Background

Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, the Republic of Yasric declared itself an independent country. Political and economic tensions between communities living in the north and the south led to a civil war that killed over 250,000 people. An international peace settlement ended the conflict in 2000, but it divided the country into North Yasric and South Yasric.

Twenty years later, the North and the South remain bitter enemies. North Yasric is currently a dictatorship backed by its military; political opposition in North Yasric is brutally suppressed and its GDP is currently $3.4 billion USD. Nearly 80% of North Yasric’s population does not have access to electricity.

Politics of South Yasric

The South Yasric president is elected every 6 years by a democratic vote. As the “head of state,” the president is the main figure who proposes development plans, meets with foreign diplomats and ambassadors, and steers the direction of the country. The president has the ability to remove the current prime minister but cannot select the new prime minister.

The prime minister of South Yasric is selected from the opposition party to the president. The prime minister has veto powers in legislation.

There are 7 National District Representatives (NDR) who represent their district's best interests. They are elected by their constituents every four years. NDRs vote on national legislation, such as turning on Zelfia.

Ultimately, the NDRs will vote whether to turn on Zelfia. The president will be given the opportunity to remove the prime minister before the NDR vote. If the president removes the prime minister before the vote, a new prime minister will be selected from among the executive branch. After the NDR vote, the prime minister will either approve or veto the vote.

If the prime minister approves the NDR vote, action will be taken to keep Zelfia off or turn Zelfia on. If the prime minister vetoes the NDR vote, there will be a political stalemate and Zelfia will remain off for the foreseeable future.

Development Plan

South Yasric has been a peaceful democracy since 2008 and the country is rapidly developing. In 2000, South Yasric’s GDP was $1.9 billion USD; currently, its GDP is $8.2 billion USD. Officials in South Yasric have released an ambitious development plan that aims to lift the country to middle income by 2030. Key to this development plan:

- Provide electricity to every citizen in South Yasric;
- Transition from coal to carbon-zero energy (renewable energy);
- Raise education levels to attract international investment and companies;
- Raise health and living standards;
- Improve infrastructure (roads, internet, freight);
- Protect the environment.
South Yasric Background Report

Zelfia Nuclear Plant

In 1981, ROSATOM (the Russian State Nuclear Energy Corporation) constructed and began operating the Zelfia Nuclear Plant. When the civil war started, ROSATOM evacuated its officials from Yasric and turned off Zelfia for the time being. It is currently unknown to the public whether ROSATOM properly secured Zelfia and all spent fuel; an investigation is ongoing. Improperly secured nuclear facilities or nuclear fuel pose a security risk to the region. If not secured, the nuclear power station may have been compromised during the war and fuel could be used for illicit nuclear devices.

The South Yasric government wants South Yasric Power (SYP), the country’s energy provider, to turn on and operate Zelfia. This will put power generation back in the hands of South Yasric citizens; however, SYP does not have the technical experience to operate a nuclear power plant. ROSATOM has the technical experience to operate Zelfia and wants to regain operating rights. This would allow ROSATOM to control electricity prices, power output levels, and effectively give ROSATOM the power to determine whether Zelfia is turned on or off. While ROSATOM is capable of operating Zelfia, their management would make South Yasric reliant on a foreign government for electricity needs. SYP employees would be the majority of the labor force at Zelfia, however, the Board of Directors and Executives would be ROSATOM employees.

South Yasric has 7 districts

District 1
• Capital city
• Pop: 700,000
• Mixed wealth

District 2
• Working class suburbs around capital
• Pop: 300,000
• Overcrowded, very underdeveloped

District 3
• Rural suburbs around capital
• Zelfia Nuclear Plant located here
• Pop: 150,000
• Rural, underdeveloped

District 4
• Wealthy suburbs around Capital
• Pop: 150,000
• Very wealthy, developed

District 5
• Very rural, farmlands (corn, soy, wheat).
  Does not produce enough for export, but helps support South Yasric
• Pop: 100,000
• Underdeveloped

District 6
• In mountains, economically-reliant on Anaya Coal Plant
• Pop: 220,000
• Developed, but fragile. If Anaya closed, it would be devastating

District 7
• Still recovering from conflict, very mountainous and dangerous
• Pop: 190,000
• Very underdeveloped district.

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