

# RADITCH LEFT TALE OF YUGOSLAV PLOT

Account of Parliament Murders, in Which He Was Fatally Wounded, Now Revealed.

## TRACED SLAYER TO COURT

Document Is Supposed to Have Furnished a Basis for Einstein's Indictment of King.

When Dr. Albert Einstein called the attention of the Paris headquarters of the League of the Rights of Man to the murder of his Croatian college professor, Milan Sufplay, in the streets of Agram, Feb. 18, 1931, he accused King Alexander of Yugoslavia of having been implicated in the crime as well as in the murders in Parliament, June 20, 1928.

Belgrade officially retorted that Dr. Einstein was badly informed—had been imposed upon by Croatian rebels—and, so far as the Parliamentary murders were concerned, nothing had developed at the trial of Punicha Ratchitch to show that he had been inspired by any one—he was a madman, that was all.

The documents on which Dr. Einstein based his description of the murder of Professor Sufplay have since been published in the newspaper 'Croatia,' printed in Geneva. It has now issued a statement made before his death by the Croatian leader, Stefan Raditch, who succumbed to wounds inflicted by Ratchitch.

This statement was suppressed—as was other evidence tending to show the existence of a dictatorial plot—at the trial of Ratchitch, who mortally wounded Raditch and another Croatia Deputy, killed two others and then cried: "I have done my duty—long live greater Serbia!"

Dr. Einstein's cottage near Potsdam was broken open by burglars on Jan. 8 last. It was ransacked from top to bottom, but nothing was noticed to have been taken. It is supposed that the intruders were in search of the Croatian documents, which, however, were kept in Berlin.

### Had Warning in Advance.

The statement of Stefan Raditch was made, signed and sworn to before an examining magistrate a few days before his death, Aug. 8, 1928, and begins with the allegation that he knew from friends that an attack "to order" was being prepared against him. He scoffed at the idea, but scenes in Parliament and passages in the Serb press caused him to regard the warning as serious.

Ratchitch "was frequently in the company of Dragomir Yankovitch, Minister of the Royal Palace, and he boasted of an intimate friendship with him," he declared.

Coercion of voters had been used by the dictatorship to make Ratchitch a Deputy at the preceding election, he charged, and so the latter was under obligations to the palace "to do something."

"I have the profound conviction," he added, "that Punicha Ratchitch has been the executor of an act coolly premeditated and elaborated by a party of the Radical Club, with the knowledge and perhaps also with the approbation of the president of the Skupchtina (Parliament), Ninko Peritch, and the president of the Council, Vukitchevitch.

"My opinion is that if these gentlemen had not been accessories to the crime it might never have been executed. What psychology will admit, in effect, that it could be possible for a member of the Chamber of Deputies to be able to take aim at his colleagues in Parliament and fire six revolver shots without either the members of his club present, or the president of the Chamber, or the regular Parliamentary guard trying to prevent him from accomplishing his crime, although they had both time and opportunity to do so?"

### No Attempt to Stop Assassin.

On the basis of the evidence presented by the gendarmes to the examining magistrate, Mr. Raditch declared that the Serb Deputies, "far from trying to prevent the crime, had, on the contrary, prepared everything so that all the Croatian Deputies should be killed during this meeting. The members of the aforesaid clubs (Young Yugoslavia, which Dr. Einstein holds directly responsible for the death of Professor Sufplay, the Radical, and others) certainly counted upon finding some one armed among the Croatian Deputies, that this armed Deputy would use his revolver at the moment, and that this would be the signal to massacre the Croatians."

He asked why the authors of articles in the Iedinstvo and other papers had not been "arrested for encouragement and incitation to assassination," and concluded:

"I have heard said, publicly, after the outrage of June 20, that twenty-three Deputies who signed the proposition to put me under observation constituted a committee; that they decided to settle their account with the Croats in Parliament; that they had already drawn lots at the beginning of June, and that the lot fell to Punicha Ratchitch, who had until June 20 to execute his crime or kill himself.

"I have never had, personally, any discussion with Punicha Ratchitch, either on the night before, or on the day of the crime, because on this day I said absolutely nothing, nor did I make any interruption. He had not, consequently, at this moment any motive save the criminal decision already taken and assigned in advance."