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INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE “NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY 2011”

Alena Budveselová*

On October 18-19th, 2011 second Annual Scientific Conference National and International Security was held at the Armed Forces Academy of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik (AOS) in Liptovský Mikuláš. It was organized by the Department of Security and Defence at AOS as one of its priority activities. The Conference was held under the auspices of the State Secretary of Ministry of Defence and Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic. Conference *National and International Security* presents an exceptional opportunity for meeting and establishing cooperation, as well as friendly discussions between experts on the security issues and International Relations. These meetings of security community are met with the growing popularity, which is documented by the constantly growing number of participants from the Slovak Republic, but also from abroad, mainly from the Czech Republic, Poland and Ukraine.

The conference was officially opened and all participants were welcomed by the Head of the Department of Security and Defence **Miroslav Žák**, who stressed the importance of solving theoretical and practical issues of security and defense. The second speaker of opening ceremony was Vice-Rector for Education **Pavel Bučka**, who also introduced the audience to the activities of the Department of Security and Defence and its participation in international research projects. The opening ceremony was hosted by Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces General **Ľubomír Bulík** who gave an analysis of the operational and security environment, the main tactical elements of the future Armed Forces and also dealt with the command and control systems and their principles, modernisation of equipment as the most important conditions for achieving interoperability of Slovak Armed Forces.

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The official opening was followed by the first panel focused on the actual problems of international relations and shaping of the global security environment. It was chaired by **V. Jurčák** from the Department of Security and Defense. First speaker was **A. Budveselová** from the Department of Security and Defense. Her presentation entitled „*Significance of the Russian Federation for the European Security in Context of Medvedev's Initiative*” dealt with the Russian approach to European security. Second panellist of this section was the representative of the Institute of Political Science of The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, **W. Gizicki**, with his contribution „*Will Russia Return to a Superpower?*”. His contribution was followed by a very lively and inspiring discussion. Third speaker was **O. Šifferová** from Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic who presented the contribution entitled „*Situation and Prevention of Human Trafficking in the Czech Republic*”. The last panellist of this section was **F. Kozaczuk** with presentation „*Crime as one of the Factors of the Threat to the Internal Safety*”.

After the break, during which the discussion continued in an informal atmosphere, the second panel was chaired by **J. Prucha** from the University of Defense in Brno. In the second panel speakers focused mainly on the object of national security in research of national security policy. This issue was presented by **J. Janošec** from Institute of Civil Protection of Lzně Bohdaneč, Czech Republic in his contribution „*What is New in Updated National Security Strategy of the Czech Republic?*” Second speaker was **M. Bauer** from University of Defense in Brno who presented his contribution „*The State Sovereignty and International Air Law Aspect*”. **I. Uryadnikova** from the Ukrainian Academy of Safety and the Basis of Health in Odessa presented her contribution entitled „*The Structure of the Global Nuclear Security Regime and Removing Technological Risks*”. After her contribution **L. Lukáš** from Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín, Czech Republic covered the problem of „*The Role of Information Support in the Security Forces*”. Following this last contribution, the panel concluded again with a vivid discussion, which continued also during common social evening all participants were invited to attend.

On the second day the Conference continued with the first panel focused on the role of armed forces in conflict prevention and resolution. It was chaired by **J. Lasicová** from the Department of Security Studies at the Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica. Various aspects of this issue were presented by **V. Zikmund** in his contribution „*Military Aspects of Comprehensive Approach*” and by **I. Majchút**

with the paper „*Identification of the Essence of Counterinsurgency*“. Third speaker of this panel, **L. Čeri** from the Military Office of the President of the Slovak Republic, gave an analysis of „*Military Diplomacy, Politics and Intelligence Services in a Democratic Society*“.

Last panel of the Conference chaired by **J. Ušiak** from the Department of Security Studies of Matej Bel University discussed the contemporary issues and future developments in the realm of security studies. First speaker of the panel, **V. Zaplatynskiy** from the Ukrainian National Aviation University in Kiev in his contribution focused on the „*Risks of Incompetence in Dealing with Global Security Challenges*“. He was followed by **L. Hofreiter** with contribution „*Security Science: Past, Present and Perspectives*“. Another regular participant **J. Lasicová** in her presentation outlined the „*Status of Dichotomies in Security Research*“. **J. Lasicová** was followed by the last speaker of this panel and the entire Conference, **B. Chalmuradov** from the National Aviation Academy in Kiev. His presentation was entitled „*Identification of the Perpetrator*“.

The last panel was followed by the closing remarks and assessment of the Conference, provided by the Head of the Department of Security and defense **M. Žák**. He thanked to all speakers and participants, as well as organizers of the Conference for creating a very pleasant environment and for maintaining the continuity of the security community regular meetings.

Contributions presented at this Conference, as well as those which could not be included on the program and officially presented due to the lack of time, will be published in the Proceedings of Conference entitled *National and International Security 2011*.