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MEANJIN

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NEGOTIATION

Round 3

The Republic of Proditio v North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

Jurisdiction:

International

Problem Author:

Alana Bonenfant

The Republic of Proditio v NATO

BACKGROUND

The Republic of Proditio

The Republic of Proditio ('Proditio') gained independence from the British Commonwealth in 1888. It is a constitutional federal republic and presidential system, although there is ongoing debate about whether the country operates as an oligarchy. The federal government is composed of an Executive, Legislative and Judicial branch. Internationally, Proditio is considered an interventionist military power, which maintains status as a world power. Proditio was a founding member of the United Nations and NATO.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation ('NATO')

NATO was established in the wake of WWII, in an era of idealist international cooperation. Following the allied success of WWII, allied powers entered negotiations to develop alliances with the aim of preventing and opposing Soviet influence in Eastern Europe and amongst other Axis powers.

NATO has an integrated military structure, with each country making personnel contributions to aid in its formation and maintenance. The NATO budget is built on a cost-share formula based on each country's Gross National Income. Membership is available to "any other European State in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic Area".¹

AGREED FACTS

Since NATO's formation, most member States engage with NATO at the Head of State level, sending their leaders to meetings and negotiations. Membership has grown to 31 members, including Proditio.

In February 2020, the President of Proditio, Antoinette Truman (she/her) tweeted:

"NATO is taking advantage of Proditio. Our allies must increase their defence spending by 2024 to ensure we are independently protected, rather than reliant on each other".

This tweet was favoured thousands of times and re-tweeted twice as many times, including by a number of members of EU Parliament.

The COVID-19 Pandemic was highly disruptive for the Prodition economy, adversely affecting domestic and international travel, employment, as well as imports and exports. From 2019 to 2020, the Proditian GDP contracted by 2.3 percent, which is largely attributed to delayed government action in the early days of the pandemic and reduced tourism.

In 2020, President Truman enacted stimulus packages for citizens and businesses across the country who were adversely impacted by the pandemic. The current federal debt of Proditio is 24 trillion USD. As of 2021, Proditio has a nominal GDP of 3.5 trillion USD and Gross National Income of 60,500.00 USD per capita. It has a strong industrial focus and is one of the most productive economies in the world.

A NATO Summit was due to take place in May 2020 but was ultimately moved online as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. At that session, Members agreed that the matter of individual Defence spending would be addressed at a later date, due to the emerging pandemic.

¹ North Atlantic Treaty Organization, *Membership Action Plan*.

Representatives of Proditio were present at the 2021 Brussels Summit and agreed to the requirements set upon Members with regard to cost-share contributions.

In June 2020, President Truman released an official statement:

“We are very proud of our ongoing relationships within NATO. We are disappointed, however, that discussions regarding individual defence spending have been indefinitely paused. We call on members of NATO to push for negotiations and discussions to take place as soon as possible. If this doesn’t happen, Proditio may have to evaluate its international relationships.”

NATO set a meeting in person in Meanjin on 10 July 2022. Proditio requested an individual negotiation regarding its membership and responsibilities to the organisation, on the basis that there has been no multilateral discussion of defence spending to date. President Truman has tweeted numerous times that she is prepared to withdraw Proditio from NATO if a result cannot be obtained.

Both parties have agreed to meet in Meanjin on the matter of defence spending and will negotiate in good faith.