

Henningsen

Lengyel, Thomas: The Hungarian exiles and the Danubian Confederation. The Hungarian Quarterly, 1939, No. 3, P. 451sq.

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" Louis Kossuth, the head and leader of the Hungarian exiles, realized already at Widdin, the first stage in his wanderings, that the only way of winning the friendship of the western states was to offer them, not only the establishment of an Independent Hungary, but also a Danubian Confederation, which should include, apart from Hungary, the two peoples of the northern Balkans, the Serbs and the Rumanians.

Kossuth had been won over to this plan by an English officer named Frederick Henningsen, who had been sent to the Balkans on a special Mission by Lord Palmerston.

Kossuth and Count Casimir Battyány, the last Foreign Minister of the Revolutionary Government, discussed the matter with Henningsen in December 1849, and Henningsen declared himself willing to act as intermediary between the Hungarian and Serb politicians. He saw signs of a favourable reception of the plan by the Serbs, and settled with them that the prospective confederation should include Hungary, Poland, Croatia, Serbia and the Danubian Principalities. Kossuth and his friends accepted this project, it was their idea that for the present the confederation should come into being under Turkish sovereignty. They drew into their deliberation the head of the Polish exiles, Count Zamojski, who promised to act as go-between between the Hungarians, Rumanians and Serbs.

The Polish exiles counted on finding the Hungarians accomodating and ready to surrender considerable portions of territory for the sake of the alliance, but Kossuth and his friends would not hear of a mutilation of their country. The only concession which Henningsen could obtain from them was the surrender of Croatia-Slavonia, and even this only on condition that Croatia became a member of the confederation and that Hungary retained the right to Fiume and the route leading to it. This was no great concession on Kossuth's part, as he demanded the separation of Croatia from Hungary long before the revolution.

Henningsen informed the Serbs of Kossuth's attitude in the matter, then returned to England in order to make his project known and accepted there...."

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