

INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE IN SECURITY EQUATION

CATALIN PEPTAN

Dr. Eng., „Constantin Brancusi” University of Targu Jiu
email:catalinpeptan@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

THIS ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS THE ROLE AND NECESSITY OF INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY EQUATION, IN THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THEY PLAY AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN MAXIMIZING THE GLOBAL POWER RESOURCE.

FIRSTLY, WE WILL BRIEFLY PRESENT THE GENERAL NOTION OF INFORMATION, PROGRESSIVELY REACHING THE NATIONAL SECURITY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, NECESSARY FOR STRATEGIC DECISIONS IN THE PURSUIT OF THE SECURITY INTERESTS, SO THAT LATER TO APPROACH THE CONCEPT OF INTELLIGENCE AND ITS THREE FORMS.

THE FINAL PART OF THE ARTICLE IS DEDICATED TO THE ROLE OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE INSTITUTIONS IN THEIR LEGAL AND LEGITIMATE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL SECURITY.

KEYWORDS: *INFORMATIVE, INTELLIGENCE, PROCESS, ACTIVITY, PRODUCT, SECURITY, THREAT, PREVENTION, COUNTERACTING.*

1. Information and intelligence in the pursuit of knowledge

The auctorial approach to present the role of information and intelligence in the process of knowledge related to ensuring the balance of the national security equation, will start from approaching, in a first stage and briefly the generic notion of information, later presenting the significance of national security information - concept used by information institutions, and finally the concept of intelligence will be described under its multiple meanings.

For the human being, **the information**¹ represents both meaning and a new element of knowledge, it is the result of receiving some stimuli or messages that are the basis for adopting one's own conduct, thus removing the unknown and the uncertainty and ensuring the premises of the action efficiency. It represents, therefore, the fundamental element of knowledge, through which a message, some information is transmitted about an event that has taken place, which is in progress or which may happen.²

Information represents a new meaning, as a result of thinking and communication, of conscious action with the purpose of deciphering and understanding the message, because "it constitutes a representation of reality, but also of reflection and projection - which are typical

¹<https://dexonline.ro/definitie/informatie/> informazione 1. Communication, news, news that informs someone about a situation;2. Confession about a person or thing;3. Each of the new elements in relation to the previous knowledge, caught in the meaning of a symbol or on a group of symbols.

²Vladutescu, S., Information.From theory to science, Didactic and Pedagogical Publishing House, Bucharest, 2002, pg. 91.

operations of the human intellect, through a well-defined and structured set of symbols - usually accessible to the human senses and reason, but also to some of the devices, such as those in the computer field. The information is neither content (the states of a system can be assimilated with it), nor agent (the signals transmitted through a channel can be assimilated with it), neither property, nor instruction neither process nor method, but the information is constituted in a self-contained category, having an abstract and subtle - that is, non-material - existence, a category that is reflected by states, signals, etc. and is an essential element in the process of knowledge”.¹

It is unanimously recognized that both the daily activity of the citizen, but especially the decision - as a managerial act, impose access to information that will present usefulness² and which will reflect or contribute to the functionality of the system subject to the decision. From this last perspective, the information represents "those data that bring an increase of knowledge to the addressee directly and indirectly concerning the respective organization, which provides him with new elements necessary in carrying out his tasks within that organization".³

The information used in institutions to carry out the national security sequencing, ends up being particularly valuable for the general approach, firstly because it has a classified character⁴, with a well-defined regime regarding the capture, processing and dissemination, and secondly because it is a product with anticipatory and actionable character, which approaches and highlights threat indicators against national security values⁵ or opportunities to promote the security interests of Romania or its allies; offers novelty aspects regarding potential threats, risk sources or vectors affecting security interests; responds timely, anticipation and predictively to the needs of the decision makers; it is obtained by means of special instruments which are specific to the activity of the intelligence agencies, being unable to belong to other civil entities.⁶

The national security information represents the fundamental element of the informative communication, because it ensures the transmission in flux of new relevant and useful meanings to the beneficiary, in the form of risk estimation, warnings, security assessments, according to its needs and competences⁷.

The information activity, carried out by the intelligence agencies for the achievement of national security⁸, has the character of "state secret", the information can be communicated only to the authorized legal beneficiaries, a possible voluntary or involuntary dissemination

¹<https://ro.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Informație>.

²The essential characteristics of the information are: objectivity, accuracy, timeliness, usability, relevance, availability, reliability, verifiability, value.

³Niculescu, O., Verboncu, I., Fundamentals of organization management, Economic Tribune Publishing House, Bucharest, 2001.

⁴According to Law no.182 / 2002 on the protection of classified information, the information represents "any documents, data, objects or activities, regardless of support, form, way of expression or circulation", and the classified information is "information, data, documents of interest for the national security that due to the levels of importance and the consequences that would occur as a result of the unauthorized disclosure or dissemination must be protected".

⁵Areas of defense of constitutional values, counter-espionage, economic security, cross-border threats, management of classified information, cyber security.

⁶Nitu, I., Intelligence analysis, RAO Publishing House, Bucharest, 2012, pg. 36

⁷ Flavius Cristian Marceau, Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, "The vision about international security at the beginning of the XXI century", in *European Scientific Journal*, april 2013 edition vol.9, no.11, 301-311

⁸ Flavius Cristian Mărcău, Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, "The role of intelligence in the fight against terror," in *European Scientific Journal*, IX (2013), no. 2, p. 1-11

of it, to natural or legal persons or to other unauthorized public officials, being outside the law, and consequently is liable to criminal liability.¹

The beneficiaries take management decisions according to the social value of the information, with the increase of knowledge that it confers, and not lastly related to the degree of imminence on the danger reported.

The everyday language usually uses, in recent years, the concept of "**intelligence**", described as "the product resulting from the processing of information regarding objects, phenomena, processes of interest; set of facts, obtained by associating the information with other known elements and analyzed through experience; deduction or conclusion, based on the analysis of some information; the ability to solve new problems and situations, based on the gained experience; collecting and processing information; knowledge".² In a strict sense approach, different meanings can be generically given to the concept of intelligence, from the capability and ability to take logical steps, to think, to learn and to demonstrate intelligent spirit, to the connotations marked by some "mysticism", evidenced by secret activities carried out by unseen people, agents or spies, who capture secret information that are the basis of the "plot" in today's society.

The concept of "intelligence" has been approached doctrinally from three different but at the same time complementary perspectives.³

From the perspective of the process intelligence represents the whole of the activities carried out by the specialized institutions, subsumed to the cycles of capturing, processing and disseminating the information to the legal beneficiaries, necessary for the realization of the decision-making power in the fields confined to the managed security issues. Security expert Herbert E. Mayer defines intelligence as "the set of operations for collecting, filtering, analyzing data and information, and disseminating actionable intelligence products, to meet the needs of a specific consumer"⁴, that from this perspective we can generically consider it as an "information activity", with social values, which satisfies a specific beneficiary's need of knowledge.

From the perspective of the organization, intelligence is assimilated to a public or private entity, legally constituted, which carries out what we have previously referred to as "information activity", with the purpose of ensuring an increase of knowledge to the legal beneficiaries through the products provided to them. The citizen's safety and security needs determined the state entities to design their intelligence structures meant to provide the necessary knowledge in order to ensure the individual or collective security. They have thus become indissoluble institutions in modern societies, which "seek to anticipate problems of a political, economic, social and military nature"⁵, offering the elements of understanding the specifics of the security problems that societies face.

From the product perspective, intelligence represents the result of the "information activity", respectively of the processing of data and information within specialized analytical structures, in the form of specific documents and presentation modalities (periodic

¹Law no.51/1991, art.12 states: "No person has the right to disclose secret activities regarding national security, prevailing over unrestricted access to information, the right to disseminate them and the freedom to express opinions."

²Ciuflea, I.T., Intelligence. Conceptual landmarks, <https://intelligence.sri.ro/intelligence-landmarks-conceptual>.

³Nitu, I., *Op. cit.*, pg. 26.

⁴Herbert E. Mayer, "The True World of Intelligence" - New York, 1987.

⁵Shulsky, N., Schmitt, G., *The Silent War. A Look at the Information World*, Edition 3, Potomac Books, Washington DC, pg. 9.

newsletters, information syntheses, information notes, other forms of documents), which are intended to inform the legal beneficiaries.

The international practice shows different views of the decision makers concerning the background elements that must characterize in their opinion the intelligence product and the importance given to it. Some beneficiaries prefer the product to highlight the current aspects - signals or warnings regarding manifestation of threats to the security values, or basic ones - which will give an overview¹ of a situation of interest for the security equation, while others prefer the evolutionary products, the perspective ones - which try to anticipate the evolution prospects of threats, trying to point out ways of preventing and counteracting them available to the decision maker.²

Regardless of the vision, intelligence must be regarded as a "vehicle for modelling and transforming, influencing the security realities"³, which will provide the beneficiary with the added strategic knowledge by presenting the objective reality about what is of interest to the security of the society, for the decision maker. It must be guided by the bible verse "You must know the truth and the truth will set you free."

2. National intelligence institutions. Role and necessity

The need to ensure security⁴, individually and collectively, has determined the state entities to design security strategies and policies adapted to the particularities of the current geopolitical environment, in which conventional military threats are accompanied by a multitude of unconventional, asymmetrical or hybrid threats, which are manifested with an exceptional dynamism and virulence, directly proportional to the facilities offered by the globalization of the company. An important role both in the management of societal threats⁵, as well as in ensuring the stability of the security equation, reverts to the intelligence institutions, which are meant to give the "knowledge gain" to the state decision-makers that other institutions cannot offer, at the quality parameters imposed by the action needs and in the context of the limits⁶ in which they must manifest.

Thus, intelligence institutions have become tools for maximizing the power resource at the state level, indispensable for the optimal functioning of the society's mechanisms, having important roles in the "decisional assistance" of the internal policies or those of external relations, even if they are often subject to criticism or virulent attacks meant to maintain a state of mistrust of important segments of society, from simple citizens to opinion-makers or even state institutions.

At the national level, the institutions legally authorized to carry out intelligence activities subsumed to the national security system, are the Romanian Intelligence Service⁷ -

¹By integrating the information obtained using the full range of sources available to the information agency.

²Shulsky, N., Schmitt, G., *Op. cit.*, pg. 71-76.

³Major.G. C., *A war of the mind. Intelligence, information services and strategic knowledge in the 21st century*, RAO Publishing House, Bucharest, 2010, pg. 33.

⁴ Flavius Cristian Marceau, Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, "The vision about international security at the biggining of the XXI century", in *European Scientific Journal*, april 2013 edition vol.9, no.11, 301-311

⁵ Flavius Cristian Mărcău, „Undemocratic regimes”, in *Annals of „Constantin Brâncuși” University of Târgu Jiu, Letter and Social Science Series, Issue 2/2014*, pp. 105-110

⁶Modern societies, characterized by respecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens, are concerned to find the balance between the needs of knowledge and the limits of the framework of action of the intelligence structures.

⁷Law no.14 of February 24, 1992 (* updated *) regarding the organization and functioning of the Romanian Intelligence Service, art.1 al.1: "The Romanian Intelligence Service is the state organized service specialized in

the institution authorized with internal attributions, the External Intelligence Service¹ - the institution authorized with external attributions, the General Directorate of Defense Information²- institution with military competence and the General Direction of Internal Protection within of the Ministry of Administration and Internal Affairs³ - the departmental structure with powers to collect information and protection.

In order to ensure the stability of the security equation and the good functioning at the individual and interrelational level between these institutions⁴, by the Decision of the C.S.A.T. from November 10, 2005 on some measures for the unitary organization and coordination of information activities for national security, was established the National Information Community, defined as “the functional network of public authorities in the national security system, based on purpose, objectives and strategy, ensured by the information provided by the following structures also named components of **the National Information Community**: the Romanian Intelligence Service, the External Intelligence Service, the General Defence Information Department and the General Information and Internal Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Administration and Affairs.”⁵

The National Information Community has the mission of strategically analyzing and integrating in a unitary vision the information provided by the institutions, based on their responsibility regarding the veracity of the aspects indicated, in order to ensure the institutional coherence circumscribed to the provisions of the Strategy of National Security.

To understand the need for the existence and functioning of intelligence institutions in the general architecture of the national security system, in the context of the existence of a public rhetoric that challenges and sometimes even minimizes the role and necessity of these institutions, the main missions and objectives of the Romanian Intelligence Service⁶ will be presented below, starting from the necessity that the public opinion needs content analyzes that determine the critical thinking and the clear judgment, as opposed to superficial and ephemeral anchored in subjectivism and insignificant realities.

the field of information regarding the national security of Romania, part of the component of the national defense system, its activity being organized and coordinated by the Supreme Defense Council of the Country ”.

¹Law no. 1 of 1998 on the organization and functioning of the External Intelligence Service, art 1: “The Foreign Intelligence Service is the specialized state body in the field of external intelligence on national security and defense of Romania and its interests.

²The DGIA was established by the Government Decision number 385 of May 18, 1999 and the Order of the Minister of National Defense number MS 69 of June 23, 1999.

³The DGPI was established by the Emergency Ordinance no.76/2016 regarding the establishment, organization and functioning of the General Directorate of Internal Protection of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.Art. 1. stipulates: “The General Directorate of Internal Protection is a specialized structure with attributions in the field of national security, subordinated to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with legal personality, which carries out activities to identify, counteract and remove threats, vulnerabilities and risk factors at address information, heritage, personnel, missions, decision-making process and operational capacity of the structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as those that can lead to serious disturbance of public order ”.

⁴The aim is to harmonize the activities and eliminate the possible overlaps of competences between the component institutions, which could be due to the desire for competitiveness or even to the existence of external interests to the structures that would affect the influence of their activities.

⁵Established on the basis of Law no.415 of June 27, 2002 regarding the organization and functioning of the Supreme Council of the Defense of the Country, the Council is the autonomous administrative authority invested, according to the Constitution, with the unitary organization and coordination of the activities regarding the defense of the country and the national security.

⁶the specialized service on the information issues regarding the national security of Romania.

3. Instead of conclusions ...

In a global context marked by uncertainty and a continuous competition for the acquisition of information supremacy, the intelligence aimed at developing the ability to act and process information, using the full range of modern human and technical capabilities, and the permanent diversification of some efficient forms of cooperation, both with the information structures within the national intelligence community, as well as internationally, within NATO or the European Union, subject to the needs to value the experience, expertise and capabilities of internal or external partners, in order to be able to respond accordingly in a timely manner to the urgent needs of supporting the national security system, by providing relevant information regarding the dynamics of the evolution of the risk factors and the threats to the national security, because “besides knowing the risks and threats, in all aspects - sources, forms of manifestation, means, techniques - developing the capacity of anticipation, based on knowledge and education is fundamental.”¹

As a corollary of the auctorial approach, the importance and necessity of intelligence was brilliantly highlighted by General Titus Garbea, who stated that “the need for information is greater as it has to fill the inferiority and weaknesses of another type. The information must be inversely proportional to these weaknesses. I want to say that a people with a decreasing population and a small army needs more leadership skills, more complete and safer information and more refined counter-information.”²

¹See National Defense Strategy 2015-2019."A strong Romania in Europe and in the world".

²Troncota, C., Mihai Moruzov and the secret front, Ed. Elion, Bucharest, 2004, pg. 38.

REFERENCES

Books

1. Herbert, Mayer, The True World of Intelligence, New York, 1987.
2. Maior, George, Cristian, A war of the mind. Intelligence, information services and strategic knowledge in the 21st century, RAO Publishing House, Bucharest, 2010.
3. Nicolescu, Ovidiu, Verboncu Ion, Fundamentals of organization management, Economic Tribune Publishing House, Bucharest, 2001.
4. Nitu, Ionel, Intelligence analysis, RAO Publishing House, Bucharest, 2012.
5. Shulsky, Abram, Schmitt, Gary, The Silent War. A Look at the Information World, 3rd Edition, Potomac Books, Washington DC.
6. Troncota, Cristian, Mihai Moruzov and the secret front, Ed. Elion, Bucharest, 2004.
7. Vladutescu, Stefan, Information. From theory to science, Didactic and Pedagogical Publishing House, Bucharest, 2002.

Laws and other normative documents

1. Law no. 182 / 2002 on the protection of classified information.
2. Law no. 51/1991 regarding the national security of Romania.
3. Law no. 415 of June 27, 2002 on the organization and functioning of the Supreme Council of the Defense of the Country.
4. Law no. 14 of February 24, 1992 (* updated *) regarding the organization and functioning of the Romanian Intelligence Service.
5. Law no. 1 of 1998 on the organization and functioning of the External Intelligence Service.
6. Emergency Ordinance no. 76/2016 regarding the establishment, organization and functioning of the General Directorate of Internal Protection of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.
7. Government Decision number 385 of May 18, 1999 on the establishment of the General Directorate of Defense Information.
8. Order of the Minister of National Defense number MS 69 of June 23, 1999 regarding the establishment of the General Directorate of Defense Information.

Internet sources

1. Flavius Cristian Mărcău, „Undemocratic regimes”, in Annals of „Constantin Brâncuși” University of Târgu Jiu, Letter and Social Science Series, Issue 2/2014, pp. 105-110
2. Flavius Cristian Mărcău, Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, “The role of intelligence in the fight against terror,” in European Scientific Journal, IX (2013), no. 2, p. 1-11
3. Flavius Cristian Marcau, Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, “The vision about international security at the beginning of the XXI century”, in *European Scientific Journal*, april 2013 edition vol.9, no.11, 301-311
4. <https://dexonline.ro/definitie/informatie>.
5. <https://ro.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Informație>.
6. Ciuflea, I.T., Intelligence. Conceptual landmarks,
7. <https://intelligence.sri.ro/intelligence-landmarks-conceptual>.