

Turn 6 Regional Survey

[Intelligence roll: 70, Random event roll: 54+15=69]

Scenario activated: Sector advertising

Nexus sector was once a major hub of interstellar transport through the Coreward Marches and had the concomitant communications infrastructure for the job. Of course, the sector QE nodes and listening stations have spent a long time without the proper maintenance, largely because there were much more pressing concerns than connecting a balkanized and cut off galaxy. Five thousand years since the Machine Wars began. Three thousand years since Old Earth fell and your sector has been left on its own. A thousand since you won the Corporate Wars at great cost. Sector communications infrastructure is a far cry from the top-of-the-line systems before the Machine Wars, but the end of the Corporate Wars and the lull in civil instability has enabled a measure of repair to be undertaken.

Repairs are limited of course; only so much can be undertaken without access to the Core Worlds and much of the knowledge to use them went up in vapour with their ships during the wars. Cassiti, being focused on weapons development, of course was not blessed with the expertise on the matter and more pressing matters than extracting the information from imprisoned Procyon or Tiandong engineers were present. As a result, your only clue on the happenings outside of the Technocracy amount to old QE ansibles picking up scraps of FTL transmissions.

The news isn't good. The reports from the Sector Communications Board and Cassiti Intel are consistent, tales of decline, fall, and collapse. It almost makes the executives ruling over their devastated worlds feel comparatively pleased with how they've done.

Until one day they aren't. An FTL transmission, using federal grade encryption, that sees the programmer-serf that decrypted it sprinting to the Supervisor's office. The message is recent. The scrapcode protections have not activated.

The message comes from...

[X] Elysia: *The Federation still stands in Elysia. To all who receive this message, liberty, equality, and unity have been preserved in the Coreward Marches. We offer peace and stability to all those who seek shelter and assistance under the brotherhood of man to all those worlds that remember the dream of a united mankind...[...].Contact instructions and coordinates have been attached to this message...*

[X] Pacem: *To all those who receive this, in the name of His Holiness Pope Ignatius, know that the Papacy survives on Pacem past all trial and tribulation, the grace of God preserving the home of the Catholic faith in spite of hubris and heresy. There is a human haven on Pacem, for those of the faith and those who have yet to be of the faith...[...].Coordinates follow...*

[X] Renaissance Vector: *To humanity and to all who receive this message, the People's Republic of Renaissance Vector sends greetings. A new Federation is under construction along the Brennan Line, a more equal order far from the corruption of the Core Worlds...[...]. For those workers seeking refuge or alliance, we send out a path. For those who would exploit that, be warned: We are armed, and we are ready.*

[QUOTE="Candela"]

One message, demonstrating that someone else in the galaxy survived. Of course, they're unlikely to be much like us, given the compromises we've had to make.

Or maybe they will. The galaxy's going to shit everywhere.[/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="UOIEA"]

Ren V's definitely out, they're commies and probably going to try and kill any expedition we send.[/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="Nurgel"]

I'm leaning towards Elysia. We and Pacem were all corporate sectors but Pacem seems to be going theocrat, while Elysia seems to be still paying lip service to the federation.[/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="Viridian Kabalist"]

Pacem and Ren V are bad news, commies and space!catholics everywhere

Not sure what we can get out of Elysia, aren't we bigger?[/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="Jenolution"]

Were any of them mentioned in our galaxy interludes? Because I'm fairly sure the fluff said that Elysia was going full transhuman, or something[/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="Nouli"]

@Nurgel: Not lip service, they're the second most legitimate federal pretender that's still standing.

@Jenolution: Not full transhuman, no. Some strains from their mechanicus enclaves and the datasphere but still recognizably baseline.[/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="CKanos"]

Wait, how are they legitimate? And who is there that's somehow more legit? You can't just bait us like that![/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="Nurgel"]

Well, if its more than lip service they have to pay attention to federal law then, right?

And we know they make a datasphere work and have access to Ryzan tech, they have got to have some fancy tech up their sleeve, since their start was supposed to be focused on rnd.

I say we try and buy up stock in their companies, Procyon should still be around right, given how its their home sector and all. That way, we can force a tech transfer somehow.[/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="Shark9"]

One of our advantages was that we were a big sector, right? Even with how many losses we've taken I think we can negotiate from a position of strength.[/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="Nouli"]

Pacem is essentially a Core World in all but name and Renaissance V is a full on Core World. They're both much larger than you are, though of course their circumstances differ significantly.

Elysia, on the other hand, is smaller than you are but they're much more stable. No tech regression, they've actually managed to advance significantly.[/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="CKanos"]

So if they're more stable, that means they can probably make it through the warp storms better than we can.

Hm. Well, since we've screwed the pooch in Nexus, @Nouli can we swap to Elysia once we die?[/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="Shark9"]

Damnit, Nouli, now you're just rubbing our face in Elysia's stability.

@Nurgel, I'm all-in on your plan to buy stocks in the Elysian corporations, maybe we can acquire their tech that way...[/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="Jenolution"]

@Shark9

Actually, wouldn't there be issues buying up Elysian stock? Their big transtellar was Procyon, galactic headquarters in Elysia Prime and all, and, uh, we kind of glassed their sector headquarters here.[/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="Shark9"]

@Jenolution

They had a branch office here, alright... and so is their corporate registration.

We can have our "Mighty CEO-Monarch" buy the registration and reconstitute their regional board, we have some minor corporate nobility that we pulled the rug out from under by dissolving their corporations (LeXXon and Rio Tinto) for their attempted coup.

Once we have the reconstituted board, we can make contact and make reconciliation overtures. Of course the Fedies will try to resolve things in court, but we can recognize Procyon's Elysian shareholders as legitimate and preempt that... all we have to do is find out how many stocks we need to maintain a majority here. And then we can begin tech-transfers to this sector; it could even be a way to buy the tech they've saved from the other corporations.[/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="Red Mathologist"]

Well, it's not like we can't go back and not take the corporate bribe. It was stupid to think that we could increase stability by taking bribes. (No, I don't think we should have caved to the Communists either; I agree with UOIEA that Ren V is right about the commies wishing us dead; after all, we gave in to their semi-reasonable demand of pensions for all employees that first turn and they *still* tried to stab us in the back!

I mean, I would be up for going in and wrecking Ren V if we had an objectively better fleet than they did. After all, there's a great way to fake a bit of stability in having an 'other' to demonize and blame all your problems on, but I just don't see us being successful, not when we're dealing with the revolt.

Pacem is Catholic, supposedly, and they're likely more in-line with the Communists than our corporate-government and would probably destabilize us more when and if they send missionaries. Plus somebody up-thread elaborated on them having a psyker infestation; given their religion, they could even try to breed more psykers and become a psychic human subspecies during the fall; a hard no from me.

Elysia might be hurting for immigrants. The QM said that they're "smaller but more stable", which doesn't mean they couldn't have been hit by Eldar raiders or natural disasters, that stability just means that the people they do have, have some baseline trust in (and loyalty to) the government.

I think we should be ware of each of these people though: they could **all** be in far worse shape than the message would leave you to believe, but I still think Elysia is the best choice here.

[/QUOTE]

[QUOTE="Gigantolyte"]

While I agree that Elysia is ostensibly Capitalistic, I have to note that they are obviously engaging in the "social democrat" variant of Socialism, and we simply cannot afford *any* Communism to be [re]introduced into our government. Just look at how badly they screwed us over.

That said, the Reds in Renaissance Vector are outright open Communists, killing off their people and rewriting their history to suit the whims of the Party. Going to Renaissance Vector will only end badly for us, we need to do everything we can to stay away from them and Communism. Hopefully the Warp Storms eliminate that problem.

As for Pacem, I guess they're still Catholic? Seems like that they've been getting more authoritarian as the sidestories progressed, but certainly no worse than us. There *is* a significant chance that they've stumbled upon some warp-entities, and are slowly being corrupted by them, but this in turn will also get us some warp tech, which we *will* need, considering the emergence of psykers among the vat born.

No, the least bad of these options is the Elysian option, and even that option is too risky for my taste.[/QUOTE]