Sample Crisis Note and Directive

As this may be some delegates’ first crisis committee, we have provided the following sample crisis note and crisis directive for delegates so they are prepared to jump right into committee.

A crisis note (also known as a personal directive) is a private communication between the delegate and the crisis room. A crisis note is used to further personal goals in a covert way; a good crisis note has distinct actions to be undertaken and properly utilizes your character’s resources. The crisis room will not accept notes that call for actions outside the purview of your character (e.g., if you are the Attorney General of the United States you cannot mobilize U.S. troops). Delegates should also name the characters they write to (these could be siblings, assistants, etc.) in order to undertake their crisis actions, please do not address your notes to “Crisis.”

A directive is a written action taken by the entire committee. Individual delegates may write a directive (acting as the “sponsor”) and then whip support (“signatories”) before putting the directive to a vote. Directives should be actions undertaken by the group in order to respond to the crisis. As with crisis notes, directive actions should fall under the purview of the committee. All directives should have a name and should be written in clause format (there can be sub-clauses).

A press release is an official communication with the outside world. Both individuals and committees can put out press releases and said press releases will then create a public reaction that play a role in the overall crisis. Press releases can be truthful, but they can also be a way of spreading misinformation to the general public in order to benefit the author(s). A press release can also be a way to communicate with another committee in the join-crisis.

The following samples are paired with the Sample Crisis Position Paper from the website. Both documents are examples of the work done in the Brown University Crisis Simulation (BUCS) joint-crisis committee “The Handover of Hong Kong” in the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office and Advisors (a group in the Chinese government).

Sample Crisis Note

To my trusted assistant Wang Peng,

I have recently decided to enter into the casino business. Please use my personal funds to purchase a suitable building located near the Hong Kong International Airport in order to increase access for tourists. I understand that there might be some hesitation from the locals in regard to foreign investment so I would also like you to release a statement to the public that the casino renovations and maintenance will employ hundreds of local Hong Kong residents during this time of extreme unemployment.

I would also like you to covertly reach out to one of my contacts in the criminal underworld that I have surely made through my various business dealings. Arrange a meeting with an international heroin dealer (under the guise of having dinner with an old friend) in order to discuss a possible smuggling operation to be run out of my casino, providing myself and the dealer with immense profits.

Please inform me as to the results of these actions.

-Vincent Lo

This crisis note meets the following requirements:
1. It is addressed to a character
2. It utilizes the character’s resources
3. It contains direct, specific actions to be undertaken
4. It provides for how the actions will be undertaken
Sample Directive

Let’s Talk About Trade Baby!

1. Working with the taxation bureau of the People's Republic of China, establishes a 10% cut in income taxes to any Chinese citizen who establishes a business in Hong Kong that meets the following requirements:
   a. Employs a minimum of 50 Hong Kong residents
   b. Does not violate the moral ideology of the PRC.
2. In conjunction with the trade bureau, reduces the import tariff by 10% for all goods produced in Hong Kong and transported to the PRC.

Sponsors: Vincent Lo, Zhou Nan
Signatories: Li Ka-Shing, Henry Fok, Lu Ping

This directive meets the following guidelines:
1. A title (creativity is always welcome with these)
2. It falls under the purview/authority of the committee*
3. It contains direct, specific actions to be taken

*As a body of the Chinese government, this committee can work with other government bodies provided there is approval from the crisis room

Sample Press Release

Press Release

Recent “Protests” in Beijing

Hong Kong: Reporters out of Beijing have informed our paper that rumors of recent pro-democracy protests in the Chinese capital were just that, rumors. While Western papers have published reports of student protestors in Tiananmen Square, numerous journalists have investigated and proven that these stories were nothing more than propaganda from the United States and other Western powers in an attempt to discredit and undermine the Chinese government. This revelation calls into question much of the news that has been flowing out of China in recent months and will likely lead Hong Kong to reevaluate its relationship with China.

Signed: Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office and Advisors

This press release meets the following guidelines:
1. It has a title (all newspaper articles do after all).
2. It attempts to sway public opinion (obviously this is misinformation but it is misinformation that benefits the party that released the press release)

NOTE: When passing a group press release, you will need sponsors and signatories in order to go through voting procedure as you would with a directive.