

# IF I WERE PRESIDENT

## Role Cards



Distributed During Introduction & Background

Print 4 pages per sheet double sided & auto-rotate pages within each sheet

Cut up so each student receives a role card  
President & Press Secretary get sheets of paper

## THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

### *White House Group*

As a veteran of the political game, you are aware of how politically volatile this situation could become. It is very much a double-edged sword. Do nothing and appear as though you don't care about freedom and democracy. Do something and be accused of spreading our armed forces too thin over a conflict that is not our concern. You have enjoyed your years of working with the president and have excelled at the job of vice president. After serving as ambassador to China for 10 years and as head of the CIA for two presidents, the job of vice president is likely to be your final act on the political stage. However, you are weary of having your political legacy be tied to a conflict in Somalia. Understanding the strengths and weaknesses in each proposal is your responsibility, you must always be aware of the big picture and all potential effects of all the available options. Having been elected to a second term with the president, there are some tough issues you want to address before this term is over and your retirement begins. The peacekeeping in the Taiwan Strait and Spratly Islands of the South China Sea is a major commitment and is vital to the national interests of the United States. As much as you want to aid Somalia in getting back on the road of freedom, democracy and prosperity, this is the worst possible time to get involved. You believe that the recovery of the crew of the Shackleton's Courage should be the first and only priority of the White House. Perhaps after a successful reelection, the White House can reevaluate what level of commitment it is willing to give to the conflict in Somalia.

**The New York Times**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

The New York Times is one of the largest newspapers in the United States of America and has a world-wide audience of readers. Sometimes said to be one of the more liberal major newspapers in the United States, your paper believes that United States should intervene to preserve the fledgling democracy in Somalia. Your paper has followed Somalia closely over the last 20 years, even having a correspondent in the field during the Maersk Alabama hijacking. However, your paper wants to know what the details of a plan for intervention are. How will it be paid for? Will the United Nations be involved? Will the African Union be involved? How will this affect our foreign policy? Can the United States afford such a mission with the ongoing military presence in the South China Sea?

## THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

### *White House Group*

You are the nation's top expert on all issues dealing with national security. The National Security Advisor assists the president on integrating foreign, military and domestic policies into a comprehensive national security policy. Presently, there does not seem to be an imminent threat posed to the homeland, however, there is the potential for an ongoing threat in the Gulf of Aden and around the Horn of Africa. As long as there are pirates attacking ships, cargo ships are in danger and will only remain safe while under naval escort. The attacks and hijackings will continue to place a strain and financial burden on the armed forces and shipping companies. While you believe that the United States can certainly pay this ransom, the question you are asking is if the United States should continue to allow such a situation when it has the power to change the status quo. You are uncertain of the positions of your colleagues in the Department of Defense, but you are almost certain that they will not be in favor of intervention in Somalia. The question that remains is what is the harm in exploring the potential avenues for intervention in Somalia beyond just safely recovering the crew and the Shackleton's Courage? While your colleagues in the Department of Defense may not agree with you, perhaps your colleagues in the Department of State would be agreeable to your ideas.

**The Wall Street Journal**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

The Wall Street Journal is one of the largest financial newspapers in the United States and has a world-wide audience of readers. The Journal reports closely on all things financially related. Your paper is leery about how the United States intervening in Somalia will affect the economy and the American people. With the potential for active peacekeeping on two fronts, your paper wants to know how this will affect the global economy and international trade relations. Obviously, bringing piracy to an end will positively influence shipping traffic around the Horn of Africa. Could this affect our trade relations with China? Could this affect our trade relations with other trade partners in the region? Will securing and stabilizing the region have long term benefits for trade?

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**The Los Angeles Times**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

Your paper is the largest and most respected newspaper on the West Coast and has begun to gain widespread national influence. You, like many of your colleagues, understand that this is a defining moment in this presidential administration and the consequences of the decision will impact the upcoming elections. You will be looking at the issue from a political analysis angle. How will the president decisively handle this situation without alienating other factions within the American government? With a divided Congress, how will the president win support for a peacekeeping effort? Will there be a peacekeeping force deployed? How will this affect the upcoming elections for president/vice president and Senate and House races?

## THE WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF

### *White House Group*

You are the president's chief advisor, and your main responsibility is to ensure the smooth functioning of the executive branch. Your main concern is how the president's foreign policy is perceived in the realm of public opinion. Recent polls indicate that most Americans want to see their armed forces at home and not fighting wars and conflicts abroad. You are very nervous about the impact that the president's decision will have on the administration, especially in the approaching general election. While the president has made great advancements in foreign policy, the American public still wonders how much the president really knows about the foreign policy realm. Most Americans view Somalia as a troubled country that will always be under the influence of conflict, despite intervention at any levels. While you believe in the spread of freedom and democracy, you are unsure of the impact this will have on the political and historical legacy of the president. This will not be a short lived operation and you are nervous about the repercussions of engaging in a conflict in Africa. You believe that the recovery of the crew of the Shackleton's Courage should be the priority of the White House and perhaps the White House should defer the choice of intervention to the United Nations or the African Union.



## THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR DOMESTIC POLICY

### *White House Group*

You are a direct assistant to the president on issues relating to domestic policy. You tend to be in most high-level meetings and interact regularly with members of the Cabinet. You also work closely with the White House Press Secretary and various officials to have a solid pulse on the sentiment of most Americans in relation to domestic policy issues. In this particular instance, you think American involvement is a bad idea. With many Americans having memories of the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the current involvement in the South China Sea, questions of overusing our armed forces will inevitably arise. While the administration is in its final year, you do not want to see involvement in such a conflict become a burden to the United States. The president is still the leader of the party and you want to see the president's successor arise from the party currently in power: your own. The Senate Majority Leader, who is from the opposing party, is a very popular candidate and you are certain will receive a nomination. Most of the initiatives and actions this administration has taken may be reversed if a candidate from the opposing party is elected to the presidency. However, most Americans desire to see human rights upheld and democracy protected.

**The Houston Chronicle**  
***Optional Press Conference role***

As the chief White House correspondent for one of the largest newspapers in the southern United States, your paper tends to have a more conservative outlook. With a higher percentage of military installations in Texas than in most other states, your focus is on the impact this decision will have on the armed forces. The United States is already engaged in a peacekeeping effort in the South China Sea. How will this affect military personnel? How will this increased likelihood of deployment affect military families? How many troops does the president anticipate deploying? Can the U.S. government afford the hazardous duty pay that will have to be paid to these soldiers, sailors, airmen and/or Marines?

## THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC POLICY

### *White House Group*

You are a direct assistant to the president on issues relating to economic policy. You tend to be in most high-level meetings and interact regularly with members of the Cabinet. You also work closely with the White House Press Secretary and various officials to get a solid pulse on the sentiment of most Americans in relation to economic policy issues. In this particular instance, you think American involvement is expected by the international community. More so than most other countries, America stands as a guardian of freedom and democracy. In your opinion, not having some level of involvement in peaceful resolution and the restoration of stability would be a denial of American values. Unlike most of your colleagues in the White House, you stand on the side of coming to the aid of Somalia. You recognize that the administration's time is coming to a close and that this is an opportunity. Not everything relates back to politics and reputation. There are some things that are important and you believe that President Ahmed's efforts were noble and courageous. As much as you realize that you may stand at odds with your colleagues from the White House, you believe that Ahmed's efforts cannot be left to wilt in the chaos ensuing in the Republic of Somalia. Encourage your colleagues to pursue a multi-faceted decision.

**Cable News Network (CNN)**  
***Optional Press Conference role***

Your reporting stance is moderate-liberal, and your audience will be interested in every possible angle on the story. Any question on economic, diplomatic or military issues will be welcomed by your audience. You realize that a weak or wavering decision on the part of the president will not play well with the citizens of the United States, and thus you want to ask sharply critical questions if you feel the president has tried to dodge some of the issues in this crisis. Have the hostages been recovered? If not, when will they be safely recovered? Has the president fully explored diplomatic paths? Is military intervention truly necessary? Who else will be involved in this effort? When will the full details of any deployments be announced?

## THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS

### *Diplomacy Group*

You are the official ambassador (representative) of the United States of America to the United Nations. You speak on behalf of the president and the Department of State at the United Nations General Assembly and on the U.N. Security Council. Based on meetings with the U.N. Secretary-General and the president of the U.N. Security Council, you have strong reason to believe that the United Nations will support any efforts the United States makes towards intervention. Furthermore, you believe that the United Nations will not let the United States enter this conflict alone, but rather push for the support of many other nations, whether with personnel, supplies or finances. However, you know that this will be a tough sell to the president as you have nothing in writing to support your beliefs other than your gut instinct. Additionally, tensions are high at the United Nations Headquarters right now because of the situation between China and Taiwan. It is hard to predict what the Chinese reaction could be and you don't want to risk any potential of China declaring war on Taiwan. While you are uncertain of how the two could relate, you know that exploring all the possible options before making a decision is a solid plan, but recognize that some form of intervention in Somalia is necessary for the sake of stability.

**British Broadcasting Company (BBC)**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

Your news service is one of the more well known and world renowned reporting and news agencies. The BBC covers most stories around the world in great detail. Since the coup d'état against President Ahmed, the BBC has been closely following the story in Somalia. Your news agency wants to know what will be done to bring Somalia back closer to stability. Will Ahmed return from exile? Will the parliament return to Mogadishu? What will be done with the clan leaders and Islamist insurgents who staged the coup d'état? Will the United Nations act in this situation? Will the African Union host peace talks?

## THE SECRETARY OF STATE

### *Diplomacy Group*

You are the president's chief advisor on foreign affairs and policy and you are the head of the United States Department of State. Since the coup d'état against President Ahmed and the recall of the U.S. diplomatic mission to the Republic of Somalia, you have closely monitored the situation in Somalia. Concurrently, you have been in close communication with foreign ministers of various countries. While time should be taken to weigh the various options, you are aware that wheels are turning in other countries and should the United States choose to become involved, it will not do so alone in this case. However, as a seasoned Foreign Service Officer (FSO), you are wary to enter this conflict. You recognize the potential for this situation to easily escalate and in all of the available options, American lives will be at risk. Somalia is a dangerous situation and violence seems to almost be a way of life there. Regardless, Somalia is still a country that has embraced democracy and good governance and you believe that stability in Somalia is vital to security in the region. Diplomatically, peace talks would be a viable option that will yield results, but decisions in Somalia must be backed by force in order to be effective. You are also unsure whether intervention in Somalia might affect the fragile diplomatic situation between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan. Listen to the options and then make a decision on your recommendation to the president.

**Associated Press (AP)**  
***Optional Press Conference role***

Associated Press is a news service that is distributed to almost all newspapers, radio and TV networks in the United States. One thing in particular that your news agency wants to know that you feel is not being addressed is the hostages on board the hijacked Shackleton's Courage. Have they been freed? Who is working to secure their safety and freedom? Will the United States pay a ransom for this ship? Will the shipping company pay the ransom? What will the United States do to further secure the safety of ships and their personnel in the Gulf of Aden and around the Horn of Africa? How many hijackings will it take for the United States to realize that real action must be enacted to reach real solutions for safety and stability in the region?



## THE U.S. COUNSELOR FOR SOMALI AFFAIRS

### *Diplomacy Group*

Until three months ago, you were the first Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Somalia since 1991. Few people wanted the post because they feared the precarious nature of Somali affairs. But you wanted this position and were elated when you were appointed ambassador. The day that the president and Secretary of State ordered the recall of your diplomatic mission and extracted you from the Republic of Somalia was a sad day for you personally. Having worked in northeastern Africa for most of your Foreign Service career, Somalia has been a country with whom you always wanted the opportunity to work. As the ambassador, you looked for chances to work closely with President Ahmed and his government to encourage growth and progress. While the recall and extraction were for the safety of you and the embassy staff, in some ways you view your new appointment as U.S. Counselor for Somali Affairs as a downgrade in rank and would rather be on the ground helping Somalia work towards peace and stability. If a peacekeeping mission to Somalia is authorized, you want to be in the thick of peace negotiations, help work towards a cease fire agreement and see President Ahmed return to power. You believe that intervention in Somalia is not only necessary but also vital. And if anyone should lead that effort, it should be the United States of America.

**Horn of Africa News Agency (HANA)**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

Horn of Africa News Agency is a wire news service that reports to agencies around the world on the details of events throughout the Horn of Africa region. Over recent years, your agency has had a lot to report: genocide in Sudan, conflicts with Ethiopia and Eritrea and the ongoing situation in Somalia. Your agency wants to know how any actions on behalf of the United States will affect the region. In the event of peacekeeping, will the African Union supply peacekeepers? Will the United States seek to use other countries as staging areas? How long does the United States anticipate being in the region?

## THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR BUREAU OF NEAR-EASTERN AFFAIRS

### *Diplomacy Group*

You are the head of a bureau within the Department of State that focuses on this particular geographic region of the world. In this position, you are able to look at things in a larger picture focus rather than with a narrow focus. You see how more pieces of the puzzle fit and work together. You believe that United States should intervene on some level in Somalia, but you do not believe that United States should lead the charge in this situation. After years in the Foreign Service, you have seen all too often how the United States becomes entrenched in such conflicts in the position of aiding the country to reach a state of peace and stability. You are incredibly skeptical about Somalia and believe that any level of peace that is reached, however long it may be, will only be temporary before Somalia falls into chaos once again. You want to know where the United States will draw the line. How actively will the United States be in working with Somalia before these efforts are proven to be in vain? Again, you believe that intervention needs to occur in Somalia, but you don't believe this is the responsibility of the United States. You believe it is time for other members of the international community and Somalia's neighbors to take a greater role in Somali affairs and aiding the process of stability.

**Al Jazeera**  
***Optional Press Conference role***

Al Jazeera is considered the world's largest Arabic news network and covers a wide range of international issues, often those of interest to the Islamic community. Your agency wants to know what actions will be taken to address the concerns of the Islamist insurgents in Somalia. Will they be provided with greater representation in the Somali parliament? Will there be peace talks to reach an accord and a cease fire with the Islamists? Will they have a strong presence at any peace talks? How does this agenda consider the potentially valid arguments of the Islamists in Somalia?

### *Intelligence and Security Group*

You are the nation's top ranking military official and jointly chair the Department of Defense with the Secretary of Defense, who is a civilian appointee. You have risen to your position as a result of your administrative ability, spotless service record and keen political instincts. If the president chooses a military option for peacekeeping in Somalia, it will be your responsibility to give the necessary orders to organize the armed forces. However, you are strongly and vehemently against this option. You are very nervous about the situation between China and Taiwan. The situation in the South China Sea has the potential to escalate at any moment. At the same time, you can't deny the importance of security around the Horn of Africa. The U.S. commitment to the Joint N.A.T.O. Task Force that provides escorts to cargo ships is becoming an expensive venture. You do believe that proper force readiness in the armed forces must be maintained; you do not support committing troops to the peacekeeping efforts in Somalia while seeking to maintain a strong presence in the South China. You do not want wish to see the Department of Defense engaged on multiple fronts and want to see force retention levels maintain their currently high status of numbers. All in all, you do not believe the United States has the personnel or resources to come to the aid of Somalia.

**Military Times Media Group**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

As the nation's largest independent news service for active, reserve and retired military personnel and military families, provides career-related news and information as well as other features. Your news service wants to know how this decision will affect your audience: the members of the armed forces and their families. What are the details of any potential deployments? Why, if at all, could the armed forces be sent to Somalia when the United States is actively engaged in the South China? How will this affect military families? How will this affect force readiness? How can this impact veteran's affairs?

## THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF THE U.S. INSTITUTE OF PEACE (USIP)

### *Diplomacy Group*

Above most other things, your focus is peace. As the chair of the U.S. Institute of Peace, you lead and oversee this independent, non-partisan, national institution that was established and continues to be funded by Congress. You have dedicated your life and career to peace, the study of peace and the management and resolution of conflict. The prevention and resolution of conflict, the promotion of stability and the building of peace are at the core of the mission of USIP. You are internationally renowned for your negotiation skills and ability to develop creative solutions to complex international problems. You are likely to be an integral part of the ongoing international relations discussion by providing an objective analysis of the U.S. government's position. You want to see the crew of the Shackleton's Courage safely recovered but also believe that the United States has a responsibility to act. You do think, however, that the president should consider all of the nations that are affected by the situation, both in Somalia and around the Horn of Africa, when making a decision. However, you believe that there is always an alternative to violence and that the president should be wary of any decision that involves escalating the situation or creating a situation of higher numbers of refugees, people starving and acts of violence.

**The Washington Post**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

The Washington Post is one of the larger newspapers in the United States and has a world-wide audience of readers. Your paper has become one of the more respected sources on the actions and decisions of the United States government. From a more in-depth political angle, you want to know how the upcoming elections will affect this situation. Is the president apprehensive to enter a conflict that will be left to the next president? Will the president inform the potential presidential candidates of this decision? If so, have those candidates offered an opinion on the situation and the president's decision? How does the president think this decision will bode for his/her party in the upcoming elections?



## THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

### *Intelligence and Security Group*

You are the top civilian appointee for defense matters and the primary military advisor, with the Chair of the Joint Chiefs, to the president because of your expertise, knowledge of history and proven track record in securing America's national interests. In reference to Somalia, besides a peripheral threat to cargo ships passing around the Horn of Africa, you see no direct link to America's national security. While it would certainly be good to see stability come to Africa, you have larger agenda items facing the Department of Defense. Your philosophy is that the United States should act if the situation affects America. Otherwise, you prefer to take a hands-off approach to such conflicts and remain conservative with the resources and personnel of the Department of Defense. Historically, you have never seen eye to eye with the Secretary of State in this regard and often are in conflict with that office. However, you always remain firm and approach situations with sound logic and reasoning. This strategy has always proven effective when advising the president. Listen to the proposals that are being made and take a firm stance. Remind the president that this intervening in Somalia is not a wise decision and that U.S. naval destroyers can handle a few pirates in the waters off the coast.

**Wire Service International**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

A wire service that serves newspapers all over the world, your stories are known for their concise and fact-laden style. Wire Service International has a number of reporters filing from European capitals, and many important news sources rely on their stories to understand what is truly happening in the region. You realize that many in the international community are quite skeptical that the U.S. administration will not adequately take into account what is best for the region as a whole. Will the United States work with allies in Africa? What does the United States see as its role in Somalia? Have the hostages been safely secured? Will the joint N.A.T.O. naval task force continue to operate around the Horn of Africa?

## THE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI)

### *Intelligence and Security Group*

You are the head of the FBI and fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice. The FBI serves as a federal criminal investigative body as well as an internal intelligence agency for the United States of America. You report to the Director of National Intelligence, who in turn reports to the president. While the jurisdiction of the FBI normally falls within the borders of the United States, you have been tapped by the Director of National Intelligence to aid the president and the National Security Council in this situation. Before becoming the director of the FBI, you worked for years in hostage negotiation and have been hailed as an expert in the field of negotiation. You were on the negotiation team when the Maersk Alabama was hijacked in 2009 and thus have the experience to support the National Security Council in this hostage situation. You have studied the methods of Somali pirates and feel confident that a solution can be reached. You have dispatched a hostage negotiation team to work with the Joint Task Force deployed by the Department of Defense. Your main goal in this situation is the safe recovery of the hostages. In your opinion, Somalis do not understand the language of diplomacy but rather speak the language of violence. You think the United States should let Somalia deal with its own concerns and troubles and not get involved, though you are unlikely to make a recommendation about a policy option. Your focus is to recover the hostages and your job is done. Leave the diplomacy and the details to the diplomats and the armed forces.

**The Economist**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

Your readers are some of the most wealthy and powerful men and women in the world, serving as captains of industry and executives at the top of the world's economy. As such, they are concerned with any effects the president's actions will have on the global economy, particularly world trade. How will the White House work to secure the international shipping lanes around the Horn of Africa? Will economic sanctions be placed against Somalia? Will the United States deploy peacekeepers? If so, how could this affect trade on the African continent? Could this affect international oil prices? Will members of the international community work to supplement the economy of Somalia to encourage growth and development?

*Trade and Humanitarian Group*

You are the administrator of an independent federal agency that works to provide non-military foreign aid to help people overseas to achieve a better life and work towards a free and democratic country. You receive policy guidance from the Secretary of State, but in most cases are given the discretion to make independent decisions. You recognize that Somalia poses an excellent opportunity to offer humanitarian assistance and aid as well as provide education and training to the people of Somalia. However, as a rule of thumb, you have never, in your five plus years as the administrator of U.S.A.I.D., sent humanitarian and aid workers into a dangerous situation. If a cease fire agreement is reached and hostilities subside substantially, you want to push for a package that will greatly aid and benefit Somalia. After college, you served in the Peace Corps in Mali and then extended your service in Cape Verde. You have a personal connection to Africa and you earned your Ph.D. to further opportunities in the humanitarian and educational world. You believe that education is a foundation upon which so many other things can build. You have dedicated your life and political career to service and providing opportunities for education in poverty-stricken and war-torn countries. More than other countries, you have always had a desire to work to aid the Republic of Somalia.

**United Nations World News Centre**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

Serving the diplomatic community, United Nations World News Centre has long been a proponent of international diplomacy and multilateral military action. You have been sharply critical of unilateral attacks by any country in the world because you believe that only the United Nations (U.N.) can offer legitimacy to military actions. Your readers will be eager to find out if the U.N will play a major role in solving the situation in Somalia and how the crisis will influence future relations between the United States and Africa. Will the president be working with the Secretary General and President of the Security Council moving forward? Has the president contacted members of N.A.T.O.?

## THE COMMANDER OF THE U.S. AFRICA COMMAND (AFRICOM)

### *Intelligence and Security Group*

You are the highest ranking military official in charge of joint armed forces operations for the Department of Defense on the African continent. You are a highly decorated U.S. Army general and were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Army Cross), the Silver Star and the Purple Heart for your heroism and valor during operations you led in the Battle of Mogadishu. You have a great deal of experience in African combat operations and have worked through the Department of Defense with various African nations to better train their armed forces. You feel incredibly in tune with the pulse of Africa and have followed the political situation in Somalia very closely over the years. While you believe that an American presence in Somalia would be beneficial in helping President Ahmed reestablish the government, you are also very realistic. The peacekeeping presence in the South China Sea is a significant force and you are concerned about maintaining the current high levels of force readiness and retention. Due to the unpredictable nature of the situation between China and Taiwan, you feel apprehensive about working towards stability on two fronts. You saw the strain that this type of mission placed on the Department of Defense and the American people during the years of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, you believe that you can work closely with some of your contacts throughout Africa to aid the African Union in mustering a peacekeeping force and would be happy to serve in the capacity of an advisor.

**The Weekly Standard**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

The Weekly Standard is a highly respected weekly news magazine, known for its conservative ideology and its rigorously intellectual writing. Your readers fear that the United States has been ignoring critical domestic problems for too long and, while they understand the severity of what is happening in the Somalia, they want the president to focus on a resolution to the crisis that will work through diplomatic channels. Has the president been in communication with President Ahmed since the coup d'état? Has the president been in contact with the leaders of the Islamist insurgents? Why, if at all, does the president feel a need to intervene in Somalia? Has the president given any specific directives to the Secretary of State in this situation?



*Trade and Humanitarian Group*

You are the head of the Department of the Treasury and focus on financial and monetary matters. Additionally, you sit on the National Security Council to advise the president about the potential effects on global finances during national security crises. Unlike your predecessor, you have taken a more conservative approach to things. You have not pushed for the bail outs of banks and other major corporations and because of your efforts, the American economy has continued to rebound on a track of growth. In considering Somalia, your biggest concern is expense. You have seen the costs of shipping around the Horn of Africa rise substantially due to piracy and you have seen the financial impact of naval patrols on the Department of Defense. While you have no doubt that stability and peace in Somalia would be beneficial to the United States and to the international community as a whole, you can see the potentially astronomical costs that a peacekeeping mission would produce. The U.S. economy has been prosperous in recent years because America has focused more intently on its own affairs. You were nervous when peacekeeping forces were sent to the South China Sea. You are not against peace and stability, but you need to see evidence that the numbers will support the actions.

**FOX News Network**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

Your television station is the most conservative of all the national cable news networks. You have a devoted audience of conservatives who are irritated that the leaders of both parties have been ignoring domestic concerns in favor of meddling in international situations. If the president decides to deploy troops to Somalia, you will be interested in hearing how this situation will result in favorable domestic returns. What business do we have in going to Somalia? What are the benefits of intervention in Somalia when we have domestic issues that need attention? Has the president sought any diplomatic avenues? What are the details of the president's decision? How will this decision affect the American economy and the American people?

## THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

### *Trade and Humanitarian Group*

You work directly for the Office of the President of the United States and work to recommend trade policy to the president. You conduct trade negotiations at varying levels and coordinate trade policy throughout the U.S. government. While the United States does not conduct any direct trade with Somalia, you have seen the effects of piracy around the Horn of Africa and violence in Somalia on some of the United States' trade partners and allies. Financially speaking, stability is a win-win situation for all when it comes to Somalia. The Suez Canal is a major traffic way for cargo, tanker and supertanker ships. But shipping costs continue to raise the more dangerous the waters of the Gulf of Aden become. Money, finance and trade are your areas of expertise and you have devoted your career to these features of society. You have been very successful in brokering sound trade deals for the United States and creating favorable scenarios for American allies. While you may not know a great deal about the humanitarian end of intervening in Somalia, you know that stability in Somalia will create a better world for trade. Investors and captains of trade do not like risk. They like stability and security. You could go either way about intervention, but want to push for a solution that creates stability in the Republic of Somalia.

**The London Times**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

As the Washington bureau chief for this British newspaper, you are charged with covering the U.S. foreign policy decisions that are of interest to the United Kingdom. Your newspaper favors the president and the president's party. Your editors have written editorials that intervention in Somalia is necessary for long term stability. You are interested in how the American president will decide to handle the situation in the Somalia, and you will be very critical if the president does not acknowledge the significance of this opportunity. How does the United States plan to uphold its favorable world order of protecting democracy and human rights in this situation?

## THE LIAISON OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

### *Trade and Humanitarian Group*

You work directly for the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a sub-organization under the authority of the United Nations that focuses on shipping, safety, environmental concerns, maritime security and the efficiency of shipping. You are the only non-U.S. citizen in this meeting and are not an elected or appointed official of the United States government. You were a little shocked when you received the call from the Secretary-General informing you to report to the White House in Washington, D.C. to advise the president. While you have worked closely with the U.S. Department of Defense in coordinating the Joint Naval Task Force around the Horn of Africa, this is a call above and beyond your normal day-to-day responsibilities. The Horn of Africa has been a region that has plagued the IMO for years. You want to see stability come to Somalia so that the region is once again safe for shipping. You believe that political and military intervention in Somalia is necessary and think the United States and other major powers should aid the situation. But you also believe that the African Union should begin to take an increasingly active role in African affairs. While the United Nations is certainly a key player, it faces strains and financial restrictions just as any other member of the international community.

## **Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)**

### ***Optional Press Conference role***

Your news service's responsibility is to provide news and analysis to the humanitarian community. Many decision makers in relief, development and humanitarian aid agencies look to your news service for accurate and detailed reporting regarding situations. You have followed the situation in Somalia closely, particularly in regards to refugees and human rights violations. You want to know how this situation will be addressed to secure a safe environment for the citizens of Somalia. Will refugee camps be set up until those people can safely return home? Will the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights be involved in this situation? Will food aid shipments to Somalia commence once again?

*Trade and Humanitarian Group*

You work alongside the Secretary of State at the Department of State and work to coordinate U.S. foreign policy on a variety of issues including democracy, human rights, refugees, oceans, the environment, women's issues and trafficking in persons. You advise the Secretary of State on the effects of human rights and democracy on a foreign country and the ways in which a good balance of those two factors can positively affect the system of governance. You have seen the value of democracy in Somalia over the past few years and were sad to see Somalia return to violence, war and chaos. You want to see stability occur but know that so much of this becoming a reality will depend on the support of the Department of Defense. Of course, the final decision rests with the president, but you are hoping that your arguments for peace and intervention will be stronger than their arguments for no intervention. Support the arguments of those who are pushing for President Ahmed and the restoration of democracy in Somalia. You recognize that for the United States to call for countries to embrace democracy and freedom, we must be the example. Sometimes the United States has to intervene and help bring democracy to the people who want it.

**Far Eastern Economic Review**  
***Optional Press Conference role***

As the White House correspondent for one of Asia's premier financial news magazines, your questions will be focused on the potential financial impacts of the president's decision on the situation in the South China Sea. Asian investors, especially those in the oil and manufacturing sector, are nervously keeping an eye on the situation in the South China Sea and curious about how the United States will act in Somalia. They also tend to be less concerned about the means by which the crisis is ended than the financial impact of the crisis. With a potential shift in military focus, could this negatively impact the fragile state of affairs between China and Taiwan? Has the president fully considered all factors in this decision and pursued diplomatic channels?



## THE CHAIR OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### *Legislative Group*

You are a majority party representative elected from the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. You served in the Peace Corps after college and earned your Ph.D. in Political Science from the Korbel School of International Affairs at the University of Denver before moving home to Boston and entering the world of politics. You served as a foreign policy advisor in various sectors and capacities before running for political office. The House Majority Leader and Speaker of the House had great confidence in appointing you to chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs after your second term in Congress. You bring a perspective of balance and a value of good information to the committee, especially before it makes a decision. While you support efforts of diplomacy and believe that the United States should aid other countries who are struggling towards freedom and democracy, you also believe that the United States is not the world's police force. You have recommended the deferment of responsibility to the United Nations on multiple occasions. You also feel that a higher level of attention should be focused on the situation in the South China Sea; that is a situation that has the potential to affect the balance of the world if things go wrong.

**Somali National News Agency (SONNA)**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

Your agency is one of the few national Somali news agencies who have remained on the ground in Somalia throughout the duration of the civil war and the current conflict in Somalia. Unlike other news agencies, yours has a uniquely Somali perspective. And your focus is on the Somali people themselves. Have the perspectives of the Somali people, not the government and Islamists, been taken into account? Have leaders within local communities been consulted before any decision is made regarding the overall fate of Somalia? If no, will they be consulted? If any peace talks are commenced, will local Somali leaders be invited to give a more direct voice for the people of Somalia?

### **Legislative Group**

You are a long term member of the U.S. Senate and have been described as a patriotic zealot by your colleagues. You served for 10 years in the United States Marine Corps before running for the U.S. Senate from your home state of South Carolina. You regularly visit the Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, MD to meet wounded soldiers and veterans. You have worked closely with the Department of Defense on many issues in your 30 years in the Senate and spent 18 years on the Armed Services Committee, serving as the chair of the committee for the last 12 years. You supported the move to secure peace between China and Taiwan and believe that America's armed forces should be the best trained and best equipped in the world. While you and the president do not always see eye to eye on issues, the president holds great respect for your personal military background and your profound expertise in matters relating to the armed forces. You are not sure which side to fall on over the issue of Somalia. You wonder whether force readiness can be maintained if America is engaged on two fronts. However, you are a firm believer in upholding freedom and democracy and are not in favor of Islamist insurgents. You met President Ahmed when he visited Washington, D.C. a few years ago and hold great respect for the man and his dedication. Listen to the proposals being presented by your colleagues and follow your good judgment.

**Associated News**  
***Optional Press Conference role***

A wire service that serves newspapers in every country of the world, your stories are known for their concise and fact-laden style. Because you serve so many different papers, you cannot afford to have a bias. You just spoke with a source at the Department of Defense who said that the United States military will need several months, not a few quick days, to adequately mobilize enough troops for Somalia to provide a meaningful level of stability. If the president proposes a military response, you will want to ask about this tip. Has the president considered force depletion and maintaining a high level of force readiness?

## THE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

### *Legislative Group*

You are the leader of the majority party in the U.S. Senate. While this is the early half of your third term in the Senate, your ambition and leadership have taken you far. You are also in the midst of campaigning and running for the presidency and the general election is on the horizon. You are still actively engaged in the day-to-day affairs of the Senate, but you, and your party, are weary to take on issues that could result in not achieving victory in the election. Most Americans seem to be against American intervention in Somalia as the U.S. presence in the South China Sea continues and memories of Iraq and Afghanistan rise to the surface. You do not want to inherit a long and drawn out engagement in Somalia and recognize that U.S. involvement in Somalia is not a short-term deal. You believe that the United States may be entering into this peacekeeping situation with little support. You have not approached the United Nations on this, but you often question the true effectiveness of the United Nations as an overall organization. You are against U.S. involvement in Somalia and would rather push for diplomacy and negotiation. You believe that the safe recovery of the hostages from the Shackleton's Courage is the first and only priority of the United States. The pirates should be treated as criminals and prosecuted as such.

**International Islamic News Agency**  
***Optional Press Conference Role***

You news agency reports on subjects of interest to the global Islamic community. You have followed the situation with increasing focus since President Ahmed sought to outlaw the Islamic courts in Somalia. You are curious whether the president has considered the impact of this decision on Islamic culture in Somalia. After seeing the impact of American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, you wonder if a Western military presence is necessary. You are curious if the president will work with Islamic allies in this decision. Will local religious leaders be consulted as Somalia moves forward? What will the president do to address the concerns of the Islamists in Somalia?

*Legislative Group*

You are the highest ranking member of the majority party in the U.S. House of Representatives. You are a seven-term member of Congress and were chosen by your colleagues for your honesty, integrity, balance and values. Following the last major election, your party retained control of the House of Representatives but the opposition party gained control of the Senate. You and the Senate Majority Leader do not always agree and this has made legislative action difficult between the two chambers of Congress. While you are somewhat new to this role, you have been highly popular with members of both parties and have a proven track record of reaching across the aisle. You firmly believe that for America to uphold its national interests abroad, countries who are working towards freedom and democracy must receive support from the United States. In this regard, you may be on the same side of the issue as some of your colleagues in the Senate. But you are also not in favor of U.S. armed forces being sent out at the beck and call of any nation under conflict. You believe that this should be deferred to the United Nations and that the United States should take more of a back seat role on this conflict. You believe that countries in Africa should step up and take a greater role in this situation. In your mind, for Africa to grow and prosper, it must be Africans helping to make change occur and not always the powers of the West.

**Newsweek**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

Newsweek is an American weekly news magazine published in New York City. As a reporter for Newsweek, you are curious about the regional implications of an unstable Somalia. Your readership audience is typically more elite and intellectual and your publication prides itself on being a “thought leader”. Newsweek has covered some controversial issues and is not afraid to ask the tough questions. Why would the United States not intervene in this situation? With Somalia being a key puzzle piece to a stabilized region in Africa, why would we leave them to violence?



## THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

### *Intelligence and Security Group*

You are the president's top official in the realm of intelligence, and are subject to the president's direction, authority and control. Your responsibilities are to serve as a principal advisor to the president, the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council. Additionally, you are the head official overseeing the 16 member intelligence community, encompassing agencies such as the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and various intelligence offices and organizations within the Department of Defense. Prior to this appointment, you retired after 35 years of service in the United States Navy, which culminated in the rank of four-star admiral. Having served previous postings in the Office of Naval Intelligence in Washington and as the commander of a surface warfare vessel stationed around the Horn of Africa, Somalia is not a new story to you. Knowing that Somalia is in a precarious situation, you firmly believe that covert action to rescue the hostages and recover the Shackleton's Courage is the best course of action. In your position, you have the best advantage to help liaison between the White House and the Gang of Four (the Speaker of the House, the House Majority Leader, the Senate Majority Leader and the Chair of the Joint House and Senate Intelligence Committee) in order to get a green light for covert military action. While in desperate need of aid, leadership and assistance, you recognize that Somalia is certainly not a short-term commitment for the United States and realize that our resources are needed in other places around the world.

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**Tradewinds International Shipping News**  
*Optional Press Conference role*

Tradewinds International Shipping News is a news agency, based in Norway, which focuses exclusively on issues related to international shipping. Somalia has been a thorn in the side of international shipping since the civil war began in 1991. Read by many captains, crew members, shipping companies and international maritime organizations, your audience is curious to know what is going to be done to quell the problem of piracy around the Horn of Africa. Will a tougher crack down on piracy occur? Will N.A.T.O. increase its naval patrols and escorts?

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