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STRATEGIC POSITIONS OF THE ARCTIC

Abstract. *The article dwells on the efforts of the Russian Federation to implement the global project to preserve the Arctic as a zone of peace. The Arctic is a region where all security aspects without exception are closely bound. The Arctic region is the region of great strategic importance for national defense. The implementation of Arctic zone development strategy of Russian Federation and the ensuring of national security for the period up to 2020 and the main contents of the documents of national strategy planning system provides complex escalating of competitive advantages of the Arctic zone in order to strengthen the position of Russian Federation in the Arctic, strengthening international security; the maintenance of peace and stability, as well as the intensification of international cooperation. This region should not become a new arena of international competition, a source of new threats to regional and international security. Having huge potential, Russia has objective opportunities to take a worthy place in the world civilization. Russia is open to mutually beneficial cooperation and is ready for equal cooperation with all countries of the world.*

Keywords: *Russia, Arctic, Polar, Arctic zone development strategy, USA, NATO, cooperation.*

The Arctic is certainly an integral part of the Russian Federation, which has been under our sovereignty for several centuries. So it will remain in later times, said the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin [1], emphasizing the importance of the Arctic from strategic positions.

The goals of Russia's foreign policy have a strategic, non-conjunctural character and reflect Russia's unique place on the world political map, its role in history, in the development of civilization.

At the present stage, it is obvious that the resource base, gas and oil, is developing in the Arctic. However, under the current conditions of international sanctions, expansion of intelligence and industrial development will have to be done practically without the involvement of foreign companies that have modern equipment and technologies.

In the opinion of most experts, the state program for the development of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation (the Russian Arctic) until 2020, approved by the government, although it is certainly an indispensable document, is not financed. Its financing should begin only in 2018, and

now there are only some financial decisions on the Northern Sea Route, but there is no comprehensive plan for the development of the region.

In the absence of a federal initiative to create a center responsible for the implementation of state policy in the Arctic, some regions take leadership and create similar institutions at the regional level. Thus, the main task of the State Committee for Arctic Affairs established in Yakutia is to coordinate actions to implement the republican comprehensive program of socio-economic development of the Arctic and northern regions for the period up to 2020. The committee is responsible for inter-sectoral coordination on the implementation of all planned activities, including other state programs. The second task is the development of traditional industries of the North – reindeer herding, fishing, and hunting. Thirdly, the State Committee will be engaged in improving the legislative framework. In addition, it will supervise the participation of the republic in international organizations – the Northern Forum, the Arctic Council. The Committee will coordinate the development of the Northern Sea Route and measures to clean up the Arctic territories.

Section 1. Economic development of the Russian Arctic zone. The economic development of the Russian Arctic zone took place against the backdrop of the elaborated international economic agenda in the Arctic [2, p. 414-418]. In 2016, the delegates of the Arctic Economic Council at the annual meeting in Norway's Tromsø approved the constituent documents of the organization. The NPP noted that the achievement of such an important stage in the existence of the council was made possible by the participation of Finland, Russia, Canada, Iceland, Denmark, the United States of America, Norway, Sweden, the Inuit Circumpolar Council, the Gwichi'in Council International), the Aleut International Association, the Saami Council. The Arctic Economic Council has become a business forum based on promoting intercorporate activities in the Arctic region, promoting responsible economic development and providing circumpolar business prospects for the work of the Arctic Council. The nuclear power plant includes 42 members who represent eight Arctic countries, as well as six organizations that have the status of permanent members [17].

The implementation of the Strategy for the development of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation and ensuring national security for the period until 2020 and the main provisions of the documents of the system of state strategic planning of the Russian Federation provides for a comprehensive increase in the competitive advantages of the Arctic zone in order to strengthen the position of the Russian Federation in the Arctic strengthen international security, maintain peace and stability as well as intensification of international cooperation. It is impossible to allow this region to become a new arena of international rivalry, a source of new threats to regional and international security [3, p. 113-120].

In order to develop international cooperation and preserve the Arctic as a zone of peace, it is envisaged:

- ensure mutually beneficial bilateral and multilateral cooperation of the Russian Federation with the Arctic states on the basis of international treaties and agreements to which the Russian Federation is a party, improving the efficiency of foreign economic activity;
- the interaction of the Russian Federation with the Arctic states in order to protect Russia's national interests and the implementation of the rights of the coastal state in the Arctic region provided for by international acts, including those relating to the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the continental shelf and the establishment of its external borders;
- the joint efforts of the Arctic states in the creation of a unified regional search and rescue system, as well as the prevention of man-made disasters and the elimination of their consequences, including coordination of the activities of the rescue forces;
- to strengthen bilateral relations with the Arctic states on a bilateral basis and within the framework of regional organizations, intensifying economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation, as well as cross-border cooperation, including in the field of effective development of natural resources and preservation of the natural environment in the Arctic;
- to ensure mutually beneficial Russian presence, economic and scientific activities in the Norwegian archipelago Spitsbergen;
- the assistance in the organization and effective use of transit and cross-polar air routes in the Arctic, the use of the Northern Sea Route for international navigation within the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and in accordance with international treaties of the Russian Federation;
- the activation of participation of Russian state organizations and public associations in the work of international forums dedicated to the Arctic issues;
- the regular exchange of information on the state of the environment, as well as data on the climate of the Arctic and its dynamics, the development of international cooperation in improving hydrometeorological observing systems for the Arctic climate, including from outer space;
- the organization of complex international scientific research expeditions to study the environment (ice situation, pollution level of marine waters, marine ecosystems) and the impact of observed and predicted climate changes on it;

- the development of a dialogue between the regions and municipalities of the northern states for the exchange of experience in the development of climate and energy policies;
- development of international tourism, including recreational, scientific, cultural, cognitive, environmental.

The Arctic is a region in which all security aspects are closely intertwined. It is impossible to allow this region to become a new arena of international rivalry, a source of new threats to regional and international security. Russia is open to mutually beneficial cooperation in the Arctic and with extra-regional cooperation. All the problems that arise here can and should be solved on the basis of cooperation, and the region itself can and should develop as a space for cooperation and security [4, p. 37-41].

The Russian Federation is a self-sufficient socio-political and economic part of the modern world that enjoys an exceptionally favorable geopolitical position allowing it to act as a liaison between the most important financial and economic regions of the modern world - the regions of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. The shelf of the Arctic Ocean and the Arctic territories of all circumpolar countries are rich in hydrocarbons, a significant part of which will be absorbed by Russia [5].

Section 2. Russia in the Antarctic Treaty System. The President of the Russian Federation by his Decree No. 640 of November 30, 2016 approved the Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation. Paragraph 77 of this Concept stipulates, "The Russian Federation will continue to work to preserve and expand its presence in the Antarctic, including through the effective use of the mechanisms and procedures provided for by the Antarctic Treaty system of December 1, 1959." The Antarctic Treaty, which provides for the demilitarization of the Antarctic region, its use for exclusively peaceful purposes and transformation into a zone free of nuclear weapons.

The participation of Russian specialists in the work of various bodies of the Antarctic Treaty System clearly demonstrates the active position of our state in considering the most pressing issues of the Antarctic community. In most cases, it is the adherence to principles and deep knowledge of Russian specialists that make it possible to create a correct and effective vector of development in matters of international cooperation and, thereby, to maintain the high level of the Russian Federation in strengthening its international prestige.

The Arctic is a territory of pristine untouched nature of the Arctic, rich in huge reserves of gas, oil, gold, platinum, diamonds, etc. [6]. There are scientific studies conducted by Russian scientists. At present, work is underway to extract liquefied natural gas. The main wealth of this harsh region, the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District, is hidden deep underground 3/4 of all Russian gas.

One gas well a day produces about 700 thousand cubic meters of gas, for example, it is enough to heat a small city. 220 km from Novy Urengoy, the deposit is polar, one of the largest in Russia. In a year, one Zapolyarnoye field can produce up to 130 billion cubic meters of gas; this is more than where it was not in the country.

In the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District, the development of a network of research hospitals will continue. In the field season, an international educational and scientific hospital under Nadym will be established, organized by the Tyumen State University with the support of the district.

Possessing huge potential, Russia has objective opportunities to take a worthy place in the world civilization. Russia independently, based on long-term national and state interests, relying primarily on its own forces, is able to secure its place in the world geopolitical system, the place of the world center consolidating the civilization of the Euro-Asian bloc [7, p. 245-271].

There is a concretization of geopolitical values and interests of the Russian Federation. Judging by the measures taken by the state leadership, priorities are determined in the process of promoting national, including geopolitical, interests of the state, mechanisms and institutions for their defense are being formed. To fulfill its geopolitical mission, Russia is in a position to become a center of power, attracting allies from near and far abroad, forming around itself a powerful and dynamically developing region of the world economy and culture.

The IV International Arctic Forum "The Arctic - Territory of Dialogue" in Arkhangelsk developed a draft - new version of the state program "Social-economic development of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation for the period 2020 and beyond", as well as the development of the nuclear icebreaking fleet in Russia and the deployment of human resources in the Arctic, which was sent to the regions.

The Arctic region has an exceptionally important strategic significance for resolving the tasks of defense capability and state security:

- the border for about 20 thousand km passes through the Arctic Ocean with the territories of four states (the USA, Canada, Norway and Denmark, which owns Greenland) [8, p. 128-132];
- is the operating area of the Northern Fleet;
- a number of the most important enterprises of the defense industry are concentrated;
- the island part of the Arctic zone of Russia has a special significance for the state due to the location on the islands of defense facilities of certain types of Armed Forces, border patrols, polar hydrometeorological stations and posts.

Russia is consistently increasing its presence in the Arctic, which causes discontent among the states of the world community, claiming to

strengthen their influence in the Arctic. Russia, Norway, Denmark, Canada and the United States are applying for the Arctic shelf, stretching to the North Pole [9, p. 33-37].

The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation set ambitious plans and targets for 2017, 2018, 2020. [10] on the need to ensure the state's combat capability in this region, as well as the security of the North Sea routes:

- deploy a targeting radar, a point of guidance for fighter aircraft. The main tasks: radar reconnaissance, control of the airspace of the Russian Federation in the Arctic zone;
- to provide a single shield for anti-air defense from the Kola Peninsula in the west to Chukotka in the east of the country;
- to build new year-round airfields, one of which is on the island of Alexandra Land [11, p. 50-53];
- to deploy a link of fighters;
- to ensure the safety of the coastal missile systems "Bastion", modern ships and submarines, armed with complexes "Caliber" and "Onyx";
- the development of defense infrastructure in the Arctic.
- At the present stage, service members are on round-the-clock duty and large-scale exercises of the Northern Fleet are taking place in the waters of the Barents Sea, the White Sea and the Laptev Sea [12 p. 483-489; 13, p. 401 - 407]. 13 launches of sea-based and land-based cruise missiles were made. In total, more than 20 warships, more than 5,000 service members and more than 300 units of military equipment and weapons took part in the exercise.

- The Russian authorities intend to reconstruct 18 Arctic airports; an automated information system will be distributed in the Arctic region; The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation received two Arctic helicopters Mi-8; the satellite meteorological complex VBO earned in the Arctic; Russia and Finland will increase cooperation in the Arctic; Karelia was included in the Arctic zone of Russia; The Ministry of Natural Resources appointed the director of the national park "Russian Arctic"; employees of the "Russian Arctic" will study the winter retreat of the American expedition of the early 20th century.

The strategy for the development of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation and ensuring national security for the period until 2020 was developed in pursuance of the Russian Federation State Policy Framework for the Arctic until 2020 and beyond, approved by the President of the Russian Federation on September 18, 2008 No. Pr-1969, the main provisions of the documents of the system of state strategic planning of the Russian Federation.

Taking into account the state and analysis of problems of legislative support in the Arctic and Antarctic, we note a number of normative and legal acts of the federal level. Among them are the following legal documents:

- Federal Law "On Internal Maritime Waters, Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone of the Russian Federation" dated July 31, 1998 No. 155-FZ insofar as it relates to Article 34 of Part 3 and Article 37 of Part 2 on waste disposal issues;
- Federal Law "On State Guarantees and Compensations for Persons Working and Living in the Far North and Equivalent Territories" of February 19, 1993 No. 4520-1;
- The plan for ensuring border security in the Arctic region (2010-2020);
- The Federal Law "On Ratification of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty" of May 24, 1997 No. 279-FZ;
- The federal law "On the regulation of the activities of Russian citizens and Russian legal entities in the Antarctic" dated June 5, 2012 No. 250-FZ;

The Federal Law "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation in Connection with the Adoption of the Federal Law" On Regulating the Activities of Russian Citizens and Russian Legal Entities in the Antarctic "of June 5, 2012 No. 251-FZ.

Improvement of legislative support makes it possible to implement the priority directions of the Strategy development: the complex social and economic development of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation; the development of science and technology; creation of a modern information and telecommunications infrastructure; ensuring environmental safety; international cooperation in the Arctic; ensuring military security, protection and protection of the state border of the Russian Federation in the Arctic.

The strategy defines the main mechanisms, ways and means for achieving strategic goals and priorities for sustainable development of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation and ensuring national security. The strategy is aimed at realizing the sovereignty and national interests of the Russian Federation in the Arctic and contributing to the solution of the main tasks of the state policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic, as defined in the Fundamentals. The Expert Council on the Arctic and Antarctic implements the Development Strategy by consolidating the efforts of all interested subjects of the state policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic (federal bodies of state power, state authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, the territories of which are wholly or partly part of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation, and

organizations) to solve key problems of the development of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation and ensuring the national security in the Arctic.

Russian politicians and the military have repeatedly stated that political and military pressure from the United States and NATO in the Far North is increasing [14, p. 8-13]. Canada joined the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in 2003. About the claims for the expansion of its continental shelf declared in 2013. Canada's intention is to prove that the Canadian Arctic zone belongs to the North Pole. Also in 2013, Canada expressed concern about the increasing presence of the Russian Federation in the Arctic [16, p. 109].

They argue that the US and some other NATO countries (especially Norway) are trying to undermine Russia's position and reduce its presence in the region by actively penetrating the Arctic. They strongly emphasize the fact that on the other side of the border the forces of the alliance continue to oppose the conventional and strategic forces of Russia. Russia is very suspicious of military exercises, even small in scale that NATO is conducting in close proximity to its borders. Programs to modernize the armed forces of the Arctic coastal states also raise serious concerns for Russia. President of Russia V.V. Putin at the plenary session of the forum "Russian Energy Week" said that the country is honest with its partners and does not play a double game with anyone. However, not all states in the world are striving for good-neighborly peaceful coexistence. Russia is ready for equal cooperation with all countries of the world.

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