

OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE/SECTION 3  
DUE DILLIGENCE REPORT - A340021  
2300 HOURS, JULY 18, 2552  
CLASSIFIED TOP-SECRET  
COMM-SCRIBED/PTS 9386-9

>> 00834-19223-HS // VADM STANFORTH, HIERONYMUS MICHAEL  
<< 00230-00923-MP // ADM PARANGOSKY, MARGARET ORLENDA

RE: OPERATION: BRAVADO

Margaret,

Paperwork's almost done on this end. So is the whiskey. I guess that means I'll be headed back your way before long, especially after the number I put *Levi* through this time around. Boatswain says it'll be sidelined for two months at least, so I've already filed with Fleet to transfer the crew to *Coenwulf* when I make my rounds in Sydney.

At any rate, this one was certainly a victory, as difficult as it is for me to call it that. I know the casualty reports are going to look ugly, but that's nothing new. We lost about half the battlegroup, as well as *Cradle*. Surface didn't fare much better either: *Caracas*, *Huiren*, *Côte d'Azur*, *Silma* and *Enfield*, all parking lots now...some because the enemy's good at what they do and others because we refused to give them the opportunity.

It's just been so long since we've walked away from one of these things alive. We crushed eighteen of those bastards. I can't remember the last time that happened. And now they're gone. It'll take us a few years to clean up, probably a dozen or so to fix what was done on the ground. But they're gone...that's got to count for something.

A file's attached with some interesting data *Iroquois* picked up. The Covenant were transmitting something from the planet's surface before we blew the lid off it. We're not sure what it was, but it would not surprise me in the least if it ends up being grouped with sites like *Onyx*, *Meridian*, *Arcadia* or even that thing *Halsey's* digging up on *Reach*.

Anyway, AAR is en route. Talk to you soon, maybe over tea?

- HMS