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Fury Against Holmes: Middlelands Minister Speaks Out

by Cherry Pickong

Independent Westeros press under pressure

During yesterday's weekly press briefing, Ricky Depp, Middlelands Minister of Foreign Affairs, sent an unusually strong warning to Crisis Press Agency, the main press agency of New Savours. Mr Depp stated: "I wish to emphatically recall that Middlelands is attached to its sovereignty and that, as is the case for all sovereign States, its territory is sacred. I can tolerate a lot of things, but surely not disgusting fake news regarding Middlelands' territorial integrity. The article by Cynthia Holmes published by Crisis Press on 13 April, which blatantly misrepresents Resbia Island as an independent State on a so-called "Map of DocWorld" is unacceptable and simply outrageous. How can anyone forget that Resbia Island has been part and parcel of Middlelands since the long awaited Great Reunification of 1947? I refuse to believe that this was a mistake. It very much looks like a provocation orchestrated by someone in New Savours. Therefore, I have requested the Minister for Freedom of the Press to institute all possible proceedings against Crisis Press Agency. Additionally, the author of the article in question, Ms. Cynthia Holmes, is, as we all know, the daughter of the former President of Westeros, Albert Holmes. She will be registered on Middlelands' economic sanctions list with immediate effect, and will be banned from entering Middlelands for the foreseeable future".

A storm in a teacup?

While this incident could appear as a storm in a teacup to an uninformed outsider, the sensitivity of the actors concerned can be easily explained by

the hectic history of the region. Throughout the ages, Resbia Island had been under Glaktic control. In fact, the State of Glaktic used to be composed of its current territory including Resbia, while the territory of the province of Lappiaa formed part of Middlelands. In 1947, Resbia Island became part of Middlelands through an "exchange" of territories with Glaktic, which ceded the province of Lappiaa in return, without consulting its respective population. At the time, Glaktic deemed it important to extend its control over the entire continent. Nowadays, approximately 80% of the population of Resbia considers the Glaktic language to be its mother tongue. They see themselves as belonging to a specific community, made up of "insular ethnic Glaktics", quite distinct from the mainland population of Middlelands, which never integrated with the local population on the island. Insular ethnic Glaktics have their own customs, a very specific way of living respecting the natural habitat of the island's precious flora and fauna, and they consider themselves the only true owners of the land and waters of Resbia. After the discovery of huge oil reserves in Resbia's soil and off its coasts in the mid-1980's, many villages on the island suffered environmental damage as a result of exploitation efforts. The quick economic growth that ensued, has not only left most of the Insular ethnic Glaktics jobless, but also homeless, as a result of massive expropriations. There is no official government representative in charge of insular ethnic Glaktics' interests, neither in Lunzoo, nor in Ekkoy. Their only stalwart defender is Mo Gmable, a charismatic leader, who has spent most of his life in Middlelands' Maximum Security Prison for purported "extremist

activities".

Meanwhile, Lappiaa's residents see themselves as belong to a different culture than Glaktics. Coming from a long line of Middlelands settlers, Lappiaans never accepted to be "exchanged" against Resbia, a decision known among them as "The Deal of Shame". In 1964, a civil war erupted, which resulted in the independence of Lappiaa, begrudgingly accepted by Glaktic authorities who were eager to reestablish peace on the continent. However, it is common knowledge that Glaktic made "the worst territorial deal of the Century" by exchanging Lappiaa for Resbia. One can understand that authorities in Middlelands want to avoid history repeating itself at all costs in the case of Resbia.

Hopefully, growing international trade will ease tensions, like the ship Molly, a true symbol of multilateralism on the waters. The Molly is a commercial ship and flies the flag of Westeros, and currently en route from Romannos to Jasperos. It is usually used for transporting manufactured products to be sold in the country of its destination. Although it is registered in Westeros and has the Westeros flag, it is owned by an Easteros company, and its crew is multinational, including staff members from Westeros, Newfreelands, Nordwald, Glaktic, Zuela, Dominio and Rostaga. ■

New Fair in Town!

The Saint Martin fair has just arrived in town! Hurry to the Place de la Victoire to discover sensational attractions, magic tricks, and music all more unbearable than the others. A child's paradise, a parent's nightmare, take your wallet to taste popcorn at 60¢. ◀