
The Laundry Negotiation Team

You are a member of the team sent to negotiate the Second Treaty of Dunwich on behalf of humanity. Your group consists of June, a high-ranking official of the Laundry, and Patrick, a Member of Parliament and representative of the British Crown. Your job is to broker a peace treaty amicable to both POSEIDON ALPHA and VARUNA NINE.

The First Treaty of Dunwich, signed with POSEIDON ALPHA one hundred years ago, ensured both peace between humanity and POSEIDON ALPHA and made the global shipping trade truly profitable, as the undersea dwellers gave information each year about the shifting state of ocean currents and upcoming storms. Of course, the government could not reveal the source of this information, so they put it down to enhanced meteorological and oceanographic surveys – very expensive ones. The terms of the first treaty were dear (though the gains were worth it): it nearly beggared the Treasury, and the Crown was unsure of how they would fulfill their end of the treaty this time. However, a solution recently presented itself.

Several years ago, human scientists discovered the existence of the element diridium. Thus far, any practical applications are of an extremely theoretical nature, but the possibilities are exciting. The only known above-water source of diridium is located in central England.

When POSEIDON ALPHA learned (somehow) of the source of diridium they offered to renew the treaty and ensure the safety of shipping lanes in exchange for a share of the output per month. You were all set to simply renew the treaty, with no complications, when VARUNA NINE suddenly made its existence known. VARUNA NINE, though a smaller faction, is demanding a fair share of the diridium in exchange for protecting shipping routes over their territory. They promise to abide by the same restrictions as POSEIDON ALPHA has for years with respect to human activity. Given that part of your mandate is to keep the existence of such creatures a secret, you have had little choice but to accept VARUNA NINE into negotiations.

The operators of the diridium extractor assure you that, at the present rate of diridium condensation, they can reliably produce **105 metric tons** of the rare element per month. Of this production, government scientists have requisitioned 15 tons per month. This leaves you with 90 tons per month of production capacity to negotiate with.

In addition, the First Treaty of Dunwich specified that no human activity could take place on seafloor deeper than a mile below sea level. 100 years ago, that was a restriction your people were happy to abide by, but times have changed. There have been plans in the works to build an undersea research base for several years now (mysteriously held up by covert government intervention). If it is possible, it would be very wise to negotiate an exception in the treaty that would allow for an undersea base to be constructed.

You've also been told about a point of contention between POSEIDON ALPHA and VARUNA NINE – namely, a small region of the seafloor known as the Northern Abyssal Plain. Currently, it is under the control of POSEIDON ALPHA, but VARUNA NINE has been very insistent that it belongs to them by rights and that it holds deep religious significance for their people. Humanity has no interest in taking the Northern Abyssal Plain for themselves, but be prepared for it to come up in negotiations. If used properly, this could allow you to gain leverage over one or both sides.

Finally, a recent archaeological dig off the coast of Scotland has unearthed an artifact that's apparently being called the Pillar of the Depths. Casual inquiries suddenly became serious when POSEIDON ALPHA and VARUNA NINE expressed significant interest in possessing this artifact. Offering this item to one side or the other could give you the edge you need in the treaty discussion.

Your ultimate goal is peace between all parties concerned. If POSEIDON ALPHA and VARUNA NINE go to war, it will be impossible to keep the secret from the rest of humanity, and crisis would certainly follow.

Good luck! The fate of humanity may be in your hands.

Members

- June Whitfield (Bertha Tang): A high-ranking Laundry official, representing the Laundry.
- Patrick Clarke (John Ranson): A Member of Parliament, representing the British government.