Delegation of Iceland

Committee: North Athlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Topic: North Macedonia Ethnic Rivalry 2001-2003

County: Iceland

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As Iceland, we are doing our best to resolve the ethnic tensions between August 2001 and March 2003 with other NATO members and reach a compromise. We can help with our economy, equipment, concert foods etc.

Early signs of 2001-2003 northern Macedonian ethnic tensions In late 2000, a group of armed Albanians began shooting at Macedonian military and police forces on the border with Yugoslavia. The first attack, which resonated internationally, was aimed at a small village called Tanuševci in the northern province of Macedonia. On January 22, 2001, one policeman was killed and three wounded when the armed group of Albanians attacked a police station near the strategically important Tetovo area. After days, NLA Militants in Northern Macedonia The NLA and its activities not only crossed hotlines of conflict but also reflected realistically in the political arena. On 9 March, a group of Macedonian Ministers and members of a mediating body from Southern Serbia were ambushed and ambushed under NLA fire in Locane, a small village in the northern part of FYORM. Ministers came to the scene to prove to the public that they have the area under control. Continuous arson attacks continued, with Macedonian military and police forces attacking Tetovo on 15 March to destroy the NLA. By March 19, hundreds of troops, dozens of tanks, and other military equipment were deployed. Historical notes include that during the 5-day conflict, the Macedonian army destroyed houses without separating the NLA members from the civilians. The Macedonian government issued an ultimatum demanding NLA members to surrender and withdraw their weapons within 24 hours. NLA representatives responded to the ultimatum by declaring a unilateral ceasefire, while the Macedonian government did not threaten attack. After minor clashes, Macedonian military forces captured Kale Hill in Tetovo on 22 March. After the conflict, the Macedonian government described the Situation as a success. At the same time, the government stated that there were no casualties in the clashes. During the one-month ceasefire, the political parties negotiate to find common ground. However, preliminary talks ended with the killing of 8 police officers in an ambush set up by the NLA on April 28, 2001. In May 2001, a group of Kosovar NLA rebels began establishing bases in Kosovo. Some villages located north of Kumanovo. On May 25, 2001, Macedonian security forces launched an offensive against long-running NLA members in Kumanovo. Each house was raided individually and there was a specialized police team called the "Tigers". Tigers Unit (black) and Lions Unit (green) After months of fighting in the Kumanovo region, Macedonian security forces managed to capture some villages, claiming at least 30 NLA members were destroyed. According to NLA reports, the number of people they lost was 17. With the mediation of NATO and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Macedonian government agreed to sign an unconditional ceasefire. The treaty was signed on 5 July 2001 with the participation of a NATO representative.

We have many options to solve this ethnic tension. As Iceland, we want to be more conciliatory and calmer, and to eliminate the fights of Macedonian security forces and NLA members. By conciliator, In other words that we can negotiate with the leaders of the two groups separately and work things out. Another idea is that we can prepare various disarmament programs and collect the weapons of the two groups.