

Unto the Honored Dame Brionna, Captain of the Imperial Guard and Chief Military Adviser to his Majesty, Alastair, Emperor of Canberry and the South Kingdoms
From Clarence Strawberry, Head of Military Intelligence

Honored Dame:

Two things have come to our attention that I thought should be immediately reported to you.

1. The death flight of the Nolder Princess has stabilized the battlelines in Hanal in unexpected ways. The Kov of Bormark's field army has been able to make contact with the Inquisition armies and as a result they now have, we calculate, the strength to hold the territory they seized from the Queen-Empress through the winter. In order to press them she has had to draw back additional forces from the Kov's territory to commit against the combined army, thus allowing both battle lines to reach stasis. At the same time this relieves pressure on the Kov as far as feeding the numbers he had under arms, giving him more largesse for distribution to the population of his Kovnate, and, we think, preventing outright starvation in the civilian population. While this will not effect the balance between the Snanurkazz and the armies pinning him down, nor have long term effect on the war, as the Queen-Empress' armies are still far larger than her foes - it protects many of the civilians and gives time to those supporting the Princess.
2. In the South the situation continues to evolve. Since the marriage bans were announced, the people of the South Kingdoms (in refugee status?) have solidified around both their own princess, who they now style Empress, and around Alastair. Our troops there see clearly a sea change in outlook and confidence. The marriage is roundly praised and the Princess has gone from a tenuous hold on power to a solid one as a result. The greatest danger however remains rogue slavers. The population that is now in the new Southlands provinces exceeds 3 million all told, every one of them knows people who were killed in the intaking and others who were captured by the Aragoni and sold elsewhere. While the Aragoni have withdrawn from raiding, they are still somehow purchasing slaves from rogue bands and even from bandits. This stands to sour the new found confidence if it is allowed to continue through the winter and into the new year - but our troops are spread very thin, as are the few native regiments remaining, and unlikely to be able to counter them.