

Contents:

Overview	1
Orthodox avenues of investigation ...	2
Unorthodox leads	3

Overview

Through our limited contact with alien races (primarily through the trading station 'Ad Astra' and diplomatic channels with the Narxbloche) we have acquired several possible avenues of investigation which may lead to the desired restitution of Earth's status.

It should be noted that some or all of these may be myths or even deliberate misinformation.

The first section of this document gives 'Orthodox' investigation suggestions – however they were formed by an earthbound committee who recognise that space is a new situation which may warrant new methods. Therefore the second section gives a selection of wild rumours which the commander on the spot is certain to hear of independently anyway and our assessment of them.

Section One

Political Negotiation with the Narxbloche

The Narxbloche are a fact of life. They are there, they have our system barricaded and they demand regular tribute. Despite our animosity, our best chance of freedom still lies with negotiation with them to persuade them that we would be better as partners than vassals.

Political Negotiation with other neighbours

As a way to apply pressure to the Narxbloche, our (and, importantly, their) other neighbouring species are an important avenue to pursue. We need to discover what they want and how we can provide it in exchange for their supporting us as an independent species.

Exploration

No species is going to take us seriously in our current state of ignorance. We need to know what is out there. Where to go – and where to avoid.

Also, discovery is its own reward.

Technical Advancement

Earth technology is in many important fields (notably drives, generators, shields – and all exotic weapon forms such as plasma) seriously behind that of the Narxbloche (and thus, we presume, the rest of the galaxy) We need to catch up, if we are to be a credible force.

Economic Advancement

It doesn't matter how far ahead, or behind, you are technologically – as long as the opposition can out produce you by virtue of having several planets whilst you only have one. We need to find ways to get a lot richer, a lot faster – so that we can apply economic – and military – pressure.

Section Two

Galactic Senate

It is acknowledged by the Narxbloche that there is such an organisation. It is, however, distant and appears to have little beyond a formal interest in this region of space. The Narxbloche are nominally members.

Contact with this organisation may give us leverage, or at least information.

Maggotonia

This planet appears to have greatly advanced physical sciences. Everyone we have met subtly acknowledged this. (For example, advertising pitches for weaponry have included phrases such as “So powerful that it might even pierce some Maggotonian shields!”)

However, they do not appear to be expansionists, and thus may be sympathetic to us. They lie somewhere beyond Narxbloche.

Rainbow Worlds

Uninhabited and toxic free-planetoids which emit their own light without the presence of a star. Rumoured to contain a treasure trove of technological artefacts, the remnants of an ancient civilisation.

Possibly just the mythical 'vein of gold in those hills' – nonetheless the rumours are persistent that they are out there somewhere.

Dragon Points

This fanciful name for jump-points is used by those who are willing at the drop of a drop of whisky to ramble on about wild theories of hyperspace. Two connected rumours seem consistent enough to warrant investigation, however:

- a) That there is another level of hyperspace available via the jump points (the dragon path is to jump points as hyperspace is to normal space)
- b) That this space is inhabited by a powerful race.

The Spire of the Cosmos

Allegedly a powerful weapon was lost somewhere in this region of space (bearing in mind that 'region of space' is a mind-boggling large area) Its origin stories are varied (including links to the 'rainbow planets' lead, the Maggotonians, the dragons and every race that the speaker dislikes) but the descriptions of its physical form (a twisted crystal spike, about four feet long – something like a unicorn horn, inscribed with something looking like circuit diagrams) are consistent enough that it is almost certainly a real object – despite fantastical rumours of it being cursed.