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.

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**U.S. Intelligence Report, 2012**

In Gaza the warring Palestinian factions continue to ‘one up’ one another by shelling Israeli towns across the border. So far Hamas is unable to impose an agreement among them.

Gaza is on the brink of a humanitarian crisis with shortages of fuel, basic daily products and medicine. Israel has agreed to a schedule for allowing supplies to enter but Hamas leaders are reluctant to accept the Israeli offer which would mean, to them, cooperation with an occupying force.

The United States finds the status quo untenable. It is determined to act decisively to reduce the likelihood of another round of fighting across the Gaza-Israel border. It seeks to advance Israeli security and to ensure the well-being and peace of Israeli and Palestinian civilians.

US President Obama believes that restraint and mediation can break the current deadlock, achieve Palestinian statehood and bring positive change to the region.

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**Official Israeli News Release, June 15, 2013**

The Israeli press highlighted that the new Iranian president-elect Hassan Rouhani poses either a threat or an opportunity for Israel and the world, depending upon his policy choices.

Israel calls for increased media openness in Iran and hopes that the international media will play a constructive role in preserving stability in the Gulf.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warns that international appeasement of Iran, like the European policy towards Germany before World War II, endangers peace and stability in the Gulf and beyond.

Israel will continue to cooperate with its allies from the region and without to halt the Iranian nuclear project.

Israel calls upon the US and the European Union to enforce stricter sanctions on Iran in the immediate future.

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Fig. 5.5. Scenario format: U.S. Intelligence Report

Fig. 5.6. Scenario format: First Israeli news release