

Foreign Ministry of Aggravalia

Background: President Ellia Potens of the Aggravalian National Party recently came to power through a campaign that focused on foreign threats to Aggravalian sovereignty, the promise to accelerate economic development and the need to “restore national pride.” President Potens, the former Minister of Energy, blames “strict International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) rules and NPT nuclear supplier states for blocking access to the peaceful nuclear technologies needed for its energy program.”



President Potens rejects international suggestions that it would be faster and easier to buy hydropower from Terranova rather than pursue development of an Aggravalian nuclear energy sector.

President Potens also believes the Non-Proliferation Treaty (which Aggravalia signed years ago) is fundamentally unfair. She questions why Aggravalia and other countries that do not already have nuclear weapons are not allowed to develop them, while the United States, Landesia, and a few other major powers that are also members of the Non-Proliferation Treaty have yet to fulfill their promise to disarm themselves of nuclear weapons.

The Aggravalian president is convinced that having a nuclear weapon, in addition to boosting national pride, would deter a potential Terranovan invasion. Rather than spend funds on an expensive conventional military to deter attacks, she would prefer to concentrate on economic development to raise the country’s low domestic living standards. She argues that developing a nuclear weapon would be cheaper than continuing to support a large army.

Aggravalia and Terranova have a long history of disputes over the sparsely populated territory of Erewhon that is rich in natural resources and is claimed by both countries. This, and the fact that both countries are allied with superpower political and economic rivals, makes the relationship between Aggravalia and Terranova extraordinarily tense. Terranova is larger than Aggravalia, has a stronger economy, and a larger military force. Many Aggravalians believe Terranova wants to invade and take over the country.

Terranova is fortunate to have massive waterfalls that provide abundant potential energy for economic development. Aggravalia does not have waterfalls, or any other domestic energy sources. It does, however, have valuable mineral deposits, including uranium, cobalt, and silver.

Country Profile:

- Geography: 190,357 sq km (50,739 sq. mi.), slightly larger than Arkansas
- Terrain: Desert, savanna, mountain, and jungle
- Climate: Warm rainy summers, cold dry winters, brief autumns and springs

People:

- Current population: 1.32 million
- Population growth: 0.52% per year
- Government: Authoritarian

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Economy:

- 2016 National budget: U.S. \$5 billion
- GDP per capita: U.S. \$471
- Primary industry: Emerging nuclear industry, agricultural products, mining, commerce

Military:

- 2016 Defense budget: \$515 million (10.3% of total national budget)
- Branches: Air Force, Army, Navy
- Uniformed Personnel: 78,000 (6% of total population)

Opening Statement:

The President of Aggravalia has instructed your delegation not to negotiate directly with Terranova, the United States, or the IAEA. You may negotiate with them, however, through Landesia and PEACE. You are to take the following opening position:

- The double standard imposed by the NPT is intolerable.
- Nuclear energy is essential for the Aggravalian economy, which has uranium deposits but no other readily available sources of energy.
- Aggravalia also has the right to defend itself against Terranova, which regularly infringes on Aggravalian sovereignty and is currently conducting military exercises with the United States, which is also no friend of Aggravalia, on its border.
- The Aggravalian people are united in their resolve and tired of the international community's interference in Aggravalian internal matters. Aggravalia has the right to pursue nuclear energy and to develop a nuclear weapon if it so chooses.

