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Enclosed documents

Report from Agent Couros, Asavean Archipelago

Report from Agent Umshalla, Sarcophan Delves

Report from Agent Vassa, Sumaah Republic

Report from Agent Scorrero, Principalities of Jarm

Report from Agent Gancio, Commonwealth

Report from Agent Nepenthe, Axos

Report from Agent Serpes, Iron Confederacy

Report from Agent Alephan, Faraden

In each case, reports are compiled by the local agent handler (per code name) and dispatched by winged messenger.

Report compiled by Rhuin Blackwater

Spring 384YE

Report of Agent Couros

Plenum remains angry with Senate Sanctions. Involvement on both sides of recent civil unpleasantness. Business with Almodin Ostykis. And so on. Haraclien and Ragnabe thick as thieves with Grendel.

Asavea now openly involved in favourable trade deal with Principalities of Jarm, Grendel, Sarcophan Delves. Maybe others. Making friendly overtures to Iron Confederacy, but reports suggest it is going slowly.

Rebels crushed; no longer a consideration. Northern provinces very much toeing the line. Some suspicion of Empire for taking in Asavean rebels but this is mostly lost in background noise. Talk of retaliatory invasion of Sumaah; war hawks rattling sabers. Serious questions about whether Asavea can afford another war given treasury emptied by civil unrest.

Temple of the Seven Virtues bought by House of Traposdo. Family with mercantile links. Unfashionable small estate along north-eastern border of Nemoria. Have received extensive financial support from so far unidentified Plenum. Common opinion that this backing has covered large portion of the (highly discounted) price on Temple.

Debates in Plenum regarding Way overshadowing more general Empire discussion. Debates in name only of course – actually elaborate dismissals of various elements of faith, usually as proxy for criticism of Empire or Sumaah. Portilum Traposdo active in these “debates” – disagrees that Way is ‘the incitement of the ungodly against the truly virtuous’ – asserted that ‘the Way is to both gods and the virtuous’. Similar empty statements from Traposdo reportedly receive uncommon amount of bemused applause from rest of the chamber.

Portilum holding ‘mysteries’ and ‘sermons’ on Way within ruined temple. Unable to gain access, attempting to secure assistance from work crews working on rebuild.

Report compiled by Agent Couros, Nemoria, 383YE

Report of Agent Umshalla

Everything is going well. More Imperial ships trading at the Delves would certainly improve relations between two nations even further. Sarcophan enclave in Sarvbos has gone over very well, but establishment of cathedral in Sarcophan causing a little bit of trepidation. Some worries about over zealous Imperial preachers turning up to cause trouble.

News that same invitation has been extended to Sumaah – build a temple in the Delves on the understanding that no trouble occur.

If the Empire simply keeps on doing what it is doing then everyone will be able to prosper. Bedelaar Huisbaas Annike in particular remains a good friend of the Empire.

Report compiled by Agent Umshalla, Sarcophan, 383YE

Report of Agent Vassa

The Sumaah Republic continues to prosper. Their opinion of the Empire remains cautiously optimistic, although there are multiple factions with very different attitudes.

In the wake of collapsed rebellion in Asavea, the House of the People broadly seems to be focusing on internal affairs. The main exception seems to be that they are gearing up to harass Asavean shipping; privateering as the Freeborn might have it. There is lots of talk in the Houses of Virtue about the ethics of attacking Asavean traders with regard to Prosperity. Lots of references to Paragon Zemress.

Sumaah People and Houses of Virtue alike remain strong proponents of Liberty Pact but their general attitude is it does not go far enough – most Sumaah favour full embargo on trade with slaving nations rather than the compromise of sanctions.

Candidates for Symposium on the Way have left for Empire. Four cardinals and attendant staff. Much concern about their safety; House of Loyalty has provided some of best champions as guards against potential Imperial treachery. If anything happens to the delegation will almost certainly result in war with Sumaah, and demand that Empire be ejected from Liberty Pact. House of People and House of the Way in agreement on this.

Report compiled by Agent Vassah, Zemeh, 384YE

Report of Agent Scorrero

The situation in the Principalities of Jarm has become quite dire. Imperial citizens are no longer welcome, and while not openly harassed, a connection to the Empire is essentially social death. House of Princes do nothing to quell tide of resentment but it rarely goes beyond insults and accusations of collaborating with enemies of Jarm.

Some scattered unhappiness around the decision of the House of Princes to end trade with the Empire, especially with those houses who had established mercantile links. Several people ruined by decision, and frustrated that they have no recourse for recompense.

Most people are more concerned about the Commonwealth than the Empire; if Imperial affairs come up at all the assumption is that as allies of the Principalities' nearby enemy they are surely enemies of the Jarmish.

Much is made of the Senate's refusal to commit to non-violence with Jarm. The assumption is that they are intending to support the traditionally magically-weak (in Jarmish terms) Commonwealth with their own magicians. Some Magician-Princes calling for a "pre-emptive strike to cripple the Empire", but saner voices in the House of Princes are prevailing – arguing that the Principalities are no more in a position to attack the Empire than the Empire is to attack Jarm, and that the real focus must remain their neighbours to the south-west.

*The border nation of Lantir continues to be a *cassus belli*. The Commonwealth continue to push the small nation to join the Liberty Pact, the country is in turmoil following attempted coup and flight of Jarm-supporting noble wizards.*

Report compiled by Agent Scorrero, Vezak, 384YE

Report of Agent Gancio

The Commonwealth attitude to the Empire is quite positive as allies in the Liberty Pact. There is also a great deal of positivity coming from the fact that the Empire has been sharing magical lore with the zauberer – competition for places at the Lyceum Schloss is fierce among the university-educated magicians. A lot of debate about whether it makes more sense to focus on economic or military magic first.

The Liberty Pact is still seen as a glowing validation of the Commonwealth philosophy. Those involved on Commonwealth side have been showered with approval and awards. A lot of discussion about the idea that slavery is a great evil that needs to be stamped out, and the time for diplomatic approaches may be drawing to an end.

The Empire's move to rescue the Tamazi in particular is being seen as a good sign, although there are also questions about why the Axou were involved in the Pact in the first place. Some criticism though that Empire continues to allow neighbours to practice slavery. Common question is what they are doing to help their neighbours understand the harm they do / what they are doing to influence these regimes.

Everyone knows war with Jarm is inevitable; the common person in the street seems to believe that the posturing phase is pretty much over. Currently helping Lantir recover from recent disruption caused by Jarm-sponsored coup attempt. All it will take is an inciting incident in Lantir (the border state between Commonwealth and Jarmish territory) and that will be that.

Sumaah traders are especially common in Volkavaar and Leerdam, and there is also a marked increase in Sarcophan merchants. Some Axou ships are also visiting the Commonwealth, but they are still comparatively few in number.

Report compiled by Agent Gancio, Volkavaar, 383YE

Report of Agent Nepenthe

Axos is in a bit of turmoil following the departure of the Tamazi orcs. The common person in the street believes the Empire has overstepped its bounds by being so cavalier about their intervention in Axou politics. They seem more concerned by the insult, than by the fact the orcs are gone. Pleased to see the orcs gone, angry about the way they went.

The Grand Ilarchs are notably more sanguine; while they don't speak in defence of the Empire there is little condemnation coming from the rulers of the Citadels. If anything, there are a number of influential factions breathing a sigh of relief that they will not need to "address" the problem of the Tamazi themselves, and that the situation will not risk damaging their relations with other Liberty Pact nations (once the initial anger dies down obviously).

Relations between Axos and Skoura remain shaky by all accounts. Ilarch Maxatious of Kantor accused the Skourans of a "secret alliance" with the Mountains of Silence last year, based on information provided by Imperial spies, and the situation has not improved. Good news for the Empire potentially – the Skourans might be willing to step out from under shadow of Axos and make their own contact with outsiders.

Some evidence the Axou are considering an expedition into the Mountains of Silence. Mostly coming from Chambers of Issyk. The main obstacle is the difficulty of actually getting there – especially given the presence of the great fortresses – and the fact that the Axou actually have very few armies as the Empire would recognise them, relying much more on their powerful fortifications. Unclear why not approaching Empire for assistance.

Report compiled by Agent Nepenthe, Towers of Kantor, 384YE

Report of Agent Serpes

Note: Agent Serpes (Maria Caruna di Sarvos) was executed by the Suranni shortly after the Spring Equinox 383YE. Establishing new agents in the Iron Confederacy has proved difficult. Surrani suspicious of outsiders, and attempts to subvert local assets have met with limited success. Plenty of indication that the Suranni Dukes are aware the Empire is engaged in espionage with them, although this may just be coincidence given often paranoid nature of Dukes. But lake of Imperial trade (Robec remains a closed port) makes establishing and maintaining agents here very difficult.

The Suranni remain very suspicious of their northern neighbours. There is widespread assumption that the jealous Empire (who are well known to covet Surrani wealth apparently) are secretly supporting the Hand of Dumon in their campaign of terror. Hand has become more open in their efforts over the last year, targetting nobles and their families with curses and direct assassination attempts. Notable how indiscriminate Hand is – don't seem to care who gets hurt or killed as long as their target suffers. Some botched kidnappings have seen a couple of children die for no crime greater than being related to a Baron. This agent finds this all very distasteful.

Not surprised that Priests of Arav have been let “off the leash” by the Dukes. Normally favour stability over discord caused by purging magicians but Hand of Dumon have pushed them to take action.

Still peace between the Iron Confederacy and the Grendel. We've still been unable to determine the exact nature of the treaty and the Dukes aren't making a big deal of it. It was apparently negotiated by Baroness Katerine Lavasse of Meore who is interestingly the current ambassador to the Empire, and considered to be a very cunning woman indeed.

Report compiled by Agent Serpes, Robec, 384YE

Report of Agent Alephan

Politics at Court of Five Winds is like being on a boat in the middle of a thunderstorm and also there is a maelstrom brewing. And sharks. And your boat is on fire. We're struggling to keep track of who is on what side at any given time.

The families Ogudai (angry about treatment of scion) and Tsaagan (religious differences and suspicion about death of adopted members), now have open support from Modnos (wizards, unhappy with Empire for lies about the revered patriarch Genhis), and less obvious support from merchant families who have had their livelihoods impacted by sanctions, priest families unhappy with Imperial religious bigotry.

Lady Saretta's position is not stable; continued refusal to condemn the Empire is eroding her base. Tension between desire not to restrict trade, and knowledge that restricting trade is arguably the only way to show displeasure to Empire.

Empire's role in ending iridescent gloaming blight over Summer has seen wizard and merchant families invested in Gloaming joining the more pro-Imperial factions (some of them are providing mithril to the Conclave I believe?) and made up for the families moving in the opposite direction because their livelihoods are being impacted by sanctions. Also some of the merchants involved with the Gloaming Road are unhappy that due to the end of the blight their profits have been hit as Faraden no longer as thirsty for Imperial Gloaming and...

That's basically just the start, before you even factor in the various internal problems, the issues around Faraden membership of the Liberty Pact being attendant on them ending the various interlocking forms of slavery traditional in the nation, and the fact there are priests dedicated to Justice and Pride liberally stirring the pot at every turn.

Report compiled by Agent Alephan, Court of Five Winds, 384YE

Trading Summary

All numbers represent significant fleets trading with the named port following the Equinox or Solstice in question .

Asavean Archipelago

Port of Nemoria

Winter 383YE - 2
Autumn 383YE - 2
Summer 383 Ye - 4
Spring 383YE - 2

Sarcophan Delves

Port of Sarcophan Delves

Winter 383YE - 7
Autumn 383YE - 6
Summer 383YE - 6
Spring 383YE - 8

Citadels of Axos

Port of Kantor

Winter 383YE - 45
Autumn 383YE - 60
Summer 383YE - 26
Spring 383YE - 10

Port of Issyk

Winter 383YE - 1
Autumn 383YE - 3

Principalities of Jarm

Port of Vezak

Winter 383YE - 1
Autumn 383YE - 3
Summer 383YE - 1
Spring 383YE - 4

Port of Kavor

Winter 383YE - 0
Autumn 383YE - 6
Summer 383YE - 6
Spring 383YE - 9

Commonwealth

Port of Leerdam

Winter 383YE - 4
Autumn 373YE - 21
Summer 383YE - 16
Spring 383YE - 13

Port of Volkavaar

Winter 383YE - 4
Autumn 373YE - 9
Summer 383YE - 5
Spring 383YE - 6

Summah Republic

Port of Zemeh

Winter 383YE - 12
Autumn 383YE - 17
Summer 383YE - 16
Spring 383YE - 8