

IS THIS WHAT I'M WEARING?

WHO WAS THE LAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF TO GIVE A STATE-OF-THE-UNION IN FULL MILITARY DRESS? IKE?

THE POLLSTERS SAY IT CONNOTES AUTHORITY, GENERAL.

WE NEED TO REMIND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU INHERITED THE PRESIDENCY THROUGH TRAGEDY RATHER THAN ELECTION, YOU'RE STILL IN CHARGE.



LEADERSHIP. IT'S A BRAND IDENTITY THING.

WE EXPECT WHAT'S LEFT OF THE ENTIRE WORLD TO BE WATCHING THIS SPEECH, AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE.

NOT EVERYONE'S GOING TO AGREE WITH THAT.



ALL 78 SENATORS ARE ON BOARD. THE HOUSE ELECT WILL BACK YOU ONCE IT'S FULLY REORGANIZED. YES, NO ONE'S EVER SAID WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO SAY--

--BUT IT'S THE ONLY OPTION WE HAVE, AND IT'S NOT A BAD ONE.



AND YOU BELIEVE THAT? TO YOUR CORE?

...  
I DO.



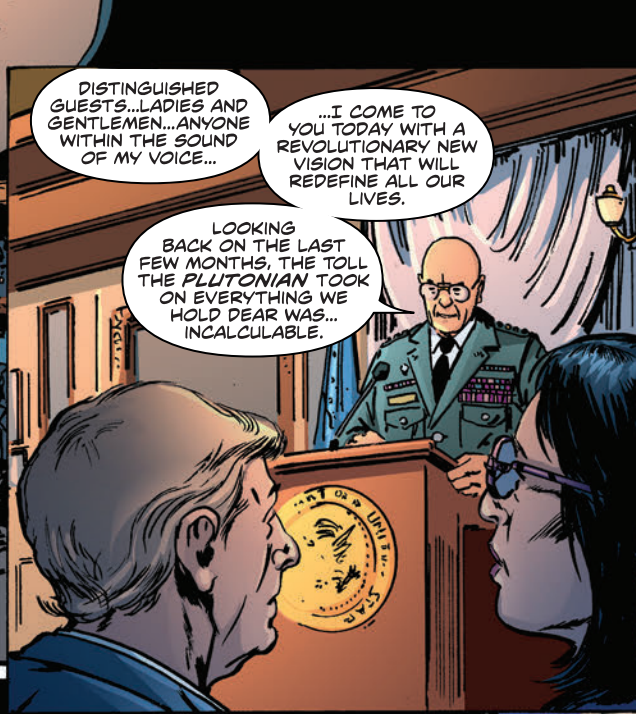
THEN YOU CAN SELL IT.

GOOD LUCK, SIR.





PLEASE RISE FOR ACTING PRESIDENT DONALD EHRLICH.



DISTINGUISHED GUESTS...LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...ANYONE WITHIN THE SOUND OF MY VOICE...

...I COME TO YOU TODAY WITH A REVOLUTIONARY NEW VISION THAT WILL REDEFINE ALL OUR LIVES.

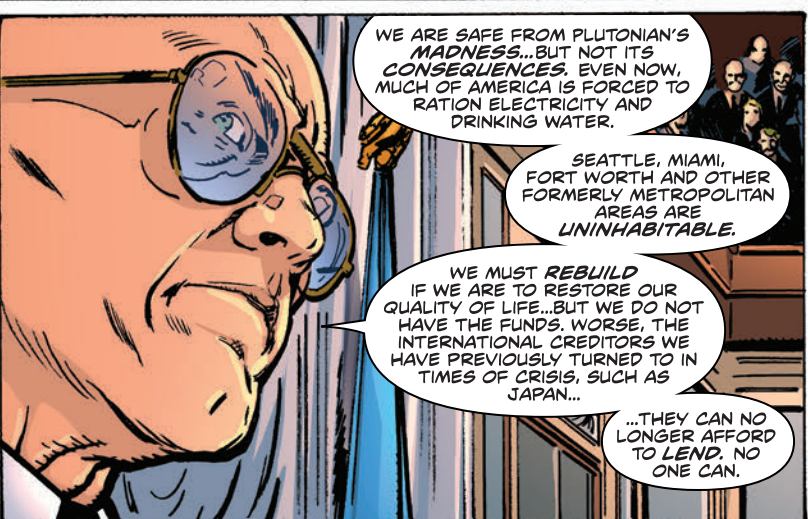
LOOKING BACK ON THE LAST FEW MONTHS, THE TOLL THE PLUTONIAN TOOK ON EVERYTHING WE HOLD DEAR WAS... INCALCULABLE.



"ENTIRE CITIES...ENTIRE COUNTRIES WERE LEVELED BY HIS POWER.

"HE MURDERED MILLIONS AND DESTROYED THE SOCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE OF NOT ONLY THE U.S.--

"--BUT DOZENS OF OTHER NATIONS, BEFORE HE WAS REMOVED FROM THIS PLANET BY THE GOOD WORK OF SURVIVOR AND THE PARADIGM."



WE ARE SAFE FROM PLUTONIAN'S MADNESS...BUT NOT ITS CONSEQUENCES. EVEN NOW, MUCH OF AMERICA IS FORCED TO RATION ELECTRICITY AND DRINKING WATER.

SEATTLE, MIAMI, FORT WORTH AND OTHER FORMERLY METROPOLITAN AREAS ARE UNINHABITABLE.

WE MUST REBUILD IF WE ARE TO RESTORE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE...BUT WE DO NOT HAVE THE FUNDS. WORSE, THE INTERNATIONAL CREDITORS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY TURNED TO IN TIMES OF CRISIS, SUCH AS JAPAN...

...THEY CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO LEND. NO ONE CAN.



SO AS MUCH AS I WOULD LIKE TO PROMISE YOU WE CAN RECONSTRUCT OUR GREAT CITIES, WE CANNOT...

...NOT ALONE.

GENTLEMEN?



**NORAD.**

HEY, GUYS?  
GUYS, SOMETHING'S  
TRACKING IN THE  
GEOSTATIONARY  
RANGE...!

THERE.  
SEE?

NO NEW  
SATELLITES  
MAPPED, BUT IT'S  
TOO FAR UP TO BE  
A NUKE OR A  
MISSILE.

IT'S NEAR  
NAVSAT-1. THAT  
HAS CAMERAS.  
CAN WE GET A  
VISUAL?

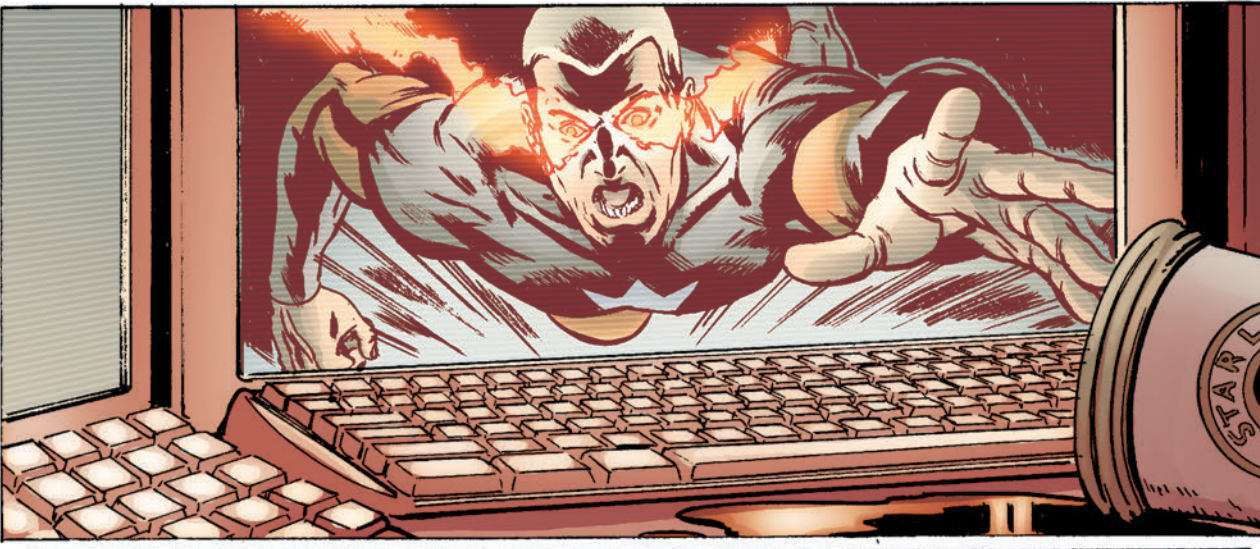
MY FELLOW CITIZENS...  
WITH THE CONSENT OF  
CONGRESS, THE UNITED  
STATES IS ENTERING A NEW  
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP  
WITH CHINA, BRAZIL,  
JAPAN, AND THE U.K.

THEY HAVE OFFERED TO  
SHOULDER THE COST OF  
REBUILDING OUR CITIES  
AS SHAREHOLDERS  
RATHER THAN  
LENDERS.

OH,  
SWEET  
GOD...!

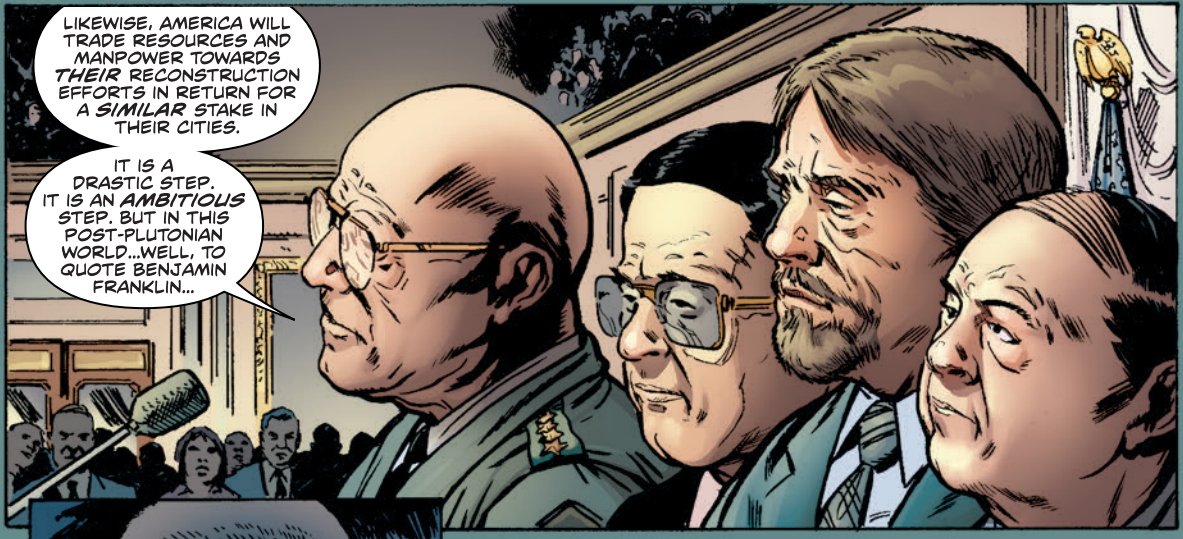
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ALERT!  
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ALERT!





LIKELIKE, AMERICA WILL TRADE RESOURCES AND MANPOWER TOWARDS THEIR RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS IN RETURN FOR A SIMILAR STAKE IN THEIR CITIES.

IT IS A DRASTIC STEP. IT IS AN AMBITIOUS STEP. BUT IN THIS POST-PLUTONIAN WORLD...WELL, TO QUOTE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN...



"...WE EITHER HANG TOGETHER OR HANG SEPARATELY."

