

U.S. Response to Jihad Declaration by “Al-Qaeda” in the Context of the Processes in Afghanistan (2001 September- December)

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Ответ США на объявление джихада «Аль-Каидой» в контексте процессов в Афганистане (сентябрь - декабрь 2001 года)

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Аннотация: Эта статья посвящена дипломатическим и военным операциям США в сентябре-декабре 2001 г., когда в ответ на заявление лидера «Аль-Каиды» Усамы бен Ладена о джихаде он совершил террористические акты. Проблема иллюстрируется действиями в Афганистане, сочетающими действия местных талибов по защите «Аль-Каиды». Актуальность темы заключается в том, что терроризм по-прежнему представляет собой серьезную угрозу для систем безопасности международного сообщества. Недавние события в Афганистане еще раз продемонстрировали растущую угрозу терроризма в регионе и во всем мире. В статье кратко представлена текущая ситуация в США, актуальные вопросы и действия. Мы стремимся представить радикальное изменение политики США в отношении «Аль-Каиды» по примеру Афганистана.

Ключевые слова. Аль-Каида, Усама Бен Ладен, джихад, ислам, США, ЦРУ, терроризм, Афганистан, Талибан

ԱՄՆ-ի արձագանքը «Ալ-Կաիդա»-ի կողմից հայտարարված ջիհադին Աֆղանստանում ընթացող գործընթացների համատեքստում (2001թ. սեպտեմբեր-դեկտեմբեր)

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Ամփոփում. Այս հոդվածում հիմնական շեշտը դրվում է ԱՄՆ-ի կողմից իրականացված դիվանագիտական և ռազմական գործողություններին, որոնք իրականացվեցին 2001թ. սեպտեմբեր- դեկտեմբեր ամիսներին ի պատասխան «ալ_Կաիդա»-ի և նրա ղեկավար Ուսամա բեն Լադենի կողմից ջիհադի հայտարարման և ահաբեկչական գործողությունների իրականացման: Խնդիրը ներկայացվում է Աֆղանստանում իրականացված գործողությունների օրինակով, համադրելով տեղի Տալիբան կազմակերպության իրականացրած գործողությունները, «ալ-Կաիդա»-ի պաշտպանության և պատասխարման նպատակով: Թեմայի արդիական լինելը կայանում է նրանում, որ այսօր էլ ահաբեկչությունը առկախված վտանգ է միջազգային հանրության և անվտանգային համակարգերի համար: Նաև վերջերս Աֆղանստանում տեղի ունեցած իրադարձությունները ևս մեկ անգամ ապացուցեցին ահաբեկչության վտանգի մեծացման մասին տարածաշրջանում և ողջ աշխարհում: Հոդվածում հանգմանալիորեն ներկայացվում է ժամանակին ԱՄՆ-ում գոյություն ունեցող իրավիճակը համապատասխան խնդիրները և գործողությունները: Նպատակ ունենք ներկայացնել Միացյալ Նահանգների իրականացրած քաղաքականության կտրուկ փոփոխությունը «ալ-Կաիդա»-ի նկատմամբ հենց Աֆղանստանի օրինակով:

Հանգուցարաններ՝ «ալ-Կաիդա», Ուսամա բեն Լադեն, ջիհադ, իսլամ, ԱՄՆ, ԿՀՎ, ահաբեկչություն, Աֆղանստան, Տալիբան:

Introduction

An event took place in the United States on September 11 in 2001¹, which would change the attitude of many countries in the world towards terrorism, including Islam. That day, 19 terrorists hijacked four planes, threatening to blow them up. There was one pilot in each terrorist group. The two terrorist groups are flying to the two towers of the World Trade Center. The third plane headed for the Pentagon-crashing into a Pentagon building in Virginia. The other, according to various sources, was heading to Washington, but because of the resistance of the passengers, the terrorists do not reach their ultimate goal and the plane falls in Pennsylvania. Al Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden, has claimed responsibility for the attack.² This was the result of the jihadist call struggle which he addressed to his fellow "brothers". This was Bin Laden's first practical move to declare war to the United States. However, it is obvious that the roots of this terrorism go back to earlier times.

During the Cold War, Afghanistan became a hotbed of conflict between the two world powers. On December in 1979 subdivisions of soviet army invaded Afghanistan to protect the local communists. This invasion caused caused big dissatisfaction in almost all muslim countries and adding to this the extremist and radical Islamic aspirations during this period Afghanistan might become one of the strongholds of the jihadist struggle. On behalf the Central Intelligence Agency this process was greatly supported by the US special services and through their meditation an anti-Soviet "coalition" began to form gradually increasing budget and military support to local Islamist forces [1, p.3-4].

In fact, there was no military or propaganda assistance at the official level in Afghanistan, by both Muslim and Western countries with the exception of the Soviet Union, which sent armament to Afghanistan. Here, the interests of Muslims were defended by various Islamic organizations.

Already in 1984 Many foreigners joined the many mujahideen fighting on the spot (mostly arabs), alongside the numerous Muslims in Islamic camps.³ On the other hand, several Islamic countries

began to unite and provide their support to mujahideen in the Afghan-Pakistani border areas directing the latter against Soviet armament. [1, p. 4-10].

The events which took place in further period: withdrawal of Soviet armament and the policy pursued by the West, forced the already militarily established mujahideen to change the direction of their struggle. Many, led by Osama bin Laden, believed that the fight should be waged against a "distant enemy" [2, p 38-39] by putting forward a new concept of struggle with a few basic ingredients which included to declare war to the United States and its allies, considering the main opponent which must be done to protect Islam and make this war universal around the world against the USA and its interests.

Subsequent US operations in Afghanistan targeted the Taliban⁴ and the neutralization terrorist organizations funded by him. Here he stood out for his authority in the fight against the Soviet forces and the main opponent of the Taliban movement Abdul Haq. Ahmed Shah Musa, one of the Taliban's main opponents, was killed in September in 2001, with whom Haq intended to open a second front against the Taliban, he was planning to defeat the Taliban, then declare the independence of Afghanistan by inviting the former king here who was in Italy at the time. Ronald Reagan's Security Adviser McFarlane expressed his support for this secret program. He appealed to the CIA to carry out this operation but the latter refused to do it related to internal dissatisfactions. Getting refusal of CIA Abdul Haq implemented it alone and died during military operations. Thus the USA lost one of his main allies in Afghanistan for the further struggle.

The first information about Osama Bin Laden

During these events Bin Laden was not perceived as a big danger to US intelligence. Certainly, he was known one of the biggest sponsors in the afghan war. Even agent Milt Braden, CIA Operations Coordinator in Pakistan notes that he is still " peripheral" figure during this period [3, p. 138]. U.S. law enforcement was well aware that he was sponsoring various funds including living expenses of the terrorist Abd al-Rahman⁵ in America. Bin Laden's name became more widely circulated when his connection to Ramzi Youssef was revealed. The CIA released reports about their connection. It was mentioned in these reports that they first met in afghan capms early in 1900s. Here,

¹ The definition of the term "terrorism" developed by UN General Assembly is the following: "Terrorism" is defined as illegal, deliberate act of any individual or group criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.

² Al-Qaeda is a terrorist organization belonging to the Wahhabi branch of Islam.

³ Translated as a participant in jihad, Arabic literally means "fighter who makes efforts"

⁴ The Taliban (/ˈtælibæn, ˈtɑːlɪbɑːn/; Pashto: طالبان, romanized: ṭālibān, lit. 'students' or 'seekers') is an Islamist religious-political movement and military organization in Afghanistan

⁵ He is considered one of the founders of al-Qaeda.

after making these revelations, another problem arose for the CIA, it was understanding the connection between extremist islamists and rich arab donors who were financing terrorist rganizations.

It is obvious that the terrorist acts carried out in the 90s [4] and jihad as well against all americans should cause the hardening and gruff change of american policy.

Consequently, a new doctrine was developed to implement US policy, which was to guide the fight against al-Qaeda. The main principle of this doctrine was the following: with or without allies a comprehensive, long-term war on terror, which would take place in the "heart" of enemy's territory.

In general, until 2001, the US presidents, including George Bush, did not pay attention to terrorism. That is, they didn't consider it the main danger for the US population.

Why? Because there was no terrorist attack in the area of the US. First was attack on the World Trade Center in 1993, which have been possible to prevent. After that the American authorities didn't take serious the terrorists, even more after the attack on American embassies. And when Bin Laden was declaring war to the US, it was just causing laughter for American authorities.

The Bush Doctrine

The policy implemented after 9/11 was guided by the Bush Doctrine, which became more obvious in 2003 when they invaded Iraq. This doctrine is often presented in different ways, for example, many believed that this is a direct military intervention in all the regions, which are a threat to the US or if the processes going on there are against the interests of the US. This policy was partially implemented in the Middle East under the crape of fighting global terrorism of course, we are talking about the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

This policy was first referred to as "the Bush Doctrine" by the Bush administration when the US Vice-president Dick Shane announced in 2003 that those who doubt the seriousness of the Bush Doctrine should pay attention to the fate of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

This doctrine especially developed after September 11th. In general, that terrorist attacks were a turning point in the further development of American foreign policy. Later, during the discussion in the Congress a strict statement to ensure the validity of this doctrine.

" We will pursue nations that provide aid or safe haven to terrorism. Every nation in every region now has a decision to make: Either you are with us

or you are with the terrorists. From this day forward, any nation that continues to harbor or support terrorism will be regarded by the United States as a hostile regime [5]".

*George W.
Bush*

As the former White House speaker should have noted in his autobiography, this doctrine first became known or revealed on September 31st in 2001 and this should be a red light for the US military to carry out further military incursions in various regions.

On the morning of September 12, the CIA reported to President Bush about some evidence that al-Qaeda was organizing and about that it continues to be a major threat to terrorists. Many thought the first attacks were just the beginning and the agency network assumed that the next attack would be to the US Congress.

As a result of further preventive actions, several terrorists were killed by the Pentagon and Among them was Ayman al-Zawahri, the second commander of the Egyptian group.

However, it continued to be a major issue for the CIA how to get to Bin Laden and destroy the destroy al-Qaeda and Taliban regimes.

The new CIA leadership has already offered President Bush to carry out a plan, which was to start a war in Afghanistan using local forces. They thought it was possible to gather about 20,000 fighters here by using the military resources of coalition partners.

But there was another problem: whether bin Laden was in Afghanistan or no. This was followed by Rumsfeld's second question: whether they are fighting against al-Qaeda and bin Laden or just against the terrorism in general. In fact, the destruction of bin Laden was considered a priority but this was only one part of the chain and the final was the overthrow of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

In fact, this new policy assumes some staff changes. During this time, Tom Ridge was appointed Secretary of Homeland Security. Serious staff changes began, changes were made in the policy pursued by the Federal Bureau of Intelligence. The Bureau began to act more cautiously, first of all, to ensure priority security in the country to avoid such terrorist acts. The main purpose of the US special services was to arrest members of al-Qaeda and the Taliban wherever they were and get information on where the next terrorist attacks will take place.

In general, the fight against al-Qaeda was based on the principle "if you are not with us, then you are against us." But to be guided by this principle it was quite important to present a diplomatic explanation.

The US decided to unite several countries around it to start a concrete struggle both in the Middle East and in Afghanistan against local terrorists.

In fact, two states would be in a deadlock in both regions, who informally but secretly expressed their support for the terrorists. We are talking about Pakistan on the Afghan front, and Saudi Arabia in the Arab world. In the first case, there was a demand to end support for the Taliban regime against the Pakistani government. Pakistan is playing a key role in destroying al-Qaeda. The President of Pakistan General Pervez Musharraf had no choice but to tacitly agree. But there was a bigger problem here, bin Laden had a lot of support in this region, which we can't say about his support from the Saudis. The contradictions between the US authorities and Saudi family are even earlier but it is a fact that during that time, there was already a deep crisis between the leaders of the two countries, which deepened especially when the Saudis refused to allow the US military to use local military bases to strike at terrorist forces in Afghanistan.

Military operations in Afghanistan

To a certain extent, having imagined what actions should be taken against "Al-Qaeda", the US military forces went on the offensive. Already in October, military operations began in Afghanistan. One by one, the US military forces attacked the military centers of Al-Qaeda. Of course, of these strikes, the Taliban's positions in Afghanistan were the most weakened, but they were well aware of the price they had to pay for leaving bin Laden in Afghanistan. However, this price was quite expensive, since thousands of Afghans were killed in the first days of air strikes, and American forces were preparing for a land attack that would directly weaken the Taliban's position in Afghanistan.

At the same time, the Bush administration waged an active information war. They began to put pressure on the Qatari authorities to stop their main TV channel Al-Jazeera from broadcasting video messages that came from Al-Qaeda. Because the American intelligence services believed that these messages could contain codes, subtexts, through which the messages would go to terrorist American or European networks and a wave of new terrorist attacks would begin.

In the end, the United States moved to drastic actions in Kabul, the editorial office of Al-Jazeera was bombed twice by the American air force, which caused the entire crew to leave Kabul and no longer cover Al-Qaeda on the spot [7, p. 253].

These actions became more widespread, as a result of which thousands of Afghans were injured or killed, this led to deep discontent on the part of

international organizations, and President Bush was forced to address the people with a speech:

"The United States of America is the friends of the Afghan people, and at the same time it is the friends of more than half a billion Muslims around the world" [7, p. 254]:

George Bush

These attacks began to give their first results in terms of weakening the Taliban's position in Afghanistan. One of the three leaders of Al-Qaeda, Mohammed Atef, was killed as a result of American air attacks, while representatives of Al-Qaeda gathered for a meeting. This Egyptian was with Bin Laden back in the 1980s. He was one of the first to develop attacks back in East Africa, and he had military camps in Afghanistan. These events took place in November 2001.

After these events, Osama moves to Tora Bora⁶, which can be considered one of the most dangerous places in the world. After the defeat in November, Osama bin Laden and his associates moved here. According to the American secret data, a meeting was to be held here, at which further terrorist attacks in Europe and the United States of America were to be discussed.

2001. the last Al-Qaeda fighters continued to hold the Tora Bora area in their possession. On December 3, 2001, a group of American special services consisting of 20 people invades Jalalabad, Afghanistan, using a helicopter to launch this operation. In the initial segment, it becomes possible to free the caves located below from the Al-Qaeda fighters. Giving approximate targets where the main military bases of Al-Qaeda are located, the American secret services ordered to bomb these territories. For 72 hours, US Military forces actively bombed the area. Then the Al-Qaeda fighters were forced to retreat from higher positions and cede important areas

Later, British forces joined the American secret services and, having inflicted powerful blows on Al-Qaeda, forced them to retreat. Having already admitted defeat, Al-Qaeda began negotiating with the local Afghan military command to give its time to lay down its weapons. However, many researchers believed that this was the present time when the leadership of Al-Qaeda in the person of Osama bin Laden had to leave the territory. On December 12, fighting resumed and it became clear that the terrorists were buying time for the main forces to come out with the white mountains to the territory of some Pakistani tribes. New attacks have already begun on the territory of the tribes, but to no avail. The United States continued to turn its

⁶ It was a cave area located in the mountains of Afghanistan, where the strongholds of Al Qaeda and the Taliban are said to be located.

attention to Tora Bora, concentrating more than 2,000 soldiers here. In fact, the result of all this was several military camps that were found, which were considered valuable for the American media [8].

However, many researchers continue to note that the main purpose of these failed actions was the detention of Osama bin Laden, which also failed to be carried out by the American special services. Many noted that Bin Laden managed to escape from this region and once again escape from the field of view of the American special services. Hopes of finding Osama bin Laden seem to have faded, and there were several good reasons for this. Firstly, even during this period there were just assumptions about where bin Laden was located, however, as such, there was no evidence of bin Laden's presence here, there were just assumptions. However, his presence in Tor Bor was more justified, since there was specific information that the leadership of Al-Qaeda in the person of Osama bin Laden is located in this territory. After these events, many believed that it would have been impossible to find bin Laden, since he and the main forces loyal to him retreated to the mountains, taking refuge in areas of military importance for Al-Qaeda. According to various critics, after these events, the American intelligence services could not find any information that would bring them to some extent closer to finding Osama bin Laden [9, p. 43-50].

Conclusion

In fact, the terrorist acts that occurred in September 2001 were supposed to be a turning point in the implementation of foreign policy actions of a number of countries, because the world began to look at terrorism from a tougher position, which at the initial stage was not considered a great threat. However, what happened in the United States should be a call to sanity for the leaders of the countries, since, being considered one of the most developed and powerful countries in the world, the United States could not prevent terrorist acts that were supposed to take the lives of several thousand of its citizens.

This man became the main target of the American special services, and Bin Laden himself was well aware of this, and it was no coincidence that he began to call on all Muslims of the world to commit terrorist acts in whatever corner of the world

they were located. In fact, when American forces were focused on finding bin Laden, the Al-Qaeda terrorist network began to prepare new attacks, and it was curious that these opposing actions were carried out without the consent of the center, because every time they got in direct contact with the leadership of Al-Qaeda, it was considered very possible to discover the location of the same Osama bin Laden and other leaders, which Al-Qaeda fighters tried in every possible way to prevent. In fact, Osama bin Laden became one of the most fear-spreading and terrifying people around the world until 2011, when the Obama regime, which came to power, brought the main goal of the American authorities to the goal for almost a decade.

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