THE EVOLUTION OF THE ROMANIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ACTIONS IN PREVENTING AND COMBATING TERRORISM, ORGANIZED CRIME AND CORRUPTION

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In Romania, the activity of intelligence collection, analysis and exploitation for providing the national security is regulated in compliance with the Law no. 51/1991 (republished) on National Security of Romania. This law stipulates the actions that represent national security threats specific of terrorism and organized crime, as well as the state bodies with responsibilities in the field of national security.

Romania's membership within two organizations (NATO and the EU) that play a decisive role in the fight against terrorism constitutes an opportunity which our state uses efficiently so as to achieve its security and defense goals.

Briefly, it may be considered that the current security environment poses new challenges to the state actors and the intelligence bodies, which are completely different from those known so far.

Keywords: terrorism; organized crime; corruption; intelligence services; threats; vulnerabilities.

In the current international context, the United States of America and most European states have adopted a series of legislative and doctrinal measures to reconfigure and streamline the classic effort against terrorism. "Among these, the following can be highlighted:

a) political-diplomatic measures to widen and strengthen the anti-terrorist coalition and weaken the capacity of action of terrorist actors;

b) closely monitoring the most dangerous active terrorist organizations;

c) adapting conceptual framework (laws, strategies, doctrines, protocols between institutions, instructions, action plans or intervention plans etc.) to the new conditions;

d) restructuring the intelligence services or other institutions or bodies responsible for combating terrorism;

e) establishing, training, endowing and institutionalizing the special forces to combat terrorism;

f) improving the information management system;

g) achieving, at international level, an exchange of information between specialized agencies and establishing the complementary objectives for combating terrorism;

h) improving the protection measures of the state institutions"[1].

Our country, as an allied partner, is in the same note, some of the above-mentioned measures being finalized while others are in progress. The information activity plays a fundamental role in ensuring the security of a country, contributing to the reduction of international risks and threats through its participation in the effort to achieve informational superiority in certain areas of interest. Thus, intelligence is needed both in detecting and defining the intentions of an adversary, and in preventing asymmetric threats against the state, along with the monitoring of crisis areas.

In Romania the activity of collecting, analyzing and capitalizing the information for the accomplishment of the national safety is regulated according to the *Law no. 51/1991 (republished) on Romania's national security*. This law nominates the actions and acts that constitute threats to national security specific to terrorism and organized crime, as well as the state bodies with attributions in the field of national security.

The Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI) is organized and operates on the basis of Law no. 14/1992 (updated) which, in addition to the provisions established by *Law no. 51/1991 (republished) on Romania's national security*, regulates other SRI tasks as well: defense of state secrecy, prevention, fight against terrorism and organized crime, antiterrorist protection of the

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Romanian and foreign dignitaries. SRI is also the technical coordinator of the National System for Preventing and Countering Terrorism (SNPCT), the strategic coordinator being the Supreme Council of National Defense (CSAT).

The Foreign Intelligence Service (SIE) has competence in the field of external intelligence on national security.

The Protection and Guard Service (SPP) ensures the protection of the Romanian and foreign dignitaries during their presence in Romania, as well as the guarding of the working places and their residences.

The Ministry of National Defense (MApN), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MAI) and the Ministry of Justice organize intelligence structures with specific attributions to their fields of activity.

Information is needed to prevent threats before they escalate. Decision makers must judge the level of risk for the community to be prepared and decide on the timing of action, taking into account all costs and consequences.

The profound changes in the international security environment have had an impact on all areas of life, including intelligence activity. In this sense, it is necessary to adapt the architecture of their structures to the requirements of the current security environment.

The new context of threat is generally non-governmental, unconventional, dynamic, random and nonlinear in scope, with no constraints or hiring rules. It has no own doctrine, it is almost impossible to quantify and forecast, and it is supported by criminals, traffickers and drug users, terrorists, corrupt individuals, extremists and religious fanatics, xenophobes, mercenaries, etc. Today, the model is generically defined with a single word - asymmetric.

Under these conditions, a new structural, functional and behavioral concept is developed, able to explain the multidirectional and non-traditional challenges. The new *intelligence* model includes an architecture that includes and manages the explosion of information and, in particular, the explosion in multilingual digital information, while managing the knowledge of concrete reality through direct observations. The link between understanding the threats and structuring the forces consists of formulating and validating a conceptual architecture that, if necessary, integrates classical

elements, but develops new concepts more suited to the present and future security environment.

"The new approach to architecture of information structures is a thoughtful and balanced change in weighting:
• from secret to open;
• from traditional concern to the concern of non-traditional security factors, including water, energy, food, epidemics and sustainable development;
• from current monitoring to contextual historical and cultural analysis;
• from the fragmented community of secret government agencies to a network that is capable of exploiting distributed information. Above all, the approach to intelligence activity is comprehensive, reliable, flexible and relevant to the challenges of all forms of threat and, in particular, to non-traditional forms"[2].

Romania's presence in two organizations (NATO and the EU), which have a decisive role in the fight against terrorism, is an opportunity that our state uses effectively in reaching the goals of the security and defense policy.

In order to cope with the new asymmetric threats, intelligence services must adopt an architecture that meets certain requirements, as follows:

1. *To be structurally and functionally adapted to the current missions of NATO and EU intelligence structures.* The efficiency of the architecture of information structures consists of meeting the following requirements:
• early warning about the proliferation of relevant military technologies and weapons of mass destruction;
• countering terrorist actions and those specific to organized crime;
• monitoring and analyzing the developing potential of the multiple interest areas (asymmetric threats, military capabilities that in time would constitute a regional threat to the country and / or alliance / coalition);
• setting up intelligence units to respond to all threats;
• developing multi-source analysis capabilities.

2. *To permit the provision of permanent, timely and effective information to consumers.* Combating risks, direct threats and potential vulnerabilities, including the transnational ones, such as terrorism, requires a full and sustained commitment to

intelligence structures, knowing that "who holds the information, holds the power." Political and military leaders must be kept informed, timely and accurately, with quality information on matters of national interest. The intelligence architecture needs to allow the achievement of a superior management of information requests, which will lead to an economy of resources and an increase in the quality of information reports.

3. *To ensure cooperation with intelligence services and counter intelligence partners*. No state is able to assure its own national security and defend its interests, as demonstrated by existing alliances systems from ancient times to the present.

Alongside coalitions/alliances co-operation, bilateral ties with other partner intelligence services should be developed. Continuing or initiating new ties to co-operation with other intelligence services is a way to increase confidence at regional and even continental / trans-continental levels, as many of the existing dangers in the international environment are common to most states.

In order to respond to this desideratum, the architecture of intelligence structures is configured to be able to provide: superior connectivity to information systems of allied and/or partner intelligence structures; broader information coverage for the areas of their own responsibility, so as to create a balance between information inputs and outputs of the system.

4. *To allow the development of a flexible and modern system for information collecting, processing and disseminating in real time.*

The most eloquent example is the "Network Centric Warfare" concept, which allows the connection of the information system to the sensor and combat systems platforms within a network of networks. The degree of technical endowment is closely related to the level of ambition and capabilities of national services, on the one hand, and the obligations assumed towards partners and allies on the other hand. In order to achieve a modern architecture of intelligence structures, it is necessary to design, if possible, some technical sensor systems covering all monitored environments.

5. *To ensure the professional training of intelligence staff.* One of the defining aspects of the intelligence architecture is the human factor. Its organization, preparation and leadership depend to a large extent on the success of any intelligence service. In order to achieve performance in the field of intelligence, one of the basic conditions is the level of professional training of the personnel. The training must start from the mission to be fulfilled and from being a member of an alliance / coalitions. This can be done through courses in the country or abroad.

A modern architecture of the intelligence structures contains structures of personnel theoretical and practical training, led by officers with highly training and professional experience, recognized industry practitioners. These structures achieve, on the one hand, the specialized training of intelligence personnel and, on the other hand, the research development in the field of preventing and combating terrorism. During preparation, the field of the fight against terrorism must not be broken by the other areas of specific work with which, moreover, it has many interferences.

Synthesizing, it can be considered that the current security environment poses up to state actors and, implicitly, to intelligence structures, new challenges that are completely different from what has been known so far. In order to be able to respond adequately, the intelligence structures adapt their own architecture to the new challenges of the international security environment.

"In order to meet the requirements for identifying and counteracting terrorist threats, it is necessary to corroborate some short- and medium-term measures as follows:

a) proper functioning of the mixed nucleus (intelligence and counterintelligence) of analysts, terrorism specialists, able to understand the strengths, thinking of terrorist organizations, influence and attraction that they exert on those recruits, the recruitment mechanisms of new adherents, Romania's vulnerabilities internally and externally to the terrorist threat;

b) upgrading the intelligent IT infrastructure (capable of connecting) of this core; efficient use of the database (information and end-product information), with data modules on diverse fields, intelligently related, through connections among events, individuals, groups, or organizations, and the flexibility in the ability to adapt and evolve the team specialists and implicitly the intelligence service, to new requirements;

c) widening the analytical spectrum or, better said, improving the analytical model by encouraging and subsequently enhancing the use of ethnographic, sociological and psychological studies in order to understand the terrorist phenomenon and to streamline the prediction process, while increasing the degree of certainty;

d) enhancing cooperation between intelligence services and academic and scientific environments in other areas (financial, economic, social), in order to increase the vision of the terrorist phenomenon and the degree of certainty in forecasting;

e) Changing the passive or reactive attitude into a pro-active one"[3] by:

• the development of specialized structures for tracking and counteracting cyber-terrorism specific actions, which, in addition to the active component, meaning strictly the counterpart, is able to evolve through the inter-related memorization of the "lessons learned" (the use of a storage database for the solutions found, in a form of intelligent relationship, by its examination, to be able to have some statistics and forecasts that can provide quality intelligence activity);

• widening the spectrum of activities of collecting structures from human sources so as to be able to carry out actions such as interrogation or debriefing, along with the development of dialogue techniques, the art of conversation, persuasion and persuasion through the specific methods, means and procedures applicable in various situations.

By making a brief analysis, we can state that terrorism, by its tendency to expand on a global scale and to diversify from an active point of view, requires a great deal of attention from all states, that must consider the establishment of measures and actions, in particular with a preventive role, limiting its development. The lessons learned from previous missions, the frequent terrorist actions of hostile forces that information staff has to deal with, are further arguments for training different structures for such missions.

It is relevant that the Romanian intelligence structures have rapidly modified and adapted their way of thinking and action, in close connection with the evolution of the international terrorist phenomenon and the influences that it has in our country, becoming a factor of internal stability and a reliable, effective partner in dealing with other states in the fight against terrorism worldwide.

It is important, however, that the fight against terrorism be continually improved, depending on international developments.

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No matter how much terrorism has been denounced by the international community, this must understand that its existence and "evolution" are related to the existence and evolution of humanity, which it has accompanied over time. The strength of terrorism is given by hatred, intolerance, religious fanaticism, geographic position of the states with high terrorist potential, as well as the human and material resources they have. These advantages allow terrorist organizations to diversify and intensify their activities, aiming to expand their actions around the world, even if a strong and wide international coalition fights against them.

The terrorist actions of fundamentalist - Islamic nature have a greater recrudescence. The Middle East region remains a true "focus" of international terrorism, with the support of states recognized as sponsors of terrorism. Sources of terrorism also exist in the countries of North Africa (Sudan, Egypt, Algeria, Libya), Turkey, the northern Caucasus countries and even Europe (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia) with a high risk of expanding in any moment. These spaces, whose communication routes also interfere with Romania, are a favorable ground both for organized crime and corruption.

A series of urgent measures are to be imposed to countries that sponsor terrorism, countries like Iran, Syria and North Korea; these measures need to have an impact as big as the danger they pose for the peace, democracy, stability and maybe even to the existence of life on Earth.

The terrorism phenomenon will remain tied for a long time, in scale and intensity, to the energy problem of the globe, knowing that much of the oil and gas reserves are "in the basement" of the Muslim world. Therefore, for a long time, terrorist organizations will diversify and intensify their activities, aiming to expand their activities world wide, even if there is an international coalition fighting against them. A greater recrudescence will be made by the terrorist-based Islamist fundamentalist actions motivated by the creed of "defending against the invaders."

In the next period, the danger that terrorist organizations might resort to non-conventional means of action belonging to the nuclear-biological sphere will increase.

"Mega terrorism (the use of chemical, radiological, biological and / or nuclear means as well as cyber-terrorism) represents the terrorist issue of the future, which will become a big concern for the world leaders in fighting against this scourge, as it can change the world's forces balance by destroying a part of humanity, using: contamination and / or poisoning of the population, animals and / or the environment, the challenge of misery, illness, poverty, famine, panic, stress, etc as well as an information warfare which could baffle the humanity through its catastrophic effects"[4].

Countries remain very vulnerable to the attacks of chemical terrorism and bioterrorism; the effects being devastating. The main targets are the urban hubs, means of transport and maybe schools, state institutions, and even some of the international institutions, as well as the United States allied countries.

"Organized crime is evolving in close connection with terrorism, providing the entire support, thus becoming its vital support. Situated at the confluence of great interests, aspect that has marked its entire history and development, Romania is deeply marked by cross-border organized crime. After the fall of the communist regime and the free movement, on the grounds of legal or illegal migration due to increasing world instability, organized crime took over the entire Balkan area as well as the former communist countries already deeply marked by another scourge – corruption"[5].

Internal vulnerabilities, such as the prolonged post-revolutionary legislative vacuum for a long time, political and economic-financial instability, poverty, the ineffectiveness of border control and security measures and means, the proliferation of corruption, the lack of an effective educational system that responds to new challenges favored the deep implementation of organized crime germs in our country, unfavorable results reflecting on many future generations.

For our country, the main internal problem is not terrorism, but organized crime in close connection with corruption, phenomena that have reached all levels and sectors of social life, our country being among the most corrupt in Europe.

Let us not forget that Romania makes the bridge between the Asian, Balkan, African and maritime industries with the famous "green route" of drug trafficking controlled by the Albanian criminal groups that have the monopoly of organized crime in Europe. Moscow, Odessa and Chisinau, but also Ankara, Athens and Sofia are just some of the high-potential points at which Bucharest will remain connected for a period no one can foresee the limit of. Illegal migration is amplifying and will create more and more difficulties in Europe in identifying potential terrorist elements. It can be said that Europe is subject to the threat of Islamization to a greater extent than any other area of the Western world.

Romania's efforts in the fight against terrorism should be part of the general effort of the powerful opponents of terrorism (USA, Great Britain, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Russia, etc.), which requires intensive cooperation at regional and global level.

Our country must take into account the terrorist threat and undertake, through specialized institutions, the necessary measures to discover and counteract any terrorist action that could affect its national security. The risk of the occurrence of terrorist events on Romania's territory also increased when the first allied military bases were installed on our territory.

After the admission to the Euro-Atlantic structures and the securing of Romania's borders, the attention of the terrorist and criminal elements was directed to the domestic facilities offered by our country with a view to identifying new personnel resources, weapons, explosives and other "equipment", including through activities of organized crime also favored by internal corruption.

Diplomacy, economic and financial actions, skillfully combined with military coalition actions in theaters of operations, including intelligence, are the necessary ways to fight in the future for success in the fight against terrorism, organized crime and corruption.

International cooperation against organized crime and corruption remains the only solution that if they can not destroy them, at least stops them or diminishes their activities. As a result of effective cooperation, terrorism as the main beneficiary of organized crime and corruption

will receive destructive blows by cutting down the strongest pillar on which it is based - their financial resources.

In Romania, it is necessary to improve the national response system in limited situations, especially the specialized components of research, investigation and combat of mega terrorism. The absence of a terrorist phenomenon in Romania should not give birth to inaction and apathy in the preventive aspect on behalf of the Romanian authorities. Being in the ways of terrorism and organized crime in Europe, and marked by "flourishing" corruption, Romania is and will be threatened by terrorism, in all its complexity. Threats and risks of a terrorist nature to Romania's national security will be favored by a series of internal vulnerabilities.

Romania has legislation and clear concepts on the terrorist phenomenon, legislation that allows it to define the phenomenon, develop strategies, action plans and measures to prevent and combat it, as well as its participation in international alliances against it. The Romanian authorities must take into account the terrorist threat and undertake, through specialized institutions, the necessary measures to counteract any terrorist acts that could affect their national security.

To our advantage, in Romania we cannot say that we have a terrorist phenomenon due to its lack of scale and intensity. The aspect is due, on the one hand, to the fact that Romania is not targeted by the terrorist organizations, being unimportant for terrorist leaders, and the terrorist issue is kept under control by the authorities in a legislative, informative and coercive manner, and on the other hand, to the fact that Romania is regarded by terrorists as a logistic base where clean money is made, and then used for dirty purposes.

However, a number of vulnerabilities and factors generating internal and external risks, as well as the impact terrorism has or may have on Romanian society, must alert all components of the National System for Prevention and Countering Terrorism.

Secret services are required to undertake, in close cooperation, all specific measures aimed at eliminating the terrorist threat, in which a particular emphasis should be placed on preventing, identifying, acknowledging and counteracting actions that could create hazards, such as:

• committing terrorist-diversionist acts;
• actions of enrollment in terrorist organizations;
• attempts to steal weapons, ammunition, explosive, toxic or radioactive material;
• attacks to the life and physical integrity of decision-makers, representatives of other states or international organizations whose protection is ensured during their stay in Romania.

At international level, it is necessary to intensify cooperation with the intelligence structures of other states.

From the analysis of the forecasts formulated by some specialists in the field regarding the evolution of the terrorist phenomenon, there are other less optimistic conclusions such as:

• terrorism will certainly persist as an acute phenomenon in the current millennium;
• terrorism will have a "quantitative and qualitative" upward trend, tending towards mega-terrorism, and large-scale incidents will be more and more frequent;
• terrorism will evolve linearly in terms of tactics, targets and means (armaments);
• even if it is regrettable, there is the possibility that some states in the world may turn to terrorism in the future in order to achieve certain goals;
• terrorists will be able to trigger crises that will force states (governments) and international organizations to allocate more and more resources to combat them.

NOTES:

1 Maricel Antipa, *Security and terrorism. Prevention and fighting against extremist-terrorism actions, on Romania's territory. Trends and perspectives at the starting point of the millennium*, Celsius Publishing house, Bucharest, 2004, pp. 5-6.

2 *The National Strategy of Preventing and Fighting Terrorism*, Bucharest, 2002, p. 3.

3 *Ibidem*, p. 2.

4 Maricel Antipa, *op.cit*, p. 12.

5 Vasile Fulga, *Organized crime and Corruption – vital support elements for terrorist organizations*, Military Publishing House of the Technical Center, Bucharest, 2008, p. 4.

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