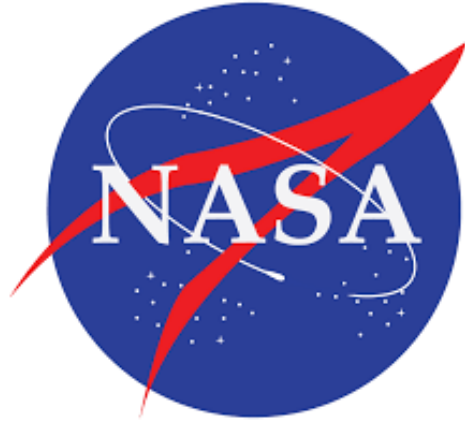


**National Aeronautics and Space
Administration**

Memorandum

Date: 26 Aug 2017 00:13 EDT
To: Robert M. Lightfoot, Jr.
Acting Administrator
From: Lloyd Christopher
Mission Specialist
Subject: Golden Record Greetings



Sir;

There's gossip going around that we've been contacted by extraterrestrials. I believe I have information that could shed some light on this, but I'm a little ashamed to admit it.

I've been here a long time, and I was part of the original team that put together those Golden Records that went out on the Voyagers. You know how it is when you're working really late and things seem a lot funnier than they would in the cold light of day. Anyway, we (and I won't name names, but it's no secret who was all part of the team) thought it would be funny to insert a little Earth humor into the greetings. It's not in the official records, but we added a bit of audio right after the clip in English. Right after the child says, "Hello from the children of planet Earth," we inserted a clip—"Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition!" It seemed pretty funny at the time.

If the radio transmission we are receiving is a playback of the record that's actually on the spacecraft, the Spanish Inquisition should be there in the greetings. If it's not, then I think we might be the victims of some kind of hoax.

While I regret the role I played in the practical joke, I'm thinking now that it might not have been such a bad idea after all.