



INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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Memorandum

Regional Update and Threat Assessment

To: GDI Anticipatory Combat Division

From: Dr. Vera Weaver, Area Specialist, GDI Central Intelligence Command

Subject: Salvadore Trogan and The Code of the Open Hand

Pursuant to the recommendation included in "The Morning Dawn Report" by Victor Cole, Chief of the GDI Intelligence Command, the following study has been commissioned. The subject in question is a loosely-aligned collection of humans afflicted with Tiberium illness, known as The Forgotten. Of particular import is the ideology and identity within this group, as strengthening internal ties could indicate a growing threat. This is an attempt to explore and codify some of what the Intelligence Community has learned about their motives, worldview, and intentions.

Background

When exploring The Forgotten, nothing is certain. Yet years of interviews with Forgotten individuals—some undercover—and the recovery of notable artifacts provide substantial basis for this report. The results are troubling. The widespread anger, rooted in indignity but fed by practical woes, poses a significant threat to GDI. Most worrisome is the development of an identity based on this anger. Known as "The Code of the Open Hand," it appears to be gaining in influence throughout Tiberium-afflicted people in Red and Yellow Zones. Much of this is due to the efforts of Salvadore Trogan, the closest thing The Forgotten have to a leader.

The previous work of this report's principle author (Weaver) comprises a valuable secondary source, particularly the paper *Symbology and Revolution: The Marks of a Forgotten People*. Because of the sensitivity of these operations, that work and this report have now been classified Top Secret.

The Code of the Open Hand

At the heart of understanding The Code of the Open Hand is the following symbol:



The Intelligence Community believes that this symbol has three principle parts:

- 1) The three larger protruding spikes are believed to represent Forgotten from the past, present, and future. The Forgotten of today have no direct ties in leadership to The Forgotten who fought in The Second Tiberium War under Tratos. Yet their condition—long-suffering individuals ravaged by Tiberium illness and paid little heed by other powers—is quite similar. In their efforts to create a movement, the leaders of The Forgotten call upon this common suffering to evoke

stronger emotions in the peoples of the Red and Yellow Zones. Such a historical critique resonates with many who saw combat in previous wars. As a recovered Forgotten document claims, "GDI has exploited those marked with Tiberium not just in their present operations [presumably a reference to Operation Morning Dawn], but in past wars as well."

The movement uses this longstanding suffering as a basis for mistrust in the present. As a result of this fundamental mistrust, The Forgotten perceive GDI outreach efforts to be little more than bribery. The second spike, therefore, is believed to represent those who "suffer" at GDI's hands currently. **This belief belies any hope that GDI aid efforts have led to a strengthening of its image.**

The Forgotten see a violent future that, to borrow Trogan's language, must be "invented" by The Forgotten. Another artifact relates, "The sweep of history is one of bloodshed, but others will soon bleed, too." This element poses the greatest threat to GDI, as it appears The Forgotten's aim for the future is neither assimilation nor prosperity. In fact, their promised vision is not the "peace" of the Brotherhood, but instead a hazy notion of dignity for those with Tiberium illnesses, possibly brought about through competing on the battlefield as equals. **Should such notions be made real—that is, should The Forgotten give their symbol meaning through a catalyzing event—they could pose a serious threat to GDI efforts.**

- 2) The second part of the symbol is the four smaller spikes. It is believed that these represent self-sufficiency, armed rebellion, respect for Tiberium, and common identity. The Intelligence Community has had difficulty discerning the nuances of each point—some of which seem to overlap—but the importance of each element remains undisputed.

Self-sufficiency is best understood with a quote from The Forgotten's leader Trogan: "Our victory will come not from the blood we shed on the battlefield, but from the blood within us that makes our battles possible." In effect, Trogan acknowledges that while many of his people will give their lives for the cause, it is not the deaths that matter, but the fact that so many were willing to join that shows the promise of The Forgotten people. This is an explicit rejection of the feelings of hopelessness that plague the Red Zones and of suicide tactics. **The value of self-sufficiency contends that, afflicted as they may be, The Forgotten can be a unifying, potent force. Of course, this has not yet been proven in any sort of large-scale conflict. Until it is demonstrated, the reach of this message is limited.**

The second value, armed rebellion, seems to recognize this. Armed rebellion is the surest way of drawing attention, and the surest way of inflicting harm on GDI forces operating in the Red and Yellow Zones. With all Trogan's discussion of bloodshed, it is likely that this path is emphasized in the communities of The Forgotten. Careful study of past revolutions suggests that this sort of rebellion is prone to a pronounced contagion effect, or positive feedback loop; once the initial revolutionaries meet with some success and demonstrate the potential for victory, many more recruits join. **As such, should The Forgotten be able to even sustain a minor campaign against GDI or Nod, it is probable that The Code of the Open Hand will spread still more rapidly.**

Respect for Tiberium is the third value. The exact form this takes is still somewhat unclear, but is believed that it is part of an attempt to link The Forgotten to the substance at the heart of mankind's conflict. The Forgotten, it can be said, have a stronger connection to Tiberium than either GDI or Nod (recall their ability to translate the Tacitus). It is GDI's strategic interest to

determine the exact nature of this connection, and to develop human intelligence sources within The Forgotten community, and to reestablish its commitment to engaging with The Forgotten. **The status quo enables Trogan to cast GDI as evildoers who want to rid the world of Tiberium and The Forgotten, and Nod as profane manipulators who seek to exploit Tiberium for their own ends—a worrying position.**

The final value is common identity. This is where Trogan has encountered the most difficulty. The Forgotten are naturally far-flung, spread across the Yellow and Red Zones. Trogan's base has historically been in the German territories, but should his message be limited to these areas, he will lack much global or continental influence. However, should he be able to unite The Forgotten across Europe with some broader message (and a medium for delivering it), he will find himself the leader of a powerful force. The effort to evoke a common identity is certainly part of this. It is also an explicit rejection of the parochialism and internal fighting that have historically plagued the people of the Red and Yellow Zones. **If Trogan is able to focus the attention of The Forgotten people on a larger message—particularly one vilifying GDI—the resulting coalition could severely threaten our efforts.**

The third part is of course the central hand that gives The Code its name. At first, such a symbol—in contrast to a closed fist—might contradict the claims of armed rebellion contained elsewhere in the code. Previous interpretations of The Open Hand have characterized it as a hand that holds—or rules—the world. The Intelligence Community now disagrees with these characterizations. Exactly how The Forgotten reconcile their varying ideals is still somewhat uncertain, but the Intelligence Community believes that the answer can be found in Trogan's background.

A journal entry written by Raven Hades, Trogan's former intelligence partner, indicates that Trogan has long viewed himself as a man of psychology, not of war. While he possesses the ruthlessness required for battle, all indications are that his power stems from the vision he offers The Forgotten people for their future. His promise of dignity, of open hands to one another, is the base of his influence. The Intelligence Community does not believe Trogan seeks the destruction of all those not afflicted with Tiberium; instead, he seeks a world where they exist as equals. Such a world need not be peaceful.

The image of the hand, it seems, is meant to offer both cheer and caution to The Forgotten. Two artifacts, both believed to be from Trogan, have been found that support this: the first contains the quote, "Hope is faith holding out its hand in the dark." Without reaching out and strengthening their bonds with one another—an uncertain process—The Forgotten will make little progress. Yet the second artifact speaks to the notion of common identity, of whom one should greet with an open hand: "The lonely one offers his hand too quickly."

Looking Forward

As Trogan often repeats, "The future is to be invented." Such is also true for GDI. The Intelligence Community sees the potential for grave threats in the people of The Forgotten. Their capacity for violence is growing, despite the efforts of Operation Morning Dawn. The development of a shared code—one that preaches self-reliance and threatens the existing power structure—is dangerous. Even if they do not possess the far-fetched dreams of world domination so common to fringe groups, they pose a threat to our operations. **In this war, identity may be the most deadly weapon of all.**