

THE FORTRESSIAN LETTER

“As It Develops”

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Inter-Royal Collective Defense No More!

Pillow Fortress Leads Vote For Dissolution

TELLURIA – In a surprise move, the Inter-Royal Collective Defense (IRCD) has been dissolved. The representative for the Pillow Fortress on the Inter-Royal Round Table called an extraordinary session of that committee and put forth a motion both transferring all assets belonging to the IRCD as an entity independent of its member states to the Principality and permanently dissolving the organization and all its component organs. With no votes in the negative, the motion passed and the IRCD ceased to be as of 4 Portcullose 8.

“As the world changes so rapidly, the Collective no longer met the needs of the Principality,” said the now former representative. “We took the extreme measure of dissolving the IRCD so that there was no chance it could be used against the Fortressian nation or our allies.”

Established in the Year 1, the IRCD was a mutual defense organization focused on the protection of states with monarchical forms

of government. It included provisions for the voluntary suppression of anti-monarchical insurrections in member states as well as the good treatment of any monarch of a member state that had been deposed, in addition to the standard protocols for collective defense as might be found in similar treaties. Now that treaty is null and void.

“The Pillow Fortress will continue to act in its own best interests,” said the former representative, “that includes the making and, indeed, the breaking of alliances should the situation so warrant.” Further questions regarding the possibility of replacing the IRCD with a different treaty or joining an already existing interstate defense organization were not answered.

Experts on Fortressian foreign policy were baffled by the development. “This seemed to come out of nowhere, as if the decision was made in the days before the vote,” said one wonk, “The overall climate of instability in the world seems to have finally reached our shores. Everywhere big ideas are on the retreat. The IRCD wasn’t just a mutual defense treaty, it was supposed to be the vanguard of Fortressian leadership on the global stage. Are we really abdicating our responsibility?”

No New Aesthetic?

Princess Fails To Promulgate Royal Pronouncement

PA – Breaking with two years of precedent, Her Majesty the Princess neglected to issue a royal pronouncement defining a new aesthetic for the coming year, leaving the status of the government’s graphical guidance for the year 8 uncertain. Typically announced in Outwork of the previous year, the tradition of selecting a

new aesthetic to be used in official capacities by the various organs of the Principality began in the year 5 with the establishment of ‘Royal Impasto Verve’. This style was used for the entirety of the year 6, most notably by the different Throne departments, until replaced by ‘Vibrallume’ for use in the year 7. The time when a new aesthetic would be chosen has come and gone without any indication if it is only late or if the project of yearly aesthetics has been abandoned. The Department of Culture and the Office of the Princess did not respond to request for a statement.

“There is one possibility,” said a noted Fortressian scholar, “and that’s that the new graphical guidelines the government is currently working on are intended to be a permanent replacement.” It’s a plausible theory, but there’s been no indication one way or the other, and the government has met a confused public with nothing but silence.

It remains to be seen if the yearly aesthetic will endure as a Fortressian tradition, but until a final decision is made, would it be too much to ask to have those garish Vibrallume banners taken down?

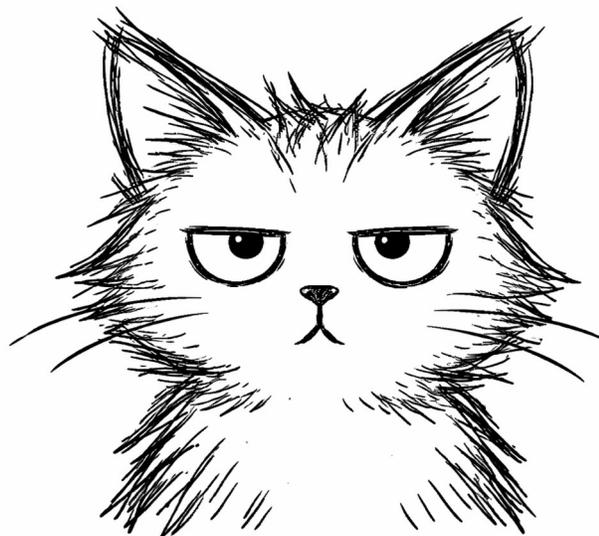
Maduro Deposed

Venezuelan Leader Captured In Late Stunning Raid

TELLURIA – The United States of America carried out a special operation in the closing days of year 7, successfully capturing the President of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, and his wife, Cilia Flores, and bringing them back to the United States. This operation followed months of military US Naval buildup in the Caribbean and attacks on vessels alleged to have been engaged in drug smuggling.

The couple, previously indicted on multiple charges relating to drug smuggling and the possession of machine guns, pleaded not guilty at their first court appearance.

Meanwhile, Maduro’s vice president, Delcy Rodríguez, has assumed leadership of the country.



Life Without A New Aesthetic

Exclusive Interview With Her Majesty

Can She Allay Pillowan Fears Going Into Year 8?

The Fortressian Letter sat down with Her Majesty, the Princess to discuss the future of the Principality as it nears the end of its first decade. NOTE: This interview was conducted before the dissolution of the Inter-Royal Collective Defense.

Fortressian Letter (FL): What's on your mind at the dawn of Year 8?

Her Majesty (HM): Education. The topic kept coming up rearguard 7 and it's been staying with me.

FL: Is Fortressian education lacking?

HM: Not lacking. I'd say undefined. Higher education we've sketched the contours of reasonably well, but primary and secondary, K-12, that needs work. Last year I saw a documentary on public education in Singapore and that was rather enlightening. In the West, the context we're most exposed to, education at present seems less focused on creating smart students than on creating 'good' students.

FL: Is moral instruction not an important area of knowledge?

HM: It would be if it worked. Seeing the instability and chaos in the world today, how can one say that the push for social-emotional learning has been successful? Even by its own metrics it seems to have failed. Fortressian education as I envision it will seem to be of an older time, bringing back the rote memorization of our parents' and grandparents' generations, plus innovations imported from successful states that haven't yet succumbed to the SEL madness; Singapore, Japan, etc.

FL: Moving on, why no new aesthetic this year?

HM: After politely directing my office to ignore your emails on the subject you just won't let it go. Fine. It's really the combination of three factors. First, the major AI platforms we'd previously use for image generation have gotten worse in that regard, even as their overall abilities increase. This is likely due to the wider world having certain aesthetic preferences and the systems being fine tuned to produce them at the expense of alternatives. In a word, it was difficult to produce anything that didn't look like generic slop. Second, there was very little time to prepare last year. Government resources were allocated to more important projects, such as the new legal code. Third, with development so far along on the Fortressian graphic design guide, there is a strong desire to mix those rules with the new aesthetic going forward. To put your mind at ease, yearly aesthetics aren't going away, they'll just be made to work within a larger design framework.

FL: How do you see your role as Princess evolving now that the Directory has been seated?

HM: I think it will be business as usual going forward.

FL: You don't think they'll try to check your power?

HM: No. The close relationship between the Directory and the Libertine Party means we're all on the same page. If I need something, I'm sure they'll provide.

FL: Speaking of the Libertine Party, rumor has it the Rearguard edition of *The Party Loyalist* ran a bit short.

HM: We don't discuss internal Party matters with outsiders.

FL: Thanks for joining us today, Your Majesty. Do you have any closing remarks for our readers?

HM: Happy new year 8! Let's all do our best!

Future Proofing the Constitution?

Everyday Pillowans Debate

With the seating of the 1st Directory the ability for the First Princess to amend the constitution arbitrarily has become slightly harder. Some Pillowans are urging constitutional reform before the opportunity is completely foreclosed. Other urge caution and restraint. We spoke to proponents of both sides in order to give you the full picture:

Space is Not an Open Door

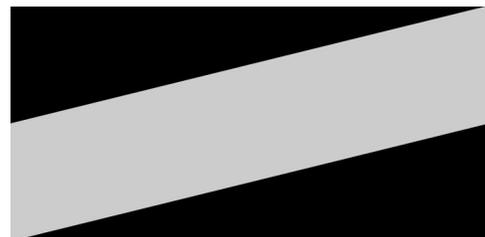
Did we all forget the FSSGR – TTE? Surely, Her Majesty didn't have it in mind when the Constitution of the Year I was promulgated, as it is woefully inadequate for a future in outer space. Consider the Proxima Sol Economic Zone (PSEZ), with its estimated 2.39×10^{24} km³ area. The Constitution grants citizenship to anyone born within the territory of the Principality. It is possible, as humanity becomes an interplanetary species, that people will not just be born in space, but that where in space they are born may be arbitrarily chosen. Enemies seeking to harm the Pillow Fortress need only cross a line into PSEZ and switch on their ectogenic birthing arrays, seeding the Principality with tens of millions of new Pillowans that will have all the legal rights as any other, but raised and trained for purposes beyond the government's ability to control or monitor. The PSEZ is simply too big to be patrolled. There could arise within it whole civilizations, antithetical to Fortressian values that work nonstop on our destruction or subversion. A simple flick of Her Majesty's wrist and this future threat can be eliminated.

Zeerust of the Mind

When the Constitution of the Year I was last amended, Her Majesty took out the provision granting automatic citizenship for those who had lived ten years within Fortressian territory. This marked a reversal from the government's otherwise left leaning policies. Now there are some Pillowans who believe it wasn't enough. They say we ought to rollback even more freedoms and opportunities in fear of some hypothetical event. Even in a world where the PSEZ is a porous border, by that point the population of the Pillow Fortress should be in the hundreds of billions. Maybe even trillions. A few million more Pillowans would be a rounding error. Also, this takes as a fact that something as large as PSEZ can't be patrolled. Why should we believe that? Yes, right now we can't prevent our enemies from entering and exiting PSEZ at will, but you know what they can't do? Enter PSEZ at will. All this fear mongering for the future does nothing but harm our state's reputation in the present.

Looking For Purpose In Life?

Join the Platinum Band and
defend your country!



Looking For Meaning In Life?

Join the Libertine Party and
serve your country!



Looking For Thrills In Life?

Join the Foreign Intelligence Organization
and protect your country!