

Minister of Interior (Lead Negotiator) (M)

Government of Danaan

Background

You were educated abroad but immediately after graduating, you returned to Danaan. You married your childhood sweetheart, a Tarim woman from an influential family, who has given you six children.

You have been the Minister of Interior for Danaan since the mid-90s; you were appointed to this position by President Nam after serving as a personal advisor for several years. You are proud to serve your country and the Tarim people. This position has not come without its problems though; several members of your family have received threats and now four of your children and their families live in Trumont.

You are the lead negotiator for the government, a position you have taken on proudly. While you are not the final decision maker, you are directly accountable to President Nam who will give the final approval of any agreement. Your vice negotiator, the Minister of Defense, has been a good source of support, but you want to make sure he doesn't become too confident and try to take over the process. Personally, you would like to be seen as a powerful representative of the Tarim people. You have great political aspirations and a strong role in these peace talks will help secure your political future.

While a final date and time has not been set for the formal peace talks to begin, you have agreed to meet the Alliance for Freedom and Democracy (AFD) delegation in person at some point in time to discuss the power sharing provisions of the peace agreement. This meeting will take place in Abayo (the capital of Trumont) and will include the Joint Mediation Team, the parties, and members of the Contact Group as observers. This structure has been tentatively agreed upon by both sides, but is not set in stone. Any changes to the structure and/or configuration of actors present at the talks would require agreement by the parties and support by the Contract Group.

What you hope to accomplish

The final peace agreement that comes from these talks must be written in such a way that the Danaan People's Party (DPP) can control the implementation process and benefits from any outcome as much as possible. The Minister of Defense also agrees with this approach.

For this round of talks, President Nam's demands include: (1) the DPP maintains a clear majority in the cabinet and Transitional Legislative Assembly; (2) as the majority party, the DPP should have veto power over any cabinet and judiciary appointments; and (3) the DPP retains the presidency through the transitional period. Moreover, President Nam wishes to see the percentage of DPP representatives in the Transitional Legislative Assembly raised from 55% to 75%. The official census lists the Tarim as 55% of the total population, but you believe this number to be higher, as much as around 70% due to migration of the minority groups out of Danaan in recent years. But, you believe that 75% will never be accepted by the Alliance for Freedom and Democracy (AFD). You will have to find an alternative that will be satisfying to both President Nam and to your counterparts in the AFD.

In regards to the oil industry, you will not accept any agreement that allows for AFD control of the oil fields and refineries. Oil is a natural resource that belongs to all of Danaan and thus the Government of Danaan should have full control of those resources. You could be open to having a neutral third

party, selected by the government, manage the oil refineries during the transitional period. If necessary, you would be willing to make this compromise if it helped to achieve your power sharing demands.

You want to meet with members of the Contact Group. They can be useful allies and sources of technical and financial support. Your government has historically been linked with the UK as a result of Danaan's colonial history, but you also want to meet with the US Special Envoy to advocate for the lifting of sanctions. These sanctions have been crippling. You would win a great deal of political respect if you were to achieve this. The US has significant oil interests, which you could use as an incentive for lifting sanctions. If you cannot get the US to agree on sanctions, you intend to use the peace talks as leverage – if the US won't lift sanctions, you will refuse to continue with the peace process because the international community is clearly not serious about supporting peace in Danaan.

Throughout the conflict you've heard of local women's groups negotiating access for humanitarian aid in besieged areas, and some of those groups are now advocating for women's participation in the talks. While you understand their desire to have their voices heard, these peace talks are not an appropriate place for civil society. Civil society groups, and especially women's groups, should focus on their work at the community level. There will be a time for the women's needs to be heard later in the process.

Capacity to create change

You have the ear of the president and are one of his most trusted advisors. But, any decision regarding the peace agreement will have to be approved by him. You can use this to your advantage in delaying decisions and using your image as the "nice guy" to get others to agree to your demands.

Relationships with other roles

You have met with the Joint Mediation Team as you worked with them to put together the draft peace agreement. In that process, you met with them privately on numerous occasions and expressed your demands. At the time you felt that they understood your needs. However, once you saw the draft agreement, it became clear that they took little of what you said into account. You are so far unhappy with their performance; you know that what they proposed will never be accepted by President Nam. When you meet with them, you want to reiterate your demands and make clear where the agreement falls short.

There are many individuals in Danaan trying to get a piece of this agreement. You fear that your hard work will unravel if too many people become involved. The 4Peace Member/Professor is trying to influence the talks, but you believe she is distrustful. You knew her family during the early years of independence and had a close business relationship with her father. As a favor to him, your department offered her a lucrative position that she refused. Many people would have been extremely grateful for such an opportunity, but you believe she turned it down because she thought she was superior to the job.

Your staff has previously met with the leaders of the Peace Action Group and the Danaan Interfaith Dialogue Group. While you don't agree with their assertion that civil society should have a direct role in the peace process, you want to maintain good relations with both groups; this should help boost the DPP's image and popularity among Danaanian society and the international community.