**MI7 Intelligence File**

**Eyes Only Briefing Memorandum**

**Project Crassus – Updates 14/3/34**

“Greed is but a word jealous men inflict upon the ambitious.”

* Marcus Licinius Crassus

**Primer**

Marcus Licinius Crassus was a praetor and consul of Rome, and was the military leader primarily responsible for the fall of Spartacus during the Third Servile War. The main point of note regarding Crassus was that the troops raised to fight Spartacus’s uprising were paid for out of his own pocket. This came about because Crassus grew to be regarded as the richest man in Rome largely by property speculation. He became obscenely wealthy in an incredibly short span of time largely by buying up property as it was damaged by his military forces, and then renting it back out, usually to the survivors among the previous owners.

It is to be assumed that the project name is a reference to receiving overnight wealth, the presumed goal of Project Crassus.

Details on this one are somewhat sketchy. The project is known to have existed, there are references in government files that attest to it, the only thing up in the air is its continued existence. 99% of references to the project were scrubbed, suggesting either an ongoing project of the highest security classification, or a failure so dismal no record was allowed to remain. The suspicion is the latter, but investigations continue.

Again, it is our friends the Long Gamers we have to thank for the information presented here. What we know has been corroborated by data taken from the Truthers, so the data we hold is at least internally consistent even if it turns out to be nonsense. The Long Gamers found briefing notes for government scientists newly entering the Zone facilities and there were references among those notes to Project Crassus. Not enough to glean much of use, but enough to know the project goals and the technology in use.

Project Crassus is an attempt to rewrite matter at the atomic level, essentially allowing us to convert one element into another at will, essentially a broader application of the age-old goal of alchemy, turning lead into gold. It seems that the technology in question involves nanites, miniature robots capable of moving the component parts of atoms around to make new substances out of others. Specific goals were unavailable, the briefing notes seen spoke in very nebulous terms regarding potential applications.

**Stated Goals**

The conversion of one form of matter into another via use of nanites.

Beyond that, goals were significantly more vague. There were references to repairing a human body on the battlefield, converting lesser materials into more valuable ones, not so much to generate wealth but to remove dependency on foreign powers with significant access to valuable minerals, to nanites as a means of industrial manufacturing, and to new forms of construction. It is this latter idea that probably generated the link to Crassus,

Nanotechnology is very much the technology of the moment, much like generative AI ten years ago, and just like AI the assumption is that nanotechnology will solve all our ills, give all humans everywhere a life of leisure and save us from environmental disaster. As to how much actual use it is remains to be seen.

**Outcomes**

Currently unknown. References to the project have been scrubbed from all databases and we are solely reliant on what some freelancer may or may not have handed over to a Zone reject desperate to prove a pet theory.

Leadership’s current opinion is that if we had got anywhere with nanotech we’d know. That’s not something anyone can keep quiet for long. Their belief is that all this work is still very at the whiteboard and wishful thinking stage.

**Rumours**

There are stories among the locals of the Zone about a man that appears and disappears at will, of objects appearing out of thin air and of a man capable of pushing his extremities through the bodies of others. All of these could easily be explained by the use of advanced nanotechnology, but just as likely they can be explained by virtue of being utter bullshit. Whilst leadership is not keen on the potential waste of man-hours it might be worth keeping an ear to the ground about this stuff and see what we can come up with by way of verifiable sightings or video footage.

If the appearing/disappearing people and objects are indeed nanotech in action we will need to urgently develop a strategy for capture and study.

**Next Steps**

This is something of a tricky one, we don’t really know enough to know what to do next here. The various other project threads have more material to work with, so by default they have become our bigger focus.

The first step is rumour chasing. This is always tedious but it does often yield useful material. Not always about what we were hoping for, but anything we learn is a plus. There should be enough credits stashed in the dummy accounts to loosen tongues in a few bars and the cache has enough high-end alcohol in it to win a lot of friends. Keep recording equipment active in case you end up getting a little drunk yourself.

Staff at the outpost will process everything picked up in the Bars and prepare the usual file of leads. Leads can then be distributed accordingly. Typically you will be allocated 4 to 8 leads to follow, colour coded to indicate the suspected strength of the lead. Prioritise the greens.