

## Dear readers!

In the 30th issue of the Internal Security Review, we are pleased to present you with some interesting articles that - for geostrategic reasons - focus on the threat to the security of the Republic of Poland from the east. Among other things, we offer an interesting analysis on the so-called Prigozhin's rebellion, which is one of the biggest mysteries of the war in Ukraine, the characteristics of the Russian Federation information activity, a description of its methods of circumventing EU financial sanctions, as well as an attempt to explain one of the most Machiavellian operation in the history of intelligence in the form of the takeover of almost the entire Crimean Security Service staff of Ukraine by the Russian internal service. The subject of external threats - indirectly - is included in the text devoted to legal aspects of the amendment of the Polish Criminal Code with regard to the crime of espionage.

It is worth recalling that the Internal Security Review is celebrating its 15th anniversary. For more than a decade, our semi-annual journal has been striving to be a platform for the exchange of ideas between the secret services community and the academic world. We are the only professional journal dealing with the activities of these service *sensu largo* and we have - as a periodical published by the largest secret service of the Republic of Poland - the potential to moderate the public discourse in this area, combining scientific achievements with practical experience. Indeed, the Internal Security Agency is a source of knowledge about actual threats to state security. However, without superimposing scientific theories on this data, it is difficult to draw broader conclusions and formulate forecasts. In contrast, scientific research devoid of factual basis and source knowledge takes on a speculative and academic character, detaching itself from reality. Combining these two perspectives creates complementarity and

synergy. This is why we are guided by the idea of being a hub integrating different communities interested in issues of state security and promoting knowledge in this area. We are convinced that the worst thing for secret service is to remain stuck in the old ways - to be a reactive, uncreative and stiffened by bureaucratic procedures part of the public administration. The Internal Security Review is - in our view - one of the necessary elements of the ongoing development of these services and the evolution of their operation paradigm instead of the unreflective reproduction of operational, analytical and organisational dogmas. In order to achieve such an ambitious aim, we strive to maximise the range of topics covered in our pages by inviting specialists from many fields, not just narrowly conceived security sciences. We start from the premise that issues related to the secret services *ex definitione* are multidisciplinary. In 15 years, we have managed to gather around the journal a group of people who try to implement new theoretical approaches in the activities of secret services, as well as to feed the academic world with the knowledge drawn from the experience of operational and analytical officers. We hope that this group will continue to expand and develop a platform to intensify interaction between secret services and expert as well as scientific communities.

We would like to thank all the people who have contributed to our journal over the years - editors-in-chief, members of the Academic Editorial Board, editorial secretaries, reviewers, authors and members of the editorial team. Without you, your work and enormous commitment, there would not be the Internal Security Review. You were the architects of its heritage and the guarantors of its quality. We would also like to thank our Readers, some of whom have accompanied us almost from the beginning. We believe that our magazine will continue to be an important and necessary voice in the discussion of the secret services of the democratic Republic of Poland.

Editor-in-Chief  
Marek Świerczek, PhD