



SECTION 6. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

6.1 UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL 2075

Introduction

The year is 2075. The Nations of Earth have successfully colonized the Sol System. Moon bases have helped spur on the spread of humanity across the system. Mars is now considered humanity's second home, providing new resources and space to support this. The Asteroid Belt has become an industrial center with numerous companies establishing mining and manufacturing facilities. Throughout this, all nations have respected the limitations set out by the Outer Space Treaty of 1967. Weapons have been used on ships only for security purposes and no nuclear arms have been used in space. There have been only a few international incidents and piracy is present, there has been no full scale conflicts since the reunifying of the Korean peninsula in 2025. 2065 saw a proposal to either modify the Outer Space Treaty or create a new treaty altogether. Nothing was done but the subject was agreed as important to discuss in the future.

Both private and public space agencies have begun to plans to conduct extrasolar expeditions. One such nation is Mexico, currently in a golden era after decades of turmoil. Other nations have made small outings outside the Sol System, such as landing on the numerous dwarf planets beyond Pluto. The Mexican expedition would be the most ambitious and largest conducted up to this point. Fifteen vessels comprising numerous exploration and science ships, escorted by five warships are to head towards Proxima Centauri b and explore its system. The main vessel of this exploratory fleet is the cruiser *Tenochtitlan*, armed with three batteries of railguns. Two weeks from the fleet's departure, an inspection of the fleet discovered stores of nuclear munitions for the railguns. This is a clear violation of the Outer Space Treaty and caused an international scandal. The Mexican government has replied that the munitions were there purely for defensive purposes, in case the fleet found something conventional arms could not defeat. An emergency meeting of the UNSC was called to discuss this issue and the growing idea that the rules for space exploration need to be re-evaluated.

Questions:

Does the Outer Space Treaty need re-evaluated to deal with the realities of the new space age?
Should extrasolar expeditions be conducted as multinational operations or as singular expeditions?

What sort of military presence should these expeditions have, if any?

Do the complete unknown of extrasolar expeditions mean that they should operate outside the limits of the Outer Space Treaty?