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*Valorization of the Material of the Consular-Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia*

*Summary*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia/SCS implemented its foreign policy work and foreign relations through its departments (organizational units). In addition to the Political Department, the Consular-Economic Department of the MFA was one of the most significant ones. In the period from 1919–1930 its mandate and work were regulated by the 1919 Decree on the Organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diplomatic Offices and Consulates of the Kingdom of SCS abroad. Since 1930 the mandate of this department was augmented by the Law on the Organization of the MFA and Diplomatic and Consular Offices of the KY abroad. The scope of its activities, besides work related to the protection of rights and interests of the KY abroad and its citizens and trade business, trade issues of international character and international traffic were included.

The Consular-Economic Department operated until the 1941 April War and in autumn 1941 with the new MFA reorganization, its work was taken over by the General Department.

The activities of the Consular-Economic Department of the MFA in the period from 1918–1941 produced vast quantities of register material. Its valorization was done upon the criteria of the content value of the documents and the criteria of the historic and social circumstances in which the documents were created.

It was established by global valorization that there were 1. categories of documents of enduring historic value; 2. categories of documents causing dilemmas regarding the volume in which they should be kept, and 3. categories planned to be set aside as valueless register material. Documents of enduring historical value are: reports, information about the work of the KY abroad, Yugoslav emigrants and workers, economic cooperation of the KY with other countries, trade contracts, agreements and conventions, import and export of the KY, the Economic Council of the Small Antant and the Balkan Agreement, international and domestic traffic etc. The other group consists of categories of documents in large quantities which cause dilemmas as to the volume they should be kept. These are: individual requests for issuing visas, changes of citizenship, repatriation etc. The third group consists of categories of documents which by their content do not represent important sources of information and in no respect meet the needs of history sciences and are planned to be set aside as valueless register material.