

Minister of Defense (Vice Negotiator) (M)

Government of Danaan

Background

As a Tarim teenager, you joined the independence movement and fought alongside former President Marwat. He and others saw your military potential and in your early twenties you were sponsored by a group of elite Tarim to be educated at a military school abroad. You came back to serve your country as an officer in the Danaanian Army where you quickly rose through the ranks. President Nam appointed you to the position of Minister of Defense three years ago and you have served him loyally since. President Nam has been generous with gifts such as tracts of land for your loyalty.

You always believed you could defeat the rebels militarily and thus have not been the biggest supporter of these peace talks. However, as a representative of the Tarim-led government, you are a subordinate to whatever decisions the president makes. Because he called for these peace talks, you will support his decision and participate fully.

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

You and the Minister of Interior both want strong governance and representation of the Tarim people in any peace agreement that results from these talks. You both want to make sure that the final peace agreement is written in such a way that the DPP government can control the implementation process and make the final outcome benefit the party as much as possible.

Your orders from President Nam have outlined the following demands: (1) the DPP maintains a clear majority in the cabinet and National Legislative Authority; (2) as the majority party, the DPP should have veto power over any cabinet and judiciary appointments; and (3) the DPP gets to keep the presidency through the transitional period.

You are also particularly concerned about the security of Danaan's oil refineries and want to ensure that the AFD does not gain control through these peace talks. While the division of natural resources is not topic in this round of negotiations, it is vitally important to you. You believe that oil is central to maintaining control of Danaan; if the government should give up control, the AFD will have essentially won the war.

You also want to negotiate a final peace agreement that meets the desires of the United States so they will lift economic sanctions. They have been crippling and they must be lifted for Danaan to prosper. The sanctions are also completely unfair because they only affect the government and clearly

illustrate the US' allegiance to the AFD. You and the Minister of Interior have agreed that you want to condition the government's continued participation in talks to the lifting of sanctions. You would win a great deal of political respect from people of Danaan on all sides if the sanctions were lifted.

Like the war itself, you believe these talks should be resolved between the government and the AFD. Women and civil society groups should continue their work on reconciliation and humanitarian aid locally, while the military and AFD forces deal with the negotiations. Since women are not fighters, it should not be their responsibility to end the wars started by men.

Capacity to create change

Your finger is on the pulse of the Danaanian military. You are well respected and you have the forces needed to implement any arrangements that come out of these talks. You also believe that the government has the upper hand and that ultimately you can walk away from the table if you are not offered enough concessions. In any case, the peace talks are also allowing you to buy time to stockpile more weapons. If the talks fall through, you will be ready to fight again.

Relationships with other roles

Even though you are now on the opposite side from the AFD Commander General, the two of you once fought together for Danaan's independence. Your relationship is cordial; privately you respect him and see him as an honest person who went down the wrong path. You are also familiar with the Trumonian Minister of Foreign Affairs; you have met several times over the course of the civil war.

Your relationship with the Minister of Interior is strong, as you have served together on the cabinet for several years. However, he was very unhappy when you received the defense portfolio, which is perceived to be more powerful. This long standing grudge is ridiculous in your mind, as he has little to no military experience and does not command the same presence as you. A strong man is needed for this position, to project both the might of the DPP and the Danaanian military.

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 privately with them 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 the Joint Mediation Team, you want to reiterate your demands and make clear where the draft agreement falls short.

The head of Danaan Women's Unity League (DWUL) is the daughter of your old friend, the former Finance Minister. While there was some controversy over his departure from Danaan, you still think of him as a friend; your families became very close when you both lived in the capital. The DWUL leader has requested a meeting with you and you will be happy to see her. Her current work on women's empowerment is noble, but you think her insistence on women's inclusion in the peace talks is unreasonable and naïve. You hope to steer her in the right direction when you meet.