

= The Council (Star Trek : Enterprise) =

" The Council " is the seventy @-@ fourth episode of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : Enterprise , the twenty @-@ second episode of season three . It first aired on May 12 , 2004 , on the UPN network in the United States . The episode was the fifth of the series written by Manny Coto , and it was directed by David Livingston , his fourth of the third season .

Set in the 22nd century , the series follows the adventures of the first Starfleet starship Enterprise , registration NX @-@ 01 . Season three of Enterprise features an ongoing story following an attack on Earth by previously unknown aliens called the Xindi . In this episode , Captain Jonathan Archer (Scott Bakula) attempts to convince the Xindi Council not to use their superweapon on Earth . Meanwhile , Subcommander T 'Pol (Jolene Blalock) leads an away team to a nearby sphere to attempt to retrieve a data core in order to get more information on the Sphere @-@ Builders .

The episode featured several returning guest stars , including Randy Oglesby , Tucker Smallwood , Josette DiCarlo and Sean McGowan . Additional sets were required for the scenes at the Xindi Council , while the sets for Degra 's ship had been created for an earlier episode . Although most scenes were filmed between February 12 and 23 , the scenes featuring the Sphere @-@ Builders were filmed in conjunction with the following episode on February 26 . Two reviewers praised the episode , and it was nominated for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Special Visual Effects . There was a slight increase in ratings with the episode earning a 3 @. @ 4 / 5 % audience share , translating into approximately 3 @. @ 35 million viewers .

= = Plot = =

It is now mid @-@ February 2154 , and Enterprise is en route to the Xindi Council . Under escort by Degra 's ship , Captain Archer is briefed by him on the five member species of the Council . Other friendly Xindi ships soon join the escort . As they approach the planet , however , the flagship of Reptilian Commander Dolim intervenes . After a tense standoff , Dolim backs down . On the planet , Archer and Ensign Sato enter the Council chamber and present their evidence to the gathered representatives ; Dolim , angered at the move , walks out in protest . A Guardian appears to him later , promising Reptilian dominance if he continues their original plan .

Meanwhile , a shuttlepod containing Sub @-@ Commander T 'Pol , Lieutenant Reed , Ensign Mayweather and MACO Corporal Hawkins , departs to investigate a nearby sphere in order to try to collect more data on the Sphere Builders (who are now becoming increasingly concerned with the human threat) . The away team successfully enters an exhaust vent , and reaching the core , they are able to retrieve a memory module . The intrusion alerts an automated defense system , however , and Hawkins is disintegrated helping the others escape .

Doctor Phlox and Commander Tucker then create a holographic version of the Sphere Builder from " Harbinger " which Archer presents to the Council . Many admit its resemblance to the Guardian race , a people who the Xindi both revere and worship . The Council votes to delay the weapon 's launch , with even Dolim agreeing . That night , however , Dolim covertly confronts Degra in the Primate 's quarters and stabs him , declaring revenge for the destruction of the Reptilian ship and a vendetta against his family . At the next meeting , Dolim openly admits the death (and Reptilian primacy) and the Reptilian and Insectoid members leave . They soon launch the superweapon , escorted by Dolim with his flagship . With both Enterprise and friendly Xindi vessels in pursuit , Dolim kidnaps Sato and disappears into a subspace vortex .

= = Production = =

Filming on " The Council " began on February 12 , 2004 , and concluded on February 23 , having taken seven days to film with shooting placed on hold for Presidents ' Day . The exception to this was the scenes featuring Sphere @-@ Builders which were shot in conjunction with the following episode , " Countdown " , on February 26 . Manny Coto wrote " The Council " , his fifth episode for Enterprise . David Livingston directed the episode , which was his fourth of the season ? tying

Roxann Dawson for the most episodes during season three . It was the second time that Coto and Livingston had collaborated on an episode , having previously worked together on " Harbinger " .

A number of temporary sets were built for the episode , including those for the Xindi Council , which were meant to be originally created in @-@ universe by the extinct avian race of Xindi . The sets for Degra 's ship continued to be used , and the Enterprise sets still featured damage following the actions in earlier episodes . " The Council " featured a larger than normal number of guest actors to represent various members of the Xindi Council . These included Tucker Smallwood as the Primate Council Member ; He had previously appeared in the role earlier in the season in " The Xindi " and " Rajiin " . Smallwood had also appeared elsewhere in the genre in Space : Above and Beyond as Commodore Ross . Sean McGowan made his fourth and final appearance of the series in " The Council " , while Randy Oglesby also made his final appearance as Degra . Josette DiCarlo returned as a female Sphere @-@ Builder , after first appearing in " Damage " , while Mary Mara and Ruth Williamson both made their Enterprise debuts as other Sphere @-@ Builders .

= = Reception and home media release = =

" The Council " was first aired on May 12 , 2004 on UPN . It received a 3 @. @ 4 / 5 % share , meaning that it was seen by 3 @. @ 4 percent of all households , and 5 percent of all households watching television at the time of the broadcast . This translated to approximately 3 @. @ 35 million viewers . It was a slight increase on the ratings received by the previous episode " E ² " , which was viewed by a 3 @. @ 3 % audience share .

Michelle Erica Green watched the episode for TrekNation , calling it a " taut , tense action episode " with predictable plot twists that still felt " wrenching " when revealed . Although she felt that the launch of the superweapon was outweighed by the murder of Degra , she found the episode " quite engrossing " and thought " The Council " demonstrated that Enterprise was " coming into its own " . Jamahl Epsicokhan , for his website " Jammer 's Reviews " , said that the death of Degra was a shame as he was the " season 's most pivotal and interesting character " . He said that the shot of the superweapon being launched was a " terrific and fearsome shot " , and gave the episode a score of 3 @. @ 5 / 4 . The episode was nominated for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Special Visual Effects , but lost to the team that worked on the episode " Countdown " .

The first home media release of " The Council " was as part of the season three DVD box set , released in the United States on September 27 , 2005 . The Blu @-@ ray release of Enterprise was announced in early 2013 , and released on January 7 , 2014 .