

STATE EVALUATION REPORT: BLUDONIA

A.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

Bludonia is a country rich in culture and natural resources but plagued by significant regional conflicts, most notably with neighboring Maledonia. Its government is dominated by an autocratic Leader. Access to the Leader is limited through a small set of key advisors, mostly through his close confidant the Deputy Leader. Bludonia operates like a police state, with all elements of society conforming to the rule of the central leadership.

Bludonia's economy heavily depends on oil exports. These assets allow Bludonia to fund and expand its sizable conventional military and numerous state-controlled industrial establishments. Bludonia also uses its wealth to import sophisticated goods and raw materials for projects ranging from consumer items to sophisticated military hardware. Nonetheless, the health of the Bludonian economy has come in to question, however, as the state does not release economic statistics.

Bludonia has an educational base with several universities open to its citizens. Top students frequently train abroad, mostly in areas such as engineering, physics and the sciences. These opportunities are awarded based on scholastic merit, although some positions are assigned due to privileged or political connections. Nonetheless, Bludonia's cadre is better known in the world for their ability to reverse-engineer products/munitions as compared to conducting independent research. As a result, it is not unusual for some foreign technical consultants to work in Bludonia to assist on projects.

Bludonia has a history of conflicts and war, principally with Maledonia, which itself has a sizeable military. For Maledonia, these conflicts center on border and demarcation disputes that have historical roots but also involve contested natural resource and trade routes. Additionally, Bludonia and Maledonia have a strong rivalry with neighbor country Medinata, a country with strong ties with western countries. Medinata (who never signed the NPT) is suspected of having an arsenal of nuclear weapons. Medinata has never confirmed nor denied having nuclear weapons.

Over the years, a variety of press reports have alluded to Bludonia's interest in developing non-conventional weapons and delivery systems. These claims persist despite Bludonia being a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, and other agreements. Military journals report that Bludonia has an established missile industry and the Bludonian Press Ministry touts efforts to launch satellites. Neighboring Maledonia often leads public concerns about these capabilities.

A.2 OVERVIEW OF THE NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

Bludonia promotes its Bludon Nuclear Center as a regional technical centerpiece for peaceful nuclear development. Among the buildings at the center is a Kievan-supplied 5 MWt research reactor and two reactors supplied by Gaul: a pool type 500 KW and an MTR type 40 MW research reactors. The reactors and associated material handling facilities are visited by the IAEA twice a year and there is no history of safeguards anomalies. Research at the center includes work on food irradiation, materials and

testing, isotope production, pest sterilization, and basic nuclear training. Access to the Bludon Nuclear Center is restricted only to declared areas.

A.3 AGREEMENTS WITH THE IAEA

- Bludonia ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) on 29 October 1969 by depositing their instrument of accession and ratification with the Government of the Kievan Republic, a nuclear weapon state. The NPT was opened for signature on 1 July 1968 and entered into force on 5 March 1970.
- Bludonia signed a comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (SA) with the Agency and it entered into force on 29 February 1972.