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With deepest affection I would like to greet you on behalf of the University's staff and from myself personally with the beginning of our Conference. We have high expectations for the results of its work, since the issues put before the consideration of the conference are of great importance both for the institutions of higher education of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and for the National Police.

Reformation – is the process, which is as necessary, as equally painful. Destruction of stereotypes, the transition to something new never passes quickly and smoothly. The natural desire to see positive changes rather often leads to the opposite result. Let's, for the example, consider the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police”. Legislators had to eliminate significant gaps there, but some of them still exist, the work in this direction continues.

The issues related to the training of police officers outlined by the mentioned Law in general, leave more questions than answers. However, we are guided by the Laws of Ukraine “On Education”, “On Higher Education”. But the laws, in my opinion, should not exhaustively regulate all the details of any process. Their task is to establish the frameworks how this process should take place. Details – are the tasks of subordinate acts of various levels. And there is a wide scope of activities is now open for rule-making field. The Ministry is very active on preparing a number of relevant regulations, a number of participants in the current Conference take an active part in this process. I am confident that the recommendations of the Conference will be very useful in this regard.

Especially inspiring is the fact that the Conference has the status international. So, we really need a foreign experience based on many years of practical work. I will say more: limiting ourselves to our own best practice, we are very at risk not achieving the set goals. Self-isolation in the age of globalization makes for misery. Of course, the mechanical transfer of international experience to domestic soil will not provide the desired results. Borrowing something from foreign colleagues, one must take into account the current system of law, positive traditions, and, finally mentality.

The system of professional selection of future police officers can not be regarded as fully formed. It is rather at the stage of formation. There are useful results, but there are also annoying, mildly speaking, failures. It seems that we need a thorough study and a comprehensive analysis of the functioning of this system, first of all, when it did not work, did not put a barrier on the way to persons unsuitable for the police service, and we have to recommend measures to prevent this in the future. There is a task for psychologists and not only for them. Physical training standards may need to be corrected, but with some caution. School leavers, unfortunately, do not always have the opportunity to achieve the desired parameters of physical development, but in a higher education institution with specific learning conditions, it is quite easy to eliminate this disadvantage, in order to be possible essentially. And now it is for doctors to decide. One must remember that the objective necessity forced to lower the health level for future police officers. Returning to the standards of physical training, I would like to express confidence in the need for their equalization for men and women. We have to follow gender equality in all areas. Criminals do not have debonair, a police officer regardless of gender, must catch the offender and then overcome his resistance.

The same goal should be subjected to the physical training of cadets. It would be advisable, in my opinion, to bring it closer to the one practiced in military educational institutions. That is, not only mastering methods of hand-to-hand combat, self-defense, neutralizing the offender, but also

working out endurance, reaction speed, etc. It would be advisable to foresee in physical training curriculums regular cross-country races. Intense physical activity, among other things, will contribute to a healthy lifestyle, which should be a norm for any police officer. In regard of students, the curriculums of physical training, for those studying in the field of “law enforcement”, must imitate a certain degree of physical training curriculums for cadets. The challenge is to allow graduates with ease to meet, at a minimum, standards for candidates for police positions. I believe, however, that the introduction of corrections to physical training and physical education curriculums should be preceded by relevant studies, the results of some of them we may become acquainted today.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs strongly demands the strengthening of the practical component of the educational process. This goal is, in particular, the acquisition of practical skills by scientific and pedagogical staff. We expect those who return to the institutions of higher education of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as practitioners who continue their service in the institutions of higher education, making propositions for the correction of tactical training programs, other disciplines based on their own experience. Of course, we can not be limited by this aspect. Tasks for scientific and pedagogical staff in close contact with practitioners, including our graduates – are constantly work on improving the educational process, because the life is not in place, and we are obliged to keep up with the requirements of the present time. That is, appropriate research should be carried out continuously.

With regard to fire training, it can be noted that cadets should primarily automatically develop the skills in safe handling of weapons. The next step is to gain the ability to apply it in extreme situations. I believe that everyone will agree that any use of weapons is an extreme case. In other words, it is a situation, when a police officer is both entitled, and obliged to use a department-issued sidearm. It is not necessary to invent them – it is enough to study carefully all the cases that have taken place in the last few years in order to distinguish typical situations, mistakes made by police officers, or, conversely, their correct actions, and to organize training process on this basis. Important components of the training process in this regard are multimedia shooting ranges.

The updating of curriculums, changing the emphasis in the training of police officers put on the agenda the issue of improving the methodological base. Manuals, textbooks, methodological recommendations, etc. as a basis for self-training, distance learning and correspondence education should not lag behind innovations within the training process, reflect and consolidate everything new, positive, everything based on the needs of practical work.

I am confident that today’s Conference will be an important stage in the process of training personnel for the National Police. I wish you all fruitful work and creative inspiration.