

Situation

It is early summer. The Second Korean War is sputtering to a close. North Korea has lost. Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un has fled Pyongyang and his location is unknown. Chinese PLA forces occupy territory in the northern part of North Korea; the ROK-US Alliance forces occupy a southern swath of territory from the Korea Bay on the west to the Sea of Japan on the east. Pyongyang is invested by ROK forces and has yet to surrender. There is a strip of land between Chinese and ROK-US Allies that remains uncontrolled, although U.S. and Republic of Korea forces are active in this zone attempting to bring security and stability to the population there.



Things are chaotic. Food, water, medicine, fuel, animal feed and seed stocks are in short supply or non-existent. The power grid is beyond repair and power is available only in those areas close to generators, and even then its availability is sketchy. People cling to their home villages. A few farmers make feeble attempts to plant crops. The threat of widespread famine looms over the devastated countryside.

Only in the port cities on the east coast is there a sign of relief, where foreign aid vessels are able to dock and unload desperately needed cargo. But it is not enough and distribution limited by poor transportation networks and lack of vehicles.

Your Role

You are the United States ambassador to China – the senior U.S. diplomat on the ground. You have just received a demarche from the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs. The demarche warns that U.S. troops are approaching dangerously close to Chinese positions in the vicinity of the North Korean port city of Chongjin and that any further advance on the part of U.S. forces would be viewed “very sternly” by Beijing leadership, and that removal of U.S. troops from the Chongjin area would be “well advised.”

You are acquainted with the U.S. field commander and know his reputation for aggressive leadership.

Your Challenge

To avoid a potentially deadly confrontation, what are some courses of action you can pursue?