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The Influence of Alliances on the Safety of the State

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THE INFLUENCE OF ALLIANCES ON THE SAFETY OF THE STATE

Abstract:

In the literature on the subject of the safety of the State, we can find notions such as „the safety of the state” and „the national safety”. Trying to compare the contents behind each of these phrases we can put the sign of equality between them. When we look at the subject closely we must admit that national safety (this of a nation) and state safety (this of a state) – are completely different forms of categories. From practical point of view, at the present stage of historical development (the time of national states), one can conventionally treat them as the same. Such practice is applied in Polish legal system, where the constitution says about the safety of the state (The Polish Republic) and then about the national safety e.g. (establishing up National Security Council). In relevance to the matter in hand this work treats „national security” as equal to „state security”.

Keywords: *State security, personal safety, alliance, safety, nation,*

„Safety is not everything, but everything turns into nothing without safety”¹ this K. Nauman’s quotation shows the part of this notion in today’s world. We should perceive safety, as the state which gives the feeling of security, and guarantees its maintenance and a chance of improvement. This is one of the most basic needs of a man. Safety is a situation which can be characterized by the lack of the risk of the loss of something of value for humans, for example health, work, respect, feelings and particularly all kinds of possessions. Apart from the above mentioned kinds of security, we can distinguish global regional safety, national, military, political, social safety; the physical, psychical and

¹ *Bezpieczeństwo Narodowe Polski w XXI wieku*, (ed.) R. Jakubczak, J. Flis, Warszawa 2006, p. 7.

social safety; the structural and personal safety². Various kinds of security can be distinguished when applying different criteria of division and so applying the subject criterion we can distinguish the following kinds of security³:

- Individual;
- Local;
- National;
- International;
- Global.

While applying the objective criterion we can speak about safety in the following fields⁴:

- Military;
- Political;
- Economic;
- Ecological;
- Cultural;
- Social.

In the literature on the subject we can find notions such as “the safety of the state” and “the national safety”. Trying to compare the contents behind each of these phrases we can put the sign of equality between them. When we look at the subject closely we must admit that national safety (this of a nation) and state safety (this of a state) – are completely different forms of categories. From practical point of view, at the present stage of historical development (the time of national states), one can conventionally treat them as the same. Such practice is applied in Polish legal system, where the constitution says about the safety of the state (The Polish Republic) and then about the national safety e.g. (establishing National Security Council)⁵. In relevance to the matter in hand this work treats “national security” as equal to “state security”.

The standardization chances of these notions are small as they are deeply

² *Słownik terminów z zakresu psychologii dowodzenia i zarządzania*, Warszawa 2000, p. 17..

³ *Bezpieczeństwo Narodowe...*, *op. cit.*, p. 457.

⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 457.

⁵ S. Koziej, *Między piekłem a rajem - szare bezpieczeństwo na progu XXI wieku*, Toruń 2009, p. 7.

rooted in our nomenclature and universally applied. The proof of it can be given by the names of such institutions as for example “National Security Office” and “State Defense System”. Obviously, the national safety, according to universally applied principles, can be understood widely, as a state which is the result of properly organized protection and defense against all military and non-military threats, both local and extraterritorial with the use of all means and power provided by all state activity⁶.

For my further considerations I have accepted S. Koziej’s definition of “Safe State” who defines it, as a possibility of survival, development and the liberty of the realization of one’s own business in given conditions, with the use of the favourable circumstances (chances), undertaking the challenges, reducing the risks and counteracting (prevention and opposing) against every kind of threats for the subject and their businesses⁷.

Safety appears in all fields of the state activity. Therefore its structure seems the same as the structure of its activity (functioning and existence). As a result we can distinguish such fields of security as for example the economic security, social, military, public, ecological, informative safety etc. There is also an internal and external division of security e.g. – depending on the place it exists, where it comes from (from inside, or from outside of the subject), chances, challenges, risks and threats⁸.

As a consequence state security should be built up from two principal parts:

- the assurance and a guarantee of intact survival;
- the assurance of liberal further development.

Comprehended as such, the safety of the state, makes its creators act in a way which will enable them to reach the below mentioned aims:

- The survival of the state, as an independent subject of international relationships, nation, as a distinguished ethnic group and biological survival of the population. It is recognized as a principal value for which every state is ready to sacrifice other different values, for they cannot be kept in

⁶ *Słownik terminów z zakresu Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego*, Warszawa 2002, p. 173.

⁷ S. Koziej, *Między...*, *op. cit.*, p. 7.

⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 8.

the situation of a threat of the state itself;

- The maintenance of a territorial integrity which is understood as the determinant of the level of state security;
- The maintenance of political independence;
- The assurance of suitable life standards of citizens, a suitable level of socio-economical development, the range of laws and civil liberties, cultural property, style and the quality of life, friendly and safe natural environment, the assurance of life, health and possessions safety, the minimization of the threats to life, health and possessions resulting from the activity of a man and natural forces, the assurance of the perspective of further development⁹.

The safety of the state is perceived, as a certain condition of a given reality. It cannot be measured in any way due to the multitude of factors contributing to its existence if the attempt to assess it is made and it might be very subjective. According to Swiss political scientist D. Frei it might develop into the following¹⁰:

1. Feeling of lack of safety;
2. Condition of the obsession;
3. The state of false safety;
4. The state of safety.

We have to deal with the situation described in point 1, the feeling of lack of safety, if there are real threats and perception of this situation is correct. We encounter the condition of the obsession, when actually there is a minor threat and it is perceived and received as considerable. We have to deal with the opposite situation in case of false safety while a threat is serious, and one perceives it as something minor. Finally, we deal with the state of safety when the threat is insignificant and its perception correct¹¹.

The safety of the state as and its organization are the subject of dy-

⁹ R. Zięba, *Kategoria bezpieczeństwa w nauce o stosunkach międzynarodowych*, [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo narodowe i międzynarodowe u schyłku XXI wieku*, (ed.) D.B. Bobrów, H. Halizak, R. Zięba, Warszawa 1997, p. 10.

¹⁰ *Bezpieczeństwo Narodowe Polski w XXI wieku*, Warszawa 2006, p. 14.

¹¹ J. Stańczyk, *Współczesne pojmowanie bezpieczeństwa*, Warszawa 1966, p. 17.

dynamic changes undergoing according to the rhythmic changes of surrounding environment and circumstances. Therefore, we cannot understand the notion of security as something stable, solid and established once and forever¹².

To fulfill the mission of creating national security suitable institutions and structures are needed, they might be called the execution structures (those implementing the security) or the system of national security. So in means of structure (system) – national security can be comprehended as a complete set of preparations and organization of the country leading to continuous creation of national security and including following basic elements¹³:

- Legal bases of the safety;
- Politics and the strategy of national safety;
- Civil and military organization of protection and national defense;
- The infrastructure of safety;
- The education for safety;
- Alliances and international co-operation in the range of safety.

The state, as the highest form of social organization is created mainly to assure the national security and execute the chief aim through its security policy which can be described as *aiming to the solid assurance of the optimum national safety, and also often simultaneously the international safety*¹⁴.

The safety of the state depends on numerous factors. We can divide them into two principal groups – solid factors and changing factors. In the first group we will include all those which happen independently from any other activities carried out by the state we analyze. These are as follows:

- Geostrategical location of the state;
- Historical and cultural conditioning;
- Possessed natural resources;
- Natural environment of the state and its surroundings;
- Climate;

¹² *Bezpieczeństwo Narodowe...*, *op. cit.*, p. 15.

¹³ *Ibidem*, p. 22.

¹⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 23.

– Ethnic composition of the population.

The second group of the factors whose influence can be controlled or modified by the state in a smaller or a larger degree is more numerous. It includes following:

- External political situation;
- Internal and external politics of the state;
- Economic situation of the state;
- Level of education and the development of the society;
- Technical development of the state;
- Ideological condition;
- Demographic condition;
- Migration policy of the state;
- Social state of mind;
- Religious and cultural condition;
- Condition of national defense;
- Participation in political and military alliances.

One of the factors which seems easy to undergo some changes, is the participation of the state in political and military alliances. This factor creates results of two kinds. On one hand, it strengthens the position of the country on the international arena and thus it has a positive influence on its security. In such a case one can count on various help from the allies. On the other hand, the participation in alliances imposes certain duties and a strategy, connected with cooperation and executing of common policy. It may result in an increase of the threat to national security. The coalition of NATO member countries which joined the policy of a war with terrorism can serve as a good example. As a consequence the allied countries encountered increased threats within their territories as well as on their posts outside of the Islamic fundamentalists terrorism.

One achieves aims in the range of the realization of safety through the leadership in suitable politics of safety, in the current activity of state and his managerial organs.

The aims within the security policy can be obtained through proper politi-

cal leadership, country's current presence on international stage and active role of its management¹⁵.

To reach strategic and political aims following factors must be present¹⁶:

- Chances;
- Challenges;
- Risks;
- Threats.

Chances are made up of all conditions which facilitate the execution of affairs and given aims. The dilemma which the state faces while solving security problems will be called challenges. These challenges can be managed or ignored. In advantageous conditions they can create additional chances while in non-advantageous they can cause additional threats to security. The risk includes all uncertainty connected with both the activity and the results. It includes the dangers of side effects of its own activity. Finally the threats mean direct or indirect destructive activity on the country¹⁷. There are many categories of threats concerning the security of the country. Among them we can distinguish the potential and real ones: objective and subjective, internal and external, crisis and war, done on purpose and accidental: military and non military. The last ones can be further divided into political, economical, social informative, ecological, natural and etc.

From our point of view (included in this work) the most suitable appears the last division as the terrorism can be included, in some ways, to military threats. In case of such threats the level of them grows together with the increase of enemy hostility, the development of its possibilities and shortening the time of hypothetical reaction of systems foreseen for its neutralization.

Real threats (and we can include the threat of terrorism to such) happen as phenomena called crisis or conflicts. These two notions are occasionally understood wrongly. The conflict is a particular (confrontation) type of the relationship between the state and other countries. The crisis, in turn, seems

¹⁵ S. Koziej, *Między...*, *op. cit.*, p. 11.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 12.

¹⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 14.

to be a particular internal state which is far from being normal, undisturbed state functioning. Such a condition can be caused by both: internal factors (e.g. malfunctioning of country's authorities) as well as external factors (e.g. conflicts with other countries). Crisis can be the consequence of such phenomena as natural disasters or others. Every terrorist attack conducted either on the territory of the country or against its citizens or property outside disturbs its security and generates a crisis condition which can be more or less complex or serious in its results depending on the scale of the attack and the consequences resulting from it.

Taking into consideration the above described divisions of threats, we can state that the biggest influence on the country's security will have the following threats:

- Political;
- Military;
- Economic;
- Social;
- Ecological;
- Terroristic.

The political threat is understood as *the state, in which organized social groups make the country unable to function and such deeds are intensified, as a result the actions of institutions and state offices are weakened or even annihilated*¹⁸. Such stated range of this kind of threats precisely describes the understanding of the above in politics, it is the ruling and leadership of all country's matters.

The profound concern of the country in this matter suggests that it is undoubtedly the most important field among the others of the same kind. Crisis can arise as a result of planned and organized manipulations or delayed actions which in turn will lead to the overthrowing of legal government, disturbing the reason of State, national business or undermining the law and order of the country as well as its position on the international stage.

In some cases it might be the insubordination to UN resolutions, disobe-

¹⁸ *Słownik terminów... ,op. cit., p. 153.*

dience of agreements and international law, lack of readiness for international cooperation, the development of violent religions or other ideologies, the change of borders surrounding the state, opposition against the integration and stability in the region, the existence of secession groups in the country and their tendencies to autonomy, conflicts of great powers on the range of their influence, corruption and the penetration of criminal elements into the authorities, anti-national politics of other countries, threatening of other countries, ruling with a help of armed force, disobedience of law and the disturbance of civil rights, forgery of elections, the cooperation of the authorities with foreign intelligence, the discrimination of national minorities inside and outside the country, manipulation of consciousness and the psyche of the society, the citizens mass migrations and ethnic purges, the uncontrollable development of the structures of the state (bureaucracy- red tape), passing the structures of the state to political parties, infringement of law and order which leads to the weakness of democratic structures, escalation and solving internal and external conflicts in the light of international audience, interference in the internal matters of the state, the lack of the effective management in critical situations, support of international terrorism, the progressive fall of expenditures on safety¹⁹.

Military threats²⁰ include the use or to threat us with military forces by international subjects (countries). However the examples of terroristic attacks in the USA and different states prove that such threats for functioning of the state can also appear from an organization which is not the subject of the international law. In this context the idea of military threats to the country is described best by a simple statement that it is the real possibility of implementing armed violence²¹. The authors analyzing military threats to a country, or by a country name many forms of direct and indirect use of armed forces as a tool to gain political goals. As an example we can quote demonstration of forces, military sabotage, military blockade, military blackmail, military provocation, border incidents, limited use of armed violence, armed border

¹⁹ *Bezpieczeństwo Narodowe...*, *op. cit.*, p.110.

²⁰ *Ibidem*, p.111.

²¹ B. Balcerowicz, *Strategia obronna państwa*, Warszawa 1994, p. 13.

clashes and conflicts between countries²².

Economical threats relate to the problems of production, exchange and the division of various goods in the state as well as multiplying the wealth of the country and in the same time of its citizens.

They are often identified as economic threats. They include finances of the state, the process of the production, trade and access to natural resources, especially energy. In some cases the economical threats can be observed at the low pace of economic development which widens the gap between the country in the relation to different states, restricted access to other markets, financial means and natural resources, the loss of foreign markets, economical selfishness of world's developed countries and international corporations, the destruction and disturbance in information technology (net), restricted access to new technologies of the developed countries, the formation of hunger and poverty regions, limiting of the expenses on scientific research and the lack of the transfer of scientific achievements to other economies, economic blockades and economic discrimination, presence of international criminal groups in the economy, creating "black market", the financial instability of the state (the deficit of payment balance, the outflow of the capital), crisis of public expenses.

Lack or a low level of expenditures on investments and the "consuming of profits", economic crime and formation of a "grey zone" in the economy, the pauperization of the society and mass unemployment, the excessive import of goods leading to a non-profitable production of the country's plants and decrease of the employment in the country, financial speculations, the lack of the mechanisms of economic competition and boosting the economic situation by the production of arms²³.

The term of **the social threats** appears rarely in national publications. More often used terms in the typologies of threats are: socio-cultural, psychosocial, cultural or civilization. The term social threats includes all cases concerning the dangers of losing health or life, national and ethnic identity of individual societies as well as social and public security. This results from

²² Based on: B. Balcerowicz, *Obronność państwa średniego*, Warszawa 1997, p. 74.

²³ *Bezpieczeństwo Narodowe...*, *op. cit.*, p. 112.

the particular features of every society and the distinction of its institutions, the way of communicating, mutual interactions among its members, common territory, institutions, the way of communicating, the similarity of life conditions, the division of work, social norms and laws of behavior. We can include into it violation of human rights and basic freedoms, cultural and religious prejudices and discrimination of national, ethnic, cultural, religious and language minorities.

Sex discrimination, manipulations of the consciousness and the psyche with a help of mass media (psychological war), restrictions against freedom of mass media, nationalism, chauvinism, xenophobia, religious fundamentalism, social pathologies, (crime, terror, mafia structures, drug addictions, epidemics, prostitution, alcoholism, illiteracy, mass unemployment, families malfunctioning), mass migrations (economic, ecological), social alienation (consumerism, religious sectarianism, escapism, formation of a class of so-called Cognitores – people who do not recognize national values, and turn to virtual world), the abuse of knowledge against mankind, the devaluation of human values, effacing the differences between good and evil, the cult of violence, the brutalization of inter human relationship, catastrophes and cataclysms (disasters) leading to violation of the social system, the fall of welfare system, the thefts of national culture, the mass import of strange, foreign culture (the cultural colonialism of different states), demographic crises, pauperization and the famine of large social groups, the degradation of transport, housing and communication infrastructure²⁴.

The ecological threat means the security of the country in terms of nature and living conditions of citizens in natural environment and stable development of the nation. Such threats can be evoked either by human activity (anthropomorphic) or natural phenomena (non-anthropomorphic). It can be defined as *a kind of threat, which results in danger towards live creatures caused by the change of natural habitat*²⁵. To events of such kind we can include uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources (the cutting down of forests, excessive fishing,

²⁴ *Ibidem*, p.112.

²⁵ *Słownik terminów...*, *op. cit.*, p. 89.

unplanned mining of minerals), mass contamination of rivers, air and soil, lack of planned wastes policy of all kinds, municipal, industrial and nuclear, the implementation of dangerous industrial technologies which might lead in turn to the changes in atmosphere (the problem of the ozone layer, global warming, the increase in emission of radiation of ultra-violet), natural and industrial disasters, breaking water balance in the environment (turning back the tides, lack of rational planned forestry policy) which leads to soil erosion, landslides, deserting of large territories, chaotic urbanization, nuclear tests and the tests of new weapons (e.g. geophysical, meteorological)²⁶.

Terrorist threat has been used for a long time and it proved itself as a form of activity which can confront both sides of the conflict while one of them is the state structure. The fight of Poles for freedom during long periods of our history, fighting for independence from Nazi occupants and other invaders were carried out in such a terrorist way. The same methods were used by Jews who were building up their biblical and contemporary country – Israel. Terrorism was used by “the greatest” actors of the First and the Second World Wars not only against the enemies but against its own citizens as well, to reach war goals and in the same time political issues not only on international stage but within the country itself. From military point of view terrorism is a sabotage at strategic level which can be realized mainly with tactical means, methods within precise activity. However the defense against them has got an anti-diversional shape. It has got its own kind, which differs it from typical army sabotage, due to the fact that it is a state sabotage, diversion at the state level which is directed mainly against weakening of security stability and the destruction of authority structures²⁷.

Terrorist threat can also be the prelude to armed conflicts planned by an enemy state. In such case, one can expect the growth of terrorist activity until it might turn to an open armed conflict. Such activities may happen according to the following scenarios:

1. The inflow of armed robbery and terrorist gangs, raiding parties, forma-

²⁶ *Bezpieczeństwo Narodowe... ,op. cit.*, p. 113.

²⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 114.

tions, mafia gangs and other organized groups with nationalist and fundamentalist aims. The activities of such groups can lead to antagonisms between native Poles and religious or national minorities. The interference of other neighbour states “to protect its own citizens” cannot be ruled out.

2. Mass formation of national, informal armed groups on Polish territory – both Polish and including religious and national minorities – trying to solve the problems with the help of force inside the country or out, on the territory of neighbour country territory.
3. Armed terrorism of informal groups of anarchistic organizations or religious fundamentalists insisting on authority structures to be granted some privileges, harassing and frightening the society. All these can lead to the destabilization of interior situation.
4. Armed blackmail and the use of violence by organized, formal and informal groups insisting on the authorities to gain concessions. They can turn into bomb attempts and assaults on military objects or other public buildings, sabotage or diversion, some border clashes etc.
5. Armed incidents, the activities of hostile organizations or formations undertaken with a view of developing or maintaining a condition of internal destabilization or military tension between Poland and different states. Such actions can be of provocative or terroristic character, punctual or scattered on a small area.
6. Provocative infringement of the area of our country in the border zone (land, sea or in the air) and the development of border clashes by organized military groups with the intention of bringing about actions of Polish defense System or undertaking other activities with the aim of settling the conflict.

Terrorism – exists, as one of the most basic military threats – in this mental category it is used by the enemy to influence the political and social life of the country in negative way, e.g. to cause destabilization. Using terrorist methods (those applied by terrorists) with the view of creating a situation required for their activity, can be just an excuse to start military activity against a given country, such a situation is very likely to happen.

Participating in all alliances can have both sides. On one hand it extends the feeling real security while on the other hand it might cause the feeling of increased threat of the citizens (real or imaginary).

Political alliances or economic communities can generate the threats of political, military or economic character. They can also raise the threats of terrorist activities. The reason of the above is a must of acting according to common alliance policy, which in fact and in some details does not have to be in accordance with the reason of State of a membership country.

The alliances of military type always generate the necessity of a participation in armed conflicts which are not directly connected with the threat to the country in question. These days it is a characteristic feature, as most of the countries are somehow obliged to take part in international humane actions, to maintain peace in the region etc. Such a duty requires from membership countries the sending and providing proper equipment, supplies to their armed troops. As a consequence of the above we can include the following:

- Risk of life and health of the citizens taking part in a mission;
- Risk of attacks (mainly of the terroristic type) on the territory or objects and citizens beyond and within the borders of the country;
- Necessity of bearing the expenditures on the equipment and providing for and maintaining military troops;
- Risking hostility resulting from the participation in a mission and other consequences (starting from political through economic to military) from the states supporting or sponsoring the enemies of such missions.

Taking part in such a classical conflict which can result from the above mentioned threats is very unlikely to happen these days and in contemporary political and military situation. It would rather give a field for all kinds of terrorist activities as they are quite easy to prepare, require a short time and cause very severe injuries to the attacked. The existence of such a threat means the necessity of creating or extending the present state system to combat terrorism, which is absolutely a must to protect the citizens, the state territory and institutions against terrorist organizations. Creating and maintaining such a system is very strenuous, expensive and time consuming.