

### 13. COURTYARD - PALACE OF LITE - AQUILAE

A low, sleek "landspeeder," (an auto-like transport which travels a few feet above the ground on a magnetic field), glides into the courtyard of the palace of Aquilae. The planet is desert wilderness, but the palace is a sparkling oasis, with low concrete walls and great turrets spilling over with foliage from rooftop gardens. The speeder stops before an enormous shaded corridor. Fountains line the beautiful and highly polished, tiled walkway. Two young boys, BIGGS and WINDOM are helped out of the speeder by AMBER, a one-armed bodyguard dressed in the flowing white robes of the Aquilae military. The two boys run through the long corridors, yelling and screaming, their little footsteps echoing throughout the palace.

### 14. LIBRARY - PALACE OF LITE - AQUILAE

The palace library is a dim, cool room projecting an aura of time-worn comfort and security. In the distance, the children can be heard screaming through the corridors. KING Kayos, silver-haired but amazingly youthful under a tanned and leathery face, motions for one of his aides to shut the partially closed door. He is in the middle of an emergency meeting of the Aquilae High Senate. The twelve men sit in overstuffed chairs, placed in a large circle. A large, sallow-eyed Galatic trader named AAY ZAVOS fiddles nervously with a small scrap of leather as he speaks.

ZAVOS

My Lord, the chrome companies are with you in spirit, but you must understand, they can't openly support you.... Imperial trade restrictions are very unfavorable, and we of course, favor your independence.

KAYOS

If there were to be war, would your frigates still supply us?

ZAVOS

Your bluntness is to be commended....It could be arranged.

COUNT SANDAGE, a corrupt noble of the Senate, jumps to his feet in a rage.

SANDAGE

This is nonsense! We have no choice but to approve the Treaty. If there is war, the Empire will destroy our entire System with

a snap of the finger. General Skywalker is a dreamer if he thinks he can mount any meaningful resistance....And you're dreamers if you believe him. So much trust in one aged man. You must see...

At that moment, all heads turn as someone enters the room. It is GENERAL LUKE SKYWALKER, Commander of the Aquilaeon Starforce. He is a large man, apparently in his early sixties, but actually much older. Everyone senses the aura of power that radiates from this great warrior. Here is a leader: a JEDI general. He looks weary, but is still a magnificent looking warrior. His face, cracked and weathered by exotic climates, is set off by a close silver beard, and dark, penetrating eyes. Sandage is somewhat embarrassed and quietly sits down.

GENERAL

Is there anyone here so naive he believes the Empire would even bother negotiating if they were contemplating destruction of this System? Your Excellencies, this is more than a simple raid on your resources. You must reach a decision.