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National security : an outline the problem

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National security – an outline of the problem

Issues of the state security for centuries were connected with threats of military character. Over the years other aspects of its threats have been identified, different than the threat of armed attack. It has been noted that the safeguard against external aggression constituted one of many challenges to which one should face up in order to provide the country with security, whose contemporary essence includes among others economic, ecological, social and cultural aspects. The field of the national security is, as it is being commonly stressed, unusually complex. Treated as a process it consists of „(...) diverse treatments in the area of international relations and internal and protective, defensive undertakings (with a loose meaning of this word) being aimed at creating beneficial conditions for the functioning of the country (in the political and social sense) on the international and internal arena and opposing challenges and threats of the national security”¹.

Each country must provide its citizens with the sense of security. L. Korzeniowski is of the view that „(...) the security is the ability to undertake creative activities, it is a status of the entity and the objective with no threat, perceived subjectively by individuals or groups”².

As suggested by J. Dworzecki and R. Kochańczyk „(...) in the categories of internal policy of the state it involves the social, economic, personal safety, protection of the tangible property, but first of all the highest goods: life and health, before the criminal activity in which the terrorism is included”³. Safety is being ranked among the quality standards of living in the democratic law-governed state. It belongs to basic human and citizen rights. The physical and mental state relating to the personal safety decides to a significant degree not only about enjoyable life, but literally about its sense and meaning⁴. Therefore creating appropriate conditions and undertake proper actions to provide the people with sense of security is so important. The strategy of every state is being created in the process of „collisions” of political objectives with the possibilities of their actual

¹ W. Kitler, *Obrona narodowa w wybranych państwach demokratycznych*, AON, Warszawa 2001, p. 42 (whole text originally written in English by the Authors).

² Zob. L. Korzeniowski, *Zarządzanie bezpieczeństwem. Rynek, ryzyko, zagrożenie, ochrona* [w:] *Zarządzanie bezpieczeństwem*, Kraków 2000, pp. 437–444.

³ J. Dworzecki, R. Kochańczyk, *Współczesne zagrożenia*, Gliwice 2010, pp. 15–73.

⁴ A. Kwaśniewski, *Dom wszystkich – Polska*, Perspektywy Press, Warszawa 2000, p. 53.

realization. What should be taken into account is, among others, potential geostrategic implications of the country location, possible directions of development of the country security policy, potential military threats, the effects and possibility of neutralization of potential opponents' military supremacy, probable character of the future warfare, as well as experience based on contemporary military conflicts⁵.

In colloquial style of ordinary language „threat” is intuitively understandable and associated with anxiety of a man concerning the loss of values such as: health, life, freedom or tangible property⁶. However, in the literature on the subject, various sources differently define this term. Threat is the antonym of safety, which in a dictionary of Polish language is described as the state of non threat, peace, assurance⁷. Whereas security describes certain state, threat, on the other hand, in basic understanding of this word, is more associated with the occurrence of infringing it⁸.

Threats are the basic and primeval form of security. Therefore determining their contemporary character is a main step in the process of forming it. Considering contemporary term: threats of the national security, it can be stated that its scope has widened in comparison to traditionally identifying it with the threats associated with aggression (with war threats). At the same time, viewing its essence in connection with threats and the state of international safety organization is intentional and necessary because „(...) an indisputable obligation of the cooperation of states for the international maintenance (...) safety is already included in the arrangements of the international law”⁹. Nature of contemporary threats also lies in their sources, which can be geographically in long distance from each other, however only after unchecked permeating borders their materialization on the country's territory can take place, as a result of which in contemporary world the importance of institutions responsible for internal aspects of national security is increasing.

Comprehending the national security constitutes the oldest format of international life participants' safety¹⁰. Needs and interests of national security (or of nations in the case of multinational states) are implemented by state agencies.

⁵ M. Robelek, *Wybrane problemy strategii obronnej Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* [w:] *Bezpieczeństwo Polski w zmieniającej się Europie*, Toruń 1994, p. 8.

⁶ *System zarządzania kryzysowego państwa, w tym Sił Zbrojnych RP*, (ed.) B. Wiśniewski, J. Falecki, Wyższa Szkoła Administracji, Bielsko-Biała, p. 17.

⁷ *Słownik języka polskiego*, PWN, Warszawa 1978, p. 147.

⁸ J. Prońko, *System kierowania reagowaniem kryzysowym w sytuacjach nadzwyczajnych zagrożeń dla ludzi i środowiska*, [thesis for the M. D. degree], AON, Warszawa 2001.

⁹ B. Balcerowicz, *Obronność RP a dialektyka wojny i pokoju na progu XXI wieku*, study (part I), AON, Warszawa, p. 26.

¹⁰ In Polish legal order the term „national security” determines a security of the state, despite considerable differences in meaning of the terms: „national security” and „state security”.

Accurately to this state of the art the notion „national security”, widely spread in the Western teaching, is identified with the state security.

Comprehending the safety is related to the process of meeting the need and businesses of participants of the international life. This process is implemented in the international environment, and its consequences concern not only interested states, but also the entire international system. Therefore, the base of typologies, created for analytical purposes, is a subjective criterion.

The division of security for national and international is purely stipulated in the contract, because safety of the countries in international relations, objectively speaking, has always international character.

The second criterion very often used in security typologies is a subjective criterion. It has a supportive character with regard to the subjective division and it doesn't constitute the distinguished direction of theoretical arrangements. However, it allows to distinguish, and sometimes even multiply the kinds of safety which enrich a scientific description of safety considered from a subjective point of view. In scientific literature and journals it is possible to distinguish (however, this list doesn't seem to be closed off) the following kinds of the safety: political, military, economic, social, cultural, ideological, ecological, external and internal.

L. Hofreiter indicates that „(...) adopting the spatial criterion of analyzing the phenomenon, security can be described as local, subregional, regional, more than regional, global”¹¹. Looking at the way of organization, it is possible to perceive the safety in international relations as:

- individual safety (unilateralist) – guaranteed by one-way action (hegemonism world power, isolationism, neutrality, non-alignment);
- block system (allied);
- cooperative security system;
- system of the collective security (regional, universal)¹².

The task of each democratic country represented by the authority is to guarantee its citizens the level of security, which is acceptable by them, and the level of development, which enables them to reach the appropriate level of existence. Providing citizens with such conditions is an important aim of every power in the state, in which both safety, and development are guaranteed to them. L. Gašpírik indicates that „(...) in situations of the higher necessity, the authorities, while attempting to increase the degree of country's security, should do everything so that the changes introduced, to a considerable extent, affected the manner of functioning of essential civil liberties and as far as possible didn't

¹¹ L. Hofreiter, *Securitología*, Akadémia ozbrojených síl, Liptovský Mikuláš 2006, p. 39 et next.

¹² R. Zięba, *Instytucjonalizacja Bezpieczeństwa Europejskiego*, op. cit., p. 23.

infringe democratic laws”¹³.

As the world’s civilization development came, views on the country’s character, function and organization changed. The reflection of these changes are the philosophers’ views, who in their deliberations tried to describe the nature of the country and its characteristics¹⁴.

It seems necessary, because of the considerations being made, to present the definition of the country included in “The Dictionary of Polish Language”, in which the country is defined as “political organization consisting of people living permanently on a certain territory”¹⁵. Also widely accessible “New Contemporary Encyclopedia PWN” explains that the country is sovereign political organization of the society dwelling on the territory with determined boundaries, whose main element is the hierarchical official authority, having apparatus of the compulsion and aspiring to the monopoly in applying it”¹⁶.

Different again, R. Wróblewski defines the country as a political organization of a large social group, inseparably connected with determined territory on which its authority stretches out and where the laws constituted by it apply¹⁷. Z. Ziemiński and S. Wronkowska define the country as a political organization equipped with the sovereign power, territorial and whose membership has a formalized character¹⁸. A definition, very similar to the one described above, is pointed out in the “Thesaurus of the national security terms”¹⁹, which describes the country as a political organization of a social group on a specified territory, where its power is present and the laws established by it are in force. As T. Jemioło points out, in many „studies from the area of social sciences, safety looks like the ability to survive, independence, identity or certainty of the development. In the analyses concerning security there are two negatively assessed phenomena, among which challenges and threats can be recognized. Through „challenges” we mean appearance of new situations in which there are indispensable needs which require formulating the reply and taking appropriate action by the country in order to assure a specific state of security. Unresolved challenges can be transformed into threats to the national security. Therefore in the research concerning security one should aspire to make a distinction between challenges and threats, which often is

¹³ L. Gašpíerik, *Prevenca kriminality*, Žilina 2005, p. 14 et next.

¹⁴ W. Kitler, B. Wiśniewski, J. Prońko, *Problemy zarządzania kryzysowego w państwie*, AON, Warszawa 2000, pp. 49–52.

¹⁵ *Maty słownik języka polskiego*, Warszawa 1999, s. 597.

¹⁶ *Nowa encyklopedia powszechna PWN*, Vol. 4, Warszawa 1996, p. 760.

¹⁷ R. Wróblewski, *Podstawowe pojęcia z dziedziny polityki bezpieczeństwa, strategii i sztuki wojennej*, Warszawa 1993, p. 9.

¹⁸ Z. Ziemiński, S. Wronkowska, *Państwo i inne struktury społeczne [in:] Kompendium wiedzy o społeczeństwie, państwie i prawie*, Warszawa – Poznań 1993, p. 54.

¹⁹ *Słownik terminów z zakresu bezpieczeństwa narodowego*, AON, Warszawa 1996, p. 53.

not reflected in numerous analyses especially concerning international safety”²⁰.

In many scientific research it is suggested that the national security is “the element of its existence and development defined by the ratio of the defensive potential to the scale of threats”²¹ or: „state provoking feeling of development potentialities of the nation, resulting from the lack of the external and internal threat, as well as the possibility of defense against these threats”²², and also: „the state resulting from the organized defense and protection against outside and internal hazard, specified by the ratio of the defensive potential to the scale of threats”²³. Expressions of the national security mentioned above emphasize the rank of this state of the art, treating them as the highest social good²⁴.

National security, connected integrally with the process of coming into existence of modern statehoods, should be perceived as the continuous process undergoing changes of reach and quality. From the point of view of issues discussed, the most adequate is to perceive the national security as the state resulting from the organized defense and protection against outside and internal hazards, determined by the ratio of the defensive potential to the scale of threats²⁵.

R. Zięba states that: „every country out of concern for the own national security establishes the set of intrinsic values which in its view should be protected from threats and takes on the team of suitable protective measures. Means of the national security policy are diversified and they depend on character, sizes and the strength of threats to the values regarded as important from the point of view of surviving and the development of the country. These can be undertakings of the state taken as a part of the internal function, like building up its military, economic power, the optimization of the sociopolitical system and the political stability and action carried out within the framework of the external function (international). It is possible to divide agents being used for protection and strengthening the national security according to the subjective criterion into: political, military, economic, of science and technology, cultural, ideological, economic etc. Their scope and selection depend not only on needs created by emerging risks (or challenges), but above all on the perception of these threats through the country’s managerial

²⁰ T. Jemioło, *Współczesne uwarunkowania bezpieczeństwa narodowego Polski* [in:] *Współczesne postrzeganie bezpieczeństwa*, conference materiale by Wyższa Szkoła Administracji in Bielsko-Biała, 23th November 2006, (ed.) K. Jałoszyński, B. Wiśniewski, T. Wojtuszek, Bielsko-Biała 2007, p. 57.

²¹ J. Zubek, *Doktryny bezpieczeństwa*, Studium, AON, Warszawa 1991, p. 9.

²² *Bezpieczeństwo narodowe a walki niezbrotne*, study, AON, Warszawa 1991, p. 7.

²³ *Słownik terminów z zakresu bezpieczeństwa narodowego*, Studia i materiały, nr 40, Warszawa 1996, p. 14.

²⁴ K. Piątkowski, *Niektóre aspekty zagrożenia bezpieczeństwa RP*, „Myśl Wojskowa” No 5/93, p. 5; *Ocena i prognoza zagrożeń polityczno-militarnych RP oraz właściwości przyszłych działań wojennych*, Warszawa 1992, p. 4.

²⁵ B. Wiśniewski, J. Prońko, *Ogniwa ochrony państwa*, Warszawa 2003, p. 46.

organs and financial and intellectual resources which are at country's disposal, as well as on the ability to use them effectively"²⁶.

Considering the subject of presented deliberations, one needs to mention the definition of the country, in the context of its attributes, which „decide about recognizing the given social formation as the country. According to (...) the definition of the state, which lacks political doctrine's coloring (...) – the country is a political organization, equipped with the sovereign power, occupying certain territory. The membership to the country has a formalized character (citizenship). Within the country a certain relationship can be found: power – people and groups subordinated to it. A sovereignty understood as the total independence from any outside and inner power is an attribute of the country. From the above definition of the country one can conclude that to its principle attributes belong: system – system of the administration, territory, sovereignty, citizens"²⁷. Analyzing the above statement it is possible to claim that the lack of threats to these characteristics determines the safety of the country's existence.

In the discussion about security one accepts the claim that, irrespective of the age and the system, on the international arena two aspirations reflecting fundamental national interests rule the action of the country²⁸:

- the first one – a will to survive – keeping own existence and identity, that is the sovereignty and the territorial integrity;
- the second one – the development and growth in social status.

In the context of deliberations presented so far one should quote W. Fehler who says that „in thinking about the safety – one of the most desirable and valued by the mankind goods, one can distinguish two fundamental strategies. The first one concentrates on action which is a preparation for the protection against hazards, whereas the second one focuses on such shaping of the surroundings to move away and minimize possibilities of their appearance. In both cases, although from the different point of view, the threat is a category of the key importance"²⁹.

Concluding, one should notice that in relation to the fact that the national existence and the development of the country can at any time be limited or infringed, counteracting factors destabilizing the state security it is possible to determine it as the defense carried out in all areas of functioning of the country.

²⁶ R. Zięba, *Bezpieczeństwo narodowe* [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo narodowe i międzynarodowe*, Warszawa 1997, p. 11.

²⁷ J. Prońko, *Bezpieczeństwo państwa. Zarys teorii problemu i zadań administracji publicznej*, Bielsko-Biała 2007, p. 9.

²⁸ H. J. Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations*, New York 1967, pp. 4–14, after: B. Balcerowicz, *Strategia obronna państwa średniej wielkości* [in:] *Wystarczalność obronna*, AON, Warszawa 1996, p. 58.

²⁹ W. Fehler, *Zagrożenie – kluczowa kategoria teorii bezpieczeństwa* [in:] *Współczesne postrzeganie bezpieczeństwa...*, op. cit., p. 8.

The consequence of such state of the art is that it isn't possible to consider military aspects in isolation from political, economic, ecological aspects. Considering introduced earlier, but filled up by the country, functions, one needs to quote the words of S. Koziej, who defines the activity of the country in ensuring its security as „providing with the possibility and freedom of the realization of self-interests in specific conditions by using favorable circumstances (chances), responding to a challenge and counteracting (preventing and opposing) threats of all kinds to the subject and their businesses”³⁰. Without a doubt also „actions being used for ensuring security usually form certain, quite a complex system with subsystems dependent on each other. It means that it is possible to make a difference between different threats and different security systems. One can also talk about individual and selective security (...) or internal and outside one. It means that they are connected with different aspects of human life and activity. The reflection of these conditions distinguishes different types of security. However, in each case, creating the system of security aims at minimizing people's apprehension and fear against what the future holds”³¹. It also needs to be stressed that responsibility for the country's safety is in the hands of the many. It can be granted to all the national, government and self-government organs. In their competence public institutions, organizations and associations also bear such responsibility. A society is encumbered with the part of responsibility for the country's security– citizens of our country, being functional at groups of different kind, bonds, communities and institutions. Nobody and nothing can be discharged from this responsibility.

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³⁰ S. Koziej, *Strategia bezpieczeństwa RP*, Vol. II, *Polityka i strategia bezpieczeństwa państwa w XXI w.*, Warszawa 2004, p. 65.

³¹ J. Kaczmarek, A. Skowroński, *Bezpieczeństwo. Świat-Europa-Polska*, Wrocław 1998, p. 5.

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Abstract

National security – an outline of the problem

Key words: State, national security, personal safety, threat, domestic politics.

The article presents problems in terms of national security. Terminology has been dealt with contemporary concepts – security national, international, individual or a threat, and also refers to the definition of the state in the context of its attributes. Presented including way of organizing security in international relations, and pointed out the argument that whatever the era and the political system, state intervention in the international arena ruled by two efforts reflect the fundamental national interests.

Abstrakt

Bezpieczeństwo państwa – zarys problemu

Słowa kluczowe: państwo, bezpieczeństwo narodowe, bezpieczeństwo indywidualne, zagrożenie, polityka wewnętrzna.

Artykuł przedstawia problematykę bezpieczeństwa w aspekcie narodowym. Rozpatrzona została współczesna terminologia pojęć – bezpieczeństwo narodowe, międzynarodowe, indywidualne czy zagrożenie, a także przywołano definicję państwa w kontekście jego atrybutów. Zaprezentowano m.in. sposób organizowania bezpieczeństwa w stosunkach międzynarodowych, a także wskazano tezę, że bez względu na epokę i ustrój, działaniami państwa na arenie międzynarodowej rządzą dwa dążenia odzwierciedlające fundamentalne interesy narodowe.