

## „PROTOCOL AND PERSONAL SECURITY - CORRELATION, COORDINATION AND COOPERATION FOR MAXIMUM EFFECT“

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**Abstract:** The function of the protocol in the organization and implementation of activities in the diplomatic and state context is a conglomeration of tasks and responsibilities that include a number of actors - institutional, non-institutional, actors in terms of visibility of the activity, and more importantly in terms of security of activity.

There is an inseparable cause-and-effect relationship between the protocol and the provision of the highest persons involved in the activities and if the goal is efficient and effective implementation of the respective activity, then this communication and coordination must be synchronized and predefined. The feeling of unplayed and inadequate organization, in the highest persons involved in the activity brings discomfort and a sense of concern for their own safety and therefore creating an environment of security, which is largely the responsibility of personal security and professionals in the field of protocol, can give more a contribution to stronger diplomatic activity, better diplomatic contacts and more substantive talks in any format.

The connection between these two seemingly separate and essentially extremely connected elements of an activity in the last few years has been burdened by another serious challenge - the coronavirus pandemic, which has caused a change in the way professional daily life, including activities, works. and thus the tasks and responsibilities relating to protocol and personal security.

**Keywords:** protocol, personal security, foreign delegations, security.

### Introduction

The term security and safety protection of facilities of special importance means a set of measures and actions planned and undertaken by the competent state bodies and security services in order to protect them, as well as the protection of persons residing in them on any grounds. (Radzenovic, 2003, p. 51) Immediate protection is provided by the bodyguard in all cases: when the person being protected moves on foot, by car or other means of transport, when he stays in certain facilities, during various trips in the country or abroad or during his presence at certain festivities, political gatherings, public events, during hunting, etc. (Pajkovic, 2003, p.112) Security personnel should have qualities that would eliminate any possible attack, but also to act discreetly and not be different from the environment (Danicic, 2008, p.198). In all this conglomeration of tasks and activities in providing high-profile personalities, coordination and mutual understanding with a large

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number of executors is essential - primarily in the field of protocol and protocol support, then with the organizers of the activity, public relations and others. In order to see the complexity in the coordination process, it is necessary to first see the importance of personal security, the process of organizing personal security, the synchronization between all involved persons, as well as the geostrategic importance of the security of VIPs.

### **The protocol as a norm for international conduct**

Relations between states are defined by different rules, norms, customs and traditions that essentially guarantee equality between the sovereign countries of the world. Diplomatic protocol, on the other hand, offers a wide range of different social and legal norms and rules, which serve as a framework in which different international actors communicate with each other. (Arbeiter, J., 2019)

In fact, protocol is a kind of courtesy that grows into diplomacy. The protocol is often defined as etiquette in diplomacy, i.e., a system of good manners between states and their officials, although in reality the protocol system is much more complex than the terms "good manners" and "etiquette". The US State Department notes in its 2013 Training Manual, called "Modern Diplomat", that the protocol can be both strict and old-fashioned, as much as it can be mysterious.

After all, the rules and procedures in the field of protocol are based on pragmatic thinking, common sense and good manners. The protocol in a broader sense is a "set of rules" that should be applied in protocol, state and diplomatic ceremonies, official relations and social life (Smiljanov, 2020, p.23)

Protocol specialists are those people who, behind the curtains and everything that is visible to the public, conduct an entire orchestra composed of physical arrangements for the activity, creating an appropriate environment for the realization of the activity and coordination of all that moving and constantly fluctuating structure - as operational-tactical segments of the organization, until the determination of the desired goals as a segment at the strategic level.

An important integral part of the responsibilities that are part of the work of the protocol experts is the coordination with the security provided for a particular event and the coordination with the persons directly responsible for the personal security of the high-profile person. This includes prior thorough preparation and practical training of every aspect of the activity, in order to fully control the activity and maximum safety of the high profile person.

### **The meaning of personal security**

The term "security" is a broad term and therefore in security theory there are a number of definitions of what it actually encompasses. Safety is a condition and/or process and is the absence of deliberate, negligent or accidentally caused hazards. Endangering security is any unforeseen event, case, behavior, violent action of man, nature or technical systems in a long period and to a significant extent, which realistically leads or may endanger persons and property of enterprises, and may result in loss of human lives or health, loss of equipment and/or losses in the operation of enterprises. (Mandic, 2004). What is very important is that if a certain issue is treated as a danger to the life of any official or high profile person, that issue "de facto" is also a security issue that must be taken seriously.

The protection of certain persons and objects is an integral and inseparable part of the overall security and that is why today in security theory there is a special segment that studies this system. This segment is even more important when it comes to providing high-profile personalities such as princes, presidents, prime ministers, ministers, ambassadors, foreign delegations and the like.

When it comes to personal security, it is not just a segment, but a whole that includes physical security, which "de facto" is the most visible part of the activity, as well as technical security, intelligence and counterintelligence. A plastic example of this is defensive - electronic technical protection that is realized through mechanical and electrotechnical means and equipment, and its purpose is to prevent the violation of privacy and dignity of the person who is most often threatened by setting means for recording and unauthorized wiretapping, such as cameras and eavesdropping devices and devices in cars, vital rooms, conference halls and the like.

Each country within its administration creates a security system composed of various institutions, services or bodies of state administration that have strictly defined obligations and duties. These services with their human potential, assisted by sophisticated equipment, collect information, perform analyzes, plan and undertake complex tasks for successful realization of the activity in question.

The security system includes the protection of high-ranking officials in the state administration, whose security is of paramount importance - heads of state, parliament and government presidents, ministers and other senior civilian and military officials.

The Republic of North Macedonia has solved this segment of security in a systematic and methodical way, by adopting a Decree on the persons and facilities that are provided, as well as the types of measures and activities and the levels of security. The decree was adopted in March 2014 and it stipulates that the provision of persons and facilities includes several elements: planning, organizing, coordinating and performing operative-preventive, preventive-technical, physical health and other measures and activities.

The purpose, in accordance with this Decree, having in mind the above-mentioned ways and steps, is to provide the highest representatives of the state authorities at home, and during official and working visits to foreign countries, certainly in cooperation with the services of the respective state. Official and working visits of foreign statesmen, as well as foreign delegations of lower rank that are of particular importance for our country, is also an integral part of the Decree, which includes the provision of "headquarters of state bodies and the space around them, as well as the residential and representative buildings and the surrounding area belonging to the state authorities of the Republic of North Macedonia, the diplomatic-consular missions and residences of the Republic of North Macedonia abroad in cooperation with foreign security services on the basis of reciprocity or agreement, foreign diplomatic and consular missions in the Republic of North Macedonia and their residences based on reciprocity or concluded agreement and international missions based in the Republic of North Macedonia based on an international agreement ratified by the Republic of North Macedonia, manifestations of interest for the Republic of North Macedonia, organized to the state authorities of the Republic of North Macedonia or other legal entities attended or expected to be attended by the persons provided in accordance with this Decree and facilities and premises that are of special importance and interest for the security and defense of the Republic of North Macedonia."

When it comes to personal security, the Decree defines that the Ministry of Interior with regular, extraordinary and special measures and activities, continuously provides the President of the Republic, the President of the Assembly, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Ministers, the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Defense and the Minister for foreign affairs and the directors of the Public Security Bureau and the Security and Counterintelligence Directorate. This system also includes measures for securing the immediate family members of the President, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Parliament, and if necessary, security measures can be determined for the Ministers of Justice and Finance, the Public Prosecutor and the President of the Constitutional Court. Interestingly, in accordance with this Decree, the candidates for election of the President of the Republic of North Macedonia for the duration of the election campaign are also provided with extraordinary measures and security activities.

The Government Decree itself in Article 7 stipulates that security institutions must cooperate closely in this area - in terms of providing security to a foreign military and international military delegations visiting our country. The Decree provides for close cooperation and coordination between the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defense and the Army of the Republic of North Macedonia.

What is the purpose of all measures and activities undertaken to provide persons and facilities defined in this legal act? Primarily, it is about creating security conditions for uninterrupted activities, enabling the protection of persons where they stay or move to that location, safe stay at locations where they have work responsibilities, as well as preventing and detecting the possible commission of illegal actions and other forms of adverse events and happenings that may endanger the safety and security of persons provided under the Decree. In this regard, the measures and activities undertaken are aimed at preventing activities undertaken by individuals or groups who negligently or intentionally commit crimes or offenses established by law, then activities undertaken by foreign intelligence services hostilely directed against our country and its highest state officials, against foreign statesmen, diplomatic - consular missions and international missions that are provided in accordance with the law.

The Decree defines that the measures and activities for security of persons and objects consist of operative-preventive measures and activities for security of persons, objects and spaces, preventive-technical measures and security activities that include mechanical, electronic-technical, anti-diversion, chemical-biological-radiation, sanitary-health, fire-fighting and other types of security of persons and objects, then physical and traffic security of objects and persons, monitoring of undertaken actions and activities for implementation of general measures and activities of security in the state bodies government and other legal entities of interest for the security and defense of the state, which are managed by entities in the capacity of legal entities, and other necessary measures and activities of interest and importance for securing persons and facilities.

What do the physical security measures provide? They consist of the implementation of direct and personal physical security and the application of other physical measures and activities to prevent endangering the safety of persons and the security of the facilities provided, including traffic and escort security of persons and facilities. There are four degrees of security, depending on the presumed and identified risk.

The first degree of measures activities are undertaken when providing security to the heads of foreign states during their stay in the Republic of North Macedonia, in joint travel of the persons being provided security, as well as in holding public events of wider importance attended by the persons being provided security. Depending on the security assessment, measures and activities for first degree security can be taken when traveling abroad to persons who are constantly secured.

Measures and activities for second degree security are taken in securing the persons who are permanently secured in accordance with this Decree, certain foreign persons and delegations during their official visit to the Republic of North Macedonia, as well as in holding public events attended by the persons, which are provided security with first-degree measures and activities if there is no knowledge of identified and presumed risk.

Third degree measures and activities are taken in providing security to a foreign delegations, attended by the Deputy Prime Ministers of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Minister of Defense, as well as for securing foreign persons of the same rank, as well as foreign and international delegations which visit our country, and after a preliminary security assessment of the Ministry of Interior. During the visit of foreign or international military delegations, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defense and the Army of the Republic of North Macedonia in cooperation with other security services participate in the preparation of the security assessment.

The highest, fourth degree of measures and activities are undertaken in securing other persons covered by this decree, the ministers in the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, as well as in securing certain foreign delegations at the discretion of the Ministry of Interior.

### **Organization of immediate providing security to a VIPs**

As the term itself states, direct personal security, as a task is performed in the immediate vicinity of the VIP - the person who is subject to security, by highly trained authorized officials. These individuals actually protect a high-profile person from direct or indirect attack by individuals or organized terrorist groups. All measures taken from a security point of view aim to reduce to an absolute minimum, or to completely eliminate the danger to the high-profile person who is protected, especially during their daily movement and stay in buildings, premises and outdoors, as well as their evacuation in the so-called "Safety zone" in the event of an imminent attack.

What are the stages through which the immediate personal security is implemented? These are three separate but continuous phases, namely: security vanguard, personal escort (bodyguard) and escort security of the person.

The security vanguard is one of the most important links of effective protection in the immediate personal security. The vanguard is in charge of preparing and elaborating a plan for the realization of the security, defining the place, establishing a security zone, and taking measures and actions to reduce the potential risks for the person being protected. The team leader, whose responsibility is the security vanguard, is responsible for all security measures and activities that will be taken for the protection of individuals, for the formation of teams, as well as for the material and technical means that will be used. The team leader is also responsible for coordinating with other services in the Ministry of Interior (including

intelligence), he/she determines the routes of movement, both basic and alternative, determines relations and places for emergency evacuation, assesses and analysis of the specific route and area of travel during the movement of the car escort, to pay attention to the so-called "narrow roads" and etc. In terms of time, the vanguard team inspects the facility or space where the VIP person will be staying, at least one hour before his or her arrival. Immediately upon arrival, coordination begins with the responsible persons of the facility and with the persons from the protocol regarding the confirmation of the previously agreed details related to the activity. The element of food safety must also be mentioned, if food is placed in the building in any form or organization - lunch, cocktail or similar.

In the immediate vicinity of the person being protected is the so-called "Personal escort", i.e. the bodyguard of the VIP - the person. It is extremely important that the persons designated as bodyguards are persons with high moral norms, high psycho-physical preparation, to be prepared and trained and to have extensive experience in enforcing police powers and handling all types of weapons and means of communication that are used within the Ministry of Interior. They need to be able to make a real security assessment, and be prepared to risk their own lives. There are real professionals in the ranks of the bodyguards who usually come from the ranks of the special forces of the police and the Army. It is especially important for bodyguards to be outside of their activities, i.e. their themes, goals and ideas, and to know how to truly position themselves in a state of increased security.

There are rules and procedures regarding the position of the bodyguard and the person being protected, i.e. that distance should not be less than one outstretched hand, nor more than a meter and a half to four meters. The purpose of defining this distance is related to the efficiency in performing the tasks in case of a possible attack, i.e. when evacuating and dealing with life-threatening situations. This procedure is also part of a wider system in which each bodyguard covers his area of responsibility and is ready to change the formation, if the situation so requires. The main task of the whole team is to provide protection to the VIP - the person of 360 degrees, and the task of the person responsible for security is to ensure the integrity of the protective formation. This responsible person always knows the position of the VIP - the person who is protected, is aware of his position and everything that happens in the protected zone.

There are five formations of protection of VIPs, depending on the number of bodyguards, namely: formation with one bodyguard (personal companion), formation with two bodyguards (tandem), formation with three bodyguards (triangle), formation with four bodyguards (plain diamond) and a formation with five bodyguards (diamond). These formations are defined in accordance with the rulebook and work instructions of the Ministry of Interior.

The formation with one bodyguard is a protective formation that gives the least protection to the VIP person. His obligation is to be aware of everything that happens at full angle, i.e. 360 degrees, and therefore in a direct attack it is very unlikely that the success in the defense of the person being protected will be maximum. The protective formation with two bodyguards, i.e. protective formation tandem consists of a main bodyguard and a front bodyguard, each with control of the situation at an angle of 180 degrees. The front bodyguard moves a few steps in front of the person who protects and controls the front and left side of the face, while the second bodyguard controls the back and right side. And this formation does not provide the most appropriate protection to the person being protected. The protective formation of three bodyguards, i.e. "Triangle" is used in securing public figures

and is the most applied protective formation that meets all the necessary standards: light mobility, strength and compactness of the group, and satisfactory coverage and inconspicuous. This formation consists of a responsible bodyguard moving to the person being protected, a frontal bodyguard (vanguard bodyguard) leading the formation, and a lateral bodyguard covering the left side. The personal bodyguard is in charge of pulling out the person being protected by the so-called "presidential grip", in case of an attack on the previously agreed protection zone, regardless it is an object or a car transporting the person being protected, while the other two bodyguards have task of covering and neutralizing the threat. The plain diamond protective formation, which includes four bodyguards, consists of a head bodyguard, a bodyguard on the left, a bodyguard on the back, and a responsible bodyguard moving from the right side next to the person being protected. This formation is also called a "star" or "box" depending on the security location. Each bodyguard protects his protection zone, while the main and responsible bodyguard is focused on the VIP - the person and his or her protection. The responsible bodyguard makes the formation a "plain diamond", ensures the integrity of the formation by giving specific tactical tasks to the members of the formation, and thus ensures the compactness of the formation. The four bodyguards in motion can be regrouped from the so-called "star formation" (front, rear and two side bodyguards) to the so-called "box formation" (two bodyguards at the front and two bodyguards at the rear), and is the most commonly used crossover formation. exterior to interior. The protective formation of five bodyguards, called "diamond" is one of the most widely used formations for VIPs - personalities, including heads of state and government. This protective formation consists of a personal companion, who is also responsible for the protection team, which usually serves as a safe evacuation by applying a "presidential grip", leading bodyguards who lead the formation and move at a distance of two to four meters, a bodyguard on the left who protects the person on the left, a bodyguard on the right who protects the person on the right, and a rear bodyguard who protects the person on the back. (State Department, 2008).

There is also a protective formation with six bodyguards, which is ordered "expanded diamond" and the difference compared to the previous protective formation, the sixth person from the security team is free and can strengthen the formation wherever the need arises. This person is usually included in the vanguard team.

Regarding the provision of security to a VIP persons during transport, i.e., Escort security of VIP persons, is done with motor vehicles driven by authorized officials. Escort security means fast and safe transport to the defined destination, on a strictly controlled route. In order to perform escort security, it is necessary to undertake preparatory measures and activities by the authorized officials, who should determine the primary and secondary route of movement, to check this route, to see the conditions of the route, possible obstacles, its length, the time required to pass this route, the required speed of movement, and includes inspection of objects along the route, their detection and inspection, as well as inspection of the stopping place of the escort and the VIP vehicle.

There are several forms of endangerment of this type of security: when the vehicle is in motion, i.e. attack from another vehicle, then placing explosive devices along the route, causing a traffic accident, attack with moving firearms or setting an ambush; and when the vehicle is parked, i.e. when exiting or entering the vehicle.

The entire safety operation during escort motor security provision is in the hands of escort vehicle drivers. The efficiency of the performed measures and activities will depend on

the coverage and preventive placement of the escort vehicles, in front of and around the main vehicle, in order to prevent an attack and traffic accidents from another vehicle or ambush on the road. Crucial for the efficient execution of the escort security is the training of the team of drivers, mutual knowledge of the drivers of the escort and the main vehicle, the synchronized joint work, the start and the engine power of the escort vehicles and the VIP vehicle.

The main escort motor security provision is performed with three or more passenger motor vehicles such as, S1 traffic motor vehicle, VIP vehicle (main vehicle), and S2 traffic motor vehicle. In the S1 motor vehicle, two bodyguards are sitting next to the driver, front right and rear left. In the VIP vehicle next to the driver sits the personal attendant (bodyguard), and in the S2-motor vehicle next to the driver sit two bodyguards - front right and rear left. While on the escort movement, the bodyguards take up their positions of action and observation on and around the route. The main task in the escort motor security provision while the escort is on the move is the drivers who also take care of the escort safety of the VIP person when transporting him or her to the designated location. Their primary task is to safely transport the VIP - the person to a specific destination, to drive motor vehicles in certain situations, to maneuver with them and to quickly evacuate the person being protected in a given situation.

What are the main tasks and responsibilities of the drivers of the safety and the main vehicle? Primarily, it is about maintaining the safety of the main vehicle, preventing other vehicles from approaching or overtaking it, then adjusting the distance between the vehicles taking into account the speed and traffic conditions and being flexible depending on the threats and dangers, also to act synchronously as a whole by adjusting the speed of movement and the position of the vehicle in order for them to be moderate and controlled in order to avoid abrupt turning, braking and stopping of the main vehicle, but also to constantly monitor the communication via radio connection, to know the primary and the alternative route of movement with all the characteristics, as well as to know the locations with established facilities and the nearest medical institutions.

## **Security measures and protocol coordination**

In the presumed situation of a visit of a foreign delegation, the coordination between the security and the protocol specialists starts from the very beginning of the planning of the activity. The so-called reconnaissance of the entire route and all locations provided for the activity is performed jointly and in mutual coordination, having in mind that during the realization the monitoring route is defined by the protocol, and the same route should be strictly controlled from a security aspect. Prior to the arrival of the delegation, the authorized officials in the field of security check and test the video surveillance equipment, which records the defined route in order to prepare a security plan with which the persons from the protocol of the respective institution, who are directly involved in the realization of the activity will be acquainted. After the security check, the protocol and the persons in charge of security jointly visit the facilities provided for the activity, and special attention is paid to the facilities where the overnight stay will be provided, where special security measures are provided. Mutual coordination is especially important in that domain, given that the overnight stay, i.e. the layout of the rooms is subject to the preseason list that defines the importance of the function performed by the respective person. In this regard, protocol specialists are crucial in

developing this segment of the visit. All premises are subject to electronic inspection from a security aspect and identification of all already installed electronic devices.

During the visit of the delegation, the security officers move according to the procedures, while the specialists follow the protocol behind the traffic and escort security of the vehicles, then coordinate with the vehicle with the VIP - persons and they continuously refer these persons according to the previously agreed route for movement. In this context, it must be noted that the realization of the activity itself in the process includes other segments, especially those in charge of communications and public relations who are responsible for media coverage and management of media representatives, which in practice are shown as one of the elements of the visit that are the biggest challenge. The good coordination of the protocol, security and public relations is crucial in order for the visit to be successfully realized and to annul the possibilities for unwanted situations in front of the public.

The measures and tasks in the field end after the departure of the delegation, when the installed equipment is collected and the recorded material is treated in accordance with the Law on Police, Article 65, i.e. it is recorded on external memory and handed over to the immediate supervisor.

When determining the standard operating procedure in the process of securing summits, public gatherings and similar manifestations, it is necessary to note that all measures for anti-diversion and anti-terrorist protection of people and material goods are primarily of a preventive nature, i.e. as a warning against attack (Đurković, 2011, p. 163).

What is different in the implementation of this type of activity is the fact that the number of people at the main location for the implementation of the summit is extremely large, which is a serious challenge for both the protocol and the authorized security officials. The procedure for checking the infrastructure and the location of the facility is essentially the same, ie the electronic devices and the video surveillance are checked, the route of movement is examined, an alternative route is determined. Key points for coordination between security and protocol are the entrance to the building, the entrance to the hall intended for the summit, the seat of VIPs, the place for statements and contact with media representatives and the exit strategy. Regarding the media approach, coordination with the public relations persons is previously performed, in order to accredit the interested media representatives and perform security checks, as well as escort them to the place and premises defined for the media. Ensuring security vis-à-vis media coverage and exposure is a subtle process that must be performed in accordance with the rules of maximum security and maximum openness, which requires close coordination of the persons responsible for these two segments.

### **Personal security from a geostrategic point of view**

The safety of high profile people is one of the biggest challenges in organizing high profile events, activities or visits. After all, guaranteeing safety can be seen from several aspects - the physical guarantee of the life of officials and the need for full security control in cars or rooms where the person moves or sits, which is one of the operational part of the process, as well as the presentation of the image of the state, as an organized system that has the capacity to accomplish complex tasks in an efficient manner. This can be especially taken into account when it comes to high-profile state visits where, the guest security system is in fact fully responsible for his or her personal safety, and consequently - his or her life.

Failure to meet the basic goal - the protection of the guest's life - can have serious consequences, primarily for the image and reputation of the host country, and more importantly for the relations between the countries, at a higher level. The possibility of a foreign leader or other high-ranking official losing his or her life while visiting a foreign country due to security vulnerabilities has direct consequences for the trust between the countries in question, and can be an initial trigger for further aggravation of the situation.

After all, the world has seen several such cases in history. The "Boston Globe" published an article in August 1998 entitled "Former spy says British tried to елиминирати Gaddafi", where information is transmitted from a former agent of the British service MI-5 that the British secret service planned the assassination of the then Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi in 1996, while in the Middle East an unsuccessful Israeli attempt to eliminate a high-ranking official of the Palestinian group Hamas in 1997, embarrassed the then Netanyahu government and blocked the peace process in the region (Ward, 2000 p.105).

These are plastic examples of how security (i.e., lack of security) or deliberate attempts to endanger high-profile individuals can have far-reaching consequences on the geopolitical stage, at the state level.

The seriousness of the need for maximum security must be reflected within the states, when it comes to the security of the people who have the highest state functions - monarchs, presidents, prime ministers, ministers, etc., because a successful assassination can mean a serious internal political, so and security and economic crisis.

The world remembers a number of assassinations - from the assassination of US President John F. Kennedy in 1963 and the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln in 1865 (at the Ford Theater, where no security was set up nearby), to the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, which is considered for the initial trigger for the outbreak of World War I.

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