

NATO Enlargement: Two Looks from Outside

Laszlo Nagy and Valeri Ratchev

Sofia, February 1997

Research Report, No. 7

© Institute for Security and International Studies, 1997

FOREWORD & PREFACE

PART I: INTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY IN NATO (107K) BY COLONEL DR. LASZLO NAGY, HUNGARY

PART II: BULGARIA IN NATO: ASPECTS OF MOTIVATION (81K) BY COLONEL VALERI RATCHEV, BULGARIA

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Foreword by Dr. Plamen Pantev, Director of ISIS

The Institute for Security and International Studies (ISIS) continues its efforts of conceptualising the national security behaviour of Bulgaria in the post-Cold war period. The present Research Report: "NATO Enlargement: Two looks from Outside" by Colonel Laszlo Nagy, Deputy Director of the Institute for Strategic and Defence Studies of the Ministry of Defence of Hungary, and Colonel Valeri Ratchev, Deputy Director of the Center for National Security Studies of the Ministry of Defence of Bulgaria and Associate of ISIS is a clear example.

Bulgaria's missing institutional or effective bilateral contact pillars of national security, the conscientious alienation of Bulgaria by Russia and the treatment of the country by the west as a partner of secondary or even lesser importance endangers the very integrity of the Bulgarian society, the security of the Balkan subregion as well as the stability of Europe in general.

Bulgaria desperately needs an anchor for its national security system and Laszlo Nagy's and Valeri Ratchev's considerations add importantly for the clarification of the issue.

This Research Report is a part of the research activity of ISIS of openly and honestly assessing the needs, interests and the possible solutions of the Bulgarian national security dilemmas in the context of an All-European system of cooperation and stability.

PREFACE

The judgement that after the disastrous changes, started in 1989, the state of security and stability in Europe has changed dramatically is generally accepted. The geo-political environment in which the being built up for decades structures, institutions and external relations has principally changed. Moreover, the destructive processes affected not only the "offspring of Yalta system" - the Organization of Warsaw Pact and Economic Cooperation Union as well as political formations, emerged since W.W.I as USSR, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. If the Eastern part of the continent was shaken badly, the Western one didn't remain out of the instability scope and processes /though of different kind/ as well - the ongoing process of integration within the European Union proceeds with difficulties, problems of Germany concerning the unification seem to be far deeper and complex than it was expected in the beginning, the discussion about common policy towards Russia and East European nations continues to be fruitless, the problem about the American security engagements has occurred etc.

The influence of those factors and processes upon the security and stability on the continent is multilateral and ambiguous. However, the essence is that in conditions of post-Cold war all major elements, maintaining and providing security in the European political space are under a great pressure to change profoundly its functions, institutional relations and composition.

The accent in this publication is on NATO due to two basic reasons:

First, in present time as well as in near future this is going to be the basic organization with international character and enough potential to be able to influence preventively on and deter potential military conflicts, to block them in case of escalation and to settle them if necessary.

Second, this is the most dynamically developing security organization in which the question about acceptance of new members is on schedule, with which Bulgaria already for several years conducts a policy of close interaction and with the membership in which are connected a great part of the external guarantees sought for its national security.

This publication, on the one hand, provides information for the state, motive powers and perspectives for transformation of the most significant elements

of EuroAtlantic security architecture. And on the other, the views of two experts from different countries whose state and governmental approaches and achievements concerning integration policy are different.

NATO ENLARGEMENT: TWO LOOKS FROM OUTSIDE does not impose extreme opinions nor gives prescriptions for foreign political behaviour. By means of it the authors do not say which one is the "only right decision". What is proposed here is only a contribution to the democratic and engaged debate on collective security issues. A contribution based on proper information and un-biased analysis. If, through this publication, we have satisfied some of the reader's demands, if we have answered to some of the questions put by real life or have provoked interest for a constructive and responsible debate, then we have fulfilled our goal.

The views expressed in this publication are authors' personal opinions and not necessarily the views of the institutions they represent.

Part I. INTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY IN NATO

Part II. BULGARIA IN NATO: ASPECTS OF MOTIVATION

About the Authors

Laszlo Nagy, Colonel Hungarian Army, PhD, Institute for Strategic and Defence Studies Deputy-Director. He works in areas of national and international security, on the problems of Hungarian integrating process in European security institutions.

Valeri Ratchev, Colonel Bulgarian Army, Centre for National Security Studies Deputy-Director. He works in the areas of national and international security and crisis management.

[file:///W:/isn/isis/alle/coopy.htm]