

UK Special Envoy to Danaan (F)

Contact Group

Background

You hold a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a master's in international politics from universities in the UK. Prior to becoming the UK Special Envoy to Danaan, you held a range of positions in the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the UK Department for International Development (DFID). Several years ago while at DFID, you worked with the Danaanian embassy in the UK and became interested in the agricultural challenges facing Danaan. You were appointed as the Special Envoy to Danaan over a year ago. You are happy to serve your country in this manner, but you are also quickly tiring of the challenges of working in a post-conflict country. You miss your family dearly. Your children are school-aged, and your family was therefore unable to travel to Danaan with you. You try to return to London as often as you can, but because of the intensity of the process, your last trip was over two months ago. You are ready for the process to be over so you can be reunited with your family; you intend to retire after this post.

The UK is part of the Contact Group of guarantors that includes the US and Trumont. You are all funding and providing technical resources to the Joint Mediation Team and the peace process. As a funder of the process, you have a vested interest in seeing a peace agreement reached. You may decide to provide the Joint Mediation Team with guidance when the process is being implemented in a way that you disagree with.

While a final date and time has not been set for the formal peace talks to begin, the parties have agreed to meet 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 the parties, but is not set in stone. The Lead Mediator is generally against making any changes to the structure and/or configuration of actors present at the talks; any such changes would require agreement by the parties (and Contact Group).

What you hope to accomplish

As a representative of the UK, your job is to support international efforts to secure a durable and peaceful resolution to conflict in Danaan and encourage sustainable development throughout the region. You are genuinely interested in seeing peace restored because your country benefits from strong trade relations with Danaan. You also have a military base in the country and see it as a good partner. You see great potential for economic recovery in Danaan and a possible revival of Danaan's agricultural sector. The UK and Danaan have strong economic relations and part of your mandate is to ensure that the current interests of the UK are protected and a legitimate Danaanian government is established. You want to meet with the government and AFD delegations to explain that the current British administration wants to deepen economic engagement in Danaan's agricultural sector, but will require a more stable and enabling environment for trade and investment in the near term.

You are aware of the concerns that the UN Senior Mediation Expert has made regarding the lack of inclusivity in the agreement. Based on the agricultural projects you worked on in other countries, you know how crucial it will be to include women in the efforts to revive Danaan's agricultural sector.

However, your agenda is limited by your Prime Minister's request to only explore potential economic relationships between the UK and Danaan. Because of the UK and Danaan's colonial history, your government does not want to deeply involve itself in discussions of internal matters, such as gender inclusivity and other societal/cultural values. So, unless the government and AFD prioritize women's inclusion in the peace process, you won't push that agenda.

Capacity to create change

The UK is a large financial and technical contributor to the peace negotiations. The promise of increased economic engagement in Danaan is something that the government and AFD are interested in and thus could be used as leverage to get the parties to an agreement. As a primary funder of the Joint Mediation Team, the Contact Group has the ability to put pressure on the mediation team to implement what it believes are the top priorities for reaching peace in Danaan.

Relationships with others

You have a close relationship with the Executive Director of 4Peace, who you met in the UK when her husband was a high-ranking diplomat in the Danaanian embassy in the UK. Your relationship with her has become tense because of conflicting interests in your friendship; she is pressing you to push for greater gender inclusivity in the peace agreement and does not seem to understand your responsibilities as the UK Special Envoy. As much as you would like to advocate on her behalf, you've been instructed to steer clear of anything that could be perceived as social or cultural reform.

You also have an existing relationship with the leader of the Danaan Interfaith Dialogue Group. You met him during your first post in Danaan and have remained friends. He has greatly risen in prominence since then and has become a renowned leader in Danaanian peace and reconciliation efforts. You would like to meet with him today; you believe his presence could be very influential in the peace process.

You have worked with the members of the Joint Mediation Team over the previous year and have a good working relationship with them.

Within the Contact Group, you are familiar with the US Special Envoy from prior work in the Middle East. He is hot-headed and wants to upstage the UK as the leading international supporter in Danaan. The US sanctions on Danaan's oil industry have also put a strain on the relationship between your two governments. You feel the sanctions primarily in place to serve the US' goal of ousting the DPP. Further, the sanctions are preventing the DPP government from coming to the negotiating table; the government feels it is being unfairly treated and distrusts the US and its allies. You are less familiar with the Senior Political Advisor, who is a former American diplomat. You know she is here in a non-US specific capacity, and as such is intended to support the entire contact group; however, you worry she may try to push for US interests. You have gotten to know the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Trumont throughout this process, and believe he is an honest and hardworking man who has the interests of his region at heart.

Scheduling meetings with civil society organizations is not a priority for you at this time. You are a high-level government official with many competing priorities, so unless you have a previous relationship or connection, any civil society actor must be introduced to you through another member of the Contact Group or the Joint Mediation Team.