

THE NOTION OF “DIPLOMATIC PROTOKOL” AND IT IS ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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Abstract: The main aspects of organizing diplomatic protocol are presented in the article. Also, by analyzing the diplomatic protocol, it was determined how to address it. Taking into account its main features, the article summarizes the essence of the diplomatic protocol

Key words: policy, effectively, diplomacy, protocol, ceremony, governments, international rules, language, documents, guest.

There are many instruments which make a complex and delicate mechanism of foreign policy work successfully and effectively and the diplomatic protocol is one of the most important among them. In fact, it is the core of everything related to diplomacy. Any diplomatic activity is simply impossible to imagine without diplomatic traditions and rules.

Protocol is a set of the established traditions and rules, a form of each foreign policy action of a state and its official representatives. Diplomatic ceremonial, in turn, means a strict adherence to established procedures. There has never been any public institution in the world, which existed without hierarchy and no civilization has ever existed without ceremonies.

There has been a need of order since the very emergence of society. In the modern world ceremony based on traditions and national features has become universal. Diplomatic protocol is so important worldwide for its ability to create a friendly atmosphere in relations between the governments and their official representatives.

Protocol codifies the ceremonial rules, puts them into practice and controls their implementation at the same time. According to the definition written by John Wood and Jean Serres in the book *Diplomatic Ceremonial and Protocol*, etymologically, the word “protocol” in the Byzantine diplomacy used to mean the first part of the ceremonial speech document with the list of all participants.

The concept of the state protocol exists in the practice of each country. For example, in the Provision on the State Protocol and Ceremonial of Ukraine (August 22, 2002 Presidential Decree) the protocol is defined as “a set of requirements for a general procedure for all formal occasions with the participation of the President of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Prime Minister of Ukraine, the Minister

for 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”.

The rules of diplomatic protocol are universal, based on the principle of reciprocity and on the principle of international respect, which means respect for everything that symbolizes and represents the country. The principle of mutual respect and courtesy led to the emergence and development of the diplomatic protocol in the international communication.

Protocol is not just an international code of politeness, it is quite often a huge political instrument. There are numerous examples of the “ceremonial demonstrations” in the history of diplomacy. For example, the Turkish Sultan did not want to recognize the division of Poland between Russia, Austria and Prussia. Therefore, during receptions when representatives of the diplomatic corps had to greet the Sultan, the Polish representative, though present, refused to do so. The chamberlain had to tell the Sultan that “the Ambassador went for a walk and is late because of the snow.” This statement was made independent of the season [2, p. 38-39].

In addition to deliberate protocol demonstrations, protocol confusions also happen. Usually they are caused by an inadequate preparation for the event or simply by mistake. Such situations occurred in the modern history of protocol and in the past centuries as well. Confusions made by the highest government officials are especially undesirable, since they represent the entire state.

The protocol is an international set of rules since its basic principles are universally recognized. However, one of the most important characteristics of the protocol is its ability to take national features of the countries into account. The leaders of the country may welcome guests in the secret language of diplomacy. For example, in India there is a tradition to wear a wreath on the guest’s neck where different flowers signify different attitudes of the country towards the guest. In Sri Lanka there is a tradition to strew rose petals. In Ukraine guests should be welcomed with bread and salt in order to demonstrate a friendly attitude towards them

References:

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