Earlier today, [authoritarian.GetTitle] [authoritarian.GetName] held a major speech that was broadcast on all major communication channels. In it, [authoritarian.GetSheHe] came very near to expressing treasonous ideas: [authoritarian.GetSheHeCap] painted a picture of the [root.GetName] beset by challenges whilst the government, feeble and divided, stood by helplessly and did nothing. To solve this state of affairs, [authoritarian.GetSheHe] espoused the need for a new form of government, with a stronger executive - one capable of making the tough decisions required to restore [root.GetSpeciesAdj] greatness. [authoritarian.GetSheHeCap] hinted that, if the government failed to act, "concerned, patriotic citizens" would have to take matters into their own hands.\n\nSince then, [authoritarian.GetName] has been lying low. [authoritarian.GetHisHerCap] whereabouts are unknown, but [authoritarian.GetSheHe] left a heavily encrypted message apologising for the secrecy, but explaining that [authoritarian.GetSheHe] fears for [authoritarian.GetHisHer] life in the current political climate. [authoritarian.GetSheHeCap] also left details on how to contact [authoritarian.GetHimHer] if we were to "see reason".\n\nHow should we react?

A. Arrest the traitor!

B. Demand an explanation.

C. [authoritarian.GetSheHeCap] is right! (Step down, shift to authoritarian)

D. Ignore [authoritarian.GetHimHer].

A) a- The Intelligence Services were able to track down and arrest [authoritarian.GetName]. [authoritarian.GetSheHeCap] is now on trial for treason against the state. Hopefully this is the last we hear of this matter."

b- Our intelligence services have failed to track down [authoritarian.GetName]. [authoritarian.GetHisHerCap] whereabouts - and current activities - are unknown. Who knows what [authoritarian.GetSheHe] is plotting?

(Diplo event)

B) "I'm sorry, [root.GetRulerName]... but it is the simple truth, and it was my duty to speak it. I will not hesitate to act to safeguard the future of the [root.GetSpeciesAdj] state."

-> Keep him talking

b) “Know that I have been planning this for a long time. Your only chance of saving face is to step down and let more able hands take over.”

1- Not a chance. Arrest the traitor!

2- Maybe [authoritarian.GetSheHe] is right…

3- Stay watchful.

D) (Some delay first). Then the conspiracy strikes

When you learn of it:

The [root.GetSpeciesAdj] intelligence agency has uncovered an extensive plot to establish an authoritarian form of government in the [root.GetName]. [authoritarian.GetName] is its figurehead, but it appears to have the support of a very large number of influential [root.GetSpeciesNamePlural], and an important faction within the military. If nothing is done, it is likely that they will soon be in a position to topple the current system and set up an authoritarian regime.

1. Enforce a full lock-down (unpopular but snuffs out the plot)
2. Redouble our efforts to catch the plotters. (lower chance that the plot will be stopped)

Conspiracy Ringleaders Arrested!

The [root.GetSpeciesAdj] intelligence agency and security services were able to pinpoint the identities and whereabouts of several ringleaders of the Authoritarian Conspiracy. With this information, they were able to arrest the plotters - among the [authoritarian.GetName] - and effectively snuff out the plot.

When they strike:

“I wish it had not come to this. But I will not let you destroy the [root.GetName].”

[root.GetRulerTitle] [root.GetRulerName] turned around. It was [authoritarian.GetName], with a pistol pointed at [root.GetRulerName]. “Don’t bother calling for the guards. They support me,” [authoritarian.GetName] said coldly. “Now, you have two choices. You can sign this paper and give your support to the new regime, and then go into exile; or I will shoot you here and now. It is yours to decide.”

1. Go quietly. (ruler exiled from the game, regime becomes authoritarian)
2. Fight to the last. (ruler killed, regime authoritarian, state gets ‘illegitimate regime’ for 15 years, i.e. -33% governing ethics)

Expanded scandals:

-Corruption of random 2 non-ruler leaders ('funnelling funds into off-world bank accounts / asteroid tax havens')

-Pacifists - ruler plotting wars??? Militarists - ruler abhors the concept of war, it is only through the force of will of his councillors that the empire is able to make war at all?-Democracy - ruler has royal ambition; has recently been demanding extra uncalled for pomp. Is arrested?

‘switched at birth (emperor?)’

“ruler found braindead and be controlled by a parasitic xenos” (event chain starting off with the choice by the xenos to install the parasite

Fanatic Materialists, non-egalitarian:

The [root.GetName] is abuzz with the revelation that [root.GetRulerTitle] [root.GetRulerName] has been redistributing state funds to help the plight of the poor. Many citizens are disgusted at the thought that taxpayer money has been spent on the undeserving, something considered a cardinal sin in [root.GetSpeciesAdj] culture. However, other (previously marginal) voices celebrate the generosity of the [root.GetRulerTitle]. They have long agitated for the establishment of a basic welfare state in the [root.GetName], and see this as the ideal opportunity to establish one, if the [root.GetRulerTitle] has the courage to seize it.

“Deny the allegations categorically.” (unpopular ruler modifier)

“A more compassionate state would be a good thing.” (shift to egalitarian, some factions upset)

“Resign in shame.” ([root.GetRulerTitle] [root.GetRulerName] is removed from the game)

For dictatorships/oligarchies that have a cast system:

“My [root.GetRulerTitle], would you just look at this quickly?”

As [root.GetRulerTitle] [root.GetRulerName] reads the document, [root.leader.GetHisHer] eyes widen in horror. “This evidence was destroyed. I saw to it,” [root.leader.GetSheHe] whispers.

The shadowy figure smiles coldly. “And yet, here it is.”

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In what appears to have been a well-planned espionage operation, opponents of the [root.GetRulerTitle] have produced evidence that [root.leader.GetHisHer] official biography was extensively fabricated: [root.leader.GetSheHeCap] was, in fact, a runaway slave who had systematically and ruthlessly rewritten [root.leader.GetHisHer] past through a long string of frauds and murders to facilitate [root.leader.GetHisHer] rise to power. Unfortunately, the evidence is both compelling and, in fact, true. If it were to become widely known, it would likely spell the end of [root.GetRulerTitle] [root.GetRulerName]’s rule, as none of the [root.GetSpeciesAdj] elites would accept obeying a runaway slave’s orders. How should [root.leader.GetSheHe] react?

A: Arrest the conspirator and suppress the evidence.

There is a high risk that the evidence will leak out anyway.

B: What do you want?

A:

25% - It appears that the conspiracy was operated with a lot less competence than it first appeared. Through quick and ruthless action, the evidence has been suppressed.

Ruler gains trait “ruthless” -> -33% faction suppression cost

75% - “Fool! Did you really think I was acting alone?”\n\nAlthough the spy is arrested, within minutes you receive alarmed reports that copies of the evidence have been sent to every major distribution node in the [root.GetName] - as well as to several of the [root.GetName]’s rivals. Not long afterwards, the door to the [root.GetRulerTitle]’s private apartments burst open. The group that enters has representatives of virtually every power grouping in the [root.GetName]. [root.GetRulerName] looks to [root.leader.GetHisHer] former supporters for succour, but their eyes are cold and pitiless.

“It’s over,” Vice-Chancellor [random\_guy.GetName] says, and points a blaster directly at [root.GetRulerTitle] [root.GetRulerName]. “Surrender or die.”

1. Surrender (tooltip: [root.GetRulerName] surrenders and is sold as a slave.)
2. Resist to the last (tooltip: Death is better than the humiliation of losing everything.

B:

1: “A large sum of money can buy our silence.” -> -50% income for 2 years

2: “Step down and allow elections to take place, and we will spare you.” (shift to egalitarian, change authority)

3: “Pay proper respect to the Gods, and we will keep our silence.” (shift to spiritualist)

4: “We would be mollified if the state would take a hostile stance against its foes.” (shift to militarist)

5: “End all warmongering, or we will leak the evidence.” (shift to pacifist)

6: “Open up the market, and we will forgive your flaws.” (shift to materialist)

7: “Xenos have no place in the [root.GetSpeciesAdj] state. Get rid of them.” (shift to xenophobe)

8: “An end to xenophobia would keep us quiet.” (shift to xenophile)

Alternative: “Unacceptable! Arrest the conspirator and suppress the evidence.

There is a high risk that the evidence will still leak out.

[root.GetRulerTitle] [root.GetRulerName] does not Believe!

Belief in religion and the spiritual world has always been at the heart of [root.GetSpeciesAdj] society... Which is why society is shocked to the core by the revelation that [root.GetRulerTitle] [root.GetRulerName] does not share these beliefs. Indeed, [root.leader.GetSheHe] was caught on tape deriding key tenets of the [root.GetSpeciesAdj] religion and boasting at how easy it was to manipulate ‘fools who believe in magic’. Religious leaders have moved swiftly to denounce [root.GetRulerName], and have demanded that [root.leader.GetSheHe] be deemed unfit to lead the [root.GetName]. Many citizens have rallied behind these calls. However, the [root.GetRulerTitle]’s supporters have rallied around [root.leader.GetHimHer], pointing out that [root.leader.GetSheHe] has been one of the [root.GetName]’s most capable leaders ever, and is well-respected among [root.leader.GetHisHer] peers on the galactic stage.\n\nWhat should be done about the situation?

1. Religion is for fools. We must abandon superstition. (Shift ethic, ‘spiritualists will be unhappy’)
2. Maybe we can work out a ceasefire. (Tooltip: [root.GetRulerTitle] [root.GetRulerName] will stay silent about religion if religious leaders will stay silent about [root.leader.GetHimHer]. Spiritualists get -10% happiness, you get -25% influence.
3. [root.GetRulerName] must step aside.

I can’t resist it. If A):

To [root.GetRulerName] (we no longer recognise the title you take),

We hereby declare your excommunication from all [root.GetSpeciesAdj] religious institutions. Furthermore, following a unanimous vote, the Council has decreed that you are hereby officially damned to Hell. May our forefathers’ spirits have mercy on you.

The Grand Council of Spiritual Affairs

(Effects: Ruler damned to Hell (-15% spiritualist happiness), -10% citizen happiness, -50% unity)

* The Populace begs for War

Nationalist feeling among the [root.GetSpeciesNamePlural] has spiked, with empire-wide demonstrations calling for the national honour to be restored. The target of their ire is the [enemy.GetName], with which the [root.GetName] has long been rivalled without the relationship ever escalating to war / but hasn't made war upon for many a year [different text as appropriate]. Recently, the [enemy.GetSpeciesNamePlural] have been openly derisive about the [root.GetSpeciesNamePlural], claiming that they are cowardly and have no honour. The outraged population demands a response.

A: Declare war (or if there’s problems, you agree to declare war within a year and if you don’t the militarists are furious – then this can only be for the player, though)

B: It's too risky (militarists are upset and you get a mild version of 'humiliated')

Trigger: You are militarist, you are at peace with a rival whose fleet is not ‘superior’ or ‘overwhelming’ for 25 years, it is not the first 50 years of the game.[/SPOILER]

If you choose B:

(Needs a planet with 5 militarists and near the enemy)

Border Incident

Dismayed at the refusal of the [root.owner.GetName] to make war on the [enemy.GetName], some hardcore jingoists on [root.GetName] hijacked an old cruiser that had been stationed there and flew it into the [enemy.GetName], shooting down several merchant ships and a mining outpost before it was driven away. [enemy.GetSpeciesAdj] authorities are furious, and demand that the perpetrators be handed over and an indemnity be paid. On the other hand, the [root.owner.GetSpeciesAdj] population is rallying behind the hijackers, calling the heroes and demanding further action against the [enemy.GetName].\n\nWhat action should be taken?

We shall give them their war.

Surrender the hijackers and pay the indemnity. (proper humiliated + something like -25% minerals for a year).