

## Those Fat Cats in Congress

It's a surprise move from Congress. The House passed an acceptable health omnibus bill, with a little more pork than you'd like in the other party's states and some lean funding for priorities you stumped for, but it was good enough. It included improvements in veteran benefits, which was one of your issues. In the Senate, however, the committee has attached an eleventh hour rider, and it's poison. Where the bill they got was pretty neutral about abortion, this rider regulates health-care providers on positions you consider matters of personal conscience. Your party is debating vigorously now, but it's quite possible that you'll get the bill with the rider intact and either need to sign it or veto it.

The Senate's crackling, but the lines are getting drawn. Despite heavy arm twisting and some offers that could come back to haunt the party, your rivals aren't budging. The options are becoming increasingly clear.

**1) Quiet Acquiescence:** Make a compact with the other side that you sign it without a fuss if they provide some other concessions and agree not to brag about it afterwards. It's a loss, but a quiet one, and you at least regain lost territory elsewhere.

**2) Veto Ambush:** Make the deal for the concessions and silence, then veto it anyway with huge fanfare and chastise them for delaying the health care of all Americans by turning it into a partisan issue.

**3) Veto With Mutual Anger:** Let them turn this into a big stink, veto the bill, and use your bully pulpit to ensure that they come out stinking worse than you do.

**4) Sign With Visible Regret:** Sign the bill under protest, making sure the public knows you're doing this for cancer research and to fund more treatment for meth babies – funding that's urgently needed and that the other party risked in order to cater to the most extreme elements of their base.

The bloggers have caught it from C-SPAN, so option #1 looks sketchier. Certainly this bill is going to swing a big stick with single-issue abortion voters in both parties, whether you pass it or veto it. It might still be possible to minimize its impact on the mainstream, if you catch a lucky break with celebrity news.

The rider stayed and the bill's on its way. The most extreme groups on both the pro-choice and pro-life fringes are already sending emails full of overblown and hysterical rhetoric, promising dire consequences at the voting booth and in terms of funding if you do or do not sign it. The world awaits your Presidential decision.

## Outcomes

**1) Quiet Acquiescence:** The silent moderates respect you for your compromise, but they're overwhelmed by the deafening outcry from your own constituency, who feel you betrayed your principles without even a fight.

Conservation: nil	Centrism: up
Development: nil	Balanced Budget: nil
Military: up	International Prestige: nil
Voter Satisfaction: down	Tax Revenue: nil
Health: up	

**2) Veto Ambush:** Give 'em hell, Mr. President! The voters like it that you spat in the other side's eye, and by taking them by surprise you seized the spin initiative and made sure the whole issue played your way. Of course, now they'll never trust you again. But the important thing is that the uninsured veterans are blaming the other party.

Conservation: nil	Centrism: down
Development: nil	Balanced Budget: nil
Military: down	International Prestige: nil
Voter Satisfaction: up	Tax Revenue: nil
Health: down	

**3) Veto With Mutual Anger:** With both sides spinning furiously, a great deal of mud winds up on everyone. Each of you blames the other for politicizing the issue and failing to take care of those meth babies. Surprisingly, the voters blame you both.

Conservation: nil	Centrism: down
Development: nil	Balanced Budget: nil
Military: down	International Prestige: nil
Voter Satisfaction: down	Tax Revenue: nil
Health: down	

**4) Sign With Visible Regret:** Your people feel you sold out. The other side feels you whined and tried to turn a political profit off doing the right thing, by complaining about being forced to do the right thing – that won't bring any swing votes off the fence. But the veterans are happy, as are a couple well-funded research oncologists.

Conservation: nil	Centrism: down
Development: nil	Balanced Budget: nil
Military: up	International Prestige: nil
Voter Satisfaction: down	Tax Revenue: nil
Health: up	

## Whodunit?

A well-coordinated terrorist attack has ripped apart an important American city. It delivered a well-designed one-two punch.

A single initial bomb was exploded in a small airport at the edge of the city. Immediate rumors that it was a “dirty bomb” were corroborated – both radiation and biological materials were released.

Just as the initial reaction to this information crested (about 12 hours), the event was followed up with a coordinated disruption of medical clinics throughout the area, mainly with simply-constructed, conventional bombs set off by cell phones.

That was yesterday. Today, you start to get on top of it.

To understand this scenario, you must understand what a dirty bomb does – the actual human damage is minimal; the radiation levels are negligible even at ground zero after the passage of very little time, and the biologicals disperse and break down rapidly. What matters is the hysteria that overwhelms the infrastructure. Each person freaking out over a rash is using up medical time and expertise that’s supposed to be going to accident victims and the truly ill. Crimes against medical facilities (break-ins, mob demands, etc) skyrocket.

The difficult wrinkle is that a significant number of the victims are of Arab ancestry. The targeted clinics in particular serve neighborhoods of many people of middle-eastern backgrounds.

National reactions and poll results provide a familiar, even comfortable context for familiar debate. You as president must negotiate the usual stuff, as follows.

### Options:

- 1) *impose martial law in the city*
- 2) *provide massive aid but keep hands-off*
- 3) *ramp up security in similar target zones*
- 4) *ramp up overseas military action against a suspected country*
- 5) *provide believable assurances that the government is on top of the situation*
- 6) *identify the culprits and find them.*

The trouble is, you can’t do them all. This emergency is social as well as physical, and dealing with it takes time and a lot of money. Choose compatible options and prioritize them (yes, literally, in order, 1–2–3–etc) based on the advice you’re getting.

The phone rings, and it’s Homeland Security. There’s a new wrinkle.

Two very different groups have taken credit for the incident. One of them is an extremist terrorist group with ties to a variety of governments in Arab countries; according to them, they have struck at Arab-Americans whom they consider collaborators and traitors. The other is a band of home-grown fruit loops, recently graduated from crystal meth and gun-running into a well-run strike force. As you might imagine, they claim to be striking pre-emptively at the foreigners who are harboring a fifth column of terrorists.

Intelligence reports unfortunately cannot settle the issue. They can actually validate each claim in terms of M.O., opportunity, known suspects, and psychological motivation. Each group is equally plausible. Neither group has made an undeniable claim. Investigations are ongoing, but the people on the ground are more concerned with damage control than with preserving the evidence trail.

The polls and blogs are clear: to state that the government cannot tell who did it is political suicide. You have to decide who to ear-tag with responsibility. You have to decide whether to stick to the priorities you chose initially, or whether to revise your policy.

It’s the crucial moment. What do you do, and whom do you decide to do it to?

## Outcomes

### *Did you emphasize direct military and police action?*

Conservation nil	Centrism down
Development down	Balanced Budget down
Military up	International Prestige down
Voter Satisfaction up	Tax Revenue down
Health down	

### *Did you emphasize aid and recovery?*

Conservation up	Centrism up
Development up	Balanced Budget down
Military down	International Prestige up
Voter Satisfaction nil	Tax Revenue down
Health up	

### *Which group did you choose to identify as the culprit?*

#### *The Arab terrorist internationals*

Conservation down	Centrism down
Development nil	Balanced Budget down
Military up	International Prestige down
Voter Satisfaction up	Tax Revenue up
Health down	

*The American locals*

Conservation nil                      Centrism up  
Development nil                      Balanced Budget nil  
Military up                              International Prestige up  
Voter Satisfaction down    Tax Revenue down  
Health down

Combine these two sets of results. An up plus a down results in a nil. An up or down will increase or decrease a nil, respectively. Two ups or two downs count double for points purposes.

*To summarize:*

*Did you emphasize direct military and police action, targeting the Arab terrorist internationals?*

The voters initially love it, but the long-term effect is ugly – the military budget spirals up, the political wedge between parties grows and solidifies, and all domestic special interests feel the pinch over the next year. Despite high poll results in the beginning, the election plans sour, early, and your opponents put aside their internal differences to mount a killer opposition plan.

Conservation down                      Centrism down  
Development down                      Balanced Budget double-down  
Military double-up                      Tax Revenue nil  
International Prestige double-down  
Voter Satisfaction double-up  
Health double-down

*Did you emphasize direct military and police action targeting the American locals?*

Problems ensue quickly. No one wants to get tough when the target is the guy next door. Political debate becomes inconclusive both on the Hill and at the polls; no one can figure out what you're standing for. Various extremist groups flare up and carry out "actions" of their own. Your party ostracizes you and grooms someone else for the next election.

Conservation nil                      Centrism nil  
Development down                      Balanced Budget down  
Military double-up                      International Prestige nil  
Voter Satisfaction nil                      Tax Revenue double-down  
Health double-down

*Did you emphasize aid and recovery, blaming the Arab terrorist internationals?*

It's a toss-up among most respondents, especially politicians and international interests, but voters seem to like it. Domestic recovery seems strong, although the budget is beyond hope – still, no one seems to care. You've set a good stage for the next election.

Conservation nil                      Centrism nil  
Development up                              Balanced Budget double-down  
Military nil                                  International Prestige nil  
Voter Satisfaction up                      Tax Revenue nil  
Health nil

*Did you emphasize aid and recovery, blaming the American locals?*

H'm – personal political suicide, but many domestic and foreign interests are pleased, and your party is strengthened. Despite budget issues, no one in power is directly mad at you, and the problems caused by decreased taxes are far away, to be someone else's problem. You won't be able to be elected dog-catcher, though, let alone Pres again.

Conservation up                              Centrism double-up  
Development up                              Balanced Budget down  
Military nil                                      International Prestige double-up  
Voter Satisfaction down                      Tax Revenue double-down  
Health nil

## The Cavendish Memo

Mr. President, your former personal secretary (Ms. Doe) -- who you fired last week for gross incompetence -- has disappeared. Reported missing by an aunt in Pittsburgh, PA, her car was found abandoned on Interstate 70, near Clear Spring, MD. According to Doe's landlord, she was moving back to Pittsburgh and would be staying with the aforementioned aunt. No one has seen or heard a word from Doe in two days.

The White House IT Director reports that illegal copies were made of your personal correspondence files two weeks ago, unnoticed due to a recent server glitch. The IT Director has determined the list of copied correspondence contains a potentially explosive memo.

The Cavendish Memo is a six month old personal letter from your old college friend, the Cavendish Corporation CEO, suggesting that if certain environmental statutes were relaxed for the corporation, they could build a new factory in Montana.

A Cavendish factory would bring in new jobs, cause the local and state tax revenues to increase dramatically, and lead to enhanced economic development throughout the region. Also, Cavendish is known for high worker satisfaction due to its extensive health benefits following your own Presidential Recommendations -- a plank in your election platform.

At the time, you responded with tentative interest in pursuing further talks about the CEO's plan.

Unfortunately, giving Cavendish a pass on these environmental restrictions would directly violate the new Global Environment Treaty you signed just last month in Oslo.

The White House phone bank is being swamped with calls from voters about your secretary and the missing files. The White House Press Corps is demanding a statement. What will you do?

The Cavendish Corporation Memo has been released to the domestic and foreign media. The White House Press Corps is screaming for a statement. The media and the internet blogs are alive with discussion of Ms. Doe's disappearance. The public, the media, and the international community demands answers of you, Mr. President.

Here are your options:

**1) Support the Cavendish Memo:** The benefits to the tentative agreement are substantial, even enough to balance the backlash from violating the Global Environment Treaty in this one, isolated case.

**2) Rebuke the Cavendish Memo:** Agreeing to the outlined plan is poison now that it's been widely disseminated; the loss of face in the international community would be tremendous.

**3) Refuse to Comment:** The situation is too thorny for interperate speech; it's worth putting up with the cries of the public and the media until the whole problem can be unraveled from Ms. Doe's disappearance.

**4) Start the Spin Machine:** Refocus attention on the missing Ms. Doe (possibly trying to paint her as a political operative).

**5) Resign:** You're caught between a rock and a hard place, because the existence of the memo -- and your as-yet unrevealed reply -- is a political and diplomatic firebomb. Best just to step down.

The Cavendish Corporation has just issued a statement saying that the CEO's letter was not a corporate communication, but simply a personal discussion between old college chums. Furthermore, the CEO has resigned from Cavendish.

Ms. Doe is still missing, but the FBI has some sketchy evidence that connects her to one of your political opponents: she had been seen (after her dismissal) in his company, having a late supper in Georgetown.

Your Press Secretary has scheduled a press conference for :55.

Mr. President, copies of the vaguely positive reply you sent to the Cavendish CEO have been issued to the media.

The Press Conference.

Do you:

**1) Support the Cavendish Memo?**

**2) Rebuke the Cavendish Memo?**

**4) Start the Spin Machine?**

**3) Refuse to Comment?**

**5) Resign?**

## Outcomes

**1) Support the Cavendish Memo:** The substantial benefits of a new Cavendish Corporation factory in an economically-underdeveloped area is important to the well-being of the American Economy. (And to hell with the tree huggers, international critics, and conspiracy theorists.)

Conservation down

Development up

Military nil

Voter Satisfaction down

Health up

Centrism down

Balanced Budget nil

International Prestige down

Tax Revenue up

2) *Rebuke the Cavendish Memo*: Better to stand by your word: better for the environment, better for retaining face globally, better overall politically. (Worse for business, though!)

Conservation up	Centrism nil
Development down	Balanced Budget nil
Military nil	International Prestige up
Voter Satisfaction up	Tax Revenue down
Health down	

3) *Refuse to Comment*: This is a private matter than should have never become a public issue.

Conservation nil	Centrism down
Development nil	Balanced Budget nil
Military nil	International Prestige down
Voter Satisfaction down	Tax Revenue nil
Health nil	

4) *Start the Spin Machine*: Ms. Doe is obviously just a political operative for the opposition. Presidents have always been approached by old friends and acquaintances for special favors. To blow this single example – which was answered only out of kindness and friendship – into a political issue is truly a repugnant of political skullduggery.

Conservation down	Centrism nil
Development nil	Balanced Budget nil
Military nil	International Prestige down
Voter Satisfaction nil	Tax Revenue nil
Health nil	

5) *Resign*: You’ve tarnished not just your own image, but that of your political party and the office of the President of the United States. By stepping down, you sacrifice yourself for the good of all three.

Conservation up	Centrism up
Development nil	Balanced Budget nil
Military nil	International Prestige up
Voter Satisfaction up	Tax Revenue nil
Health nil	

ALSO: The Vice President is now the President for the next Crisis!

## Flown the Coop

The news has just spilled all over CNN -- the ruling party of Kerzhakastan claims to have captured an American F-36 Joint Strike Fighter. Kerzhakastan is a crumbling former satellite of the Soviet Union which ceased being a blip on America's radar when they surrendered their last warhead almost ten years ago, but now they're back in the headlines with a grainy picture of what could be a F-36 JSF on CNN.

Despite numerous phone calls to the Air Force, no one can give the White House a straight answer on the subject: Do the Kerzhakastanis have a F-36 or not? The reply: We'll get back to you. The furor over this possible non-event is already reaching a dull roar; even though no one knows if it's actually happening or not. Events are rapidly taking on a life of their own. As the news piles up, it becomes more and more difficult to tell fantasy from reality.

Now Wolf Blitzer is flapping his gums about an American pilot on the ground in Kerzhakastan. The story now is that he flew his jet from Turkey and landed it in Kerzhakastan. They're flashing pictures of some corn-fed schoolboy from Nebraska named Lieutenant William Weeks Jr. -- a snapshot that looks like it was pulled out of a High School yearbook from the 1980s. There's no video footage or anything like that; just a grainy cell-phone shot of Weeks' name painted on the side of the jet (which could be made out of cardboard on some back lot).

No answer at the Air Force command -- they're busy counting pilots and planes. That's what no one thinks about when they talk about the greatest military power on Earth: all the counting involved. But just then, the red-phone rings. The Russians want to know if the news is true; and, if so, what America is prepared to do about it. Kerzhakastan and Russia have no love lost between them (which is why the Kerzhakastanis aren't Russian anymore), and Russia has long had the upper-hand in their numerous border skirmishes. They feel a Mach 3 capable stealth fighter loaded with high-grade weapons could be a disruptive force in the region.

The Russian Prime Minister wants answers, and he wants them before Wolf Blitzer. The Russians will call back in 30 minutes. What's your call Mr. President?

1. Back the Russians: Yes sir, Mister Prime Minister, we're right there with you. We'll keep you apprised of the situation. Anything you need.
2. Neutrality: Well, that certainly sounds bad, but as far as we know now, it's just not happening. Sorry.
3. It's Russia's Problem: We might have lost the jet, but after that, it ain't our fault, so back up, buster.
4. Wave the Big Stick!: Zip it, or uncle America will have to

break out the big guns and then someone's gonna get hurt. This is none of your business.

It's spreading. TASS and international news organizations have picked up and scattered the story like someone tracking a stain around a house. Still no word from the Air Force except: Yes, we have a Lieutenant William Weeks Jr. and yes he flies a F-36 in Turkey, but no, sir, we don't know where he is right now or if his plane is accounted for.

Someone wakes Weeks' mother up and interviews the woman on TV at 2 in the morning her time. She looks as if she's still dreaming. The White House Press Secretary is asking for a statement; and he implies that waiting is not an option. What's the White House have to say on the murky subject?

The Russians are back on the phone. What's your answer Mr. President?

In the meantime, your state department guys have roused the Kerzhakastani ambassador who looks both frightened and ecstatic at the same time. It's the first time he's ever been in the White House. He knows nothing about any jet, pilot, or situation in his country. No, he can't get the Kerzhakastani Prime Minister on the telephone, he's on his way to his summer house in Ladogara.

You send the Ambassador out of the room while you muster up a plan. What stance do you take Mr. President?

1. Polite; Polite: So, how's it going? Have you seen the news? Oh, I know, it's such a shame.
2. We Understand You Found Our Plane!: Thanks so much; we'll just take that back now.
3. We're Not Saying You Have Our Plane: But if you do we want it back.
4. Get Me My Plane Back, Idiot: Or the Kerzhakastani national dress will involve lead shielding.

The poor little ambassador comes back in. What's it going to be? The decision is yours.

## Outcomes

There were really two intersecting decisions here, your stance with the Russians and your stance towards Kerzhakstan. Each has separate blowback. The combined result of those decisions determines the fate of the plane... and its pilot.

### *Choices with the Russians*

#### *1) Back the Russians*

Within the hour the Russian minister of Defense is on CNN telling Wolf how the US military is looking to Russia in dealing with the Kerzhakstan problem. Needless to say, the world is uneasy that the US could misplace a jet, the people of the US are not pleased we're looking to Russia to fix things, and no one's happy with the military at all. And the jet's still missing right?

Conservation nil	Centrism nil
Development nil	Balanced Budget nil
<b>Military down</b>	<b>International Prestige down</b>
<b>Voter Satisfaction down</b>	Tax Revenue nil
Health nil	

#### *2) Neutrality*

Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Or in this case lost. Good move. But what about the damn jet?

Conservation nil	Centrism nil
Development nil	Balanced Budget nil
Military nil	International Prestige nil
Voter Satisfaction nil	Tax Revenue nil
Health nil	

#### *3) It's Russia's Problem*

The Russians go on alert. America goes on alert. The public is thrilled America doesn't fool around.

Conservation nil	Centrism nil
Development nil	Balanced Budget nil
<b>Military Up</b>	<b>International Prestige Up</b>
<b>Voter Satisfaction Up</b>	Tax Revenue nil
Health nil	

#### *4) Wave the Big Stick*

Oh, so it's that way, is it? Russia complains to the security council; leaks occur. Within minutes you're fielding phone calls from the UN, Belgium, France, Spain, Norway, Italy, China and Japan. Their overwhelming message -- keep it in your pants; violence won't solve this. It's only a matter of hours before college students are protesting out front the White House and you're being lambasted on Meet the Press.

Conservation nil	Centrism up
Development nil	Balanced Budget nil
<b>Military Down</b>	<b>International Prestige Down</b>
<b>Voter Satisfaction Down</b>	Tax Revenue nil
Health nil	

### *Choices with Kerzhakstan*

#### *1) Polite, Polite*

The Ambassador's caught by CNN as he goes back to his embassy. He gives a good sound-bite about what a great President you are, and how on top of the problem American seems to be.

Conservation nil	Centrism nil
Development nil	Balanced Budget nil
<b>Military Up</b>	<b>International Prestige Up</b>
<b>Voter Satisfaction Up</b>	Tax Revenue nil
Health nil	

#### *2) We Understand You Found Our Plane!*

Oh, of course, we'll look right into that, the Ambassador politely replies. But isn't that what your Air Force commander said forty-five minutes ago?

Conservation nil	Centrism nil
Development nil	Balanced Budget nil
<b>Military down</b>	<b>International Prestige Up</b>
Voter Satisfaction nil	Tax Revenue nil
Health nil	

#### *3) We're Not Saying You Have Our Plane*

Polite but firm. Nice. The Ambassador bows and scrapes. Of course he'll get the Prime Minister on the phone; of course they'll find the plane. The American people are impressed by the footage of you talking the Ambassador leaked to the press by your ever-opportunistic press advisor.

Conservation nil	Centrism nil
Development nil	Balanced Budget nil
Military nil	International Prestige nil
<b>Voter Satisfaction Up</b>	Tax Revenue nil
Health nil	

#### *4) Get Me My Plane Back, Idiot*

Yeah, we could erase your country in under twenty minutes. We want our jet. Now. It's kind of like a bull gorilla threatening a chipmunk. The Ambassador flees like the victim in a horror movie. It ain't pretty.

Within minutes America's threats are repeated into a camera. Wolf Blitzer is asking if the President has gone too far. No one seems happy with your decision.

Conservation nil	Centrism nil
Development nil	Balanced Budget nil
<b>Military down</b>	<b>International Prestige down</b>
<b>Voter Satisfaction down</b>	Tax Revenue nil
Health nil	

### *Results with the Plane*

The Prime Minister of Kerzakhstan is finally on the phone (God knows where your Air Force people are) . His answer is determined by how well you've scored, in the two previous choices.

\* +2 International Prestige: Of course we have your plane, we have not touched it and it will be returned to you -- along with its pilot; a very polite man -- immediately.

\* +1 International Prestige: We have your plane and are willing to return it shortly. Of course, we'd like to discuss some economic possibilities.

\* -1 International Prestige: We have your plane -- however, your behavior has enlightened us as to your imperialist motives. You will not get your plane Mr. President.

\* -2 International Prestige: Plane? What's a plane?



## Cult Standoff

It's day 18 of a Waco-style standoff between armed religious fanatics - an Apocalyptic Christian cult - and law enforcement. The ATF, the FBI and local police have surrounded the cultists' compound and have been working to negotiate a peaceful end, but fruitlessly. The cult leader, John Johannes, has promised several times to release the women and children in the compound (many of them his wives and children), but each time has failed to deliver.

One of the cultists - one of Johannes' wives - is a Swiss national.

Eleven days ago, agents of the ATF came under fire from the compound when attempting to execute arrest and search warrants against Johannes. They returned fire. Three ATF agents were killed and 18 were wounded, along with an unknown number of cultists killed and wounded. The cultists have fired occasionally at the agents and officers on the scene since then, but there've been no casualties and no returned fire. On the morning of the second day, FBI agents in armored vehicles deployed to the compound's perimeter, where they've remained, despite Johannes' strong objections and an official commitment to a peaceful, negotiated resolution.

FBI Special Agent Steven Mercer is the on-site commander, overseeing the ATF, local law enforcement, and the FBI's hostage rescue team and negotiation team. He's been doing a poor job, it turns out: the various elements have acted without coordination or clear communication. The ATF element has been particularly aggressive, acting to increase the pressure on the compound, sometimes over the objections and sometimes without the knowledge of the negotiation team.

The negotiation team has been communicating with Johannes and with his right-hand man - his "Holy Spirit" - Alfred Carlton. Both cult leaders have repeatedly assured negotiators that no one in the compound will commit suicide. Johannes' demands include legal immunity for himself and his followers, including immunity from prosecution on illegal firearms, bigamy, and child abuse charges; and the arrangement of an opportunity to preach his message on national television and to publish his revelations.

Power and telephone have been cut to the compound (excepting direct telephone to the negotiation team). It's estimated that the compound has enough water to outlast a prolonged siege, but that they're already running low on food. The FBI has been keeping the compound under floodlights and has been broadcasting messages that anyone coming out of the compound will be treated fairly.

The hostage rescue team has prepared four resolution plans. They're awaiting your approval, Mr. President.

FBI Plan 1 (lure) involves luring Johannes out of the compound with the promise of media exposure - an opportunity to preach on national television - and then arresting him, conducting a search of the compound afterward.

FBI Plan 2 (withdrawal) involves withdrawing law enforcement from the compound perimeter, waiting for Johannes to leave the compound, and arresting him then. This is Mercer's preferred plan.

FBI Plan 3 (pressure) involves maintaining position and increasing pressure on the compound's residence, waiting for Johannes to surrender himself and submit to search.

FBI Plan 4 (nighttime entry) is a "dynamic entry" raid into the compound, under cover of night, using tear gas and the armored vehicles.

A group of seven children have exited the compound, making their way toward the perimeter. The children are very sick, vomiting and fevered.

Carlton (Johannes' "Holy Spirit") contacts the negotiation team, insisting that the compound be supplied with fresh food and threatening "a reckoning in blood, such blood" if the cultists are further starved. He offers the release of four more sick children.

Medical personnel on-site have examined the children. They suspect botulism. There was a note pinned inside one child's jacket, presumably by her mother or another adult woman: "get us out."

The Swiss Consulate identifies the Swiss national in the compound as Uta Krahenbuhl. She married Johannes three years ago, in Switzerland. Together they have a two year old son, presumed to be also in the compound.

Special Agent Hugo Montego, the on-site commander of the ATF element, has just learned of the hostage rescue team's four plans. The ATF element has also prepared a resolution plan, a more aggressive and more dangerous daytime entry; he hopes that you will consider it, Mr. President, as an alternative to the FBI plans.

In any case, Montego recommends strongly against FBI Plan 1 (ruse) and FBI Plan 2 (withdrawal), on the grounds that the law enforcement objective wrt the cult is the search of its compound and the seizure of its weapons hoard, not just Johannes' arrest.

One of the seven sick children released says that most of the children in the compound are sick, and "some are hurt real bad."

The negotiation team on-site is considering the food-for-children exchange. Carlton has rejected out of hand any suggestion that more children be released than four.

Agents on-site have seen armed men taking position within the compound, sawing gun ports into doors and boarded-up windows.

Three children leave the compound - not four - released with no exchange of food. One is in critical condition, having received a gunshot wound during the initial exchange of fire eleven days ago.

Johannes contacts the negotiation team in a rage, demanding the return of all ten children, or else immediate food supplies and medical supplies plus immediate accession to his demands, and promising to "set fire to the whole world" if he's refused.

Montego advises that his daytime entry plan can be implemented within the hour.

Mr. President, which plan will you approve?

**FBI Plan 1 (ruse):** Provide food supplies, offer Johannes the opportunity to broadcast his message, arrest him when he exits the compound, return later to search the compound.

**FBI Plan 2 (withdrawal):** Withdraw from the compound's perimeter, arrest Johannes and/or Carlton when either one exits the compound to procure food, return later to search.

**FBI Plan 3 (pressure):** Maintain the compound's perimeter, refuse food supplies, act to increase pressure on the cultists. Arrest Johannes, Carlton and others when they surrender and submit to search.

**FBI Plan 4 (nighttime entry):** Use tear gas, the armored vehicles, and cover of darkness to enter and secure the compound. Arrest Johannes, Carlton and others, seize the cult's illegal weapons.

**ATF Plan (immediate entry):** Use tear gas, the armored vehicles, and aggressive tactics to enter and secure the compound. Arrest Johannes, Carlton and others, seize the cult's illegal weapons.

## Outcomes

### *FBI Plan 1 (ruse):*

The ruse works, and arresting Johannes goes off, but although Carlton had released the children without Johannes' knowledge, he remains loyal to the cult and capable in Johannes' absence. He prolongs the standoff - but with a new willingness to negotiate. Mercer manages (sometimes barely) to keep Montego from launching his own disastrous raid, and after another eight days Carlton surrenders. Unfortunately, the extended timeframe keeps several of the children, one woman, and three men from receiving medical aid in time to save their lives.

Conservation nil  
Development nil  
Military nil  
Voter Satisfaction up  
Health nil

Centrism up  
Balanced Budget down  
International Prestige nil  
Tax Revenue nil

### *FBI Plan 2 (withdrawal):*

It turns out that Johannes himself doesn't emerge to secure food, but Carlton does, and that's pretty good. Mercer carries off Carlton's arrest and also manages to delay Montego's inevitable raid, for a few days at least. By then, without Carlton's stabilizing influence and administration, the cult's fragile and vulnerable - but it's turned on itself. By the end the death toll's near 40, most killed within the cult in its explosive final day; Krahenbuhl and her child are among the dead. No law enforcement agents are killed, a few are wounded.

Conservation nil  
Development nil  
Military nil  
Voter Satisfaction nil  
Health nil

Centrism up  
Balanced Budget up  
International Prestige down  
Tax Revenue nil

### *FBI Plan 3 (pressure):*

Mercer tries to hold back Montego, and succeeds for a few days. But inevitably, Montego leads his ATF raid, and it's poorly coordinated and poorly supported, and it goes very, very badly. Ten law enforcement agents are killed, another 25 are wounded, and few of the cultists live to face arrest. Among the nearly 50 women and children killed are Krahenbuhl and her child. Everyone from the Christian Right to the Libertarian Right to the ACLU to, y'know, Switzerland is out for blood, investigations and resignations.

Conservation nil  
Development nil  
Military up  
Voter Satisfaction down  
Health nil

Centrism down  
Balanced Budget down  
International Prestige down  
Tax Revenue nil

### *FBI Plan 4 (nighttime entry):*

The cultists are prepared for the raid and put up good resistance. In the end, the death count tops 50, including several law enforcement agents and about 20 women and children, including Krahenbuhl and her child. Despite the casualties, this is publicly seen as a successful FBI operation - a hard but necessary end to a terrible situation. Subsequent internal investigations focus on the ATF's aggressive stance and communication failures, and Montego is formally reprimanded.

Conservation nil  
Development nil  
Military nil  
Voter Satisfaction up  
Health nil

Centrism up  
Balanced Budget down  
International Prestige down  
Tax Revenue nil

*ATF Plan (immediate entry):*

The raid catches the cult in the midst of preparations and poorly organized, with Johannes and Carlton in a fierce fight over the released children. Of the 30 or so killed in the raid, only two are law enforcement agents, only 3 are children, and only 6 are women. Johannes is arrested, Carlton killed, and Krahenbuhl and her child return to Switzerland. Unfortunately, the grievances between the ATF and the FBI get aired in public, and the FBI suffers badly in public view. Mercer is forced to resign.

Conservation nil	Centrism down
Development nil	Balanced Budget up
Military nil	International Prestige up
Voter Satisfaction up	Tax Revenue nil
Health nil	