

In this issue of North America's #1 Dipzine, the

BRUTUS BULLETIN

the TEN DAY DEADLINE game begins !!

Et tu, Brute

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal Diplomacy (TM) brought to you every two weeks by John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 5262, Moore, Oklahoma 73165. BB is available at the rate of 16/\$4, 25¢ apiece, which barely covers postage. No trades, no calls with orders except for the Special, contributions of all kinds encouraged, etc. BRUTUS BULLETIN exists to run a few games fast and cheap, the way the editor wishes his own playing games were run. Especially those in which he is not doing well...

HOBBY NEWS

HOBBY NEWS

DIPLOMACY WORLD is apparently going to try and have an issue out in February, according to Jerry Jones, producer. Rates to trading pubbers will be 4/\$2, $\frac{1}{2}$ the price of others. Personally, I think that is a mistake; I can't see why DW should trade with anyone. If it is to be the pro zine it should be, trades have no part in it. Are archive files of every which Dipzine under the sun that important? Couldn't they be obtained just for the asking in most cases? And the exceptions from general appeal like Buchanan used to do? Next, all recipients will automatically become members of the IDA, and IDA will get 10¢ a copy kickback from DW. That too seems backwards. If the IDA is going to unilaterally annex the DW subbers pool to bloat its membership ranks and give it claim, however tenuous, to really representing anyone, I think the IDA ought to be paying DW 10¢ an issue as tribute for this usurpation. It's a slick trick to try and save IDA, whose membership I understand had fallen below Jones' own LD&NS, and may work. However, I seriously question the value of an organization which must resort to such charades to build itself up. I will watch closely this next year and see what they do with their new claim to hobby greatness.

MILLER NUMBERS for variant games are available promptly from Mike Smolin, AMNC, 868 Russet Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087, for those of you running or in unnumbered variants.

BUMM (pronounced 'Boom') is a European Dipzine put out by Walter Luc Haas in Switzerland. Formerly English/German, he has announced that he is dropping his English language part to concentrate on German.

KONRAD BAUMEISTER of EGGNOG fame is dropping his status as challenger to Ron Kelly in standing by for everything and anything. He is now in over 30 games, publishes one of the best new zines around, and by many (but not all) accounts, is the new Archivist for DW. So now, if your game neighbor NMR's, you can rest easier. (U)

RANDOLPH SMYTH of FOL SI FIE fame has moved to Medicine Hat, Alberta. Yes, Virginia, there is a real Medicine Hat, no joke. He is at 275 SE Third Street, Apt 314, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 0G4, Canada. (403) 526-7963

And last but not least, the hobby will now be treated to the sight of my own Ten Day deadline Special right here in the pages of BRUTUS BULLETIN. My 78AX was the first 78 game finished in EVERYTHING as of the close of 1978, and possibly the ONLY one. Let's see what we can do with this 79?? game. Without separations, we'd be to 1911 by Sept 1st:

GAME OPENINGS are all but a thing of the past here. I have ONE (count 'em, folks, 1) opening left in a regular 14-day game, and if Ron Brown puts me into his Demo to start it, he will get spot 7 in this as his reward (however undesired). One break for any of you considering it: both Austria and Italy have been volunteered for!!

JOHN'S NOTES?

No, not really. No time this issue, everything is too rushed. I'll have to use the bottom of this page for the Kiv press, and run the new gamestart on the back of the opposite sheet instead of the face as I'd hoped. The alternative to all this is too hold off until later, but then 3 deadlines are due and the office is moving up one floor, so I'll just send out what I've got. I hope to catch up better by next issue.

I'd like to thank Arturo Guajardo for the new title masters. I'll try to get a lot of use out of them.

LEE KENDTER Sr is opening a subzine to his excellent WHY ME? called BLADE to handle strictly games on the off-weeks when WM isn't due. If you're looking for prompt 3-week service, send a stamp for a sample/details to 4347 Benner St, Philadelphia, PA 19135

STEVE McLENDON is filling a huge world variant with large world map and impressive rules, etc., which I'd meant to run sooner, but didn't. Write to Steve for details. Box 57066, Webster, TX 77598. His address is somewhere else in this issue too, and since I'm doing this from memory, use the other if it differs.

J.M.

78 Kiv Press:

EGGNOG TO VON SCHLIEFFEN HQ: Nobody cares how you "played" 1977KS, stupid fool. It seems like you're almost washed up there, anyways. In addition, we know very little about your grades in college, do we? If they were any good, knowing you all too well, we'd surely have heard all about them! As for your zine, I haven't received a trade copy since early September—that's hardly running a zine, is it? If you're wondering what happened to EGGNOG, I can tell you: It's not being sent your way any longer, due to lack of your zine. (Even though I find it hard to call that rag a zine.) Aside from that, you didn't get your moves in for 1977KU in on tm time anyways. As for my attack on you in 1977KS, there's an easy explanation for that: You didn't write me. That's my policy in most standby arrangements of that calibre: I attack if I get no letters. Which is also why you're being attacked in ULTRA. Don't you remember: The name of the game is Diplomacy?

((The above press was held over from the winter season. EGGNOG is the zine of Konrad Baumeister who was mentioned in Reges' VON SCHLIEFFEN HQ press in the FO1 season, and replies here. This is because he was both mentioned, and, Mr Shaffer has extended an invitation to any interested non-players to submit any press they'd wish too as well. Neither of the players, surprisingly (and disappointingly) submitted any press this season. Let's hope we'll see some next season.))

J.M.

1977 KN }
1977 KS } all due Monday, Jan 22^d.
1978 IH }

Oaklyn-Frost Grudge Games

Seasons seperated at player request.

Grudge Game 1 (19780iw) Winter, 1901

Frost: England builds A LON,. Has A LON, A HOL, F NTH, F ENG
Italy: builds F NAP. Has F NAP, F TUN, A VEN, A TYO
Turkey builds F CON, F Ank (Imp. Ank occupied). Has F RUM, F CON,
A ANK, A BUL, plays one short.

Oaklyn: Austria builds A BUD, A VIE Has A BUD, VIE, TRI, SER; F GRE

France: builds F MAR. Has F MAR, F MAO, A BUR, A EBL
Russia builds F STPnc, A MOS. Has F STPnc, F SEV, F SWE
A NWY A UKR A MOS

Grudge Game 2 (1978Piw) Winter, 1901

Oaklyn: England builds F LON. Has F LON, NWY, NWG; A EDI
Italy builds -O-, even. Has F ION, A VEN, A ROM
Turkey builds A CON. Has A CON, BUL, ARM; F BLA

Frost: Austria even. Has F ADR; A TRI, TYO
France builds F BRE, F MAR. Has F BRE, MAR, POR; A BEL, PIE
Russia builds A STP. Has F SEV, SWE; A UKR, FIN, STP

Spring, 1902, due at no particular time in these games by player agreement. Season will be printed in next issue after receipt of their orders.

Special 2-Man Love Match (Historical)

78 K iv

Fall, 1901: Turkish F ANK-Bla should have been underlined, but wasn't. Russian A Sil-BER, the BER should have been caps, but wasn't. No one noticed either one.....

Spring, 1902

Central Powers (Craig Reges)

Austria: F Gre-ION; A Vie-BOH; A UKR-Mos; A Bud-GAL; A RUM S A Bud-Gal

Germany: F DEN-Nth; A HOL-Bel; A RUH-Bel; A MUN-Bur

Turkey: A SEV S Austrian A Ukr-Mos; A BUL H; F Con-AEG; F Smy-EAS;
F Ank-CON

Allied Powers (Bill Shaffer)

England: A BEL-Hol; F NTH S A Bel-Hol; F Lon-ENG; F NWY S RUSS F GoB-Swe;

A EDI H

France: F Por-SPAsc; A Spa-MAR; F Mar-GLYO; A BUR-Ruh; A PAR-Bur

Russia: F GoB-SWE; A MOS S A War; A WAR S A Mos; A BER-Mun

Italy: CD A ROM, A VEN, F NAP H

Fall, 1902 will be due here no later than my mail received FRIDAY, February 5, 1979.
Sooner if possible, to players. Press on opposite page.

The BRUTUS BULLETIN, home of prompt games, takes great pride in presenting a hobby special, a TEN-DAY-DEADLINE game! Below are listed the players who will likely be those in the first 1979 game to be completed, probably before the fall semester starts this year. To those of you struggling through 1905 in some other zine's 1977 games (and occasionally 1976), eat your hearts out!

All countries were drawn by lot.

AUSTRIA: Jack Frost, 647 Fenton, Romeoville, IL 60441

ENGLAND: Bill Shaffer, 916 Larkspur Lane, Edmond, OK 73034

FRANCE: Randy Christopher, 15170 Columbet Avenue, San Martin, CA 95046

GERMANY: John Kador, 20 Hilltop Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910

ITALY: David Pilant, 3801 SE 23 Street, Del City, OK 73115

RUSSIA: David Grabar, 2450 N Lincoln, Las Vegas, NV 89110

TURKEY: Uli Baumeister, 11416 Parkview Lane, Hales Corners, WI 53130

Deadline for Spring, 1901, will be my mail received at work Tuesday, FEB 6, 1979. Mail gets to me at 10AM. Calls will be accepted until then, although I take no responsibility for being at my desk or for orders left with anyone else. Leave a number for me to call back if you can't get me. Address for orders is:

John Michalski
Harper Oil Company
904 Hightower Bldg
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Use the labels you recieved with house rules and initial announcement. I strongly encourage you to send in TWO cards or letters to insure receipt. If you send them to my home address by mistake, you'll be alright UNLESS they arrive deadline day; then you're out of luck, since adjudications leave downtown OKC before I get home that day to read the mail. Calls are taken 9am-9pm only, Central time. Don't call me on deadline day for results; I have to say no until at least the next day, in fairness to the 5 players to whom it would be a toll call. (I know both Okla players, but I also know they don't know each other, other than thru possible correspondence in 78IH just getting going elsewhere in this zine). Phone # in HRs in your packets.

All games that have ever begun in these pages have always started with something in the way of excitement; I've never seen a dull opening yet. I'm sure that you gentlemen won't let me down. Don't forget to vote on Black Press; no vote counts as a YES. You can later change your mind if you wish. If you have any questions, ask quick! Like, what is black press, or how many units can be stacked in a province, or what is Diplomacy, or how much do I owe, etc. Remember, unlike most zines, I do not cut down your press to fit my pages. I make my pages fit your press. I believe press is a good and fun part of the game, and you're entitled to be heard. Even if you use your neighbor's dateline! I encourage you all to send in press as often as you can. Please type, if possible, on long tirades, though. If any of you would like a copy of Reges' Novice Packet or an excerpt of AH's Guide to Diplomacy concerning your country, these are services I extend to interested players (I have a lot of novices at times). Of course, copies of parts of AH's GUIDE are for review & advertising purposes, and only incidentally to help you play your country if you like...

And remember, sending in provisional orders for the NEXT season as well, is awfully cheap NMR insurance!

Good luck.

J.M.

Contribution from ERIC KIRCHNER

Hi John!

This should make BB. ((Yes, it did, even though it makes Communism sound good))

Socialism You have two cows and give one to your neighbor.

Communism You have two cows, the government takes both, giving the milk back to you.

Fascism You have two cows, the government takes both, and sells you the milk.

Nazism You have two cows, the government takes both, and then shoots you.

Bureaucracy You have two cows, the government takes both, shoots one, milks the other, then throws the milk away.

Capitalism You have two cows, you sell one and buy a bull.

As you can see, I'm terribly busy on this Friday before Christmas. Hope your Christmas is better than your Thanksgiving was . . .

Eric

P. S. Federal employees get Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Armistice Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years off. How does that compare with Harper Oil? My father at GE gets all the above except Armistice Day and Columbus Day, but he gets three others for a total of 10.

((What's the other one the Feds got in February? Martin Luther King's birthday? Claudine had two Mondays off out of four in February.

Asking what Harper Oil gets is a joke. We get Memorial Day (I think), July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and this year only, for reasons unknown, they gave us the day after Thanksgiving off. Six holidays, 7 off-days this past year. This was a good year. Now, the parent company in Chicago gets a lot more, but they get a lot more of everything: \$, taxes, red tape, indecision, cold weather, pollution, cost-of-living, right on down the line. Next question.))

"Dear Abby: Can you stand just one more letter about chastity belts? Legend has it that a young knight was preparing to go off to the crusades. He kissed his lovely young wife and locked her into her chastity belt, as was the custom in those days. Then the knight called on his best friend and said, "Here is the key to my wife's chastity belt. Keep it. And if I am not back in seven years, you will know I'm dead, so please unlock my wife so she can marry again." With that, the knight galloped off to do battle. He was gone only two hours when he was overtaken by his friend who came charging after him in a cloud of dust, shouting: "You gave me the wrong key!"

--from a recent paper.

THE 1979 'BROUHAHA' AWARDS

from Brouhaha 29 by
Bob Beardsley, 17 Moryn Rd., Edison,
N.J. 08817, \$3/10, \$2 game fee, open

The stage is dark, the guests are in anticipation, the host is lit...yes, it's time once again for the famous awards of Dipdom...the BROUHAHAS. Yes, resembling a painted block of plain old wood, these awards have come to mean a great deal to those honored in winning them. Well, maybe not that much. We hope all of you so named below take these awards in the spirit in which they are offered...as an ~~xxx~~ honor, and then do something appropriate with them.

- THE "DOESN'T SMYRNA BORDER GREECE?" AWARD (for worst mapreading) - Chris Rossi
- THE "CROSS YOUR 'P's AND DOT YOUR 'L's AWARD (for worst handwriting)- Konrad Baumeister
- THE "I BEFORE E EXCEPT AFTER WHAT" AWARD (for worst spelling) - Jerry Jones, special presentation made by John Boardman
- THE "NOW YOU SEE HIM, NOW YOU DON'T" AWARD for folding the most zines (Lifetime) Conrad v. Metzke for 5 or 6 separate foldings, but who's counting?
- THE WESTERN UNION AWARD for worst press releases - John Caruso, appropriately inscribed.. "To Caruso From Beardsley--you won."
- THE ROBERT HEINLEIN AWARD for writing the most enjoyable press which is totally irrelevant Arnold Trembley
- THE GRUMPY MAILCARRIER AWARD for submitting the most sets of orders per game turn - Tom Mirti (I think his high was 5 or 6)
- THE MICROSCOPIC AWARD for submitting orders on the smallest slip of paper - Konrad Baumeister on the back of a cigar band (I wonder who got the butt?)
- THE UNKNOWN PLAYER AWARD for continually submitting unsigned orders - Steve Heinowski
- THE 'TSAR IS DEAD' AWARD for fastest destruction of Russia in two consecutive games - Roger Glenfield playing Russia
- THE 'REST OF THE COUNTRIES ARE DEAD' AWARD for destroying the rest of the board in 5 game years - Arnold Trembley playing Russia
- THE 'I WAS ONLY KIDDING AWARD' for reversing his tactics quickly - Bob Gallagher after I printed 'Spring' press with Winter moves by mistake, which revealed a stab
- THE 'DISLODGED UNIT' AWARD for most address changes in the shortest period - Bob Donaldson, somewhere in Texas, you can now go to Arkansas, New Mexico or OTB
- THE 'DOES NEWSWEEK NEED AN EDITOR' AWARD for most zines run at one time - Jerry Jones (3)
- THE 'WHICH END IS UP' AWARD for submitting orders and reading material on the flip side - Ron Kelly from a nosy GM (I gave that term paper a B+) (I wonder if the professor got a term paper with Dip orders on the flip side?)
- THE 'JAWS' AWARD for cutthroat Dip playing - Konrad Baumeister (games other than Brouhaha taken into consideration -- once you're able to read his handwriting on those small slips of paper, he's brutal!)
- THE DON RICKLES AWARD for most insulting press - Stan Johnson, inscribed with a line from one of his most memorable releases entitled "You Filthy Swine"...and that one was to one of his allies!
- THE 'COASTAL CREEP' AWARD to Jerry Jones for building a fleet in the Ionian, rather than using the shipyards in Rome or Naples.
- THE 'JIMMY HOFFA' AWARD for quick disappearances - Andy Cook, sighted recently playing scrabble in a dump in NJ
- THE 'BOB LEMON' AWARD for making a winner out of a sure winner and making it look easy - Arnold Trembley, who took over a 14 center England to a win encountering no opposition, Arnold had picked the game up as a standby.
- THE 'WYATT EARP' AWARD for the fastest hands in the west award - Tom Ripper, who's always the first to send orders in
- THE 'GOT IT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH' AWARD to Francois Guerrier, a new publisher in Canada who admitted in his zine that Cal White advised him to get Boardman Numbers for his zine games
- THE 'GARY COOPER' AWARD for keeping silent while all madness goes on around him - Ralph Morton, longtime subber to Brouhaha while never playing in a game herein.
- THE 'DUMBY REPLIES' AWARD for most letters written in - Dave White
- THE 'LOVE CONQUERS ALL...EXCEPT A 14 CENTER FRANCE' AWARD - Lou "ojcik, who claims he recently NMRd because he got married.

LETTERS

JOHN H BEAMER

1044 Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94118

Your letter acknowledging receipt of my game fee was received yesterday, along with the correction card. Yes, the #4 spot on the two-week game is fine - I don't think I can count on having enough time for the ten day game. Undoubtedly, the fact that I live in the flamingly liberal City of San Francisco and the fact that I made a passing remark about 'right wing garbage' has led you to believe that I am what Spiro Agnew would call a 'Rad-Lib'.

While I am in agreement with the dishonorable Mr. Agnew on virtually every issue, I believe the term moderate (which I suppose is a good term as it has no real definition) would be more likely to apply in my case. Perhaps the best definition would be pragmatic, though tempered with altruistic intentions (or conscience).

Take the recent recognition of the People's Republic of China. This should have been done years ago, as it simply makes no sense to say that the government which has been ruling some 400 million people is not a 'legitimate government'. In addition, China represents a vast new market for American goods and services. Certainly the dollar can use all the help it can get, and the potential trade available from Mainland China can do a good bit in trying to get the balance of trade more in balance. Economically, I would say that the US is getting the better part of the deal in the recognition of Red China. While it is true that the first bit of news I heard in reference to the economic re-opening of China is the imminence of Pan Am flights to Peking, how long do you suppose it will take before Bechtel (or some other firm) starts building multi-billion dollar industrial cities which will cause the amount of tourism to the Great Wall to become no more than a drop out of the bucket of the favorable balance of trade between the US and China?

The only question remaining on the China recognition is the status of Taiwan. The US has already recognized the myth of the claim that Taiwan is the one and only China for what it is by allowing mainland China into the UN. On the other hand, it is equally absurd to state that Peking is the legitimate government of Taiwan. The Government of Chiang Kai-shek may not be worth much, but it has governed the island of Formosa since 1949. It may not have governed well, nor democratically, but it has governed and its flaws are only the same as are present in many other US allies. Is it possible for the US to recognize the same government as an independent country but under some other name? I don't know how the treaty is worded, nor the effect such an action would have upon the favorable aspects of the treaty. Would Mainland China continue to trade with the US if the US did such a dastardly deed, so contrary to the spirit of the agreement? Loopholes are for courts of law, not for attempting to cool off relations between countries. For that matter, I think it doubtful that some kind of further support of the Chiang government would even be advisable from a ideological standpoint. Why should the US go out of its way to support a government which makes a farce of the ideals we are supposed to be upholding?

What effect would the dropping of Chiang have upon the rest of our allies? much. The ally which would probably feel the most insecure about intentions would be Israel, but Israel really has no other place but the US. On the other hand, some of those non-committal, nations which seem to make up such a large portion of the UN assembly may decide that the US is not so adamantly opposed on after all.

Beamer, cont'd

I do not find myself opposed to the principle of recognizing mainland China, only to the method. The negotiations carried out in secrecy are not at issue, but the constitutional question of whether the president can annul a treaty that required Senate ratification is the real crux of the matter. This is on a par with Nixon's action (or inaction) of not spending or budgeting funds allocated by Congress for a specific purpose. I do not believe Nixon had such an authority nor do I believe Carter has the authority to kill the mutual protection treaty with Taipei. There is a certain illogic in having a treaty with a government that is not recognized, but we cannot allow the president to usurp the authority of Congress. The Senate ratification requirement was made in order to place a check upon the presidential control of foreign affairs. Carter's actions have denied that right; no, duty, of the Senate to pass upon the foreign policy of the US.

I wonder why it is that none of the letters you print (possibly receive) deal with domestic matters and policy. Is there no interest out there in the Weber case? Is Affirmative Action a dead issue? I would think not, as the Weber case is being tried under the 1964 Civil Rights Act, while the Bakke case was under the 14th Amendment. The Supreme Court has historically taken a more liberal turn when issues have been put forth under Title VII than under a constitutional amendment. I don't really understand the reason for this trend, but it does seem to be the case. Nor do I understand why your readers do not crop up with opinions on this matter. What about the 'Taxpayers' Revolt' or even the old standby of inflation being the cost of low unemployment? Admittedly, the name of the game is Diplomacy, but don't issues which touch the individual more directly have a place in the mountains of correspondence you receive? Your attempt of raising an argument about the death penalty was well intentioned in that it could create some sort of controversy on a domestic matter, but the example you used simply gave more ammunition to the school of thought that says 'people who kill are sick'. Better luck next time.

((Indeed. The good part about getting such comments is that it offers stark proof of my premise that the left wing has no logical responses or workable alternatives, ~~and then they say~~ so they stick to cliches and name-calling, as you do here. Of course, you label yourself a 'moderate' early on, but I am going on your stated positions, not labels. Your China stand is another clear--indeed, blatant--example of the patent absurdities of the liberals and their remarkable ability to see only what they want to in any situation. You condemn the Taiwan regime as "a government which makes a farce of the ideals we are supposed to be upholding", and then turn right around and propose that we embrace the Communist regime instead!! If you ever wonder why or how I am so positively puzzled by whether liberals are for real or if this is all some big put-on, that is an outstanding reason why right there. Since Taiwan fails to meet every qualification of what you believe is a human right, you say we should throw them into the pit of a Communist slave state and accept it instead. Not one peep about how the Peking regime makes an infinitely greater "farce of the ideals we are supposed to be upholding". But of course, how can liberals dare to even wag a finger at any Communist regime, when said regimes are only a shade of belief further left than they themselves? But of course, you are a 'moderate'; why? Because you throw in a line about how Peking's empire is a big market for us, paying lip service to something that should be identified with the mythological image

Reply to Beamer, cont'd

of the unscrupulous businessman who cares only about a "big market" for sales? Hell, even said businessman in the real world knows that to be a market, China must have one other asset known as 'ability to pay'. No one questions China's need for almost everything we have to sell--but the same is true for Bangladesh. Taiwan is a showcase of recovery and prosperity in Asia, small as it is. I suspect that a sensible (real) businessman would rather deal with Taiwan any day, if he is looking for anything more than a one-time sale. And even at that, why does one need to recognize Red China and throw Taiwan to the wolves in order to sell to them? Even if you wanted to deal with Peking, you don't need an embassy to do that. The business -argument holds even less water than that of impressing all those neutral nations that "the US is not so adamantly opposed to new nations." They don't give a damn whether we happen to like or dislike "new" nations; our opinion, even if one existed one way or the other, doesn't matter one whit. All they care about is that we have, and they want. What? Everything. And playing the part of a re-born lackey to Red China only gains us a well-earned contempt on top of the envy and resentment already there. Only a leftist could think that licking Communist boots would gain favor for us in the Third World. If the shoe fits, wear it.

On letters received, I print almost everything I get, barring game letters and those which the authors, for reasons of their own, specifically label "not for publication". Both proposition 13 and Affirmative Action have received comment by a couple of writers in previous issues--not much in absolute terms, but two letters is a landslide in practical historical terms. ANY response is a surprise, in any Dipzine I've seen. BB jumps in there with fewer pulled punches than most, this not being one limited to items like that family cat being pregnant, etc., so believe it or not, the letters here are really heavier than in most zines. (Of course, other pubbers may get more and just not print them, but judging by the number who even ask if the family cat is sick, I suspect there aren't many such.) Lately, what with the holidays and people being home from school, etc., even BB letters have markedly dropped off. It should pick up again in an issue or two.))

JOHN BOARDMAN

234 E 19 St, Brooklyn 11226

Several months ago you had a considerable laugh at my expense in BRUTUS BULLETIN when I wrote that the US was indirectly backing the Pol Pot government in Cambodia. This assertion, according to you, rendered me incompetent as a commentator on America's imperial position in the world. I call your attention to the way that the United States, in conjunction with China, has condemned the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia and, according to the enclosed report, has demanded the withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops from Cambodia.

The alignment in Asia is shaping up precisely as I told you it would. On our side are China, Japan, and the Pol Pot government of Cambodia. Against us are the Soviet Union, Vietnam, and the Vietnamese puppet regime just established in Pnom Penh. Bit players on either side, at present, are the Phillipines, Indonesia, and Thailand on our side and North Korea and Laos against us, with Taiwan, Malaya, Singapore, and Burma neutral at present.

You can't tell the players without a program.

((Maybe you can't, but I don't need a program to know Russia is against us. Also, I'd list Japan as only a friendly neutral, not that it matters.

I had a considerable laugh at your preposterous positions then on your printed statement that the Pol Pot regime was a "tool of the CIA". That was ludicrous then and remains so today. That the US should use the present situation to embarrass Vietnam (insofar as that may be possible) by wagging a finger at their naked aggression is of little surprise. Why not? Words are cheap. Action is the only thing we apparently

Reply to Boardman, cont'd

cannot afford. Not that we should care whether one Commie regime crushes another, but we should go ahead and use it for whatever it's worth, as we have done. I'll need to leave room here somewhere for the clipping you sent, so as to be fair to you in presenting your full "evidence" to the reading audience. (Notes on the clipping are Boardman's). Your original assertion did not "render (you) incompetent as a commentator on America's imperial position in the world"; it only showed you to be incompetent in commenting on America's actual position in the world. The US has not "demanded the withdrawal" of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia; rather, as your own clipping shows, some State Dept flunky in Bangkok said that the US "wanted to see (them) out of Eastern Cambodia" to give him SOMETHING to say at a news conference, and even then, he waters that empty call down with a remark about how we really don't give a damn about the Pol Pot regime in any case. ~~Typical~~ "proof" of "America's imperial position in the world". Do send this poop every once in a while, though; as you see, it will see unedited print, and I'm in a real bind at present for humor material.))

Typical

J.M.
((We got our wish, too. They're now into Western Cambodia!))

TONY WATSON

201 Minnesota St, Las Vegas 89107

Icy and cold back there, huh? 53° here yesterday and it's "fixin'" to rain today. A friend of mine was heading for Florida and went through Oklahoma. Appears the guy she was with smashed up his TR7 (a piece of shit anyway, so no big loss) on an icy bridge. (No salt--you Okies, I swear). There were 2 more wrecks while they were waiting for the tow truck. THEN the salt truck came.

Thanks for the tip on McLendon. For some reason I've never offered to trade (or vice versa). Think I will.

Jerry may be taking on quite a bit. DW should be a fulltime hobby job, not an add on to one of the hobby's best zines. He's getting a lot of help--Berch, Baumeister, McLendon. Maddog's just 12 miles away down at USC and he offered to fold and staple. So far, what Jerry has planned sounds really good. I thought his financial reforms were good (hell, who would pay \$9 a year? And we don't need bimonthly issues anyway).

Things that matter to you don't seem to be as crucial to me. I don't much care if a zine is tri-weekly or monthly or whether it is a week late or not. I understand that ~~this~~ is a hobby--for both players and publishers, and expecting rigid punctuality is unfair. Things are different when your zine is "young"; you're a model of strict efficiency and strict time tables, etc. (it helps when you have an oil company subsidizing you too, eh?). Then there are those who these things matter a lot to. They fire off letters when a zine is a day or tow late. Luckily it takes all kinds, and we have.

I'm back in school, damn, during the very short January term, preparing for my pro seminar paper (approval of which, since I want a special topic, is bound up in bureaucratic bullshit). I have some interesting stuff lined up for next semester: a class of foreign policy of the major powers and a history class on US involvement in Vietnam. PS Vietnam vs Cambodia: what a joke! So goes the myth of the Communist monolith! Who do we rout for? I guess in a way we can't lose...Actually, I'd like to see Cambodia hold on a bit. A state of perpetual armed antagonism would beat the idea of a little Vietnamese empire.

((Response on next page))

10 JAN 11 MILVDLT

U.S. Aide Bids Hanoi Pull Out of Cambodia

BANGKOK, Thailand, Jan. 6 (UPI) — A American official here called on Vietnam today to withdraw its troops from Cambodia, but he also said Washington did not like the Cambodian Government of Prime Minister Pol Pot.

Robert B. Oakley, a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs, said at a news conference:

"We are very clearly seeing a so-called regime being imposed by outside military force on Cambodia. Although we don't like the Pol Pot regime, we are not sure any new regime would be better for the Cambodian people."

The State Department official, who was here for a meeting of American ambassadors, said the United States wanted to see Vietnamese troops out of eastern Cambodia, which they invaded two weeks ago.

My T. mes. 79
7 Jan

Reply to Watson

((Normally I would agree, but the Pol Pot regime was something straight out of the Middle Ages--a sort of Asian Stalin--so I'm glad to see it quickly sink, no matter WHO it is that replaces them.

On the zines, yes, it does take all kinds, but frankly, I don't think we have many in the publishing ranks at all who hold to strict deadlines. I WISH we did! I'd sign up with them. As it is, I'm in 14 games and I put effort into about three: the rest are so pokey that I only handle them when they come in, whenEVER. I used to care a lot when a zine was a week late, but not anymore. So many come out whenever the publisher is in the mood (only) that I just take them as they come and expect nothing. On the other hand, that's a further motivation to me to do a good job myself, as I don't want to be considered just another of those more lackadaisical types. Were it not for the fact that I have never NMR'd, neverdropped, never quit, and never resigned or abandoned any game I was ever in, I think I'd dump about 10 of those 14 games. They'd never be missed by either me or the "players". "Only a hobby" is probably the best excuse, and technically correct; however, I believe that when a GM starts a game, he is giving his promise to run it. And that means just that, run the damn thing as he said he would, whether to friends or strangers, for \$10 each or for free, whether he's in the mood or not. No GM or editor has ever said "I will run this thing at my own pace, whenever I see fit, and you guys can take it or leave it" (with the possible exception of Howland whose masthead said WARMONGER was published 'erratically, due to the nature of the publisher' or some such). I'm still in the "young" group, and still view a zine from the RECEIVING end, and I don't like those on-again-off-again appearances one bit. I wonder how much of the hobby wants such as we have, or how many are really like me and simply RESIGNED to the pathetic situation we're stuck with? Harper Oil's main 'subsidy' isn't the obvious difference between the postage at face value vs what I contribute; rather, it is in third-level things like maintenance on the xerox machine. To produce this myself would put BB into 3 or 4 weeks-schedule. However, even at that, one run a month with the ink and mess is hardly too much to expect. Except in practice, I'm afraid. I'd rather see 3 dozen zines on time than 7 dozen published now and then, more or less, if and whenever. I think that's a ripoff and a fraud. That's how it looks to "young" old BRUTUS BULLETIN.

True, Okla is pretty pokey at doing anything about the roads. But in the 7 years I've been here, there have been 4 occasions when snow of some type or other stayed on the ground over 72 hours. (Last year was two of those, one stretch was about 3 weeks...). Still, the point is, how much sense would it be for us to apply our tax dollars on equipment to handle these things and then sit around doing nothing but rusting the other 359 days a year? So we use what we have and wait on the sun for the rest. Not much help if you're in a TR 7, but that's the long and short of it. I think the decision is correct.

Steve McLendon just sent another issue last night: really gearing up DRAGON & THE LAMB for top contention. I'll bet we see that fella in John Leeder's top five this year. So much material that I have yet to read the thing through! (Steve McL is at box 57066, Webster, TX 77598). Thanks for writing.)) J.M.

RON KELLY

6038 Richmond Hwy, #314, Alexandria, VA 22303

I'm not surprised that there are those who object to the use of my clippings. I guess for those Marxists who support wrong-headed ideas, the truth hurts.

As you may have gathered, I certainly have nothing but negative feelings for Lipton and his zine. He has always disliked me, and this was always reflected in his dealings with me, including those of GM-player. For example, he NEVER used revised orders I sent him, no matter how long before the deadline I sent them in.

It certainly has been strange how our weather has been the past few years. It seems like each winter is colder, and each summer is warmer than the previous one. You would think that there would be either a gradual warming trend, or a gradual cooling trend, over a period of years, OR it would stay rather steady from year to year. But it seems to be reaching new extremes in each direction each season every year.

Ron Kelly, Cont'd

It makes one wonder what's in store for us in the near future.

By the way, if you're getting low on clippings to use, let me know and I'll try to dig up some more.

PS 1.) What are your feelings about Diplomacy Rating Systems? and 2.) Taking orphan games into your zine?

((I favor ratings and would like to see some; aside from the local in-house system in Bumpas' LIBERTERREAN and a CP list in a DW a year or two back, I've never seen any at all. Like Steve McLendon says, a lot of people WOULD like recognition, but there is no current system operating. He's in the process of correcting that, as will Dave Mueth next year as well. (Or so they say)).

On orphans, I'm against it for two reasons: first, to run fast requires minimizing the amount of stuff that has to be done at the last minute, and all the current games is plenty already. Press, changes in orders, etc., can really mess up the fast schedule I've set for myself. Second, my fast pace EXCLUDES most players, as everyone from Randolph Smyth to Lee Kendter Sr has commented on. The pokey and erratic nature of most hobby zines has made folks so give-a-shit in their attitude toward playing that I would expect fully 50% NMRs in a game running 14 days apart in every season in any game picked up from outside. I wouldn't like creating ill will with them any more than they with me, so orphans are out as a practical necessity.

On clippings, no, I've got a bunch here already that I just never get around to pasting up right. I don't know if I'll have time to run a page this issue or not; I'm really pressed this time, even with the 3 regular games due first Monday. But if you see a classic, send it in.

On the weather, I've noticed that we had warm winters for a while, and now we're in the second of what should be 5 cold ones. The phenomena you mention is something I'd suspected, but I wrote it off to my just getting older and more crotchety with age...

Lipton's departure certainly brought no crocodile tears here. I liked his reliability in pubbing when I started, but then he dropped to monthly, etc., as his interest waned, and unless you're familiar with all these SF characters he would fill an issue with, even the larger MMGs really didn't have much to them. He's happier out, and I won't disagree with that call.)) J.M.

MARK BERCH (writing on a Van Gogh picture postcard from Austria)

Actually I haven't the slightest idea of what appeals to you in art.

We've had a splendid visit to Vienna, as my sister's inlaws are long time residents of the town. Things are rather expensive due to the disreputable state of the dollar. Vienna is quite interesting, in that it is a GRAND city in a rather small country. It was built to center on empire, most of which was lost in wars. So fancy palaces get converted to more pedestrian purposes, but their physical grandeur remains, since they were made at a time when exterior (and interior) ornamentation was considered an important part of a buildings structure. Also, the food is terrific!

((Thanks for remembering me and BB in your travels)). J.M.

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((Ads of all sorts are free here to any subber sending a one in.)) J.M.

Doubts Cast on Nuclear Deterrence Doctrine

By Henry S. Bradsher
Washington Staff Writer

Senior U.S. officials have identified a major weakness in the American ability to deter a Soviet nuclear attack. Remedying it points toward preparing to fight a full-scale war, not just deter it.

The weakness is in the ability of the U.S. command system to function once a war begins. This involves the communications needed to gather intelligence and to transmit orders, as well as protection of the president while enabling him to direct a war.

Since this weakness was pinpointed by a Defense Department science board study last summer, many key officials have come to consider it more serious than the vulnerability of any one weapons system, such as the widely discussed vulnerability of Minuteman missiles to improved Soviet weapons in the 1980s. Without a reliable command system, individual U.S. weapons lose their value if a war begins.

Efforts are beginning to improve both technical and organizational aspects of the command system. Behind these efforts lies a broader rethinking of strategic concepts.

AMERICAN strategic thinking has shied away from going beyond the hope of deterrence to face the awful problems of actually fighting a nuclear war with the Soviet Union. But Soviet military doctrine has always been based on the concept of fighting a war.

This doctrine gives major importance to maintaining command systems during wartime while trying to knock out the enemy's. A growing awareness of this attitude is causing officials in the National Security Council and the Defense Department to think the United States has to revise its own thinking.

Unless the U.S. command system is made more durable under wartime conditions, these officials believe, the Kremlin will consider this country to have a less credible deterrent.

OFFICIALS here believe the United States still has a workable deterrent. But as Soviet strategic nuclear strength continues to grow, a strengthening of the U.S. command system is seen as being essential for maintaining the credibility of the deterrent.

They are worried about the political appearance of seeming to be preparing for a nuclear holocaust. But, they contend, preparations to try to endure an all-out war should make a war less likely rather than more because it shows the Soviets that this country cannot be crushed in a first round of attacks.

PRESIDENT Carter's decision to devote more attention to civil defense was related by some officials to the new concern about impressing the Soviet Union with a U.S. ability to endure a war. On the other hand, such steps as installing mobile missiles to reduce the vulnerability of the land-based part of the deterrent triad — land missiles, submarine missiles and bombers — have been moving slowly.

Carter told a news conference yesterday that the United States is continuously assessing its nuclear arsenal. It is also working to improve its command and communications system, he said. But, he emphasized, deterrence remains the basis of U.S. policy.

Pentagon officials and the widespread community of civilian security specialists break the problem down into the four parts of communications, command, control and intelligence.

It is talked about as "C-cubed-f," or just "C-cubed."

DEFENSE ANALYSTS have worried about C-cubed problems since the beginning of nuclear confrontation with the Soviet Union. But in the years of overwhelming American superiority, when this country had far more strategic weapons than the Soviets, it seemed a small, easily overlooked problem.

Now, with a condition of approximate equivalence of nuclear forces, and with Soviet doctrine calling for attacks on U.S. C-cubed facilities at the beginning of any conflict, the danger is better recognized.

The change in thinking is traced by officials to a summer study panel put together by the Defense Science Board, an advisory group attached to Secretary of Defense Harold Brown's office.

The board, headed by Dr. Eugene C. Fubini, assembled some 200 persons from academe, industrial, military and other fields and supplied them with a staff of some 18 experienced military administrators. One of the panels examined questions about Soviet and American strategic clear forces.

AMONG THE problems that the DSB panel identified were the need to get U.S. strategic nuclear bombers off the ground more quickly.

The panel also revived recurring concern about the "survivability" of the president in a war. But the big, over-riding problem identified the study, according to several officials who attended a summing-up meeting at Newport, R.I. Aug. 11, was the C-cubed one. Presidential survival is seen as part of it.

Kabul's New Rulers

Soviets Sign Treaty With Afghanistan

By Kevin Klose

Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, Dec. 5—The Soviet Union strengthened its influence on the struggling new Marxist leadership of Afghanistan today, signing a friendship and cooperation treaty with the Kabul government that seems sure to further alarm Western powers already worried about turmoil in adjacent Iran.

It is the third such friendship treaty signed this fall between the Kremlin and Third World countries to buttress the Soviet position there against Western influence on the one hand and against the recent diplomatic moves of Moscow's hated rival, China, on the other. The other treaties were signed with Vietnam and Ethiopia.

The 20-year "treaty of friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation," was signed by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev and Afghan Prime Minister Nur Mohammed Taraki in a Kremlin ceremony. It pledges the countries to mutual economic, military and technical aid.

The defense clause calls on the Soviets and Afghans to "continue to develop cooperation in the military field on the basis of appropriate agreements between them."

The treaty in effect confirms Moscow's dominance of the Taraki government. His predecessor, the feudal Western Afghan strongman Mohammed Daoud, was deposed and killed in a quick April coup engineered by Marxist sympathizers in the Soviet-trained and equipped Afghan army.

The Taraki government and its Khalq (People's) Party have since proclaimed a socialist revolution and announced ambitious plans for land reform and farm collectivization as well as a five-year economic development plan aimed at pulling the backward country toward industrialization. Western sources report that thousands of Soviet advisers are in Afghanistan to help direct this effort, as well as solidify control of the Khalq, a party with little popular base.

The strong Moscow influence has upset Western strategists, worried about the impact on troubled Iran to the west, as well as on the other Persian Gulf states whose oil is vital to the West.

The Afghan developments also are seen as a threat to Pakistan to the east, which itself is plagued by a protracted government crisis. The Afghans and Pakistanis have long contended over Baluchistan in southern Pakistan.

The Taraki government could give covert aid to a leftist separatist Baluchi movement, which could in turn contribute to destabilization of the power balance in the Arabian Sea area. The Russians since czarist times have eyed the area for a possible warm water port. East-West maneuvering and influence in the remote, landlocked country of hill tribesmen and nomadic shepherds dates to the last century, when Britain sought to blunt those expansionist Russian aims.

The Soviets have angrily insisted they had nothing to do with the April coup. But they have clearly been the beneficiaries at Western expense and are moving swiftly to capitalize on it. When Taraki led a delegation here for talks, some Western analysts were speculating that the Kremlin would not sign a friendship treaty with so new and shaky a government.

But the fact of the quick signing can be interpreted as a sign of the dependence of the new Kabul leaders on the Soviets for ideological, economic and military support, and of Kremlin eagerness to exploit the opportunity in a country with borders that front directly on nations in the Western camp.

The Soviets have treated Taraki with the pomp due a head of state and the state-controlled media have reported in detail on these matters.

The friendship treaty specifically declares that the Soviet Union "respects the policy of nonalignment" of the Taraki government. Taraki repeatedly has stressed that he is pursuing a policy of neutrality.

The Soviets have traditionally sought friendship treaties with their immediate neighbors to create a special relationship. They also have used them to project Soviet influence into other continents, as with the friendship treaties of the past five weeks with Vietnam and Ethiopia.

MISC. FILLER

This page & next are courtesy of Ron Kelly, excepting boxed jokes.

J.M.

The woman was complaining to the builder of her new house.

"This house is so flimsy," she said, "that the whole place trembles, whenever a train goes through town. It's so bad that at night it practically shakes me out of the bed. If you don't believe me," she went on, "lie down on it and see for yourself."

The harried builder was so intimidated that he stretched himself on the bed.

Just then, the woman's husband entered the bedroom. "What the hell are you doing in my bed?" he roared.

The builder looked up and sheepishly replied, "Would you believe waiting for a train?"

Michael Novak

The smug and soft are deaf to Solzhenitsyn

The dry and uncomprehending secularism of the American press has nowhere been more apparent than in the treatment of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's brilliant diagnosis of America at Harvard. Are our editors atheists, or provincial in their learning? Have they never questioned the spiritual roots of our system? Why were they so defensive about themselves and so outrageous in their characterizations of Solzhenitsyn?

As it happens, I read four responses to Solzhenitsyn's speech before I actually found a copy of his text. His text is far more sensible than one could have guessed from editorials or stories in the Washington Post and the New York Times.

Solzhenitsyn's point of view in this speech is neither idiosyncratic nor "Eastern" nor odd. It belongs to a whole tradition of sober Western thinkers. Consult, for a beginning, Christopher Dawson and Jacques Maritain. Solzhenitsyn's perception of the fundamental intellectual error made in the Enlightenment is about identical to that expressed by the French Jesuit Henri de Lubac in his provocative little book *The Drama of Atheistic Humanism*. Evelyn Waugh and Ronald Knox, G. K. Chesterton and Hilaire Belloc uttered comparable judgments upon the West. So did Gabriel Marcel and Ortega y Gasset.

Have American journalists studied no religion at all? It is clearly an area of most dramatic weakness. Some called Solzhenitsyn (they did not mean it as a compliment) "a mystic." The New York Times spoke of his "obsession." Linked him to the "Enthusiasts" and ranked him among "zealots." Many call names better than they answer arguments.

The smugness of those arrogant men who think that they have a secret pipeline to civility because they "trust the rationality of humankind" staggers 20th Century credulity. The pragmatism of British and French foreign policy was not sufficient to prevent the rise of Hitler before 30 million lives were lost. The "rationality of humankind" was not sufficient to prevent the destruction of six million Jews and eight million Christians in the Nazi death camps. Some men who say they are of the Enlightenment continue to speak as though the 20th Century had never happened.

They write as though there were no millions still living in the Gulag Archipelago and scores of millions living in silent and frozen slavery under leaders whose ambition is to domesticate the world so that no breath of freedom will ever threaten their unquestioned power.

Solzhenitsyn is right to attack the loss of courage among our editors and thinkers and leaders. Fear does characterize this society. One cannot attack its intelligence; every possibility of intellect is open to it. How then can one comprehend its mad desire for "peaceful coexistence," for "détente," for any lie that will disguise the

deathly struggle in which we are engaged except through loss of courage?

Fear of atomic holocaust paralyzes many. Solzhenitsyn shares that fear. Only, he said at Harvard, the next war will not be an atomic war. It will be a conventional war. And its time is being moved up sooner and sooner by the very editorialists who are so gripped with fear that they have lost all courage.

Had American leaders courage, they would mount a full-scale diplomatic, economic and communications assault upon the forces of totalitarianism. It is silly, it is embarrassing, to sit here in luxurious safety pleading for pragmatism while war draws ever closer.

Soft minds always overestimate the power of totalitarians. They do not see how vulnerable the Soviet Empire is to ideas, to religion, to diplomacy, to economic boycott, to technological noncooperation. Only the West has made the Soviet economy great. Again and again — in 1920, in the 1930s, after 1945, in 1970 — American industrial know-how built in Russia what socialism was unable to build.

Solzhenitsyn says nothing mystical, nothing obsessive, nothing fanciful, nothing wild. One need not agree with every jot and tittle of his text. But every American citizen ought to beg or borrow a copy of his speech and read its sobering, practical, reasoned words and judge for themselves whose eyes see reality plain.

The old man died and found himself in purgatory. Soon after, he ran into an old friend of his same age. He was with a luscious young red head.

"You certainly have done well for yourself here," he said. "I'm delighted that you've been given some reward while expiating your sins."

"You've got it all wrong," sighed the other, "she's not my reward, I'm her punishment."

Scientists Don't Know Cause

Close Up, Venus Has Glow

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP) — A faint glow never before observed was detected near the 900-degree Fahrenheit surface of Venus by two of the five American spacecraft that pierced its cloudy atmosphere, scientists said.

But Pioneer Venus experts disagreed yesterday on what may have caused the effect observed by light meters on the two probes, which fell on the night-side of the planet.

One scientist theorized that the venusian atmosphere, thick with carbon dioxide and other gases, may be so hot that it burns spontaneously near the planet's surface. Another suggested that the surface, rich in sulfur compounds, absorbs light in the daytime and glows at night.

The assessments came during a final summary of data gathered at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Ames Research Center here. The information was transmitted from the probes, the first multi-craft project to look at another planet.

Four of the probes crashed to the surface and one burned up in the atmosphere. A sixth orbits the planet.

The scientists also said the early information confirms that Venus' atmosphere is an example of a runaway "greenhouse effect," which could eventually occur on Earth.

Because Venus' atmosphere is 97 percent carbon dioxide, it absorbs most of the sun's energy as heat, causing rising temperatures.

Scientists speculate that as industrialization on Earth progresses, the burning of oil and other hydrocarbons will upset the delicate atmospheric balance of carbon dioxide, raising Earth's temperature as on Venus.

The source of the glow observed by the two 200-pound probes which crashed to Venus' nightside surface Saturday may take months to pin down, scientists said.

New Experiments Lend Credence To Einstein's Theory of Relativity

By Christine Russell
Washington Star Staff Writer

As the world prepares for next year's centennial celebration of Albert Einstein's birth, University of Massachusetts scientists have come up with proof of a previously untested prediction of the general theory of relativity.

The first experimental evidence supporting the existence of gravitational waves is being presented by Dr. Joseph H. Taylor at an international assembly of astrophysicists which begins in Munich today.

According to Dr. James Wright of the National Science Foundation, which announced the findings of the federally funded research here yesterday, the discovery is a "major achievement" which is one of the few actual tests to confirm Einstein's 60-year-old theory.

"People have been working on various ways to do this for years and years," said Wright, the director of NSF's galactic and extra-galactic astronomy program. "Einstein's theory is one of the most basic theories of all in physics. It has withstood the test of time, but it has few concrete tests. Testing it out is as important as inventing it."

ALTHOUGH LONG presumed to exist, gravity waves have never been directly measured. The weakness of their force presumably makes them difficult to detect.

Gravity waves are believed to be similar to electromagnetic radiation, such as radio and light waves. Light is produced when charged particles oscillate. Gravity radiation should be produced when objects oscillate.

The research team headed by Taylor was able to come up with indirect proof of gravity waves by monitoring the skies some 15,000 light years (one light year is about six trillion miles) from earth.

Four years ago the University of Massachusetts scientists had discovered an unusual pulsar — a super-compact remnant of a dying star — which gave off radio emissions in a regular eight-hour pattern. This suggested that it was orbiting another unknown star, perhaps another pulsar or a black hole.

The combination provided a unique experimental setup for testing Einstein's theory, which predicts that gravity waves emitted by the orbiting stars should slowly drain energy from the system, pulling the pulsar and its companion closer together.

CONSEQUENTLY, according to the relativity theory, the rate of the orbit would decrease at a rate of one ten-thousandth of a second per year.

The actual measurements, made with the

world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, were "right on the nose," says Lee A. Fowler, a graduate student from Silver Spring who worked on the project. Since late 1974, the orbit had decreased a total of four ten-thousandths of a second.

Given the current heightened interest in Einstein's work, "It was an appropriate time to discover it," said Fowler. "It stirred a lot of emotion in me to have shown him correct."

While the finding is a "boost to theoretical work in understanding gravity, which is one of the basic forces of the universe," he added that it "certainly doesn't have any down-to-earth applications right now."

Dispute in Caucasus Mirrors Soviet Ethnic Mosaic

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY
Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, June 24—Soviet authorities have announced an extensive regional development plan for Abkhazia, a part of the Caucasian Republic of Georgia—but only after the Abkhazians threatened to secede from Georgia and applied to join the Russian Republic instead. The development plan reportedly will cost \$750 million.

The unusual episode indicates that the problem of nationalities in the hugely diverse Soviet Union is much more complex than the common perception of it in the West as a growing minority resentment against Russian domination.

The Abkhazians are a minority within a minority. About 35,000 of them live among the 503,000 people of the so-called Abkhaz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, an administrative part of Soviet Georgia.

The Georgians themselves have often been fiercely resentful of Russian domination. On April 14, some 5,000 of them demonstrated in the streets of Tbilisi, the capital, against a plan to drop Georgian as their official state language.

Now it turns out that while the Georgians were demonstrating against the Russians, the Abkhazians were meeting in their capital of Sukhumi to demand freedom from the Georgian yoke. Sukhumi is situated in a subtropical zone on the Black Sea coast.

Unrest Led to Development Funding

The Abkhazians' secessionist feelings, and their handling by local Communist Party officials, have led to reprimands, purges and personnel changes that were reported, albeit quietly, in Georgian newspapers. But most important, they have led the Kremlin to earmark a reported \$750 million to develop industrial complexes, build a university in Sukhumi, expand agriculture and improve road, rail and air transportation in Abkhazia, projects that are to begin this year.

The plans were disclosed in Zarya Vostoka, the official Communist Party paper of Georgia, on June 7, but reportedly were decided on much earlier. They re-



The New York Times/June 23, 1978
Moscow announced development plan for Abkhazia (crosshatched) after area threatened to secede from Georgia

sulted from a wave of resentment over Georgian control that apparently began last December, and by late April had led to mass meetings, reportedly involving as many as 12,000 people, in at least three cities.

In May, Ivan V. Kapitonov, a member of the secretariat of the Communist Party's Central Committee, was apparently dispatched to Sukhumi to cool hot tempers and install a new local party leader, Boris V. Adleiba. Mr. Kapitonov's visit may have taken place as early as late April, but it was not reported in Zarya Vostoka until May 26.

Local Party Officials Criticized

Mr. Kapitonov said in a speech to the party organization that Abkhazia had members of 70 national minorities, almost as many as the Soviet Union itself. He told local officials that the Supreme Soviet in Moscow had been deluged with letters and telegrams, individual and collective, demanding secession. "Every one of us," he admonished the officials, "understands perfectly well that there are squabbles and differences of opinion at times even among the relatives in one family."

What it took to settle this family squabble was revealed only several weeks later with the publication of a decree from Moscow on "measures for fur-

ther development of the economy and culture of the Abkhaz A.S.S.R."

The source of the Abkhazians' resentment against their more numerous Georgian neighbors is apparently almost as ancient as that of Georgian complaints about the Russians, and illustrates the complexities of the problem of nationalities in the Soviet Union.

Abkhazia was originally colonized in the sixth century B.C. by the Greeks. The region later came under Roman and Byzantine rule, and in the eighth century A.D. a leader of the Abkhaz tribe formed an independent kingdom that became part of Georgia in the 10th century. The Abkhazians were alternately dominated by the Georgians and the Turks, who converted them to Islam.

Abkhazia Annexed in 1864

The Russians, acquired Sukhumi in 1810, and formally annexed Abkhazia in 1864, which was later than the Georgian had been absorbed. In the Soviet period, the Russians gave it the status of an autonomous republic, a purely administrative distinction.

The Abkhazians in recent years have been railing against what they call "Georgianization," a cry that evokes the Georgian complaint about "Russification" of the area. In December 1977, 130 Abkhazian intellectuals sent a letter to the Supreme Soviet in Moscow charging that Georgians had moved onto Abkhazian territory, Georgian was being taught in school, and that Georgians had plundered Abkhazian resources.

This letter began the campaign for annexation by the Russian Republic to protect the Abkhazian culture, but the local authorities, apparently, did not take these complaints seriously. The authors of the charges, according to one account, were intimidated and punished. But discontent over the perceived abuses gathered strength, and in March as many as 12,000 people gathered in the village of Lichni in support of the letter. Moscow subsequently took direct control, naming Mr. Adleiba to the post of first secretary.

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