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"In order"

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Some time ago, my husband told me that his colleague said to him, "another meeting with them is in order."

As expected, my mind started to wonder what exactly this meant. Another meeting is desirable in their opinion? Is it necessary?

Or has it already been arranged?

I turned to some dictionaries to pin down the meaning.

Collins Dictionary

If you think something is in order, you think it **should happen or be provided**.

- -Reforms are clearly in order.
- -Congratulations are surely in order!

Longman:

To be a suitable thing to do or say on a particular occasion

Merriam-Webster: appropriate, desirable

Come to think of it, "an apology is in order" is also a common example of "in order" in line with this definition.

In conclusion, I think it is fair to assume that my husband's colleague felt that the meeting was desirable and should happen. But to describe it as being necessary is probably a little strong and the meeting was unlikely to have already been arranged at that point.

Thanks for reading!

Noriko Rogers

Borderless Interpreting & Translation, LLC

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