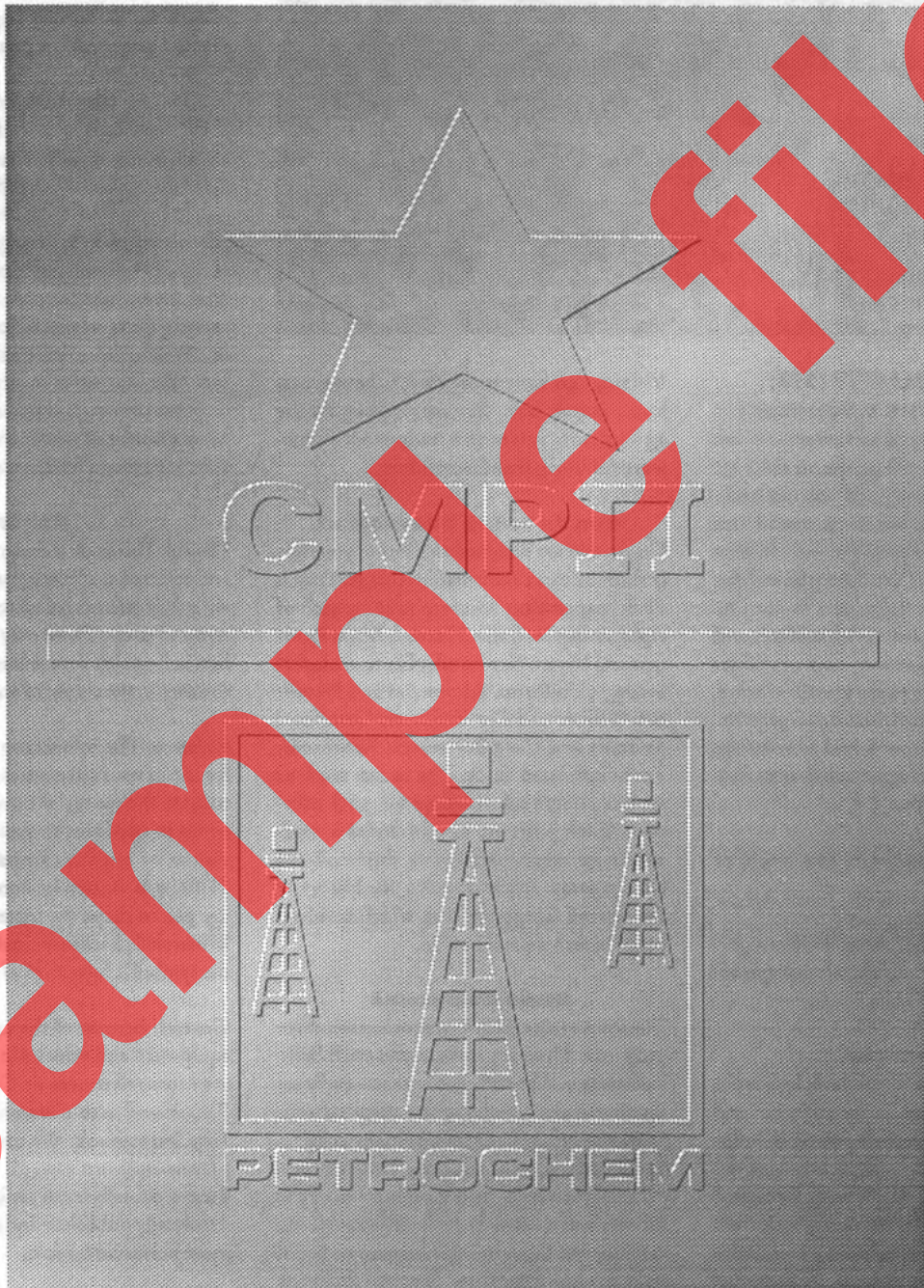


CORPORATION

REPORT 2020 VOL. 3



A SUPPLEMENT FOR

CYBERPUNK®



INTRODUCTION:

WHO FEEDS THE MACHINES?

In a world sucked dry of resources by earlier generations, Man is still unable to slake his growing thirst for energy and raw materials. As the years go by, his machines spread over more and more of the Earth's surface. All that machinery cries out (and competes) for power to run its motors, oils to cool its innards, plastics to protect its surface, and raw materials to shape into new machines and other products. People want their cars, corporations want their factories, governments want their weapons, and all want the fuels and materials to keep these devices running without interruption.

So who feeds the machines in a world of scarcity?

Petrochem and SovOil, two of 2020's mightiest corporations, and two of *Cyberpunk's* greatest rivals.

CORPBOOKS

Corpbok Three is the third book in a series dedicated to bringing you information and source material on the most powerful, influential and cutting-edge corporations in the world of *Cyberpunk*. Each book has complete breakdowns on two corporations, including both new organizations and ones which you may recognize from *Cyberpunk 2020*. The corporations in each book are related in some way. They produce similar products, are rivals, are similar in scope, or any combination of the above. The material in the Corpbooks enables you to add a whole new dimension to your *Cyberpunk* game.

Villains can have more depth, heroes can know exactly who they are working for (or against), and you have a ready-made framework for intrigue and adventure.

WHAT'S IN THE CORPBOOKS?

Corpbooks are designed to allow you to easily find the exact information that you need. Each corporation write-up is composed of eight source sections: History; Main Products and Intent; Key People; Current Market Strategy; Uniforms, Equipment and Personnel; Offices and Key Facilities; Computer Systems and Data Fortresses; Resources, Subsidiaries and Stock. The source sections are broken into sub-headings for quick reference. Each write-up also includes a short adventure. As an extra bonus, this book also has a separate article detailing the history of the Second Corporate War, which involved both Petrochem and SovOil.

USING CORPBOOKS

The source material in Corpbook serves three purposes. First, it provides you with basic information that will enable you to easily set up adventures involving the corporations. Stats and equipment for company soldiers and guards, maps of company facilities, typical data fortresses, and descriptions of the movers and shakers in each corporation are examples of the kind of information you'll have at your fingertips. Second, the book describes the public and secret agendas and motivations of each corporation, providing you with ample material for creating scenarios and character backgrounds. If your characters are confronting the corporations, you'll have more to work with. If they are working

for the corporations, they'll know more about their employer's history and motivations. Finally, the descriptions will add depth and realism to any scenarios in which those corporations appear. You'll know what products are made by whom, who's likely to be responsible for what plots, and what the hallmarks of each corporation are, right down to the ads that characters will see on television.

IMPROVEMENTS

If you have read or seen the first two Corpbooks, you may notice some differences in this volume. For the first time we are including information for use in netrunning adventures, such as descriptions of company computer systems and typical data fortresses. The adventures have also been expanded, making them more challenging and involving. Finally, the article on the Second Corporate War will serve to explain the conflict between the two companies and provide one more element of source material to flesh out your adventures or characters.

NOTES

Players: This book is designed for both players and referees, but players may want to check with their referees before reading the contents cover to cover. There may be some information in here that your referee would like you to discover in the course of an adventure.

Referees: The information in Corpbooks is for use in your adventures, so feel free to customize the material however you wish in order to conform to your own *Cyberpunk* vision, or to your campaign's power level. Nothing is written in stone, and we encourage you to shape the material to your needs. When skill checks are cited in the adventures, the symbol $\geq$ means *equal to or greater than...*

General: Because of the universality of some equipment and vehicles in *Cyberpunk*, there are cross references to *Corpbooks One* and *Two*, as well as to *Chromebook* and the *Night City Sourcebook*. We understand that our players may not own all of our books, but these cross-references avoid recapping material already published and allow us to include more new information.

You're all set now, so get ready for one more spin through the malevolent world of *Cyberpunk* corporations—your deadliest yet!

William Moss

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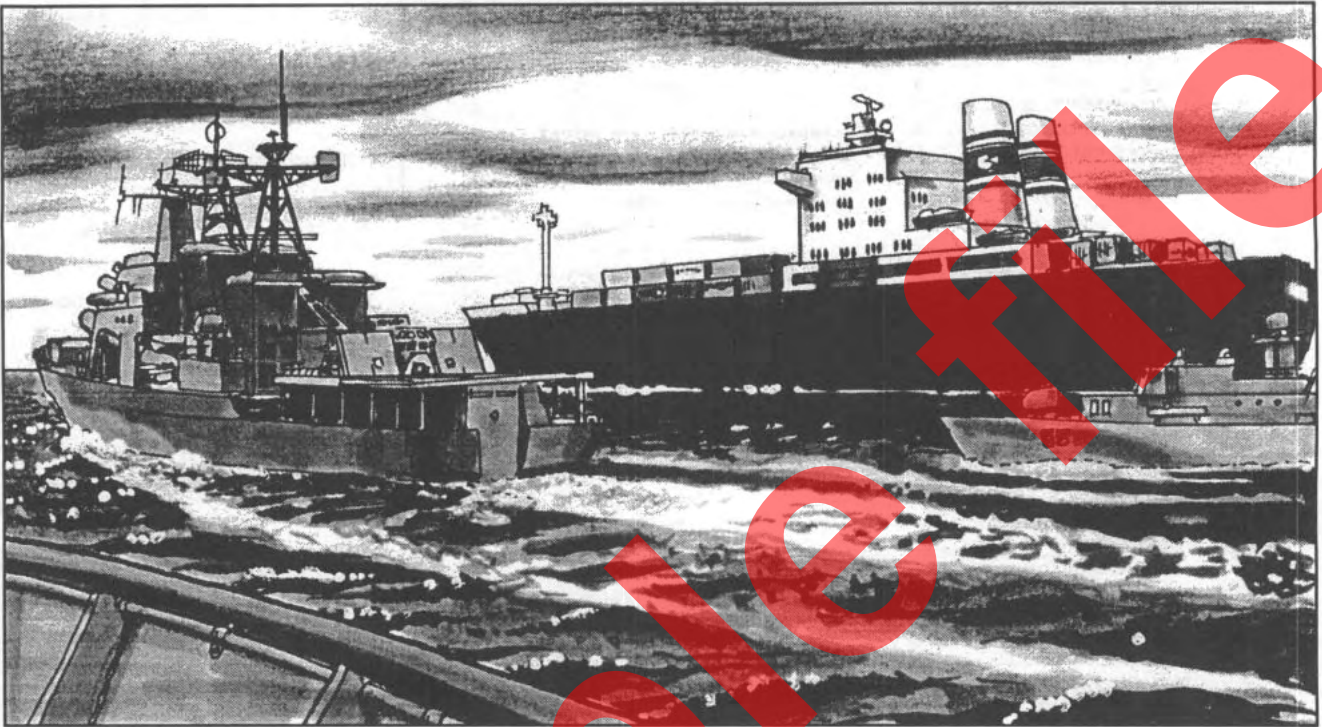
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Our Special thanks to the helpful staff of the world's greatest financial analysts: Merrill, Asukaga & Finch. Their hours of meticulous work allow us to present such a level of exacting detail.

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SPECIAL EXECUTIVE REPORT THE SECOND CORPORATE WAR: PETROCHEM AND SOVOIL IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA



The SovOil Fleet sorties from Vladivostok

BACKGROUND

These days, the use of military and paramilitary force by corporations is taken for granted. It's part and parcel of commercial survival in the unstable and dangerous twenty-first century. Prior to 1996, however, armed corporations were almost unthinkable, and companies trusted in local law enforcement and military agencies to protect their assets. The events of the turbulent years from 1994 to 1998 changed all that. The plunge of the world stock market in 1994, and the subsequent international unrest, United States collapse, Middle East disintegration, and worldwide destabilization made it necessary for corporations to accept full responsibility for the protection and security of their assets. National armies and police organizations could no longer be trusted or relied on. Some corporations were stockpiling arms and training soldiers and special operations agents by the end of 1995.

It didn't take long for the newly armed corporations to begin flexing their military and paramilitary muscle. With government regulation becoming negligible, the emerging megacorps grappled for scarce resources, information, and market areas. The years from 1995 to 2000 were rife with brushfire warfare as several corporations jockeyed for position and power. Eventually, a new international hierarchy was established, with military potency as important a criterion as commercial success.

After the turn of the century, there was a drop in the number of corporate military incidents, as a relatively stable pecking order was established. Several corporations had perished, or been swallowed by the competition. The remaining corporations were survivors; organizations with resources and leadership that were competitive in the turbulent twenty-first century. The names ring familiar: Arasaka, IEC, EBM, Petrochem, SovOil, Orbital

Air, Net 54... New companies that relied on corporate military markets had been created. Among them: Militech, The Lazarus Group, and Sternmeyer.

Although the number of corporate military incidents declined after the year 2000, the size of these incidents certainly did not. The first warning of the scope that intercorporate confrontations could achieve came in 2004, when EBM and Orbital Air went to war over control of the floundering Transworld Air. This incident was a typical corporate war in that it was fought largely in the boardroom and world financial infrastructure, with sporadic, quick military engagements over certain key sites. It was atypical however, in that it lasted for a year and a half, three times longer than any previous corporate confrontation. It became known as the First Corporate War. Many people thought that the First Corporate War was as bad as a corporate confrontation could get. They were wrong...

CORPORATE MILITARY FORCES

Corporate forces are designed to fulfill a different mission than national armed forces. Corporations generally need to protect information and facilities, not territory. When they launch a military operation, it's usually a lightning strike designed either to cripple some element of an enemy corporation, or to seize some valuable resource or piece of information. Often, these raids are carried out covertly, with secret troops operating under cover of darkness. Seldom does the public find out, seldom does an incident last longer than a few hours, or days at most. To fight longer is to invite national intervention and unfavorable PR. Wholesale destruction is inefficient. Small, light, autonomous, quick-response units are the order of the day. Speed is of the essence. Ninety percent of most corporate wars are fought in the boardroom, on the world's financial and stock markets, and in the net. Only a tiny fraction takes place on the battlefield.

There are exceptions, however. On a few occasions, when the stakes have been very high, competing corporations have dug in their heels, called in their troops, and gone head to head for long periods of time. The most infamous confrontation of this nature was the three year war between SovOil and Petrochem over the priceless oil fields in the South China Sea. This conflagration has gone into the history books as the Second Corporate War. It will be long remembered by anyone who was with either corporation at the time, and by everyone living in the nations bordering that tropical sea.

PETROCHEM AND SOVOIL

Petrochem and SovOil have long had an acrimonious relationship. The two corporations produce the majority of the world's CHOOH₂, and are the only viable producers of raw petroleum products remaining. They have competed fiercely for markets and resources over the last fifteen years.

In 2005, relations between the two corporations were the best they had ever been, before or since. SovOil was producing CHOOH₂ in an experimental capacity

only, and the corporations had not yet come to grips over international resources. A deal was in the works that, at the time, seemed like a godsend for both companies. SovOil had huge Siberian oil fields that had not been tapped because the Soviet corporation had been unable to develop the necessary technology. Petrochem had offered to supply the technology in return for partial pumping rights in the region. Both corporations stood to benefit, and there was much talk of forging the penultimate corporate alliance; a commercial Camelot.

At the last hour, however, the deal collapsed. SovOil engineers announced the success of new, in-house developments that would enable the Soviet corporation to recover the Siberian oil without Petrochem's assistance. The deal was cancelled, and millions of Eurobucks and man-hours were lost. Relationships and communication between the two corporations evaporated, and a chilly silence settled in.

EARLY RUMBLINGS

Things might have gotten no worse, except for the discovery of previously unknown, potentially gigantic, oil fields in the international waters of the South China Sea. Geological surveys by SovOil and Petrochem yielded similar results at the same time, and both corporations, along with several smaller competitors, began exploration and experimental drilling in the region. Tensions in the South China basin began to increase.

The situation became critical within a few months after the two corporations began competing in the region. The major field was located in the Spratly Islands, an archipelago claimed by China, Malaysia, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Claims notwithstanding, no national government was in a position to enforce leases or restrictions on the oil parcels in the shallow seas around the islands. With no nation arbitrating, the race to stake claims in the area turned into a free-for-all. Immediately, each corporation accused the other of encroachment and sabotage

In anticipation of hostilities, both corporations began sending arms and troops to the area. In a matter of weeks, the Spratly Archipelago was transformed from a beautiful tropical ocean into the scene of a tense military standoff. Regional governments, including Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines, China, and Indonesia, recognized that the trade, shipping and environment of their area was threatened, and they pleaded with the two corporations to negotiate a truce.

THE DJAKARTA CONFERENCE

In November 2007, leaders from both corporations convened in Djakarta, Indonesia, along with high-ranking delegates from the surrounding nations. The Djakarta Conference was intended to allow the two corporations to peacefully parcel the area, and avoid armed conflict. It was the first and last time that Petrochem and SovOil ever met at the international negotiating table. When the week-long conference was over, a tentative agreement had been reached. SovOil was to explore the northern half of the Spratly field, and Petrochem the southern half. The line of demarcation was the tenth parallel. Both corporations signed the agreement, which was also a non-aggression pact. The paper was witnessed by the leaders of the surrounding nations, all of whom were eager to reap the trade benefits of peaceful exploration. The Djakarta Agreement was a major coup, coming so soon after the collapse of the Siberian oil deal. Although relationships between the two corporations were not healed, the prospects for peace looked good.

THE DESTRUCTION OF SABINA BRAVO

For a short while, it seemed that everything was going to work out well. But in March 2008, only four months after the signing of the Djakarta Agreement, came the event that was ultimately blamed for touching off the war. On Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 2:34 AM, Petrochem offshore oil platform Sabina Bravo exploded into flames, killing all 173 personnel on board and completely destroying 22 well

heads. A three-hundred meter geyser of flame shot into the air. The glow was visible from Palawan Island in the Philippines, 240 kilometers away. Underwater, crude oil began to spill from ruptured pipelines into the still pristine waters of the Spratly Archipelago. Only quick action prevented the fire from spreading to the three other Sabina platforms, Alpha, Charlie, and Delta.

Even before the fire was extinguished, tensions began to increase again. The Sabina sub-field was only a few short kilometers south of the tenth parallel, and the Sabina Oil Reservoir extended across the parallel, into SovOil territory. Although on opposite sides of the demarcation, both Petrochem's Sabina Platforms and SovOil's Namyit Platforms pumped oil from the Sabina Reservoir. At the Djakarta conference, each corporation had argued for sole control of the Sabina Reservoir, and it had been a sticking point in the negotiations when it was announced that the tenth parallel rule would hold, and the corporations would have joint access.

Because of the competition for the oil in the Sabina Reservoir, Petrochem immediately accused SovOil of sabotaging Sabina Bravo with an underwater explosive device. SovOil denied all allegations, and, in turn, accused Petrochem of trying to blame them for their own technical and safety failings. Petrochem suggested that, if SovOil was in good faith, it would have sent their Namyit MSV platform (Mobile Support Vehicle, see SovOil Key Offices and Facilities) to aid Petrochem's Sabina MSV in the firefighting. SovOil rebutted by claiming that it needed to retain the Namyit MSV in case of an emergency at their field, especially in light of possible unjustified retaliation from Petrochem. SovOil diplomats also claimed that Petrochem might have used the presence of a SovOil vessel below the tenth parallel as the grounds for a charge of sabotage, even if the vessel was an MSV. Petrochem responded to this outrageous

A GEYSER OF FLAME SHOT INTO THE AIR. THE GLOW WAS VISIBLE FROM THE PHILIPPINES, 240 KILOMETERS AWAY.

excuse by severing all diplomatic relations with SovOil. On the heels of the stress caused by the Siberian oil deal collapse, this move opened the doors for disaster. In the space of 100 hours, relationships between the two corporations had gone from recovering to critical. The South China Sea was about to become a crucible.

RETALIATION

It was Petrochem that was ultimately responsible for the first known military action of the war. Unable to believe that the Sabina disaster was an accident (which, ironically, it later proved to be), Petrochem dispatched a naval black operations team to sabotage one of SovOil's Spratly platforms. Petrochem elected not to attack a Namyit Platform, as that would be too obvious. Instead, Thitu One, 120 km north of the tenth parallel, was targeted.

On April 1st, 2008, operating from a long-range minisub, Petrochem divers planted special explosives at the base of two of Thitu One's three concrete legs. Two hours later, the explosives went off, and Thitu tipped into the ocean. 113 of 144 personnel were killed. There was no fire, but hundreds of millions of liters of crude oil discharged into the sea before troubleshooters on the Thitu MSV

managed to cap the severed wellheads.

Petrochem's tactical success was overshadowed by the disaster that followed. The minisub carrying Petrochem's troops was detected, depth charged, and critically damaged by a SovOil sonar net patrol boat while running for the tenth parallel. The sub was captured intact, and, although the soldiers committed suicide before they could be questioned, SovOil investigators discovered enough evidence to prove that the sub was responsible for the destruction of Thitu One, and substantiate their suspicion that Petrochem was responsible.

A NEW PRECEDENT

SovOil was not going to stand for proven sabotage. Anatoly Novikovo gave new SovOil military commander Lupold Korepino the green light to draw up a plan for a retaliatory strike to be carried out openly, under SovOil colors. Korepino flew secretly to the Philippines to meet with SovOil's South China Sea military commander Admiral Ivan Ostrov. A strike was arranged for the early morning hours of April 8th.

Anticipating SovOil's retaliation, leaders of the nations that had participated in the Djakarta Conference pleaded with the corporation to use diplomacy. When it became clear that the crisis was beyond diplomacy, they threatened to oust the corporations from the region if they went to war. SovOil made soothing noises to the leaders of the surrounding nations, but it was only a coverup. The attack went ahead as scheduled.

By attacking despite the threats of the Djakarta Conference nations, SovOil set a new world precedent by being the first corporation to openly defy a national government (or several national governments). There was no subtlety, no hidden crime; SovOil simply thumbed its nose at the Djakarta Conference governments and defied them to interfere with company business. Corporations around the world watched eagerly to see what the