

WHY WE MUST FIGHT

The Scottish Interplanetary Society*

11th November, 1970

Contents

1	The present and near future	474
2	Consequences	477
3	Why we must fight	479

Abstract

The programme is dying: we believe that it is essential that its memory should be kept alive, its research results and technologies preserved. Unfortunately there are now many who wish them to be obliterated. We have therefore formed an organisation, the *Scottish Interplanetary Society*, and invite those interested – whether or not they work on the programme directly – to join us in this fight.

Please contact us using the details below if you wish to be involved. A meeting will be organised presently for those interested. Some security-cleared ‘fellow-travellers’ from outwith the programme may also be invited to attend.

*William Douglas Weir Building, room 85/1, extension (840) 601

1 The present and probable near future of the programme

In the last two years it has become very clear to those of us involved in the programme that it cannot long survive, at least not in its present form.

Funding

Funding has always been difficult of course, but recently it has become very difficult. The two accidents serious enough that reporting them was unavoidable have not helped our situation: although most of the more serious safety issues have now, we believe, been addressed, the feeling that the programme is casual about safety – as indeed we must admit it *was* for many years – persists. There is some talk of ‘clean-up costs’ which may be considerable and would further reduce the programmes’ funding¹.

Politicians, who are our ultimate paymasters, are generally more concerned with the votes which keep them in power – or indeed of finding ways to remain in power without the inconvenience of votes – than they are in the science being done by the programme. Votes cost money² and so further reductions in funding for the programme, which does not have a vote, seem likely.

¹We admit that some of the decisions made early in the programme were perhaps questionable: the argument that rendering an area the size of Greater Glasgow uninhabitable for perhaps thousands of years was an acceptable risk no longer seems correct, for instance. On the other hand no accident on that scale did happen, and the safety of the special fuels is now much improved.

²We do not, of course, wish to imply that votes are being *bought*. At least not that they are being *openly* bought.

The enemies of the programme . . .

However funding problems are not now our most severe by a large margin. It is clear that there are powerful forces in English politics who have what, for want of a better word, is an *English nationalist* view of the world. For these people the idea that a small country to the north of their precious England – a country they would not even recognise as really different from England or indeed as a country at all – has not only attempted but *succeeded* in an undertaking which England, in its sloth and conceit, had not considered possible: for these people that idea is unacceptable.

These people regard Scotland as a colony, or at best a client state, of England: a place which has no independent existence other than to serve the ends of their imagined mighty English empire: to harbour its glorious navy, to provide labour, steel, coal, servants and somewhere to hunt in the summer. They have not, really, noticed that the empire, never actually glorious, finally collapsed more than two decades ago and is now just a fading memory in their decaying minds.

And nationalists, English or otherwise, are not so far from being fascists as they would have you believe. When reality interferes with their idiot fantasy, why, then reality must be edited in the way that we edit paper tape: the inconvenient parts spliced out and disposed of, and new subroutines patched in.

These elements are gaining increasing influence in the British government – which they regard as the *English* government, of course – and they do not wish the programme well. Indeed, they would prefer that the programme had never been and, perhaps, they have the means to achieve that goal.

... and their possible collaborators

As readers will know, there is now strong evidence that the programme has had the attention – and perhaps the assistance – of those we call ‘others’. We do not know their exact nature or where they are from, although it seems likely they are related to some of those curious peoples described in folklore and myth.

In the same way we have strong reasons to believe that our enemies may also be receiving assistance from certain entities, at whose exact nature we can only guess. We have a few friendly contacts within their organisation, one of whom wrote this:

There is a palpable sense of something awful here: something slow, cold, ancient and probably rather stupid. [...] Whatever it is, it is using our enemies for its own dark ends: it does not care about their interests but dimly understands that through them it can gain, what? perhaps *entrance*. [...] I think they are aware of the bargain they have signed and its likely consequences for them: but there is nothing they can now do but continue on the path they have chosen. (source 3)³

There is no concrete evidence and this may be fancy. However it is born out by at least one other source:

It’s coming, I can feel it. Cold, relentless, and horrible. I don’t know whether they control it or *it controls them*. I’m not sure what would be worse. (source 1)

³Source 3 has been silent since the message this passage comes from, and attempts at contact have failed. We still hope, but we must fear the worst.

Finally we must remember that we have no really concrete evidence for the others which we believe assist us: as we believe in them so we should at least consider believing in this.

So we must assume that there is an entity, or perhaps entities, which is assisting those forces in English politics which cannot abide the programme. Perhaps, indeed, that entity is *driving* them: wearing them like puppets made of flesh and bone, hollowed out by a vast parasite which now wears their still-living husks and watches through their eyes.

2 Consequences for the programme

We believe that the programme will not long survive in its present form: the forces arrayed against it are too great. The programme is approaching its end: we may be able to launch one final mission, but that is probably all, and even that is now in doubt. We don't think this view is now controversial.

But there is worse. Our opponents don't just seek the dissolution and liquidation of the programme: they seek its *obliteration*. They seek to create a world where the programme has never been, where history is rewritten to suit their idiot narrative of a glorious empire and English supremacy.

Authoritarians and fascists everywhere rewrite history to erase events they find inconvenient, and they do this more-or-less successfully: who now remembers that the cotton so important to the industrial revolution was picked by slaves, for instance? Perhaps one day this will be remembered again, but today this inconvenient truth has been written out of history by those for whom it is inconvenient.

But if we are correct in the forces they have at their disposal, those who oppose us may be able to rewrite history in a much more literal sense: to create a world where the programme simply *never was*. A world where all our work, all our achievements and discoveries, all our friendships and relationships never were. A world in which the children born to the couples who met through the programme never were born.

Already people are forgetting: ask any schoolchild about the programme and they will stare at you blankly. Ask their teachers and they will look in confusion, half-remembering something they once knew fully but which has somehow faded from their memory, has somehow *been removed* from their memory. Ask anyone about the large structures in Leith and they will say they are grain silos, or flour storage, or facilities for milk processing. Increasing numbers of staff fail to report for work on the programme and, later, are discovered wandering in confusion, knowing that they work *somewhere*, on *something*, but unable to remember exactly where, or what. Sometimes they recover, but more often not.

These changes are ever more rapid now: what was once a slow trickle of change is becoming a torrent as reality is modified at an increasing pace. Already we, the authors of this paper, sometimes struggle to remember the details of our work. If one final mission is launched, we fear that the crew will be left to drift as the staff in the ground segment forget their roles and the mission itself: as the programme fades from existence leaving the crew stranded without hope, looking in confusion at the bewildering array of switches and dials they no longer understand.

Reality is shifting even as we watch, and the programme is fast fading before our eyes. Soon we also will not remember it: soon it will never have been and will leave only some curious, unexplained but largely unnoticed, artifacts and inconsistencies in recent history. Perhaps all that will remain is the words of the recent popular song written about the programme:

This is Major Tom to ground control
I'm stepping through the door
and I'm floating in a most peculiar way
and the stars look very different today

Here am I floating in a tin can
far above the world
planet Earth is blue
and there's nothing I can do

3 Why we must fight

We are not concerned with politics, nationalism⁴, or the descent from democracy through authoritarianism and into fascism: that is not our place. If the programme must end it will end: we will go our separate ways to new positions and new challenges.

We are concerned only with truth: we are concerned that the programme should not be erased from history, that its achievements and discoveries should not be forgotten, that the brave men, women

⁴One of the authors of this paper is English, one an eastern European of Gypsy heritage, one a Scot one of whose parents was born in what is now Pakistan. We are not concerned with nationalism.

and others who have worked for, and in some cases died for, the programme should not have worked for nothing; should not have died for nothing. We will not accept the annihilation of all the work done here simply because it does not fit with an invented history of an empire that never was.

This is why we must fight. This is why we hope you will join us in our fight.

The Scottish Interplanetary Society is an organisation dedicated to preserving the legacy of those brave men, women and others who worked on the Scottish Space Programme; to uncovering the history of the programme; to conserving its physical sites; to exploring the current status of the programme; and finally to resisting those who now seek to erase all memory of the programme from history.