**-DRAFT**

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS RESEARCH DONE AND SCENARIO DEVELOPED**

**The Situation**

Tensions are high in the **South China Sea**. **China** has claimed that all land and waters within the **Nine-Dash Line** belongs to **China**, based on history. However, member nations of **ASEAN** have their own territorial claims in the South China Sea based on the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, which overlap with **China’s** claims. Of major contention are the **Spratly Islands**, a group of islands and reefs, of which different nations claim and occupy. However, all parties are also interested in maintaining the area as an open trade route, as trillions of dollars of trade moves through the area. Interested in maintaining freedom of navigation and open trade in the region, the **United States** has dispatched a Carrier Strike Group to the area to promote freedom of navigation.

**China**

As **China**, you have interest in maintaining your maritime sovereignty and freedom of seas. Your territory extends through the South China Sea as depicted by the nine dash line, which encompasses the **Paracel and Spratly Islands**. As other nations infringe on your territorial waters, you have increased military presence in the region. However, this presence is for defense purposes only and not as an aggressive force. That said, you are not afraid to open fire on vessels which do not comply with your orders within Chinese waters.

Fundamental Principle:

* Maintain Chinese freedom of seas, security, and sovereignty.

Desired End States:

* Resolution of disputes over South China Sea Islands as being part of China.

Objectives:

* Prevent unauthorized passage of Chinese waters.
* Enforce security and sovereignty of Chinese islands and waters.
  + Use of armed force is permitted as you see fit.

Relations:

* ASEAN is trespassing on your territorial waters and islands, having occupied several islands.
* The United States has repeatedly trespassed in Chinese waters and territorial waters around Chinese islands

Intelligence:

* ASEAN does not have a strong military presence in the region nor on islands.
* The United States has a formidable naval presence, and would likely defeat Chinese naval forces in armed conflict.

Military Assets:

* 3 Destroyers
* 4 Anti-submarine aircraft
* 3 Reconnaissance UAVs
* 2 Early warning jets (AEW&C)

Other Assets:

* 1 Aircraft carrier available in the South China Sea for routing to the Spratly Islands
* Mainland ports and ported naval assets
* Creation of additional man-made islands
* Oil rig/military base near islands
* Satellite Reconnaissance

**ASEAN**

As **ASEAN**, you have an economic interest in the region, being a rich fishing region as well as a major trade route. You recognize the UNCLOS, dictating territorial waters as being up to 12 nautical miles from shore, and individual Exclusive Economic Zones extending to 200 nautical miles from shore. Additionally, all islands residing within your EEZ is under your territory.

Fundamental Principle:

* Peaceful coexistence with all nations within the South China Sea

Desired End States:

* Peaceful resolution of South China Sea claims within international norms

Objectives:

* Enforce security of your islands within your EEZ.
* Reap economic benefits of the region within your EEZ.
* Do not engage in armed conflict with other parties.

Relations

* You support the United States in its freedom of navigation activities in the region.
* You do not accept Chinese aggression nor recognize their territorial claims in the area.

Intelligence

Assets:

**United States of America**

As the **United States of America**, you are in the area to maintain freedom of navigation. As such, any interference by any other nations on the area’s shipping is to be frowned upon. You abide by UNCLOS, which dictates territorial waters as up to 12 nautical miles off the coast. You do not officially recognize other nation’s claims to territorial waters outside of this law. You have a single Carrier Strike Group in the area, as well as additional assets ported in Japan and Hawaii available for deployment.

Fundamental Principle

* Maintain freedom of navigation of global navigation rights.

Desired End States

* Resolution of South China Sea claims within international norms
* Free navigation through region as dictated by UNCLOS

Objectives:

* Perform freedom of navigation activities in the region
* Deter aggression and armed conflict

Relations

* You do not recognize China’s claim of territorial waters in the region, nor of islands which are not within China’s EEZ or territorial waters, which extends 12 nautical miles from the mainland’s coast.
* You support ASEAN in maintaining their EEZ and territorial claims as dictated by UNCLOS.

Intelligence:

* China, while having military presence, does not pose a great threat against US naval forces.
* ASEAN does not have a military presence in the region.

Military Assets:

* 1 Aircraft Carrier + air wing
* 2 Cruisers
* 6 Destroyers
* 2 Nuclear Submarines
* 2 Supply ships

Other Assets:

* Satellite reconnaissance
* Aircraft/drone reconnaissance