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*SPEECH AT THE PROMOTION OF THE BOOK
“MONTENEGRO AND THE GERMAN REICH IN
DOCUMENTS OF THE POLITICAL ARCHIVE OF THE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE IN BERLIN” (FROM 1906
TO 1914), VOLUME I, HELD AT THE HUMBOLDT
UNIVERSITY ON 28 FEBRUARY 2018.*

Your Excellencies, esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

The book titled *German Empire and Montenegro: Documents from the Political Archive of the Foreign Office in Berlin (from 1906 to 1914), Volume I*, represents a new publication within the Edition titled *Diplomatske Sveske* (literally interpreted as *Diplomatic Series*).

So far, six books of documents about diplomatic relations between Montenegro and five countries were published. Those books concern the relations of *Montenegro with the United States of America, Russia, France—Volumes I and II, Bulgaria*, whereas drawing up of the second volume is underway.

The said Edition's volumes have huge national significance and offer a high level of knowledge relevant to studying not only the European diplomatic relations but also the entirety of relations in the international community over certain respective periods back in history. Understanding the bilateral interstate cooperation, according to official documents, has a national, but also a far broader significance. Therefore, it is not surprising that the *Diplomatske Sveske* editions publishing has been supported by embassies and ambassadors of both foreign countries and Montenegro.

As for the book that we are promoting tonight, I should mention the contribution of two woman ambassadors, namely their Excellencies Mrs Gudrun Steinacher and Mrs. Vera Joličić Kuliš, as well as to the current Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Montenegro, His Excellency Hans Mattern—whose support makes this book to a large extent special.

Besides, an exceptional feature of this book is that it was published under the auspices of the Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Federal Republic of Germany's Federal Foreign Office. That is what makes this book unique. Without going beyond the boundaries of science, this book speaks about good interstate and other relations between our countries and it points out to a matured scientific approach to studying diplomatic relations and establishes a firm institutional basis for scientific cooperation.

This book, published in 2016, marks two significant jubilees, namely the 120th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Montenegro and the German Empire, and the tenth anniversary of the Montenegrin independence.

The Importance of the Diplomatic Series, along with that of this book, is also in the fact that the authors thereof were foreign countries' officials who—due to the character of their duties—supposedly ought to have provided accurate information concerning political and other circumstances prevailing in the places of their service. This information is principally important if we take into account both the lagging public administration and poor institutional development and thus the scarcity of documents. Moreover, during the Wars happening in the Balkans, a considerable portion of those few documents was lost.

To emphasize here one additional aspect that can be taken as noteworthy. This Edition's books represent the bridge for cooperation between the Montenegrin scientists and scientific institutions and other countries' scientists, scientific institutions and archives. Thereby, in institutional terms, the Montenegrin historiography is stronger integrated into the European scientific trends, whereby opportunity of studying the Montenegrin past and reminiscence is assimilated into the contemporary science mainstream.

The foregoing is endorsed also by the established scientific cooperation between the Historical Institute of the University of Montenegro and the Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg. Working for *German Empire and Montenegro* project was indeed originated by the Historical Institute of Montenegro back in 2013—as one of the topics of the national Project titled *Montenegro and Southeast Europe in foreign policy of Great Powers*; however, its implementation acquired a new wisdom through the involvement of the University of Regensburg and professor Konrad Clewing. Particularly after agreeing with the director of the Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg, namely PhD Ulf Brunnbauer, the work on this book's second volume continued, and a memorandum was signed to assure cooperation and further engagement in joint projects, additional books publishing, scientific gatherings, research exchange, and alike.



Associating the Montenegrin Historical Institute with the scientific institutions of the Federal Republic of Germany—already through the factual acceptance of their partnerships—represents a huge recognition both to the Montenegrin historical science and for the Montenegrin oldest scientific institution - Historical Institute.

The idea of gathering documents from the Political Archive in Berlin came about in the mid 2013. It gained a high level of support and kind attitude of the then Ambassador of Montenegro to the Federal Republic of Germany, Her Excellency Mrs. Vera Kuliš. I am grateful to Her Excellency Mrs. Kuliš and to all of the then officers serving with the Montenegrin Embassy in Berlin.

On the other hand, we should point out the understanding and support of the then staff of the Federal Republic of Germany Embassy in Podgorica headed by Her Excellency Mrs. Gudrun Steinacher. By investing her efforts, Ambassador Mrs. Steinacher provided us with crucial financial support for editing the book's manuscript. Furthermore, Her Excellency also applied to her country's Foreign Affairs Office to assist our Project, thereby managing to provide us with the funds amounting almost equally to that allocated by the Ministry of Science of Montenegro, the Central Bank of Montenegro, certain Units of the University of Montenegro, and SANUS Company. There is also an additional donor from the Federal Republic of Germany, namely the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

Numerous are other institutions and persons to whom we should pay our gratitude on this occasion. Among them, firstly to Professor Aleksandra

Popović for translating the said documents; then our many colleagues, proof-readers, text editors, language editors, printing houses, etc.

We are expressing our gratitude to Her Excellency Ambassador Mrs. Kuliš and his Excellency Ambassador Mr. Matren for their meaningful introductions to the Book as well as to tonight's promoter for his kind words about the Book as well as the co-editor professor Konrad Clewing.

Last, but not least: we are expressing our gratitude to all of you who are present and who have joined us tonight. Thereby, you have made a special honor to editors, publishers and all other persons who were engaged in the drawing up of this Book and the very first German edition of this kind.

In the end, I would like to express my deep personal pleasure to have had the honors to be with all persons who have supported the tonight's promotion at the prestigious Humboldt University. By holding this promotion, you have both honored Montenegro and granted me the pleasure of thanking you sincerely on behalf of the Historical Institute of the University of Montenegro.