slavonia have

taken to dealing so lightly with these crimes, that the offenders usually get off with only a few months incarceration, while in many cases, in spite of crushing evidence, the prosecution ends in dismissal or acquittal...

... Precisely because of these exceptional powers the post of vice-president was especially created for the High Court in Zagreb. The vice-president has the special duty of supervising criminal cases, or conducting them, as the case may be.

This post, which is so important for the irreproachable operation of the court in the case of political offences was, at the outbreak of the war (since 1911) occupied by the Judge of the Banal Court of Appeal, Dr. Mirko von Kosutic. In view of the fact that already at the beginning of the war there was an alarmingly conspicuous crop of countless political offences against the exalted dynasty and the State, this was the right man in the right place, as he had already been the examining magistrate in the Zagreb High Treason Trial of 1908, and so was acquainted with all the various activities of our political criminals, and had since then continued his work on those lines.

An examination of Dr. Mirko von Kosutic would confirm the following facts, which are moreover the common property of all judicial and legal circles ;

In the beginning of September 1914, Dr. von Kosutic in his official capacity had the proofs in his hands, that many deputies belonging to the Serbo-Croat Coalition, including Svetozar and Valerian Pribicevic, Janko Holjac (Mayor of Zagreb), Dr. Bogdan Medakovic, President of the Diet. Dr. Dushan Popovic, Dr. Hinko Hinkovic, Dr. Srdjan Budisavljevic, Wilder and Surmin, had rendered themselves guilty of the crime of High Treason by being active members of the Narodna Odbrana in Belgrade and the Serbian (i.e. of the Kingdom of Serbia) Sokol Society Dusan Silni (headquarters in Kragujevac) which forms an integral part of the Serbian army. — Dr. Kosutic in his official capacity requested the State Prosecutor in Zagreb (in the beginning of September 1914) to institute criminal proceedings for high treason against these traitors (some of whom happened to be in custody already for other political crimes) on the strength of the aforementioned official proofs (for the greater part transmitted by the Bosnian authorities). But the State prosecutor in Zagreb categorically told Dr. Kosutic that this could not be done, as the Serbo-Croat Coalition had to be preserved for future politics.

A few days later (in the latter half of September 1914) Dr. Kosutic was attached to the Royal Court in Mitrovica, where he still is...

... After the motion of Dr. Kosutic the criminal proceedings against President Dr. Medakovic and the deputies Wilder, Dr. Popovic, Svetozar Pribicevic, Valerian Pribicevic and Surmin were simply dropped. — Only Valerian remained interned — *but without criminal investigation* — and the proceedings against Budisavljevic are being conducted in such a dilatory fashion, that it is impossible to say when the hearing can take place.

The statistics for denunciations, prosecutions and convictions in the matter of the abovementioned political crimes in Croatia-Slavonia since the beginning of October 1914 yield the following returns ;

In spite of the gravity of the cases, the State Prosecutor, proceeds to an accusation only in about *one-third* of the cases against which information is laid, whereas in all the rest proceedings are dropped after preliminary examination. In the case of conviction, the courts inflict *minimum penalties*, and acquit very frequently even when the evidence is sufficient to convict.

The courts in question usually consist of Greek Orthodox, in other words, Serbophil judges.

The whole system is still further favoured by the fact, that upon the motion of the State Prosecutor in most cases the Provincial Courts of Croatia-Slavonia *are illegally deputed to take the place of the High Court in Zagreb, which is alone competent to deal with these offences* (in contravention of the clear terms of Art. 8 a/11 and 59 of the Penal Code ; consult also *Ogorelica*, p. 178).

XIX

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB

K. N. 2078

Chief of Staff

Re-assembly of the Croatian Diet. — The Serbo-Croat Coalition
To

Zagreb, December 31, 1915.

The Sabor (Diet) has been in session in Zagreb since the 20th inst. The Majority is now as before in the hands of the Serbo-Croat Coalition under the leadership of Dr. Medakovic, President of the Diet.

Enclosure I.

Typical of the present session is the interruption of the Majority member Deputy Wilder: "The idea will persist even after the war!"

What idea he was referring to, and why neither the President nor the Majority censured this interruption, is explained by the following.

The most prominent leaders of the Serbo-Croat Coalition were enthusiastic adherents of the pan-Serbian Idea, and had fled already before the beginning of the war. We refer to the late deputies Franjo Supilo, Dr. Hinko Hinkovic, Dr. Franko Potocnjak, furthermore Dr. Vosnjak, Milan Marjanovic, Dr. Teodorovic and others.

These men are now working against the Monarchy abroad by a propaganda of word and deed. The formation of the Adriatic legion, the recruiting of subjects of the Monarchy resident abroad for the purpose of fighting against the Monarchy, the appeals for incitement to desertion, and the seditious agitation in the country itself are their work.

The late deputy and Lieutenant of the Reserve Jovan Banjanin is one of their number. He deserted to the Serbs during the war and at once took service with them against us. He has also published several pamphlets agitating against the Monarchy.

Enclosure 1a.

Enclosure 1 is No. 2 of the *Jugoslavenski Glasnik* of August 15th 1915, published by the Committee of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, printed at Nish by the Royal Serbian State Press and found in the editorial offices of the "Piemont" in Belgrade. Besides several other highly interesting descriptions, the Serbo-Croat Coalition and its importance for the pan-Serbian Propaganda are shown in their true light in this pamphlet.

P. 31 contains a political sketch by Dr. Josip Jedlowski under the title "Second London Letter."

Enclosure II.

It should be noted that the Croatian author Dr. J. Jedlowski, no less than Dr. Supilo, the spiritual father of the Coalition, the deputy Dr. Hinkovic, Dr. Franko Potocnjak, Milan Marjanovic, Dr. Trumbic, Vladislav Fabjancic, Sarinic, Dr. Nikola Stojanovic, Dr. Mice Micic and others, is one of the most perfervid haters of the monarchy, who, as may be seen from Enclosure II (copy of the letter), is taking a prominent part in the enrolment of franc-tireurs, collection of funds in America, England and France, and certainly also in the transmission of news to and from his fellow-partisans in the country.

Enclosure III.

The translation of the letter addressed by the "Jugoslavenski Odbor" in London to the "Temps" is enclosed.

These are the activities of those members of the Serbo-Croat Coalition who are now abroad.

Of their party colleagues and partisans who have remained at home, deputies Dr. Lorkovic, Wilder, Surmin, likewise Bertic and many others are at present under preliminary examination on charges of high treason.

The Coalition deputies Dr. Medakovic, Pribicevic, Budisavljevic, Ercegovac, Miscevic, Dr. Dusan Popovic and Dr. Svetislav Popovic have already been involved in criminal proceedings on the same charge. These proceedings have been in some cases dropped, and are still dragging on in others.

The foregoing provides the explanation why, after 18 months of war, of which the pan-Serbian aspirations were the fundamental cause, the Member of the Serbo-Croat Coalition could openly announce the survival of this "Idea" without being called to order by his colleagues and fellow-partisans in the Majority.

It is obvious that the pan-Serbian Idea is still assiduously carrying on its work of disintegration, although under another firm,

and that the partisans of the Serbo-Croat Coalition — who indeed admit as much in the assembled Diet — must be considered as the hosts and propagators of this Idea.

As for Dr. Medakovic, the President of the Sabor (Diet), he keeps away from the sittings, which proves that, in spite of the proceedings against him having been dropped, he has not a sufficiently clear conscience to face the storm of indignation with which the Opposition would certainly greet his appearance in the Diet.

Under these auspices the Diet is in session.

Thence it is intelligible that the loyal population regards the Government — which is drawn from the Majority — and its instruments with distrust.

As before, corruption prevails among the officials; indeed, favouritism is ubiquitous.

Enclosure IV.

Enclosure IV., No 11044, containing a letter addressed by the Catholic townspeople of the town of Cazma to the Military Command in Zagreb, bears eloquent testimony to this.

Culpable abuses brought to light by the Military authorities are not remedied, but complaints and urgent requests are deferred by systematic silence or hushed up.

Enclosure V.

In proof of this Enclosure V. containing a memorandum (enclosed under O. N. 9704, N. 6088, and 5114) concerning fraudulent exemption from military service by the Police authorities. The Dr. Bedekovic inculpated in the report was chartered by the Government for the whole duration of the war, and is at present Chief of the Secret Police; the chief culprit, the late Chief of Police Mraovic was transferred to another prominent appointment. — Insistent requests to deal with this case are not attended to.

Enclosure VI.

Similar procedure is revealed by the documents contained in Enclosure VI, under O. N. 1896, in which case in spite of seven insistent requests spread over the interval between March 24 and December 3rd of this year, no reply has been received up to date.

Enclosure VII.

Ditto Enclosure VII, memorandum (containing K. N. 1792/2, 1792/1, 1792 ex 1915 and O. N. 2013, 1694, 1595 and 1425 ex 1914).

To this category likewise belongs the case, — reported under K. N. 1681 in Point 3 to the Army G.H.Q., — of Mayor *Kamenar*, whom His Excellency the Ban vouched for personally at the sitting of the Diet on the 29th inst., without special interpellation on the subject, by stating, after personal perusal of the documents, that accusations levelled against *Kamenar* were biased and exaggerated, as only small derelictions had occurred, which would appear sufficiently punished with a fine. The details of this case are contained in Enclosure VIII.

Enclosure VIII.

Remains to be added. The Town Council of Koprivnica, branded for its disloyal attitude under identical K.N. 1681 in points 1 and 3, headed by the aforesaid Mayor *Kamenar*, has recently bestowed the freedom of the city of Koprivnica upon His Excellency Infantry General Boroevic. Similarly these gentlemen have interested themselves in the Branch Society of the Red Cross. In view of their antecedents it is not to be assumed that this change sprang from spontaneous feeling; more probably it was due to instructions from above.

If to this we add the complete break-down of the municipal Food Control, which is almost exclusively in the hands of the members of the Coalitionist gang, we see enough to arouse and foster discontent, and even war-weariness among the people, as there is not the slightest sign of improvement perceptible anywhere.

Enclosure IX.

Enclosure IX added as evidence of the disposition of Croats living abroad.

ALLESCHOK,
Lieutenant-Colonel.

XX

I. AND R. SUPPL. DISTRICT
COMMAND KARLOVAC

To The I. and R. Military Command
Zagreb

Karlovac, July 10th 1916.

Re decree K.N. 2767 of July 2, 1916, on the strength of the dispatch received from Zagreb on the 3/7. I beg to report the following:

Pan-Serbian Propaganda is so rampant in Karlovac that it may already be considered as fraught with danger to the Monarchy, wherefore the conditions as depicted in anonymous communications may presumably be described as correct.

In order to be convinced of this, it is enough to keep a fairly close watch upon the adherents of the Coalition, to which belong the greater number of the townspeople, and in the first place all the officials including the heads of departments.

Thus e.g. in the case of non-success of our arms, you notice gatherings in various parts of the town, such as hotels, cafés, promenades, etc... on which occasion our reverse is discussed with smiling and joyful countenances. Not infrequently cheerful evening parties are arranged on such days in the house of some member of the Coalition.

Such manifestations of joy have become so customary here, that politically reliable people have absolutely ceased to take any notice of them, as they are quite helpless and alone.

If on the other hand we score a success all is quiet, and inward dissatisfaction can be read in the face of every individual.

These phenomena are the best proofs of the extent to which the anti-dynastic tendency — which is doubtless directed from some quarter — has progressed in these parts.

According to my conviction and observations this propaganda has taken deep root in all classes of the population. Its present success is already fairly considerable and shows itself in the fol-

lowing way: "Through my two months' service with the District Recruiting Command in Karlovac, I frequently had occasion to observe that almost all communal and district officials of the local Recruiting District assist men liable for military service and Landsturm duty in every way to evade their duty."

Take this case. A man called up in June 1915 was exempted from Landsturm service until May 1st. 1916 by the Royal and Provincial Ministry of Defence. He failed to join up on the 1st of May. Consequently the district authorities in question were requested to cause the man to join up at once. Instead of causing the man to join up at once, the district authorities did not reply until the end of May to the effect that the man could not be made to join up at once, as he had put in a second plea for exemption, and was therefore entitled to await the answer at home. I beg to remark that according to the existing regulations of the Provincial Ministry of Defence — with which every communal and district official is familiar — no man is entitled to await the decision of a second plea for exemption at home after the expiration of his term of exemption. In view of these above-mentioned clear instructions of the Royal and Provincial Ministry of Defence I must maintain that the above-mentioned reply of the district authorities certainly aimed at a further delay of the man's joining up.

Consequently I did not enter into further correspondence with the authorities in question, but had the man brought in by gendarmes. Even this took some time, so that the man was not incorporated for Landsturm service until June 1st. Owing to the assistance of the authorities this individual succeeded in evading his military duties for two months.

Similar and far worse cases were innumerable. With reference to this I reported 2 months ago to the I. and R. Military Command in Zagreb, and a fortnight ago to the County Authorities in Zagreb, but have so far received no answer.

Seeing that such cases occurred repeatedly, not only in one case but in that of almost all subordinate authorities, I firmly maintain that the local Serbian Propaganda devotes itself mainly to injuring the effective strength of our army.

At least one-third of the men called up fail to join up on the appointed day. If (as e. g. on May 29) 1,250 men are called up, 250 to 300 will fail to turn up. When upon reporting themselves these defaulters were asked by me, why they had failed to join up on the appointed day, they would reply: "I was at work in the fields, or in the forest, etc... and so couldn't join up before."

Such answers, given with the utmost calmness and coolness, show that the population is being incited to such conduct.

If we consider e. g. the Reserve Draft Battalion 96, we note that the major part of the rank and file is egged on and enlightened by agitators; the men are insolent, indisciplined to the last degree, have no respect at all for their officers and superiors; they loaf round the town at all hours at their own sweet will, leave the garrison with the utmost coolness, and stop at home till they are brought in by gendarmes.

There are men in the Battalion who have for a full year evaded being sent to the front.

.....
When on July 7, the Battn. on the march was drawn up ready for departure, the Commander of the Reserve Draft Battalion bade farewell to the officers, calling them before the ranks to do so. Several men stationed upon the flanks of the Battalion made use of the opportunity and left the Battn. in full view of everybody present.

Of course the Battn. marched off without these men. This is another of the ways in which men evade service at the front for lengthy periods, by repeating the process on various occasions.

And where lies the reason of these melancholy conditions just described? Nowhere, but in the political agitation in the country.

The officers especially the Coy. Commanders, are helpless. All these conditions afford the I. and R. Military Command a clear picture of what the Serb Propaganda is aiming at, and what success it has scored so far. For this reason the continuous anonymous notices sent from this district are absolutely intelligible.

In order to put more or less of an end to these conditions, and in view of the very active intercourse between the men and the civil population, I urgently suggest that the 96th Res. Draft Battn. should be removed as far as possible from Karlovac.

I. and R. Military Command, Zagreb. General Staff Section.
K. N. 3172 Presented 12/7/1916.

XXI

STATION COMMAND, KARLOVAC

K. N. 318

SEALED
CONFIDENTIAL

Report re pop. disposition.

To The Chief of Staff of the Military Command,
in Zagreb.

Karlovac, July 29, 1916.

... Ad K. 3172 of July 20th, I beg to submit the following altogether impartial report...

... The Serbo-Croats have not yet been brought to reason by the long war, and form a separate caste in this place.

... The local population is quite apathetic as regards the events of the war; it seems as if they took no further interest in the course of the war.

The indolence of the authorities beggars all description. They seek to the best of their ability to comply with the instructions they receive in such a way as to deal with them in the very easiest way. An eloquent proof of this is their method of furnishing travelling permits. The travelling regulations for the S.W. Front, which have been notified by the Provincial Government to the political authorities, are so far ignored, inasmuch as people are not provided with identity papers showing photograph, and generally speaking only certificates of identity are furnished, as this gives less trouble, but is only valid for intercourse between neighbouring communes. Besides, such a certificate of identity is made out until cancelled, not even for a definite period, a meaningless document, as one man can transfer it to another. Thus the people of Brod have no papers with which to prove their identity as far as Karlovac, except a certificate of identity. For a strict examination of the train, pretty well the whole train-load of passengers would have to be turned out. In many cases the natives of this district in particular have said during the inspection in the train, that the commune considers the furnishing of travelling permits as unnecessary, and advises

people simply to enter the train, as the railway official does not ask for identification papers.

But even the military authorities encounter difficulties in dealing with the Provincial Authorities...

As regards the mania for desertion among the men of the I. and R.I.R. 96, this is explained by the extraordinary ease with which a man can desert, as the unit is stationed in the middle of the district whence the drafts are recruited and a walk of a few kilometres will take a man to his native commune, where he is concealed and supplied with food. But deserters can find concealment even in Karlovac...

... As regards the incidents accompanying the departure of the Battns. on the march the customary fusillade is always indulged in by the men leaving for the front. This is due to nothing but utter lack of discipline among the men and the shooting is done with concealed or stolen munitions...

Arthur KELLNER.

XXII

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB
—
N. 215 Res.

CHIEF OF STAFF
CONFIDENTIAL

To The I. and R. Army G.H.Q. —
Intelligence Department F.P.O. 11.

Zagreb, January, 21, 1917.

I enclose the communication No. 33 S.d.d.s. of 2/1/1917, also that under No. 143/1916 of January 2 with the request to return the same.

With reference to the "military obstacles", I consider that because of the possible connection which I perhaps do not know and cannot estimate I ought to suggest a decision.

As the Government was only permitted to inspect documents which might have inculcated political personages, I consider that this should be taken as a general rule, if no obstacle transpires with reference to this very material piece of evidence.

On the other hand I beg to state that — so far as I can judge of the conditions — it is to be assumed beforehand, that the Royal State Prosecutor will not only cast doubts upon the genuineness of the list, but endeavour to adduce counter-evidence.

First the S. d. d. s. should be instructed to await the reply from the Intelligence Department of the Military Government General to 143/1916, and then to communicate the reply to us.

2 enclosures.

(sgd) DROFFA,
Lieutenant-colonel.

N. B. Enclosed with this report were several lists of members of the *Narodna Odbrana*, namely List A = 334 members (Syrmia); list B = 127 members (Backa-Banat); list C = 181 members (Bosnia and Hercegovina); D = 56 members in Croatia proper.

XXIII

I. AND R. ARMY
G. H. Q.

Southern Slav Officers guilty of high treason

Commander-in-Chief Freiherr v. Boroevic
Rec. Op. 45368 24 9 17, 25/9 11/47.
Lt. von Schöller

Baden, September 24, 1917.

According to a notice in Paris paper "Le Temps" of 12/8 1917, twenty-four Austrian officers who had surrendered on the Isonzo front and are of Southern Slav nationality despatched an address to which their signatures were appended to the Serbian Minister Ristic in Rome, expressing their devotion to King Peter I, King of the Southern Slavs and the whole Karageorgevic Dynasty and expressed the request to be permitted to devote their lives to the establishment and liberation of the Southern Slav Fatherland.

Commander-in-Chief Boroevic is requested to report who are the officers in question (rank, name of unit, time of desertion, etc...).

Forwarded to General Boroevic and to Command of S. W. Front. for their information.

Op. N. 45368

Army G.H.Q.
Chief of Staff.

XXIV

ARMY G. H. Q. IN BADEN

re Op. Conf. N. 974. 7/2-1918

Telegram

After personal visit of inspection to H. M. Ships *Erzherzog Karl, St. Georg* and *Monarch* and consultation with Naval Port Commanders and Admirals I beg to report:

It is the opinion of the Admirals that the demoralization of the crews is due to Czecho-Jugoslav influences, the focus of which is presumed to be in Laibach. Special activity is shown by a Russian corresponding wireless station, the whereabouts of which has not yet been discovered; incidentally remarkable is the frequent resort to isolated places and inns — doubtless haunts of conspiracy — by members of crews. The great area of the naval port renders adequate supervision difficult.

Therefore — as I have already repeatedly said — it is absolutely necessary, that the Ministry for the Interior should at once create an organized State Police in Dalmatia — at least in the Naval Port, for the present — in order to watch suspect elements among the population, who according to the reports of two Squadron Commanders displayed sympathy with the mutineers and cheered them.

The N. Port Commander requests, on the strength of the reports of Colonel Böttner, who is himself a native of Dalmatia, that Battns. IV/37, VII/37 and III/23, which are considered unreliable by these gentlemen, should be exchanged for Hungarian or German Infantry Landsturm Battns. I beg to support this request, all the more as I am convinced that if these Battalions are successively relieved and withdrawn from home surroundings, they will answer very well upon another front.

The number to be dealt with by court martial is 43, including three who have escaped. Sentences will be pronounced and executed on the 9th. inst. Of the remaining 500 about one-half might be subjected to normal judicial proceedings whereas the

other half should be regarded as unreliable and removed as speedily as possible from the naval port by order of the Naval Command.

SARKOTIC
Commander.

Op. No. 644.

Received Army G.H.Q., Chief of Staff of Op. N. 974
To Naval Command 8/2 1918 1 p.m.
Inspection Officer Vertrubec, Engineer.

XXV

I. AND R. MILITARY
GOVERNMENT GENERAL IN SERBIA

INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

Int. Dep. N. 1580

To General Staff Section of the I. and R. Milit. Command in
Zagreb.

Belgrade, February 15, 1918.

In view of the circumstance that the papers appearing in the Monarchy have recently begun to publish political and other news calculated to react undesirably on the minds of the Serb. population as well as those of the military, you are herewith requested each time to advise the I. and R. Local Control of Posts and Telegraphs in Belgrade by telegram of issues of individual German, Hungarian, Czech, Rumanian, Croatian and Slovene papers published in the country and containing such news, so that the papers in question may be confiscated in time, i. e. before they reach individual news-vendors or the public within the sphere of the M.G.G./S.

Among the Croatian papers those to be chiefly considered as being read by the Serbian public are the "Novosti", the "Obzor", "Jutarni List", then the "Glas Slovenaca, Hrvata i Srba", and the Osijek (Esseg) paper "Jug."

The abovementioned procedure concerning the advice by telegram of papers, the contents of which are not suitable reading as regards news for the population or the military, would obviate the periodic prohibition of individual papers, which, as experience has shown, leads to the immediate organization of a regular smuggling trade in newspapers.

It has been observed that the Serbian public displays a particular interest in Czech and Southern Slav parliamentary separatist aspirations, and seizes with avidity upon all news referring to the same, including the Serbophil editorials of the Croatian papers, and then on the strength of these news draws all manner of possible and impossible conclusions, whereby the local population — apart from all incidental exaggerations — is quite unnecessarily thrown into a state of excitement.

The contemplated procedure is intended to remedy this state of affairs.

(sgd) SAFRANEK,
Capt.

XXVI

R. HUNG.
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

No. 3.613.
eln. 1. v. 1918

Copy.

Prevention of Desertion and seditious Agitation in Croatia and Slavonia

To His Excellency Privy Councillor
Infantry General and I. and R. Minister for War
Rudolf Stöger Steiner, Edler von Steinstaetten.

Budapest, February 19, 1918.

From several reports recently come to hand it may be gathered that certain symptoms have transpired in Croatia and Slavonia which warrant the assumption of a fairly well-prepared, in its ultimate object seditious movement in favour of the foundation of a Southern Slav State.

The most notable of these symptoms are :

1) According to communication from 'Army G. H. Q. Ev. No 2097 Croatian soldiers are reported to have related in the train between Brod and Zemun (Semlin) that desertions on a grand scale are planned for the spring.

2) Private communications state that there are many deserters at large in Croatia and Slavonia.

3) The Jugoslav propaganda is widely spread by the press, by demonstrations and on the occasion of various celebrations. At the celebration in honour of the Serbian poet Vojnovic in Osijek, Serbian favours were much in evidence, forbidden songs were sung, and Peter, Pasic and Serbia were cheered. Large numbers of young men of military age take part in these demonstrations.

The Osijek daily paper "Jug", which writes quite openly about the necessity of founding a great Southern Slav State, is profusely circulated in the barracks among the soldiers.

4) *The men say openly that in spring all will desert to the "green units".*

5) *Deserters being brought in are escorted by the population with acclamations and celebrated as heroes.*

6) The R. Hung. Honved District Command in Zagreb reports

that the number of deserters, especially from units on the march, is very great. The men very often desert with their rifles and full kit, stealing, plundering and endangering the public safety.

An officer on patrol was shot dead by deserters in the neighbourhood of Dalj. Near Osijek a farm was attacked and looted by armed deserters.

The foregoing shows that even soldiers take an active part in the Jugoslav movement. The already serious number of desertions seems to be connected with it.

I consider it urgently necessary to relieve the Res. Draft Battns, in which the influence of this seditious propaganda is most noticeable, by German or Hung. Draft Battns. on the march. For the present, however, only the preparations for this measure should be taken by the Ministry in consultation with the Ban of Croatia.

I have already given orders for preparations to be made in the Ministry for an exchange of the Honved Res. Draft Battn. on the march No. 25 in Zagreb, for the Honved. Res. Draft Battn. 18 (Sopron) and that of the Honved Res. Draft Battn. No. 28 (Osijek), for the Honved Res. Draft Battn. No. 31 (Veszprem), so that the exchange of these draft units may be effected.

I therefore beg that measures may be taken similarly to prepare for the exchange of the Army Draft units stationed in Croatia-Slavonia (where the men are of Slav nationality), more especially the R. and I. Res. Draft Battns. 53 in Zagreb and 78 in Osijek, for German or Hungarian Res. Draft Battns.

On this occasion I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Hung. Cabinet Meeting of the 14th commissioned me to obtain from the Army Supreme Command that a) the Croat Officers and troops at present stationed in and around Fiume should as soon as possible be replaced by Hung. Honved and Landsturm officers and troops ; and that b) *Fiume is not to be given a Croat garrison even in peace time.* With reference to the above I have already preferred the request to the Army Supreme Command under No. 3514 eln. 1. 1918.

I moreover have the honour to inform you, that I have simultaneously taken the following immediately necessary steps in the matter :

1) Application of martial law for desertion by the Zagreb District Command in agreement with the local Military Command.

2) Re-examination of exemptions and the official documents serving as basis for the same by a special commission.

3) Immediate cancelling of exemption from military service in

the case of persons who fail to attend to the work on account of which they were exempted or take part in seditious demonstrations.

4) The R. Hung. Prime Minister was requested to authorise energetic proceedings on the part of the political authorities with a view to controlling *the press*, and to give the necessary orders for the disarming of the population.

In view of the importance and urgency of the matter I beg Your Excellency likewise to issue the necessary orders as soon as possible.

Army High Command
F. P. O. 11.

Budapest, Feb. 19, 1918.

Forwarded for your information with the request for the sake of the public safety of Croatia and Slavonia urgently to transfer officers and men of the Croato-Slavonian Corps of Gendarmes at present at the A. I. front to the Croato-Slavonian Corps of Gendarmes Command.

I. and R. Army G. H. Q. Operations Section.
handed in 22/2/1918 1 a. o.
Op. No. 103136.

XXVII

I. AND R. MILITARY GOVERNMENT
GENERAL OF SERBIA

—
Int. Depart. 439

To the R. and I. Military Command, General Staff Section
in Zagreb.

Belgrade, March 20, 1918.

With reference to the conversation with Lieutenant-Colonel *Zuna* concerning the watch to be kept on the Southern Slav movement, the following indicates in broad outlines the course to be followed in fixing the standard to be applied to newspapers, pamphlets, etc... unsuitable for the territorial sphere of the M.G.G./S.

The M.G.G./S. in the first place bears in mind that the Southern Slav propaganda, which has quite recently found a most fruitful and extensive field throughout the whole Monarchy, is bound to find a most natural echo in Serbia, in the hearts of the co-national Serbian people. Cut off from its fathers and brothers who are leading a separate social and political life in foreign parts, that part of the Serbian population which remained within the R. and I. territorial sphere of occupation naturally seeks its political pabulum and support where it finds most points of contact with its own world of thought and feeling. A natural consequence of this circumstance is that the Serbs of these parts take — if not an active — at least a strong passive interest in the political and, generally speaking, intellectual life of the Southern Slavs of the Monarchy, and it is no mistake to maintain that now, during the war, Zagreb has become that centre of attraction for the Serbs, which Belgrade was before.

Consequently the M.G.G./S. cannot be an indifferent spectator of the rising tide of this movement, the waves of which are already encroaching upon the borders of the territory of occupation.

Hence the request is hereby preferred that a constant watch be kept upon this movement, and that specially with reference

to the population here; so that we here, in conjunction with your General Staff Section, may yet succeed by timely prevention in keeping the pernicious influences of the Southern Slav propaganda in check.

To this end the Southern Slav daily "Glas Slovenaca, Hrvata i Srba" was already once before by decree from here forbidden within the territory of the MGG/S, and we beg to notify herewith that the introduction of the Osijek paper "Jug" is likewise prohibited. As it would be impossible, however, to prohibit within the territory of the MGG/S all papers which accept the Southern Slav Resolution of May 30, 1917 as programme ("Hrv. Drzava", "Novine", "Novosti", "Jutarni List", etc...) it is considered urgently necessary to subject the remaining papers, before their sale and circulation in Serbia, to a revision to be undertaken at your end. The individual issues of papers, articles, etc... classified over there as unsuitable for the MGG must then be indicated by telegram in a verbally pre-arranged code, so, that they can be seized in the post at this end.

LIABLE TO SEIZURE :

1) In principle all notices, articles, etc... damaging to the interest of the Monarchy and the allies in a military, as well as political or economic respect, and calculated to enhance the prestige of, or sympathy for the Entente Powers among the Serbs.

2) Propagandist articles which go too far in the Yugoslav sense; discussions of the well-known Pasic-Trumbic pact in connection with the Southern Slav Resolution of May 30, 1917, which — except for the question of the dynasty — pretty well accords with the former. All allusions to a Southern Slav State outside the Monarchy — even those appearing under the cloak of the "unconditional right of self-determination" (whereby the people would be qualified to decide even the dynastic question by a plebiscite); consequently also suggestions for a solution of the Southern Slav question in the Serbian sense, i. e. under the Karageorgevic Dynasty. This category includes the new Italo-Serbian fraternisation which aims at the destruction of the Monarchy.

3) Glorification of the activities of the Southern Slav Committee in London and sundry of its leaders (as e.g. recently Frano Supilo, Dr. Potocnjak).

4) Interpellations concerning conditions in MGG territory, internment camps, prohibition of newspapers, hostages, difficult conditions of life, criticism in general of Government orders in Serbia, etc...

5) News of strikes, demonstrations, sabotage, mutinies, famines, proclamations of martial law, etc...

6) News of Czecho-Slovak Divisions and, generally speaking, of all participation of Slav troops of the Monarchy in the fight against the Central Powers, the recruiting of volunteers in Europe, America, etc...

7) All reprisals and repressive measures taken by the Governments in the Monarchy against the Southern Slav movement; especially at the beginning of the war.

This standard to be applied not only to newspapers, but also to periodical pamphlets, etc...

It is to be noted that articles written in a moderate tone and taking a solution of the Southern Slav problem *within* the Monarchy as their basis, promote an atmosphere favourable to the Monarchy among the Serbs. Even if they are conceived in a radically federalist spirit and consequently fulminate against the present regime in the Monarchy, such articles cannot be gauged by the same standard for Serbia as for the Monarchy itself, seeing that they offend against existing laws — because thereby the delicate question of Serbia's position in the Balkans is touched upon, and the prospect opened up that Serbia may yet be compelled to seek her fate in close union with the Monarchy.

The introduction of the papers "Glas Slovenaca Hrvata i Srba" and "Jug" into the MGG/S territory is herewith prohibited; on the other hand the existing inhibition against the "Hrvatska Rijec" is cancelled.

Kindly forward key to Code to be compiled at your office as soon as possible; likewise to inform "Hrvatska Rijec" in such manner as may be deemed suitable.

(sgd.) KORCHNAVO,
Lieutenant-Colonel.

XXVIII

I. AND R. COAST DEFENCE COMMAND
NORTH DALMATIA

—
N. 820 res

“Djacka Organizacija” (Students’ Union.)

To The I. and R. Military Command (Int. Dep. Section)
Zagreb.

Mostar, April 18, 1918.

Information has been obtained from a reliable confidential agent, that during the state of war a Southern Slav Students’ organization has been formed under the name of *Djacka Organizacija*, with its head-quarters in *Laibach* and branches in all larger towns, most of them in Dalmatia.

Object of the organization: the Union of all Southern Slav territories in an independent and self-governing State, outside the frame of the Monarchy, it is alleged.

This organization is also said to be in touch with the “Zeleni Kader” (“Green units”, designation for deserters’ refuges.)

Besides the academic youth, townspeople, etc... are admitted, and each member is provided with papers and pamphlets for distribution among the population.

Besides this, every member applying to the editorial offices of the “Jug” or “Glas Slovenaca Hrvata i Srba” for the purpose of subscribing is given a testimonial of thanks in form of a “degree”.

In Metkovic a certain *Vido Jaramac* (merchant) is said to have such papers and pamphlets for sale or distribution, as the case may be.

It is added, that already for months past students have been observed secretly to collect signatures in Dalmatia, ostensibly for the “May Declaration of 1917” but possibly also for other purposes.

In the absence of the Commandant.
Signature illegible.

I. and R. Military Command, Zagreb, General Staff Section
No. 1094

Submitted 24/4/1918.

XXIX

Upon receipt of the communication marked Na No 820 res. the Military Command in Zagreb addressed a circular demanding information to all subordinate commands. The officers in command of the various units, being Croats, for the most part replied intentionally in the negative. The following is a typical example:

*I. and R. Reserve Battalion of the I. R. No 53.
Res. N. 2277.*

*Military Command Gr. Int. Dep. Zagreb.
Re Int. Dep. — No 1432 (Jugoslav Movement).*

Ad 1) There are no signs noticeable in the Reserve Battn. from which propagandist activity for the Yugoslav movement could be deduced.

Ad 2) No certificates of leave or travelling permits — furnished from outside, — which might have provided the men with facilities for desertion, have been found in the Reserve Battn. The life of a large town, the lack of restraint on the part of the more well-to-do, serve to put the men in a bad humour.

These facts, however, cannot in any way be connected with the Yugoslav movement, which is the exclusive common property of the more educated, politically active classes.

Ad 3) The men, who belong chiefly to the rural population, are not in the least susceptible to aggressive or radically national political tendencies. Identical conditions prevail among the men drawn from the urban population.

*Zagreb, June 2nd 1918.
(sgd.) DEBIC,
Lieutenant-Colonel.*

*I. and R. Military Command Zagreb Gen. S. Section. Na N. 1627
handed in 4/6/1918.*

XXX

I. AND R.
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

O. N. 13155

Seditious agitation by Korosec Party.

To The I. and R. Army High Command

Vienna, May 2, 1918.

In yesterday's Cabinet Meeting I have drawn the attention of His Excellency the Prime Minister and that of Minister Zolger to the consequences of the *unbridled agitation of the Korosec party which is beginning to react in a demoralizing way upon the Slovene troops also.*

Apart from other measures I have

1) Ordered the *transfer of the Reserve Battn. of the Mountain Rifle Rgt. No. 2 from Laibach*, and with reference to the note from there marked. Op. N. 105416 of April 24, 1918,

2) *I have opened the enquiry into the incidents in the R. Regt. No 25 in Marburg.*

F. CZAPP,
General of Division.

Op. No 106004 3/5/18.

XXXI

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
GRAZ

Major General Otto Herzmansky
Edler von San

Report concerning conditions in the Mt. Rifles Regt. No. 2.
To the I. and R. Ministry of Defence
in Vienna

Graz, May 5, 1918.

Re Telegr. Communication of 2nd inst. N. O. 12984/11

..... b) The Military Station Commandant and the Officer Commanding in the town attach importance to the mood and agitation among the men in the Res. Battn.

They are of opinion that a large proportion of the men has absorbed the ideas of the Korosec party. They have come to this conclusion, because it was reported to them that many men, — even the Companies who left in April — wore national (tricolour) ribbons and cockades on the march to the station; furthermore, because of cases of seditious utterances in recent time, and finally because sundry supporting Battalions have not behaved with sufficient energy on April 24th.....

In view of the above the Mt. Rifle Regt. Res. Battn. No. 2 has two important defects.

a) The seditious agitation among the men on the part of Korosec adherents. As represented by the officers of the Battn. this agitation is limited to a small proportion of the men, and not dangerous. According to the Military and State officials outside the Battn. a considerable number of the men are already inclined towards the Korosec movement, and this circumstance gives cause for anxiety.....

b) Everybody was agreed on one point, and that both incidentally to my inquiry in Laibach and the former one in Idria (Landst. Section Coy. No. 15), viz : that the agitation originates with a section of the Slovene clergy, incited thereto and supported in this by the Bishop, and that the rural population is only roused with difficulty and reluctantly, whereas the urban population — first and foremost part of the educated classes and the younger generation — follows more willingly.

HERZMANSKY,
Major General.

XXXII

I. AND R. ARMY HIGH COMMAND

Op. N. 106.116 5/5 18

CHIEF OF STAFF

Excesses and Southern Slav Propaganda in the Res. Battn. Mt. R. Regt. No. 2
F.P.C. 11 May 5, 1918

The Intelligence Section of the Military Command of Graz reports under Na. N. 992 Res of 27/4/1918.

On April 24th there were riots in the streets of Laibach; windows were broken and the goods displayed by Messrs. *Homann* were looted. Besides the town police, gendarmes and the military had to be called in.

A night or two before these disturbances two N.C.O's of the Mt. Rifle Regt. No 2 were heard shouting in the streets in Slovene: "Cheers for Anarchy, cheers for the Southern Slav State, down with Austria, down with the Emperor Charles I"

It is also known that privates in the above mentioned Regiment, without special occasion and contrary to the existing prohibition, wear Slav national badges in their caps, which is only permitted when leaving for the front.

It is also reported that at an inn last night an N.C.O. of this Regiment tore the silver medal for gallantry and the Charles Troop Cross off his breast, threw them on the ground, and with the cry of "Cheers for the Southern Slav State!" trampled upon them.

(Handed in at the evidence Office of the I. and R. General Staff on 29/4/1918 under Ev. No. 12060).

The Regimental Command is enjoined to keep a sharp watch upon the disciplinary conditions among the men.

XXXIII

I. AND R. FRONTIER
CONTROL SECTION FELDKIRCH

Int. Dep. N. 992 res

Southern Slav movement in Zagreb and Laibach.

To The I. and R. Int. Section of the Mil. Command in Zagreb.

Feldkirch, May 17, 1919.

According to confidential information, the *Organization of the Southern Slav Youth* has started a propaganda among the soldiers in Laibach and Zagreb, seeking to induce them to desert from their units,

Men who are already members of Southern Slav Associations and are now with the colours are to be furnished with forged certificates of leave or open orders, so as to enable them to fly to Switzerland. These open orders are said to be (in part) issued in Laibach and Agram (Zagreb).

Active communication between this organization and that of Prague is said to be carried on between Laibach and Prague by means of confidential agents. It is not improbable, moreover, that the decisions of both organizations, as well as those of the Czech National Council (said to be transmitted through a consulate) are disseminated in the army by such agents.

Signature : illegible.

I. and R. Military Command, Zagreb, Gen. Staff Section
Na No. 1492.

Handed in 24/5/1918.

XXXIV

I. AND R. MILITARY COMMAND
IN ZAGREB
Res. Battn. of the General Staff

—
Ev. Office N. 12903

Jugoslav Movement in Laibach and Zagreb.

Zagreb, May 29, 1918.

There are increasing symptoms that *Jugoslavia* is inaugurating a propaganda even among the soldiers and pursues the object of inducing them to desert from their units, which is facilitated by the distribution of forged certificates of leave and open orders in order to provide the necessary papers for transit into neutral countries.

1) Have symptoms of such propaganda become apparent in the Reserve Draft Corps?

2) If forged certificates of leave or other travelling have permits been detected, what is characteristic of their appearance?

3) What is to be reported, requested, what has been done? Forwarded to all Res. units and the Prov. Command, the R. Cr. Sl. Honveds Command and Royal Hung. 40 Hit command; to S.d.d.s. Royal Prov. Govt. with request for cooperation.

XXXV

Typical reply from a Croation O. C.

I. AND R.
RIFLE REGIMENT N. 23

Reserve Draft Battns.

—
Exh. N. 1.033 Mob.

Jugoslav Movement.

To The I. and R. Military Command
Zagreb.

Orahovica, June 6, 1918.

Reply to Questions re Int. Dep. N° 1432 of May 29, 1918.

1) No symptoms of Jugoslav propagandist activity are as yet apparent in the Reserve Draft Battn.

2) In a few cases forged travelling permits were detected: but they had been so grossly forged by the men themselves, that it was noticed at the first glance.

3) Proceedings for forgery were taken against all these men.

(sgd.) KLING,
Col.

I. and R. Military Command, Zagreb, Gen. Staff Section.

XXXVI

Op. N. 107743.
R. 1068/18.

6/6/18.

To the I. and R. Army G.H.Q.
F.P.O. 51

F.P.O, 365, June 6, 1918.

I beg to report the following :

During the night of May 12 deserted from the positions to the enemy (Italians): Lieutenant *Mirko Belosevic*, ensign *Luka Kostrencic*, orderly Landsturm Pte *Stanko Papric*, all belonging to the H. Inf. Regt. 26 and one-year Volunteer *Vitjeslav Stetina* (25. H.I.R.).

During the night of May 27, furthermore deserted to the enemy (Italians) from the positions, belonging to the H.I.R. 27: ensign *Bozidar Zvonarevic*, *Luka Kerekevic*, *Dusan Popovic*, one-year Volunteer *Franjo Svetac*.

It has so far been discovered that Lt. *Belosevic*, ensign *Popovic* and one-year Volunteer *Stetina* are rabid *Jugoslavs*.

Belosevic and *Stetina* even tried last April to distribute red-and-blue badges among the men in training as storm troops in Castell Tesino.

Men, who wore the said badges, have also been discovered.

These men say, that *Stetina* only told them this was a Yugoslav badge, whereby the *Jugoslavs* must be distinguished from the other nationalities.

These badges were also observed in the caps of the accused *Svetac* and *Papric*.

This was not a badge specially made or manufactured for this purpose, but the *white* in the Croatian tricolour was simply covered up with the other two (*blue* and *red*) colours.

The necessary steps to prevent further possibility of seditious propaganda among the soldiers have been taken.

According to regimental reports, the deserters have betrayed much information to the enemy.

Finally it is reported, that enemy aeroplanes have dropped leaflets, bearing the signatures of *Belosevic Kostrencic* and *Stetina*, in the positions, urging the men not to go on fighting.

Reports of this have also been submitted to Army Group Command Field Marshal Conrad von Hötendorf.

Divisional Assessor.

XXXVII

I. AND R. STATION COMMAND
INDJIJA

E. N. 433 Res

Copy.

To be opened personally by
the I. and R. Chief of Staff
at the Military Command,
Zagreb.

To the I. and R. Military Command
Zagreb.

Indjija, June 12th 1918.

It is reported, that a presumably Yugoslav movement and propaganda exists here, which has possibly already assumed dimensions in Syrmia (with presumable focus in Indjija). The group here consists of some 15 to 20 persons, mostly college students, even one Intermediary school boy. The leading spirit is apparently a certain *Tepovac*, formerly in the employ of the Provincial Government as an official in Zagreb. He is a native of *Vojka* (district of St. *Pazova*), sometimes passes himself off as a detective, sometimes as a college student, and possesses identification papers of 1917. No less suspicious is armourer *Karlic*, on leave at *Zemun* from the A.S.C. Div. No. 13. until June 20th, who — like all the rest — is constantly taking short trips to Syrmia (*Zemun* incl. *Ujvidek*), whereas they all always foregather again in *Indjija*. Apparently females are also implicated.

Incidentally I beg to remark that all these men are involved in widely ramifying business enterprises, which are the reason why provisions in Syrmia (*compare* local market price lists) are so exorbitantly dear.

Hitherto I have not interfered in any way (save for a conversation with the mayor who — like yet another citizen of the town — suspects a Yugoslav movement), nor shall I take any steps pending the decision of the I. and R. Military Command, so as to seize as many of the culprits as possible, and not to stampede them into flight.

I beg to remark expressly, that under the last Commandant I was not given a free hand to follow up this gang, and that I have only now been able to devote myself to this task.

(sgd) BONISH,
Lieutenant.

XXXVIII

I. AND R. MINISTRY FOR WAR

O. N. 19540

Southern Slav Propaganda, Excesses committed by units in the Rear
To the I. and R. Military Command
in Zagreb.

Vienna, June 18, 1918.

The Ministry for War has addressed the Note, of which copy is enclosed, to the Prime Minister.

The I. and R. Ministry for the Interior, which had taken cognizance of copy of this Note, has expressed its views concerning the Southern Slav propaganda to the Ministry for War. The following is part of the text of this Note *verbatim* :

“As regards the propaganda pursued in favour of the establishment of a Southern Slav State, the former cannot, generally speaking, be described as consciously inimical to the State, but on the other hand it cannot be denied that the whole agitation is constantly assuming more radical forms and that in the case of some of its partisans aspirations directed against the very existence of the State are becoming apparent, which call for urgent counteraction.”

In pursuance of this the Ministry for the Interior has already taken sundry precautions (as the I. and R. Ministry for War has been requested to gather from the copies of instructions addressed to the provincial chiefs concerned) which aim at counteracting the said propaganda.

As the somewhat numerous meetings held recently in districts inhabited by both Germans and Slovenes have contributed in a marked degree to the increase of nationalist excitement, and therefore entail a serious danger to public peace and order, all further meetings in these districts have been — without exception — prohibited until further orders in virtue of the Regulations of Art. 6a of the Law of May 5, 1869, R. G. Bl. No. 66.

We must at this point lay stress upon the fact, that the powers of the Ministry of the Interior and the political and police author-

ities subordinate to it are limited — even in counteracting Southern Slav propaganda — by the existing laws, which they are not allowed to exceed.

From numerous reports come to hand, the Ministry for War has gained the impression that aspirations directed against the existence of the State are not confined to isolated leaders of the Southern Slav propaganda, and it has the intention of conveying this view to the I. and R. Ministry for the Interior.

The Military Command is requested to report whether on the grounds of the experiences collected in the region within its jurisdiction the necessary data can be furnished to confirm the views of the Ministry for War.

Forwarded to the Military Commands in Graz, Zagreb, Sarajevo and Mostar.

(sgd) STÖGER-STEINER.
Col. Gen.

XXXIX

RE O. N. 19,540 OF 1918
I. AND R. MINISTRY FOR WAR

O. N. 15569

Copy.

Feeling in South Styria, Southern Slav Propaganda.

The Note from the I. R. Ministry of Defence under O. N. 13415/XX of May 8, 1918 forwarded to Your Excellency has duly reached me as well. The information contained in it confirms anew my personal misgivings as expressed in the Note O. N. 12198 and again in my personal conversation of May 13, which caused me already on a former occasion by Note O. N. 11094 to broach a request for intervention on account of the incitement of the population of Southern Styria by the Slovene clergy.

I despatched an identical Note to the I. R. Ministry for the Interior and moreover requested by Note O. N. 15147 that the deleterious influence of the refugees on the soldiers in Radkersburg and Liebenau should be counteracted, and the removal of the refugees taken in hand.

Furthermore and with reference to the incidents of the I. R. Rifle Regiment 37 and I. R. 22, the I. R. Ministry for the Interior has been requested by Note, Section 5 No. 3204 res. to forward information concerning the measures taken against the Southern Slav Propaganda.

Even if the judicial enquiry concerning the causes of the mutiny in the Res. Draft Battn. I. R. No. 17 in Judenburg in the night of May 12/13 has yielded no positive data, yet it is to be assumed that the systematic incitement of the Slovene population played a great part in it, as Corporal *Hafner* (proved to be one of the instigators and already previously convicted), who left the State Railway Service as recently as April 27 to join the Res. Draft Battn. of the I. R. No. 17, was a member of the Slovene Socialist party.

Finally I have the honour to inform you that the Military Command in Graz has found itself compelled in view of the ferment among the population in South Styria, to suggest the confiscation of arms to the Lieutenancy in Graz and the Provincial Govern-

ments of Carinthia and Carniola. In this connection I beg further to apply to Your Excellency and the I. R. Minister for the Interior with a special Note No. 14414/7 Section.

Having in the foregoing given Your Excellency a summary of all the steps I have taken in this highly important matter which so closely touches the interests of the Army, I beg Your Excellency kindly to inform me of orders issued in regard to the subject.

(sgd) Frh. VON STÖGER-STEINER.
Col. Gen.

XL

GENERAL COMMANDING
IN BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA AND
DALMATIA

Op N. Conf. 3268

Measures against Southern Slav Propaganda
To the I. and R. Army G. H. Q. (op. section)
F. P. O. 11

Sarajevo, June 21, 1918.

The aggressive activity of the Southern Slav Propaganda seems to have spread to the territory of Bosnia-Hercegovina and Dalmatia and thus to threaten to exercise a detrimental influence, undermining the discipline of the rank and file of the units and formations of B. H. D.

The February incidents in the Navy in the Naval Port of Cattaro and the Res. Draft Battn. I. R. 22 in Mostar, the breaches of discipline in the Convalescent Section of Res. Draft Battn. I. R. 22 in Czorna, the increasing number of deserters at the front, especially from the Dalmatian troops, and other occurrences may be partly connected with the Southern Slav Propaganda.

The Entente Powers — as the decisions of the War Council of Versailles, 3/6/1916 show — are taking the greatest interest in the Southern Slav movement within the Monarchy. They calculate that it may cause insurrection and revolt in the affected provinces of the Monarchy and also incite our troops to mutinous manifestations, whereby our own action on the war fronts may suffer.

For these reasons it is absolutely necessary to proceed from the very outset with the greatest vigour against the Southern Slav propaganda, and to employ all means to keep it away from our own troops and formations.

In this matter the most rigorous measures calculated to raise and maintain discipline, constant supervision of the troops, as well as thorough and conscientious promoting of the Soldiers' Schools for the Imperial House, Patriotic Regimental History,

Duties to State and Vocation, etc... are to be constantly and intensively observed; treason and dereliction of duty are to be specially branded.

The B. H. Prov. Government has issued an order to its subordinate authorities to the effect that the Southern Slav propaganda is to be opposed with all the means at the disposal of the State. Special stress is laid in this order upon rigorous application of the censorship and criminal prosecution, and upon surveillance of the student element.

Verbal instructions to this effect are to be given to the officers. The order is not to be handed on.

In case of change of command this order is to be given personally.

R. and I. Army G. H. Q. Operations Section handed in 26/6/1918
a. m.

Op. No. 108328.

XLI

ARMY HIGH COMMAND

A.O.K. Op N. 110.272

CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF

Jugoslav Movement in Rifle Rgt, 37.

Note : To be enclosed with the report of the I. R. Provincial Ministry of Defence. O. N. 24531.

Baden, August 14, 1918.

In O. N. 19586 special attention was called to the unreliability of the Spalatines, and this was ascribed to the part played by the former Mayor and Deputy for Spalato, Dr. *Trumbic*, in the Southern Slav Question.

The details in A. O. K. op. N. 108803 are in the first line concerned with Rifle Regt. 37 and with the Spalatines in particular. The general application of this principle also to the other Dalmatian Regiments is certainly to be described as desirable, but the possibility of the application to be left to the various headquarters.

The Army High Command is still in the same position. At least in the case of men from Spalato, one of the hotbeds of the Jugoslav movement, such division would seem advisable.

Kindly inform us of the result of arrangements with the Commands.

sgd.

XLII

I. AND R. ARMY G. H. Q.

CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF

Desertion from Rifle Regt. No.23

Copy of Telegram.

Lieutenant of the Res. Ciril Cudina and ensign Jarko Velcek with three N.C.O's and eight men, all belonging to Rifle Regt. No. 4/23 went over to the enemy on August 23. Enquiry warrants belief that desertion was result of influence of seditious propaganda in the Reserve Draft Battn. in Osijek, and especially in Agram, upon the above-named.

Op. No. 112042 15/9/18

XLIII

I. AND R. ARMY G. H. Q.

CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF

Attempted revolution on September 28

F.P.O. No. 11. *Sept. 25, 1918*

Very urgent, deliver immediately.

Military Command in Prague learns from reliable source that a "putsch", or revolution by Czechs, Poles and Southern Slavs with the help of members of these nationalities at the front has been planned for September 28.

Army G.H.Q. Chief of Gen. Staff, Op. No. 147991.

XLIV

Letter from General of Division Schenk, Military Commandant in Zagreb, most probably addressed to the Ministry for War. 1918, Pres. 53 16/29.

Zagreb, September 25, 1918.

*Sealed.
Strictly confidential.*

Your Excellency.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter of August 31st addressed to me.

In assiduous pursuit of the aims which Your Excellency kindly communicated to me, I believe I am now in a position to report:

a) Position of the Government.

The Ban is Chief of a Parliamentary Majority Government, the Serbo-Croat Coalition. As he occupies no leading position in the party, his Government measures are more dependent upon party motives, than is usually the case with persons whose position is the result of party leadership. From this position spring the many transfers of officials which are mostly dictated by party motives. In contrast to the former regime of officials under Baron Skerlec, the party would now like to favour its own adherents.

b) Departmental Chiefs.

The Vice-Ban and Departmental Chief for Internal Affairs *Kriskovic* is less of a party man than a working official. He is considered more of a *Unionist*. This highly cultured, able official is physically in poor health, hence frequently annoyed and petty, and therefore very unpopular. Relations between him and the Ban are strained. He has resigned and the Ban recommended his resignation. No notice was taken of it and *Kriskovic* is still in office. This circumstance complicates the situation of the Ban and weakens the position of the Government.

Departmental Chief *Rojc* is a Yugoslav. He protects the scholastic profession, which holds Yugoslav views and influences the school youth. This protection is supposed to be due rather to kindness towards the young people and respect for independent

thought among the teachers ; but that he permits the younger generation to be systematically educated to be *Jugoslavs*, i. e. in a seditious sentiment, causes his removal to appear urgently advisable.

It is confidently asserted that professions of Yugoslav sentiments are demanded from newly appointed teachers. Attempts to verify this assertion have so far proved unsuccessful ; it may be an exaggerated statement of fact.

The new Zupan (sheriff) of Lika, Dr. *Tomislav Tomljanovic* is an out-and-out Yugoslav. What has been said of him is confirmed.

c) *the Clergy.*

A democratic tendency has invaded even the hierarchy. The influence of the highest dignitaries has waned. Yugoslav aspirations are disseminated by the younger clergy. The bishops are condemned to opportunism. The driving element is the young generation. But the bishops might be more energetic in their defence. Here, too, we are faced by the characteristic motive of the time ; it is contained in the question : "What is coming?" People do not wish to compromise themselves. The lack of clarity in our own State policy in the South of the Monarchy favours this muddle.

As a matter of fact the Archbishop is supposed to be a pronounced Yugoslav.

d) *the Administration.*

Supposed to be largely corrupted. Special cases cannot be adduced. Naturally the Government does not allow such matters to become public. But it is obvious that a man can scarcely live upon his scanty official pay. The temptation to accept bribes and keep silence where one ought to speak lies very near.

e) *The political situation.*

Grows daily more acute.

So far there is neither a definite political conception or programme, nor a counter-propaganda to oppose to the Yugoslav ideas. The position is becoming dangerous. The Entente, the Yugoslav Committees, all our enemies have a policy in regard to this question and use it steadily to undermine our State unity by their recognition and discussion.

To counteract this a clear and well-founded aims policy may be described as urgently needed.

The fear expressed in paragraph 2 of Your Excellency's letter must be shared by everybody who is not blind. Unless a vigorous, imperial regime is introduced without delay, the realization of the Yugoslav programme will become inevitable.

Should the Central Powers *not* be in the position to dictate peace and to have it in their power to incorporate Serbia and Montenegro with the Monarchy, the only solution I can imagine for the Yugoslav Problem will be one outside the State, and hostile to it.

f) *the Officers' Corps.*

The tone of the newspapers, the Yugoslav ideas, the growth of democracy, most certainly do not leave the officers' corps untouched. On the other hand it is probably not correct to say that anti-Hungarian utterances and excesses are the order of the day.

Certainly weariness is becoming apparent in the officers' corps ; in the case of the professional officer there is also the anxiety about material prospects in the future when he retires. The demands upon him increase steadily. Everything depends upon the zeal, energy and good will of the small body of professional officers in the interior. They are the only absolutely reliable ones. But these officers have a feeling that they are "not appreciated", and that when they have reached the fortieth year of service they will be placed on the retired list regardless of past services and present ability. Once they are placed on the retired list, their capacity for work decreases rapidly, in spite of the recall to the colours for the duration of the war. It is urgently to be recommended that men, whose services are still counted upon during the war, should *not* be placed upon the retired list until the war is over, and that they should not yet be deprived of all hope at present.

Even the best of officers are subject to moods. The high cost of living, exorbitant rents, etc. tend to depress, often even to seduce.

g) *Lieutenant Racki.*

This officer is no longer at his post in Vrđnik. During a strike which broke out in a mine there he stuck to his work loyally and moreover successfully. Whether he really addressed the remark ascribed to him to the vicar of Platicevo can scarcely be established at this distance of time.

The officer in question has already been placed at the disposal of the Honved District Command here. He is being watched.

h) *The Captain in the Zagreb Military Command.*

The person referred to is probably Captain Metzker of the I. R. 70. He is no longer at the Zagreb Military Command, but employed as inspector in the Orthopædic Hospital in Zagreb.

He is one of those officers who, unfortunately, after disablement loose all touch with the thoughts and feelings proper to their profession.

It was not possible to verify, whether Capt. Metzker really made these statements. Considering other reports concerning him, I cannot look upon such statements as out of the question.

For this reason I have given orders for the said officer to be removed from his post, and already on September 4 placed him at the disposal of the R. Hung. Ministry by O. N. 12.973/P. I shall have him watched until he leaves Zagreb.

i) *The provincial Corps of Gendarmes.*

So far I have no further information concerning threatening letters of this kind.

j) *The plague of Deserters.*

The incidents which have come to Your Excellency's knowledge have really taken place and are known locally. And not only these, but a whole series of other cases. I considered it inadmissible to quote them in my reports to the Ministry for War, but shall now submit a separate memorandum. I consider the systematic suppression of this evil an urgent necessity. Patrols by troops, limited to a short time, are no longer sufficient.

Hitherto the terror of these robber bands was directed against the well-to-do rural class. The selection of those to be attacked, and many a leaflet, gives cause to suspect an anti-German and anti-Magyar tendency, but Communistic tendencies, and the desire to bring about a sabotage of the war are predominant.

Patrols arriving by rail are spotted in time by these very vigilant bands of brigands. To discover their haunts, to ambush them and destroy them by surprise attacks, is well-nigh impossible, except for permanent patrols, acquainted with the neighbourhood, well protected and reliable. With reference to this I must beg to refer to my former suggestions.

But as the number of absentees without leave is constantly increased by that of men on leave who fail to join up (their numbers are already estimated at 20.000), it is to be feared that their suppression will become more difficult from day to day and finally impossible.

Deserters form regular bands, which are actually armed and

designate themselves by the collective name of "Green units". They are even said to issue requisition orders duly stamped "Green Units" and signed by an "O. C.". Other deserters are said to style themselves "Workmen's Division"; they move from place to place, take work for a good wage and always far away from their native place. Everyone takes good care not to betray them.

Every man on leave is dissuaded from re-joining, should it be his purpose to do so; he is told that surely he would not fight, often the advice runs "not fight for German and Magyars". Many succumb to the temptation. The accounts of distress at home, the frequently alleged reasons that the harvest had to be attended to, that the house needed building, and so forth, are not genuine. It is a case of a tendency manifestly hostile to the State.

The gendarmes are helpless against such numbers. Gendarmes have been shot on several occasions; their small numbers are terrorized. The authorities say that they are powerless. Sometimes brigands are complained of. But here, too, terror prevails and consequent apathy.

The S.d.d.s., specially created for defence by the Provincial Government, limits itself — so far as we know — to passing on by way of information to the Military Command all reports received by it re murder or robbery.

Positive work (discovery of motives, sentiment, purpose) has not been done by this institution created for defence; it is negative. Things are only just going to improve.

The Military Command with its limited means cannot do enough in the way of providing intelligence.

The absolutely overworked Commanders of Reserve Draft Battns., men who moreover frequently lack the necessary tact and energy, are uninformed. Defence and preventive activity have mostly remained a dead-letter. The right sort of officers is lacking, energy and purpose are lacking.

I intend shortly to go myself to the region to be patrolled in Syrmia, in order to gain personal impressions. I shall then report again.

R. *Insurrectionary movements:*

So far no demonstrable symptoms of preparations for insurrectionary movements have been discovered.

But it is a foregone conclusion, that the continued prevalence and violence of these acts of brigandage will entail resultant conditions which, if exploited by skilful agitation, might easily lead to such movements.

The Commander of the Reserve Draft Battn. of the I. R. 79 has just reported, that he has learnt from a confidential agent that an insurrection is planned for the New Year, if the Yugoslav question is not solved in the desired way by that time. The signal for it would be given in Syrmia.

This is the first indication of national political motives for revolt.

The gendarmes, it is said, are to be attacked first.

An attempt to transfer the Reserve Draft Battn. would be resisted by the population.

Peasants are said to be interested in military munitions.

All so far unsubstantiated rumours, to which I attach little importance.

1) *Charges against the Military Tribunal in Zagreb* because of too great leniency in dealing with seditious elements are in certain respects not unfounded. I have therefore applied for the removal, not only of the sickly Military Prosecutor of the Military Command, but also for that of the literary and philanthropic president of the Divisional Court, and that in the case of the latter, because he displayed scant inclination or ability to give force and effectiveness to the ordinances of martial law within the scope of the law.

The chief cause of this, however, is the way in which the law defines the crime of desertion, and the lack of professional officers in tribunals, as they alone can be expected to exercise the necessary rigour in passing sentence.

I should be carrying owls to Athens if I were to expatiate further upon this.

The reports of the Military Command of Nagyszeben to the Ministry for War (O. N. 316 of March 11) apply equally to conditions here.

As regards the alleged disquieting disposition in the corps of officers of Serbo-Croat nationality, which is unquestionably not unfounded — I have the honour to refer to my former request for the transfer of the Reserve Draft Battns. of the R. Hung. Croato-Slavonian Landwehr from the province, and at the same time to report that in view of the failure of all attempts to get the better of the plague of desertion and the rapidly increasing brigandage in Syrmia, and the departure of field-formations from the province, I must also request the transfer of Reserve Draft Battn. No 78.

I have the honour etc... etc...

(sgd) SCHENK,
General.

XLV

Telegram from the Army High Command received by the Zagreb Military Command on October 21, 1918, under No. 3,641.

General Staff Section
Military Command, Zagreb

The Intelligence Department of the G. H. Q. has received the following report (*verbatim*) from an official source ;

The following has been brought to our knowledge from an altogether reliable source :

1) Postal service between Dr. Trumbic and Southern Slav Committees in the Monarchy is discharged by enemy submarines at spots specially indicated by Southern Slavs of the Monarchy. Communication between Southern Slavs of the Monarchy and Dr. Trumbic is established by similar means. The correspondence concerns various questions and venues in the Southern Slav Question in agreement with Wilson.

2) Committees are certainly already formed throughout the whole province of Croatia and Slavonia for the purpose of preparing the populace for Jugoslavia and instructing it. Each member pays 1 K. 50 Heller monthly by way of national tax... Meetings and conferences take place at various places in Croatia and Slavonia, as well as Istria. Such a meeting took place on October 10 at Susak, where the question of a prospective revolution came up for discussion.

3) The national police is already constituted for the purpose of internment recalcitrant elements and persons likely to cause detriment to country and people, such people, however, being guaranteed their lives.

4) At a given moment the Proclamation to the People will be issued by the Southern Slav Committees. This Proclamation will summon the populace to maintain peace and order, and at the same time promise it the division of the estates of the great landlords and those of the Church. War profiteers will have to surrender their fortune to the Southern Slav State.

5) The new Southern Slav State will be a Republic with a President elected in rotation from among the Serbs, the Croats and the Slovenes.

6) If the Southern Slav State is established, the Karageorgevic and Njegos dynasties will have to abdicate.

7) The Opposition in the Vienna Parliament acts under directions from Dr. Trumbic in agreement with Wilson. Dr. Trumbic provided the initial suggestion that the Slavs in the Austrian Parliament were to prepare a mood which would compel the German Austrians to demand union with Germany, so that they might come to be regarded, as traitors.

8) Trieste, with a hinterland to be defined later on, is to decide its allegiance by a plebiscite, likewise Macedonia.

9) The Entente will enter Dalmatia and Hercegovina at 13 points to be indicated later, whereby Austria-Hungary will be compelled to evacuate those territories, and the latter will be occupied by Southern Slav legions.

10) The Southern Slavs have already in their possession two milliards of gold coins, value 20 francs each, which are to be called *sokols*. These gold coins will bear the effigy of the falcon on the obverse and on the reverse the initials *Srpsko-Hrvatsko-Slovenska*.

11) The Entente will demand of the Peace Conference that the German Emperor is to be interned on an English man-of-war and to renounce his throne.

12) The following flag is proposed for Jugoslavia — a red-blue-and-white triangle, signifying that no one takes precedence; each nationality is independent and all three together form one complete entity.

13) Similarly a national hymn has already been found for the Yugoslav State, but informant is not able to indicate the contents with precision.

14) The contemplated Proclamation of His Majesty to the nationalities is disregarded, as it comes too late.

Points 1 to 13 came to informant's knowledge on the 4th. inst. but "point 14 only a few days ago, when the newspapers were discussing the manifesto. Finally we beg to add that informant stated that postal communication and instructions between Agram and Bosnia are conveyed by messengers despatched to the B.H. political men.

Copies despatched to, etc...

The Information Post guarantees this information as coming from a perfectly reliable source; strictly secret and extensive inquiry to be instituted in the matter and the Army High Command to be kept constantly informed of the result. Int. Depart Ev. O. No. 32810.

Received on behalf of the Military Command in Zagreb by the Evid. Office Command No. 32.810, 21/10-6/10.

XLVI

Copy of Telegram.

Landsturm Battn, III/27 mutinied this forenoon against its officers and refuses to proceed to advance to the positions allotted to it at Brza Palanka. bvg. at Army G.H.Q. Op No. 945.

ss. T. Severin 6079/81 22/10/18.

The Third Battn, of the I. and R. Landsturm Inf. Regt. belonging to 62 Inf. Div. (of Laibach) was this morning ferried across from Turn Severin to Kladovo refused to obey orders to proceed and gave way to excesses stop Consequently the ninth tenth and eleventh Companies with exception of machine gunners numbering 400 men had to be disarmed.

I. and R. Military and Local Command
in T. Severin.
pp. Colonel VON BLOGHY.

Res. 263

XLVII

Copy of Telegram.

Report concerning conditions, *October 26th 1918.*

a) Military matter.

Wholesale desertions have taken place in territorial district of Zagreb. Robbery under arms by deserters increasingly frequent. In Pozega the Machine Gun Corps refused obedience, but without violence. District Command has granted leave, under condition that arms are surrendered. According to reports from the Sheriff, however, the barracks are empty and parties of men are shooting about the place. During the night the Landwehr S. C. Coy. at Platenica fired through the window of the Officer Commanding. The Army Group Command is transferring the 79th Battn. per boat under escort to Pola. Incidentally to the pursuit of deserters disturbances occurred in the neighbourhood of Fiume. In Warázdin the Hung. Officers are apparently in danger. Although no disturbances have occurred, the traffic superintendent of Szombathely requests that all points of the line Czatornia-Zagreb should be guarded. Civilians under the leadership of two men in uniform, destroyed the station buildings at Plaski and plundered the food depot.

I. and R. Army High Command
Op. N. 148184/27.

XLVIII

Telegram 1/11/18.

Count Michael Karoly.
Royal Hung. Prime Minister.

With a view to defining future military operations I beg Your Excellency to inform me forthwith whether the defence of Hungary is to be carried on as hitherto by the Army Group. Fm. Br. Kövesz on the Danube and the Save or whether in consideration of the fact that *the Jugoslav State has been formed and that the latter takes no further part in the fighting against the Entente* this defence is to be transferred to the Danube and the Drave.

VON ARZ. G.O.

Op. No. 145539

XLIX

MARITIME
TRAFFIC ADMINISTRATION S.H.S.
IN RIJEKA (FIUME)

—
N° 12135/III

Copy of letter to Prof. Surmin,
in charge of Commerce and
Industry and Nat. Deputy
in Zagreb.

To the Committee of the S.H.S. National Council
Rijeka-Susak.

Zagreb, January 24th 1919.

At your request I forward enclosed copies of telegrams and Hughes-conversations referring to the capitulation and transfer of "Armee Gruppe Albanien" from October 31st to November 15th.

The dossier is incomplete, owing to the fact that all documents remained in Rijeka — although bestowed in a safe place — when the Italians occupied the town.

The documents are being looked through and will be forwarded to Zagreb.

From our No. I., 13135 of January 5, and from the enclosed copies it clearly transpires :

1) that the capitulation of the Albanian Army Group was precipitated and accomplished independently — without help from the Entente — owing to well-calculated action of the S.H.S. Maritime Traffic Administration in Rijeka ;

2) that the disarmament and transport of the troops from Bocche di Cattaro, Dalmatia and Istria and from the Piave front were carried out by the above authority within its proper sphere of action without incentive from without ;

3) that a great number of malaria and other cases were transported to Rijeka in spite of most difficult conditions, so that the total number of persons transported by sea up to November 16 amounted to 102,300.

Conversely I beg to state :

1^o) that in spite of repeated appeals to the Entente on the part of the S.H.S. Maritime Traffic Administration and its local section in Zelenika, it was not until the *sixth day* that a few French destroyers arrived in Bocche di Cattaro.

2^o) that the only help proffered by the Entente consisted in the French Admiral's placing a few mechanics and stokers at the disposal of several vessels.

That the Italian Admiral Rainer, who came to Rijeka on Nov. 4 on board the cruiser "Emmanuele Filiberto", by his complete incapacity and constant incidents connected with the flag and the issue of sailing permits for ships, by local propaganda and the requisitioning of hospital ships for the transport of Italian prisoners, greatly enhanced the difficulties of the transport and traffic by sea ;

3^o) That the Italians did not occupy Rijeka until the greater part of the work was done.

By depriving the Albanian Army Group of all material and moral support, I precipitated the decision to capitulate.

Hence the Italian army "conquered" altogether demobilized points of vantage, which had already previously been seized by the Jugoslavs, — a proceeding similar to that by which the Italians won the "battle" of Vittoria Veneto, which according to the *official communique* of the Italian Supreme Command was won at the very moment when the first Dalmatian Companies were arriving in Rijeka on their way back from the front.

Forwarded to the addressee and to all the authorities mentioned in our Note No, 12135 of January 5th.

Nik. Psenica, Engineer

13 enclosures.

ANNEX

ANNEX N° 1

October 30, 1918

Telegram.

Adriatic Traffic Administration.
Fiume.

Cetinje 62. 1. 5. 30/X.

Kövesz O. N. 1442 stop Attached to the Albanian Group Command.

a) *Gen. Staff Section*: Staff Colonel Josef Schneider; Staff Major Andreas Czibur; Staff Captain Eduard Hermann; att. to Staff, Major Anton Lanauer; attached to Staff, Captain Rudolf Gertner; attached to Staff, Captain Friedrich Opacic; Captain Ivan Brozovic.

b) *Cantonment Section*: Staff Major Ludwig Krömer; attached to Staff, Captain Thalner; attached to Staff, Major Leo Seeder; attached to Staff, Major Franz Nikulasch, absent on leave; Captain Josef Schuecker; Lieutenant Karl Clossmann; Lieutenant Rudolf Hirth; Lieutenant Vukovic.

Administrative Section dissolved.

Albanian Army Group Staff Section N. 206.

ANNEX N° 2

October 31, 1918.

Wireless

To the Entente Fleets:
Malta Corfu.

Jugoslavia, having broken her chains, greets you and appeals to you to occupy Bocche di Cattaro take charge and revictual all troops and sick there. All communication by sea interrupted the army in Albania and Montenegro completely cut off, will be compelled to capitulate.

Jugoslav Command
RIJEKA.

ANNEX N° 3

November 1, 1918.

Telegram.

Adriatic Traffic Administration
Fiume.

Cetinje 9. 6. 20.

Urgent deliver immediately.

Morning report of November 1, 1918.

Position of the Group in Niksic under Colonel Hess, who has again been placed under the direct Command of the Albanian Army Group, unchanged. Colonel Hospodarz received order to leave 81st Division for Niksic and take over command of that group. Colonel Pulz in Danilovgrad placed under command of 81st Division and is to cover north-eastern flank of this Division. No reports of 81st Div. received. Enemy succeeded in as yet unexplained manner in crossing the Boyana at Scutari and taking the Bosnia-Hercegovina L. I. 2nd Battn. prisoner, as the 47th Div. Command reports. Being menaced from the rear, the Inf. R. 88 was hereupon compelled to fall back in a north-westerly direction, whereupon orders were given for the withdrawal of the Div. and formation of a new front facing East at Katrkol. No reports from 9th Cav. Div. It ought yesterday to have reached the points assigned to it.

Albanian Army Group Command
Op. No. 10668.

ANNEX N° 4

Nov. 1, 1918

Hughes-Telegram.

Adriatic Traffic Administration Station Zelenika.

Urgent. Wireless just arrived from Entente fleet that it will arrive to-day at latest to-morrow at Bocche and take over material and take charge of revictualling. In pursuance of orders received by telephone from G. H. Q. strictest orders given to assist Entente fleet in entering, i. e. to await same outside minefields stop Cruiser Squadron Command Albanian Army Group Command and Operation Section to be informed immediately stop. Announce arrival at once by Hughes.

Adriatic Traffic Administration
Op. No. 1211

B) Remarks. — The entire contents of this telegram are pure invention.

ANNEX N° 5

November.

Long distance (Hughes)

Conversation

between Engineer Psenica, Chief of the Maritime Traffic Administration at Rijeka and Zelenika (wireless station at Bocche di Cattaro).

- Second Lieutenant Lukacs speaking.
- Chief of the Adriatic Traffic Administration speaking. Have Entente troops arrived in Boche? Where is Albanian Army Group Command?
- Shall enquire of the Colonel at once. One moment.
- Please hold the line and tell me whether peace and order prevails in Bocche?
- Please give name and rank, Who is speaking?
- Chief of Adriatic Traffic Administration. Official Psenica, speaking.
- Lieutenant Hochfelder, speaking. But so far as I know, it is Lt-Col. Klusacek who is chief of the Adriatic Traffic Administration.
- Lieutenant-Colonel Klusacek and Staff bolted last night. Adriatic Traffic Administration taken over by Southern Slav. Nat. Council. All other officers remained at their posts. All communication with Bocche interrupted yesterday by Adriatic Traffic Administration; simultaneously the Entente was asked by wireless to occupy Bocche and take charge of troops and sick there. Have just spoken with G. H. Q. repeated the same request. Perfect quiet and order in Fiume. Pola and Trieste with the entire fleet taken over by the Southern Slav State in most perfect order.
- The chief aim of the present Adriatic Traffic Administration is to restore communication as soon as possible although under a different name. The section at Zelenika may continue to correspond as everything is being done at this end to facilitate normal liquidation.
- Tell me whether quiet and order prevail in Bocche or anarchy, and how are food conditions?
- Things are pretty quiet here (replies Lieut. Hochfelder, in charge of Army Transport Service) with the exception of a few incidents caused by drunken privates. Of course more strict order ought to be established. Albanian Army Group Command is at present at Castelnuovo. The Adriatic Traffic Administration Station Zelenika has just received a telegram according to which the Entente fleet is

to arrive here to-day or to-morrow and take charge of material and revictualling. The Adriatic Traffic Administration Station Zelenika will therefore be surrendered this very afternoon to the Yugoslav Naval Command. Anything else?

— Please communicate contents of my dispatch to Albanian Army Group Command with the message that I send kind regards to all the gentlemen, especially Major Krömer and wish them the best of luck.

Kindly tell Albanian Army Group Command that the sudden exit of Lt. Col. Klusacek with sundry gentlemen of the Staff left a very comic impression behind and that it is only thanks to my energy and presence of mind that no excesses and disturbances have taken place.

I am in daily communication with G. H. Q. and do not see why we should not work in agreement with other States and nations. Any more to tell me?

— I shall give your message to Albanian Army Group Command. Kindest regards to official Weidner and all the rest who know me.

— Many thanks, Good-bye.

ANNEX N° 6

November 3, 1918.

Hughes Conversation.

Between Engineer Psenica, Chief of the Maritime Traffic Administration and wireless Station at Zelenika.

Fiume Maritime Traffic Administration speaking.

Je napot iten Meljinje (sic, unintelligible),

Is an officer at the instrument; if so, give rank, name, command.

Nobody there. Shall we call? Army Transport Command or somebody of the Adriatic Traffic Administration? Both Army Transport and A. T. A.

Lieutenant Hochfelder of the Army Transport Command, speaking.

Good morning. Official Psenica, Chief of the Adriatic Traffic Administration, speaking. Did you forward yesterday's dispatch to the Cantonment Section?

No dispatch received yesterday.

I mean the Hughes-conversation.

Yes. I forwarded the Hughes conversation of the day before yesterday to Cantonment Major Krömer at Castelnuovo and also to Adriatic Traffic Administration at Zelenika. Is it correct, that general armistice is concluded? Al-

banian Army Group Command would like to know why G. H. Q. is not trying to communicate with Albanian Army Group Command, whereas Fiume stands in constant communication with G. H. Q. Please reply.

G. H. Q. unable to get into touch with Albanian Army Group Command, as all connection is broken off. Even our urgent enquiries get no answer. We in Fiume hope to carry out liquidation in quiet and order. Armistice already concluded. All soldiers absolved from their oath by Army High Command. We have approached the Entente with request to take over Bocche and so save many human lives. Units of Italian fleet already arrived in Fiume to-day, and larger units of American fleet expected this afternoon, as we have already been advised by wireless.

Get into touch with Entente at once, as retreat via Bosnia out of the question. Returning soldiers attacked by men of the "Green Units" and civil population in Slavonia.

Immediate surrender of Bocche offers sole possibility of orderly liquidation of the Army.

Revolution in Hungary. Tisza shot. Insurrection in Vienna. Republic proclaimed.

Piave Army totally disorganized, burning and killing on retreat through Carniola, Carinthia and Styria.

Second Southern Slav Army formed in Laibach mainly for purpose of beating off demoralized Army. *I therefore advise as the only remedy -- as a friend of all nations -- to negotiate immediate surrender, as otherwise no human being can guarantee what may possibly happen.*

Maintenance of discipline and order among troops at your end, and strict cohesion of all units best solution of present conditions (Remark: "So that disbanded troops may not devastate Montenegro and Bocche di Cattaro").

Return by sea to Fiume at present not practicable, as this question is being settled with the Entente.

Perfect quiet, order and security prevail in Fiume. National troops are being formed of Serbian prisoners. Large number of German and Magyar officers have been prevailed upon to remain in Fiume, to put down Bolshevism and anarchy with joint forces and ruthless severity.

As regards A. T. A. most of the officers have stayed here with Chief Official Psenica and are carrying on service on normal lines.

Railway to St. Peter-Graz destroyed by returning troops.

Normal train service to Hungary via Zagreb will shortly be restored.

Garrisons of Spalato and Sebenico taken over and transferred. At present unable to undertake further transportation of troops.

All is proceeding in orderly fashion where officers are able to keep discipline and order among the men.

Russian prisoners of war shipped off to Odessa.

Hospital Group and 8000 malaria cases here receiving every attention. Unfortunately large numbers of doctors wanted to leave with Staff, but I prevented it.

Cases of looting and excesses dealt with under martial law.

Kindly advise Major Krömer at once of this dispatch also. Ask him to inform *Alb. Army Group Command immediately so as to get in communication with Entente without delay and offer complete capitulation as all else is rubbish.*

Tell Major Krömer to call me at 3 in the afternoon, and I shall be delighted if he will come to the instrument himself.

Major Krömer is here in person and wants to speak.

Major Krömer is here, who is there?

Official Psenica. How do you do? delighted, Major.

Delighted, my dear Psenica. Have just read your dispatch, will certainly forward it. Am truly thankful to get on to Fiume at last. Hope at last to get into touch with G. H. Q. that way.

Shall telephone again this afternoon, as on past two days. Couldn't get Gjebic-Marusic yesterday (Staff Captain, reporter for S. E. Front. — Remark by Eng. Psenica), only a captain whose name I don't know.

Please answer the following questions. First, is armistice official?

Armistice not official here, as Central Authorities have dissolved. I am already speaking from the Southern Slav State, which has its own Government and all Ministries including War Ministry in Zagreb. War Minister Dr. Drinkovic, Navy Minister, Dr. Tresic-Pavicic.

What instructions for army standing in Montenegro and Bocche if chaos is to be avoided *which can only be detrimental to Southern Slav State.* Are we to expect orders from the Army High Command or His Majesty? Have already heard so much false news, that we really don't know any more what is correct. Please reply.

Dear Major Krömer! I speak to you as an old friend and you can believe my words implicitly. In any case you will soon be able to convince yourself.

To avoid chaos the troops should be concentrated in the

neighbourhood of Bocche — even before positive communication is established with Entente. Under no circumstances are they to leave the coast, as otherwise parts of the army will starve and perish miserably.

That would also be to the interest of the Southern Slav State, as the Entente can most easily convey supplies there and take charge of the sick.

I shall place all available shipping at the disposal of the Entente.

Don't expect special instructions or orders from G. H. Q. or Ministry for War or ex-Emperor Charles, as the two States of the Monarchy as I said before are already dissolved, and nothing remains of the former authorities but a few remnants here and there, which are quite powerless.

Try to establish wireless communication with the Entente at once, summon the fleet in the Mediterranean to occupy Bocche, and in that way you will spare the poor soldiers much suffering.

As the transport of the troops down there will be effected solely by sea, *the troops must remain near the coast and might in case of need be diverted towards Southern Dalmatia.*

Revictualling in any case sufficient for the present; must be properly rationed as no fresh supplies from Bosnia can be counted upon.

Many thanks, my dear Psenica, for this information; and only ask you to tell me where and from what source you get your news about conditions in the Piave Army? We got a press report by wireless yesterday, that hostilities have ceased on the Italian front. No replies to our wireless messages to the Entente fleet have arrived as yet, so far as I know.

We have our news concerning conditions on the Italian front direct from the Commander of the Second Southern Slav Army, Lt.-General of Division Istvanovic, late Commander of the Fiume sector, at present in command at Laibach.

I shall report non-reply to your wireless messages at once to the Committee of National Council in Fiume and to the Ministry for War, and hope that it will be possible to establish communication with you again this evening about 7.

It is very difficult for us to take a decisive decision, as we know that the Army High Command exists and that we must await orders from it. For the present the Army is under the Army High Command and has no instructions to this day as to what it is to do. I cannot imagine why

the Army High Command does not make an attempt to inform us in writing, by aeroplane or courier, about situation and intentions.

It would be of considerable help to us to be clear whether the Entente has concluded an armistice not only with the Southern Slav State but above all with the other parts of the Army. Also, how does the army stand towards soldiers of Yugoslav nationality, if discipline and order are to be maintained, which is more than ever to-day the only means of saving State and Army.

Before leaving Lt.-Col. Klusacek got a dispatch from G. H. Q. to the effect that all soldiers were released from their oath and that all were free to return to their homes. Hereupon I promptly got into touch with the Nat. Council and allowed about 20 officers to leave for Vienna, but kept all the rest to save the sick who are here.

The Army High Command has probably likewise dissolved and there is nobody at the G. H. Q. but those charged with the winding up and such men as have heart and courage enough to try to bring back the former effectives of the army safe and sound to their homes. These are purely humanitarian motives which have nothing to do with States and nations.

As the remnants of the A. H. C. has neither troops nor aeroplanes at its disposal, it cannot make any attempt to inform Albanian Army Group about the situation.

Speaking as a man I consider this panic-stricken stampede a crime.

(*Remark by Eng. Psenica*: The A. H. C. is still in existence to-day, i.e. January 20 1919, and the late Commander of the A. T. A. is at present liaison officer between the A. H. C. and the Ministry for War in Vienna). I made up my mind and took over the A. T. A. and am trying with the help of other Southern Slav formations to maintain order and security, and put down Bolshevism and anarchy, as otherwise we shall all be ruined, irrespective of religion and nationality. (You just surrender, and then we can talk further! *Remark, by Eng. Psenica*).

There is no doubt about it that the armistice was not only concluded with the Southern Slav State, but with all States of the ex-Monarchy, therefore also with German Austria.

The remnants of the Army stand in relations of friendliness and good comradeship towards soldiers of Southern Slav nationality, as is right and proper for men in times like the present.

The Southern Slav State guarantees complete personal liberty

and security to all parts still in being of the late army and these remnants are duly expedited to their homes.

The best proof that chauvinism and intolerance are kept down by all means in the Southern Slav State lies in the fact that no difficulties in this direction have so far arisen either in Fiume or in Zagreb.

German and other officers have volunteered for the Southern Slav army and are readily accepted (Blessed are they who believe! *Remark. by Eng. Psenica*).

We are all agreed why discipline and order must be maintained, namely, so that Bolshevism and anarchy may be rigorously kept down (and to keep Bocche di Cattaro from being devastated! *Remark by Eng. Psenica*).

The definite delimitation of the future State frontiers, likewise the pensions of the effectives of the late Army will be settled at the Peace Conference.

So you see you will have to give up hope of communication with A, H, C. Shall do my best this afternoon to get into communication with A. H. C. supposing there is anybody there.

Official Weidner is beside the telephone and can corroborate me to-night, in case we get on to each other again. (Weidner is the confidential agent of the Albanian Army Group Command but he will only be allowed to telephone what I allow him to say. *Remark by Psenica*.)

Thus you have no prospect of information from any other quarter, and any such information is out of the question. Therefore *act* and follow my advice and do your best to negotiate capitulation on most favourable terms, as an outbreak of anarchy in Bocche di Cattaro would mean that you would all be wiped out to a man.

I speak to you as a man and an old friend, and perhaps within a few months we shall be able to confirm this to one another at a personal interview.

Prompt and speedy communication with the Entente and capitulation is the only means to save you, and if this is done soon you will have the honour of seeing the American fleet which is now in the Mediterranean sail into Bocche di Cattaro.

You need have no fear of being taken prisoner or interned as these are things of the past which is also corroborated by the attitude of the Italian fleet here.

I have many German and Hungarian officers at the A. T. A. who feel happy and safe and I was only compelled for short time to refuse them permission to leave because of the hospital group. Official Weidner is Chief of the Commissariat.

My respects, Major. Weidner speaking.

One moment, is Official Psenica still there?

Yes I am here but if you like, do speak quite frankly and openly with official Weidner. I will not influence him in the least, let alone prevent him from speaking freely.

I have every confidence in you, my dear Psenica, on the grounds of your former services (I was for two years in Albania and one in Rijeka, where I helped to organize the administration, food supply and traffic in Albania and together with Major Krömer and Gjebic-Marusic did away with the obsolete *Seetransportleitung* and organized the present maritime traffic administration on modern lines. *Remark Eng. Psenica*). There is one thing more I want to say before I speak to Official Weidner.

Excellency Pflanzler is in command of the Army and the decision lies with him. I shall report all you have told me.

It is very difficult for the Commander of an Army to capitulate without having received official information concerning all concomitant circumstances.

I beg you most urgently to procure me some official information or instructions from the A.H.C. as well as from the Southern Slav State.

You may be sure that we shall then act promptly. The sooner we get the information, the better for all of us.

For your own information :

a) Cruiser flotilla as good as paralysed as Southern Slav crews barely sufficient to man one destroyer. Other nationalities refuse to lend a hand on board ship and urgently desire to go home.

b) The 19 ships of the A.T.A. in the Bocche are probably in the same plight. Machinists refuse to serve at home under Southern Slav flag. Ship's captains declare they have no contract with Southern Slav State, as the old contract with the army administration is regarded as dissolved.

They refuse to put to sea so as to keep the Company's ships undamaged for peace. Hence transport by sea from Bocche to Fiume quite uncertain at present. Many thanks, my dear Psenica, for everything.

Just a word, Major, wait for me...

All right!

Orders *re* capitulation official from the War Ministry. We are not in the position to undertake an alternative from here.

No answer from G.H.Q. at all likely. Shall do our best to get on to Vöslau and get information. Yesterday I spoke to G.H.Q. and the man at the 'phone no longer addressed me by my rank but simply as "Mr." He could give me neither information nor at reply.

As the hospital ships have arrived three days ago, I urgently beg you under no circumstances to send on any sick either to-day or to-morrow, as our whole hospital staff has bolted.

I am working at this moment with a Hung. Landst. Battn. arrived from Sebenico, under the command of Staff Captain Racz. The Battn. was disarmed by our orders, officers and men are carrying on under guarantee of personal safety until safe transport possible, in other words, until we have come to an arrangement with the Hung. Government.

The Hung. Government has already promised us to send along hospital trains as soon as possible, as otherwise we shall have an international scandal concerning the sick. I mean we shall lose every one of them.

I beg you therefore to negotiate the immediate capitulation of the Bocche, as this is the official desire of the Southern Slav Government and also the only right thing from a humanitarian point of view.

Try to keep up discipline and order among the men to the last moment, as we should all of us — and especially myself — be very sorry if a hair of your head were touched.

I press your hand most cordially and beg you to decide upon the above as soon as possible, as I shall have no peace till I know for certain that you all have the prospect of getting home safely without injury.

If it is possible, I shall try to get on to Bocche again to-night and in that case beg you to come again and to exchange information with me. Anything else you would like to mention, Major?

I should like to know how Southern Slav men are to be dealt with, who desert from their posts, such as the hospital staff in the Gravosa hospitals. We should be glad to know the standpoint of the Southern Slav Government in this question. Nothing more of importance. Everything else to-night.

General mobilisation has been ordered in the Southern Slav State and all men liable to military service up to the age of 40 have to join their units, as many regrettable acts by ex-soldiers, such as looting and violence, have taken place in the villages.

Southern Slav men, who leave their posts on their own account, cannot be dealt with according to the old War Regulations until precise instructions come to hand. It should be put to them very strongly, however, that it is emphatically to their own interest to maintain order, as they will otherwise starve and come to grief.

Here in Fiume returning Slav soldiers are incorporated with the new army, but with scant success, as all men are equal, and all of them clear out. Men caught looting I deal with under martial law, without distinction. There is nothing more.

I should like to have knowledge of text of armistice conditions speedily communicated, especially such conditions as refer to Bocche. Kindest regards.
Shall communicate to-night per Hughes. Nothing else.

Copy found correct
Eng. PSENICA.

N. B. *Remarks* by Eng. Psenica in Serbo-Croatian in the original.

ANNEX N° 7

Telegram Adriatic Traffic Administration

Albanian Army Group Command

November 3, 1918.

Albanian Army Group Command, Cantonment Section
Castelnuovo.

Very urgent deliver immediately stop following dispatch arrived from Army High Command stop By order of His Majesty the entire Navy and other shipping likewise all army appurtenances and institutions, etc. to be handed over to Southern Slav National Council which will effect transport of all troops to their homes stop As no connection can be established with Bocche, urgently request you to inform Albanian Army Group Command stop wire receipt of telegram immediately stop.

Adriatic Traffic Administration
O. N. 1213

Note : The contents of the above telegram are altogether spurious.

ANNEX N° 8

Hughes-Conversation Station Zelenika

November 3, 1918.

Adriatic Traffic Administration

Melinje.

Adriatic Traffic Administration Zelenika will surrender installations, ships and entire traffic service to Yugoslav State. Surrender of ships owned by private Companies will be effected under guarantee of all owner's rights solely on lease.

Surrender not yet begun as no qualified receiving authorities present.

Present staff of Adriatic Traffic Administration wireless station, although consisting largely of non-Slavs will carry on until joint troops and hospital cases here are transported and revictualling of Bocche assured.

Accord between Yugoslav Fleet and I. and R. Naval Harbour Command completely established. Transport of sick and non-Yugoslav troops after disarmament, then revictualling of Bocche di Cattaro urgently necessary.

Communication with Franco-Anglo-American fleet established through Yugoslav fleet. Begged to enter Bocche as friends and take over protection of maritime traffic. No reply as yet except congratulations from Malta and Corfu.

Order only just maintained here. The large number of sick and non-Slav contingents especially in the Navy would give cause for anxiety if food supplies fail to arrive.

With all possible dispatch send hospital ships which are still free to proceed to Bocche.

Evacuation of Gravosa not so urgent for the present. Naval Hospital Ship Tirol 2 Nvb entered Gravosa, will take sick on board at Bocche and then proceed to Fiume.

Obtain through the National Council that the Entente takes over protection of traffic and makes friendly entry in Bocche, Fiume and Spalato as well.

Sufficient food supplies still in hand for a few days.

Communication by sea with Bocche quite cut off.

In accordance with your instructions we shall carry on in the general interest.

Naval Commander Panfilli remains in command for the present.

How are conditions in Fiume and in the Monarchy? We know nothing. Please send news.

Adriatic Traffic Administration Station Zelenika

Captain HARVALIK

ANNEX N° 9

November 5, 1918.

Telegram from Albanian Army Group.

Adriatic Traffic Administration
Fiume.

Evening report 5/11 stop 47th Division marching in sector Budua-Gjenasi rear-guard standing near Misic 9th Cavalry Div. entering sector Cattaro-Jorahovac. 8th Div. enters Njegusi sector. Group Colonel Pulz to enter same sector. Garrison of defence district Bileca-Avtovac falling back towards Mostar, as position has become untenable owing to strong comitadji bands.

Albanian Army Group Command
O. N. 10724.

ANNEX N° 10

November 6, 1918.

Hughes-conversation

with Bocche di Cattaro.

Zadar: (in Italian) All right kindly wait two minutes shall connect you at once wait a moment.

Fiume: (in Croatian) Telegraph office of Zadar. Kindly connect us as quickly as possible with station at Melinje and kindly notify interruptions in the communication at once by telegraph Maritime Traffic Administration of the National Council, Rijeka.

Bocche di Cattaro: (in German) Colonel Rechlitz speaking. Official Psenica speaking. Please let me know whether positive communications or arrangements on the part of the Entente regarding transport and revictualling of the troops in Bocche have already transpired or been agreed upon, as no supplies can be counted upon from Fiume.

The Zagreb National Council applied to the German Austrian and Hungarian governments with the request that they should do something for the revictualling and home transport of the Albanian Army Group, but received the reply that these Governments are not in the position just now to contribute either coal or provisions, staff or anything else.

To prevent a catastrophe, I propose the following.

Albanian Army Group to dispatch at once by very next steamer a party of picked and conscientious men to attend to transport service in Fiume. About 60 officers and Food Officials.

By the time this transport arrives in Fiume, I hope we shall have succeeded in our efforts to assure the necessary food and coal supplies. If the steamer sails under the Yugoslav flag nobody will molest it.

In my conversation of yesterday with the Italian Admiral here, Excellency Rainer, I gained the impression that the Entente has likewise no shipping nor food supplies at its disposal and that therefore there is not much help to be looked for from that quarter.

Hospitals over here are already evacuated. Therefore please send sick to Fiume by boats at your end.

Kindly inform concerning conditions over there?

Colonel Rechlitz speaking. First of all many thanks for news.

Major Krömer attending conference with International Committee in Dobrota.

Decision concerning proposals submitted has not yet arrived.

Can let you have definite answer this evening when Major Kræmer returns.

Until then I am myself in ignorance. Please tell me whether there is any prospect that you will be able to deal with the situation over there yourselves within your own powers and resources or whether there is at least hope of this.

As I told you already, only Major Krömer can answer your questions. I shall hand this Hughes conversation on to Major Krömer.

Kindly tell me what nations are represented in the Committee at Dobrota?

As soon as Major Krömer returns, I shall give him the dispatch and tell you who are the members of the Committee. For myself I don't know. It would be greatly to the point of you would send the hospital ships at present in Fiume to Bocche.

(in Italian) Why don't you send *Sofie Hohenberg, Filippo Artelli* and *Sirena* with the sick? Medical supplies and Yugoslav nurses by transport Service? War pay guaranteed by Adriatic Traffic Administration. Hospital ships will be sent as soon as ready, but are almost entirely without staff. Keep doctors and nurses against arrival of hospital ships.

Adriatic Traffic Administration
Received 6/11 1918.

ANNEX N° 11

November, 8, 1918.

Telegram from Wireless Station in Bocche di Cattaro begging for help.

To the Adriatic Traffic Administration
in Fiume

Melinje, no No. 8/11 11 a. m.

Transport of the army by sea owing to general situation and food conditions most urgently necessary with utmost dispatch. Only men, not horses or war material can be transported.

The men are being transported as returning troops, without arms. There are 70.000 in all awaiting transport, besides about 12.000 sick. So far about 12.000 have left since the beginning of the month.

Do not fail to send empty or half-empty steamers to Bocche. Beg help in the way of assistant hospital staffs and crews from Entente troops and fleet, so that the steamers arriving in Fiume can return to Bocche as promptly as possible.

Send hospital ships back to Bocche as quickly as possible. Beg National Council in Zagreb to give orders to Yugoslav fleet to facilitate transport of the men of the army by furnishing stokers, sweeping up dangerous mines, providing crews, and rendering help generally, as a rapid home transport is in the supreme interest of both the Yugoslav State and the Army.

Coal steamer *Austria* will be sent off within a few days to Fiume so that steamer coaling there may return.

This business of transporting is most important and must be energetically taken in hand with good will and judgment.

Adriatic Traffic Administration
Station Zelenika Res. 1384
Naval Commander PANFILLI
Captain HARVALIK
Major RUPNIK

ANNEX N° 12

Hughes Conversation with Bocche di Cattaro.

November 15, 1918.

Fiume (This conversation was carried on in Serbo-Croatian).

Dr. Jemersic, lieutenant, speaking.

To-day the following steamers have arrived: *Corvin, Sarajevo, B. Kemeny, Szeged, Bruen, Sparta*. Left here: *Szent Laszlo, Arpad, Szent Istvan, Racoczy, Adria, Tisza, Szeged, Balaton, Sarajevo*.

Those of your steamers which arrived together with ours will leave at once for Gravosa.

Troops arriving in your boats will be taken at once to the station and sent off. All going on swimmingly. Serbian troops are maintaining peace and order in Rijeka (Fiume) and the French and Italian fleets are in the harbour.

How are things with you?

Bocche: Troops impatient here; all anxious to get home. As most of the men spend the night in the open, sickness increases, but peace and order are maintained nevertheless.

There is enough food. If all the boats that have been promised really come back to Bocche, all the men can be shipped off.

The Austrian Lloyd ships are not needed. Kindly let us know quickly when boats will leave Rijeka, as we have to arrange beforehand by which steamer each detachment is to leave.

How many men a-day are despatched from Rijeka *via* Zagreb, and how many *via* St-Peter?

Chief of Maritime Traffic Administration Engineer Psenica, speaking. Beg to inform you of the following:

The boats which could not be sent up to now because short-handed are ready and under orders to sail on the spot direct to Gravosa or Bocche, as the case may be.

These boats will go straight down and not touch at Spalato, as *Lederer, Sandor* and *Göddollo* go regularly to Spalato.

The boats have the order to return straight from Bocche to Rijeka without touching at any port.

Railway service in perfect order. 6.000 men a-day sent *via* Zagreb and 2.000 *via* St-Peter.

Boats discharge straight into the trains and wait outside the harbour till their trains are ready, which takes 24 hours at the most.

Our traffic administration has been in working order from the very first day without a break-down, only as boats were loaded they had first to be unloaded.

Lloyd's considers itself a foreign Company and has issued orders to all boats to return at once to Trieste. This is being done moreover in agreement with the Italian Government in Trieste. As five of the hospital ships belong to Lloyd's

they too have been summoned to Trieste and refused to obey our orders, although they are still bound by their war contracts. The *Wurmbrandt* is still at Rijeka undergoing repairs.

The Italian Admiral in Rijeka flatly demanded that the hospital ships should be used for the transport of Italian ex-prisoners and all hospital ships which were placed at his disposal for that purpose did not come back from Italy to Rijeka, but straight to Trieste.

Considering that it is our first and foremost business to get back the troops from Bocche irrespective of nationality or creed, we have protested against this irresponsible tyranny, but without success.

The same thing happened with the big Lloyd merchant steamers which were empty and could by now have carried all men and large part of material to Rijeka.

Please enter an emphatic protest with the Entente squadrons down there and demand that Italian Government in Trieste, Lloyd Co., the Austro-Americana and Tripkovic are called to account.

I also beg you as from now to report to us punctually every day at 9 o'clock per Hughes:

1) The number of men sound and sick at Bocche and at Gravosa.

2) The number of horses, munitions and other war material to be transported to Rijeka.

3) Steamers at the moment in Bocche and about to leave Bocche with precise number of men and horses on board.

We shall similarly inform you every day of arrival and departure of steamers in Rijeka.

Please tell me whether Major Krömer of the General Staff is still at Ercegnovo (Castelnuovo) and when he is expected back, and what sort of conditions prevail down there.

1) Please tell me, whether the *Gæa* is coming back to Bocche and when?

2) Present Chief at the Adriatic Traffic Administration Station of Zelenika is Commander Susic.

3) There are 40,000 men at Bocche and 10,000 in Gravosa as well as 50 privately owned horses.

All material and horses are surrendered to the Yugoslav Committee, which wants the greater number of these horses to be distributed among the various Dalmatian ports, to save them from starving, as it is impossible to provide forage for them here.

There will be about three or four thousand horses to bestow in this way.

Major Krömer is in Ercegnovo (Castelnuovo). The Cantonment Section will leave when every man has been fixed up for by what boat he shall leave. There are 2,000 sick at Gravosa; only a small number in Bocche as a hospital train leaves every day for Bosanski Brod.

As regards boats at Bocche, I will let you know to-morrow. Can you let me know about SS. *Gæa*?

1) SS. *Gæa* will certainly sail in a day or two, but all the boats that arrived to-day in Rijeka as well as from five to ten *Adria* steamers will sail before her.

I trust that in a week at the latest Bocche and Gravosa will be evacuated, in any case that would be the latest date.

2) Is the *Africa* in Bocche, and when did she arrive?

What is the boat's name? Is it the *Aryda* or is it perhaps some other boat?

No, hospital ship *Africa*.

The *Africa* is here and will sail again to-day from Bocche. If the promised vessels arrive and the boats at the depot here are not short of crews, stokers and mechanics, in fact if these can only be raised somehow, then the transport of all the troops is assured. Anything else?

Those boats I mentioned will ply steadily between Bocche and Rijeka so long as they are wanted.

Let the Traffic Administration's wireless station at Zelenika go on working on the old lines because our installation is also intact.

Please give my special kind regards to Major Krömer. What are the names of the officers who are at the telegraph?

Captain Oljaca of the Yugoslav G. H. Q. at Ercegnovo (Castelnuovo) and Captain Steiner of the Cantonment Section, traffic superintendent. Are Lt. Colonel Klusacek and Cavalry Captain Tupaj there?

Lt. Col Klusacek and Cavalry Captain Tupaj deserted ignominiously on the very first day, i. e. on November 1st leaving everything in the lurch, without any surrender. I took command at the last minute and so prevented disorders and the complete stand-still of the traffic administration.

All sections have remained intact and I succeeded by hook and by crook in retaining even the officers of non-Slav nationality at their posts until the liquidation of the army

down there and the Traffic Administration here are completed in orderly and decent fashion.

The men who have stopped here are working for the same purpose and you can rely on them implicitly.

That is all for the present.

Hearty congratulations, Engineer Psenica, Chief of the Maritime Traffic Administration.

If any of you would like to talk to Liaison Officer Major Schuecker or the Transport Superintendent official Weidner, they are both here.

Thanks, my dear Psenica, we understand and realise that all is working smoothly with you. Three cheers for you and your Staff.

We too shall stay on until the evacuation of the army is all carried out — and then things must be as they may.

My dear Psenica, we know very well what you are doing for us. Your services will be reported in due form to your National Council.

A list of the officers who deserted has also been drawn up, with the names of Klusacek and Tupaj figuring prominently at the head.

Once more most hearty thanks from Captain Steiner.

Copy found correct.
Eng. Psenica.

ANNEX N° 13

Hughes-conversation with Zelenika.

November 15, 1918.

Engineer Psenica speaking.

Major Krömer speaking. How do you do, Psenica. Beg to submit following general information.

1) Location of troops :

a) District of Morinje-Riseno-Perasto-Orahovac : 81th Inf. Division, about 11,000 men.

b) District of Teodo : 47th Inf. Div. about 3,000 men.

c) District of Cattaro : Czecho-Slovak detachment, about 1,000 men.

d) District of Gravosa-Obot : 9th Cav. Div. about 10,000 men and 2,000 sick.

e) District of Gjenovi-Zelenika-Castelnuovo : about 14,000 men including between 4,000 and 5,000 prisoners of war.

f) Located in Bocche some 2,000 to 3,000 sick, therefore in all 49,000 men including from four to five thousand Russian prisoners of war.

The troops take 8 days' provision with camp kitchens or field kitchens. Ten per cent of the troops retain their rifles for the maintenance of order. Besides this the troops take the officers' messes, private luggage and some ledgers, nothing else.

Privately owned horses will follow at the end as special transport.

2) Location of ships and transport effected :

a) At Risano the *Zrinji* with one hundred waggon-loads of food-stuffs, unloading. The *Amphitrite* at Beosic. She is short of part of her complement which is being applied for to-day from the French Admiral.

The *Katarina Gerolimic* at Perzagno with ship's engine as cargo, refuses to sail. Intend to requisition her.

All three ships intended for Risano-Perasto.

b) 47th Inf. Div. at Teodo : The *Jokaj* with 140 waggons of coal, discharging ; furthermore *Dardania* at Lepetane with insufficient crew, which is to be supplemented by men of the heavy field Artillery Regiment.

c) At Cattaro : The *Salzburg* with about 1,000 Czecho-Slovaks who are to discharge about 10 waggon-loads of forage at Teodo and the rest at Gravosa, where embarcation will take place.

d) On average 1,300 to 1,500 men leave Zelenika by rail for Sarajevo. Doubtful whether this performance can be kept up after November 18, as the assistants of the military railway staff belonging to the Albanian Army Group may refuse to do duty after that date.

3) Comparison between transport effected and the demand shows that about 16,000 men can be despatched by the ships lying at Bocche, and perhaps 7,000 by rail by the 19th inst., so that 26,000 will have to be despatched by other means of transport.

I therefore ask, what about *Gaea*, *Teodo*, *Szent Laszlo*, *Arpad*, *Szent Istvan*, *Rakoczy*, *Adria*, *Szeged*, *Balaton*, *Sarajevo*. What are they doing, when do they leave Fiume, will they bring coal for the return journey or no? What hospital ships can we count on?

4) The *Abbazia* sails for Fiume this afternoon from Gravosa and the *Africa* from Bocche.

5) Rear Admiral Susic has taken over the Adriatic Administration, Zelenika Section, and is at this moment with the French to obtain the following :

a) that the Italians release the Lloyd ships again from Trieste for the Bocche-Fiume service, at least for one trip.

b) that the *Salona* or the *Gædællæ* should sail to Bocche or Gravosa for once, instead of to Spalato.

c) that crews for the *Amphitrite* and *Katarina Gerolimic* are supplied by the Entente.

Kindly report.

To-day's arrivals: the *Corvin* with 1,300 men, *Sarajevo* with 1,250, *Szeged* with 1,500, *Baron Kameny* with 1,700, *Sparta* with 1,200, *Urano* with 1,200 and *Filippo Artelli* with 2,100; therefore 10,250 men in all. The transports were disembarked in orderly fashion and the men at once sent on by rail.

The canteens of the Adriatic Traffic Administration are in perfect working order and the arriving troops are well fed.

Railway service to Hungary and Austria normal.

Of the officers who arrived with the *Szeged*, I have attached one-half to the transport service, and the other to the Station Command as controlling officers.

To facilitate progress of transport shall have all *Adria* steamers sent straight to Bocche; the first batch consisting of 4 steamers will sail to-morrow without touching at any intermediate port.

During the next few days at least three steamers a-day will go straight to Bocche. Steamers which were loaded at Fiume have already unloaded.

The *Teodo* and the *Gæa* are not at present available for Bocche.

The last man in Bocche will be embarked on November 26 or 28 at the very latest.

I am just being called away to an urgent conference with the Italian Admiral, and beg you if possible to be at the telegraph to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

All else in order.

Remark (in Serbo-Croatian). This was the last time connection was established with Bocche di Cattaro, and all further attempts to get connected were in vain, as the Italians in Zadar prevented all conversation.

On November 18 the Hughes telegraphic station of the Maritime Traffic Administration was dismantled by the Italians and taken away.

Copy found correct

Eng. Psenica.

SUMMARIZED CONTENTS
OF THE
PRECEDING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

- I. — **Military Command in Zagreb, O. N° 805 — August 19, 1914** attests that immediately upon the very outbreak of the war "certain elements were intentionally spreading false alarmist news" and "incredible rumours", in order to excite, disquiet and discourage the population and "to exploit this for their own ends". p. 13
- II. — **Local Army Command, K N° 1914 — September 12, 1914**, relates that the native population helps the Serbian artillery by signals, and that this same native population has blown up the track in territory occupied by Austro-Hungarian troops. Public feeling in Syrmia necessitates the most stringent measures. p. 14
- III. — **Military Command in Zagreb, — O. N. 1775 — September 26, 1914**, encloses two symptomatic proclamations, issued at the beginning of the war, addressed to "our Slav brothers" and "our German and Austro-Hungarian brothers". The revolt begins its work. p. 15
- IV. — **Military Command in Zagreb, O. N. 1764 — September 26, 1914**, demands measures against the pan-Serbian propaganda. Political officials both high and low are unreliable. The administrative authorities fail in their duty as regards the seizure of arms. A seditious spirit prevails in Syrmia. The hostile population haunts the railway and telephone lines and damages them. It uses arms against the Austro-Hungarian soldiers. p. 17
- V. — **Dispatch from Potiorek, General Commanding in Sarajevo, N° 387 — October 3, 1914**, informs the Ban of Croatia that Austro-Hungarian soldiers were fired upon from the houses at Bezanija and that enemy soldiers were concealed there. Deportation of the population necessary. p. 20
- VI. — **Fifth Army Command, N° 163 — October 3, 1914**, decrees the application of martial law to native civilians rendering themselves guilty of criminal acts. p. 21
- VII. — **Military Command in Zagreb, O. N. 2171/11 — October 28, 1914**, states that in Bosnian territory exists a system of communication by visible signals... which has its starting point somewhere in the territory of Croatia-Slavonia. p. 22
- VIII. — **Military Command in Zagreb, O. N. 2590 — November 2, 1914**, depicts the insidious treason which has penetrated far into the interior; it has claimed thousands upon thousands of victims among the officers and men... There is treason on all sides at the front. The enemy is informed of all movements of the troops. The most varied signals are employed. p. 23
- IX. — **Military Command in Zagreb, O. N° 2682 — November 17, 1914**, accuses the deputies in the Diet (Sabor) in Zagreb of hypocrisy and proposes the dissolution of the Diet. p. 24

- X. — **Military Command in Zagreb, O. N° 3050 — November 26, 1914**, learns that since the beginning of the war a secret organization has been at work in Zagreb for the purpose of systematically undermining the confidence of the population in the success of "our" arms, — which confidence is already none too great. Bayonet encounters are said to have taken place between Hungarian and Croatian regiments — even in Zagreb. Foreign papers detrimental to the State are introduced and circulated. The employees of the Zagreb Bank are said to have dissuaded the public from subscribing to the War Loan. p. 25
- XI. — **Military Command in Zagreb, O. N. 3297 — December 10, 1914**, urges arrest of principal moving spirits in secret organization. Newspapers fail to publish articles calculated to raise enthusiasm. Seditious persons are not denounced. p. 27
- XII. — **Military Command in Zagreb O. N. 3550 — December 28, 1914**. Report : *The spy system does not work as it ought*. Several distinguished Secret Service men have been dismissed by the Civil Government against the will of the Military Command. The Civil Services disregard the ordinances of the Regulation "Instructions for Military Intelligence Service". During the whole period of mobilization, i. e. for five months, the Chief of Police never submitted so much as a single communication to the military command. On top of this, military personages are subjected to "some" sort of surveillance. There is continuous communication between traitors in the country and the enemy, most irksome to our armies at the front. This is one of the special tasks of the "Narodna Odbrana" (National Defence). The discovery and examination of any member of this society is of cardinal military importance. p. 28
- XIII. — **Military Command in Zagreb, O. N. 841 — February 1915**, reports the presence of non-loyalist sentiments; loyalist demonstrations are fraught with difficulties; in Syrmia there were outrages committed by the population; conversely, the promises of the Government to form *Croatian volunteer corps have ended in a fiasco*, since after two months of effort the Government Commissioner only succeeded in organizing one platoon of college students and persuading the corps of veterans to furnish another. *The Government does not proceed impartially in the case of political personages. Because of the Serbo-Croatian Coalition the pan-Serbian propaganda has achieved rapid and notable success. Throughout Syrmia members of the professional class undoubtedly belong to the "Narodna Odbrana". The programme of the latter demands the absolute union of all provinces of Southern Slav speech with Serbia. The same applies to the "Privrednik" (Savings' Bank Union), to the Serbian Bank, etc... Croats deserted in June 1913 because they did not want to become Magyars. — Note : Much of the information contained in this document was derived from Messrs. Frank and Horvat, leaders of the not very numerous anti-Serbian party. That is the reason why the present generation of Croats are described as loyalists, but not the children of that generation.* p. 33
- XIV. — **Military Command in Zagreb, O. N. 3545 — May 30, 1915**. A joyful spirit is noticeable among the Orthodox population because of a political change disadvantageous to Austria-Hungary. p. 37
- XV. — **Military Command in Zagreb — July 10, 1915**. In spite of notable executions... for assisting the enemy, most serious cases of insult to His Majesty's person are increasingly frequent... manifestations of deep-seated hatred, kept in check solely by force, against all that is dynastic and friendly to the Monarchy... glorification of King Peter and the Serbian State, expressed by men and women alike, are the order of the day... the Government is guilty

- of open sabotage of loyalist tendencies. The Serb is everywhere protected. p. 38
- XVI. — **Military Command in Zagreb — August 8, 1915**. Captain Hocevar of the 53rd Croatian Regiment stationed in Zagreb relates that this movement (Jugoslav or pan-Serbian) existed long before the war and that now a large part of the Croats are carried away by the Serbian tide. *This will lead to a union of the Serbs of the Kingdom with the Serbs and Croats of the Monarchy and Bosnia-Hercegovina in one great Serbian State. If this union does not seem possible under the Habsburgs and within the Monarchy, it is bound to be achieved under some other dynasty and in some other State. The means by which this object is obtained are a matter of indifference... The Croatian Government is Serbophil and bodes little good.* p. 39
- XVII. — **Military Command in Zagreb. September 8, 1915**, denounces the Pokret (the Movement), the press organ of the Coalition as Serbophil or "neutral" without the slightest (Austrian) patriotism. According to a letter sent to the Pokret from America, *all classes of the population have become deeply imbued with the propaganda for the creation of a "Jugoslavia", having for its object the union of all Slav peoples of Southern Europe in one State of "Jugoslavia". All are agreed that Jugoslavia must not fall under Italy's influence. No part of the Jugoslav littoral must fall into Italy's hands. The principle of national Unity has long since found numerous adherents among the intellectual class here. A Russian victory is far more ardently desired than a victory of the Monarchy.* p. 41
- XVIII. — **Military Command in Zagreb, — September 9, 1915**, is not satisfied with the measures taken by the Croatian Government with reference to the procedure in the cases of high treason in Croatia-Slavonia, since for 1,751 trials for high treason, *lèse-majesté and disturbance of the public order there have only been 902 convictions; 3,000 denunciations of crimes of that order were not followed up at all. The enclosure remarks upon the innumerable and appalling crimes committed already at the outbreak of the war; even many of the deputies belonging to the Serbo-Croat Coalition had rendered, themselves guilty of the crime of high treason. The courts inflict minimum penalties.* p. 43
- XIX. — **Military Command in Zagreb. K. N. 2078 — December 31, 1915** notifies that the Serbo-Croat Coalition is in the majority in the Croatian Diet in Zagreb. *The leaders of the party (Supilo, Hinkovic, Potocnjak, Vosnjak, Marjanovic, etc...) fled at the outbreak of the war and are now abroad engaged in propaganda against the Monarchy. It is they who are responsible for the formation of the Adriatic Legion, the proclamations inviting Austro-Hungarian soldiers to desert, and plots within the country. Lieutenant Banjanin, of the Reserve, entered the Serbian Army. Many others (Trumbic, Fabjancic, Stojanovic, Micic, Jedlowski, etc...) constituted the Jugoslav Committee in London. They have intermediaries who keep up communication between them and their friends who remained in the country. Thus after eighteen months of war, a deputy (Wilder), member of the Majority could shout : "The Idea (i.e. the Jugoslav Idea) will persist even after the war!" witho ut being called to order. The civil authorities, even the police officials conspire against the State (the incident of exemption from military service); so do the provincial mayors. The Food Supply Service in the towns has proved a complete failure; hence discontent, distrust, and even war-weariness among the public.* p. 46
- XX. — **Military Command in Karlovac — July 10, 1916**, notifies that the pan-Serbian propaganda in Karlovac (a town in Croatia)

has assumed such proportions that it is already dangerous. The partisans of the Coalition party — almost the majority of the inhabitants, and almost all the officials, including the most highly placed, are hostile to the Monarchy. In the hours of defeat, the Austro-Hungarian defeats are cheerfully discussed; when there is a victory, dissatisfaction is visible on every face; anti-dynastic tendency manifests itself quite openly. This propaganda is deeply rooted in all classes of the population. All officials help men in every possible way to evade their duty to join the colours. The main effort is directed above all towards impairing the effective strength of "our" army. The men are insolent, very unruly, have no respect for their superiors, leave the garrison and do not come back unless fetched by the police. Soldiers leave the Battns. about to march off at the moment of departure — in full view of all spectators. The officers are quite helpless. p. 50

XXI. — Station Command at Karlovac. K. N. 318 — July 29, 1916, reports that the Serbo-Croats form a separate caste. — The population is indifferent to the progress of the war. The slackness of the authorities is extreme as regards travelling permits. The military authorities are not obeyed. Desertion among the men is frequent, because it is rendered extremely easy. The deserter is concealed and fed. Lack of discipline among the men. Munitions are stolen and hidden. p. 53

XXII. — Military Command in Zagreb re N° 245 — January 24, 1917. Lists of the "Narodna Odbrana" (National Defence) enclosed, and in particular lists a) = 334 members (Syrmia), b) = 127 members (Backa and Banat), c) = 181 members (Bosnia-Hercegovina) d) = 56 members in Croatia proper. The Command has no confidence in the Royal Public Prosecutor as regards the enquiry into these crimes. p. 55

XXIII. — High Command (A. O. K.) N° 45368 — September 24, 1917, communicates the article which appeared in the Temps on August 12, referring to the desertion of 24 officers on the Isonzo front, who telegraphed to the Serbian Minister in Rome offering their services to Karageorgevic. p. 56

XXIV. — High Command (A. O. K.) in Baden N° 974 — February 7, 1918, General Sarkotic forwards his report concerning the mutiny of Yugoslav sailors in Bocche di Cattaro, the result of a Yugoslav propaganda with its focus in Ljubljana (Laibach) The population of Dalmatia cheers the mutineers with enthusiasm. 43 men are to be executed, 250 tried and 250 deported. p. 57

XXV. — Military Government General of Serbia re N° 1580 — February 15, 1918. The Local Command in Belgrade begs for information concerning Croatian newspapers publishing news items likely to exercise an undesirable influence upon the Serbian population and the military. The news contained in Croatian papers is seized upon with avidity in Serbia, and all manner of conclusions are drawn. p. 59

XXVI. — Royal Hungarian Ministry of Defence N° 3613 — February 19, 1918, notifies that in Croatia and Slavonia there exists a well-prepared movement against the State, having for its supreme aim the foundation of a Yugoslav State. Symptoms are as follows: — Wholesale desertion planned for the spring. Many deserters at large in Croatia and Slavonia. Yugoslav propaganda spread in all kinds of ways, even among the soldiers in the barracks. The deserters are treated as heroes. Deserters are very numerous, especially from the units destined for the front. Frequently the men desert fully armed and equipped. The Croatian Battalions must

be replaced by German or Hungarian Battalions and further measures be taken. Public security is in danger. The High Command is requested, in the interests of public security in Croatia and Slavonia to release all officers and men belonging to the Croatian corps of gendarmes from the army and send them back to the corps of gendarmes. p. 60

XXVII. — I. and R. Military Government General of Serbia, N° 439 — March 20, 1918, proposes measures to be taken against Croatian papers and pamphlets dangerous to the population of occupied Serbia. During the war Zagreb has become that centre of attraction for the Serbs that Belgrade was before the war. The Croatian papers have accepted the Yugoslav Resolution of 30/5/1917 as their programme and discuss it simultaneously with the pact concluded between Trumbic and Pasic, resolution and pact being pretty well identical in tenour. Allusions are made to a Yugoslav State outside the complex of the Monarchy; even a plebiscite on the question of the Dynasty is mentioned. The destruction of the Monarchy is aimed at, the work of the Yugoslav Committee in London is lauded and so is the participation of Slav soldiers who are natives of the Monarchy in the fight against the Central Powers, etc. p. 63

XXVIII. — Coastal Defence Command. Dalmatia, North N° 820 res. Mostar — April 18, 1918. Report that an organization of Yugoslav Students has been created during the war in all Yugoslav regions of the Monarchy. Its headquarters are in Ljubljana (Laibach) and it has branches in all larger towns, especially in Dalmatia. Aim: — the union of all Yugoslavs in one State outside the frame of the Monarchy. This organization is in touch with the "Green Units" (deserters). Adult townspeople are among the members of the Society. p. 66

XXIX. — Battalion at the Depot of the 53rd Infantry Regiment. Res. 2277, Zagreb — June 2, 1918. In regard to the Yugoslav movement the officers commanding, Croats by nationality, in the majority of cases purposely send in a negative reply. p. 67

XXX. — I. and R. Austrian Ministry of Defence, O. N. 13155, Vienna — May 2, 1918. — Notifies that Mgr. Korosec' Yugoslav party has a most subversive effect on the population and even demoralises the Slovene troops. p. 68

XXXI. — Military Command in Graz, N° 12984/11 Graz — May 5, 1918. The disposition among the soldiers and incitement to mutiny are considered most serious. Soldiers are won over to the ideas of the Korosec party. The seditious influence originates with the Slovene clergy, who are instructed in this by their Bishop. Townspeople and the younger generation are more easily led away than the peasantry. Treasonable utterances are heard among the soldiers; several battns, charged with restoring order have not behaved with sufficient energy. p. 69

XXXII. — Army G. H. Q. N° 106118 — May, 5, 1918. Learns from Graz that the demonstrations in Laibach were accompanied by excesses directed against the Monarchy and the Dynasty. Soldiers and even several officers of Slovene nationality took part in the serious disorders caused by the Yugoslav agitation. p. 70

XXXIII. — I. and R. Post of Frontier Control at Feldkirch, Int. Dep. N° 992 res. Feldkirch — May 17, 1918. Information received that the organization of the Yugoslav Youth in Liubljana (Laibach) and Zagreb is making propaganda for desertion. Men escape to Switzerland by means of forged travelling permits or open orders.

There is active communication between this organization and that in Prague. The members of these two organizations make the decisions arrived at known in the army. p. 71

XXXIV. — **Military Command in Zagreb, N° 12903, Zagreb — May 29, 1918.** A circular letter asking for description or information concerning symptoms of Yugoslav propaganda. p. 72

XXXV. — **23rd Rifle Regiment, Orahovica — June 6, 1918.** A Croatian officer's negative reply to questions asked in preceding circular. p. 73

XXXVI. — **The Military Judge of the Division, F. P. O. N° 365, June 6, 1918,** reports that in the nights of May 12 and 26, 1918 several Yugoslav officers and men deserted from their positions to the Italians. *The deserters revealed matter of importance to the enemy.* They throw leaflets into "our" positions, calling upon the Austro-Hungarian soldiers to cease fighting. p. 74

XXXVII. — **Imperial and Royal Station Command, Indjija. N° 433 June 22, 1918.** According to certain reports a Yugoslav movement and propaganda exists throughout Sylvania. The central group consists of 15 to 20 persons. Apparently the female element is likewise represented. These people are involved in far-reaching commercial enterprises. Result, food stuffs are exorbitantly dear. The former commanders would not allow this gang to be watched. p. 75

XXXVIII. — **Imperial and Royal Ministry for War, O. N° 19548. Vienna — June 18, 1918.** The Ministry for War does not share the view of the I. R. Ministry for the Interior, that the propaganda made in favour of the creation of a Yugoslav State cannot be considered as being generally speaking hostile to the State. The Ministry for War is under the impression that seditious tendencies are not confined to isolated leaders of the Yugoslav propaganda. p. 76

XXXIX. — **Imperial and Royal Ministry for War, O. N° 15569, ad N° 19540, of 1918.** The population of southern Styria is incited by the Slovene clergy. Refugees exercise a deleterious influence upon the soldiers at Radkersburg and Liebenau. Mutinies have taken place in the 37th Rifle Regiment and the 22nd Infantry Regiment, as a result of the Yugoslav propaganda. A revolt broke out in the Battalion at the depot of the 17th Infantry Regiment at Judenburg during the night of May 12th, at the instigation of a member of the Slovene Socialist party. p. 78

XL. — **The General Commanding in B. H. D. Op N° 3268, Sarajevo — June 21, 1918.** The ubiquitous activity of the Yugoslav propaganda invades the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Dalmatia and exercised a deleterious influence upon the men in the BHB units and army corps; hence the trouble in the fleet in February in the naval port of Cattaro, in the Battalion at the depot of the 22nd Regiment in Mostar, in the detachment of convalescents of the Battalion at the depot of the 22nd Regiment in Czorna, the increasingly frequent cases of desertion at the front, especially among Dalmatian troops. According to the calculations of the Entente, this propaganda might easily cause insurrections and rebellions which could not fail to react unfavourably upon the operations on the Austro-Hungarian front p. 80

XLI. — **Army High Command (AOK) Op N° 110272, Baden — August 12, 1918.** The very unsatisfactory demeanour of the soldiers recruited in Spalato and Dalmatia in general is due to the part played by Dr. Trumbic in the Yugoslav question. The Dalmatian

town of Spalato is one of the principal hotbeds of the Yugoslav agitation. p. 82

XLII. — **Army High Command (AOK). Op. N° 11242. Dispatch of September 15, 1918.** Several officers and men of the 23rd Rifle Regt. have deserted to the enemy on August 23, 1918. Cause of the desertion : subversive Yugoslav propaganda among the Battns. of recruits in Osijek and above all in Zagreb. p. 83

XLIII. — **Army High Command (AOK). N° 147991, September 25, 1918, E. P. O. 11.** Information has come to hand from Prague that the Czechs, Poles and Yugoslavs, assisted by their co-nationals, have planned a revolution to take place at the front on September 28th. p. 84

XLIV. — **Letter from General of Division Schenk, Military Commandant in Zagreb in 1918, O. N. 53, 16/29 of September 25, 1918.** — Reports on the state of popular feeling in Croatia and Slavonia and depicts in detail : a) The position of the Government. The *Ban* is dependent upon the Serbo-Croat Coalition, the party constituting the majority in the Diet; b) Among the Chiefs of the Administration one is not in accord with the *Ban*, while another favours Yugoslav tendencies in public instruction. The removal of the last-mentioned is desirable; c) The clergy, especially the young clergy, follows the democratic and Yugoslav trend. The influence of the Bishops has waned. The Archbishop is a professed Yugoslav; d) The Administration looked upon as frequently corrupt because of the low salaries; e) The political situation grows more acute from day to day. The Entente and the Yugoslav Committee exploit the situation. If the Central Powers are not in a position to dictate Peace, *the Yugoslav problem will be solved in a spirit hostile to the State*; f) Symptoms of Yugoslav ideas and democratism are noticeable even in the corps of officers. A certain war-weariness manifests itself among the officers. Only the professional officers, who are few in number, are truly reliable. The spirit among the best of them is liable to change; g) and h) The officers Racki and Metzker will be watched; j) *The plague of deserters.* There is a whole series of desertions. The terrorism of these bands is incidentally directed against the Germans and Magyars. A Communist tendency and the intention to bring about a sabotage of the war are predominant, however. The number of deserters is increased daily by men on leave who refuse to rejoin their units. The deserters are armed and style themselves "Green Units". Men on leave are dissuaded from rejoining their units, because it is foolish to fight, or it is suggested that "one ought not to fight for the Germans and Magyars". *It is a case of a tendency manifestly hostile to the State.* The gendarmes and the authorities are helpless against such numbers. Even the military command is scarcely equal to the task. Officers of the right kind are lacking, so are energy and determination; k) It is said that an insurrectionary movement is on foot for the New Year, if the Yugoslav Question is not solved in a satisfactory manner by that time. The peasants are said to be interested in military munitions; l) The accusations levelled against the military tribunal in Zagreb concerning too great leniency in dealing with rebel elements are not without foundation. The suspicion entertained concerning the unreliable disposition prevailing among the corps of officers of Serbo-Croat nationality is doubtless not unfounded. p. 85

XLV. — **Telegram from the Army High Command, received in Zagreb, October 21, 1918.** Correspondence between Dr. Trumbic and the Yugoslav Committees in the Monarchy is transmitted by enemy submarines at spots indicated in each case by Yugoslavs of

the Monarchy. Committees have already prepared and instructed the population in view of the creation of Yugoslavia. *The question of a prospective revolution is discussed at Committee meetings.* A national police is already formed for the purpose of interning recalcitrant elements. At a given moment, the Yugoslav Committee will launch the proclamation of a *coup d'Etat* and a new order in the Yugoslav State. The Entente will enter Dalmatia and Hercegovina at 13 different points. Hence Austria-Hungary will be compelled to evacuate these provinces which will be occupied by Yugoslav legions. The proclamation which the Emperor has the intention of making will be disregarded. It comes too late. Letters and instructions destined for political men in Bosnia and Hercegovina are conveyed by messenger between Agram (Zagreb) and Bosnia. p. 91

XLVI. — Dispatch omK Op. No. 945 — October 22, 1918. — The Third Battalion of the 27th *Landsturm* Regiment belonging to the 62nd Infantry Division — (recruited in Laibach) has mutinied against its officers and refused to proceed to the positions at Brza Palanka (Serbia), after being ferried across from Turn Severin (Rumania) to Kladovo (Serbia). p. 93

XLVII. — Army High Command. Op. No. 148184/27. — Dispatch of October 26, 1918. — Wholesale desertions have taken place in the military district of Zagreb, armed attacks by deserters are becoming increasingly frequent. At Pozega (Slavonia) the machine gunners have refused to obey orders. The *Landwehr* Company at Pleternica (Slavonia) has fired through the windows of the house of the Officer Commanding. The 79th Battalion is being transferred under escort to Pola. The Hungarian officers at Varazdin (Croatia) are in danger. The station at Plaski is destroyed. p. 94

XLVIII. — Telegram despatched by Col. General von Arz to Count Karoly, Op. 145539, November 1, 1918. *The Yugoslav State is founded. It takes no part in the fighting against the Entente.* p. 95

XLIX. — S. H. S. (Serbo-Croato-Slovene) Maritime Traffic Administration in Rijeka (Fiume), No. 12135 III. Capitulation of the Albanian Army group, from October 31 to November 15 1918. The dossier contains 13 annexes relating to the capitulation and transport of the Albanian Army Group. They consist of copies of telegrams and Hughes conversations.

It transpires very clearly : 1) That the capitulation was precipitated by the judicious action of the S.H.S. Maritime Traffic Administration in Rijeka (Fiume) and accomplished independently without any help from the Entente; 2) that the disarmament and transport of the troops from Bocche di Cattaro, Dalmatia and Istria and the Piave front were carried out within the proper sphere of action of the said Administration, — and without incentive from without.

Conversely, it transpires, that the Italians did *not* occupy Rijeka (Fiume) until November 17, 1918, i.e. when the bulk of the work was done. The Italian Army therefore "occupied" strategic points which were already abandoned and had long since been seized by the Yugoslavs, — a proceeding analogous to that by which the Italians gained the "battle" of Vittorio Veneto, which, according to the *official communique of the Italian General Staff*, was gained at the very moment when the first Dalmatian Companies arrived in Rijeka (Fiume) on their way home from the front.

The annexes throw considerable light on certain details of the revolution in the Yugoslav Provinces of the Monarchy during the period from October 31 to November 15, 1918. p. 96

