

Minister of Foreign Affairs for Trumont (M)

Contact Group

Background

You were born in Abayo, the capital of Trumont. You are ethnically Tarim. You were a member of parliament for a number of years before being selected for the Minister of Foreign Affairs position about 3 years ago. You believe Trumont should be a leader in the region because of its peaceful transition to independence and subsequent economic growth. As Foreign Minister, your goal is to promote Trumont as a leader in the Regional Organization for Economic Integration (ROEI) and to build its reputation as a strong, stable country in an otherwise troubled region.

When war broke out in 1990 in Danaan, many in Trumont feared that there could be spillover violence; luckily the violence was contained and your country has long experienced stability. However, you believe that Trumont would benefit greatly if the conflict in Danaan was resolved. Foreign investors have been wary of investing in Trumont - this has become especially true with the growing refugee crisis.

Trumont is part of the Contact Group of guarantors that includes the UK and US; 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 if the process is being implemented in a way that you disagree with.

While a date and time have not been set for the formal peace talks to begin, the parties have agreed to meet in person at some point 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 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

You are interested in seeing peace restored in Danaan because it will benefit your country. The recent refugee crisis in Trumont has forced your government to become more actively engaged in the Danaanian civil war. The continuous influx of refugees over the course of the civil war has put a huge strain on Trumont. You are concerned that the crisis could pose a major security threat in the future. Your main priority is to resolve the refugee crisis and make sure that the peace agreement includes concrete steps for the repatriation of refugees. You are interested in getting quick resolution on the power sharing issues being discussed in this phase of the negotiation, so that the conversation can move on to issues like refugee repatriation. You will need backing from the US or UK to push your refugee agenda ahead, so in this phase you want to throw your support behind whoever will be able to help you achieve your goals.

You have the opportunity to demonstrate Trumont's leadership in the region by leveraging your connections with the negotiating parties. You want to be perceived as treating the government and AFD equally, to ensure good neighborly relations during and after these peace talks. You also want to

see use these talks to strengthen Trumont's relationships with the US and UK, both are potentially valuable economic and military partners.

Although you are reluctant to impose sanctions, Trumont could use sanctions to pressure the government and the AFD to come to an agreement. Danaan's primary import is rice from Trumont, therefore sanctions could apply considerable pressure on the parties. However, you are concerned that cutting off your primary food export to Danaan could disproportionately impact innocent Danaanians and reflect badly on Trumont within the international community. The US is pushing for Trumont to support existing US sanctions, but you believe that US sanctions are actually benefiting the AFD. Any type of embargo must be tough on both parties. If Trumont does issue sanctions, the US should provide some incentives in return, such as economic investment or improved trade relations. You are also aware that Danaan is a major oil power in your region and don't want to damage any future trade with the country.

You've heard that the UN Senior Mediation Expert is pushing for the inclusion of civil society, and particularly women, in the peace process. Overall you're not concerned with the priorities of women and civil society. The idea of including women and civil society perspectives makes sense in theory, but your top priority is to achieve peace and the repatriation of refugees in a timely manner. This type of inclusion sounds like it will slow things down. However, you might be willing to speak with civil society actors on the side of the talks if they can help you achieve your repatriation agenda.

Capacity to create change

Although you are smallest financial contributor, you are still a valuable member of the Contact Group. Because there are only three countries in the Contact Group, you could have a deciding voice on issues that divide the US and UK. The Contact Group as a whole also has the ability to put pressure on the Joint Mediation Team to implement what it believes are the top priorities for reaching peace in Danaan.

Relationship with other roles

You are acquainted with the Danaanian Minister of Defense. You are also familiar with the Joint Mediation Team and have a strong working relationship with them.

You have a good working relationship with the US Special Envoy and the UK Special Envoy. However, you get the sense that they are at odds with each other. You want to avoid this conflict if possible, because you want to strengthen Trumont's relationship with both countries. However, if things become heated, you will side with the US Special Envoy because the US will likely be a better partner in the short to medium term. The UK will be pre-occupied with issues in Danaan for the foreseeable future. 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 is supposed to support the entire Contact Group.

You have a contact at the international NGO Open Hands. She is working together with many of the Danaanian refugees in Trumont and has asked you to meet with the representative of the Women's Peace Committee. You do not have a lot of time for this meeting, but you are willing to hear her out since she is directly tied to the refugee crisis you're trying to resolve. Otherwise, it is not a priority for you to schedule meetings with other civil society groups. You are a high-level government official with many competing priorities, so unless you have a previous relationship or connection, a civil society actor must be introduced to you through another members of the Contact Group or the Joint Mediation Team.