

SKY CITY BUMBLEBEE



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Winchester-government sworn in

SKY CITY, 24/05/317 || In a short public ceremony in the Great Hall of the Council of Peoples, Grand Pensionary Stanley Winchester and his government were sworn in today, the first ever full-fledged government of the Lectern of the United Kencari Peoples. The new head of state and government thanked his predecessors, Acting GPs Oliver Boynton (316-317) and Duncan Fairweather (316) for delivering a decent job in a difficult time for our nation.

Winchester's team consists of 23 members, including himself. Minister of Foreign Affairs will be Mr Bbowhess Kig (/bzoh-us kig/), a 54-year old diplomat who used to work for the Bowdani delegation at the United Nations of Vexillium. The Domestic Affairs ministry will be headed by Mathilda Baskingham, a former mayor of Echoven. Another two women on Finance (Puluzë Tösuff-Eem) and Defence (Hildegard Irvystone-Saggs), while South Martin judge Harold Brown will lead the department of Justice. (Complete list: www.dulminis.nl/icsa/lukpgovernment.htm)

The most important task of the new government is to neutralise the South Watch situation. The country's second largest city is still under siege by the military and apart from small incidents, there is little change. It is unclear what is going on within the city's defense perimeters, but according to analysts, the inhabitants must have run out of food and clean water by now. The health ministry has warned that diseases may break out if the hygiene situation in South Watch is not addressed soon, and urged citizens to stay away from the city. The new government announced a new round of negotiation attempts.

One of the first decisions Mr Winchester took after taking office, was the official recognition of the Free Republic of the Western Shore, a territory that originally remained a part of the LUKP after Bowdani split up last year, but due to the chaotic situation in the LUKP, the Western Shore unilaterally proclaimed independence merely a month later. The new government will also investigate the possibilities of joining the Smalik Union for Economic Cooperation and Security (SUECS), that was founded last month by Tak, the Coare Republic, the Duchy of Gen, and the Western Shore. "It is time the LUKP proved to the outside world that it really is the most substantial successor state of Bowdani", Foreign minister Kig told the press.

Explosion partially destroys City Hall Fort Boare

FORT BOARE, 25/05/317 || After several months of relative calmth in and around the city of Fort Boare in the eastern part of the LUKP, its inhabitants were shaken this morning by a large explosion in the city centre, which turned out to have destroyed half of the city's City Hall. Several office workers died in the explosion, while the death toll may rise as a lot of others got trapped under collapsing parts of the building.

The Mayor of Fort Boare, Rass Bbaugust, reported that he was unharmed and in fact not in the building when the explosion occurred. Bbaugust ordered rescue services to do whatever they can to save as many survivors as possible. He said that pending the investigation as to the cause of the explosion, speculation about it should be minimised. In the meantime sources with connections to the city's police force claim that a large police force is on route to Gylewith, a wealthy Fort Boare city quarter where the city's largest amount of ethnic Ingallish residents lives.

In a reaction to the press, minister of national security Owen Yorquham expressed his shock about the incident and said that his thoughts are with the victims and their families. He said that his ministry would issue a team to assist local authorities with the investigation.

According to analysts, if it turns out that the City Hall was deliberately targeted, it is very likely that the current administration will seek those responsible among the Ingallish minority. Although the mayor didn't mention anything about this to the press, the movements of the city's police force seem to suggest that he already took this conclusion.



LUKP, Vaara apply for ITCV membership

SKY CITY, 16/05/317 || Grand-Pensionary elect Stanley Winchester announced today his intention to have the LUKP apply for membership of the International Trade Council of Vexillium. "It is clear that after the disastrous economic policies of the last Bowdani governments, drastic action has to be taken in order to make the LUKP economy stable and viable again", Winchester explained. "It is my intention to reform our economy to the benefit of the people of the LUKP. Isolating our country economically obviously did not work, so opening ourselves up to the outside world seems to be a logical alternative."

It is not clear yet if the LUKP would sign all four main treaties immediately. Especially the Agreement on the Freedom of Transportation could wait until the new border protection systems between the former Bowdani nations are well in place, in order to prevent the establishment of new smuggling routes all over Smalik.

A few weeks earlier the new government of Vaara said that they were investigating the possibility of joining the ITCV as well, but membership of this small, landlocked country could be complicated if there are no neighbour states that are members as well.

Discussions with the ITCV could already start as soon as the new government of the LUKP has been sworn in (this is expected next week), but a official membership application is not expected before autumn this year at the earliest.

SmalAir to start lowcost network

DOASCAEN (Coare), 20/05/317 || The small Coare based airline SmalAir will start a lowcost network across Smalik, its director Larry O'Michaels announced in a press conference today. Until now, the airline operated two small air routes between Doascaen on the island of Yzoc off the coast of Coare and the cities of Coarnigg and Ntigocas, but the airline attracted investors that accepted the business plan of a lowcost airline with paid services that should be put in place between Coare, Tak, the LUKP, and other countries in the course of this year.