

## Chapter 18: Open Pedals of the Venus Flytrap

“Thank you for agreeing to this unscheduled meeting,” opens the Second Gentleman. “Progress is still looking good for November, 2022.

“We may have had a bit of a minor leak involving two of the three obstacles we encounter along the way. From what we can gather someone serendipity discovered an original encrypted artifact from the work of one of the programmers. That original item was destroyed by an arson. The person whom we believe discovered that item was involved in drug gang hit crossfire according to local authorities. That person now appears to be ‘in hiding from local gangs. There is no evidence that the individual ever attempted to examine the artifact like in the case that require an arson to reconcile. But we are tightly monitoring the situation with boots on the ground.”

“Now beyond that,” halts the Second Gentleman holding his breath for a count of thirty and staring into the eyes of the First Gentleman to insure he has gained his full attention.

“Beyond that we have an opportunity or challenge that has arisen since the last status meeting,” restarts the Second Gentleman’s.

“We seem to have been approached by a large foreign entity that has an interest in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona. Unfortunately, they contacted our Georgia operations center. They claim to know what we are doing. They have already placed a 26.66 Bitcoins or \$1million in escrow in a verified Cayman Islands bank account.

“The true face of the foreign entity is unknown. It could be China, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, or some entity with big strategic plans and deep pockets like any of Forbes’ top fifteen richest people or an alliance of drug cartels or oligarchies . It has to be an entity with sophisticated electronic and Internet communication. It appears like they may have been ‘peeking’ into the inter-workings of Catalina and Spinnaker. They demonstrated that by providing a sample list of our ‘virtual citizens’ from the Georgia effort in January 2021.”

“That sounds like a breach of our project’s firewall. Shut it down, now!” commands the First Gentleman.

“Wait! Just think of the dual opportunity this presents,” pleads the Second Gentleman. First, it splits the USA basically along the continental divide. The Western part goes to our ‘bidder’ the Eastern part sweeps from the Mississippi River drainage basin over to the East Coast. It is the classic divide and conquer. It would definitely represent the toppling of the USA as we know it.

“Second, the Eastern portion of the USA would still maintain its commanding domination of Congress for legislation and the Electoral College for Presidential elections. Our efforts remain will effective in the near and long terms.

“Third, we gross a nice profit and may be a healthy bonus on top of that.

“Fourth, we might be able to leverage additional income without losing our dominance in Congress by ‘marketing the Mississippi River Basin region to other bidders in Canada or Mexico with deep pockets and a passion to control that region. That would further twist the dagger toppling the USA as a world player.

“This falls under ‘Managers seek to manage to avoid disasters, leads seek to execute on opportunities’. The pay-off is there.”

“Right but look what happened to Colonel Custer. He had too much opportunity at Little Big Horn. I like your audacity, but let’s be conservative for a bit longer.

“Have we reached a level of operational performance that it makes sense for me to visit the facility located in Montenegro? I would like a few of my technical people to accompany me so we can evaluate front-end and back-end operations. It will also give me a chance to look at the executive

compound and villas. That compound will serve as our escape pod if this galactic battleship begins to explode. If my understanding is correct we politically own the district and most of the coastal region where we are located.

“It looks like you and I are the only strap-hangers left in the US that know the scope of this project.

“To my understanding, you are correct,” answers the Second Gentleman.

“Here is your Montenegro passport, driver’s license, and bank checking account. Feel free to transfer funds to your account as you deem necessary. You should find the rate of returns to be very favorable there.”

“Well thank you for all the proper preparation. I will have my travel agent setup the trip over the next couple of weeks or so.

“If that is all I am out of here.,” closes the First Gentleman as he rises from his chair.

Accompanied by the Second Gentleman as he walks towards the elevator, the First Gentleman asks, “You still kayaking on the river? It looks like you have been in the wind a bit.”

“Twelve months a year. I try for three-four outings a week. But you are right, sometimes the wind is strong.

“Here’s your elevator. Have a good flight,” closes the Second Gentleman.

Before venturing to Reagan National a heavily encrypted conversation goes out over the airwaves.

“We seem to have a minor leakage from the three minor issues we discussed previously. The mops have been applied and all seems dry at the moment.

“But our pawn seems to be moving from tactics level participation into selecting strategies. At the moment the pawn seems to be seeking a promotion.

“We can not have any pawn promotion to queen in this chess game.

“That issue will be addressed after my planned visit to the East European operation site.

“Good”.

Two days later the travel booking secretary for the First Gentleman calls the Second Gentleman’s secretary to arrange for a group flight to Montenegro for the purpose of an operational readiness review. While in conversation the travel booking secretary sends a text message concerning the details for the Montenegro meeting. The memorandum reads:

“The agenda is to include an in-depth tour of the operational facility, a complete project review, and review of action items. The expected facility tour and meeting should be approximately three full days. Meetings will commence the next day after travel to the Montenegro site. The travel group will be staying in the corporate compound. Travel will be from New York Stewart International, NSI to

Venice Marco Polo Airport, VMP. Then by charter jet to Tivat Airport, TAM. All three flights will be charter jet by this office from NSI to TAM. From TAM to the corporate compound will be a van ride of about 50 miles Southward towards Ulcinj. Two vans and a truck for baggage will be chartered.

“Please limit passengers from DC to three. The Ulcinj facility must plan to provide a vehicle guide from Tivat to Ulcinj. The Montenegro executive compound will need to plan on eight participants. Passenger should plan on one small carry-on and one 30 pound bag to check.

“The planned departure from NSI is 2/03/2022 1545 to VMP arriving early 2/04/2022.

Overnight accommodations have been booked at Courtyard by Marriott Venice Airport to allow time zone adjustments and last minute preparations. The flight from VMP to TAM will be scheduled for an afternoon departure on Sunday 2/06/2022 . Flight and ground travel that day should be three hours from Venice to Ulcinj.

“Participants should be prepared to start the review before Noon on Monday 2/07/2022.”