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On Professional Delegations' Research Problems in Vienna and Constantinople Archives

Summary

Resolving the archival issue depended largely on the relations of Yugoslavia with certain countries, Austria, Turkey, France, etc. International affairs made sending of the commissions easier or more difficult, but were not the only factor that defined the final achievements. Although Yugoslav institutions were faced with far fewer obstacles in communications with Austrian archives and state ministries than with the Turkish ones. there were still many problems in their activities. From 1919 to 1936 the desired results were not attained due to lack of organisation and plan for the activities, but also because of poor communications between the institutions. On several occasions it was only the intervention from the top levels of administration that made it possible for the affairs to be concluded. The delays experienced by Yugoslav institutions when compared to Czechoslovaks, Romanians, Hungarians and Italians in Vienna, and Bulgarians in Istanbul, placed them in the position that they launched their activities only in the wake of alarming news. Mostly it was information about permanent loss of the materials, such as due to a fire in the building of the Austrian Ministry of Internal Affairs, or selling archival material to a paper mill. That is why the activities often came down to personal initiatives and activity of individuals. Under such circumstances, the differences between professionals additionally made reaching the desired goals more difficult. Despite several expert analysis and identified mistakes, the approach was only partly modified and the objectives were accomplished only partly.