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*The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. The first name of the Yugoslav state*

*Summary*

This paper discusses, for the first time, the first of the seven names that the Yugoslav state has had thus far - notably, the name of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, 1 December 1918 - 15 July 1920. An outline is given of the views of Prime Minister N. Pasic of the Serbian Government on the name of what was to be the future common state. In his opinion, the name of the state was to designate the peoples comprising it, in the following sequence - Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, along with the word Kingdom, which showed his commitment to the form of rule and to the Serbian Royal dynasty which could only be at the helm of such a state. This idea was also embedded in the Corfu declaration ("Declaration - Statement", as it is officially titled) of the Serbian Government and the Yugoslav Committee. By the declaration on unification into a common state, made on 1 December 1918 by the apparent heir to the throne Aleksandar Karadjordjevic, the name of the state - the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was also proclaimed and made official. The paper further makes references on how the creation of the new state in the Balkans was reflected in international peace treaties in which this new state's name had to appear among the names of Allied forces - victorious powers of World War II. This place had been intended for Serbia, but by the act of unification Serbia ceased to exist as an international legal entity. Hence, the name of the new state - the State of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was entered in the peace treaties, and in the Pact of the League of Nations as a founding country. The paper finally discusses the initiative for changing the name of the state, taken by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, M. Vesnic, including the reasons for the change and the manner in which it was made - in the parliament, the then still Provisional People's Representative Body.