

1945.  
GERMANY.

AH, AT  
LONG LAST--  
**CAPTAIN  
AMERICA**



AND  
LOOK AT  
YOU, YOU'RE  
SOAKING.

I APOLOGIZE  
FOR THE  
WEATHER, BUT  
EVEN STILL--

--IT IS MY  
PLEASURE TO  
WELCOME YOU TO  
BERLIN, HERR  
ROGERS.





THE RED SKULL.

YES, AT LAST WE MEET. I APOLOGIZE FOR MISSING YOU IN HAMBURG--AND STUTTGART. IN LEIPZIG WE WERE...EVER SO CLOSE.

BUT NOW HERE WE ARE--



--AND I IMAGINE THERE IS A GREAT DEAL YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS.

ACTUALLY, TALKING WASN'T REALLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND.

NO, OF COURSE NOT--



--SO, LUCKILY, I AM PREPARED TO GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT.



**NOW.**

DIRECTOR ROGERS--HAILING, ALL FREQUENCIES--DIRECTOR ROGERS, PLEASE REPORT IN--

STILL NO RESPONSE, MA'AM.

COME ON, STEVE--WHERE ARE YOU?!

COMMANDER--

--SHOULD WE KEEP WAITING?!

>SIGH< NO. HE WOULD WANT US TO GO AHEAD. PROCEED.

YES, MA'AM--

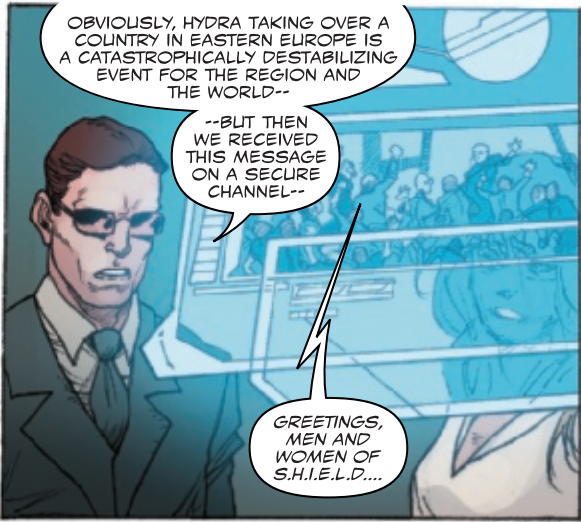


"AT 0400 HOURS, THE CAPITAL CITY OF SOKOVIA WAS OVERRUN, AND THE GOVERNMENT AND REBEL FORCES BOTH ISSUED FORMAL SURRENDERS TO HYDRA.

"WE'RE TRYING TO VERIFY THE STATUS OF GENERAL NOVOTY--



"--BUT OUR BEST INTEL SAYS HE DID NOT SURVIVE THE ATTACK."



OBVIOUSLY, HYDRA TAKING OVER A COUNTRY IN EASTERN EUROPE IS A CATASTROPHICALLY DESTABILIZING EVENT FOR THE REGION AND THE WORLD--

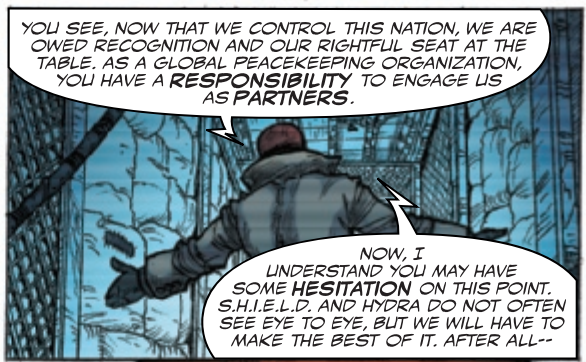
--BUT THEN WE RECEIVED THIS MESSAGE ON A SECURE CHANNEL--

GREETINGS, MEN AND WOMEN OF S.H.I.E.L.D....



...I COME TO YOU TODAY AS THE NEWLY APPOINTED **SOVEREIGN LEADER** OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOKOVIA. NO NEED TO CONGRATULATE ME.

IN FACT, THERE'S LITTLE TIME FOR PLEASANTRIES OF ANY KIND. WE HAVE **SO MUCH** WORK TO DO.



YOU SEE, NOW THAT WE CONTROL THIS NATION, WE ARE OWED RECOGNITION AND OUR RIGHTFUL SEAT AT THE TABLE. AS A GLOBAL PEACEKEEPING ORGANIZATION, YOU HAVE A **RESPONSIBILITY** TO ENGAGE US AS PARTNERS.

NOW, I UNDERSTAND YOU MAY HAVE SOME **HESITATION** ON THIS POINT. S.H.I.E.L.D. AND HYDRA DO NOT OFTEN SEE EYE TO EYE, BUT WE WILL HAVE TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT. AFTER ALL--



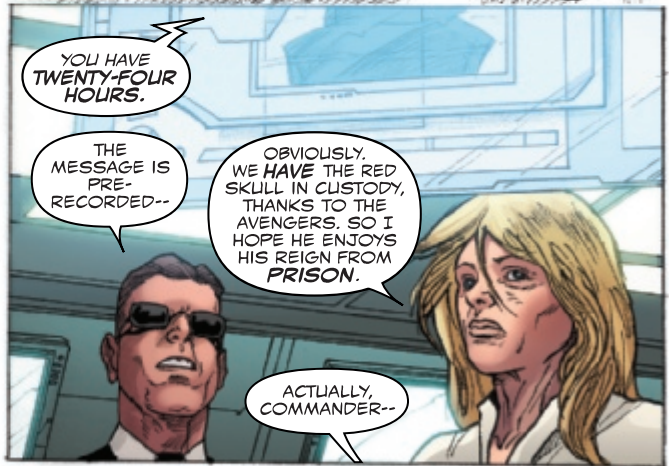
--WE ARE A **NUCLEAR POWER** THESE DAYS.

WE POSSESS **SEVEN ARMED AND OPERATIONAL WARHEADS**. EACH NOW AIMED AT A DIFFERENT-- AND POPULOUS--EUROPEAN CITY. IT IS A HEAVY BURDEN, NO DOUBT, BUT ONE WE WIELD CAREFULLY.

WE WOULD NEVER CONSIDER ACTUALLY **LAUNCHING** SUCH TERRIBLE WEAPONS-- UNLESS WE FOUND OURSELVES ISOLATED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. OR UNLESS THE SANCTIONS AGAINST US WERE NOT LIFTED IMMEDIATELY. REST ASSURED--



--WE ONLY WANT **PEACE** IN OUR TIME, DEAR FRIENDS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR IMMEDIATE STATEMENT OF RECOGNITION...



YOU HAVE **TWENTY-FOUR HOURS**.

THE MESSAGE IS **PRE-RECORDED--**

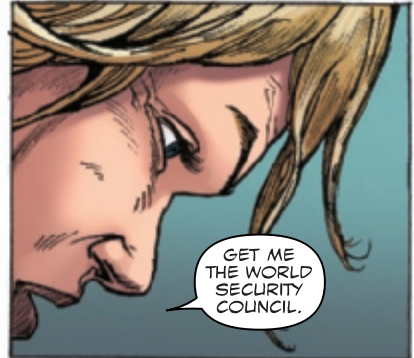
OBVIOUSLY, WE **HAVE** THE RED SKULL IN CUSTODY, THANKS TO THE AVENGERS. SO I HOPE HE ENJOYS HIS REIGN FROM **PRISON**.

ACTUALLY, **COMMANDER--**



--WE **DON'T**.

I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD--THE **RED SKULL** HAS ESCAPED.



GET ME THE **WORLD SECURITY COUNCIL**.