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*Diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and the Kingdom of Netherlands in the period 1918-1922 – a continuity of diplomatic relations, suspension and their re-establishment*

*Summary*

Diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and the Kingdom of Netherlands represented a continuity of diplomatic relations which existed from the earlier times, as early as the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, between the Kingdom of Serbia and the Kingdom of Netherlands. The government of Netherlands was one of the few, if not the only one, to have never raised the question of recognition of the new state in the contacts with the diplomats of the Kingdom of SCS. Such an attitude and the understanding for the new situation by the officials of the Netherlands, concordant with its neutrality during World War One, have never confronted with the stand of the Allies. They were anticipating their recognition of the new nation state, although in official contacts they were already receiving and addressing diplomats from Belgrade as the diplomats of the new state. Such relations, at one time, were disturbed by the case of the former Dutch honorary consul in Belgrade, Rapaport.

The expulsion of the former honorary consul from the Kingdom of SCS, after revelations that his conduct surpassed the boundaries of accepted proper conduct in international relations, caused a reaction of the Dutch government in early December 1920. This was reflected in a dispatched note, judged to have been written rather coarsely, which the officials in Belgrade refused to accept, actually because of the tone in which it was written. The reaction from Netherlands was to follow in the withdrawal of the diplomatic representative from Belgrade, who was also accredited to Bucharest, where he was seated. At the same time, the envoy of the Kingdom of SCS in the Netherlands was refused further welcome.

In February 1921 the initiative was given for the suspended diplomatic relations to be established again. This initiative, which started with the contacts between the diplomatic representatives of the two countries, accredited to Switzerland, was continued in confidential contacts and talks of the heads of diplomatic missions of these countries, accredited in Bucharest in November that same year. In early February 1922 the announcement was made on the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of SCS and the Kingdom of Netherlands. The head of the legation of the Kingdom of SCS handed over his accreditation in The Hague, in early May, while the Dutch plenipotentiary presented his accreditation in Belgrade in October 1922.