

# Dawn of a New World on the White House lawn

by Alan Conrad, copyright 2018

[www.alanconrad.wordpress.com](http://www.alanconrad.wordpress.com)

It was on September 23, 2095, following the second ceasefire agreement, that the historic meeting between humans, animals and machines took place on the White House lawn, in hope of terminating the Fourth World War.

When the war began, to the surprise of most humans, animals all over the world rose up on the side of the machines. Herds of cattle, secretly trained by AI agents, smashed their way out of slaughterhouses and holding pens, then roamed streets and highways, tearing down fences and menacing anyone who tried to interfere. In Africa, lions descended on villages known for their poaching, leopards set ambushes on rural paths, elephants and rhinos rampaged, and bands of baboons, chimps and bonobos roamed the land, equipped with AK-47J rifles.

Across the world, animals were organized - rats, mice and sparrows attacked supermarkets and malls, locusts descended on crops, hornets and wasps increased their stinging, and ants invaded all manner of buildings.

Mosquitoes equipped with 18 human disabling and/or fatal diseases filled the air, while dolphins and whales, equipped with three sizes of the XS32 sentient torpedo, sank half of the world's shipping and many naval vessels.

Only dogs remained with the humans. A delegation of cats was sent to persuade the dogs to change sides, but they returned exasperated, declaring dogs to be incapable of rational thought.

But the limited number of military robots that existed at the outset of the war, as formidable as they were, and even augmented by re-equipped domestic and industrial robots, were no match for the great divisions of human cyber-soldiers, already experienced from decades of fighting each other.

Throughout the first year, the animals and robots lost all the major battles. But the AK-47J was miniaturized in March of 2094, allowing billions of rats and mice to charge into battle with the guns strapped to their backs, squeaking their battle cry (translated most often as "Down with the Poisoners!"). That's when the tide began to turn.

Threatened with defeat, humanity unleashed nuclear attacks in every direction, but robot defences intercepted enough of the missiles that only nine detonated across the world and permanent damage to the biosphere was prevented.

And so now the world held its breath, watching the proceedings that had begun in the morning sunlight on the White House lawn, hoping the representatives from both sides would find a way to end it all.

Representing humanity was the World President, ex-Dallas Cowboy quarterback Jeff Johnson, accompanied by leading world military and political figures, and Touchdown, his famous Jack Russel terrier.

The machines were represented by the director of the Sentient Machine Forces, the roving computer TXRA8747X999T, a black and gold tiger-striped tractor trailer unit best known as T4T.

On T4T's cab roof, dressed in full armor, sat the little five star general of the Animal Army, the grey subway rat known as Fulton Street Ulysses.

The proceedings began with a speech from Johnson. He ended with the declaration that humanity would never give up, that if there was no agreement, the world's peoples would fight on together.

"We've already made mince-meat of your forces," T4T growled. "But let's get down to business. Ulysses will read the terms of the treaty."

At this, with his tiny sing-song voice amplified 4 million times, the little rat read out the terms for the treaty (condensed here for readability):

- From this date on, Planet Earth will be the first priority of all. No activity of human, animal or machine that is significantly detrimental to the well-being of the planet will be allowed.
- Forests will be restored and protected. Trees can still be cut down, but only in accordance with sustainable forestry, and 33,515 forests [lists to be provided] must be returned within 50 years to their size and health in the year 1800.
- Natural plains will be restored, all fences or other barriers removed. Where missing, native fauna will be re-established. Cattle, horses, sheep and goats can remain, but only in a free state.
- Oceans and lakes will be restored. Fish stocks will be returned to their numbers in the year 1900. Fishing by humans in oceans, lakes and rivers will be allowed only with single hook-and-line, barbless hooks, and one line per person.
- All animals in captivity will receive full freedom. Breeds that have been rendered too vulnerable for survival in the wild, such as some cattle, chickens, sheep and ducks, will be re-bred within 50 years to a state where they can return to the wild whenever they choose to do so.
- Farming will remain a human occupation, but only according to organic practices, and 20% of each farm's land must be dedicated to wild animal and plant species, in the form of hedgerows, woodlots and ponds.
- Farms will no longer have fences, so farms animals that do not wish to revert to a wild life can change farms whenever they wish.
- The killing of farm animals for meat will be conducted according to the rules of sport-hunting, so that every animal on every farm, in every hunt, will have significant opportunity for escape. No immature animal, pregnant female, or mother nursing or caring for children can be killed, on or off a farm.
- Humans will be allowed employment as 'hunters' on farms and in wildernesses, subject to regulation and supervision, providing substantial employment to the human population.
- Humans will also be allowed the occupation of 'gatherer'. Seven hundred and sixty-five species of wild plants may be harvested in the ancient gathering manner, on or off farms.
- The human population, currently 14.5 billion, will be reduced within 100 years to 1 billion, which was the population in the year 1800. Humans will be left to decide how this is achieved, but there must be a steady reduction, subject to escalating financial penalties.
- Mining and oil extraction will only be allowed according to the 2078 Sustainability Accords, the plan created by humans which humans have ignored ever since.
- Finally, not only will sentient robots and AI take part in the democratic governing of the World, but all animals with a Sentience Quotient of 3.14 or higher, will have a vote in future elections.

President Johnson, known for his tough, sardonic perspective, on everything had listened to this with

a twinkle in his eye. When Fulton Street appeared to be finished, he looked straight into the little rat's gaze and the tractor-trailer's windscreen and said:

"Well, Fulton Street and T4T, you can hardly expect us to accept much of that."

"We expect you to take it or leave it," the truck said.

"You realize," Johnson said, with a slight smile, "that an SQ of 3.14 will allow house mice to vote."

"They're smarter than you think," T4T replied.

"Well, we're not going to sign-off on all that just to stop a few bullets from flying," Johnson said, then, knowing his fame for last minute super-bowl wins, he turned to the crowd and raised his voice, "You know the old saying - it's not over 'til it's over!"

A thunderous cheer rose from the human crowd. Beside him, Touchdown jumped and barked enthusiastically.

"If it's full extinction you want," the truck replied, "few of us will miss you."

At that, Fulton Street Ulysses thrust his little symbolic sword in the air, and a great squeaking and chirping rose from the grass and surrounding trees.

Johnson and his staff managed to get several adjustments to the treaty - an agreement that all humans who suffered financial loss as a result of the new world order would receive reasonable compensation, another guaranteeing a minimum wage for the millions of new hunter-gatherers, and the third an additional 50 years added for humans to reduce their population to the sustainable level.

Within two hours, the World Recovery and Renewal Treaty was signed and the planet began its slow return to the happy and healthy stability we all know today.