Introduction:

Welcome to the Andean Independence Forces, libertadores! This committee is meeting in the port city of Valparaiso, in the newly independent nation of Chile. The year is 1822, and the issues at hand and this committee’s reaction to them will determine the future of an entire continent. This committee was called on behalf of General José Francisco de San Martín y Matorras, Protector of Peru. Our representatives come from across the former Viceroyalties of Peru and Rio de la Plata and the General Captaincy of Chile. We have all fought valiantly for the independence of our countries from the authoritarian control of the Spanish Empire and the unfair influence of the peninsulares. While we have rid ourselves of the empire in much of the region, we still face a royalist military presence in the Andes. This threat is not to be underestimated. General San Martín strongly believes that if the empire is not firmly ejected, it will be able to reassert itself. He’s taken the extraordinary step to launch the expedition to Lima and has declared Peru’s independence. Now it is up to us to ensure these glorious actions are not for nothing. Besides evicting the remnants of empire, we will protect the long-term independence of our nations by finding the best arrangement of government, both territorially and structurally. The general personally reminds the committee that there are outsiders, namely his fellow libertador Simon Bolivar, who advocate for political union across the former colonies. While we must listen to our comrades, we should be wary of those who would seek to deprive us of our hard-won independence. The general also wants the committee to keep in mind the recent events in Europe, in which a chaotic republican system devastated France and led to war with the conservative powers.

Currently, the royalists control the territories of Southern Peru, the areas around Cuzco, and the central regions of Upper Peru. San Martín controls the areas surrounding Lima. To the north, the forces of Bolivar have liberated Quito and Guayaquil. It is unclear if these forces will help to combat the royalists to the south. The Portuguese have invaded the Argentinean province of Bandas Oriental, which is has become a province of now-independent Brazil. Although Artigas has retreated from Bandas Oriental, our committee hopes to deal with the invasion.
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The Federal League of the provinces of Sante Fe and Entre Rios have defeated the central government in Buenos Aires and implemented a confederation in the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata. The Brazilian Empire has been supporting monarchists throughout the region, while Great Britain has been pushing quietly for its own commercial interests, especially in the Rio de la Plata region, which has been beneficial for those seeking to separate from Spain. The United States, France, and the other nations of Europe seem unlikely to be able to commit forces to the region or even substantial financial resources, while the nations of the Holy Alliance support the monarchy in Spain.

As we begin our committee, we have a few immediate questions we need to address:

How will we support the General Jose de San Martin as he seeks to end the stalemate with royalist forces in Peru? Will we be at risk in our other territories if we do so? Who will pay for this expedition? Are we willing to negotiate with the royalists?

What is to be done about the invasion of Bandas Oriental by Brazil? Who can commit resources? Who wields the power to command the forces of United Provinces? Are we willing to negotiate with the Empire of Brazil?

The collapse of mercantile economies has led to great upheaval in our region, with businessmen losing money. How can we restore immediate economic stability?

The balance of power in this region is distributed among porteños and landowners, between criolles and mestizos, between provinces and metropoles, and between Church and State. How will we organize governments in this region? Will we look to models of stable constitutional monarchy? Or will we consider new models of republicanism? Who will get to be represented in the new government? What are the best territorial arrangements of our region? How will power be balanced between central authorities and provincial ones?

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Positions:

Thomas Cochrane 10th Earl of Dundonald - commander of the Chilean fleet:

Thomas Cochrane, a British nobleman, is the Vice Admiral of Chile and commands the naval forces of the Freedom Expedition of Peru. He has served in the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic Wars, and has also been a Member of Parliament. After being accused of fraud on the stock exchange in 1814, Cochrane left Britain for Chile. At Bernardo O’Higgins’ request, Cochrane became the Vice Admiral of Chile’s navy in 1818. He led the capture of Valdivia in 1820. Cochrane has successfully led the naval expedition to Peru, capturing Spanish ships and successfully protecting San Martin’s landing south of Lima. He currently controls 5 frigates, 4 brigs, 3 schooners, and troop transports for up to 5000 soldiers.

Andres de Santa Cruz - general with San Martin, Bolivian

A mestizo from Upper Peru (modern-day Bolivia) who fought successfully for royalist forces in Argentina and Peru, he switched to the side of the patriots after his capture. By 1822 he was a Brigade General, having fought very successfully at the Battle of Pichincha. He represents the interests of the people of Upper Peru, which is currently controlled by royalist forces. As a general under San Martin’s authority, he controls 2,000 troops. However, his communications with rebels in Upper Peru control another 2,000 irregular troops organized in guerilla style.

Juan Bautista Tupac Amaru, known as Tupac Amaru III

Tupac Amaru III is the half brother of the famed leader of an indigenous revolt in the 1780’s. Exiled to Spain, he returned to Argentina in 1820. He followed San Martin’s expedition to Peru, and has set up a network among the indigenous peoples of Peru and Upper Peru. They have begun to hail him as Tupac Amaru III, a royal Incan title. He has spy networks throughout the two regions including within royalist-controlled regions. He has come to this committee looking to ensure the rights of indigenous peoples are respected, especially in Peru and Upper Peru. He currently controls scattered forces of up to 3,000 irregulars across Upper Peru and Peru as well.
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Agustín Gamarra Messia, Chief of Staff of San Martin’s Peruvian Army

A mestizo Peruvian, Gamarra served the royalists before coming over to the revolutionary side. He is the chief of staff for San Martin’s Peruvian Army and as such controls logistics and his own unit of 1,500 troops in the army. He is a Peruvian nationalist who seeks a republican government and a strong position for Peru relative to Gran Colombia and the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata.

José Bernardo de Tagle y Portocarrero, Marquis de Torre - Head of interim government in Peru, monarchist:

Jose de Tagle, the Marquis of Torre, served in the Cortes Cadiz, the national assembly of the Spanish Empire, from 1813 to 1817. He then served as the Governor of Trujillo. When San Martin landed in Peru, Tagle was the first to support the independence of Peru. He declared independence in Trujillo in December, 1820. Currently, he is serving as Minister of State in Peru under San Martin, and as the provisional president in San Martin’s absence. He is allied with the criolle elite of Peru and has espoused the ideals of constitutional monarchy. His connections with the elites gives him access to commercial networks. He controls 1,000 regulars in the Peruvian Legion in Lima.

Bernardo O'Higgins - Supreme Director of Chile

Bernardo O’Higgins was a wealthy landowner who was educated in London and took an active role in the growth of the Chilean independence movement. After the disasters of the royalist re-invasion, O’Higgins along with other Chilean nationalists fled across the Andes to Mendoza. There, he met with General José de San Martin and began planning for the liberation of Chile. Crossing in 1817, the Army of the Andes led by San Martin freed Chile from the royalists and ended the threat permanently by 1818 with the Battle of Maipu. Chile declared independence on 12 February, 1818, with O’Higgins as the Supreme Director. O’Higgins committed to the Peru Expedition with the expectation that the United Provinces of the Rio de la Plata would help fund it; this is sure to be an issue as they have been reluctant to help San Martin’s mission to end the royalist threat. However, recently domestic concerns have questioned O’Higgins power. His liberal reforms have annoyed the Church, the landed elite, and even the commercial elite. Meanwhile, his central authority has been
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questioned by the provincial governments. He controls 2,000 regulars in Chile.

Diego Portales:
A prominent businessman in Chile, he has acquired for his firm the government monopolies for tobacco, liquor, and tea. He is a leader of the conservative movement within Chile and he advocates for a strong republican form of government allied with the business elite. He controls significant resources of wealth and support among the business elite.

Jose Ignacio Cienfuegos - Archdeacon of the Cathedral of Santiago, pro-independence
Jose Ignacio Cienfuegos rose from local priesthood to Minister Plenipotentiary at Rome by his support of the independence cause of Chile. He served in the first revolutionary government of Chile and was imprisoned during the royalist restoration after the fall of Rancagua. Once the independence of Chile was declared, he went to Rome to seek recognition of the new state. He has now returned with the Pope’s recognition and is expected to be named to the Bishopric of Concepcion after the current officeholder. He is the most famed representative of the Church in this region and has the respect of most revolutionaries. However, he faces opposition within the clergy to many liberal agendas, and it is up to Cienfuegos to craft the Church’s response to change. His support is critical to any new government formation.

José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia -
Supreme Dictator of Paraguay
Jose de Francia was trained for the clergy before becoming a lawyer who defended the weak in Paraguay’s class system. One of the few educated natives, Francia rose to power after Paraguay declared independence by fighting against the power of the entrenched criollo. Francia has instituted reforms in Paraguay that helped to increase the power of indigenous people, and claims to look to the Enlightenment models of Rousseau. Some may claim, though, that his model is closer to the less appealing sides of the French Revolutionary governments, with a police state controlling much of the country. He opposes the power of the church and nationalized in a move that led to his excommunication by the Pope. He has recently built a fort near the border of the Argentine province of Misiones. His army is around 3,000 regulars strong at the moment, with the ability to raise 3,000 more. His local militias control about 15,000 irregulars and his river fleet consists of 100 canoes and flatboats.
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Bernardino Rivadavia – Minister of State in Buenos Aires:

Rivadavia served the independence movement faithfully from 1810 to 1821. In 1821, he was named minister of government in Buenos Aires after the Treaty of Pilar and the Battle of Cepeda ended the constitution established by the Congress of Tucuman. He is a staunch centrist and opposes the power of the provinces that has come about because of the Federal League. He is famed for his reforms in Buenos Aires, helping to use national funds to improve the city. He is the first leader to take out major loans from British banks to help fund development. He controls a small army for the defense of Buenos Aires of 3,000 troops. He also has a fleet of 5 schooners and 8 gunboats.

Juan Manuel de Rosas - caudillo in Buenos Aires, Federalist-ideal but fought for Buenos Aires

Juan de Rosas is a Federalist politician and large landowner in Buenos Aires. He fought against the royalists and is famed for his cavalry group known as the Colorados de Monte which fought against the Federal League. He is known as the Federalist who looks out for the concerns of Buenos Aires province. He has a cavalry of 500 and a rural militia of 1,000, as well as significant business connections and relations with other federalists.

José María Paz y Haedo - Unitarian general in Córdoba province

A criollo born in Cordoba, Jose Paz is a general in the Army of the North who has seen extensive action in Upper Peru. When the Army of the North was ordered to return to Buenos Aires in 1820 to fight the Federal League, it mutinied and took control of Cordoba Province. The mutiny declared neutrality in the fight between the federalists and unitarians; however, Paz supports the unitarians in hopes that the central government will be able to evict the Royalists from Salta and Upper Peru. He controls 3,000 troops in Cordoba.

José Gervasio Artigas - former commander of Bandas Oriental forces, defeated by Brazil

Jose Artigas fought valiantly for the independence of the Bandas Oriental, first against the royalists and then against the unitarians. He formed the Federal League with Estanislao Lopez of Sante Fe and Fransisco Ramirez of Entre Rios to fight the authority of Buenos Aires. However, the Portuguese invasion of the Bandas Oriental
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drove Artigas back. He has only the support of Estanilao Lopez and Sante Fe province, with his ally Ramirez having been assassinated. He seeks the support of all of Argentina to drive out the now-Brazilian occupation of the Bandas Oriental and Misiones. He controls a force of 2,500 from Sante Fe and a small river fleet of 50 canoes and flatboats.

Eustaquio Mendez, Provisional President of the Republic of Tarija:
Eustaquio Mendez is the guerilla leader of the independent republic in Upper Peru of Tarija. He has extensive business interests in the mining activities of Upper Peru. By this, he has access to financial backing because of the prodigious amounts of silver that is mined in the region. Additionally, his access to the mineral resources gives him the ability to provide armaments and military equipment. He is a federalist, but it thought that he may harbor monarchist tendencies. He controls about 500 guerillas in Tarija, and access to 500 guerillas each in the provinces of Santa Cruz and Larecaja.

His Eminence, Bartolomé María de Las Heras Navarro Archbishop of Lima
Bartolomé María de Las Heras Navarro served loyally as the Bishop of Cuzco from 1789 to 1806. Appointed to the position of Archbishop of Lima in 1806, Navarro has navigated a close line between supporting the secular forces in charge of the city and maintaining the independence of the Church. While the city was under the control of the royalists, Navarro relented to the pressure to provide funds to the royalists but refused to give up control of church properties. Since the arrival of the San Martin, Navarro has followed the same path, supporting the declaration of independence but resisting the demands of a whimsical government. Although fairly conservative, it is unclear what type of government Navarro will support for the newly independent nation.