

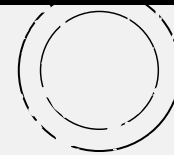
[CHAPTER]

04

THE MEASURE OF A MIND

BACKGROUND / CYBERPSYCHOLOGY

Digital technology provides tools we use to work, learn, teach, fight, organise, persuade, and even parent. In turn, its tools are used against us in each of these realms, with those virtual interactions across networks having real effects upon everything we do. Cyberpsychology is a discipline that seeks to understand, explain, and predict the human side of this. A new field of insight from ever-increasing data and research, it is enabling a new appreciation of human behaviour and decision-making at the levels of both society and the individual. For instance, by studying information consumption, persuasion, and how messages “go viral,” cyberpsychology can offer unprecedented insights. That may lead to discovering the emergence of new communities or how online campaigns shape real-world actions, from voting to genocide. In turn, our online activity, in even the most benign manner, can provide insights into individuals’ personalities, preferences, and other attributes. In short, we often have sufficient information from disparate sources to form a far more complete picture of an event or individual than was ever possible before social media and widely distributed mobile computing. With even more data, cyberpsychology will grow both more refined and widespread in its use.



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**RESEARCH NOTE FOR
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS**

SUBJECT: CORPORAL Assessment in Preparation for Upcoming Summit

ISSUE: After his assumption of power following appointment to the chancellorship, foreign leader designated CORPORAL demanded international action to defend his ethnic kin in the disputed border region to his nation's south, threatening unilateral action if the "crisis" was not soon resolved. Both SIGINT and satellite surveillance indicate a mobilisation of 85% of military forces. With the Prime Minister scheduled to meet with CORPORAL at his winter retreat, in an attempt to negotiate a peaceful resolution of the crisis, we were requested to provide a psychological assessment.

BACKGROUND: Our assessment is based upon a thorough examination using cyberpsychology analytics from the new ACRUX artificial intelligence system (named after a star that appears as a single point of light to the naked eye, but is actually a multiple star system). These findings will differ from conventional leadership analysis; CORPORAL's rapid rise and highly controlled public presence leave fewer sources for our assessment. Traditional evaluative studies focus on the individual; our approach with ACRUX considers the entirety of the digital and physical environments within which CORPORAL currently conducts official duties and previously existed prior to taking office. Both past and present digital spheres exist concurrently and influence one another. Therefore, as both virtual and real-world actions continuously impact the current strategic environment, we make no distinction between them in terms of analytical weighting because they cannot be credibly separated. This approach is not unlike how government public health campaigns are conducted; the analytical frameworks should be familiar to you based on your experience as Health Minister during the CV-27 vaccination outreach effort.

THE MEASURE OF A MIND

CONSIDERATIONS:

(1) Curated Crisis, Unsubstantiated Identification

CORPORAL claims the vast majority of citizens of the disputed province are seeking to be reunited with their "homeland" through a plebiscite to resolve the "crisis." Second, he claims that this is due not just to a shared ethnic affinity, but also to a sense of mortal danger. Neither are supported by ACRUX analysis, which indicates a remote likelihood of an actual crisis. Significantly, the data shows organised efforts at manipulation and amplification, but that they are notably unsuccessful. Accounts supporting the misinformation effort have structurally similar active and latent boosting networks, which manifest poorly concealed semantic text modulation.

As is the pattern in multiple international and domestic crises, there is significant evidence of social media weaponization, including both deliberate disinformation and malinformation (the elevation of accurate, but contextually false information). This is unsurprising, especially as network analysis indicates the same systems and approaches used in CORPORAL's own domestic operations. (NOTE: Prior ACRUX analysis identified this campaign and projected his success 14 months before he assumed the chancellorship.)

However, both the basis for the proposed plebiscite and the southern border region "crisis" it would seek to resolve are not matched. While there is a shared language and religion, ACRUX data shows significant divergence between citizens on each side of the border in 46% of the most significant socio-cultural parameters. Figure 1 (attached) provides further detail. The same divergence holds in political beliefs. Notably, only 17% show a strong affinity for the political ideology espoused by CORPORAL, less than half the 37% he achieved in his own nation's election.

Online sentiment pattern analysis also demonstrates that, while CORPORAL found a narrative of fear to be an effective message for his own domestic information operations, it is not gaining traction among the neighbouring population. It is clear that his government's persistent synthetic information operations (including new virtual-reality campaigns) seek to create an immersive narrative that is not being authentically experienced. Neither cyberpsychology analysis nor biological markers from distributed-device collection show out-of-scope data for stress markers consistent with an actual climate of fear. Similarly, CORPORAL frequently cites the online engagement with various plebiscite information hubs as evidence of the desire amongst the population to escape the danger of the crisis, but the predominant psychological sentiment among those engaging is an emotion of curiosity, not fear or stress.

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(2) Military Fear

ACRUX does, however, show that there is a significant emotion of actual fear in one particular audience: CORPORAL's own generals.

As noted earlier, multiple streams of intelligence provide evidence that CORPORAL is overtly preparing his nation for military action. These include mobilisation orders and military movements towards the border. However, sentiment analysis of the military leadership and their core personal and professional networks shows neither confidence nor desire for conflict. Rather, it shows fear within a force that is not actually as prepared for war as CORPORAL projects in public statements. Significantly, VR engagement among the country's general officers has increased dramatically, as they are establishing sub-groups where they are conducting anonymous discussions that reflect deep concern about the prospect of war and its effect on their own professional and societal standing if they are called upon to deploy. There are also examples of senior officers utilising anonymous and secure channels instead of official or personal social media accounts, which are intermittently dormant. ACRUX analysis of these dormancy patterns indicates senior officers are highly certain to be establishing further sub-networks to ensure they are able to directly engage with their armed forces in the event of a military defeat and their expectation of CORPORAL's loss of political power, if so.

(3) Leader Profile

Multiple prior reports have been provided of the socio-economic conditions and underlying emotions of fear and grievance that shaped both CORPORAL's psychology and political rise. This aligns with CORPORAL's prevailing rhetoric of anger, which is a consistent theme in his digital life, be it amplifying other voices or using his own.

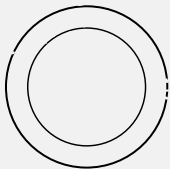
Relevant to the upcoming summit, a historic examination by ACRUX of CORPORAL's social media activity during the past 29 years reveals a leader of two-dimensional thinking and a lack of creativity. (There is some irony in this, given CORPORAL's background as an NFT artist before his turn to politics). He is almost certain to seek linear action towards a single outcome, aligning with a heightened sense of confidence that he can master a situation. Significant to any negotiations, however, his online activity (drawn from both his infamous posts that started his career, and also such elements as his average hover-time over advertising imagery of different emotional narratives), shows an out-of-scope, insatiable quest for self-worth. That is, he seeks to "win" every exchange, but he is psychologically incapable of taking satisfaction from any win. Thus, the issue for any negotiation with CORPORAL's is not merely whether the international community can hold him to any commitment he makes. It is that he himself is psychologically incapable of holding to any commitment.

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OCTOBER 4, 2045

RECOMMENDATIONS:

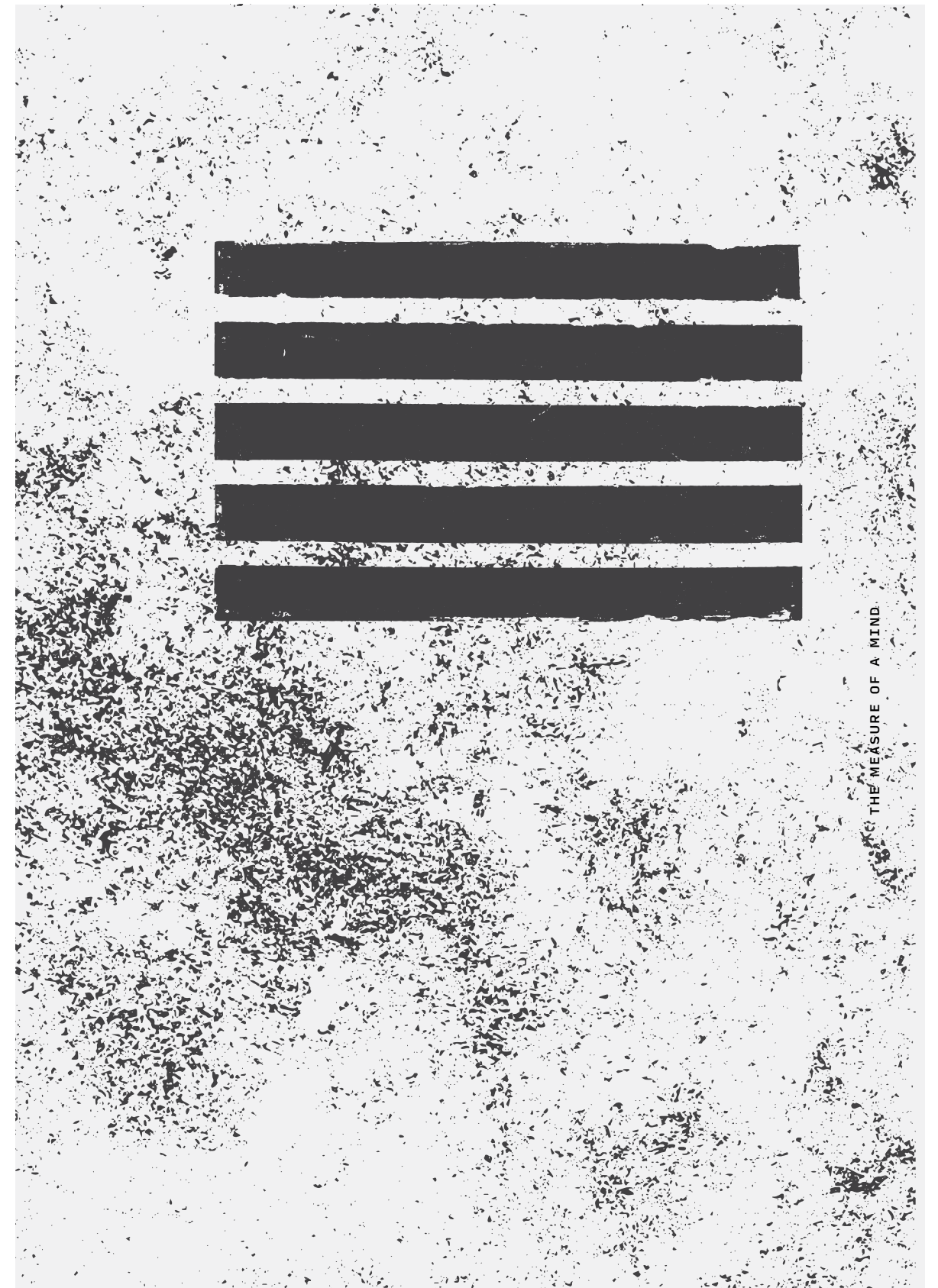
The data available through online networks and analysed by ACRUX demonstrate a target population that is not as close an affinity group—nor restive—as portrayed, a military leadership that very likely believes its own force is not in fact prepared for war, and a leader who is highly certain to appear single-minded towards his negotiating goal of the plebiscite, but will draw no actual satisfaction from it. Nor will he be able to hold to any commitment not to seek more at a future time. We recommend, based on ACRUX 98.7% fidelity, that this information be woven into any negotiating strategy.



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