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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Greetings Delegates,

We, Faiza Chunawala and Pritha Singh, the chairs of UNSC council at NEWMUN Chapter VI, are immensely thrilled and overjoyed to welcome you to an arena, where the weight of global peace rests in your hands. As the chairs of this prestigious council, we would guide you through a rollercoaster of intense debates, negotiations and moments that will keep you at the edge of your seats- after all it is the United Nations Security Council!

It's not just any other council- it's a chamber where history is written and the decisions made, echo around the globe. As chairs we do recommend you to come prepared, for history is about to be made as we debate upon two of the most critical issues of the present world.

We have prepared this brief guide on the agendas, which may help you through the research. However, we highly emphasize that this guide should only be the basis of your research and further preparation of your own regarding both the agendas must be done from the perspective of your country's allocation as well as the rival delegations.

We wish you all the very best and look forward to an outstanding conference!

Sincere regards,

Faiza Chunawala

Pritha Singh

Chairs of UNSC

AGENDA 1:

ADDRESSING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES IN NORTH KOREA

INTRODUCTION

In today's world, where a nuclear war is only a button away, North Korea's development of nuclear capabilities has become a critical global issue. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has disregarded international norms and sanctions, accelerating its nuclear program to worrisome proportions. The Korean Peninsula could be best described as a proving ground, for both the Soviets and Americans trying to expand and demonstrate their conflicting ideologies. The end of the 2nd world war and the triumph of the axis powers drove Japan out of the peninsula, not paving the way for independence but rather a conflict that would end up taking the lives of thousands of individuals, destroying civilization, and most importantly, perpetuating the development of nuclear weapons of mass destruction in North Korea- 1950 Korean War

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

NPT:

- A treaty built on three core pillars: preventing the spread of nuclear weapons among non-nuclear states (non-proliferation), reducing existing arsenals of nuclear armed states (disarmament), and promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy. While the NPT was signed in 1968 and came into effect on March 5, 1970, it has still not made significant progress in achieving its primary objectives, contributing to the ineffectiveness of the treaty. This is mainly due to some fundamental flaws that hinder its ability to fully achieve the targeted aim.
- Currently, most UN member states are part of the treaty, apart from North Korea, India, Pakistan, Israel, and South Sudan.

Nuclear and Non-Nuclear States:

- Under the treaty, states that manufactured and successfully tested a nuclear weapon prior to January 1st, 1967 are classified as nuclear weapons states (NWS). All other member nations are classified as non-nuclear weapons states (NNWS) and are subject to a different set of inspections regulated by the IAEA as compared to the NWS (which many argue is the loophole in the treaty). Countries that developed nuclear technology after the treaty came into existence are denied membership as NWS and must give up their nuclear arms while being recognized as NNWS.

Fissile Material:

- Materials that can undergo the fission reaction. They are the key component of nuclear weapons.

IAEA- The International Atomic Energy Agency:

- Established to enforce the objectives of the NPT, IAEA carries out verifications and inspections in member states. Safeguards agreements between IAEA and NPT members ensure that all nuclear activity undertaken by a state is for peaceful purposes and does not involve illicit nuclear activities. These safeguards apply differently to NWS and NNWS.

ICBM- Intercontinental Ballistic Missile:

- A kind of land-based ballistic missile that carries a nuclear warhead or payload to its intended target. Of the eight nations that have developed it, North Korea is one.

SLBM: Submarine- Launched Ballistic Missile:

- An ICBM that is launched from a submarine.

WITHDRAWAL CLAUSE:

- North Korea initially joined the NPT, but it later withdrew and pursued nuclear weapons in 2003 using this clause, challenging the treaty's robustness, and highlighting a potential loophole.

AGREED FRAMEWORK (Between DPRK AND US):

- An agreement made in 1994 between North Korea and the United States in response to North Korea's leaving of the NPT.

CTBT:

- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

TPNW:

- Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Pyongyang actively pursued nuclear research projects in the 1950s, fearing that North Korea would fall behind South Korea. The North agreed to peaceful development initiatives with the Soviet Union, the Soviets contributed to the construction and operation of a reactor at Yongbyon, which became key to American fears about nuclear advances on the peninsula. However, the evacuation of Soviet missiles from Cuba at the end of the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis caused the North Korean dictatorship to fear that Pyongyang would be abandoned by its superpower allies. Nuclear weapons were increasingly viewed to ensure North Korean security.

MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED

1. **DPRK (North Korea):** Seeks nuclear capabilities for security and deterrence. Its weapons program has been a focal point of international concern since the early 1990s.
2. **USA:** Engages diplomatically and militarily to prevent nuclear proliferation. Implements sanctions, pursues denuclearization talks, and defends allies like South Korea and Japan.

3. **Japan:** Directly threatened by North Korean missiles. Supports U.S. sanctions and military presence while advocating for regional stability through diplomacy.
4. **Russia:** Has historical ties with North Korea. It advocates for diplomatic solutions but also opposes harsh sanctions, maintaining strategic influence in the region.
5. **South Korea:** Faces the most immediate threat from North Korea. Works with the U.S. on defence and diplomacy while navigating complex inter-Korean relations.
6. **Former Soviet Union:** Played a pivotal role in initially supporting North Korea's nuclear development by providing technical assistance during the Cold War.

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

Cold War Era: North Korea faced security threats from American nuclear arsenals and troops in South Korea and Japan with Soviet assistance, North Korea began constructing the Yongbyon Nuclear Research Center.

5th March 1970: NPT comes into effect North Korea gaining an opportunity to resolve its security concerns because all of the neighboring nations—South Korea, Japan, China, and Russia—ratified the NPT with the commitment to outlaw the use of nuclear weapons.

1980s: North Korea built a reactor capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium.

1985: Expecting to restore relations with the US and South Korea, North Korea signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapon state. It committed to stop working on nuclear weapons and to enable the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to regularly monitor its nuclear facilities.

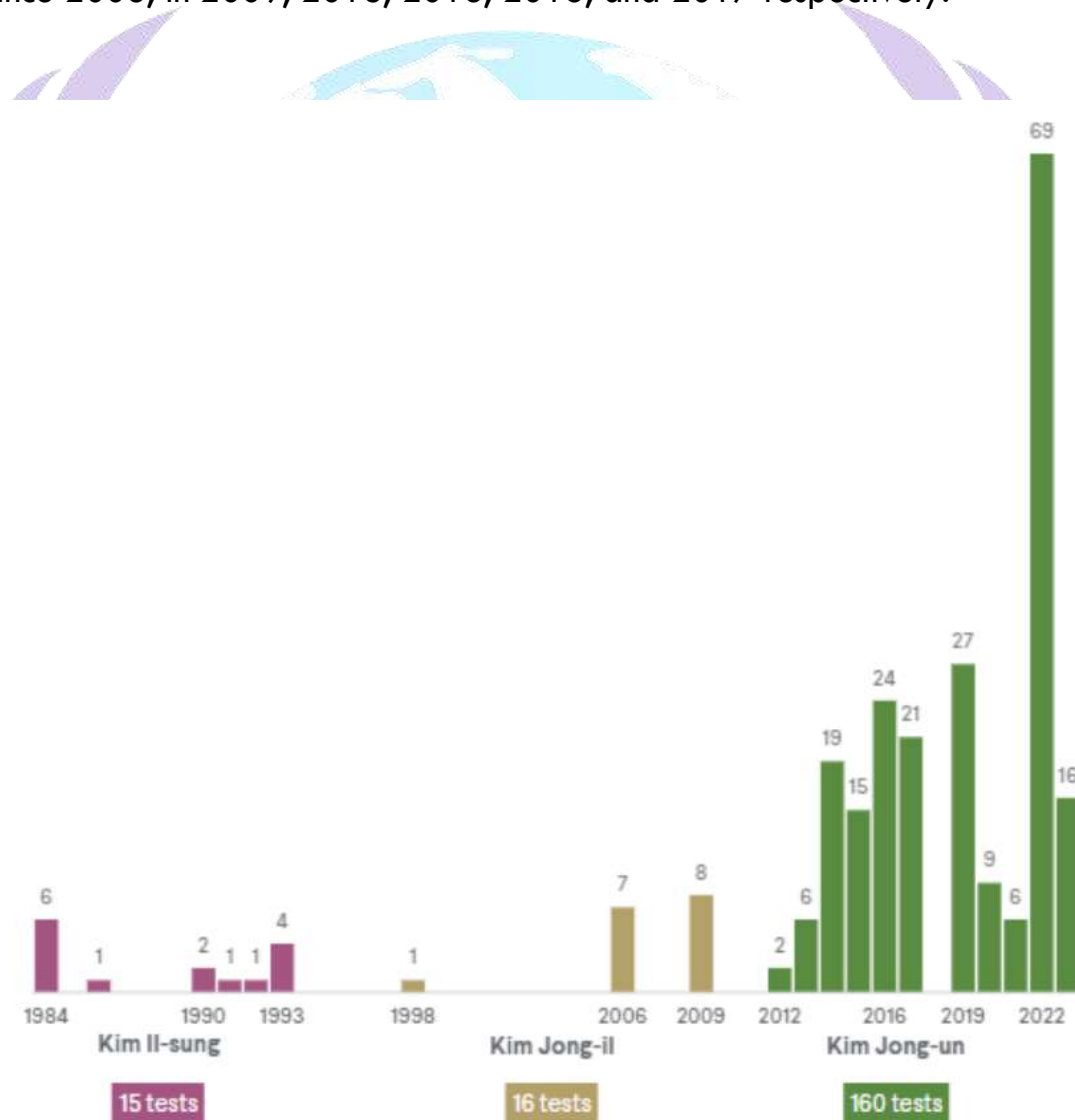
1993: The IAEA sought a special inspection of plutonium waste; raising concerns about discrepancies in North Korea's plutonium stockpiles, suggesting diversion from its civilian program. However, North Korea threatened to leave the NPT, arguing that the investigation went against its national interests and sovereignty.

1994: Nevertheless, after coming in terms to an Agreed Framework with US in 1994, North Korea gave up its nuclear program in return for financial and technical assistance, softening its demand for withdrawal.

2003: North Korea officially withdraws from the NPT.

2006: On October 9, 2006, North Korea announced it had successfully conducted its first nuclear test. An underground nuclear explosion was detected, its yield was estimated as less than a kiloton, and some radioactive output was detected.

As of October 2017, North Korea carried out five more nuclear experiments since 2006, in 2009, 2013, 2016, 2016, and 2017 respectively.



TRACKING CURRENT EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENT

I. BALANCING ECONOMIC AMBITIONS WITH DIPLOMATIC REALIGNMENTS

The WPK Central Committee's 9th Expanded Plenum in December 2023 and the Political Bureau's 19th Enlarged Meeting in January 2024, two recent high-level political gatherings, gave Kim the opportunity to present his new term policies. He focused on economic development and announced a 1.4-fold increase in GDP. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), North Korea's economic difficulties and increasing reliance on China—which is against the advancement of nuclear programs—will prevent the country from conducting nuclear tests anytime soon. To strengthen its negotiating position in any future talks with the US, North Korea will nevertheless keep testing long-range missiles and launching systems. Even though North Korea's security threat is increasing, the report suggests that DPRK will not go to war. Instead, future negotiations are likely to focus on limiting North Korea's nuclear program rather than complete denuclearization.

II. FAILURE OF THE POE MANDATE

Following the DPRK's second nuclear test, an underground detonation in 2009, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1874 in 2009. A provision of this resolution established a panel of experts (POE), consisting of a maximum of seven experts, to monitor North Korea's compliance with sanctions and to impose harsher penalties. They were renewed annually. But this year, the UNSC failed to adopt a resolution to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts (PoE), with Russia exercising its veto power and China abstaining.

III. EFFICIENCY OF GLOBAL SANCTIONS

Despite global sanctions, North Korea continues to advance its nuclear and ballistic missile technologies, raising concerns about the effectiveness of these measures. The country has for long been a key supplier of missiles and missile technology to nations in the Middle East and South Asia, including Iran, Syria, Pakistan, and others. Notably, North Korea assisted in building an undeclared nuclear reactor in al-Kibar, Syria, destroyed by an Israeli airstrike in 2007. Reports indicate that as of January 2024, North Korea possesses approximately 50 nuclear warheads, with enough fissile material for 70–90 weapons. Sanctions have slowed North Korea's missile exports, particularly to countries like Iran, Syria, and Pakistan. However, critics argue that sanctions have not pressured North Korea to denuclearize, instead harming ordinary families and emboldening the regime. Though, the legality of the UN Security Council's sanctions is questioned, as North Korea is neither a party to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) nor the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and is not bound by international law to prevent nuclear testing. Furthermore, sanctions would not lead to denuclearization

unless policies that North Korea perceives as provocative such as the joint US-ROK military exercise are terminated Russia has previously supported international sanctions and UN investigations into North Korea's illicit weapons program. However, since the Russian invasion of Ukraine and international embargoes on Russia, North Korea has emerged as a strategic supplier of arms.

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PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE

UN SANCTIONS



TREATIES AND DIPLOMATIC TALKS

CTBT:

A treaty that bans the testing of nuclear weapons in any environment. Following the PTBT that prohibited nuclear testing only in the atmosphere, underwater, and outer space, it was interpreted as an attempt to exert control over the NWS, as they had shown no progress in eliminating their own nuclear stockpile in a timely manner. Since sub-critical experiments and computer simulations could still be conducted, many countries ultimately chose not to ratify the treaty. Consequently, the treaty has remained unenforced since it was made available for signature in 1996. Annex 2 states that the treaty will not become legally enforceable until 44 states—including North Korea, Pakistan, and India—ratify it.

TPNW:

Designed to support, enhance, and expand upon the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which obliges its signatories to negotiate additional legal measures to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Agreed Framework:

An agreement between US and DPRK that offered 'rewards' for denuclearization. However, while this framework managed to convince North Korea back into the NPT temporarily, it was unilaterally revoked as North Korea began nuclear experiments eight years later, primarily because the rewards offered were marginally attractive for the regime.

Six Party Talks:

In which delegates of six stake holding nations (North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Russia, China, and the United States) sought a diplomatic solution to the issue, took place intermittently from 2003. No more meetings have taken place since 2007 despite notable achievements from previous meetings.

2018 TRUMP-KIM TALKS:

A significant diplomatic advance in USDPRK relations, the 2018 Singapore summit was heralded as historic and enormous. However, it did not lead to a tangible agreement; instead, it increased hostilities between the two leaders

after the summit. It was the last time the world came this close to resolving this issue after the six-party talk.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS (GUIDING QUESTIONS)

1. For any sanctions to succeed, they must be agreed upon by the nations diplomatically close to North Korea, namely China, to be much stronger than the current ones while having minimal impact on the lives of North Korean civilians.

Are new sanctions the answer, or will enforcing the older ones effectively solve the problem?

2. Given that Kim Jong-un has already conducted more missile and nuclear tests since he took power in 2012 than his father and grandfather combined,

Should the UNSC continue to adopt a diplomatic approach and urge the resumption of the Six Party Talks and Agreed Framework in every resolution? Can this be done along the lines of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran in 2015?

3. Despite the shortcomings of the treaties,

Should Israel, North Korea, India, Pakistan, and other countries that have not ratified or signed the NPT and CTBT be compelled to do so?

While "five nations with veto power" continue to possess nuclear weapons, how can these countries feel secure enough to surrender their arsenals and join the treaty? Should the inherent flaws in NPT be addressed?

4. **How can the international community prevent nuclear technology from spreading to terrorists in nations like Iran, Egypt, and Libya?**

Could developing nuclear weapon-free zones and stopping black market trade by terrorists act as a solution?

5. Should the IAEA modify its guidelines and conduct stricter inspections of the NWS to move closer to disarmament in a more rigorous and transparent manner?
6. Or is the whole idea of dividing nations into NWS and NNWS the root cause of all problems?

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AGENDA 2:

Addressing the Assassination Attempt of the Slovakian Prime Minister and Safeguarding Regional Stability

INTRODUCTION

Are assassination attempts the beginning of a new trend of political violence? With the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2022 and the attempted assassination of Donald Trump in July, is a new political wave emerging after appearing to be in a trough for a while? Since 2020, there have been only two successful assassinations of a sitting world leader: Jovenal Moise, Haiti's prime minister, and Idriss Deby, President of Chad. The world woke up to shock upon seeing the attempted assassination of the Slovakian prime minister, Robert Fico. The last time Europe witnessed an assassination was way back in 2003, but the current political violence driven by extremism in many nations of the continent questions regional stability and security.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

RTVS:

- Radio and Television of Slovakia

Eurosceptic:

- Policies or attitudes that arise in reaction to Europe's integration (EU) and are typically critical of it.

Fico's Fourth Cabinet:

- It is the incumbent government of Slovakia. It is a three-party coalition government composed of Direction – Social Democracy, Voice – Social Democracy, and the Slovak National Party.

House of Culture:

- It is a common name for major club-houses in the former Soviet Union and the rest of the Eastern bloc.

Amnesty International:

- international non-governmental organization focused on human rights

NATO:

- North Atlantic Military Organization Has now grown to 32 nations, with Sweden being the most recent member. Slovakia is a member of NATO.

EU:

- European Union A political and economic union of 27 countries located in Europe (or West Asia) that functions under a single market policy. Slovakia is a member of EU.

Czechoslovakia:

- Following its independence from the Austria-Hungary Empire in 1918, Czechoslovakia was founded and subsequently divided into the modern-day nations of Slovakia and Czech Republic

Political Polarisation:

- is dividing the people into two conflicting extreme ideologies, or two opposing poles of belief, which often leads to violence and crime against each other.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Background

- Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico was serving his fourth term after being elected as leader of the Smer party in the 2023 Slovak parliamentary election. He ran for office on a Eurosceptic platform, suspending military supplies to Ukraine and advocating for cordial relations with Russia, all while criticizing NATO and the United States. At the time of his assassination, his

fourth cabinet was considering legislation to abolish a special anti-corruption prosecutor and gain greater control over the public broadcaster RTVS.

Attempted assassination

- On May 15, 2024, at around 14:35 CEST, an assault took place in Miners' Square in Handlová. After a government meeting at the House of Culture, Robert Fico greeted the citizens. A man in the crowd screamed for Fico to approach before shooting him at close range with a handgun. Fico's bodyguards detained the alleged assailant immediately, and police sealed off the area. Three additional ministers were escorted away from the area. Fico was brought to the F.D. Roosevelt Hospital in Banská Bystrica.
- Five rounds were fired, with two shots striking Fico in his abdomen and one in his shoulder, both of which were classified as serious. One of the gunshots is said to have just missed his liver.
- He underwent a five-hour emergency procedure and is likely to recover, according to Deputy Prime Minister Tomáš Taraba.

Juraj Cintula-

- The Shooter Juraj Cintula, a 71-year-old poet and writer from Levice, was detained immediately by Fico's security detail. According to Minister of Interior Matúš Šutaj Eštok, Cintula revealed during police interrogation that his decision to carry out the assassination came after the presidential election in April. On May 16, he was formally charged with attempted murder, which carries a life sentence. On May 17, police performed a search of his flat, seizing a computer and various documents. Cintula came before the Specialized Criminal Court in Pezinok on May 18, when he was ordered to be detained pending trial. Cintula's pistol was legally possessed as part of his profession as a private security guard at a retail center. On July 4, Cintula was also charged with terrorism charges in relation to the attack.
- In 2016, he co-founded the Movement Against Violence (Slovak: Hnutie proti násiliu). He wrote in a statement: "Violence is often a reaction of people, as a form of expression of ordinary dissatisfaction with the state of affairs. Let us be dissatisfied, but not violent".
- Cintula allegedly stated that he opposes Fico's policies, including intentions to increase media control, weakening anti-corruption laws, and the

elimination of the Special Prosecutor's Office, which dealt with corruption, some of which involved Fico's allies. Cintula stated that he wanted military aid to be provided to Ukraine, which was instead blocked by the government.

- According to Interior Minister Šutaj Eštok, police were also investigating a theory that Cintula was not the only one involved but a member of a group that swayed him to shoot Fico. Cintula stated that he did not plan to murder Fico, but rather to damage him in such a way that he would be unable to serve as Prime Minister. He also stated that he prepared the attack alone, keeping it a secret.
- It has been hypothesized that Cintula's political opinions changed over time. In the 2019 Slovak presidential election, he supported Zuzana Čaputová, a social liberal candidate from the Progressive Slovakia (PS). A 2022 post by the Movement Against Violence, allegedly written by Cintula, criticized Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It stated, "What Slavic brotherhood? There is simply an aggressor and an attacker." Cintula was named by Slovak media as having participated in huge protests against the Fico government in the months and weeks leading up to the shooting.

RESPONSE BY FICO

On June 5, 2024, Robert Fico released a 14-minute prepared address online, his first public address since the assassination attempt. In the address, he stated that the attack had caused him considerable health issues, and that it would most likely take many weeks for him to resume his full political activities. He claimed that, while he forgave his assailant and had no hatred or desire for legal action against him, he referred to him as a "activist of the Slovak opposition". Fico argued that political opponents from the left engaged in "violent or hateful excesses" against his democratically elected government because they believed that a West-focused foreign policy was the only acceptable way, particularly in the Russo-Ukrainian conflict. He further rued what he claimed was international organizations' quiet and lack of outrage over the murder attempt since it did not correspond with his Ukraine policy, believing that the "right to have a different opinion has ceased to exist in the European Union". He asked the "antigovernment media" and foreign-funded non-governmental groups not to downplay what he claimed instigated and fueled the assassination attempt, adding that any further anger from his opponents will certainly result in more victims.

MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE SECURITY

Protests were prohibited in front of politicians' homes and within 50 meters of the seat of government and the presidency, the president, prime minister, and National Council speaker were assigned long-term residences, and the leaders of all political parties in the National Council, the prosecutor general, and the head of the Constitutional Court were provided with security. The proposals were approved by the National Council on June 27 and will go into effect on July 15. Opposition groups and Amnesty International condemned the regulations as an attempt to restrict the right to assemble.

REGIONAL STABILITY

Slovakia has been struggling to maintain stability since the assassination attempt, which has added to the country's already fragile situation. The incident has further intensified political polarization and, as many suggest, is a result of Fico's act of dismantling democracy. The young nation of Slovakia, upon splitting from Czechoslovakia, joined the EU and NATO in 2004 and naturally developed an interest towards the West. However, Fico still accuses the opposition of being too aligned to the West, heightening the political extremes in the nation and going against country's belief. Corruption has escalated, and so has political interference in the work of judges, prosecutors, and policemen.

Citing political expressions on social media, Interior Affairs Minister Eštok warned that the nation is "on the edge of a civil war," perhaps a figurative one. Concerns over Slovakia's mental, emotional, and social stability and unity are on the rise, though the ruling party begs to differ, "I am afraid that the main aim of the majority of the players from the governing coalition is to use the current events to strengthen their grip on power [rather than] to calm down the situation." said a Slovak journalist.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS (GUIDING QUESTIONS)

Does combating instability become more difficult with the EU and NATO's lack of support, given the leadership's Eurosceptic views?

Should Slovakia enhance cooperation with regional organizations (EU and NATO) to foster a united approach to regional security and safety, to overcome instability?

With the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, could the pressure from the West on NATO and EU member states that are friendly to Russia affect the stability of an already-conflicted Europe?

How much of the current crisis could be credited to the role of media and rhetoric? Should the media be under the government? Does this undermine the freedom of speech and expression?

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