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*Bulgaria in Yugoslav Politics 1927 in the Light
of More Intense Italian Action in the Balkans*

Summary

Italy's actions in the Balkans intensified after the signing of the First Treaty of Tirana (November 27, 1926), made worse already tense relation between the Kingdom of S.C.S and Bulgaria. Since official Belgrade could not allow Bulgaria to become part of Italian plans regarding isolation and encircling of the Kingdom of S.C.S, it changed its policy towards Bulgaria, trying to reach an agreement with it. All authorities, the King, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and new diplomatic representative in Sofia Ljuba Nesić thought that the agreement between the Kingdom of S. C. S. and Bulgaria is necessary. The problem was old mistrust between two neighboring states, but most of all was the problem of Macedonian revolutionary organisation - IMRO sponsored by Italy. Italy aimed to block the agreement between Kingdom of S.C.S and Bulgaria and prevent any cooperation. Italy managed to do so owing to IMRO. After terrorist action in Southern Serbia in autumn (the culmination was the murder of Brigadier General Mihailo Kovačević in Štip on October 5, 1927), the Kingdom of S.C.S closed its border towards Bulgaria, and strictly controlled all Bulgarian citizens staying or travelling through the Kingdom of S.C.S. in order to punish Bulgaria for tolerating IMRO and to keep under control transferring of terrorist groups from Bulgaria. Two governments blamed each other and Great Powers (Great Britain and France) undertook some diplomatic actions. The Great Powers tried to force Bulgaria to cease supporting IMRO and to dismiss its organization, while Belgrade advised restraint and coolness. The crises in relation hadn't been settled by the end of the year and the border was closed up to February 1929.