

Committee: Council of Marvel

Issue: *Vibranium*: Measures to prevent its trafficking

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Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Argyris Darakis. I am a 16-year-old student attending Arsakeio School of Psychiko in the 11th grade. It is my honour to be serving as one of the deputy presidents of the Council of Marvel at this year's ATSMUN. It is going to be my first time chairing and my 7th conference overall.

First of all, I would like to take a moment to welcome you to the committee. The study guide took a lot of effort to write and I cannot wait to see the interesting debate the topic will spark. I would advise against it being your only source, and I cannot stress this enough. While it was made to be as objective and as informative as possible, it is still highly helpful to do your own research.

For any questions that you may have you can get in touch with me through my email (argirisdarakis@gmail.com). I am always willing to help and can't wait to meet you in November.

Yours faithfully,

Argyris

INTRODUCTION

Vibranium stands as an enigmatic and coveted substance, revered for its exceptional properties and near-invincibility. There is an urgent need for measures to prevent vibranium trafficking, whose illicit trade jeopardises global security, undermines economic stability, and fuels environmental degradation. Vibranium's unique properties, including its unmatched energy-absorbing capabilities, make it a desirable asset for both legitimate and illicit purposes. In a world where advanced technology and military prowess often hinge on access to this precious metal, a shadowy underbelly of criminals, arms dealers, and unscrupulous organisations emerges, vying to profit from the forbidden trade in vibranium. As we delve into the clandestine world of illegal vibranium dealings, we'll uncover the high-stakes conflicts and moral dilemmas faced by those who seek to acquire this extraordinary substance through unauthorised means.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Vibranium

Vibranium is a rare metallic ore with energy-manipulating properties. Theorised to have been first deposited on Earth by a meteorite 1,000,000 years ago the material has long been hypothesised to be extraterrestrial in origin. If tempered properly through a mix of magic and science, vibranium can amplify mystical energies. The material becomes highly unstable when used this way because it taps into an energy flow on the quantum level that is virtually infinite. If someone was able to master the secret of using magically charged vibranium, they would become immensely powerful.

Vibranium sickness

Mining vibranium can have a negative impact on the health of both those mining it and others living in proximity to the mines. Aside from the mutagenic effect that the radiation from unprocessed ore can have on nearby lifeforms, some mining techniques create toxic by-products that can seep into local groundwater and poison

those who drink it. The resulting "vibranium sickness" can be fatal if not correctly identified and properly treated.

Trafficking

Trafficking is the illegal transportation of objects, substances, information or people, such as out of a house or building, into a prison or across an international border in violation of applicable laws or other regulations. More broadly, social scientists define trafficking as the purposeful movement across a border in contravention of the relevant legal frameworks.

Wakandan vibranium

Also known as vibranium A, it is found almost exclusively in the small African nation of Wakanda. Wakandan Vibranium absorbs vibratory or kinetic energy in its vicinity within itself. When focused on the molecular level, it can even sap the energy that binds particles together causing matter to disintegrate.

Antarctic vibranium

Also known as vibranium B or Savage Land Vibranium (SLV), it has thus far been found only in the isolated region of Antarctica known as the Savage Land. It is also known as "Anti-Metal" due to its opposite effects to Wakandan vibranium.

Living Vibranium

Living vibranium was discovered by Dora Milaje and then refined by the once-famous Wakandan scientist, Obinna Nwabueze. His delving into the subatomic structure of vibranium yielded results in the form of semi-sentient consciousness within it resulting in a truly self-reliant smart metal that could fend for itself.

Reverbium

It is an artificial variant of vibranium that was created by Sajani Jaffrey after most of the world's vibranium was rendered inert. This variant is imperfect, so rather than absorbing vibrational and kinetic energy, it does the opposite and pushes it away, making it a powerful weapon even in lesser amounts.

Bioterrorism

Bioterrorism is terrorism involving the intentional release or dissemination of biological agents. These agents include bacteria, viruses, and/or toxins, and may be in a naturally occurring or a human-modified form, in much the same way as in biological warfare.

Wakanda

Officially known as the Kingdom of Wakanda, Wakanda is a small isolationist landlocked country located in Africa, surrounded by mountain ranges and a dense jungle. It is one of the most technologically advanced nations on Earth, known for its rich deposits of the element vibranium. Wakanda is a constitutional monarchy, with King T'Challa as head of state.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Origin

Vibranium is a rare metallic mineral with an extraterrestrial origin. It is hypothesized to have been first deposited on Earth by a meteorite 1 million years ago. Captain Marvel proved this theory to be true during a scuffle between survivors of the Builders' attack and the Spartax Empire, where the latter had begun poisoning the refugee population by secretly mining Vibranium for use in rebuilding their fleets. Although Vibranium was once mined on multiple planets, aside from the planets Earth and Torfa, there are no known stores of Vibranium left in the Milky Way Galaxy.

There are said to be five different types of vibranium found on Earth. Two of the best-known isotopes are Wakandan Vibranium and Antarctic Vibranium.

Vibranium in Wakanda

The king of Wakanda had guarded vibranium for generations. When T'Challa became the new king of the Wakandans and adopted the sacred guise of the Black Panther, he strove to end Wakanda's isolation and sold small quantities of vibranium to foreigners, who could be trusted with its power. This proved to be a hugely lucrative enterprise: Wakandan Vibranium is sold at \$10,000 per gram, and the country's sacred

mound is estimated to hold about 10,000 tons of the material. T'Challa uses this income to modernize the nation and offer a better quality of life to its people.

Properties and Dangers

If tempered properly through a mix of magic and science, Vibranium can amplify mystical energies. The material becomes highly unstable when used this way and if someone was able to master the secret of using magically charged vibranium, they would become immensely powerful. Dr. Doom utilized this property in his latest scheme for ultimate power, nearly crippling King T'Challa. Through the use of vibranium Doctor Doom could temporarily assume total control over the planet's very biosphere via the transplant of said ambient alien metal, in every civilized corner of the globe.

This constitutes a threat to the whole planet, especially considering that the mutant criminal Vanisher attempted to make off with stolen Vibranium to sell on the black market in New York City. It should also be noted that mining Vibranium can have a negative impact on the health of both those mining it and others living in proximity to the mines. Aside from the radiation that an unprocessed ore can have on nearby lifeforms, some mining techniques pollute the local groundwater and poison those who drink it.

Of all the strange qualities Vibranium has, is the fact that some Vibranium is alive. This sentient Vibranium was discovered by the Dora Milaje in a cave known as the Echo Chamber. Sentient Vibranium actually has a habit of mimicking whoever ends up using it. This bond between weapon and wielder could be used to great effect, but could also be very dangerous. The living Vibranium could become violent in its own right if it bonded with the wrong type of person.

History of Trafficking Attempts

There have been numerous attempts to breach into factories, mines and even Wakanda itself to steal vibranium but only a handful of them are successful and even less are documented. The most famous example of a successful theft of vibranium is the case of N'jobu and Ulysse Klaue, where in 1992 Klaue was ordered to steal a casing

full of the coveted substance so N'jobu could have a reason to start a revolution. When Klaue managed to pull off this heist he went on to sell most of it through the black market and he sold the rest of it 23 years later to Ultron who went on to try to destroy humanity. After that, Klaue went on to collaborate with Erik Killmonger, but it was cut short due to him getting captured by Wakandans for his theft. Although Killmonger rescued him, he ultimately betrayed him and that marks the end of the most successful vibranium thief and trafficker of all time.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Wakanda

Wakanda is unique because it is the exclusive source of vibranium. The nation's ability to control and protect this valuable resource has enabled it to develop an advanced, technologically superior society that remains hidden from the world. Wakanda's use of vibranium has revolutionised medicine, engineering, and defence, making it a global leader in innovation.

Ulysses Klaue is probably the most famous and the only successful example of a heist and trafficking of vibranium from Wakanda. He has the knowledge to assist any potential thieves.

Antarctica

Antarctica is the second producer of another type of this precious metal that acts as the complete opposite of regular vibranium and can negate all of its effects. So by having this type of vibranium fall into the wrong hands, we could end up helpless since most of the weapons used by the Avengers are made from Wakandan vibranium.

United States of America (USA)

The United States Of America are one of the most influential countries on Earth. They have tried to make deals with Wakanda for vibranium but are still unsuccessful. Also, the biggest organisations relevant to the matter at hand are active in this country (Shield, Stark Industries, etc). Lastly, it should be noted that their opinion is oftentimes a deciding factor for the adoption of related policies.

United Nations (UN)

The United Nations have helped significantly to combat the issue of vibranium trafficking by passing resolutions that aim to stop the illegal trade of precious metals. Moreover, they aid the cause by being the direct helper of SHIELD in any of their operations regarding the protection of vibranium.

Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement and Logistics Division (S.H.I.E.L.D)

SHIELD is the biggest consumer of vibranium out of any organisation in the galaxy, that they use to enhance their arsenal. They conduct a lot of trade with Wakanda where they have gained all of their vibranium from.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
2.5 million years ago	A meteorite containing vibranium crashed into the African region that would be known as Wakanda.
February 1940	Howard Stark presented vibranium in Los Angeles, a metal Stark Industries researchers discovered in Africa.
2010	N'Jobu decided to initiate a global revolution, for people of African descent around the world were being oppressed. To arm his cause, he revealed his country's existence to black-market arms dealer Ulysses Klaue and helped him infiltrate Wakanda in order to steal a cache of vibranium resulting in the deaths of several Wakandan citizens.
May 2015	Ultron used vibranium to make himself the “perfect robotic body”.
2016	After the events with Erik Kilmonger vibranium and other Wakandan products became legally tradable.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

ECOSOC Resolution (E/2019/30)

In 2019, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted the resolution 2019/23 titled “Combating transnational organized crime and its links to illicit trafficking in precious metals and illegal mining, including by enhancing the security of supply chains of precious metals” on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The resolution expresses great concern on the negative impact on the livelihoods of communities and the environment (i.e the effects of the use of mercury, the impact on protected natural areas and on indigenous lands), as well as the capacity of Governments to regulate the mining of and trade in precious metals and stem illicit trade and money-laundering linked to the production of and trade in precious metals.

2016 Taskforce

In 2016 the first theft and trafficking of vibranium happened and a taskforce was successfully introduced and combated the issue at that time. In the same year, the United Nations had a hearing with this task force and came to a fair and beneficial conclusion.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The Creation of a Special Task Force

The creation of a special task force is needed for the smooth-running of most operations due to the importance of Vibranium as it’s a coveted substance that can be made into incredibly powerful weapons and even become one of the deadliest biological agents. By assembling a task force of specialists and warriors alike we could solve the issue of protection at the points of extraction and have insight on the dangerous effects of such a substance and how to control it.

More specifically, Vibranium radiation has permeated much of Wakanda's flora and fauna, including the Heart-Shaped Herb eaten by members of the Black Panther Cult. Members of the Panther tribe who consume the herb are instinctively tied to the Vibranium, able to sense whenever it is taken out of their country by illicit means. So, a task force directed by Wakandan soldiers, in combination with the technological and economic means of other nations, would be nearly unstoppable and incredibly efficient when it comes to preventing illegal trading of vibranium.

Tighten Security in the Mines and Vibranium Storage Facilities

Two of the most important places to control/monitor are the mines-where Vibranium is excavated and stored and the black market as it is most likely that people who would like to traffic/sell this coveted substance will either way go through this path due to the fact that selling this rare metal is illegal. So, by having a way to monitor everything that happens in those places you could greatly minimize the risk of theft and therefore trafficking as a whole.

More Cooperation from Countries Rich in Vibranium

Cooperation and transparency are probably the most important goals we need to have between countries, organisations, and individuals with enough power to help combat this issue. One of the most concrete examples is the collaboration with big tech corporations (eg Stark Industries) in order to make a surveillance system based on face recognition and fingerprints as well as an advanced camera and surveillance system.

Stricter Punishments to Discourage Potential Thieves

Stricter punishments are based on the deterrence theory, which posits that individuals are less likely to commit a crime if they believe the potential punishment is severe and likely to be applied. When potential thieves are aware of the harsh consequences of their actions, they may think twice before engaging in criminal behaviour. Also, potential thieves often weigh the potential rewards of their criminal activities against the risks of getting caught and punished. Stricter punishments increase the perceived risk, making theft a less attractive option.

Utilise Robots to Minimise the Risk of Theft

The most vulnerable part of the process of extracting vibranium from the earth and distributing it is in the mines due to its low amount of surveillance so to combat

this issue of theft we could make every part of this process automatic with robots programmed to do the jobs that the miners and the drivers do so no one can be bribed or blackmailed into stealing or giving information.

FURTHER READING

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