the Palestinians, represented by rival factions of Hamas and the Palestinian Authority.

The scenario combined military, diplomatic, and humanitarian triggers presented from the perspective of the United States. It was designed to offer participants a choice between diplomatic cooperation and further escalation. This required an overview of various policy alternatives, taking into account the values and goals each team had defined. Though the scenario raised the prospect of an American-sponsored peace initiative, it was flexible enough to accommodate various plans offered by other teams. In reaction to this scenario, the teams had to come up with detailed plans for action to be implemented during the subsequent world politics round.

A simulation on Iran’s quest for nuclear status after the leadership change in 2013 opened with an initial scenario in the form of an Israeli press release that analyzed the consequences of the new Hassan Rouhani presidency, portraying it as a possible opportunity coupled with threats.

The initial scenario illustrated in figure 5.6 deliberately showed that leadership change in one country affects all others in the region and in the world. It highlighted the Israeli point of view to promote a discussion within all teams on how to handle Iran and what the Israeli reaction might be. To trigger a thorough debate, we added a hidden dilemma regarding policy planning toward old rivals who, with new leaders, offer a genuine or maybe a fake readiness to compromise. If Iran cheats, all actors become even more vulnerable. Thus, each team had to decide to take a risk or perhaps to miss a groundbreaking opportunity to settle the nuclear issue and stabilize the region.

The initial scenario also added a challenge for Iran: if leadership change means genuine policy transformation, Iran must allow greater freedom of the press as a first step toward transparency in other fields. But such moves might impinge upon fundamental religious and institutional values. In reaction to this scenario all teams had to consider the gap between the declarations and the deeds of the newly elected President Rouhani in the domestic and international spheres.

All initial scenario examples presented herein provide some new information and events related to the simulation topic. These developments are designed to help participants move from the big picture contained in the simulation topic to particular aspects they now have to deal with during policy formation.

Simulation Rules

All simulations have rules that guide the interaction process and shape its outcomes. You create these rules according to the specifics of the planned simulation, in order to clarify when and what is to be done, what is permitted and what is forbidden. Making the rules explicit reduces students’ uncertainty about how to behave during the simulation and shapes their decisions and moves.