

#76 – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Attendance:** HIM Emperor Adam I, HG Lord Sir Sam Maude, HG Lord Sir Juliano Saunders, Lady Madam Hermione Peace, HG Lady Madam Anna Worthington, HG Lord Sir Alexander Helliker, Colonel Sir Samuel Boardman

**Welcome, agenda reading:**

The agenda was not amended.

**Decree LXIII (Office of the Emperor):**

The Emperor (Chair, LMP) explained what the decree did. Colonel Boardman (Opposition backbench, IND) asked why the countries in question were selected. The Emperor responded that the decisions were arbitrary. Others asked why various nations were not recognised. The Emperor responded that it had long been Adammic policy to recognise macronations on an ad-hoc basis depending on what nations the Empire “liked” as a nation; the Emperor pointed out that Adammia recognised neither the People's Republic of China nor the Republic of China; neither the State of Israel nor the State of Palestine were recognised either – Lord Saunders (Prime Minister, STM) jocularly suggested that this represented a “no-state solution”. Lord Saunders, noting the situation in 2016 in which the Emperor attempted to rescind recognition of the USA following the election of Donald Trump, and expressing his concern that the present policy may result in bias, suggested that the Empire should automatically recognise all members of the United Nations. The Emperor explained his reasoning that, since no macronation recognised Adammia, Adammia was under no obligation to recognise macronations as sovereign and that it had the right to make statements as to human rights et cetera (citing the Russian Federation as an example; Lady Worthington (Minister of Patriotism, STM) further cited Saudi Arabia as an example) by recognising macronations selectively. The consensus was reached to deal with the recognition of unrecognised macronations in AOB.

Lord Helliker (Leader of the Opposition, LMP) asked as to the status of Midgard. The Emperor explained that Midgard was essentially the successor to Borealia, the colony which had voted to leave the Empire by eight votes to three in a referendum on 1 August 2016. The original plan had been for Midgard to be the “branch” of the Empire at Loughborough University, much as the present provinces and territories of South Adammia formed the University of Birmingham “branch” of Adammia; however, since Col. McCracken had failed to recruit any new citizens there, the territory had fallen into inactivity; the Emperor reported that he had spoken with Col. McCracken several months previously, and that an agreement was reached to dissolve Midgard whilst retaining the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment as a military unit in the area. Several members raised questions as to whether the presence of an Adammic military unit in British territory constituted a hostile invasion; the Emperor responded that there had long been Adammic military units present in macronational territory, exemplified by the presence of Col. Bond's 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment in the Derbyshire Dales area.

The Emperor moved to advance the agenda; by voice vote, the ayes had it.

**Decree LXIV (Office of the Emperor):**

The Emperor explained what the decree did, and expressed his hope that the Minister of Patriotism would find the relationship between her Ministry and the High Command agreeable.

Lady Worthington asked what constituted an enemy under the terms of the decree. The Emperor suggested that this should constitute any entity which is either in a state of war with Adammia, and/or any entity which attacks the Empire. Other members suggested somewhat varying definitions. Lord Helliker, consulted in his capacity as Attorney General, agreed that the Emperor's definition of “enemy” was reasonable, but that it should be written into law in order to limit confusion. The Emperor agreed that it would be reasonable to handle an amending Act of Council

during Any Other Business. Lord Helliker remarked that it would be easier to pass a direct amendment to Decree LXIV; the Emperor responded by saying that there was no constitutional mechanism for this. Lord Saunders suggested passing a constitutional amendment for this purpose; the Emperor stated that this would require a referendum, and that an ad-hoc Act of Council could function in an identical manner to a theoretical “amendment” to an Imperial Decree. Members reached consensus to deal with the matter during AOB.

Colonel Boardman asked firstly what protections were in place to prevent the MoP from abusing its power to mobilise military units. The Emperor responded that he, as Grand Marshal and commander-in-chief, had ultimate operational authority over all military units, and that whilst it was his obligation under law to implement the MoP's defence policy, he still had some oversight; and further, that since under the unamended sections of the Defence Act 2015, it was still a legal requirement for the Ruling Council to declare a state of war before any offensive actions could be authorised, this provided a further layer of protection.

Colonel Boardman raised his concern that the military consisted of too many small individual units, and that most commanding officers had no real power, suggesting that the military should re-organise into larger units. The Emperor stated that units were presently organised according to their ability to undertake joint operations; he stated that whilst he agreed with Colonel Boardman that there were too many “one-man” units, and that he himself disliked there being far more commissioned officers than enlisted servicemen, he stated that this was the only practical option given the small size of the military. The Emperor further stated that the best option would be for units to find more recruits, and that as part of his professionalisation efforts he would soon be issuing standing orders to all units which would confirm their primary responsibility to recruit new citizens.

The Emperor moved to advance the agenda; by voice vote, the ayes had it.

#### **Misc. debate – [Emergency appropriation](#) (Lord Saunders):**

Lord Saunders summarised the purpose of the Emergency Appropriation which was issued immediately prior to the meeting. Several members asked questions pertaining to the source of the additional funds (to which the Emperor responded that they would come from the Treasury's reserves), and the nature of the pins which had been ordered.

The Emperor moved to advance the agenda; by voice vote, the ayes had it.

#### **Misc. debate – Open discussion on future planning (Emperor Adam D):**

The Emperor suggested that the Council should begin to consider the configuration of Adammic provinces and territories for the next academic year. The Emperor stated that there would likely be one more Ruling Council meeting before the dissolution of VII Legislature. Lord Saunders stated that he would be leaving Birmingham on the 13<sup>th</sup> and a consensus was reached to hold the final meeting of the term on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The Emperor stated that the following week would therefore serve as a wash-up period to allow members to submit any final bills before the summer recess, and that the Liberal-Moderate Party would likely be submitting at least two bills relating to defamation law and the administration of the Adammic Police Force.

The Emperor reminded members that the Sixth Amendment to the Supreme Directive would take effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, which would introduce the House of Citizens, and that this would thus be the earliest possible date for the general election. The Emperor suggested that it would be preferable to reorganise provinces and territories prior to the general election, and also prior to the start of the next academic year; the Emperor noted that in the current legislature, Dank-upon-Bourn had been claimed during the autumn academic term, thus delaying the National Election to the middle of the autumn academic term and reducing the amount of time available for legislative business during that academic term, though further noting that this was still overall an improvement over the previous legislature, which first convened as late as December (2017).

Lord Helliker confirmed that he would be moving out of the present Province of Serkatia to a new property a short distance away, whilst the Emperor would remain in Serkatia. It was noted

that this would present an opportunity for territorial expansion. Lord Helliker indicated that he would seek to recruit as citizens his new housemates. Lady Peace (DNK, Minister of National Development) confirmed that Dank-upon-Bourn would be moving to a new property, but that it was most likely that it would remain in a similar configuration to the present claim of Lady Peace's bedroom and the garden, rather than the entire property. In the absence of any representative from Alluria, the Emperor suggested that Alluria's future was uncertain, given that most of its present residents would be leaving Birmingham in the immediate future; he further stated that he would talk with Cmdr. Daniels and Col. Maguire, the two former Allurians who would be returning to Birmingham in the next academic year following their year abroad in the United States, to discuss potential arrangements, but further noted that depending on their circumstances, Alluria may cease to exist altogether. It was further noted that Corellia would likely be dissolved, but it was noted that there was a possibility of Lord Saunders moving in with Lord Maude in a property in London, which could become a colony. Lord Saunders further suggested that there was a possibility of Mr. Schweig-Peters setting up a colony in Dublin, and that other friends of his who had taken years in industry would be returning to Birmingham and could accordingly become more involved; the Emperor asked Lord Saunders to oversee these particular areas. Col. Boardman confirmed that, despite graduating from UoB, he would be remaining in Birmingham in a two-person flat with his girlfriend; this was identified as a likely candidate for a new province or territory. It was also suggested that Lord Helliker's other residence in Poole might be a potential colony. Lord Saunders suggested that all citizens should be approached with regards to setting up new territories; the Emperor stated that he had at one point been in talks with Col. Bond about setting up a territory in the Derbyshire Dales which had fallen through, but could be resurrected, and also that Lady Simpson was open to the possibility of setting up a territory in Cardiff. A general consensus was reached that there should be serious efforts made to recruit more citizens and to set up new territories over the coming weeks and months, and that the military should be employed to these ends.

With regards to the timing of the general election, it was noted that most new tenancies would begin on or around the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, and that as such it would be feasible to enact most of the territorial changes fairly early in July. It was further noted that it would be inappropriate for the Empire to undertake its recruitment campaigns and elections around the same time as Freshers Week in September on the grounds that it might frighten potential new members of the University of Birmingham Liberal Democrats Society; the Emperor noted that, although the Empire of Adammia and UBLD were completely distinct organisations, it was true that Adammia had historically relied upon UBLD as a recruiting ground for citizens. Lord Maude (LAB, Deputy Prime Minister) and others also suggested that it would be preferable for the general election and the local elections to take place at the same time, such that one would not unfairly affect the other; the Emperor noted that traditionally the local elections would take place before the national election, but that this need not necessarily be set in stone, and that he would take this into account when deciding when to call the general election. The Emperor concluded that, if it were to be possible to complete all territorial reorganisation and citizen recruitment in July, then it would be possible to hold the general and local elections in August or early September.

The Emperor moved to advance the agenda; by voice vote, the ayes had it.

#### **Misc. debate – Questions to the Prime Minister (Emperor Adam I):**

Lady Worthington: Where is your hat?

Lord Saunders: I did not want it to be damaged by the rain. Thankfully under the Storm Party, homelessness is non-existent.

Emperor Adam I: Does the Prime Minister consider it appropriate for me to ask him a question, or would he consider that to violate the impartiality he believes I should have?

Lord Saunders: It is fine for the Emperor to ask questions.

Emperor Adam I: To what extent has the level of homelessness changed in Adammia from the previous government compared to now?

Lord Saunders: The fact that homelessness has remained low is testament to the Storm Party's economic policies.

Lady Peace: How has your day been?

Lord Saunders: Good. My last exam was today.

Emperor Adam I: As was mine.

**Any Other Business:**

**Act 54 – Amendments to Decrees Act 2019:**

The Emperor suspended parliamentary order in order to draft the bill. A consensus of the definition of an enemy for the purposes of Decree LXIV was agreed. Col. Boardman suggested that the discussions on recognition of macronations should be dealt with online and then finalised at the next meeting. The Emperor concurred, and introduced the bill. The Council divided:

AYES: 7 (Emperor Adam I, Lord Saunders, Lord Helliker, Lord Maude, Lady Worthington, Lady Peace, Colonel Boardman)

NOES: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

The ayes had it and the Act was passed.

Lady Peace as Minister of National Development authorised the reimbursement of Lord Saunders for the purchase of pins using Treasury funds allocated to her department per the Budget and the recent Emergency Appropriation. Lady Worthington arranged several payments under the Contributions Scheme to the Treasury.

The Council was adjourned and members retired to the Country Girl pub for food and drinks.