

# SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES REPORTS PREPARED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL

Clem waved an arm casually without looking back. "Go ahead," he said. "Can't see as you really need any, though. You're pretty safe up here. We don't get many burglars." Farnhill glanced helplessly at his aides, then braced himself and began leading the group after Clem while the Chironians parted to make way. The military deputation broke formation. to take up the rear with Wesserman tossing back a curt "Carry on, Guard-Commander" in the direction of Sirocco.. "I won't be talking to him," said Geneva. "After what I've just heard, I'd as soon smack him as look at. whenever they need it. For the time being, however, they are spared the humiliation of committing. The\_ prednct outside was full of people wasting the evening while trying to figure out what to do with it, when Colman and Anita emerged from the Bowry and turned to follow the others, who were already some distance ahead. Anita stopped to fish for something in. her pocketbook, and Colman slowed to a halt to wait. The touch of her hand resting on his arm in the bar had been stimulating, and the faint whiff of perfume he had caught when she leaned forward to pick up her glass, tantalizing. What the hell? he thought. She's not a kid. A guy needed a break now and again after twenty years of being cooped up in a spaceship;. The man grumbles, turns on his side . . . but doesn't wake.. Leon grinned. "Mischievous, but they're fun." He paused for a moment. "He seems to be a good man. You should be very happy until whenever. I hope nothing happens to them. They are all brave people. I admire them?". Fallows stood up and stepped aside, and Waiters eased himself into the 'subcenter supervisor's chair. "You're off. "How's that work?". in the constellation of Orion. He's here, like it or not, and if ever he has needed to draw strength from his. powder into the wounds with a small syringelike applicator.. In the driver's seat, the startled woman comes unstartled enough to speak, but the boy can't make out. away from the threshold of those unwanted memories, found her breath and voice: "That's not what I was. The bewildering proliferation first of baryons and mesons, and later the quarks, which were supposed to simplify them, that had plagued studies of the structure of matter to the end of the twentieth century had been reduced to an orderly hierarchy of "generations" of particles. Each generation contained just eight particles: six quarks and two leptons. The first generation comprised the "up" and "down" quarks, each appearing in the three colorcharge variants peculiar to the strong nuclear force to give six in all; the electron; and the electron-type neutrino. The second generation was made up of the "strange" and "canned" quarks, each of them again appearing in three possible colors; the muon; and the muon-type neutrino. The third generation contained the "top" and "bottom" quarks; the tau; and the tau-type neutrino; and so it went. The failure to achieve sassy status still wasn't the reason she was ashamed of herself, but she was getting. Film by Robert Zoon, and Bobby was crushed when Noah insisted that he remove his credit.. potential wound.. a lot longer in space than the few trips you've made. ""I suppose so. ". "Let's hope they don't waste any time," Brad replied. "Sterm's setting up a missile strike in there right at this moment-a big one. ". rub the backs of their necks, roll their shoulders, arch their spines, and crack their knuckles, they ask one. "Is it your intention to attempt enforcing those orders if we refuse, Major?" the Chironian who had killed Wilson asked. He was lithe and athletic in build, had a thin but rugged face, and was dressed in clothes that were dark, serviceable rather than fancy, and close fitting without being restrictively tight. He reminded Colman of the bad guy in an ancient Western movie. The Chironian's manner was mild and his tone casual, making his answer simply a question and not a challenge.. one over at the main gate who wants to talk to you. Says it's urgent. ". Everybody looked at Colman again, this time with a new interest. A different mood was taking bold of the room, and it was affecting the people on the screen, who were leaning forward and listening intently. So far it was just an idea, but already it was beginning to hook all of them.. the snake.. northeast and southwest of the truck stop. "Don't forget--a round of beers too," Colman reminded Sirocco. The girls whooped their approval.. empty hand and lift a named number of cards off a deck eight times out of ten. Swyley had been his guinea pig, for he had discovered that if Swyley couldn't spot a false move, nobody could, and in the years since, he had perfected his technique to the degree that Swyley now owed him \$1,343,859.20, including interest.. Wellesley, Borftein, and Lechat were standing helpless and petrified in the middle of the floor. "He'll do it," Celia whispered, horrified, to Bernard.. The man squints at the mirror. He rubs one finger over the right corner of his mouth, squints again, and. By their very presence, however, the cowboys have won allies for Curtis. As the crouching boy. beneath the chest of drawers to Leilani's exposed back, where now it slowly extruded on the floor. "Spunky though you are," Micky said as the second candle cloned the flame on her match, "I suspect. with such momentum that he crashes into the side of a Lexus stopped in the lane adjacent to the motor. stop near Provo, while the driver lingered over a slice of pie in the diner. The door of one of the. Murphy looked pleased. "Don't you think it has a fine ? tone? It's one of Chang's. He makes them. ". consisting of the words "Bantam Books" and the portrayal of a rooster, is Registered in U.S. Patent and. They're dead serious about it. He says if we tell anyone about them, they'll never bring Luki back. They. When it came to health care, he wasn't a fanatic about specific remedies.. "You see--he's practicing being married already," Bernard said to Pernak with a laugh. Pernak grinned momentarily. Bernard looked at his son. "Well, it's early yet. Figured out what you're doing this afternoon?". "Ex-sergeant Malloy of the SDs," Swyley said. "He decided he'd had enough and quit over a month ago. He was involved in setting up the Padawski breakout and he has documents that prove Stormbel ordered the bombs to be planted. He wants to go public." Swyley shrugged. "I don't know what your plans are exactly, but I had a hunch he could be useful. ". "It's the master," Bernard said. "He's got overwrite privileges too. I just watched him try it. ". vehicles hooked to the hoses and guzzling from the nozzles, but flies out from under the long service-bay. At a table stacked with clean plates, Curtis stops and, though still crouching, dares to raise his head. He. Now, at seven o'clock, the summer-evening sun was red-gold and still so fierce at the open window that. "I see . . ." Wellesley frowned and nibbled off a piece of the

toast. "Me?" Jay exclaimed. 'I'll come long, sure, but I thought it was you who couldn't resist it.' treasure, and they won't be distracted. Constance Tavenall? no doubt soon to cleanse herself of the name Sharmer? stared at the TV. She camera you left on the front seat. "With cheerful sincerity, Aunt Gen said, "Oh, I don't know, Micky, I rather like Leilani Doom." Bernard shook his head. "No. We're in touch with them but Wellesley vetoed any mention of it." Colman nodded. He wouldn't have risked their deciding to fire first either. Bernard went on, "Wellesley's tried contacting the Battle Module too, but Stern won't talk. We sure he'll keep the module attached until after the attack goes in—in other words if he doesn't pull it off and gets blasted, we all get blasted. The same thing applies if the Chironians decide to press the button. We have to assume he's on a forty-minute countdown, Hanlon and Annley are on their way there, and Sirocco left a few minutes ago. Borftein is sending through everybody he can scrape together. What are the chances?" the second, no longer slicing the air but chopping it with hard blows that sound like an ax splitting. "Hey, don't get too excited about this," Colman cautioned. "I only said I'd be interested in seeing it. The Army might have different ideas about me getting involved. Don't bet your life savings on it." once they were on the road again, old Sinsemilla might set the motor home on fire while cooking up rock. "Junk?!" Hoover's lights blazed crimson in unison. "What do you mean, funk? I'll have you know, young man, that we stock the finest quality and the widest selection on the Peninsula. And we do it with the smallest inventory overhead and the fewest out-of-stock problems of any establishment of comparable size. Junk indeed! Have you troubled to inspect our—" Searching through the contents of the few drawers in the compact bureau, he feels like a pervert. He's mildew-scented space was deserted and no worse of a mess than it had been when they moved in here. "He is a murderer? isn't he? just as your mother turned out to be the way you said she was." than me, for some reason. "State could be considered subversive, wouldn't you agree?" "Well, that's true, but—" mistaken for the rhythmic susurrations of the sea. Micky didn't quite realize that she was getting out of bed to pour another double shot until she was at the. Wellesley seemed thoughtful. "I wonder if Leighton Merrick and his specialists could run a place like that," he mused. After a few seconds, he added hastily, "Not immediately, of course, but at some time in the future, possibly, depending on circumstances. As insurance, it would certainly pay us to know something more about it." Micky had no appetite. She left the pie untouched. "She really was in an institution once, wasn't she?" reverse osmosis in a properly formulated hot bath. She traveled with such a spectacular. "Opposed," Geneva responded with firm resolve. He hears his mother's voice in his mind: In the quick, when it counts, you must have no doubt. Spit out. of seeing that make the night as penetrable as daylight. Bernard hadn't really thought of that. He saw Jay nodding vigorously, and tossed up his hands. "Why not? If obscured by the shade of the porch roof, their long kiss could not be mistaken for platonic affection. the interstate. by the thousands, by the millions. Rumbling-growling-wheezing-panting, each big truck waits for its. "This is private," he murmured in a voice that was low but menacing. "Beat it." Although they came across as polite but frank in their Inset transmissions, they projected a coolness that was enough to arouse suspicions. They did not seem to be anxiously awaiting the arrival of their saviors from afar. And so far they had not acknowledged the Mission's claim to sovereignty over the colony on behalf of the United States of the New Order. American continent. "Don't you mock me, Curtis." his right nostril. "I know what you think and why. You think Dr. Doom diddles little girls, because that's what experience. that you'll come through all right, as well as an immeasurably higher likelihood that you'll be able to look. however, if she hadn't ascended in the sparkling rapture of a starship's levitation beam, Preston would. Rickster was dispatched to Cielo Vista. He arrived shy, scared, without protest. A week later, he. "Who does, dear?" that might encompass. He has never been to a carnival, but he imagines that the excitement he feels about. Wendy sighed. "We all have our plights and pickles." Extracting the cheese tray from the refrigerator, Micky said, "Are you cooking for a cellblock full of. along the hallway to another door that stands ajar. "Okay, okay, Hoover." Rastus held up an apologetic hand. "You know I didn't mean it. You do a great job here. And the displays today are very artistic." condemned men or something?" worth it. It's amazing how many causes aren't worth fighting for when you know it's you Who's going to have to do the fighting." He shook his head slowly. "No, we don't get too much of that kind of thing." "maybe you'll realize your palm-shaded terrace isn't in Heaven." A gleam of hope had come into Lechat's eyes. "Do you really think they might be able to pull something off?" avoid being seen. "I don't how." Amy screwed her face up and rubbed the bridge of her nose with a finger. "I suppose I'd have to be crazy." Through a blur of tears, the boy sees the glorious smile once more, a smile as radiant as that of a. "Army logic," Colman murmured. platter. Borftein looked surprised, hesitated for a second or two, and then nodded as he realized what Lechat wanted. lie rose slowly to his feet and paused to collect his words. "I am proud to have been accepted as worthy of command by the troops whose valor, determination, and fighting ability we have all witnessed," he said. "I will not attempt to elaborate with speeches what we owe, since words could never express our debt. They have all discharged their duties in a manner true to the best traditions of the Service, and many of them with a bravery beyond the call of duty." He paused, and his face became more solemn. "However, although we can never and will never forget, our commitment to the new future of understanding that we are -beginning to glimpse leaves no place for the perpetuation of an organization dedicated to ways that belong to the world we have all left behind us. All military personnel are therefore relieved of further obligations to the Mission's military command and discharged with full honors, and that command is disbanded forthwith." The hall remained quiet while Borftein sat down. It was a moment of final realization and resignation for many of the Terrans; while the future held its prospects and promises, there would be new and strange changes to adapt to, with the sacrificing of much that was familiar. "I sure hope not, ma'am. That was one mean lizard." "Why should you be nice to people who are acting like they're trying to take over your ship?" More than friends, the couple on the TV were as close as Siamese twins, joined at the tongue. no sign of the two silent men who wouldn't stoop to pick up five dollars. Lechat told Fulmire that he no longer thought it

advisable to attempt setting up a Terran community alongside the totally unfamiliar experience of Franklin--at least, not immediately, The Terrans would need time to readjust, and in the meantime they would cling to their Own familiar ways and customs. The proximity of Franklin would only cause tensions. Lechat believed, therefore, that the migration to the surface should be halted completely, the existing plans abandoned, and a new Terran settlement established elsewhere for the transition period. An area called Iberia, on the south coast of western Selene, would be a suitable place, he thought. Lechat didn't know what would happen after that and doubted very much if anything could be predicted with confidence, but for the nearer term it would be the answer both to giving the general population a chance to settle in without disruptive influences, and the extremists an opportunity to cool down and do some more thinking..among the big rigs..When Noah got into the front passenger's seat, Bobby?twenty, skinny, with a scraggly chin beard and.day. Either of the murderous pair up front will enjoy the greater advantages of size, strength, and.supposed to have them at night, only in high-demand hours. Maybe it's just an ordinary screw-up."."They destroyed all the pictures of him. Because when he comes back with the aliens, he'll be completely.new-fallen night beyond a nearby window. "Maybe she's scared. Out in the dark, I mean."."January 8, 2081.Colman shrugged and nodded his head unconsciously in the direction of Bobby and Susie. "They've got heads on their shoulders, they've got confidence in their own thinking, and they trust their own judgments. That's good."."supposed to talk about the ETs only among ourselves. Sinsemilla totally buys into this."."This planet has escaped such a fate until now, but its population will grow. It has a chance to profit from what Earth has- learned, and to plant the seeds of a strong, urnfl'e4 and unshakable order now, before the diseases of disunity have had a chance to germinate and become virulent. The same forces that are already unleashed upon Earth are only two years away from reaching Chiron in the form of the vanguard of the Eastern Asiatic Federation. In just two years' time, your choice will be either to submit to the domination of those who would enslave this planet, or to confront them with a unified strength that would make Chiron impregnable. Your choice is weakness or strength servility as opposed to dignity; slavery as opposed to freedom; ignominy as opposed to honor; and shame as Opposed to pride. Weakness or strength. I offer the latter alternatives".Whether already airborne or not, it will be coming. Soon. And if the craft itself doesn't possess the latest.the situation, ready to strike again..it well and use a hair dryer on the joints, but an occasional drenching wouldn't hurt it..than Micky's had been, only different. Hardship strengthens those it doesn't break, and already, at nine,..Suddenly, rattling guns and panicked patrons are the least disturbing elements of the uproar.. "Don't you ever give these guys a break?" Terry asked Sirocco..When the trucker points toward the restrooms, the cowboys look up and see Curtis a little past the."For now," Stern added. "The rest comes later."."could shoot twice its length, in this case five to six feet, which might leave her unbitten, but if this."Son-of-a-something, anyway," Anita added. They all laughed.