**(U) Donovia Seeks to Annex Northern Atropian Provinces**

(U) US operations in the Caucasus occur in an increasingly hostile area of operations (AO). The current situation involves a broad political alliance of Ariana and Donovia to redraw the geopolitical map of the Caucasus to the exclusion of Western powers, and the functional end of currently independent states such as Gorgas and Atropia. The continuing competition by both Ariana and Donovia with Atropia in the international oil and gas markets, the continued fight between Atropia and Limaria over Lower Janga, and other regional flashpoints continue to defy permanent diplomatic solutions. Should deterrence fail, US-led coalition forces may need to defeat aggressor nations militarily to support critical national and regional security objectives. Tension in the Caucasus has been growing for the past ten years in part because of Donovia?s desire to politically and economically dominate the region. Atropia is an oil rich but corrupt third world country. Donovia is a poor, corrupt dictatorship that covets Atropian oil wealth. Donovia wants to reclaim territory previously held by the Donovian Empire. This territory consists of the Atropian northern provinces of Vetlia, Erdabil, and Hachzi. Donovia?s other goal is to establish control of key areas containing strategic natural resources, especially the oil-rich area of central Atropia and the pipeline that runs from the Caspian Sea through Atropia to Black Sea ports in Gorgas. Finally, Donovia wants to unify the ethnic Bilasuvian people found in the three northern Atropian provinces. Donovia perceives little international resistance to stop its ambitions in the region. Donovia boldly seeks to shape conditions in the Atropian provinces through a comprehensive INFOWAR campaign, political and armed proxies, Commando actions inside neighboring states, and by use of conventional forces. The desired end state is Donovian control of the disputed area with sufficient military force to ensure a favorable diplomatic solution resulting in a negotiated annexation of the provinces.

**(U) Negotiations are Ineffective and Donovia has Increased Border Presence and Exercises**

(U) Despite months of negotiations in Geneva and at UN headquarters in New York, a negotiated peace has failed. Donovian Army forces have been conducting combined arms maneuver exercises for the past five months. Recently these exercises have risen in scale to multidivisional-level offensive exercises integrating both surface-to-surface and joint fires. Donovian Special Purpose Forces infiltrated into northern Atropia and in collaboration with the BFB took control of key transportation nodes, border crossing areas, and infiltrated Atropian security forces to pave the way for invasion.

**(U) UN Passes Resolution and POTUS Creates CJTF-CS**

(U) Responding to the crisis in the Caucasus and growing international pressure, the UN in November passed UN resolution 16842 authorizing the use of force to protect Atropian sovereignty. The US President issued a Presidential National Security Directive (PNSD) that identifies respect for current Caucasus international boundaries and continued unfettered export of Caucasus oil and gas supplies as vital US national security interests. The PNSD also directed, in response to requests from the Government of Atropia, the Department of Defense to create and deploy a Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) to the Caucasus states (CJTF-CS) to demonstrate US resolve and deter potential aggression. Should shaping and deterrence fail, CJTF-CS must be prepared to conduct decisive operations. The President of the United directed the activation of reserve and National Guard units, and US military commanders began troop deployment. The mission given to CJTF-CS was to maintain the territorial integrity of Atropia.

**(U) US Forces Arrive in Caucus Region**

(U) The main elements of CJTF-CS are the US Army XVIII ABN Corps with BCTs from 82ND Airborne and 3RD Infantry Division along with Air Force and Navy support and mobility elements. Joint SOF elements were also deployed to the region for specialized tasking ISO larger convential mission objectives. XVIII ABN Corps established an ISB IVO Tbilisi Intl Airport in Tblisi, Gorgas and retained the majority of 82ND Airborne Division combat power in Gorgas as a deterring asset to large scale Donovian incursion into Atropia. 1-3 and 2-3 ABCTs and support elements of 3rd Infantry Division arrived by Military Sealift Command assets to ports IVO Baku, Atropia. The mission of 1-3 and 2-3 is to defend the Atropian capital of Baku and act as a detterent to continued Donovian aggression against Atropia.