

TOP SECRET

A. INTRODUCTION

1. This is the statement of purpose and preliminary report on the course of investigation of the special commission appointed on 1 March 2007 by President B. Arthur to examine the desirability and feasibility of acquiring a land-based military vehicle ('tank') for Hitchcock House.

2. The purpose of this report is to outline selected aspects of the commission's goals, mission, and methods. It also serves to announce the commission to the governmental community at large and to prepare the way for its final report, to be delivered on 29 March 2007 in a general session of the Hitchcock House Council.

B. HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

1. Mr. Jordan Phillips moved 8 March 2007 to form a committee to investigate the above matters. The President appointed Mr. Jordan Phillips, Chairman, Mr. Eric Driscoll, Secretary, Mr. Neil Raman, and Ms. Katy Manaster to this committee.

2. In private session convened 8 March 2007 the committee agreed to, (i), investigate the history of tanks, contextualizing the present possibility of acquiring one within a broader movement, (ii), analyze the benefits and potential risks faced by the government in acquiring said tank in the following arenas: (a) balancing the Hitchcock armed forces, presently dominated by the navy; (b) international political situation, particularly vis-à-vis our northern enemy and our potential allies and supporters to the south and in the far east; (c) scav hunt; (d) military situation, and, (iii), produce a report outlining the above research and containing the committee's overall recommendation on the topic.

TOP SECRET

C. PRESSING ISSUES

1. Among the important issues mentioned in committee are the following: (i) storage of the tank. Ms. Manaster was concerned that it might be difficult to keep the tank in such a location that we can be assured it will not be damaged by weather or sabotaged by terrorists. A shed next to the woodshed might serve if it can be properly secured. (ii) Financial issues. Ms. Manaster pointed out that even if the committee finds that the tank will be useful only during scav, there exists a precedence of employing the House endowment for purchasing things used only briefly in the year (e.g. the armadillo outfit). She has been charged with investigating our financial capabilities. (iii) Reinforcing our hegemony. The committee discussed the ramifications of dramatically expanding our military capabilities vis-à-vis Snell House. Our tributary allies are sure to be yet more subservient to our will. Chairman Phillips expanded on the idea and pointed out that we are likely to acquire substantially increased soft power in addition to the obvious gain in hard power. (iv) Alternatives. The committee has agreed that it should consider also alternatives to a tank. Ms. Manaster suggested that a bomber might be more useful. However, information was relayed to us via an informant in Burton-Judson that they are developing surface-to-air missiles on the Midway. While we can not publicly afford to give in to such actions on the part of a rogue state, it would be wise to consider the true state of our military capabilities vis-à-vis a state known to possess nuclear capabilities.

Events.

Ongoing

24-Hour Quiet Hours: It's Finals Week. Be respectful of those who are engaging in this bizarre 'studying' thing.

Friday

9:00: Bollywood Night. *Dhoom 2* or *Fanaan*. (Hopefully.) Do come; *Dhoom 2* is brilliant.

Thursday

Unknown time: Ben and Jenny will be watching Fawlty Towers again sometime in the evening. All are invited for good old British comedy fun!

Saturday

Let's get the hell outta here, boys.