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Project Vadar

TO: Routing Below

Government Document

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TOP SECRET

On February 4, astronomers at Kitt Peak Observatory in Arizona accidentally sighted a giant comet about to enter our solar system. The comet was observed and its position carefully plotted over a period of two months. Initial calculations indicated that the comet would pass very, very close to Earth and, in fact, with the estimated experimental errors, a collision with Earth was deemed highly possible. Because of this possibility and because of the apparent size of the comet, North American government officials have declared a **consolidated national emergency** (Priority A-1). Public disclosure is being deferred until a later date.

The gravity of the situation was considered to be sufficient for the North American Alliance governments to provide priority funding for a study of the comet. That study was completed last week. The report states: "We have firmly established that Comet Vadar is on a collision course with Earth. We have also firmly established that the mass and velocity of Vadar are sufficiently large to cause the collision to be fatal. The collision will change the Earth's axis of rotation by more than 2 degrees. At a minimum, this will result in massive tidal waves, extremely high velocity winds and abrupt and severe weather changes. The effect on orbit is unknown. *Collision will occur 227 days from today's date.*

The decision has been made not to inform the peoples of the world of these facts until a well thought out program has been established. (Outstanding psychologists, psychiatrists, members of the clergy, scientists, sociologists, government officials and selected U.N. representatives will draw up the plan.)

In the meantime, the governments of the North American Alliance have decided to undertake a project to colonize Mars. Mars was selected in that it is the closest object now known that can, with some ingenuity, support life as we know it. It was also decided that because of the psychological barriers involved in such a project, both a team of scientists and a team of lay people would be engaged to work on the project. You are gathered here today because you have been selected as members of the lay person team. If you choose to accept that assignment, you are to begin immediately on the first item—the selection of materials and participants for the mission. The world's combined availability of space craft will limit you to sending 10 rockets with two passengers and a payload of 100,000 pounds each.

It has tentatively been determined that the first launching will begin in approximately eight months. All ten rockets are to be launched in a period of time not to exceed one month. Public announcement of the exact nature of this project and of the Earth's situation will be made no less than two weeks after the last rocket is launched and no more than 2 months before Vadar strikes Earth.

Today you are to make preliminary decisions on two critical questions. You will then meet with the scientists and finalize the selections. Final decisions are to be made in two weeks. The NASA ecosystem analysis (attached to this document) will help you in these decisions.

Of utmost importance is the need to establish a sustainable, permanent colon. There is no return and opportunities for resupply appear unlikely.

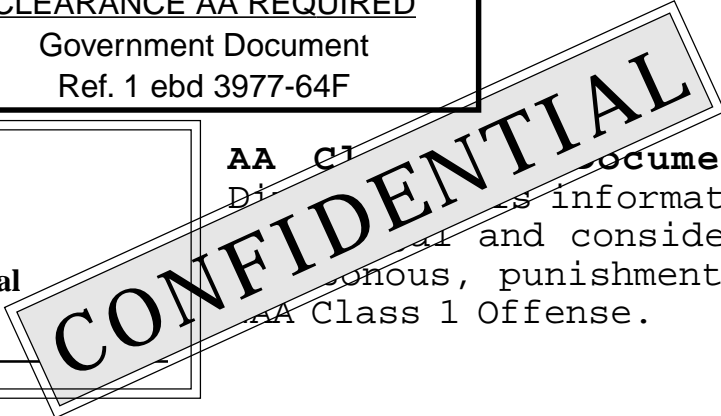
**Project Vadar:
A Voyage To Mars**

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Decision Document

- What skills should be included in the list of the 20 people who will make the trip?
- What are the ten most important items you will need to bring life from Earth to Mars, and to sustain that life?

Characteristic:	Earth	Mars
EQUATORIAL DIAMETER (EARTH = 1 OR 7,926.4 MILES)	1	0.53
MASS (EARTH = 1)	1	0.11
VOLUME (EARTH = 1)	1	0.15
DENSITY (WATER = 1)	5.52	3.95
EQUATORIAL SURFACE GRAVITY (EARTH = 1)	1	0.38
ROTATION ON AXIS (EARTH = 1 day)	1 day	1.03 days
REVOLUTION AROUND SUN (EARTH TIME)	1 year	1.88 years
WATER COVER	71%	No liquid water, but polar ice caps & appears to have ground water.
ATMOSPHERE	78% = N ₂ , 21% = O ₂ 1% = CO ₂ , A & others	95% = CO ₂ , 3% = N ₂ >1% O ₂
MAGNETIC FIELD	Yes	Weak
LAND SURFACE	Chiefly Silicates	A typical weathered volcanic soil.
TEMPERATURE	moderate variations min. = -127° F max. = 136° F	At the equator: mostly below zero min. = -150° F max. = 80° F
LIFE	Abundant, many forms, heavily depending on liquid water, and in most cases, oxygen.	Little protection against the sun's radiations that UV would quickly kill any unprotected Earth organisms.
SOLAR INPUT (at surface)	≅ 1000 $\frac{\text{watts}}{\text{m}^2}$	≅ 500 $\frac{\text{watts}}{\text{m}^2}$

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