

### Appendix REF – A Reformation Example

*“I do not like broccoli and I haven’t liked it since I was a little kid and my mother made me eat it. And I’m President of the United States and I’m not going to eat any more broccoli. Now look, this is the last statement I’m going to have on broccoli. There are truckloads of broccoli at this very minute descending on Washington. My family is divided. For the broccoli vote out there: Barbara loves broccoli. She has tried to make me eat it. She eats it all the time herself. So she can go out and meet the caravan of broccoli that’s coming in.” – President George H.W. Bush, March 22, 1990*

On the third Regular Turn, the Cauliflower Lover’s Guild made First Contact (see Bump in the Night, 1 Diplomacy, p. 1099) with the Broccoli Grower’s Association when their Scout Ships encountered each other while exploring the Floret starsystem (a Green Stellar Class starsystem, see Looking Through, 2 Expansion, p. 900). Thus, a Diplomatic Space is created (see First Space, 2 Diplomacy, p. 1116) between the positions, which creates the opportunity for issuance of Thesis Statements (see Dialectic Diplomacy, 2 Reformation, p. 1391).

On the fourth Regular Turn of the game, the Broccoli Grower’s Association received a Thesis Statement: “I don’t like broccoli! – signed George H.W. Bush.” Authorship of Thesis Statements is secret, but the Thesis Statement text can be seen by the Broccoli Grower’s Association (see Conspiracies & Counter-reformations, 2 Reformation, p. 1391). If the Broccoli Grower’s Association has not had First Contact with anyone else by turn three, the authorship will be obvious, if they have Diplomatic Spaces with other positions as well, they still may guess that the Cauliflower Lover’s Guild lodged it.

- ✓ This Thesis Statement would have been issued by *someone* before the Broccoli Grower’s Association’s fourth Regular Turn was processed, but *after* the third Regular Turn. In any event, the Thesis Statement is not ‘caused’ by the issuer (see Dissonance, 2 Reformation, p. 1392), but are natural, neutral forces in the game, and thus there should be no in-game retaliation.

The Concierge had decided on an Ontic Scale of 1-10 for the game (see 2 Reformation, p. 1394). In grading the Thesis Statement – that is, assigning an Ontic Number – the Concierge decided that it meets a minimum criteria of expressing vague general dissent in a civilization, but nothing more specific to the game position. Thus, the Thesis Statement is assigned an Ontic Number (‘weight’) of 1. The weights assigned by the Concierge are secret and cannot be seen by the Broccoli Grower’s Association (see Ontic Numbers, 2 Reformation, p. 1394).

- ✓ By deciding on an Ontic Scale of 1-10, the Concierge has abdicated the option of giving a Thesis Statement a ‘weight’ of 0. This is a matter of taste and how frequently Reformations are desired in the game; any properly-issued Thesis Statement will receive a value of at least 1, advancing the chances of Coalescing a Reformation as no dissent will be given zero value.

Everyone is too busy building, exploring, loading, and landing for the next several turns to lob bombs, so at the end of the second and each subsequent Regular Turn processed by the Broccoli Grower’s Association, there is a 10% chance that the Reformation will Coalesce (see Pontic Event, 2 Reformations, p. 1395) as 1 is 10% of the top number 10 on the Ontic Scale of 1-10.

Although something *could happen*, nothing does happen much to the relief of the Concierge who is busy Poking, Pulling, and Pushing the early game along (see Acts of Intervention, *et seq.*, 2 Entropy, p. 235).

On the tenth turn, after establishing Diplomatic Space with multiple players (and fighting a short combat with The Cauliflower Lover’s Guild in Floret system) the Broccoli Grower’s Association received the following Thesis Statement lodged against it: “Ignorant and wicked are the doings of those Broccoli Growers who, in the case of the dying, reserve canonical penances for purgatory.” Recognizing this as a parody of Disputation No.10 of Martin Luther’s 95 Thesis, the Concierge decides that this represents at least a deeper resistance than the first statement, possibly implying tyranny of the Broccoli Growers over the worker population, even after death.

- ✓ Likely, this is a complete ‘shot in the dark’ from a position that knows little or nothing about the target, but it might also relate to News Events (but not in retaliation), e.g., the Broccoli Growers may have activated their Taxation and Order Powers frequently in the first ten turns of the game, constituting an appearance of tyranny. See discussion, Dialectic Diplomacy, 2 Reformation, p. 1391.

Hmmmm.... the Concierge gives it an Ontic Number weight of 2 after some internal debate. There is little to work with in interpreting the two Thesis Statements should the Reformation Coalesce, which will likely happen in a few turns. The total value of Thesis Statements lodged against the Broccoli Grower’s Association is 3, which is 30% of the top value of the Ontic Scale of 1-10. At the end of the Regular Turn, and each subsequent Regular Turn, there will now be a 30% chance that a Reformation will Coalesce against the Broccoli Grower’s Association.

Up to this point, the Broccoli Grower’s Association has been vegetative about the situation, neither forcing other positions to eat broccoli nor spraying water to keep from being wilted. On Turn 11, the Broccoli Grower’s Association, with an unused Power Activation for the turn, finally lodges a counter-reformation Thesis (i.e. a Thesis against itself) which reads, “Eating Broccoli builds character; George H.W. Bush became president.” This follows a defeat of the Cauliflower Lover’s Guild attack on a Broccoli Grower’s Association colony in Floret system.

The Concierge interprets the counter-reformation Thesis as being an argument directly against the one issued by the Cauliflower Lover’s Guild on Turn 4 and thus assigns it an Ontic Number (‘weight’) of -1 so that the two cancel out. See Conspiracies & Counter-Reformations, 2 Reformation, p. 1394. Although they are clearly at war, since the Thesis was issued as a counter-reformation, the Concierge does not interpret it as ‘retaliation’ against the Cauliflower Lover’s Guild for in-game events (see Dialectic Diplomacy, 2 Reformation, p. 1391).

The -1 value assigned to the counter-reformation Thesis Statement reduces the total value of Thesis Statements to 2 ( $-1 + 1 + 2 = 2$ ) giving a 20% chance for a Reformation to Coalesce each Regular Turn. The Broccoli Grower’s Association continues to avoid the boiling pot; no Reformation coalesces in the eleventh or twelfth turns of the game.

Then the head of broccoli hits the hot water! Between the twelfth and thirteenth turns, a Thesis Statement is issued against the Broccoli Grower’s Association which reads: “The Ester Broccoli Project is symbolic of government corruption and is attempting to manipulate the genetics of the Broccoli-head population without their consent to make them more plastic.” This is a Thesis Statement written by a position that has some knowledge of the Broccoli Grower’s Association position; the Ester Broccoli Project is a Corporation operated by the position with the goal of

maximizing RPs from Taxation Power Activations. The issuer may have learned the name of the Corporation and may have some details of the articles from an Information Operation (see I Spy, 2 Information, p. 1348) or maybe it was mentioned in some informal communication (see Greys Diplomacy, 1 Diplomacy, p. 1097) or in a News Event.

- ✓ With a little tweaking, this last Thesis might have been issued as an adverse News Event, but the issuer cared enough to make sure it got through without being modified or blocked... (see Dissonance, 2 Reformation, p. 1392). When you care, send chocolates!

In any case, this is much different, much more specific than the two previous Thesis Statements that were lodged, so the Concierge issues a ‘weight’ (Ontic Number) value of 3 for this one. Combined with the previous three Thesis Statements, the chance of Coalescing a Reformation is now 50% per Regular Turn ( $-1 + 1 + 2 + 3 = 5$ ). Drumroll please ... A Reformation Coalesces on Turn 13.

- ✓ Counter-reformations are always a step behind because there must first be a reformation to counter – by definition, like move and countermove, otherwise, it’s shadow boxing. In the case of counter-reformation Thesis, there must have been a Thesis Statement lodged, even if not directly being countered. See Conspiracies & Counter-Reformations, 2 Reformation, p. 1391.

Turn the page.

Now that a Reformation has Coalesced, the Concierge has a task to perform. The task of the Concierge is in two parts: First the Concierge must determine how many Interventions to use and fashion a ‘program’ to happen in the next few turns representing chaos of the Reformation. Afterward, the Concierge will need to make a Collage out of the Thesis Statements and otherwise determine the long term outcome of the Reformation on the position.

- ✓ The Concierge is not required to inform the target position that a Reformation is occurring until the end, see The Ink Had Scarcely Dried, 3 Reformation, p. 1399.

A total of four Thesis Statements are lodged before the Reformation Coalesced; three by Cauliflower worshipping aliens (or their purple colored friends) and one counter-reformation thesis issued by the Broccoli Grower’s Association. The values of the Thesis Statements are irrelevant now. This suggests that at least four Interventions be used to ‘resolve’ the Reformation in short order, *Id.*, with priority being given to Intervention Potentials Plus (IP+) against the position which each count as two Interventions.

As it turns out, the Broccoli-heads have two unused Intervention Potentials Plus against their position from two Social or Estate Titles that were disrupted in the last two turns, one each Regular Turn (see Changing of the Gardner, 2 Disruption, p. 271). This is possibly a reason why more aggressive counter-Thesis were not issued, a disrupted Government Title provides no Power Activations (see Foreclosure of a Dream, 3 Government Titles, p. 615) and they needed all of the ones they had to do other things in the game. Or maybe they were just vegetables...

The Concierge decides on a two turn, four Intervention Program. On the first turn of the Reformation, a Pull Intervention is used with a Special Bulletin indicating the continued presence of a secret pre-game *cultivar group* that promised to bring Enlightenment to the Broccoli-head population, and that was thought to have vanished.<sup>1</sup> This is possibly in relation to an IP+ that was

---

<sup>1</sup> Perhaps similar to another vegetative organization, the Rosicrucian. ☺

caused by the failure of a Government Title that has some relation to the Special Operations Power, police or security. The effect of this Pull Intervention on the position is the inactivation of a Constructural Element on the Homeworld (this is a Homeworld Primal State position). On the same Regular Turn, a Poke Intervention is used as well, inactivating a Constructural Element on the only warship currently protecting the Homeworld system. Maybe a purge occurred, changing the soil?

- ✓ Although only two Constructural Elements have been inactivated, there could be significant ramifications and ripples from this, the least being the necessity of activating the Culture Power for the purpose of Cohering (see 5 Culture, p. 421). If the Homeworld is the Capital Colony, it could lose Capital status with an inactive Symbolic Constructural Element (see Waving the Flag, 2 Constructural Elements, p. 190) or it could fail to pay taxes if the Taxation Power is activated (see Tax Revolt or Revolting Taxes, 1 Taxation & Census, p. 297). The ship could fail to move (even after a second check, see Engines Offline, 1 Movement, p. 839), or be unable to receive Enlightenment (see Skool Tyme, 2 Constructural Elements, p. 190). There are many possible long-term ripples including slowed technological research, sparse College Endowment, disruption of Government Titles. All of which are *irrelevant to the Concierge* in resolving the Reformation...

On the second Regular Turn of the Reformation, the Concierge issues a Push Intervention Special Bulletin suggesting that the pre-game history of the Major Races are not entirely accurate (in the Reformation resolution, this relates generally to the secret pregame cultivar group), giving the game a gentle nudge to develop this as a story-line or a nod to the players (with a sardonic smile) that the Concierge intends to pursue this more broadly. The second Intervention of the second turn of the Reformation is another Poke Intervention causing the loss of two Resource Proficiencies (possibly in relation to the ester) from the Broccoli Grower's Association Public Space.

- ✓ Assuming the Proficiencies were placed there for a purpose, because it costs RPs and a Power Activation of the Culture Power and takes up Monads on the Public Space, this will also likely adversely affect the position down the row a ways.

Now, what actually happened ... the plot of the historical drama that led to these four Interventions, is up to the participants to play or figure out if they choose. GGDM is a game of events without literary characters, see Buzzing Lightyears, *et seq.*, 4 The Streams of Time, p. 101.

Turn the page.

After or during the time that the Reformation is occurring, the Concierge must take the Thesis Statements behind the Reformation and make them into a Collage that will guide the position for the remainder of the game. See Here I Sit, 3 Reformation, p. 1399. The four Thesis Statements are:

1. "I don't like broccoli! – signed George H.W. Bush."
2. "Ignorant and wicked are the doings of those Broccoli Growers who, in the case of the dying, reserve canonical penances for purgatory."
3. "Eating Broccoli builds character; George H.W. Bush became president."
4. "The Ester Broccoli Project is symbolic of government corruption and is attempting to manipulate the genetics of the Broccoli-head population without their consent to make them more plastic."

Hmmm... This is an art, not a science. The Concierge is allowed to consider the Thesis Statements in all parts, and is not required to disregard 1 and 3 because they canceled out. There may also be some in-game history and the overall story arc to consider (which without detailing the entire game, cannot really be addressed here). The central theme of this seems to be a failure of supra-legitimacy, i.e. a failure of security in the form of the government being infiltrated by the Ester Broccoli *cultivar group*, the attempted alteration of the species without consent, and added to this is perhaps a touch of religious indignation over a possible form of slavery or bondage of the population through spiritual means.

Not all issues need to be ‘resolved’ (see Here I Sit, 3 Reformation, p. 1399). The Collage issued by the Concierge reads: “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be Broccoli-heads of courage; be strong. Hath always before you on your Public Space Police and Integrity Proficiencies.”<sup>2</sup> The Collage is a new rule for the position to which it applies (see A Soul From Purgatory Springs, 3 Reformation, p. 1401), violations of which may lead to assessment of an Intervention Potential Plus (IP+) against the position. In this case, it seems to require diligence (that is, not being a vegetable) and at the least, maintaining one each of Police and Integrity Proficiencies on the Public Space. This occupies two Monads permanently on the Public Space and prevents the position from using all of those Proficiencies at any time (or having them all in Fuzzy Groups), which is kind of a pain in the butt, all to keep the public perception of diligence.

- ✓ News Events are not considered violations of the Collage. *Id.*

Last page...

Finally, along with the Collage, the Broccoli-heads also have an opportunity to gain Monads on the Public Space as a result of the Reformation (see Built Spaces, 3 Reformation, p. 1401). There is a 50% chance for each Interpretation used in resolving the Reformation that a new space will be gained. Luckily, the Broccoli Grower’s Association gained three new Monads from four Interventions used (take that Cauliflower Lover’s Guild!). This can be viewed as a ‘net gain’ of one over the two Monads that now must be permanently occupied by Proficiencies.

The new Monads must be inserted randomly, which will cause movement of pieces already on the Public Space (see Mental Space, 3 Reformation, p. 1402), possibly disrupting Research Groups, Fuzzy Groups, Pathways (which will automatically be re-established even if things have to be moved, see The Claaaw is Our Master, *et seq.*, 2 Government Titles, p. 597). Three Monads being inserted can move a lot of pieces, the earthquake isn’t over until the dishes stop rattling.

At this point, the Thesis Statements that led to the Reformation are ‘expended’ and set aside, they will not count toward the next Reformation (in terms of Ontic Numbers), it’s a clean dinner plate (see A Soul from Purgatory Springs, 3 Reformation, p. 1401).

\*\*\*

**Broccoli #1:** No one likes me, what should I do?

**Broccoli #2:** Wear some cheese.

---

<sup>2</sup> For anyone who is curious, this is a parody of 1 Corinthians 16:13.