

Contemporary threats to state security - an overview of the issues

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Abstract— At the end of the twentieth and beginning of the twenty-first century, significant changes in the environment of international and state security have taken place and are continuing. These changes are both qualitative and quantitative. We are observing the collapse of the bipolar division of the world in terms of security, and at the same time new threats of military and non-military nature appear. The fascinating development of the scientific and technical revolution, the development of the global information network has caused the world to shrink and time has become of strategic importance. Security threats on a global scale, caused by the arms race, both in weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, have intensified, international terrorism, genocide, mass migration, pandemics, conflict between Western civilization and the world of Islam. The article will address some issues of security threats, especially from the point of view of the state, as well as attempts to oppose these negative security threats.

Index Terms— security, non-military, civilization, security threats

V. INTRODUCTION

It is noted that the contemporary international security environment is characterized by asymmetry, which boils down to the existence of states full of turmoil, chaos, where in this world threats often have an advantage over opportunities, so the threats are difficult to recognize. Therefore, there must be a process:

Systematic monitoring of the identification of emerging symptoms and premises that allow the identification of phenomena affecting the level of national and international security. In the internal environment, there are many threats, the identification, recognition and combating of which allows to prevent the outbreak of conflict, regardless of its origin. If turbulence and chaos are detected, they need to be analyzed and then action taken as soon as possible to recognize them (Żebrowski 2020, 14: see also Kotler, Casilone 2000, 93).

Contemporary international relations manifest themselves in the pursuit of one's own, particular interests, where it is not easy to compromise, give in, or even dominate the pursuit of one's own interests, demands, at the expense of other subjects with the readiness to use military or economic force (Wróblewski 1993, 158). Below is the definition of a threat to national (state) security understood as the possibility of such a situation occurring in which the state does not have the conditions for free existence and development or is severely hampered (Korycki 1994, 54; Ściborek, Wiśniewski, Kuc, Dawidczyk 2015, pp. 18-56). Another attempt to define a threat to the security of the state includes this security threat as a set of threats of an internal or international nature that may lead to a limitation or even a loss of the conditions for free internal development and even to a loss of state sovereignty and partner treatment of that state in the international space (Dworecki 1994, 61, see the same author 1996, 18). The literature on the subject states that the most frequent causes of the threat to the security of the state may be the following systemic contradictions in terms of: recognized values relating to goals, needs, interests, aspirations, determinants of internal stability and interpretation of the sovereignty of the state, evaluation of behavior and actions taken, perception and evaluation of reality, treated as conflict-forming phenomena (Ficoń 2007, 76-77). Within the framework of our deliberations we should turn to the problem of conflict-forming areas, which we divide in terms of the threat to state security: economic, we include here social, political, military, common crime, organized crime, cross-border, psychological, we include here the following threats, such as historical, ethnic, religious, international terrorism, cyberterrorism, computer and cultural crime, we include here such threats in this area as: linguistic, territorial, ecological, space, epidemics, pandemics (Dworecki 1996, 19, Ficoń 2007, 84). Security threats from the international point of view, the existing trends in globalization, are widely discussed in the literature (Narski 2004, p.51: Żebrowski 2005, 255: 1994; Engdahl 2015, 134; Cockburn 2015, 12), in our article we signalize these threats, due to the



modest size of this study, and we want to focus more attention on the phenomenon of organized crime. In the era of globalization, the trend is that it is ubiquitous, of course, its scale and dynamics of development are characterized by diversity as to country and region

VI. CRIME AND THREATS TO STATE SECURITY

In the era of widespread globalization, organized crime is growing on a huge scale. Of course, its scale and dynamics of development varies from country to country and region to region, but it should be noted that it is developing intensively all over the world. As our author writes:

This negative phenomenon affects practically every country, which means that it is present in both highly developed and developing countries. Organized crime has a diverse character in individual countries, which results, among other things, from the conditions existing in the internal and external environment of individual countries, which translate into ways and areas of criminal activity (history, tradition, culture, system of socio-political and economic relations, internal influences, etc.). (Żebrowski 2011, 5).

The term organized crime is of a criminological nature and therefore, there are considerable doubts about the introduction of this term in the sense that it means one of the constituent elements of a specific crime. Therefore, many criminal laws, especially those of Western countries, tend to avoid this term, not least because the science of criminal law and criminology delineates its scope and content differently (Bryła 2000, p.26; Lelental 1996, p.71 et seq.). Of course, organized crime in our country is in the sphere of intensive supervision of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary, although at the same time it should be noted that this phenomenon is not precisely defined in the Polish legal system. In order to better identify criminal groups in Poland, and with a view to unifying information collections in the Office for the Fight against Organized Crime, the Police Headquarters has drawn up a list of 11 characteristic features of organized crime. The postulate was accepted that the occurrence of five of the eleven characteristics mentioned above indicates that a given group has the characteristics of a criminal, organized group. These basic characteristics are:

1. raising dirty money as a target;
2. multipurpose crime;
3. use of the protective umbrella of corrupt state administration and its offices;
4. specially organized structure and its hierarchy;
5. laundering of dirty money with the help of financial, banking and legal experts (Gabara 2004, p. 63).

For practical reasons and for its own needs, the Central Police Investigation Bureau has developed a definition of organized crime, which states that organized crime is a hierarchical, organized criminal association established for profit for the purpose of committing continuous and diverse crimes, with corruption, blackmail, and the use of force and weapons as its goal (Rapacki 1996, p. 194).

CHARACTERISTICS OF ORGANISED CRIME ADOPTED BY THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION OF THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS

CHARACTERISTICS OF ORGANISED CRIME
generating profits for union members and continuing and developing criminal activities
planning and flexibility in determining the direction of criminal activity
maintaining contact with the authorities in order to ensure security in the criminal structure
hierarchical structure based on business entities
division of tasks according to qualifications
internal and external airtightness of the tasks carried out
investing profits in legal undertakings
assisting members of organizations, particularly those subject to criminal proceedings, and their families
Mobility and international character of activities

Source: J. Necki 2020 ,pp.44-45

The Police in Poland classifies the following categories of crime as organized crime: illegal trade in drugs and psychotropic substances, counterfeiting of money and securities, fraud to the detriment of government programs and international funds, affront customs, tax and foreign exchange crimes, money laundering, illegal trade in weapons and radioactive substances, environmental crimes, moral crimes, illegal gambling, extortion, corruption. Later, taking into account the Polish specificity, the CBS adopted the criteria developed by Europol with regard to the organized criminal group. It is worth noting immediately that the catalog of interests of organized crime is so extensive that it is not easy to indicate all the provisions, although such a solution would be most effective (Rapacki 1996, p.182 et seq.; Górniok, Hoc, Przyjemski 1999, p. 302). In the process of detecting and learning about organized crime groups, states undertake bilateral or multilateral cooperation, which includes the following forms of crime:

1. crimes against life;
2. terrorism;
3. drug-related crimes, including their smuggling;
4. organized border crossings, as well as crimes related to the hiring and recruitment of workers and through labour;
5. pimping, human trafficking;
6. extortion of protection money;
7. illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives;
8. forgery of money, cheques and securities and their circulation;
9. crime against property, including theft of works of art and motor vehicles;
10. crimes against the environment. (Agreements between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of Germany on cooperation in combating organized crime of November 6, 1991).

There is also another important criterion for classifying forms of organized crime based on the profits made from these activities. The following classification of forms of crime is proposed in this respect:

1. crime against property (large scale fencing), theft of cargo, theft from a warehouse, vehicle removal;
2. crime related to the use of violence, i.e. robbery, extortion based on so-called fictitious protection;

3. drug-related crimes;
4. crime related to arms trafficking;
5. crime related to the counterfeiting of securities;
6. economic crime;
7. crime connected with illegal gambling, pimping, trade connected with prostitution, offences of injury, murder; (Pływaczewski 1992).

The development of organized crime, paradoxically, is supported by processes taking place in the environment of international security, such as: progressive globalization in the economic sphere, free market, diverse economic development, movement of people, capital, services, goods, information, knowledge, unemployment, intensive migration, lack of stable legal regulations, lack of efficient justice, etc. Organized crime in this age is based on highly specialized organizations, which are divided according to their interests and type of criminal activity. Modern criminal organizations are characterized by significant ruthlessness in action, an extensive recruitment base for them, a fight for influence:

Fighting for spheres of influence accompanies all organized criminal groups, which include visible in Europe (Italian, Romanian, former Yugoslavia, Russian-speaking criminal groups), Asia (Chinese, Taiwanese-China Triads, Japanese Yakuza), United States (La Cosa Nostra, Russian-speaking criminal groups), South America (Colombian criminal groups), Africa (Nigerian criminal groups), Commonwealth of Independent States (Russian criminal groups), etc. These are examples of the international nature of organised crime (Żebrowski 2011, p. 7-8).

Moving on to our Polish soil, we notice that organized crime in our country includes: seizures and thefts of social property, tax, customs, cross-border, property transformation crimes, trafficking in drugs, narcotics, human organs and tissues, corruption crimes, corruption of national and local government officials, tax inspection officials, law enforcement agencies, justice. Security and defense threats in our country are also significantly affected by changes in the international security environment, especially the emergence of international organized crime groups. In Poland, we are currently witnessing the emergence of organized criminal groups, which include criminals from various countries. Additionally, it should be noted that these are well-organized criminals, equipped with professional technical equipment and high-performance weapons. An important link in the issue of security and defence of Poland is the growing threat from growing computer crime (cybercrime, cyber aggression), various types of cyberterrorists. This is due to the fact of huge scientific and technical development, production technology, and what we observe significantly in the area of information and communication technologies. The above mentioned facts are accompanied by a constantly developing global network of the Internet, social media, which are used in activities affecting the security and defense of each country, of course not excluding Poland. We must pay attention to the fact that various types of cyber criminals, cyberterrorists are anonymously present in the global information network and it is there that they realize their criminal goals. An important fact, which is the interpenetration

of organized crime groups with cybercrime and cyberterrorist groups, has also been noticed - the state services responsible for security in our country. Some of them consistently seek to obtain specific economic benefits, others (terrorists) seek to finance their activities. This criminal activity is not easy to capture, recognize and then neutralize. The phenomena indicated above are noticed by national, international entities responsible for the implementation of tasks related to national security and defence. The threats of a criminal nature in the computer and cyber-terrorism spheres are a problem for every state, and of course they are a growing problem especially for highly developed countries referred to as significant networked states. Therefore, it cannot come as a surprise that:

The scale and dynamics of this undesirable phenomenon makes both states, international organizations and private entities take active legislative and organizational-technical actions to prevent or minimize the negative effects of the attack on the information resources of the object of interest (Żebrowski 2020, p. 55).

The fact that such crimes are not easy to detect and fight is of concern to specialists in the fight against organised crime in the field of computer crime, cyberterrorism. The reason for these difficulties is the considerable secrecy of contacts between members of the organization (the so-called network structures), easy access to appropriate equipment in this area, free movement of people, information, capital and wide possibilities to use the global information network. As far as the fight against cross-border organized crime is concerned, the main difficulty is due to the lack of coherence between international and national law. For example, there is a lack of a commonly accepted and at the same time binding definition of organised crime, terrorism, and this must result in difficulties in prosecuting the perpetrators of such crimes. We must also not forget about the constant evolution of organized crime, which adapts to the new conditions extremely quickly, making excellent use of any gaps in the issues of state security and defense, legal systems, security organizations.

VII. INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

We realize that when the division of the world into the sphere of influence of the USSR and the USA broke down, new, complex problems occurred, which in the new socio-political reality become a source of significant dangers for national and international order. National-ethnic as well as religious-cultural issues deserve a separate attention. These issues cause such a multi-layered interweaving of conditions, both in the internal and external environment of the state, which influence its security and defense level. (for example, the recent national conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh between Azerbaijan and Armenia). The above threat is broadly analyzed by Dworecki, whose arguments we will now reach to (Dworecki 1994, p. 26 ff.). Near our borders the social-political and economic life of neighboring countries (Ukraine) has been anarchized. The processes of anarchization are additionally overlapped by the

unstable situation in the countries of the former Soviet Union, former Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East. Russia continues to act to decide on international security on a global scale. Significant international security problems arise from the growing political-economic-military power of modern China. A very worrying phenomenon is the ever-expanding circle of countries with nuclear weapons (Iran, North Korea), as well as the lack of effective international control over the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We are also dealing with an increase in nationalism, religious fundamentalism and anarchist organizations in modern times. It has not been possible to stop the phenomena of genocide e.g. Africa, which further intensifies the effects of mass emigration, hunger. Responsible political factors in the field of security and defence in the countries, also in the Old Continent, arouses fear of a growing conflict between civilization, conventionally called Western and Islamic civilization. Since the 1990s and up to the present day, a worrying phenomenon has been the progressive growth of separatist tendencies;

Many new countries have emerged, many of which continue to pose a threat to peace in their regions as they are still living in a conglomeration of ethnic groups and national minorities differing in culture, language, religion and wealth (...) The problems of ethnic and national minorities are compounded by the problems of mass waves of refugees and migration due to drought, famine, civil wars, genocide and other disasters (Gołębiewski 1999, p.12).

People in our country who are responsible for processes relating to national security must take into account that ethnic, religious and minority groups are also present in our country. The accumulated historical experience teaches us that under certain conditions, these groups can become a bargaining chip in state relations. So there are also voices here that, under certain conditions, national minorities can be seen as a specific category of delayed ignition bombs. The signalled phenomena relating to national, ethnic and religious minorities cannot be disregarded as a potential source of danger, so every state should try to pursue a rational internal and external policy. This is a global problem that affects every multinational state, with significant migratory groups, and thus also constitutes an important aspect for the security and defence of Poland.

VIII. GLOBALISATION AND THE SPHERE OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE

In the modern world, we see elements of offensive, aggressive globalization in the economic sphere (China's remarkable expansion in this regard), elements of customs war, which intensifies the emergence of many threats to the issue of interest to us in the internal and external policies of countries. In the modern world, there are significant differences in economic, scientific and technological development, many countries do not have access to modern solutions, which causes a deepening of the distance between the rich North and the poor South. The ongoing competition for dominance in the psychological, political, economic and military sphere on the international arena creates a source of many misunderstandings.

In support of the above - although briefly outlined areas of international confrontation - we quote E. Lucas to the following question asked by the journalist: *Should the West be preparing for war with China?- you have to assume this possibility. The Chinese will test the U.S. and raise the temperature when they think they are unpunished. But in a situation = when they occupy one of the islands near Taiwan, the answer of America must be to send American bombing fighters to the island. The Chinese leadership will then consider whether they want a large-scale war. And I am sure it will withdraw (Lucas 2020, p.7).*

An intensive arms race is underway, resulting in equipping the troops with modern command, communication, reconnaissance, military operations, use of modern weapons (electromagnetic weapons). The internal conflicts that break out from time to time due to the particular interests of some countries are internationalized, forcing the international community to intervene with the mandate of such organizations as the UN, NATO, OSCE. In this asymmetric environment, the involvement of both state and non-state actors who want to realize their particular interests is recognized (Andrzejewska, Bednarek 2014). Such actions are supported by intensifying diplomatic, intelligence and sometimes subversive action, attacks and information disruptions (Andrzejewska, Bednarek 2009, 135-163). Persons responsible for state security and defense realize that in each country there are certain groups of people who are ready to question the existing social order as part of acts of violence (Żebrowski 2005, p. 240). The disintegration of the signaled bipolar world led to the so-called degeneration of war (Balcerowicz 2000). E. has already been repeatedly quoted. Żebrowski describes this phenomenon as follows:

This means that the war is no longer attributed solely to the strictly defined states that are the main directors of international relations. This process is accompanied by the very dangerous phenomenon of easy access to various types of weapons and military equipment, which makes internal and external disputes settle by force. This cheap and relatively easy access, significant differences in the level of development, pauperization of societies accompanied by stress and frustration cause susceptibility to all ideologies (including hostile ones) assuming the use of force - they become bargaining weapons of medium and small countries (Żebrowski 2005, p. 240).

In the light of the quoted comments on the issue of state security and defence, it can be clearly stated that security is not a fixed value, given once and for all, but that it is a process that requires the constant involvement of all political forces, society and economic potential.

IX. CONCLUSION

As a general remark, which comes from our considerations on this issue, it is a statement that the internal and external security of a country is related to the complexity of solutions. The scale and dynamics of changes that take place in the country's environment, for example, aggressive foreign policy

of other countries, various types of addictions, terrorism, crime, are often preceded by undesirable information activities. An important factor in the repulsion of threats to the issue of threats to the security and defence of the state involves having specific knowledge about future threats in order to be able to conduct a rational policy of counteracting various threats.

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