

Security or trade, modern or „right“ technologies – what way will choose Germany

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The United States made their choice. And now forcing the allies to follow their example. This time we are talking about a coalition agreement, under which NATO countries have committed themselves to creating a modern 5G network.

Germany decided to contact the Chinese company „Huawei“. At the same time, the Federal Network Agency (BNA) and the Cyber Defense Agency (BSI) developed certification rules and requirements for issuing a security certificate to a Chinese company. Requirements developed must ensure that the contractor does not use „back door“ technologies. These requirements apply to all equipment suppliers, including the Chinese „Huawei“.

However, this option does not suit America. This was announced by US Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell in a letter addressed to the German Federal Minister of Economics Peter Altmeier. The representative of the US embassy expressed confidence that the involvement of the „Huawei“ campaign in the development of 5G technology would jeopardize the exchange of intelligence information between the allies.

In 2018, the US banned state-owned companies from buying and using „Huawei“ equipment and accused it of using its technology to spy on China. Moreover, the United States recommended allied countries to limit cooperation with „Huawei“. As a result, Australia has banned „Huawei“ to participate in the supply of equipment for the 5G network in the country, and New Zealand did the same. But Germany, for example, is not ready to follow their example, India doubts.

In favor of Washington's arguments, Chinese legislation can serve, which obliges companies to cooperate with Beijing when it concerns national security.

It is worth noting that „Huawei” is one of the world's leading suppliers of telecommunications equipment, including for the construction of 5G mobile networks. Technologically, the campaign has gone far ahead of its competitors.

Representatives of the German security services analyzed the situation and came to the following conclusions. Currently, NATO member countries do not possess the technology offered by the Chinese firm. On the other hand, the security of software-controlled systems is difficult to guarantee, even if German power providers claim to retain full control over the system. The country's helplessness from data breaches has been demonstrated by Edward Snowden. It will be difficult to fully control „Huawei”, even despite the developed safety standards.

The situation with „Huawei” becomes the first serious test for the world order, which develops along technological lines, and not according to military logic. Now Germany faces a number of questions: what is more important, security or trade, and who is the more important partner – the United States or China?

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