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Negotiations and diplomatic protocol as a mean of political conflicts resolution

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Abstract

The author of the article made an attempt to prove the relevance and importance of such topic as negotiations and diplomatic protocol as a mean of conflicts resolution. Bases of negotiations were determined; etymology of word “protocol”, the role and importance of diplomatic protocol for the development of modern international politics was described.

Key words: political conflict, conflict, negotiations, diplomatic protocol, ceremonial, international politics, international relations.

Increase of number of conflicts in today’s world requires not only a deep understanding of their nature, dynamics, but also requires creation of certain regional, national and international structures that would study their signs and created special theoretical and practical methods and skills to solve them. That is why today it is an actual undeniable fact that it is important to study the nature of conflicts and their prevention, including the study of mechanisms of conflict resolution in the society. The theory of diplomatic relations and negotiations also contributes to the solution of international conflicts.

It is well known that political relations that take place in any society can hardly be imagined without controversies, because they involve many social groups, government institutions, individuals with their own interests. Government action alone satisfies the interests of one and limits the interests of other individuals and groups. Political controversies pass into open collisions, which is why conflicts develop that have their own special features that distinguish them among other social conflicts.

Modern political science pays great attention to the search of forms, means of control over the process of the conflict flow and also pays attention to various ways of its settlement. One way of preventing or resolving the conflict is negotiations. Negotiations is a joint activity of two or more parties set up to effectively resolve disputed issues with the best adaptation to the needs of each party. Polit-

ical negotiations are an interaction of political subjects or their representatives in a form of direct or indirect dialogue, involving coordination of interests and aimed at neutralization or settlement of a real conflict [Hepren 1989]. In the case of political conflict, for its favourable solution it is necessary, first, to localize the conflict, clearly define its limits. Second, to prevent to simplification of problems that are the basis of the political conflict. Third, no time should be wasted when making constructive efforts and activities because conflict resolution is one of the decisive factors. Fourth, to solve conflicts such form as negotiations should be used.

Negotiations become the object of research in the second half of the twentieth century, when special attention was paid to the art of negotiations. One of the first researchers was the eighteenth century French diplomat François de Callières, author of work on the negotiations “On the method of negotiating with the monarchs”. Negotiating is the foundation of diplomatic protocol, the art, because the fate of the great states indeed depended on how good or bad negotiations were conducted, on how professionally were trained participants of the negotiation process, and their preparation depends on the knowledge of diplomatic protocol. François de Callières believed that the party to negotiations should be able to constantly monitor himself in order to overcome any desire to say something and to think over what he would say. In his understanding, the negotiations are a set of skills that match the needs of the time, allowing us achieve a closer relationship between both sides in the negotiations. The researcher has developed tactics to overcome the emotions that deserve special attention. He asserted that a person who controls his emotions can rule over them. Only emotions hinder to get to the heart of the matter, to see and use the means helping to win the case.

With the emergence of the society there occurred a necessity in the keeping of order around the world. Foreign policy and international relations are created by the diplomatic protocol, and ceremonial is a part of it. Ceremonial (it is strict adherence to the prescribed formalities) is based on the traditions and national features, has become universal in the modern world. It is generally accepted in international practice and performs an important function; especially it creates in every state relevant conditions so that the relationships between the government and their officials developed in a supportive and friendly atmosphere.

Protocol introduces and codifies the practice of ceremonial rules and watches over their use. The word “protocol” comes from the Greek «protokollon» (“protos”– first, “kola” – glue). Etymologically, the word “protocol” meant in the Byzantine diplomacy the first part in the solemn expressions of document, which hid the participants [Буд, Сепе 2011: 36]. In the Middle Ages this concept meant the rules for formation of documents and archives, and as the society developed protocol acquired diplomatic interpretation. It is important to empha-

size that the term “public record” exists in the practice of each state. The Provisions on the State Protocol and Ceremonial of Ukraine approved by the Presidential Decree dated August 22, 2002 defines the protocol as “a set of requirements to ensure a single order of conduit of official events involving participation of the President of Ukraine, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and other senior officials of Ukraine on the basis of generally accepted international rules, regulations and traditions, and national traditions of Ukraine”.

Here the questions arise: What is the diplomatic protocol for, what role does it play in international relations? In our view, the answer to these questions should be sought in history. Historical events and realities caused introduction of such rules and standards of conduct that allowed us to make orderliness from chaos, possibility of normal communication from hostility.

In our view, it is appropriate to give an example of internal policy of Ukraine (end of 2013), namely, the conflict that escalated into an international conflict in the spotlight of both Europe and the United States. It all began with the desire of the government (the process was led by the former President Viktor Yanukovych) to control the rights and freedoms of citizens of Ukraine who just wanted to integrate into Europe. It began with the meeting of students in the central square of Ukraine The Maidan Nezalezhnosti (late November 2013), they were brutally broken up by security forces (beaten and humiliated). Then people united on the Maidan and long tried to express their own democratic opinions. By the time until the shooting of celestial hundred started (19–21 February, 2014) which resulted in the government change, namely the escape of Viktor Yanukovych and his associates. Further on the internal political conflict in Ukraine develops into the international conflict with Russia, including Russia annexing (spring 2014) the Crimea – the territory of Ukraine. And to date, no country in the world has declared that the Crimea is Russia (except Russia, of course). Then Russia launched a full-scale military operations in the east of Ukraine. Thus, the conflict that is happening in Ukraine has signs of the open and closed conflict with Russia, because Russia does not recognize that it funds separatists in the east, as well as that its officers, soldiers and the equipment are there. Signs of open conflict are as follows: European countries and the United States recognize and implement economic sanctions against Russia; Russia launched a military conflict first of all to prevent Ukraine from integrating into Europe, and finally the economy of Ukraine will grow as a result, Ukrainians will live better; this conflict also distracts Russians from their internal economic and political problems (as in many cities of Russia citizens live worse than Ukrainian). In our view, perhaps Russia’s main reason for outbreak of war is in particular that its leaders would love Ukraine to become part of the Russian Federation again. Unfortunately, the conflict continues to this day, some experts

suggest that maybe this is a long war. We observe multiple negotiations and yet another meeting in Minsk (Belarus) and signing of international protocols on ceasefire in the east of Ukraine that are actually not performed by separatists (they continue to shoot).

That is why, especially in these current conditions, use of diplomatic protocol and ability to skilfully negotiate to best prevent any conflict is important.

History knows many examples of effective use of the negotiation process that was intended to resolve conflict situation. The important role in the negotiation process is played by mediators, whose role is to ensure that at a time to reconcile the conflicting parties and prevent the bloodshed. To settle the conflict, participants must first agree on controversial issues and conditions for their further discussion. In any case, the negotiations should take into account a wide range of views, because this is the mission of the negotiations – to hear each other [Цюпина 2008]. Exchange of views reduces the severity of the conflict, helps to understand the arguments of opponent, and thus more adequately assess the real balance of forces, the realities of reconciliation. The negotiations provide an opportunity to consider alternative situations, demonstrate openness of positions. Special feature of negotiations is that their members are interdependent, as parties seek to resolve conflicts arising between them. And these efforts are aimed at a joint search for interaction of opponents to reach the decision that suits both the negotiators.

Summing up, it should be noted that political negotiations is the most effective method to overcome political conflicts, because exactly negotiations lead to peaceful resolution of problems and take into account interests of parties. Negotiations is primarily a dialogue that helps people with different views, nationalities, religion, desire to find understanding, reach consensus and co-exist in today's complex world. And most importantly, negotiations are the main component of diplomatic protocol and etiquette of modern international politics.

Today it is urgent that the positive effects of socio-political development do not appear out of conflict as such and not out of imaginary no-conflict, but out of the ability to influence the conflict in the right direction.

The concept of conflict today does not belong to one particular area of expertise. It is a social phenomenon that permeates all spheres of human society, and that is why specialists from various fields of science began to study it. According to Stankevych I. conflict management seeks to understand and define them with new categories, and approach from the standpoints of fairness and common sense to the solution of problems of human existence.

Thus, it is exactly to resolve many conflicts the protocol rules are used in international relations, which are mandatory. It is a delicate political tool of diplomacy, which is subordinate to foreign policy objectives, receipt of which is to

prevent many conflicts between states. Diplomatic skills of any state leads to impressive professionalism in foreign policy conducted by diplomats, presidents, political elite and leads to prevention and resolution of any conflicts.

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