

Foreign Ministry of Grenesia

Country Background:

Grenesia is a regional leader and has an emerging democratic government. It is slowly shifting away from one-party rule toward democracy. Despite this transformation, underground criminal networks hold significant political and economic influence. Criminal gangs with connections to terrorist organizations control manufacturing operations in the country.



Grenesia's population is approximately 70 million people and manufacturing is the primary employer for most of its citizens. Factories on the border of Grenesia and Ekara produce goods that are shipped to countries across the globe, including Beyaria. A number of Grenesian workers are employed by factories in Ekara, and vice versa. Labor abuses documented at factories along the shared border have focused negative international attention on the industry, threatening the livelihood of local manufacturers.

Grenesia is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and acts as a "counter-balance" to the U.S. on issues regarding trade. Although it has participated in trade negotiations in the past, Grenesia views **anti-counterfeiting** laws as unfair to non-Western countries and, thus, has not sought membership in the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**.

The Grenesian government is resistant to limitations on economic production, trade, and labor practices. Exports of counterfeit products help the government offset the high cost of imported oil and other vital products. The government of Grenesia has been accused of stalling on taking the necessary steps to ensure safer factory conditions as this may alienate foreign companies coming to them for cheap labor.

In addition, factory work provides a vital income to its citizens. If the counterfeit trade ends because of more stringent labor laws, their citizens will need economic support that Grenesia cannot provide. Some U.S. companies have been investing in Grenesia, but due to advocacy efforts by SALE, several are pulling out of the country and considering moving to Ekara instead.

The manufacture of counterfeit goods in Grenesia is creating instability in the region and encouraging a rise in illicit counterfeit trafficking. This is causing concern not only for Grenesia's neighbors, but also for other countries like the U.S. who want to see the region achieve stability and economic viability.

Opening Position:

- You want the Department of State and **WTO** to recognize Grenesia's sovereignty and the importance you play politically and economically in the region.
- You suggest that Ekara should do more to tighten its border against counterfeit traffickers.
- You profess that you are committed to protecting intellectual property rights, but state that you cannot eradicate the problem overnight.
- Your citizens rely on jobs in clothing factories. You fear that the involvement of the labor organization will drive manufacturers away from Grenesia, leaving you with high unemployment.

Foreign Ministry of Grenesia

Questions to Consider:

- How could the government of Grenesia be influenced to alter its lack of policy on illicit counterfeit trafficking?
- Are there means to address the economic factors that encourage counterfeit production in Grenesia?
- In what ways can Grenesia influence Ekara's decision to join the WTO?

