



THE NORKET DISTRICT

Confidential Instruction for the Representative of the PARLIAMENT OF THE NORKET DISTRICT

You have worked for the Chairman of the Norket District National Movement (“NDNM”) since the creation of the movement. When the Chairman became the Chairman of the District Parliament, you went with him to the Parliament as his private secretary and close adviser. After consulting with his colleagues in the District Parliament and the NDNM, the Chairman has asked you to meet with a representative of the Darbek government. The Darbek representative is a close adviser and friend to the Darbek President. To facilitate the meeting, the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE proposed that a representative of the European Union also attend that meeting. You have to be careful with this representative. The European Union is a significant partner for development. European subsidies are crucial for the development of your country. If the region gets stabilized, you could even hope to build a privileged partnership with the European Union. This issue really matters to your Chairman.

The following memo represents the thinking of your colleagues regarding the current situation in the District and the upcoming meeting :

Background

At the beginning of the signature gathering campaign, the NDNM was a relatively small movement which included only a few members of parliament. However, the overwhelming support garnered by the NDNM led many members of parliament to join the NDNM. The NDNM now controls a majority of the seats in the District Parliament, and most people in the District now consider the District Parliament the only legal government of the District because the District Governor is controlled by the Darbek government. There are some parliament members who represent Darbeks living in the District, and they are clearly interested in preserving the situation the way it used to be. The Darbeks have only a few seats, however, and their political organization does not have much power.

Analysis of the current situation

Historically, the Norket District has been the land of the Norket people : all medieval chronicles and travel diaries of the 17-18th centuries unanimously testify that this land was settled by our ancestors who were called by the same names, observed the same religion and were the same nation as we are. Since the appearance of our nation and until the last century, the District and its surrounding area have been in the hands of our own princes. Our princes have sometimes recognized their dependency on the Darbek aggressors and accepted titles granted to them by the aggressors, but the land clearly represents the homeland of our people.

The modern borders of the Norket District were determined by the imperial government in its attempt to please the Darbek people, and many neighboring areas which were Norket from time immemorial were not included in the borders of the District. Since the borders were drawn, the Darbek government has adopted a policy of deporting Norket from the lands around the District. The Darbek government has now started to implement the same policy in the District itself, ignoring the District's autonomous status. Only through the reunification of Norket with the Norket District can we make it possible for the Norkets to preserve ourselves as a nation in the future.

The Darbek government says that it is interested in democratization, but its actions indicate that it is only interested in democracy for Darbeks. The recent language and education laws, which discriminate against Norkets in Darbek, are evidence of their true intentions. Everyone is rejecting such old policies except the Darbek government and the Darbek People's Party, who seem to oppose the principle of self-determination when it is politically convenient for them to do so. Ethnic Norkets who live outside the District in Darbek are being deported and sometimes murdered, but the Darbek government does not find it necessary to put an end to these crimes. Almost all our compatriots have now been deported from Darbek regions outside the District. If we fail to achieve autonomy and eventual reunification with Norket, we will also be forced out of the native land of our ancestors.

Local Darbeks are creating obstacles to reunification, but they are a clear minority and they should not obstruct the realization of the just rights and interests of the majority. Most of these Darbeks are recent immigrants, and those who aren't recent immigrants are the descendants of recent aggressors who settled on our land. We will guarantee full equality and prohibit any ethnic discrimination in Norket.

Strategy and tactics for action

We are entering perhaps the most precarious time in the life of the movement. There is great instability in the District and for the first time the leaders of the movement are concerned that even more radical separatist groups may be emerging. The recent flag incident demonstrates this concern. The flag was not planted by members of the NDNM. In fact, members of our movement are intervening in order to prevent either (1) a violent clash between Darbek nationalists and those that planted the flag, or (2) reprisals by Darbek nationalists against the Norkets who are trying to live peacefully in the neighborhood. Publicly, the NDNM leadership is not denying that members of our movement planted the flag because we want to avoid the appearance that the movement is not the single representative of the Norkets in the District. The leadership is also concerned about the rise in militancy of the Darbek nationalists and fear that they may be ready to launch armed attacks against the District. The current level of instability must be tamed and the rhetoric must be toned down.

In any event, there are certain things we need immediately. The first is the stabilization of the situation in the District and the protection of Norkets living in the District. The second involves political reforms. We must see steps such as the repeal of the language and education laws, direct governing power given to the Parliament, or the immediate removal of the current

District governor and the free and fair election of a new governor for the District. Third, we should begin negotiations over the establishment of an interim government that would oversee the transition of the District from Darbek control to an autonomous, self-governing entity. Our overriding goal is to establish the District Parliament as the *de facto* government of the District. Once our status as a legitimate government is established, we will have the freedom to decide what is truly best for the District, whether that be reunification, federation, or confederation.

Another complicating factor is that we are currently re-assessing whether our ultimate goal is complete reunification with Norket. As members of our movement have taken power in the Parliament, there is a growing fear of being “swallowed up” by the larger and more established government of Norket. Reunification may still be our ultimate goal. However, members of the movement are beginning to want a more gradual process and time to consider establishing an independent District which would enter into a federation or confederation with Norket and other regional states. The danger is that most Norkets in the District who support the movement have not come to this realization and may not tolerate a gradual approach to reunification.

Related to this, we have some lingering concerns about the involvement of Norket in any negotiations. On the one hand, Norket’s involvement and support will help us get what we want from Darbek. On the other hand, we want to avoid the impression that Norket is negotiating for us because we need to establish that we can negotiate and govern for ourselves.

We remain very interested in pursuing talks with the Darbek government. You are free to explore any arrangements you think are interesting. Any discussions must be on an unofficial basis. Any commitments, including a commitment to start formal negotiations must be cleared by the Chairman first. You are not obligated to enter into negotiations, if you believe that we would be better off not negotiating with the Darbek government. If you decide to break off negotiations, the Chairman would like a report on how you propose to meet our interests if we do not negotiate with Darbek. Be also aware that an EU representative will be present during the meeting. We wish you luck in dealing with this delicate and crucial matter.