ABSTRACT

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND BRITAIN IN THE CONTEXT OF BREXIT

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Great Britain, Spain's maritime neighbor, is traditionally a difficult partner of Spain. Since the beginning of 2016, there have been loud statements by Spain about its desire to own Gibraltar together with Britain. These statements intensified especially after the British referendum on leaving the EU (the so-called «Brexit»). The people of Gibraltar voted almost unanimously to stay in the European Union. Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Garcia-Moralo said he thought the best was the transition period, when two flags would fly over Gibraltar. As soon as Britain leaves the EU, all treaties on Gibraltar will lose their legitimacy and will have a special status. However, Spain's initiative still remains unanswered by official Brussels [1].

The second problematic aspect of bilateral relations between Spain and the United Kingdom is the attitude towards the EU itself, as the latter is a supporter of «euroscepticism» and does not want to see the EU as something more than an economic union. Spain, in turn, is a supporter of the European Constitution and supports the delegation of some national powers to the EU. This divergence of interests between the two neighboring countries became especially noticeable after the British referendum on leaving the EU on June 23, 2016. Spain stated that it respects the decision of the people of Great Britain and does not deny their will [2].

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has said that Spain opposes any talks with anyone other than the British government, and that if Britain leaves the EU, Scotland will be forced to do so [3].

Conclusions. Experience shows that international support and assistance is not only the affirmation of a positive image of one's country among partner countries and public diplomacy, but also a certain practice of crisis management or significant prevention.

References: