

Appendix NEWS – News Event & Modification Example

Modification of News Events is not as complicated as it may seem, a historical example may help: In 1936 (the year of the Berlin Olympics), German intelligence learned of a plot by a top-ranking Red Army officer to topple Stalin.

Reinhard Heydrich (of later Wanssee Conference fame), then the head of the Security Police, which included the Gestapo that he created, and head of Counterintelligence, presented a plan to Himmler and then to Hitler, to expose the plotter to Stalin so that Stalin would purge the Red Army and/or create an air of suspicion in the relationship between Stalin and the Red Army. Hitler approved the plan and Heydrich then had his services create forged documents implicating the officers alleged to be plotting the overthrow of Stalin. These documents were provided to the Soviets. *Heydrich was played by Stalin.* In fact, Stalin had ordered his NKVD agent General Nikolai Skoblin to pass the false information to Heydrich expecting the Germans to do exactly what they did, thus manufacturing evidence for the Red Army Purge of 1936-1938.¹

- ✓ Information for this example was taken from Wikipedia articles, “Reinhard Heydrich” and “Great Purge,” September 27, 2018. Whatever reservations you may have about information from Wikipedia, please just accept these as absolutely true facts for the purpose of this example.

These events might play out as follows in terms of GGDM adverse News Events:

- ✓ *Initial News Event* issued by Red Blok states that the UNA have carried out a purge of their top officers after discovering a plot to overthrow their supreme leader. The effect of the News Event is that the UNA lose one half of the faculties from the Combat College.
 - It is possible that this News Event might have no effect; Red Blok may not actually know if the UNA has a Combat College, that is, many News Events might be ‘shooting in the dark.’ Red Blok and UNA may not have had First Contact. However, adverse News Events that have no effect may still cost the target a Maintenance Shield, see 4 Order, p. 566 *et seq.*, *infra*. Whether an adverse News Event has any effect is never revealed.
- ✓ *First modification* of the News Event issued the Therians, eternal scheming trouble makers, adds that the evidence used by UNA against the alleged plotters was entirely fabricated and passed to them by ONI Corporation (a position, not a GGDM Corporation or MegaCorporation), who is seeking business from Red Blok. The effect of this is that an Intervention Potential Plus (IP+) is assessed against UNA. This mod is not a contradiction of the initial News Event and is a News Event in its own right.
 - Whether IP or IP+ can be assessed in a News Event is unclear and up to the Concierge, but once the precedent is established, it must be followed consistently. It is in effect saying, there will be trouble later because of this (in the historical example, the Red Army lost many of their best officers to the Purge and suffered later in 1941). The Concierge is in no

¹ Commentary: Arguments have been advanced that the German fake documents made no difference, they were not used as evidence during the Moscow Trials. That is beside the point for the purposes of this example.

way required to use the IP+ in relation to the News Event, but can use it freely, emergent narrative can fill the linkage later if necessary.

- ✓ *Second modification* of the News Event issued by UNA states that the evidence against the plotters was solid and that the falsified evidence was irrelevant. The result is that the Intervention Potential Plus (IP+) is reduced to a regular Intervention Potential. Note that this does not directly contradict the Therians' News Event, which is still absolutely true (sort of...). It also does not contradict the initial News Event (which may be irrelevant if UNA doesn't have a Combat College).
 - Hair splitting time: The UNA News Event is not a direct contradiction to the initial News Event by Red Blok because it does not say that the purge never happened, or entirely abrogate the results. It also does not contradict the Therians News Event because it does not say the falsified documents don't exist and it does not abrogate the results. Neither event then is entirely erased by the Second Modification.
- ✓ Finally, the Karmans issue a *third modification* to the News Event stating that the Therians secretly control part of ONI Corporation and their plot has been discovered, causing the Therians to lose one Diplomatic Space with ONI Corporation.
 - Since ONI Corporation is a position in the game, it is not literally true that the Therians control ONI Corporation, here is an example of how the News Event is absolutely true, regardless of what the players in the game know or believe to be the truth. Additionally, the Karmans may not know if the Therians and ONI Corporation share Diplomatic Spaces or anything else, so again, there is possibly no effect. Like IP and IP+ assessments, the game participants will need to decide if Diplomatic Space can be created or lost by News Events, and once the precedent is set, must follow it consistently and try not to abuse it.
- ✓ At this point, it's all becoming kind of convoluted and conspiratorial and the situation has played itself out, UNA has possibly lost some faculties from the Combat College, an Intervention Potential has been added to the game, and the Therians may have lost a Diplomatic Space with ONI Corporation. Other News Events have posted, the players get distracted or move on, eventually posting to this News Event is closed by the end of the Turn Cycle, having become part of the Absolutely True history.
 - Yes, these faction names were all barrowed from the tabletop miniatures wargame, AT-43, solely for amusement purposes. Both AT-43 and its publisher, Rackham Entertainment, are defunct since 2010.