**Crisis Management Role Play**

You are a member of the Prime Minister’s Emergency Coordination Committee for a large European country. You and your colleagues have been called together for this meeting to deal with an emergency situation. You must reach a unanimous decision from one of the options listed below within 30 minutes. As the Chair of the Committee is still recovering in hospital, there is no one to lead the meeting, so you will have to decide amongst yourselves how toorganize your discussion. You only have the information given to you below: you are unable to get any more information during the period of your discussion.

Your country has close links with the small west African state of Valla Ullé, which was a colonial territory, until a short and nasty war of independence in the late 1960s. Since then, Valla Ullé has been governed by a civilian government under President Allanga, who has become increasingly corrupt and unpopular within the country and the region. Allanga has appeared in recent months to taking an ever less friendly line towards your country, including strengthening economic and political links with states with which your country has poor relations. Despite this, Allanga’s government has relied for many years on your country’s support in training and equipping Valla Ullé’s army. The army has been caught up in a long-standing low intensity conflict with a rebel group in the North of the country. This rebel group, the United Volunteer Army of Valla Ullé (UVAVU)), has recently been increasing its activities and has been threatening the key transport hub and regional capital of M’beka.

You have just been informed that UVAVU is about to launch a full-scale assault on M’beka: only your country has this information. The town is home to approximately 20,000 people. M’beka has traditionally been an important balancing point in Valla Ullé, bringing together different ethic groups; its capture would swing the military and political advantage to UVAVU and the North. This would be especially the case if UVAVU maintained its historic pattern of benign and democratic local rule, which has generated widespread support in the western world (notably in the 1991 protest song “E Ranu UVAVU!” by Sting): in previous clashes, UVAVU have committed large-scale retaliations against local populations if they have resisted.

There is a small detachment of your country’s special forces based in M’beka as part of the training program. The detachment numbers 20 men, who are fully equipped, armed and experienced in counter insurgency techniques: they also have access to a single transport helicopter, which can carry all your men. They are currently training about 500 Valla Ullé Army soldiers, although these are still at only a very basic level of training and limited weaponry (including some anti-aircraft guns): without your men, they are unlikely to put up much resistance to UVAVU.

Reports suggest that UVAVU has about 300 troops, but also now has access to heavy artillery and air support supplied by Gonjona, a state to the north of Valla Ullé, which your intelligence analysts consider to be UVAVU’s key sponsors. However, there has been no direct evidence of this until now. If this equipment (or better still, a Gonjonan) could be captured, then this would strengthen Valla Ullé’s recent attempts to secure a UN Security Council resolution imposing economic sanctions against Gonjona, a resolution to which your country has given tacit backing.

What do you do?

1) Keep the information secret, evacuate your soldiers, leaving Allanga’s troops to protect M’beka;

2) Share the information with Allanga’s troops and focus on protecting M’beka from the UVAVU attack, with your soldiers playing an active role;

3) Keep the information secret, but keep your troops in M’beka, in the hope of gaining evidence of Gonjonan influence;

4) Use the attack as a pretext to switch allegiances to UVAVU and so regain influence in Valla Ullé?

5) Something else?