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ANNALES DU CONCOURS

Accès au corps des attachés de la DGSE

Épreuve d'admissibilité :
anglais

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DE LA SÉCURITÉ EXTÉRIEURE
DGSE

Session 2022

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2ème épreuve d'admissibilité

Anglais

Épreuve d'anglais constituée d'une série de quatre questions à réponse courte traitant de problématiques dans les domaines européen, international et économique, rédigées en langue anglaise et nécessitant une réponse rédigée en langue anglaise. Chaque question peut être accompagnée d'un ou plusieurs documents en rapport avec la question posée qui n'excèdent pas une page au total.

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DE LA SÉCURITÉ EXTÉRIEURE
DGSE

Durée : 2 heures - coefficient 3

CONCOURS EXTERNE
POUR L'ACCÈS AU CORPS DES ATTACHÉS

SESSION 2022

<u>Epreuve d'admissibilité</u> : **Anglais**

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Durée : 2 heures ; coefficient 3

Vous répondrez en anglais à chacune des questions ci-dessous. Chaque question est notée sur 5 points.
NDE - aucun document n'est fourni en appui de ces questions.

Questions :

1) Since the 17th century, Russia has tried to have an access to the Mediterranean Sea. With the help of Syria and more or less Turkey and eventually the war in Ukraine, it has succeeded in making a sure way. Should we think that these facts could lead Russia to stop the invasion of Ukraine or should we fear a never ending agression policy ?

2) « Hoods make not monks » (W. Shakespeare). The EU has just opened a new era on an economical point of view, with Mrs Lagarde for the Covid 19 budget for the vaccine and then on a military level with a large support to the Ukrainian army.
   Would you say it can bring a decisive direction towards a true « Unified Europe » ?

3) Our modern armies usually include Air Force, Marine... and cyber defense, space command...
   What, in your opinion, is the weight of Intelligence nowadays ?
   How should it be shaped in the near future in Western countries and particularly in ours ?

4) The FED (NYT.26.08.22) said the Central Bank would continue to forcefully combat inflation and acknowledge that rising rates would be painful.
   ln the perspective of Midterms Elections, is it necessary, unuseful or something else in your opinion ?

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Copie ayant obtenu la meilleure note

Anglais

L'administration n'a volontairement pas corrigé les imperfections de fond et de forme dans la copie communiquée ci-après.

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DE LA SÉCURITÉ EXTÉRIEURE
DGSE

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Année : 2022

Concours : externe pour l'accès au corps des Attachés

Épreuve : Anglais

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(1) Specialized press regularly argues that Russian interventions in Syria to support Bashar Al Assad's regime and in Ukraine since Crimea's invasion in 2014 are largely driven by Putin's will to secure his access to the Mediterranean Sea. It is true that the conquest of Crimea and the Sebastopol port gave Russia access to 80% of the Ukrainian fleet in the Black Sea, opening the road to the Mediterranean Sea. However, is it the only explanation for Russian ingerences? If it's the case, why would war still rage in the East of Ukraine? Accessing the sea is one motivation among others (2)

Gaining access to the sea is essential for a state out of strategic and business concerns. Since 2015, Russia therefore has been helping Bashar Al Assad's regime to regain control over Damascus and its coastal infrastructures namely in order to give the Russian fleet the ability to harbor in the Mediterranean waters, but also to keep open a commercial road to mediterranean countries. In Ukraine, the conquest of Sebastopol port is synonymous for a conquest of the Black Sea, enabling Russian fleet to safely fire missiles over Ukraine - or potentially other countries - from the sea.

However, as proven by Russian ingerence in Kazakhstan's affairs in January 2022 or in Georgia in 2008, agression policy can also be

...1. B...

driven by other reasons. Protecting allied governments is therefore one of the key drivers of Russian military interventions, even against their own people's will (arab spring in Syria in 2011, Maidan revolution in Ukraine in 2014...) Furthermore, when it comes to Ukraine, Russian policy is intending to fight against what it perceives as a western endigrement (former Soviets Republics joining the European Union and NATO on a regular basis, namely the baltic countries between 1999 and 2004).

To conclude, the Moldavian President's visit in Paris in November 2022 confirms that Russian appetite goes beyond Mediterranean countries: the country is asking for help in the West by fear of Russian ingerence in its affairs, namely because of the presence of a lot of Russian-speaking inhabitants in Transnistria.

(2) Whether at political, economical or defense levels, the European Union has been struggling since its creation to unify European countries in order to prevent war. After various ups and downs (i.e. the failure of the European Defense community in 1954), the recent delivery of European weapons to Ukraine both bilaterally and through the E.U. (worth 30+ billion euros) as well as the "RePower EU" plan suggests new unification progress. But are common enemies (CoviD, Russia, global warming) sufficient to unlock further European unification processes? The European Union looks strengthened in front of those recent crises (1) but they also highlight internal tensions (2)

Various European programms emerged from the CoviD and the Russian crises. In the field of energy, the E.U. launched the "Repower EU" plan

in order to diversify European energy sources. The plan involves common acquisition of American liquid natural gas as well as the deployment of new solar panels in the region. In the field of cybersecurity, the European Commission launched on November 15th 2022 a Call for Proposals to improve all the European cyber security operation centers (80m € grants). In the field of military affairs, the EU provided Ukraine with a 1billion € - grant to acquire military systems and ammunitions, while encouraging its member states to deliver military systems to the country (French Caesar canons, Italian anti-char missiles...) At last, in front of the Covid crisis, the European Union acquired millions of vaccination doses for distribution to the most exposed member-States.

This European euphory however suffers from internal tensions = after its refusal to welcome Syrian refugees in 2015 despite quotas of the Dublin II european directive, the Visegrad Group (Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia... and not Poland this time) refused to be part of the European boycott of Russian oil and gas, by fear of prices' uprising. Hungary also refused to deliver weapons to Ukraine for the same reason. Therefore, the European Union is forced to make exemptions in its initiatives.

In short, Putin is unwillingly enforcing the European unification with his war in Ukraine, despite some internal tensions. That's why Serbia, North Macedonia and other Balkan countries claimed again their will to join the EU during the EU-Balkan Summit at Tirana (Albania) this week: the European Union looks like a safe harbor to them in front of the Russian agression policy.

(3) The recent Solarwinds affair as well as the decade-old Snowden's revelations prove how critical intelligence and cyber intelligence are today, whether for governmental affairs or for business. The era of mass surveillance, whether through submarine cables (Echelon, Babar operations) or smartphones (Pegasus affair) is an incredible opportunity for intelligence services to increase their footprint in threat anticipation. But up to which limit? The arising of technical intelligence (Cyb INT / SIGINT, IMINT) (1) goes along with the need for democratic controls and barriers to protect privacy (2).

Recent debates in France about the interest of merging technical directions of various intelligence and military entities (DGSE, DRM...) into a single organization highlights how technical intelligence has become a must-have for governments. Whether through the Echelon programm or through various cyber operations (Stuxnet 2010...), the American NSA (National Security Agency) displayed impressive capabilities to its western fellow countries. It explains why the DGSE or the Bundesnachrichtendienst are targeting technical and cyber profiles in their recruitment campaigns as a priority. Technical intelligence was for instance key for France in 2003: thanks to the advanced IM INT capabilities of its military intelligence services (DRM), the government did not blindly trust American allegations of military nuclear facilities in Iraq and therefore sovereignly chose not to be part of the western coalition.

Mass surveillance capabilities of intelligence services however rise some questions concerning privacy infringement. In 2015, the French government therefore created a National Commission in charge of controling (even a posteriori, it's better than nothing) surveillance operations led by intelligence services. On the

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protection side, the European Union also enforced privacy respect by creating the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) so as to force organisations hosting personal data to encrypt it (which is a good protection against data theft by criminals ... or foreign intelligence services).

While technical intelligence has become a transversal needs for air forces (operation Orchard in Syria, 2009), police forces (use of Imsi-catchers and Wifi-catchers to intercept terrorists' communications) and governments in Western countries (French non-involvment in Iraq, 2003), its use must be restricted by the law in order to avoid abusive surveillance operations (i.e. Watergate scandal under Nixon)

(4) While a small inflation (< 2%) is rather praised by Western Central banks in order to avoid the vicious circle of deflation (Great Depression of the 1930'), recent crisis in Ukraine and the aftermath of the Covid-19 epidemia dangerously increased inflation rates with 10% inflation rate in the UK in 2022, 6% in France. In this regard, was Biden's government annunce in August 2022 about the Central Bank fighting inflation and rising rates a pure electoral message,

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in view of the mid-terms elections? In front of rising inequalities in the country, we may claim that it is a real will of the government to ease the pain of its people against rising prices. But Biden's administration's message was however not innocent knowing that he could lose the House of Representatives during the midterms elections of November 2022: in reality, a bit of worldwide inflation outside of the USA may be good for the US dollar value.

As soon as salaries do not follow inflation rates, people - especially the poorest - are exposed to a rising cost of living. In a world were 20% of people possess 80% of wealth (source: Oxfam), the United States of America are considered as one of the most inequal countries in the world, with billionaires flying in space for fun (Richard Branson from Virgin Galactic, 2021) while homelessness is still a real plague for metropolis. Furthermore, high inflation rates retain banks from granting credits to buy homes or appartments, condemning ownership capability of people and therefore enforcing inequalities. Therefore, the FED's annunce was quite politically and economically senseful.

However, one may also consider Biden's message as a political message in view of reassuring its grassroots, its voters for them to vote for the democrats at the Midterm elections. In reality, a bit of worldwide inflation can be interesting for the American abroad business: as long as inflation rates are higher in Europe than in the USA, the value of dollar is increasing in comparison with euro, enabling US companies to buy more products for less dollars.

The FED's message was therefore necessary from an internal political point of view but can be challenged at an economic level.

G.I.B.