

РОЗДІЛ 1. ПОЛІТИЧНІ ІНСТИТУТИ ТА ПРОЦЕСИ

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Azerbaijan-NATO relations 1991–2003

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The article examines which projects and programs maintains ties between the Republic of Azerbaijan and NATO, the most powerful military organization in the world; the dynamics of cooperation from the end of the twentieth century to the present day, and also is considered how beneficial it is for our country.

This was an important step of Heydar Aliyev for the young Azerbaijan Republic.

The Partnership for Peace program, which pursues the main goal of strengthening cooperation between the Eastern countries and NATO, has created favorable conditions for cooperation and harmonization of military systems between NATO and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

From 1997 to this day, our republic, constantly participating in exercises and exercises within the framework of the Partnership for Peace Program, has been taking part in peacekeeping operations under the leadership of NATO, and has contributed to ensuring Euro-Atlantic security.

Within the framework of the PfP program, important tasks were set for the Azerbaijani peacekeepers serving in Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Iraq. The most important of them was the task of assisting and supporting the implementation of the peace agreement, maintaining public order and the freedom of movement of civilians: these tasks were accomplished with credit.

Units of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces took part in peacekeeping operations in Iraq, from 1999 to 2008 as part of the battalion of the Republic of Turkey in Kosovo, and to this day they serve as part of the peacekeeping coalition in Afghanistan.

Since 1992, until today, the Republic of Azerbaijan and NATO have been cooperating on the basis of the Individual Partnership Action Plan, the Planning and Process Analysis program, and the Individual Partnership program.

The main goal of the joint implementation of this plan and programs is the compliance of the defense and security sector of our country with NATO standards, the accumulation of experience by our Armed Forces, participating in supporting NATO peacekeeping operations.

Key words: Azerbaijan, NATO, agreement, Alliance, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan.

Formulation of the problem. In October 1991, Azerbaijan regained its independence and pursued an independent policy, signed a number of successful projects to establish cooperation with leading countries in all areas, especially in the military sphere. This opened up new opportunities for the young republic and created a real basis for consistent integration into the world community.

Research results. At the end of the 20th century, the post-Soviet states that gained independence as a result of a series of destructive events [1; 6], such as the collapse of the USSR, the collapse of the Warsaw military bloc and the end of the Cold War, encountered a serious challenge for further independent development. As a former republic of Soviet Union Azerbaijan was also among those dealing with the dilemma. The country had to either develop based on socialist ideology, remaining in the international ideological and military-political confrontation, or choose a market economy based on the experience of countries that prospered. The real situation in Azerbaijan has become the reason for choosing the second development path [2, p. 73].

The current situation of the Republic of Azerbaijan at that time – the aggression of Armenians against our lands and our people, territorial claims, numerous threats against our state from different

directions – first, it was necessary to raise the military power to the highest level, create armed forces that would ensure our security. From this point of view, relations with NATO – the world's most powerful military bloc, became priority.

Military cooperation with NATO plays a significant role for the Republic of Azerbaijan. The international situation at the beginning of the 21st century opened up favorable conditions for Azerbaijan to join NATO. (It is obvious that the main reason of establishing NATO) was the alleged threat to Western Europe from the Soviet Armed Forces. In 1948, a document by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Joint Special Committee of the United States Department of State (Joint Special Committee), under the heading of complete secrecy, states: "An analysis of the socio-political situation indicates that the USSR will not begin open military operations during 1948.

However, taking into account the military readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces, the deployment of troops and the strategic advantage of the position, the Soviet occupation of Western Europe and the Middle East is inevitable any time" [3; 1].

In the mid-twentieth century, five Western European countries as Belgium, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Great Britain and France signed the Brussels treaty in March 1948 to create a common defense system due

to a number of geopolitical events happened around the world, and against the backdrop of the Cold War. In (this way), they attempted to secure their own security in the face of political, ideological and military threats. Subsequently, negotiations were held with the United States and Canada to ensure security based on mutual commitments between Europe and North America and the creation of the North Atlantic Alliance. Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Norway and Portugal were also involved in this process. As a result, on April 4, 1949, a treaty was signed in Washington with the participation of 12 aforementioned States. The treaty came into force on 24 August 1949 after ratification by parliaments of member states [4; 9–10]. The organization created in accordance with the name of the Treaty (the North Atlantic Treaty) was also called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The name of the organization is derived from the capital letters of the full name in NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) [4; 9–10]. The alliance began to expand eastward with the admission of Greece and Turkey in 1952, the Federal Republic of Germany in 1955, Spain in 1982 and the former Socialist bloc in 1999 – the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary [4; 10]. A few years later – in 2004, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Slovenia, as well as the former Soviet republics – Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia joined the bloc, thus bringing the number of Alliance members to 29 [5, p. 160].

On September 17, 1949, at the first meeting of the Council of NATO's supreme body, a number of decisions were made on the organization's structure. The Defense Committee was first established to develop the overall defense plans of the organization and subordinated to the 5 Territorial Planning Groups (North European Group (Denmark)), Western Europe Group (Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Great Britain), South Europe – Western Mediterranean Group. (France, Italy and the UK), Canada-US Group and North Atlantic Ocean Group (all member states except Italy and Luxembourg). These territorial planning teams were required to develop the necessary plans for the protection of their territories and submit them to the Military Committee to be established [6; 18].

NATO stepped into the process of institutionalization in the 1950s lagged behind the Soviet Union in the number of military units. At that time, 14 divisions and 1,000 fighter jets were disbanded on the European continent, while the Soviet Union had 25 divisions and 6,000 fighter jets on the territory of the CIA (Central and Eastern Europe). On May 15, 1950, Field Marshal Bernard Lowe Montgomery, Chairman of the Committee of the Commanders-in-Chief of the Western European Union, sent a report to the Governments of the Brussels Pact, where he mentioned: "If we are ever attacked by the Soviet armed forces, we will face a terrible and incredible picture in Western Europe" [6, p. 19].

The military-political Alliance, which is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter protects the freedom and security of all its members, both by political and military means [7, p. 18]. According to Article 51 of the UN Charter, the principal mission of the Alliance is collective defense [5, p. 161]. Members of the organization provide joint protection against any external attacks. The NATO Headquarters is located in Brussels, the capital of Belgium as one of the NATO member countries; meanwhile, the Allied Forces Command Headquarters is located in Belgium, near the city of Mons [8, p. 249].

23 partner countries regularly gather with 28 allied countries (USA, Albania, Germany, Belgium Bulgaria, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Croatia, Iceland, Spain, Italy, Canada, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, and Greece) within a single EAPC forum to discuss wide-rangesecurity issues. At the ambassadorial level, they meet once a month. Foreign Ministers, Defense Ministers and CHODs – once a year, as well as they meet periodically and regularly at summits [9, p. 197].

In general, from the beginning of its creation to present, five strategic concepts of NATO have been adopted, as well as 1967 Harmel's Doctrine equal in importance to them: these concepts, with the exception of the doctrine, combined the direction of a purely military context mainly reflecting the organization of NATO members states defense [4, p. 24].

Azerbaijan and NATO relations arose in the 1990s, more precisely, in March 1992 at the Consultative Forum of the North Atlantic Partnership Council (on May 30, 1997, it was renamed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council) and formed after Azerbaijan joined the Consultative Forum of the North Atlantic Partnership [10, p. 120]. The following factors played a significant role in establishing relations between NATO and Azerbaijan:

The first, according to the Charter, NATO has mobilized its efforts to create a pan-European security system to ensure peace, stability and cooperation throughout Europe. In this regard, it is crucial for Azerbaijan to build cooperation with the Alliance in a higher level and occupy the solid place in the organization.

The second factor mostly depended on geopolitical conditions. The analysis of the first years of the country's independence and the processes taking place in the world showed that the doctrine of national development of the country selected the most suitable multi-vector foreign policy line for us, taken from world practice, and successfully implemented by some countries, which became the basis for their development. Before briefly explaining what the West-Russian maneuver will lead

to, it is necessary to form relations with the West, taking into account Russia's influence in the region, in order to pursue its interests in foreign policy [4, p. 53].

The solution of the biggest problem of the country the Nagorny-Karabakh conflict was the key factor in establishing relations between Azerbaijan and NATO, which required the country to defend its position at the international level.

Thus, since the start of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, Russia, that was at the epicenter of events, did not resolve the problem completely, as well as demanded to freeze the solution for an indefinite period. This meant that Russia could put pressure on Armenia and Azerbaijan at any time. Therefore, Russia was not interested in the participation of the international community in resolving the conflict. Therefore, Azerbaijan could not agree to mediation in resolving the conflict only in Russia. However, another way out of the problem is to establish contacts with NATO, the most powerful military organization in the world [4, p. 54].

Taking into account the aforementioned factors, Azerbaijan, after regaining its independence, unlike many other post-Soviet countries, immediately chose a way to integrate into the European security space and began to cooperate with NATO through Turkey.

After the Military-Political Agreement signed between Turkey and Azerbaijan in August 1992, Azerbaijan-NATO relations began to develop practically and systematically [7, p. 31]. However, everything was episodic in nature.

On October 3, 1993, after the election of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev as the President of the Republic and his second rise to power in Azerbaijan, the main swing began in all spheres of public, political, social, economic, scientific and cultural life, including Azerbaijan and NATO cooperation. Azerbaijan, gaining its independence in the 1990s, had minimal ability to establish real ties with NATO. At that time, some of the prominent figures who still viewed Azerbaijan as an integral part of the USSR believed that they did not need to have their own army and seek protection from the Russian army. However, with the advent of the Great Leader, everything changed dramatically.

First of all, this was due to the fact that the Great Leader was a very influential, competent and experienced wise statesman in the political world.

At a historic meeting of NATO Headquarters held in Brussels on January 10-11, 1994, B. Clinton's former US president's office-set Partnership for Peace program was unanimously approved. The main objective of the PfP program was to create partnership between the countries of the East and NATO, deepen this cooperation and involve new independent and democratic states in the organization. An invitation to the PfP program was sent to all Partner Countries participating in the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NATO), including Azerbaijan [11; 3].

Azerbaijan's enrolling the PfP program testified to the desire of our country to achieve two main goals. Firstly, Azerbaijan will have the necessary conditions for expanding bilateral relations with European countries as a whole and accelerating the accession of our Republic to the processes of European integration, as well as joining the European security space; secondly, although Azerbaijan does not receive direct military support from NATO, it will be able to ensure alleviation of tensions throughout the region, using NATO forces as peacekeeping forces [12; 3].

From this point of view, the official visit paid by Heydar Aliyev to Belgium from May 3 to 5, 1994 was a deliberate step towards Azerbaijan's entry into the Partnership for Peace program [13; 1]. Thus, relations between Azerbaijan and NATO were laid in the current international legal context, and our country became the 15th country to sign the PfP program to provide broader cooperation with NATO, and the fourth country in the CIS after Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia.

The goals of the PfP program are to address Azerbaijan's key priorities: military education, foreign language education, military training and education, defense planning and strategy, the concept of peacekeeping forces and a number of key areas, including information and communication systems.

Within the paragraph 1 of the PfP document, it is noted: "The Heads of States and Governments of NATO member countries signed the document on January 10-11, 1994 and declared their commitment to deepening political and military ties and strengthening security in the Euro-Atlantic region. NATO member states and other states thereby establish the Partnership for Peace program of the NATO Council [4, p. 42]. Then, paragraph 3 of the same document says: "Other states that have signed this document, will work with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to:

- 1) assist transparency in national defense planning and budgeting;
- 2) ensure democratic control of the defense forces;
- 3) keep the ability and willingness to provide assistance under the auspices of national constitutions, under the auspices of the UN or CSCE;
- 4) build relations based on cooperation with NATO in the fields of peacekeeping operations, search and rescue operations, humanitarian and other operations, as well as for joint planning for increased combat readiness for military exercises;
- 5) to establish such forces that can cooperate mutually with the armed forces of the member states of the North Atlantic Alliance" [14, p. 208] with high readiness.

Taking into account the aforementioned, today, the leadership of the country, effectively utilizing the international legal framework that reflects the cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with

NATO, has established high-level cooperation with NATO pursuant to Article 5 of this document.

The Deputy Secretary General of NATO S. Balanzino highly appreciated Heydar Aliyev's visit to Belgium. In his opinion this step was a reliable and successful to strengthen its independence towards establishing peace in Azerbaijan [13; 1].

The main goal of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev, who precisely assessed the place and role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the modern world, was to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, to liberate the seized lands and restore our territorial integrity. The Great Leader voiced this goal in official visits that he made in the frame of PfP. He said: "We have respected the North Atlantic Alliance since its inception, which has made a significant contribution to the establishment of peace and cooperation in Europe and around the world. The creation of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council has become an important milestone in the activities of NATO. We attach great importance to the NATO decision of January 10, 1994, to express particular concern about the situation in the South Caucasus and the need to resolve the conflict in the region, including Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. On this basis, we were very pleased to make the decision of NATO to invite the East European countries and the new independent states of the former Soviet Union to the Partnership for Peace program. We look forward to working with NATO. This cooperation is very important for us from the point of view of Azerbaijan's joining Western democracy, and also, working with NATO, to find additional ways to stabilize the situation in the region, end the war and create peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia ... I hope that this step of the Republic of Azerbaijan will be properly evaluated by NATO, will be mutually beneficial and, most importantly, will help stabilize the situation throughout our region [15, p. 128–129].

Azerbaijan is actively using NATO partnership mechanisms to implement the goals and principles set forth by the PVM, as well as in other documents providing for bilateral cooperation. The goals and principles of the Individual Partnership of Azerbaijan with NATO are mainly reflected in the report of Azerbaijan's PfP (1996), in the Planning and Review Process (1997) and the Individual Partnership Action Plan/IPAP/(2004). These documents express the desire for cooperation with NATO in the field of defense and security sector reform in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the development of the armed forces in accordance with NATO standards, participation in operations and exercises, energy security, as well as in the fields of science, environment and public diplomacy [16, p. 120].

The real implementation of the PfP program began in 1996. The participation of the Defense Ministry of Azerbaijan in exercises and seminars held within

the framework of the NATO PfP program is the first step in this area [17]. On April 23, 1996, in Brussels, National Leader HeydarAliyev presented to NATO Secretary General Javier Solana a presentation document on joining the Partnership for Peace program [18].

During the meeting, NATO Secretary General H. Solana touched upon the international situation in Azerbaijan and the foreign policy pursued by Azerbaijan, stressing that Azerbaijan is pursuing an increasingly clear independent policy in the international arena. He noted that being expanded NATO's relations with this country have turned into real cooperation [17].

Since 1997, Azerbaijan has created its own peacekeeping forces under the Ministry of Defense in accordance with NATO standards and participated in exercises and operations along with Alliance forces. However, the general compliance of the Azerbaijani army with NATO standards remained one of the most important problems our country was facing. Using all these components, Azerbaijan began to increase the number of partnership events since 1997.

At a meeting of heads of NATO member states on July 8-9, 1997, the Republic of Azerbaijan, like other member states, was permitted to open its diplomatic mission at NATO headquarters in Brussels [19; 29].

Thus, the National Leader of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, emphasized the importance of our Government participating in the Council of the Euro-Atlantic Alliance and NATO "Partnership for Peace", the presentation of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to NATO on April 19, 1996. Based on the results of the meeting of the States Heads held in Madrid on July 8-9, 1997, Resolution No. 157 "On a presentation document developed by the Republic of Azerbaijan under the PfP program of the North Atlantic Alliance" (November 14, 1997) Resolution No. 692 "On strengthening the cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with NATO were adopted". The Commission on Cooperation with NATO under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan was established on the basis of this decree.

A number of important tasks mentioned in the commission established by decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, were entrusted to the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as to other state bodies [14, c. 211].

The order says: the Republic of Azerbaijan, on the basis of the results/outcomes achieved, intends to raise political and military cooperation with NATO to a qualitatively new level and also actively use new mechanisms and opportunities to cooperate with NATO in the Partnership for Peace program.

Paragraph 4 of the Defense Ministry's Document emphasizes.

Take the necessary measures to ensure the participation of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the NATO PfP Planning and Review Process;

Take the necessary measures to prepare and equip a special military unit (a company) to participate in international military exercises and peacekeeping operations under the NATO PfP;

To provide military educational institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for military personnel training according to international standards and requirements for interaction with the NATO armed forces;

Within 15 days, complete the creation of the department of "NATO Partnership for Peace" at the Azerbaijan Higher Military School [20].

So, in 1997, Azerbaijan opened its Diplomatic Mission at NATO Headquarters in Brussels and expanded its activities in this direction.

In September 1999, the peacekeeping unit of the Republic's Armed Forces, with in the Turkish Battalion, was first seconded to participate in international peacekeeping operations in Kosovo. 34-strong unit ensuring the security of the city of Dragos in Kosovo operated until April 2008 [21, p. 407]. It is important to emphasize that peacekeeping in Kosovo by Azerbaijani peacekeepers, as part of the NATO-led Turkish battalion was the first practical test for the Azerbaijani military.

In general, having overviewed the Azerbaijan-NATO military relations, we notice that the participation of Azerbaijani troops in the international peacekeeping operations has a particular importance in terms of developing army on NATO standards, the acquisition of the necessary experience and the increase in the international reputation of our republic.

A joint seminar of the Governments of Azerbaijan and Switzerland entitled "Small Arms and Light Weapons, SALW): a practical threat to fulfilling the existing OSCE and EAPC commitments" was held on June 21-22, 2001 in Baku. Numerous OSCE representatives and working group on Small Arms from EAPC participated in training. The delegates described this event as asignificant contribution to problem solving issues at the regional level prior to the UN Workshop on Small Arms [19, p. 38].

In order to intensify bilateral cooperation between Azerbaijan and NATO, the PfP Training Exercise "Cooperative Determination – 2001" held in Azerbaijan on November 5–17, 2001 has a particular importance. 9 NATO members and 10 Partner Countries participated in the exercise. The "Cooperative Determination-2001" was a team training designed to respond to crises aiming to develop military interoperability. Because of Azerbaijan's close participation in the Planning and Analysis (PAP), using the experience gained (attained) in this area, our country created its own peacekeeping battalion the same year [22; 23; 24].

In 2003, Azerbaijan-NATO relations were carried out on the basis of the adopted program. So, on May 15–16, NATO Secretary General J. Robertson visited our country and took part in a meeting of the Commission for Cooperation with NATO. During the meeting, the Commission Chairman, the 1st Deputy Prime minister, submitted a letter to Robertson expressing the desire of Azerbaijan to join the NATO Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP). Thus, Azerbaijan was one of the first Partner Countries to join the IPAP [25, p. 3].

In December 2003 and 2008, Azerbaijan's 150-strong peacekeeping unit as part of the US Army provided security for the Al-Ha-Dita Dam (Western Iraq), and another unit (in November 2002) within the Turkish armed forces in Afghanistan to ensure peace and security there [26, p. 7].

Within the framework of the PfP program, important tasks were set for the Azerbaijani peacekeepers serving in Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Iraq. The most important of them was the task of assisting and supporting the implementation of the peace agreement, maintaining public order and the freedom of movement of civilians: these tasks were accomplished with credit.

Influential authoritative leaders emphasize that the Azerbaijani peacekeepers activities are highly appreciated by NATO. The main reason of this appreciation is the responsibility of the Azerbaijani officer, his professionalism, tolerant attitude towards different cultures.

As a resulting the 25 years that the Azerbaijani military joined the NATO Partnership for Peace program, it did not get any single negative feedback from partner countries.

If we analyze the history of military relations between Azerbaijan and NATO, we will see that they played an important role in reinforcing our army, bringing it into line with international standards and training professional military personnel.

Although 25 years have passed since the establishment of Azerbaijan-NATO military relations, it currently performs about 50 of its duties under the PfP program.

Since 1992, representatives of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan annually attend more than 300 exercises and seminars held within the PfP program. All this helps to increase our officers' professionalism, as well as the integration of our country into NATO standards [27; 1].

Conclusions. Thus, the above review and analysis once again proves that the military structure in Azerbaijan is developing rapidly and is the most powerful in the region. Given that the army is a key element in ensuring state security, we clearly understand the importance of the steps taken by our country to adapt and further comply with NATO standards.

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Азербайджанські відносини НАТО 1991–2003

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У статті розглядається, за якими проектами і програмами підтримується зв'язок Азербайджанської республіки з НАТО, найсильнішою військовою організацією світу; також розглядається динаміка співпраці з кінця ХХ століття до наших днів, і чим це вигідно нашій країні.

Як відомо, Азербайджанська Республіка почала безпосередню співпрацю з НАТО в кінці ХХ століття, а конкретніше – 3-4 травня 1994 року. Це почалося з підписання загальнонаціональним Лідером Гейдаром Алієвим Рамкового документу програми НАТО «Партнерство заради миру» під час офіційного візиту в Бельгію.

Це був важливий крок Гейдара Алієва для молоді Азербайджанської Республіки.

Програма Партнерство заради миру, яка має головну мету – зміцнювати співробітництво між Східними країнами і НАТО, створила сприятливі умови для співпраці і приведення у відповідність військових систем між НАТО і Азербайджанською Республікою.

Із 1997 року до цього дня наша республіка, постійно беручи участь у навчаннях і заняттях в рамках Програми Партнерство заради миру, бере участь у миротворчих операціях під керівництвом НАТО, внесла свій внесок у забезпечення Євроатлантичної безпеки.

Підрозділи Азербайджанських Збройних сил брали участь у миротворчих операціях в Іраку, з 1999 року по 2008 рік у складі батальйону Турецької Республіки в Косово, а також до цього дня несуть службу у складі миротворчої коаліції в Афганістані.

З 1992 року до сьогоднішнього дня Азербайджанська Республіка і НАТО співпрацюють на основі Плану Дій по Індивідуальному Партнерства заради миру, програми Планування та Аналізу Процесу, а також програми Індивідуального Партнерства.

Основною метою спільного втілення в життя цього плану і програм є відповідність сектора захисту і безпеки нашої країни стандартам НАТО, накопичення досвіду нашими Збройними силами, участь у підтримці натовських миротворчих операцій.

Ключові слова: Азербайджан, НАТО, Партнерство заради миру, комунікація, контракт, співпраця.