INT. CYGNI - ADJACENT ROOM

On monitor: Colonel Steven Boutell, an aging officer speaking from behind a desk. The transmission occasionally breaks up.

BOUTELL
...No matter what we try, we’re not getting through. It might just be the atmosphere, but I think we’re being blocked.

Pulling out from the monitor, we’re in a small crew quarter. Jeremy picks up archeological artifacts while he waits. A Guard stands watch outside the door.

BRADLEY
Have you tracked down the cause of the explosion?

BOUTELL
(shakes his head)
... It’s inconclusive. But we also have a survey team missing below the planet surface. I don’t think this is a coincidence.

BRADLEY
Colonel, we can be at your position in less than a day.

BOUTELL
Are you trying to get out of those negotiations?

BRADLEY
Of course not.

BOUTELL
Anyway, you’re not equipped for this sector. We... are having some problems...

BRADLEY
What kind of problems?

BOUTELL
A strange phenomenon. This whole sector is engulfed in some sort of blackout. It’s like the space just absorbs energy.
Bradley and Jeremy become puzzled.

BOUTELL (CONT’D) (cont’d)
We are using 35% of ship’s power
just for this transmission. Anyway,
we need those logs.

BRADLEY
We’ll send them. Good to hear from
you again.

BOUTELL
Likewise. Boutell out.

The screen returns to a logo. Jeremy has walked over to the
captain’s desk. Bradley gets up.

BRADLEY
Send him the logs.

Jeremy acknowledges.

BRADLEY (CONT’D)
(to Guard)
Overman...

GUARD
(steps into room)
Sir?

BRADLEY
(walks to door)
Report to the mediator that I won’t
be able to attend the remaining
negotiations. Urgent matters.

GUARD
Sir!?

BRADLEY
Carry on, that’s an order.

The Guard looks mystified, then leaves. Jeremy walks over to
Bradley.

JEREMY
Sir?

BRADLEY
(quiet)
How soon can we end this without
ticking off the delegates?
(MORE)
I want to stop by sector 481 on our way to Rana 4.

They... are in different directions, sir...

You don’t say...?

I’ll make the necessary preparations.

Jeremy leaves. Bradley ponders her next move, then walks out.