

VIRGINIA MODEL UNITED NATIONS



First Crusade: Defense of the Holy Land
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CLASSIFIED

Dossier:

Defense of the Holy Land



Letter of Assembly

As-salamu alaykum, delegates

We are gathered here today in secrecy to discuss certain reports we have received from our spies within Constantinople. Thousands of Frankish mercenaries have arrived in the city over the course of the winter--no doubt as preparation for a renewed campaign against our brothers in Anatolia when the snow thaws. We are certain that they will fail, as have *all* the prior Byzantine campaigns, but their numbers are nevertheless concerning, and it is better to be safe than sorry.

Furthermore, it is our hope that in calling you here, we might devise an end to this conflict that has plagued us since the death of Malik-Shah (may he rest in peace), that we may direct Turkish swords against worthy foes once more.

Finally, there is the issue of the cursed Fatimids to the south. While they have so far been too concerned with their own domestic affairs to take advantage of the dynasty's fragmented state, we have heard whispers suggesting this may no longer be the case. We must take care that we do not allow them to gain any ground.

We leave the details of these plans to you, most esteemed delegate. We know that you will lead us wisely.

1. Abu Nasr Shams al-Muluk **Duqaq**, Emir of Damascus
 - a. Duqaq is the son of Tutush I, the brother of Malik-Shah. After his father died in 1095 CE, his demesne was split between Duqaq and his brother, Radwan. Duqaq received Damascus, and with it, the southern portion of modern-day Syria. He is nominally sworn to his older brother Radwan.
2. **Al-Mustazhir**, Caliph
 - a. Al-Mustazhir reigned as the Abbasid Caliph in Baghdad from 1094 to 1118, succeeding his father al-Muqtadi. Despite the authority of his title, Al-Mustazhir had no temporal power, though his title made him the spiritual leader of the Sunni faith, and his direct descent from the family of Muhammad provided him great renown. He still maintained strong connections among the Sunni political and religious elite.
3. **Arslan-Arghun**, Atabeg of Khorasan
 - a. Arslan-Arghun was the Atabeg of Khorasan during this time with firm control over the north-western region of Persia. Arslan-Arghun's significant territorial control wielded him significant political persuasion and favors.
4. Atabeg **Kerbogha**, Governor of Mosul
 - a. Kerbogha had many connections politically as well as militarily. A renowned soldier, Kerbogha would play a critical role in the fighting of the first crusade while maintaining the prestige and economic power of governor of a major city within the empire.

5. **Barkiyaruq**, Sultan of Great Seljuk

- a. Barkiyaruq was the oldest son of Malik Shad and reigned as Seljuk sultan from 1092 to 1105. His succession was not without contest, however, as several other Seljuk princes laid claim to the throne. Barkiyaruq claimed victory over his contestants including Arslan-Argun, Mehmed I, and Tutush I. During his short reign, Barkiyaruq focused primarily on financing the state and was succeeded by his son Malik Shah II upon his death in 1105.

6. **Basheer** al-Mansur, Bedouin Sheikh

- a. Basheer al-Mansur was the leader of a prominent Bedouin tribe in the Levant. The bedouin were nomadic, tribal peoples who inhabited mostly the desert region of Northern Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and the Levant. Bedouin tribes usually consisted of extended families with a patriarchal head and their livelihoods centered on herding camels and goats. As sheikh, or leader, of his tribe, al-Mansur has full authority over seasonal movements and alliances. The Bedouin practiced Islam but adhered to neither the Sunni nor Shi'i sect, making them critical potential allies. al-Mansur further had command of a bounty of valuable livestock including camels and goats — essential for potentially equipping and feeding armies.

7. **Belek** Ghazi, Beg of Suruç

- a. Belek Ghazi is the grandson of Artuq Beg, and the Beg of Suruç. He is estranged from his uncles Ilghazi and Sökmen due to the distances between their holdings. While a smaller, rural district, Suruç is on the border of modern day Turkey and Syria, nestled in the Taurus Mountains. No one knows the mountain passes of this critical juncture quite as well as him.

8. **Chaka** Beg, Beg of Smyrna

- a. Chaka served as a Seljuk military commander with control over the independent state of Smyrna. His father, also Chaka, was murdered by his son-in-law Kilij Arslan in 1093 CE at a banquet. His knowledge of Byzantine military structure and tactics yet detestation for the empire elevated him to a critical role in fighting the crusaders.

9. **Danishmend** Gazi, Beg of the Danishmend Beylik

- a. Danishmend was the founder of the Beylik of Danishmends. The Danishmends controlled the central-to-northern regions of Anatolia following the Battle of Manzikert, and remained mostly independent throughout the period, occasionally paying tribute to the various Seljuk Sultans around them. With the threat of Crusaders on the rise — and advancing directly toward his territory — Danishmend would prove a critical ally for the Seljuks

10. Fakhr al-Mulk **Radwan**, Sultan of Aleppo

- a. Radwan is the son of Tutush I, the brother of Malik-Shah. After his father died in 1095 CE, his demesne was split between Radwan and his brother, Duqaq. Radwan received his father's primary title, becoming the Sultan of Aleppo, controlling the Greater Syria region.

11. **Fakhr** al-Mulk, Vizier of Barkiyaruq

- a. Fakhr al-Mulk is the third and current Vizier of Barkiyaruq, having gained the position after his brother was ejected due to a rivalry with the Sultan's mother. As vizier, Fakhr has a privileged proximity to the Sultan and other high-ranking political advisors.

12. **Garshasp II**, Emir of Yazd and Abarkuh

- a. Son of the prominent Emir Ali ibn Faramurz, Garshasp II succeeded his father as the head of the influential Kakuid family. Garshasp subsequently became an honored member of the Seljuk court, securing political connections and a close relation with Sultan Muhammad.

13. **Haditha** al-Fa'iz, Bedouin Sheikh

- a. Haditha al-Fa'iz was a prominent Bedouin Sheikh of a tribe located in the west of the Arabian peninsula. The bedouin were nomadic, tribal peoples who inhabited mostly desert regions and whose livelihoods organized around herding camels and goats. As leader of his tribe Haditha has control over the nomadic movements and alliances of the tribe as well as its livestock. The Bedouin practiced Islam but adhered to neither the Sunni nor Shi'i sect, making them critical potential allies with knowledge of desert terrain and ready access to valuable livestock.

14. **Hassan-e Sabbāh**, Leader of the Hashashin

- a. The order of Hashashin, or Assassins, was a Shi'i muslim group of Nazir ismaili's. A persecuted religious minority, Hashashin warriors carried out targeted attacks against the sect's enemies. Hassan-e was the founder of the leader of the Nazir Ismailis and founder of the Assassin Order. Hassan-e led a small army of around 100 dangerously skilled assassins known for publically killing their enemies in strategic, highly calculated attacks. The Assassins, though small in number, waged effective psychological warfare by targeting the heads of enemy groups and leaving them defenseless rather than engaging in outright battles.

15. **Huseyin** Kirtepe, Turkic Mercenary Captain

- a. Huseyin was the leader of a tribe of Turkic mercenaries from the Kimek-Kipchak confederation. Turkic officers made up an elite military class in the Seljuk Empire and were highly skilled in archery and tactical warfare. However, their allegiances were not tied to a specific side of a conflict, only the one that could offer the highest pay. Huseyin himself was highly revered and commanded a large squadron of 150 officers with superior battle skills.

16. **Kilij Arslan**, Sultan of Rûm

- a. Kilij Arslan is the Sultan of the independent Sultanate of Rûm located in Anatolia. After his father was killed by Tutush outside of Antioch in 1086 CE, he became a hostage of the departed Sultan Malik-Shah. He was freed upon Malik-Shah's death in 1092 CE, at which point he returned to Anatolia and declared independence once more.

17. **Majd** al-Mulk, Mustaufi of Barkiyaruq

- a. Majd al-Mulk serves as Barkiyaruq's *Mustaufi*, a position roughly analogous to treasurer. He is therefore responsible for managing Great Seljuk's finances. He is the youngest brother of Fakhr, 'Izz, and Mu'ayyid, and while he lacks any sort of holdings, he has great influence at court, making him the most popular of the brothers, if not the most powerful.

18. Mehmet, Turkic Ghilman Captain

- a. Ghilman were a type of slave-soldiers employed by the Abbasids and the Seljuks. Ghilman often acquired vast temporal power in service of the state, and were generally well-regarded by the rulers of the period. As captain, Mehmet was not enslaved and commanded a squadron of 200 turkic ghilman soldiers. Ghilman soldiers were fearless, well-trained fighters. While bound to defend the Seljuk empire by force, their authentic loyalty to the shah was quite weak.

19. Mu'ayyid al-Mulk, former Vizier

- a. Mu'ayyid was the second Vizier of Barkiyaruq, being appointed to the position after his brother, the drunkard 'Izz al-Mulk Husain, was ejected from the post. However, due to a rivalry with Barkiyaruq's mother, Zubaida Khatun, he was ejected from his post in favor of his brother Fakhr al-Mulk. He and Fakhr al-Mulk despise each other due to a dispute over jewels owned by their late father Nizam al-Mulk. Of all Nizam al-Mulk's sons, it is Mu'ayyid who holds the most sway in the Nezamiyeh, a series of universities created by Nizam.

20. Muhammad Tapar, half-brother of Barkiyaruq

- a. Muhammad Tapar was the son of Sultan Malik Shah I and succeeded his nephew, Malik Shah II as Sultan in Baghdad. Muhammad Tapar reigned from 1105 to 1118 as the titular head of the Seljuk dynasty, however, his brother Ahmed Sanjar, the Seljuk ruler of Khorasan held more power in reality. At present, he is Barkiyaruq's presumptive heir, though that will presumably change once the Sultan has a son of his own.

21. Najm ad-Din **Ilghazi** ibn Artuq, Beg of Jerusalem

- a. Ilghazi is the oldest son of Artuq Beg. Upon the death of his father in 1091 CE, he became Beg of Jerusalem alongside his brother, Sökmen. The two share power equally, though both dislike the fact they must share power. Ilghazi has more influence among the Turkic cavalry than his brother. Ilghazi was once married to Fakhr al-Mulk Radwan's daughter, but they never met, and the marriage was never consummated.

22. **Sökmen** ibn Artuq, Beg of Jerusalem

- a. Sökmen is the second son of Artuq Beg. When his father died in 1091 CE, he and his brother, Ilghazi, were both made Beg of Jerusalem. The two share power equally. Sökmen has more influence among the numerous gildman soldiers than his brother.

23. **Talgat** al-Huseyn, Sunni Allamah

- a. Allamah's existed in both the sunni and Shi'i sect and were high ranking scholars of Islam and Islamic jurisprudence. Religious scholars achieved this rank after years of study and excellence in a number of religious disciplines. Talgat was the religious advisor to the circle of officials serving the Seljuk Shah. Talgat maintained significant respect in the upper echelons of the Seljuk Empire and had many connections among the Sunni religious elite as well as significant influence over practitioners of the faith.

24. Toghtekin, Turkic Mercenary Captain

- a. Toghtekin was an influential military leader and later served as atabeg of Damascus from 1104 to 1128. Toghtekin's career took off when he served as junior official to the Seljuk ruler of Damascus and Syria, Tutush I, from 1092 to 1094. Following Tutush I's death in 1095, Toghtekin allied politically with Tutush's son Duqaq who succeeded as emir of Damascus. Toghtekin maintained prestige politically and respect militarily.

25. Yağısıyan, Governor of Antioch

- a. Yağısıyan was a Turkish military commander and an important figure of the First Crusade. When the Seljuk Sultan passed away in 1092, his successor Tutush I bestowed more territory to Yağısıyan, expanding the land under his control to the area around Manbij northeast of Aleppo and Turbessel in the south-east of modern Turkey.

We appreciate your feedback about our conference. Please direct all inquiries and comments to our Secretary-General.

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