**Confidential Role Information for Dr. Chopra**

You are Dr. Deepak Chopra, a research scientist employed by the United Nations Standing Committee on World Hunger. Your organization's sole purpose is to develop methods to increase production of the world's food supply, particularly in third world countries. The more successful your organization is, the more likely it will be that you can reduce the millions of deaths that occur worldwide from malnutrition and starvation.

Your committee has discovered a substance that, when added to the soil, dramatically reduces the amount of moisture needed in the soil to grow a variety of staple crops (high protein grains). Preliminary studies around the world indicate that the use of this substance in drought areas would effectively allow currently fallow and drought-parched land in that area to grow crops. This new substance also has the promise, long term, to slow the process of the land turning into desert ("desertification") and might eventually increase the ability of desert areas to produce crops with a lot less water.

This new substance can only be found in the Vietnamese Prune, which grows on trees in certain parts of Vietnam. The trees are in a deserted and remote part of the country, making them highly inaccessible for easy harvesting. All efforts to transplant the trees to regions of the world where production would be easier and cheaper have failed; there seems to be some combination of the trees themselves and the quality of the agricultural and weather conditions that only allow the trees to thrive in this area. Moreover, efforts to expand the production in this area have been unsuccessful, since the climate and soil conditions appear to change just enough in neighboring regions to yield healthy trees but no fruit!

Vietnamese prune trees bear fruit only once every two years (a ripe prune is about the size, color and texture of a plum). The process for obtaining the soil additive from the prunes requires picking them, washing them, and then extracting and pulverizing the pits of the prunes into a fine powder. It has been estimated that the powder from the pits of an entire harvest would be sufficient to produce enough soil additive to reclaim land that would support a population of 20,000 people. Your scientists claim that they are at least 5 years away from solving the problem of how to create the conditions to grow fruit-bearing trees in other parts of the world, and at least 10 years away from being able to create a synthetic powder in the laboratory. Moreover, the trees must have a dormant year in between the years they produce fruit. All efforts at "genetic engineering" with the trees to produce a crop annually have failed.

The biannual harvest has just been completed. The output from the entire harvest of Vietnamese Prunes is being controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture, which will sell the batch to the highest bidder. Knowing the importance of the powder and the potential lives that might be saved by using it in the right way, you are eager to make this purchase. You have been authorized by the United Nations Committee to spend up to $5 million to obtain the prunes.

You have just learned that a competitor, Dr. Kim Larson, working for an American company, also has plans to make a bid on the prunes. You have no information about Larson or what he wants, but you know that you must get the prunes to continue working on this important problem! In an effort to save time and obtain the prunes as quickly as possible, you have decided to contact Dr. Larson and influence him not to purchase the prunes by email. You have no idea what you will encounter, but you have heard

that Dr. Larson is quite ruthless and very clearly wants the prunes for his company. You know that Dr. Larson's company is one of the biggest biotech firms in the U.S.; you heard that Wall Street sent the stock soaring about two years ago. As a result, Kim Larson probably has a lot of money to throw around.