

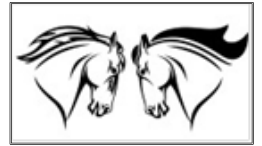


*To the General of the Northern Eagle,*

*Following through on the research that you had funded through the Senate, I regret to confirm that your suspicions are accurate. There does seem to have been another spike in the Thule population.*

*If the divinations and scout reports are accurate, then the current generation of Thule is one of the largest in a hundred years. The last time there was this kind of surge in their numbers was toward the end of the reign of Emperor Guntherm. At that time, the Thule had suffered significant losses in conflicts with Emperor Guntherm. On this occasion, it seems almost certain that the Thule will be compelled by demographic pressures to expand in order to acquire more territory and natural resources and so accommodate this enlarged population.*

*That there has been a second surge in the Thule population is either a remarkable coincidence, or no coincidence at all. Regrettably, following Nivovar's*



*destruction of the libraries and archives, we are unable to verify if this has any further precedent, such as being a cycle that the Thule ores undergo every century, or so.*

*Irrespective of the cycle, or pattern, the reality remains unchanged. The Thule problem is a clear and pressing danger for the Empire, for which I must trust that the Military Council possesses the Virtue to solve it.*

*However, trusting that we are able to resolve the problems of the current generation of Thule, it may be worth investigating these population surges in closer detail so that we do not have to solve the problem again in our next lives.*

*In service to the Empire,*

*Augustine Skyview*

*Imperial Civil Service*