**(U) Atropian military elements attacked in border ambush**

(U) Associated Press reports that a 25 truck convoy of fuel and logistic vehicles from the Atropian 344th Mechanized Support Battalion were attacked by small arms fire and rocket propelled grenades. Initial reports were of several fatalities and that several dozen were injured or wounded. Casualty numbers are expected to rise as reports are confirmed. An Atropian government source, who wished to remain anonymous on the grounds they are not authorized to make official statements, claimed the Bilasuvar Freedom Brigade was responsible and the equipment used was clearly marked Donovian Army weaponry. Donovia denies involvement in an official statement by the Donovian Southern Army Headquarters officials. Tensions between the two countries are expected to remain strained and become increasingly volatile over the next few weeks.

**(U) The US has publicly responded to growing Donovian propaganda**

(U) The US has publicly responded to growing Donovian propaganda by demanding respect for all Caucasus state boundaries. The US approached multilateral organizations, but few other countries seem willing to risk the backlash of an Donovian-sponsored oil embargo. In the last six months, border skirmishes between Donovian and Atropian border guards, overflight of Atropian terrain by Donovian air assets, and official Donovian naval vessel incursions into the Caspian Sea?home of the bulk of Atropia's oil and gas fields?have increased. Six weeks ago, a Donovian military patrol ?strayed? six miles into Atropian territory before being chased back into Donovia.

**(U) Atropia requests assistance from United States**

(U) US Forces have been officially requested by the Atropian government for assistance in border security. In light of recent attacks on the border, the Atropian government believes that with US help, they can maintain their borders and protect their people from an "imminent invasion" by Donovia. Donovia countered these claims stating that Atropia is using US Forces as "cheap thugs" to threaten Donovian economic activities in the region and prop up the "weak Atropian" government.

**(U) Last week, Atropia responded by mobilizing a portion of its Army in defense of the border**

(U) Last week, Atropia responded by mobilizing the 344th Mechanized Infantry Brigade to increase its border security. Citing an ?imminent attack,? Donovia initiated artillery fire and air strikes on Atropian military structures, though clearly sparing oil fields and production facilities. Donovia then demanded that Atropia ?demilitarize? its border with Donovia in an attempt to annex Northern Atropia into a new Bilasuvar Nation. Citing the large population of ethnic Donovian and Bilasuvar people in Northern Atropia, Donovia demands that Atropia cede territory for a Bilasuvar Nation with independent and autonomous government. Donovia threatened the United States against intervention. Using examples of the lack of action during the Crimean Annex in Ukraine, or failed talks for a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and failed efforts to establish a Kurdish or Yazidi nation, Donovia warned the US will face dire consequences if it makes an attempt to create a "puppet-state" in Atropia. Atropian officials have already met with UN and US Officials in requesting support and aid in the interim, as Donovia continues military advances into Atropian territory.