

## Report from Sumaah agents

\* Sumaah absolutely livid; no embassy, embassy with Asavea, massive piracy

\* Assumption seems to be that the Empire wants no contact, and that they intend to side with Asavea against Sumaah

Weather remains hot and wet. Morale is as usual - moderately low. Pride Assembly continues slow conquest of everything within marching distance. The House of the People has passed several more laws relating to farm surpluses and issued another condemnation of Asavean militarism.

More relevantly, the House of the People has also issued a severe condemnation of the Empire. There is a judgement before the Assembly of Prosperity to suggest the House of the People close Zemeh to Imperial traffic and seize any Imperial ship found in Sumaah waters is currently under discussion.

To be clear, the situation is deteriorating by the day. A rough breakdown of Imperial ships in Sumaah waters follows which will help illustrate the problem. Numbers represent estimates of fleets. Figures from the Assemblies of Prosperity, Wisdom and Vigilance are easy to get hold of, a matter of public record. They are also reasonably reliable - whenever an agent has found a discrepancy it has always turned out to be a genuine error rather than an attempt at misrepresentation.

- (Spring 3774E - 6 merchants, 0 corsairs; Summer 3774E - 5 merchants, 2 corsairs; Autumn 3774E - 4 merchants, 1 corsair) Spring through Autumn 3774E trading fleets to Zemeh slowly declined, while acts of piracy against Sumaah shipping slowly increased.

- (Winter 3774E - 2 merchants, 5 corsairs) Then over winter the number of merchants declines even further and we have two-and-a-half times as many thieves attacking Sumaah shipping as we have merchants visiting Zemeh for prosperous trade.

- (Spring 3784E - 4 merchants, 7 thieves) Over the last few months the ratio has

improved slightly, but the sheer number of vessels attacking Sumaah ships has only grown. There's still nearly twice as many Imperial fleets here engaging in blatant theft and destruction of property as there are people actually trading with the Republic.

Recommendations: First, there's the actual theft. This is the Sumaah Republic - they take the admonitions of Prosperity to Förakta den tjuvaktiga stråtrövaren very seriously indeed. In fact I've had Förakta den tjuvaktiga skitstöveln growled at me more than once this last month or two. They're comparing the Empire - unfavourably - to the Asaveans and they are at war with Asavea. If the situation is to be salvaged, we need more trade and a damn sight less piracy.

Second, there's the diplomatic failure. There seems to be an assumption that the Empire is actively snubbing the Republic. If there's an actual Imperial trade envoy to Sumaah at the moment, they've made no effort to contact the Censor of Wood, Metal and Stone. The Sumaah won't make the first move because they're the Sumaah. There's also a rumour circulating at the moment that the Empire has built an embassy for the Asavean Archipelago and has been persuaded by allies in their Plenum to covert warfare against the Republic. If the situation is to be salvaged, official contact from an Imperial empowered to speak on behalf of the Empire is an absolute requirement and you may wish to advise the Senate to look at an Embassy for Sumaah.

Request I've been interviewed three times this month by agents of the Assembly of Vigilance. It has been reasonably friendly so far, but their patience is clearly deteriorating. Further, I do not like being called a skitstöveln by strangers in the street. If the situation doesn't improve, I'd like to request reassignment to somewhere with a nicer climate that isn't on the verge of religious war with the Empire.

Report compiled by Agent Vassa Zemeh, Republic of Sumaah 3784E