



# They Come in Peace

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## Letter from the Crisis Director

Dear Delegates,

My name is Paul Fantozzi, I am a senior at Tufts University and the crisis director for *They Come in Peace*. I am especially excited for this committee as it is my final year at Tufts University and last year participating in MUN. I have been lucky enough to spend four years with Tufts Model United Nations team including positions as head delegate, under-secretary general of crisis for TUMUN, leading to my current position as president of Tufts MUN. Outside of Model United Nations I study both history and physics. It is the combination of these two topics that led me to create this committee so please bear with me if I begin to ramble on the physics of interstellar travel.

Now, before we put our tinfoil hats on and prepare to storm Area 51, this committee is not just about aliens. At its core, I hope this committee makes delegates think about the very basic ideas of diplomacy and foreign policy that we might take for granted today. Given unknown intentions and a lack of communication, what should foreign policy be? How can we find common ground against seemingly impossible odds? The committee will hopefully challenge delegates engage with the power of communication and how dangerous an absence of communication can be. Thus, it will be a special challenge for delegates to determine their own foreign policy in the darkness of space. *They Come in Peace* will force delegates to confront the unknown and take a stance. I look forward to working with you all in the spring, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to email me at [paul.fantozzi@tufts.edu](mailto:paul.fantozzi@tufts.edu).

Best,

Paul Fantozzi



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## Introduction

### A Report from February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

At approximately 4:07 AM PST radio telescopes all around the globe reported a strange communication. For around eight minutes, every telescope tuned to wavelengths between 20-30 GHz received a seemingly inexplicable recording. While some telescopes wrote the transmission off as an error or interference, other sites passed on the information and discovered the global phenomenon. Having by far the largest array of radio telescopes operating at the frequency, the United States was the first nation to compile this information and denote it as a matter of national security. The following week was a flurry of communiques as the matter became more and more widely known. The United States chose to pass this issue on to an international committee under the purview of the United Nations and created what is now known as the International Global Defense Council (IGDC). The United Nations chose the specific nations in the IGDC due to their ability to pick up the strange signal through preexisting radio telescopes as to guarantee that all nations who

received the message could work together. Even now as the IGDC is about to meet for the first time, rumors of suspicious activity and unconfirmed stories of aliens are leaking. This information will not stay quiet for long as it is impossible to keep a secret this big while so many people know about it. On top of that, the United States has also provided a report on the rising levels of political unrest in odd places, suggesting that the world might not react well to the news. Either way, it is now up to the IGDC to create a global response to this crisis before things spiral out of hand.

Shortly after the UN decided on the IGDC's members, scientists were able to pinpoint the origin of the signal. According to their observations, the signal came from the outer reaches of the solar system from objects travelling at impossible speeds. Scientists now believe that these objects to be alien crafts travelling at near light speed from an unknown point of origin. The scientists were able to estimate the unknown spacecrafts are travelling in a direct path towards the inner solar system and have already begun decelerating. At this rate, the



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spacecrafts will be around Earth's orbit in five to ten years depending on how efficiently they can decelerate from their current speed. The update only further confirms the need for the IGDC.

### **Statement of Issue**

The International Global Defense Council must face several long-term and short-term problems. Firstly, the council must decide how they will be announcing the information regarding possible alien contact. If the council gives out too much information, they risk creating a global panic. Conversely, if they suppress the information, they risk greater consequences if the information leaks. While each nation recognizes the need to inform the public about the situation, many disagree on how to do so. Once the public has been informed of the looming threat, the IGDC may establish a unified extraterrestrial policy for Earth. How will these aliens be received? What sort of organizations should be created to face the aliens? Questions like these are all important pieces of the puzzle that the IGDC must put together if Earth hopes to survive this encounter.

## **History**

### **Further research**

While aliens and space travel might seem completely science fiction, this committee will be decisively based in real understandings of foreign policy. What this means is grappling with questions of language, paranoia, and massive social change. The idea of aliens coming to Earth is completely crazy to the average modern person, yet many things we now consider normal would be just as incredible to a person fifty years ago. All this to say, humanity has gone through massive periods of upheaval due to a variety of factors, including instances of contacting strangers. History has plenty of examples of the importance of first contact. Possibly the easiest example of this is the Age of Discovery under the British Empire as Europe began its colonial ambitions and created its own new ideas about the world in response to each new place they explored. Delegates should explore similar moments of massive change due to contacting new and foreign peoples to see how their respective countries historically reacted to strangers. Nations like Britain at the height of its



global empire react very differently to foreign powers when compared to nations that were conquered because of British imperialism. The question then becomes if Earth is at threat of being colonized by outside forces as well.

### **Questions to consider**

Beyond the fear of the unknown, there are a few other interesting questions delegates should think about from the perspective of their role. For example, one key issue is how little the committee knows about these aliens and how they operate. For all delegates know, aliens have already arrived on Earth and are waiting for the rest of their fleet to arrive. Conversely, these aliens could be refugees of some far-off world that was destroyed for some reason. Blindly attacking these aliens could be a tragedy as the aliens only sought safety from their doomed home. Delegates should actively question whether their nation is willing to take a risk by trusting this unknown group.

Along with the greater existential threat that alien invasion poses, delegates should also think about the human experience. When the world eventually discovers the existence of aliens, can nations put aside their

differences to work together or will they fall further into infighting? Can delegates take advantage of this massive change to create a new global superpower? Most importantly of all, if aliens contacted your nation and offered you wealth and power in exchange for helping them, would you accept? These choices will be left up to the delegates to decide based on their individual positions.



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## Roles and Information

Given the nature of this committee this document will also provide quick notes on what has happened prior to the International Global Defense Council's summit in Geneva, Switzerland. To best understand the different sides of this committee, it is important to read the roles of all delegates as each nation has their own priorities and views as to what the IGDC should debate.

### What We Know

Initial contact occurred on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The message was received by radio telescopes tuned to a range around 30GHz. While the contents of the message have yet to be deciphered, experts believe that it carries a message from intelligent lifeforms. Following this discovery, scientists across the globe tracked the origins of the signal. On February 20<sup>th</sup> researchers from the Green Bank Telescope in West Virginia correctly identified what was later confirmed to be spacecrafts. By the 21<sup>st</sup>, scientists took the data from Green Bank to extrapolate that the crafts were moving near light speed, but they were decelerating seemingly into the inner solar system. This process likely will

take five to ten years. Interestingly, in the initial report, one of the researchers noted that the crafts would likely have gone unnoticed if it were not for the signal on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Currently, there is no international cooperative research on this topic and all staff has been locked down by their respective governments to prevent the information from leaking to the public.

### State of the International Global Defense Council

Following the initial contact on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the United States of America turned their research material over to the United Nations and demanded the UN form a council to answer this crisis in secret. On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the nations that now make up the IGDC each received the United States' official briefing on the extraterrestrials and an invitation to a summit in Geneva on the 24<sup>th</sup>. As it stands, the United States has positioned itself as the unofficial leader of this summit, however other nations have already called that into question. The IGDC does not officially exist on any records, and it holds no official power. It is up to the delegates to decide exactly



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how much power this council should have when they meet in Geneva.

### **State of the European Union**

Before the IGDC summit, the European Union held a smaller meeting between France, Germany, and Poland to work out an initial EU stance going into this meeting. While the diplomats did not agree on everything regarding this matter, they were able to establish a baseline idea of how the EU should respond. After a few days of debate, the EU concluded that the Earth should not make any openly aggressive actions against any extraterrestrials unless otherwise provoked. This initial policy is still extremely vague and France, Germany, and Poland each seem to have their own understanding of what counts as aggressive actions. Each nation reserves the right to change their stance as more information comes, but this stance can be assumed for EU as more of its member states learn about the alien crafts. For more specific information please see below under France, Germany, and Poland to see how they understand this policy.

### **Roles**

**Australia:** As the only nation representing the Oceania region, Australia faces a unique problem in this committee. Australia is extremely isolated in comparison to the rest of the countries present in the IGDC when debating matters of planetary defense. Many nations have talked about global defense around Europe or Asia, but few nations talk about the difficulty in defending the whole world. The geographic separation of Australia from the political hubs of the United States or China has led them to doubt the effectiveness of defending Earth and more towards the possibility of something else.

**Brazil:** Of the nations gathered in the IGDC, Brazil may be the most politically unstable. Following a tumultuous presidential election that gave way to isolated outbreaks of political violence, Brazil must handle this new matter with extreme care. Since the nation is still struggling with poverty, corruption, and instability, even something as seemingly harmless as extraterrestrial life could throw off the knife's edge balance of Brazilian politics. Similar to other non-Eurasian nations, Brazil is also keenly





aware of the tendency to ignore globally south nations such as itself. The idea of a global defense council sounds good in theory, but the other powers have a long way to go before they prove to nations like Brazil that this is truly a global defense program and not just a European defense program.

**Chile:** Like other smaller nations present in the IGDC, Chile has been openly suspicious of the international community's current direction. Nations like the US and China have been open in their willingness to help struggling nations if they join their respective spheres of influence. While both nations deny the accusation and insist that their help will come without the need for an alliance, the President of Chile voiced their concern in a briefing sent out to the other IGDC nations. In the brief, the president warned that global support should not require bowing down to a global superpower, it should just be done to protect humanity.

**China:** As one of the global superpowers, China is at the forefront of Earth's response to this crisis. In briefings prior to the meeting of the IGDC summit, the Chinese Communist Party established three pillars of

extraterrestrial policy: confirm, contain, control. These three doctrines lay out the order with which the CCP hopes to challenge the possible alien threat by first confirming its existence, containing its influence, then finally controlling the outcome as to guarantee that it does not upset the current global balance of power. To achieve these three goals, China has openly stated that it would be willing to work towards an aggressive global response because the world cannot confirm, contain, or control if it descends into chaos. At the same time, China must also think about the larger global picture. As it currently stands, the United States has positioned itself to lead any international response. The IGDC is a key opportunity to challenge the United States position in the world while still working towards a collective goal.

**France:** Along with Germany and Poland, France supports the European Union's stance against aggressive action. However, when the French delegation met with Germany and Poland, they faced criticism for their optimism about the possibility for peace with the aliens. France cited the existence of the alien signal as an



attempt to make peaceful contact well before their spacecrafts arrived at Earth as the reasons they should trust the aliens. Perhaps one of the reasons France is so quick to support peace is the strength of France's armed forces. It is worth noting that France commands one of the best armies and navies in the world, giving France one of the best chances of any nation in defending itself from hostile aliens.

**Germany:** Another of the European Union nations, Germany is also following the EU guidelines for extraterrestrials. In fact, it was the German diplomats that organized the meeting with Poland and France that established the EU guidelines. Since then, Germany has been preparing to defend the EU's position. In order to show their support for international cooperation, Germany has also openly offered its research facilities to other nations, positioning itself as a center for international research on extraterrestrials. Germany is aware of the potential scientific leaps that any contact could provide. It is already clear that the aliens are far more advanced than humans given their ability for interstellar travel. Regardless of what

happens, Germany knows humans have a lot to learn from this encounter.

**Ghana:** Unlike many of the other nations in the IGDC, Ghana is not a global military power. This reality has tempered the Ghanaian response to the possible existence of aliens. Nations like France or Russia are able to risk diplomacy because they have nuclear stockpiles and fully equipped modern armed forces. Most nations do not have the arsenal of weapons to even think of defending themselves from alien invasion. Ghana is in the difficult situation of representing the majority of the world among these superpowers. If Earth is going to survive this, then the Earth must band together in some meaningful fashion. Global defense must be a global goal because nations like Ghana cannot face this threat alone.

**India:** As the world's largest democracy, India is at the forefront of humanity's future. It was Indian researchers that first identified the spacecraft following the signal on February 17<sup>th</sup> and India has stayed at the forefront of Earth's response to extraterrestrial life. Since the identification of alien life in the previous week, India positioned itself as one of the most active nations on the



issue. Prior to the IGDC summit, several briefs from the Indian government identified this extraterrestrial threat as both a physical and ideological danger towards its fellow nation-states. The briefs have gone so far as to say that Earth must be willing to strike before any aliens reach the inner solar system regardless of the alien's intentions. These aliens are clearly more technologically advanced than humans, meaning that they could easily wipe out humanity if given the chance.

**Japan:** One of the largest questions surrounding the signal and the discovery of extraterrestrial life is the future of human society. Japan is aware of this coming change and ready to face the consequences. Given how long it will take for the aliens to arrive in the inner solar system, Japan is positioning itself to face the long-term threats. There are certainly immediate threats that the IGDC must address, but Japan views long term policy as the most important goal for the summit. Since the signal, Japan has been one of the loudest voices advocating for joint research projects, shared arms research, and a de-escalation of ongoing conflicts to focus on the real threat facing Earth.

**Mexico:** First contact with extraterrestrial life is bound to change human society forever, but it will not happen equally. Given the long history of complications between the United States and Mexico, the Mexican government has identified the first contact as a geopolitical issue and a militaristic issue. Since the aliens are clearly advanced enough for interstellar travel, they will be a major power if they reach Earth and will upset the current balance of global power. If the current global powers wish to maintain their status, they must actively work with all nations of the world. So far, the United States has positioned itself as a leader against this threat, however, the Mexican government is initially hesitant to openly work with the US. If the United Nations wants to create a global defense, then it must actually uphold its promises.

**Poland:** Similar to the other two European Union nations present in this committee, Poland has already agreed to the EU guidelines for extraterrestrial contact. However, during those meetings Poland clearly showed that its position is not completely in line with France or Germany. Instead, Poland has



taken a more neutral stance against the alien threat and interpreted the EU guideline of "aggressive action" generously. Given the danger of alien invasion, Poland will not sit idly while other nations pray for peace.

**Russia:** Going into the meeting, Russia is the only nation currently at war. Russia's invasion of Ukraine means that the Russian military is already mobilized for war and ready to turn its guns to the sky if need be. While other nations still condemn them for their ongoing conflict, Russia has made it abundantly clear that attending the IGDC summit is not a sign of surrender, and they will not be bullied by any global power. Any comments made about Ukraine are clearly an attempt to change the subject of debate and will not be accepted by the Russian delegation. However, Russia is not against international cooperation. On the contrary, Russia has been open about the need for the world to recognize the threat of alien invasion and prepare for it. While Russia maintains the importance of their national sovereignty, they also call upon the global community to create meaningful policy to combat the alien threat.

**South Africa:** In facing the alien threat, South Africa has taken the stance to protect humanity at all costs. If aliens do arrive near Earth, they will likely be able to wipe out humanity if they so choose. Instead of leaving the choice up to any new alien overlords, South Africa is coming to the IGDC with its own proposal: escape. While Earth is humanity's home, this situation may require extreme actions. If humans can study the alien technology before they arrive here, they may be able to build their own ships to escape Earth. It is clear that the aliens are more powerful than human civilizations so fighting them openly is doomed. Instead, humans must find a new way to survive and live on.

**United States of America:** Following the discovery of the first signal contact, the United States has positioned itself to lead a global defense program. In the original brief that the US wrote inviting nations to the IGDC summit, the president of the United States attached a message pleading the international community not to give in to despair or fear but instead band together to face this threat. Critics of the US have called its motives into question given its



history of inserting itself into international matters, however the United States rejects this assertion. While nations may have to give up resources or information to face the threat of alien life, it is a worthwhile sacrifice. Thus, the United States has pledged itself to global defense even if nations must give up parts of their national sovereignty.

**United Kingdom:** The United Kingdom was the only nation to openly sign off on the European Union's guidelines for extraterrestrial contact following their creation by France, Poland, and Germany. The prime minister of the UK cited the idea that Europe must stand united in policy and action regardless of EU member status. While French and Polish diplomats have been quick to point out that it was the UK that chose to leave the EU not long ago, it has not changed the UK's policy for unity both on Earth and beyond. If humanity is going to gracefully enter the next step of civilization, it must be through peace.