

CHEESECAKE

1980-AR Fall 1902

AUSTRIA (Bob Osuch) A Ser-TRI, A VIE S A Ser-TRI, A BUD S A Ser-TRI, A Bul-Gre (dislodged, may retreat to Ser or OTB).
ENGLAND (Barry Hickey) F Ska-NTH, A NWY-StP, F Edi-YOR, F Nrg-CLY.
FRANCE (Don Tinker) A Pic-LON, F ENG C A Pic-LON, F Mid-IRI, A BEL holds, A MAR holds.
GERMANY (Mike Conner) F SWE holds, F BAL S F SWE, F DEN S F SWE, A HOL holds, A TYO S AUSTRIAN A Ser-TRI.
ITALY (Mike Mills) A Tri-Ser (annihilated), A ALB S A Tri-Ser, F ION S A ALB, F NAP S F ION, A VEN-Tri.
RUSSIA (Eric Verheiden) A Sev-RUM, A Ukr-GAL, F BOT-StP(sc), F BLA S AUSTRIAN A Bul (Bul was moving).
TURKEY (James Woodson) A Con-BUL, A GRE S A Con-BUL, F AEG S A Con-BUL, F EAS holds.

SUPPLY CENTERS

AUSTRIA (4): Home, Ser - lost Rum, Gre; took TRI - even.
ENGLAND (3): Edi, Lp1, NWY - lost Lon - must remove one.
FRANCE (7): Home, Por, Spa, BEL, LON - took BEL, LON - may build two.
GERMANY (6): Home, HOL, SWE, DEN - took DEN - may build one.
ITALY (4): Home, Tun - lost Tri - even.
RUSSIA (5): Home, RUM - took RUM - may build one.
TURKEY (5): Home, BUL, GRE - took GRE - may build one.

PRESS THE MUTUAL HATE SOCIETY: You're in trouble now, buster. All's quiet on the western front? Look again.

VIE - TRI: Kindly vacate the premises. The stench is starting to spread to neighboring provinces, like here. PEEE-YEW! Don't you people know anything about personal hygiene?

WHITEHALL: Plus ca change, plus la bonne chose.

DELCASSE: The president took the news of the scuttling of the Austrian warship "Franz Josef" lightly at his chateau in Picardy today. "After all", said he, "The crew were picked up by some fairly fine Turkish ~~semen~~ seamen".

BERLIN TO PARIS: The weather looks good for a crossing, nicht wahr?

THE ROME TRIBUNE: The illustrious General Federico DeSica will not bow to the threats of oppression spewing from the mouth of the feeble Austrian Warlord in Vienna. For the greater glory of our modern corporate state the General, however, has listened quite closely to the rantings of the Hapsburgs, trying to avoid war. But it seems that the Austrians are incapable in meeting the Italian proposals half-way. In his villa on the Dalmatian coast the General has asked that other nations not interfere, nor act as an honest broker in this dispute, as the movement of any forces into the theatre of possible conflict may find themselves unwillingly involved (For the Greater Glory!).

The proposed rule change failed to pass, so we'll continue with the rule that an NMRed unit which is dislodged is annihilated.

The Austrian retreat, Winter 1902, and Spring 1903 are due December 4th.

1979-IH Fall 1905

ENGLAND (Doug Karnes) A KIE-Ber, A RUH S FRENCH A MUN, F SKA-Swe, F NWY S F SKA-Swe,
 F DEN S F SKA-Swe, F NRG S F NWY, F HEL S F DEN.
 FRANCE (Gerry van Alkemade?) NMR; A MUN holds, A GAL holds, A VEN holds, A PIE holds,
 F APU holds, F NAP holds, F TYR holds, F TUN holds.
 GERMANY (Randolph Smyth) Retreat A Mun-BOH; A BER-Mun, A BOH S A BER-Mun.
 ITALY (Bob Albrecht?) NMR; GM retreats A Ven-OTB.
 RUSSIA (Pete Fuchs) Retreat F Nwy-BAR, A Tri-VIE; A TYO-Mun, A SIL S A TYO-Mun,
F STP(nc)-Nwy, F BAL S F SWE, F BAR S F STP(nc)-Nwy, F SWE S F STP(nc)-Nwy, A VIE-
Gal, A War-LVN, F Sev-Rum (dislodged, retreat Arm or OTB).
 TURKEY (Bob Kluge) A Rum-SEV, F BLA S A Rum-SEV, A Ser-RUM, A BUD S A Ser-RUM,
 F ADR S F TRI, F TRI S F ADR, F ION S F ADR.

SUPPLY CENTERS

ENGLAND (8): Home, Bel, Hol, DEN, KIE, NWY - took NWY - may build one.
 FRANCE (10): Home plus Italy, Por, Spa, TUN, MUN - took MUN, VEN - may build two.
 GERMANY (1): BER - lost Mun - must remove one.
 ITALY (0): lost Ven - out.
 RUSSIA (5): Mos, STP, War, SWE, VIE - lost Bud, Tri, Nwy, Ser - must remove four!
 TURKEY (10): Home, Bul, Gre, Ser, RUM, BUD, TRI, SEV - took BUD, TRI, SEV - may
 build three.

Will Keith Mercer (R.D.#6, Old Ash Road,,Mercer, Pennsylvania 16137) please standby
 for France?

The Russian retreat plus Winter '05 and Spring '06 orders are due December 4th.

1979-CG Fall 1904...isn't it?

AUSTRIA (Nick Russon?) NMR; A Bud holds (dislodged, retreat Gal or OTB (same thing)).
 ENGLAND (Gerry van Alkemade?) NMR; F NRG holds, F Nth holds, F DEN holds, F HEL holds
 F Kie holds (annihilated), A HOL holds.
 FRANCE (Eric Ozog) A Bur-MUN, A Gas-BUR, A PAR S A Gas-BUR, A Mar-PIE, F Bre-MID.
 GERMANY (Al Rodriguez) A Mun-KIE, A RUH S A Mun-KIE, A BER S A Mun-KIE.
 ITALY (Francois Cuerrier) A Tri-BUD, A VIE S A Tri-BUD, A SER S A Tri-BUD, F GRE S
 RUSSIAN A Rum-BUL, A ALB S F GRE, F Nap-ION, F ADR S F Nap-ION.
 RUSSIA (Trevor Baillie) F BAL-Ber, F NWY holds, F SWE S F NWY, A Rum-BUL, A Gal-RUM,
 F SEV S A Gal-RUM, A Mos-STP.
 TURKEY (Bob Albrecht?) NMR; A Bul holds (dislodged, retreat to Con or OTB), F AEG
 holds, F BLA holds, F EAS holds.

SUPPLY CENTERS

AUSTRIA (0): lost Bud, Ser - out.
 ENGLAND (6): Home, Bel, HOL, DEN - even but may build one.
 FRANCE (6): Home, Por, Spa, MUN - took MUN - may build one.
 GERMANY (2): BER, KIE - lost Mun - must remove one.
 ITALY (9): Home plus Austria, Tun, GRE, SER - took SER, BUD - may build two.
 RUSSIA (8): Home, RUM, NWY, SWE, BUL - took BUL - may build one.
 TURKEY (3): Home - lost Bul - must remove one.

Will Mike Conner (3214 Beverly Road,,Austin, Texas 78703 (if you write, ask for a
 sample of his 'zine)) please standby for England, and Gary Coughlan (4614 Martha Cole
 Lane,,Memphis, Tennessee 38118) for Turkey?

Winter 1904 & Spring 1905 are due December 4th.

1976-CJ Fall 1916 THE SOUTH IMPLODES!

ENGLAND (Robert Acheson) F Tyr-Tun, F Wes S F Tyr-Tun, F NAf S F Tyr-Tun, F Lyo-Tyr, F Spa(sc)-Lyo, F Eng-Mid, F Nth-Den, A Mos-Sev, A Ukr S A Mos-Sev, A War S A Ukr, A StP-Mos.

GERMANY (Randolph Smyth) A Bel-Hol, A Kie-Hol, F Den holds, A Tyo-Tri, A Ven S A Tyo-Tri, A Pie S A Ven, A Vie-Bud, A Gal S A Vie-Bud, A Boh-Vie.

ITALY (Tom Kissner) F Ion-Gre (dislodged, retreat to Apu, Alb, OTB), A Rom-Nap (dislodged, may retreat to Apu or OTB), S Tun S ENGLISH F Tyr-Ion (annihilated).

TURKEY (Fred "Death From Above" Winter) A Sev-Ukr (annihilated), A Rum S A Sev-Ukr, A Arm-Sev, A Tri S ITALIAN A Rom-Ven (NSO; may retreat Alb or OTB), A Bud S A Tri (annihilated), A Ser-Gre, F Adr-Ion, F Eas S F Adr-Ion, F Tus-Rom, F Nap S F Tus-Rom, F Con-Aeg.

SUPPLY CENTERS

ENGLAND (13): Home plus Russia, Swe, Nwy, Por, Bre, Spa, Tun - took Sev, Tun - may build two.

GERMANY (12): Home plus Austria, Den, Hol, Bel, Par, Mar, Ven - took Bud, Tri, Ven - may build three, but only room for two.

ITALY (0): lost Rom, Ven, Tun - out.

TURKEY (9): Home, Bul, Ser, Rum, Gre, Nap, Rom - lost Bud, Tri, Sev; took Rom - even, or may build one if Tri retreats OTB, OR if both Tri and Ion retreat to Alb.

As it says upstairs, Italy may retreat his units before removing them. If two units try for Albania, both get creamed, and Turkey may then build in the Winter.

We bid fond farewell to Italy, the victim of a merciless (and pointless?) stab by the previous tenant of Turkey. Tom, now you can devote your full attention to '77-AI.

The E-G draw proposal failed. Retreats, Winter '16, and Spring '17 orders are due December 4.

1979-KK Winter 1903 & Spring 1904

AUSTRIA (Pete Fuchs) Build F TRI; A BUL S RUSSIAN F Bla-CON, F GRE-Aeg, F ION-Tyr, F Tri-ADR, A Bud-VIE, A ROM holds, A Ven-PIE, A TYO S A Ven-PIE.

ENGLAND (Bob Albrecht?) NMR; A STP holds, F NWY holds, F SKA holds, F NTH holds, A BEL holds.

FRANCE (Don Tinker) F WES-Tyr, A MAR-Pie, A Ruh-HOL, A Bur-RUH, A Pic-BUR.

GERMANY (Trevor Baillie) Remove A HoI; F Den-Nth (dislodged, retreat Hel or Hell), A BOH-Mun, A KIE S A BOH-Mun.

ITALY (Eric Verheiden) Remove A Pie; F Tyr-NAP, F AEG-Ion.

RUSSIA (Dave Rue) Build A MOS; A MOS holds, F Swe-DEN, F BAL S F Swe-DEN, A MUN S A BER, A BER S A MUN, A Rum-GAL, F Bla-CON, F Ank S F Bla-CON (dislodged, may retreat to Bla, Arm, or OTB).

TURKEY (Pete Ashley) F Con-ANK, A Smy S F Con-ANK.

PRESS NAPLES: Western powers should note that the east is rapidly overrunning everything. Mutually beneficial proposals will be considered as long as possible.

Welcome to the new governments of France & Italy.

The potentially new government of England is Doug Karnes (Box 77, Kemnay, Manitoba R0K 1E0).

Fall 1904 orders are due December 4th.

1979-IA Winter 1902 & Spring 1903

AUSTRIA (Dave Rue) Retreat A Ser-ALB, F Gre-OTB; Remove A Vie; A ALB-Ser.

ENGLAND (Dave Carter) Build F LON; F Nth-HEL, F DEN S F Nth-HEL, F Lon-NTH, F Eng-MID, A YOR holds.

FRANCE (Bob Albrecht?) NMR; A BEL holds, A BUR holds, A PIC holds, A GAS holds, F SPA(sc) holds.

GERMANY (Paul Rauterberg) Retreat A Bel-HOL; A Ruh-MUN, A KIE S A Ruh-MUN, A Hol-RUH, F Hel-HOL.

ITALY (Doug Warfel) Build F ROM; F WES-Spa(sc), F Rom-TUS, F Ion-TYR, A Tyo-VIE, A TRI S A Tyo-VIE, A BUD S A Tyo-VIE.

RUSSIA (Paul Wakefield) F RUM holds, A SEV S F RUM, A GAL S F RUM, A War-UKR, A Sil-BOH, F SWE S ENGLISH F DEN.

TURKEY (Russ Pugh) Build A ANK, ACON; A Ank-ARM, F BLA S A Ank-ARM, A Con-ANK, A BUL S A SER, A SER S A BUL, F GRE S A BUL.

PRESS LONDON - ANKARA: Oh to be in Moscow when the leaves turn brown!

SMYRNA SUN-TIMES: In an exclusive interview with Austrian Emperor Franz Josef on Thursday, the former monarch expressed surprisingly unabated defiance of his foes. From his new residence off Seraglio Point, the nude, purple Franz vowed "we will continue (bong) our fight without abatement (bong). We will fight them on land (bong) on the sea, and (bong) yes, even in the air(?); we will never (bong) surrender, our (bong) will to resist continues (bong) undiminished." Waving to a group of Orthodoxed nuns lining the shore, the Hapsburg sovereign concluded the interview prematurely, feigning "glandular indisposal."

ALEPPO GLOBE AND MAIL: The Porte sent a stern message to Rome today protesting the Italian's refusal to permit Turkish participation in the victory celebration in Vienna on Tuesday. Commented Ottoman war-chief, Osman Pasha, "Our boys have had a rough go of it and three days' pillage and raping shouldn't be too much to ask."

ENGLAND - ITALY: If you will excuse my move to MID, it's just that ever since my Greek campaign I have been hesitant about people creeping up behind me.

TURIN SUN: DIE IS CAST! His Imperial Majesty declared war on the vile French Republic today. Troops were being rushed to the front in glorious numbers. French waters were declared to constitute a war zone. When asked as to the cause of the war, Prime Minister Zanardelli said, "France is first of all a bloody Republic. I would hope that all monarchies will support our cause. Secondly, the French have launched a drive for world conquest which we must not allow." He added that Germany and England were planning to join Italy in the war.

VENICE OBSERVER: FRANZ JOSEF FOUND! Franz Josef, evil Emperor of Austria-Hungary until overthrown by patriotic Austrians, has been captured at his castle at Baden. He is being taken to Rome where he will be questioned by authorities. If alive after this, half his body will be turned over to the Turkish Sultanate for trial and conviction.

WALL STREET WATER RAT: Last issue I mistakenly connected the beginning of one press release with the end of another, and left out the middle. Also, I forgot another release entirely. They were...

MILAN TRIBUNE: SECRET REVEALED Foreign Minister Visconti-Venosta revealed today that he had just returned from Lausanne, Switzerland, where he had successfully persuaded the International Olympic Committee to keep Turkey from fielding a dead Olympic team in 1904.

ROMAN TIMES: ONWARD TO VICTORY Prime Minister Zanardelli announced today that Crown Prince Umberto would lead the final attack against the armed forces of Franz Josef, the late emperor of Austria-Hungary.

'79-IA Continued

BRAZZAVILLE - BORNEO: We have McLeod; request instructions.

VAN VANGUARD (UPI): The Russian Ambassador to Rome, Viktor Karp, was found strangled to death today outside his residence near the Libreria d'Italia. While the late diplomat was known to be virulently anti-Turkish and to have made several public comments to this effect, no foreign involvement in his death is suspected. The Sublime Porte had no comment on the matter when questioned this afternoon.

Will the owner of an 1899 Duryea, license #182-F4G, please move your car. It's blocking Austria's retreat from Greece.

The standby (please) for France is Mark Lew (3120 W. 79th., Anchorage, Alaska 99502).

Fall 1903 orders are due December 4th.

1977-AN Winter 1911 only, by request

AUSTRIA (Mike Carroll) Build A Bud; has As Mun, Ber, Tri, Vie, Ser, Bud.

ENGLAND (Eric Ozog) Even; has As Ven, StP, Nwy, Yor, Kie, Hol, Fs Bal, Bot, Nth, Wes, Bre, Eng.

FRANCE (Ron Kelly) Retreat A Bre-Pic; build A Par; has As Mar, Pic, Par, F Spa(sc).

ITALY (Paul Rauterberg) Remove F Tun; has F Adr.

TURKEY (Bob Kluge) Retreat A Ven-Pie; remove F Aeg; has As Gre, Rum, Bul, Pie, Pru, War, Mos, Fs Lyo, Tyr, Rom, Ion.

PRESS VOICE OF ROME, DEFIANT IN EXILE: We declare war on The United States, Japan, and Brazil. Imperialist warmongers must be pursued to the edges of the world, and cast into the void. Since we have lost our homeland, we are free to work for the liberation of enslaved peoples the world over. Fear us.

VOICE OF ROME, DEFIED: Only a rat could survive in such a sewer.

Thanks once more to Pete Keltch for unused French orders.

There is a proposal for a Turkish-Austrian draw. Your vote (none received is a 'YES') and your Spring 1912 orders are due December 4th.

1977-AI Fall 1910 AGAIN

AUSTRIA (Pete Keltch) A Tri-Alb, A Ser S A Tri-Alb, F Gre S A Tri-Alb (annihilated), A Smy holds, A Syr S A Smy, A Rum-Bul, A Con S A Rum-Bul, A Boh-Mun, A Tyo S A Boh-Mun, A Sil S A Boh-Mun, A Mos S RUSSIAN A StP, A Lvn S RUSSIAN A StP, A Bud-Vie.

ENGLAND (Francois Cuerrier) F Nwy-StP(nc), F Bar S F Nwy-StP(nc), F Swe-Fin, F Ber S F Kie, F Kie S F Ber, A Bel holds, F Eng S A Bel, F Hol S A Bel,

A Bre S ITALIAN A Par, F Mid S A Bre.

FRANCE (Doug Karnes) A Pic-Bel, A Bur S A Pic-Bel.

GERMANY (Randolph Smyth) A Ruh-Hol.

ITALY (Ron Kelly) F Alb-Gre, F Ton S F Alb-Gre, F Aeg S F Alb-Gre, A Ven S A Pie, A Pie S A Ven, F Mar-Tri (impossible), A Par S ENGLISH A Bre.

RUSSIA (Tom Kissner) A StP holds.

SUPPLY CENTERS

AUSTRIA (13): Home plus Turkey, Ser, War, Sev, Bul, Mos, Rum, Mun - lost Gre; took Mun - even; but may build one.

ENGLAND (11): Home, Nwy, Swe, Den, Hol, Bel, Kie, Ber, Bre - took Bre - may build one.

FRANCE (0): lost Par, Bre - out.

GERMANY (0): lost Mun - out.

ITALY (9): Home, Spa, Tun, Mar, Por, Par, Gre - took Par, Gre - may build two.

RUSSIA (1): StP - even.

'77-AI continued

Winter 1910 & Spring 1911 are postponed until next issue (at least), and Fall 1910 has been readjudicated due to the following letter from Pete Keltch.

I protest! For the first time ever I used conditional orders, which you have often praised. You referred to them as "duplicate orders", and the three units in question ended up holding. I am at a complete loss to understand this and would appreciate an explanation.

I wrote the orders I wanted and then wrote "If Italian unit ordered to Trieste, then alternate orders on back." On the back I wrote, "Alternate orders, if Italian unit ordered to Trieste..." My Webster's defines the word "if", in the first definition, as "1. Expressing a condition, supposition, or hypothesis: on condition that; in case that; supposing that: as, "if I come, I'll see him", "if I were you, I wouldn't do that."

Therefore, why wasn't this the classically simple conditional order: if the Italian unit attacks, the condition occurs to change the order; if it doesn't the original order applies.

...I just took time to dig out issue #1 of CHEESECAKE where you say "conditional" and "contingency orders" are legal. Wherein have I offended, Grand Omnipotent Director of 1977-AI?

Pete is right, the rules do say conditional orders are legal, but doesn't define what they are. I think I intended it to mean (in effect) future contingencies ("... if I must retreat after this season and Fin is open, I'll retreat there. If Fin isn't open I'll retreat to Mos."), but I don't really remember. Anyway, I know I didn't intend that orders could be made contingent upon a same season move; but Pete didn't know that.

So the problem is incomplete houserules (sharpen your blue pencil), but what's the solution? The orders submitted were definately illegal so can't be used, but that's not Pete's fault.

I asked Pete to submit the orders for those three units which he would have submitted before seeing Italy's Fall moves, if he'd known he could submit only one set. He has done that, which is the reason for the readjudication. The only change is the Austrian army moving from Tri to Alb.

If any of you disagree with my solution (or with my contention that Pete was not at fault), I will dump the whole matter in the lap of the CDO Ombudsman, who (since that's Francois) will no doubt dump it in someone else's lap. Please fell free to request the Ombudsman if that's what you want; I won't be offended. But before doing so, consider the problem in terms of what is fair, and not what is best for your position in the game. To consult the Ombudsman in hopes of improving your lot, and not because you've been treated wrongly is deception of the GM (and not nice).

Also, one cannot assume pete should have known his orders were illegal because of common practice. If he never tried it before, it's not common to him.

Also (again), Pete has not gained any advantage, because his new orders are the same as that portion of his illegal double set which he would have submitted had he not thought he could submit both.

Corrections to the houserules can be found somewhere in MISC.

Winter 1910 and Spring 1911 OR requests to submit this mess to the Ombudsman are due December 4th.

1980-M Fall 1902

AUSTRIA (Jack Fleming) F Gre-BUL(sc), A SER S F Gre-BUL(sc), A Bud-RUM, A GAL S A Bud-RUM, A Tri-BUD.
 ENGLAND (Garry Fairbairn) Retreat F Nwy-SKA; F SKA-Nwy, F NRG S F SKA-Nwy, F NTH S F SKA-Nwy, F Hol S A Bel (dislodged, retreat to Hel or OTB), A Bel S F Hol (dislodged, may retreat to Ruh or OTB).
 FRANCE (Barry Hickey) A Bur-BEL, A PIC S A Bur-BEL, A GAS-Mar, F Lyo-TUS, F Mid-IRI.
 GERMANY (Robert Goldberg) A MUN holds, A Ruh-HOL, A KIE S A Ruh-HOL, F DEN-Nth.
 ITALY (John Davies) A TUN holds, A PIE-Mar, F Ion-TYR.
 RUSSIA (Randy Henn) A StP-MOS, F BLA holds, F SEV holds, A UKR holds, F NWY S F SWE, F SWE S F NWY.
 TURKEY (Bob Albrecht?) NMR; GM retreats F Bla-OTB; A Rum holds (annihilated), A Bul holds (dislodged, retreat to Con or OTB), F AEG holds.

SUPPLY CENTERS

AUSTRIA (7): Home, SER, Gre, BUL, RUM - took BUL, RUM - may build two.
 ENGLAND (3): Home - lost Nwy, Bel - must remove two.
 FRANCE (6): Home, Por, Spa, BEL - took BEL - may build one.
 GERMANY (5): Home, DEN, HOL - took HOL - may build one.
 ITALY (4): Home, TUN - took TUN - may build one.
 RUSSIA (6): Home, SWE, NWY - lost Rum; took NWY - even.
 TURKEY (3): Home - lost Bul - may build one.

PRESS VIENNA - LONDON: WHAT'S a deal??!?

LONDON - MOSCOW: With two enemies in the south, you send three units against me? Lord Cardigan would approve, but I doubt your generals do.

LONDON - VIENNA: Carve the bear up with my blessing. I'll keep him busy up north.

FRANCE - ENGLAND: Sorry old bean.

BUDAPEST: The Austrian Department of Foreign Correspondence (DFC) is investigating a peculiar "inflow-outflow" problem. In October the Department issued eight separate messages. The Subsection for Incoming Correspondence (SIC) reports but one message in reply. A popular hypothesis around the Department is that this is not postal Diplomacy but is in actuality telepathic Diplomacy. Thus the Department has been searching for replies in the wrong areas. Madame Lagunda has been called in to give Tarot readings concerning allies' and enemies' plans of action.

Will Chuck Doehrer (P.O.Box 1832,,Chicago, Illinois 60690) please standby for Turkey?

You may make your Winter adjustments contingent upon the retreats, and your Spring moves contingent upon the Winter.

All of the above is due December 4th.

MISC.

*Or...*How to Depress Your GM

James Woodson is looking for an opponent for the last Battleship game to start (for a while anyway) in CHEESECAKE. Anyone?

Make the following correction to your much maligned houserules; under ORDERS cross out "conditional orders". I'll have to clean up the definitions for the next set. That next set will be triple spaced, with four inch margins.

LETTERS TO THE WATER RAT

From Francois Cuerrier:

It has come to my attention that you have taken up a collection to buy me a new typewriter ribbon. This indicates to me that socialist and communist elements have infiltrated 3025 N. Davlin Ct., and that you yourself might just be a prominent Red agent. The practice of taking up collections dates back to the nineteenth century socialist movement, (and as such is highly dysfunctional in our society) which therefore makes you very suspicious to my eyes. If you weren't so much of a left-wing, red-neck, unperceptive and moronic lower-class lousy computer programmer, you would have understood this before undertaking this very ill-advised plan. The hobby must unite to fight all communist infiltrations where they can be found, and even where they can't be found. Be warned - your days are numbered! I have just set up a counter-espionage & infiltration agency, DWAWS (Down With All Water Rats Society). I will give a \$5.00 reward to anyone who forwards the head of a water rat.

So much for McCarthyism. I would like to offer some random thoughts on your reply to my letter printed in CHEESECAKE 17, pp. 8-10.

In regard to p. 9: my objection was not to delaying votes when a player NMRs, but rather to your system of delaying votes when a player NMRs and has the deciding vote (which allowed the other players to know his vote, especially as you didn't allow them to change their vote). But the changes that you've announced should - at least in part - resolve the problem, and my own argument was probably poorly worded altogether.

In regard to a standby's power (or lack thereof in CHEESECAKE games) to vote: I can't change your mind if you really believe that the original player did cast a vote by dropping out. You are indeed entitled to say, "no vote received is a 'YES'", but it would seem to me that it is actually only counted as a yes. There's a world of difference between counting something as a yeah, and a yeah. Counting all votes after the season would resolve this problem, but (unfortunately?) you say you won't do that (why?)...

...Which brings me to say that counting votes before the season has some disadvantages (besides those mentioned above): suppose that a 16-center player knows he has some chance of winning this season, but he is also tired of the game and would like to vote 'yes' to a 2-way draw proposal (just proposed last season) if he fails to win. Your system will force him to defeat the proposal and make his shot for victory. But if he doesn't succeed, your system made a lot of people waste their time. By contrast, counting votes after the season will allow the player to vote 'yes' and still make his shot for victory, without any waste of time to anyone. And there's more to this than just that: the 16-center player, after playing out the season, might just decide to try to win again before accepting the 2-way proposal, and after that season, again and again (so the result is some sort of boring chain reaction...) even if his original intention was to accept the draw if he couldn't win on his first attempt - so your system actually distorts player intention by imposing undue restrictions. But reading over, I see that this situation is very unlikely to occur - yet, you once told me that a GM should try not to influence player decisions as much as possible... still, as I've implied above, I can't hope to change your mind if you really believe your system is better.

Yes you can hope, Francois (you pig lackey of the military-industrial complex!). I hope none of you think I'm inflexible.

The argument that a 'YES' and an NMR being counted as a 'YES' are different animals is a good one, and I'll consider it. However, right now I'm feeling too blah for logical thought, so will postpone the matter. I'm not sweeping it under the rug, just into a corner

Francois continues...

You've asked for comments on p.7. I agree that the players have a right to know what happened in the previous season, but not how or why. Players don't have the right to know why a player didn't submit a build in the previous Winter any more than they have the right to know whether he phoned or mailed his orders in... Further, while John ((Michalski)) is correct that all players are entitled to information about a previous season, he appears to be missing the point that this information might actually be a lead as to what will happen during the next season. A GM should be careful about releasing information about the past which may in fact act as the perfect crystal ball to predict the future...

In regard to the bottom of p.7: you ask about the possibility of going against years of tradition. "Hobby tradition" is actually quite a vague term and often only exists in the brains of a few - and it depends very much on the socio-cultural context (e.g. in Britain the tradition is never to call for a standby...). But I'd say that - unless my understanding of North-American hobby tradition is flawed - the practice of calling for a standby applies to moves rather than seasons. That is, if a player misses a move (which might include more than one season, i.e., Fall retreats 1905/Winter 1905/Spring 1906), the GM usually calls for a replacement player. And I'd much rather if you'd call for a standby every time the original player misses, even if it's "only" a Winter season. Otherwise, you're leaving the door open for two move-misses in a row (without a standby to offer alternate orders), which just might affect the game adversely...

Right you are, Oppressor of the down-trodden masses. Also, sticking rigidly to the rulebook (if my interpretation is correct) would serve no purpose here. In real (Diplomacy) life, an NMR is an NMR, and not an exercise in rule interpretation. To call a standby for the next Spring won't hurt the standby, nor the original player, nor the other players. So I'll stick to tradition (at least for a while).

The phone game you're planning to GM will - in all likelihood - be declared irregular (or rather "local"). Generally, only non-local, postal, games are rated.

That's what Lee Kendter said too, so I think I'll save my \$1.00.

I do think that you should always attempt to phone (collect) a player who is about to NMR, as this is a good way to de-emphasize the effect of NMRs on the game as a whole. To be fair (and consistent), though, you should call all NMRing players (who gave their permission to be called collect) if you call any in any given season. I s'pose I could expand on these points a bit, but this letter is already too long. Next time (horrors!), perhaps.

From Randolph Smyth:

I don't really go for the idea of phoning players to prevent NMRs. It's really just an extension of the whole use of the phone in postal Dippy, which benefits the guys with a bit of extra cash to spend on the hobby (and those whose schedule leaves them at home on deadline evenings!). However, as a player, I've taken advantage of the similar rules of other GMs (though I think I've only avoided an NMR once by that method). If there's a good reason (mail problem) for NMRs, the proper GM reaction is a delay, I feel. Otherwise, if the guy fails to get his orders in by letter on time, and doesn't phone himself, then he should pay the penalty. Depending on the number of NMRs you have on deadline night, you could let yourself in for a lot of work otherwise. Some GMs have a somewhat capricious system where they will phone if it happens to be convenient. I suppose there's nothing "unfair" about this, but I just like to avoid the whole problem myself.

I'm not going to phone NMRing players. At least not yet.

Although I doubt that it would cause much extra work, I don't think a GM should be responsible for obtaining moves. Very few players worry about avoiding NMRs, and it shouldn't be the GMs job to prod them.

Anyway, what's so awful about an NMR? As a player I love NMRs, because I don't NMR... my enemies do. When planning moves I always consider the possibility that my opponents will NMR. To phone NMRing players denies the other players the freedom to take advantage of their opponents mistakes.

It (phoning etc.) could also be an artificial way of keeping a player interested. Maybe the game will run smoother in the long run if the disinterested players are allowed to drift away and are replaced with interested standbys.

But the Money-grubbing Imperialist Warmonger's (Francois) argument makes sense too, and some players have truly awful mail service which sometimes makes avoiding NMRs impossible.

Anyway, my biggest objection to phoning soon-to-be-NMRed players is that I don't know how well it would work. So, to find out, I will test this policy in a 2.5 week game planned for the near future.

From Barry Hickey:

Concerning the item about the NRR I feel that the unit should be allowed to retreat to any space which would be available. If there is a choice of spaces it should be to the one with the lowest content of opposing units. Failing that by the simple formula of alphabetical order. Of course if the power is required to remove something the retreating pieces should be OTB.

If a player fails to order any retreat in CHEESECAKE, a large gnarled hand descends upon Europe and plucks the hapless unit from the face of the earth. If I'm feeling especially strange, I'll set up the board with chocolate covered cherries, and pop the screaming hordes into my mouth. Yum.

From John Stewart:

You know I like your 'zine but why the oversized back copy of #12? Does it have a secret message or contain some words of wisdom written on invisible ink?

Seriously though, I did receive your #12 which was dated March 27, 1980 and post-marked Oct. 18, 1980. Mistake??

It was supposed to be a joke, but I think I have confused rather than amused people. Back in March that issue was intended as a fake of CHEESECAKE, but I decided against mailing it (if you have to fake your own 'zine, why bother?). Newer subscribers like John have no way of knowing how skimpy this 'zine was, and I was just making fun of myself. Actually, I liked it skimpier, and hope to shrink CHEESECAKE as some of the orphan games fade away.

From an anonymous writer:

**LEAVE \$10,000 in the Hollow STUMP AT
RT 12 and OLD Farm RD ... or you'll
NEVER see Your Wife ... again**

From Ron Reagan:

RONALD REAGAN

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lischett,

As our campaign enters its final days, I would like to share with you my thoughts on this election and what it means for our country.

I have travelled more than 200,000 miles listening and talking to tens of thousands of Americans from all walks of life and backgrounds, in cities, suburbs and small towns.

As President, creating more jobs will be a top domestic priority. Responsible tax reform is not only possible but essential to revitalizing our economy, rebuilding our cities and providing jobs millions of Americans so desperately need.

Inflation can be controlled and essential services maintained by a President who has the commitment to see no to excessive federal spending. I intend to be such a President.

Our national defense and foreign policies must be strengthened so that our sons and daughters never again have to go to war. This can be done by having a President whose policy is clear and consistent with friend and foe alike.

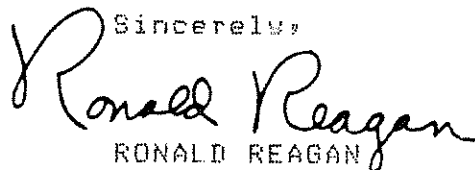
The problems we face in the 1980's are not Republican in nature, nor Democratic. They affect us all as a people, and we must all work together to solve them. I believe I can set our nation moving forward again.

To do this, I need your help on November 4.

As Americans, we have an opportunity to make a new beginning in the 1980's and to build a government and a future for our nation of which we and our children will be proud.

With your help, we will.

Sincerely,


RONALD REAGAN

P.S. Enclosed is a sample of my new 'zine, THE GOOD OLD DAYS. It will feature regular DIPLOMACY plus a surprisingly realistic version of NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST.

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