

## U.S. Department of State



The State Department leads the United States in its relationships with foreign governments, international organizations, and the people of other countries. It aims to promote the security, prosperity and interests of the American people around the world. It does so by creating American jobs through support for open markets for U.S. companies; by issuing passports and providing emergency assistance to U.S. citizens abroad; by negotiating treaties to reduce nuclear weapons and equipping countries to respond to their own security challenges; by helping countries with health, food and humanitarian crises; by promoting stability, peace and human rights; and by increasing understanding of American society and values.

The United States is a member of the United Nations, but is not a signatory to the Water Convention. The U.S., Yeeland and Grusa are **economically interdependent**. The U.S. buys farming equipment from Yeeland and wheat from Grusa, and has historically had good relations with both countries.

The U.S. also has other economic interests in both countries. An American company, U.S.-Yeeland Construction, is in charge of building the **hydroelectric power** plant and the dam. This company employs approximately 4,000 Americans and 20,000 Yeelanders. If Yeeland does not finish the dam, all these people will lose their jobs and the American company will lose an entire year's worth of payments (about \$5 billion).

The State Department also leads projects to promote more efficient farming practices in Grusa. The U.S. imports a small amount of wheat from Grusa, although this amount pales in comparison to Yeeland's wheat purchases from Grusa. Additionally, crane tourism represents big business for American airlines and sightseeing companies.

U.S. scientists are also very interested in the Lauret crane because there is some evidence that a cancer medicine could be developed from the crane's saliva. Many of the avian scientists working at Lake Eco are American. These scientists have shown the State Department scientific studies indicating Lauret cranes live longer in the wild and produce more chicks than they do in zoos. Taking the birds out of their **natural habitat** would not only hinder research, but also threaten to the long-term survival of the species.

**Opening position:** Yeeland has a duty to respond to the people's need for electricity to improve their quality of life. At the same time, Grusa is right to be concerned about negative environmental and agricultural impacts. The U.S. wishes in particular to protect the Lauret crane, which our scientists believe might hold the key to significant medical advances in the future. As a friend to both Yeeland and Grusa, the U.S. supports proposal #\_\_\_\_\_ for the following reasons:

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