

SECRETARY HIGHMORE

HBF

Secretary of Defense

To misquote Shakespeare, all the world is a chessboard, and we are the pieces. You know your place on this board: you are the queen. By far the most important thing in the game of life is readiness. The best strategy is to put yourself into a position to be aware of the whole board, and bide your time until you can effectively strike.

Your sophomore year of college, you were working for the school newspaper. While researching a story, you discovered that the Dean of Students had been diverting campus funds into a personal account. He begged you not to report the story - ridiculous, as if you would do such a thing. You told the Dean to act like a grown man and cut you in on the action.

By the time you graduated, you had amassed enough side funds from that and several other profitable ventures to start a hedge fund. You quickly developed a reputation on Wall Street as a wunderkind with an almost unnatural skill for choosing investments. Your picture appeared on the front cover of "Fortune" with the headline "You Don't Mess With the Kid."

Being the terror of Wall Street was nice, but you were playing the long game. It was time to advance into politics. You involved yourself with Senator Carroll's bid for President early on. Naturally, with your guidance, Carroll was elected easily. Parlaying your work into a cabinet appointment was child's play.

Recently, you caught wind of a new project brewing at DARPA: "Resonance," they call it. It's a new genetically-engineered supervirus that could help with crowd control and possibly cure Braiden's Syndrome. That's a great start, but this thing has potential ramifications for future research, if it works. This could return the United States to the top of the world's bioengineering community. We need to pursue this research aggressively - if we don't, our competitors surely will.

You helped get **President Carrol** elected and were repaid with a cabinet appointment. Secretary of Defense might not have been your first choice, but there is a lot you can do here, including setting up your own career: either in politics or by going into the military-industrial complex afterward. President Carrol's policies work out pretty well for you, but it doesn't matter too much: you mostly picked a candidate you thought likely to win.

Secretary Moorland is the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Moorland is one of those people who is very smart, but not very bright, and never thinks to look before leaping. You're not sure whether to be pleased or worried by Moorland's enthusiasm for Resonance.

Secretary Stern is the Secretary of Homeland Security. Watching out for the country is important, but Stern just fuels everyone's paranoia. It's useful for some types of manipulation, sure, but a terrified country is not the most productive country. You wish Stern would shut up about all the little terrorist threats every once in a while and let people focus on more relevant things.

Secretary Guterrez is the Secretary of State. You have no idea how such an idealist got this far. Guterrez simply doesn't understand the compromises necessary to get by in a complicated world.

Vice President Richardson had a screaming fight with the president the last time you saw them together. You think it had something to do with Resonance.

Advisor Cahill - The National Security advisor was a major factor in President Carroll deciding to let Project Resonance go forward. You like Cahill's big picture outlook, always searching for the new way to defend the nation.

Undersecretary Bourne works in your department. Bourne has a practical mind and a great deal of ambition, which you have made great use of in your assistant. Bourne appreciates your bottom-line, follow-the-money

approach when it comes to handling business.

Manager Edwards - The director of business and PR for the project. You charged Edwards with preparing Resonance for a positive presentation on the international scene in hopes that it will help put the United States back at the head of the bioengineering community.