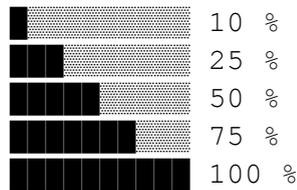


WELCOME USER  
RETRIEVE COMMUNICATION LOGS?  
> Y

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LOGS RETRIEVED  
PLEASE ENTER SHIP NAME  
>UCSS Ariadne

ACCESS TO UCSS Ariadne COMMUNICATION LOGS GRANTED  
LOADING DATA...



> LOGS START

=====  
UCSS Ariadne  
TRANSMISSION RECEIVED AT 01:00  
USER: JUDE ADAR  
SECURITY CLEARANCE: ALPHA-ONE

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. .  
ACCESS: GRANTED

=====  
Dear Admiral Adar,

I would first like to apologise for not being able to meet you in person before we undock, my predecessor left me a frankly alarming amount of paperwork to sort through as a going away gift and I am currently drowning in it.

But I digress. I am keenly aware my presence on this sort of mission is unusual but given the circumstances, the powers that be have apparently decided that my skills are necessary. If you do not have it already, there is a copy of my personnel file attached to this message. I do not wish to get off on the wrong foot, so to speak, and in the spirit of cooperation I have something you might find interesting.

As you know the colony of Dravin II went dark about 15 standard rotations ago. Its last transmission was a distress call, but someone is keeping something from you. I don't know who or why or

what they stand to gain, but there was, in fact, another signal hidden under it. It is of an unknown origin, and doesn't seem to match anything in our databases.

Frankly, I think keeping this from you was a stupid choice, and whoever did it, is an idiot but here we are.

Kind Regards,

Ambassador Tanith Edan  
Diplomatic Corps

=====  
UCSS Ariadne  
TRANSMISSION RECEIVED AT 01:23  
USER: TANITH EDAN  
SECURITY CLEARANCE: ALPHA-ONE

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. .  
ACCESS: GRANTED

=====  
Ambassador Edan,

I appreciate your candor, it is refreshing to say the least. Thank you for bringing the matter of another transmission to my attention. I already have my people working on it. Once we are on our way to the Jumpgate, I would like to meet to discuss this situation further in person. Among other things it will also give you a chance to meet my command staff.

Admiral Jude Adar.

=====  
TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING FOLLOWS:

Meeting Participants:

Commanding Officers: Admiral Jude Adar (JA), First Officer Mallory Thrace (MT), Second Officer Tasha Owens (TO),

Other: Ambassador Tanith Edan [TE], Governor John Tellus (JT)

Date: [REDACTED]

Meeting Start: 0400

Location: Conference Room A

Transcript taken from recording of the meeting.

=====  
JA: Well, I think we are all here and introductions have been made. So let's begin. We should start with what we know, XO, if you would be so kind?

MT: Aye sir, we know that at around twenty standard rotations ago, Dravin II was attacked. The distress signal is as follows.

[Video Plays]

JT: (Unintelligible) attack. Repeat we are under attack. By the (unintelligible) is that thing?!

UNKN: (Unintelligible).

JT: May the Five Saints forgive us. May the First Saint-  
[screams].

[Video Ends]

MT: It's just screaming after that.

TO: Saints. It gets worse every time I hear it.

TE: We can pray for him later. Did you find that transmission I mentioned?

TO: We're still working on it, ma'am. Fine tooth comb and all that. We have been able to confirm the presence of another transmission hidden under the distress signal.

TE: That's some good news at least.

(Pause)

TE: So what now? We have what? Seven standard rotations left before we reach the Jumpgate? Is there a plan?

JA: To an extent. Yes. We'll be meeting up with the rest of the fleet there. We have enough firepower to hold the Jumpgate if the enemy makes a move into this system.

(Pause)

JA: Or rather hold long enough to allow the civilian populations on the planets to evacuate if it comes to that.

TE: I loathe to point this out - but we don't actually know anything about who did this. Why are you so confident we can hold here if need be?

JA: We will hold because we have to. That's all there is to that.

JA: But you're right, we don't know, not yet anyways. We've already sent probes through the Jumpgate and are waiting for their reports before we make a move but we aren't expecting anything good. Worst case scenario (pause)

TE: It's all gone.

MT: Aye.

TE:[Unintelligible].

TO: Ambassador Edan, if I may, this other transmission (pause)

(Sound of an alert going off.)

(Pause)

TE: Saints' teeth. Sorry for cutting this meeting short. I need to report back to the Council. Someone has just leaked the distress call to the rest of the Empire.

END OF TRANSCRIPT

=====  
UCSS Ariadne  
TRANSMISSION RECEIVED AT 12:43  
USER: TANITH EDAN  
SECURITY CLEARANCE: ALPHA-ONE  
. . .  
ACCESS: GRANTED  
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Ambassador Edan,

It is as we feared. The probes have sent their data back and so far there is nothing good. We're keeping the findings classified for now. We are also assuming that whatever or whoever did this is still there. I have requested more ships, just in case, but it will take more time for them to get here.

We're still working on that other transmission. It appears to be changing as if it were alive, according to our chief scientist. We are keeping it quarantined as a precaution and they strongly advised that any copies of that transmission are also quarantined.

Admiral Jude Adar.

=====  
UCSS Ariadne  
TRANSMISSION RECEIVED AT 01:00  
USER: JUDE ADAR  
SECURITY CLEARANCE: ALPHA-ONE  
. . .  
ACCESS: GRANTED  
=====

Dear Admiral Adar,

It's just one crisis after another isn't it? The Council is less than thrilled about the leak, but it's out of my hands so to speak. I was in no uncertain terms told to stay in my lane. I will pass on the recommendation to the council but it is anyone's guess as to whether or not they will heed it.

Kind Regards,

Tanith

=====  
>LOGS END