



Volume 10, Number 9

September 7, 1985

Salutations one and all. This is COSTAGUANA, a journal of postal Diplomacy and stress-soaked silliness, foisted upon unsuspecting and unsuspecting alike by Conrad von Metzke, 4374 Donald Avenue, San Diego, CA 92117-3813. Phones: Home, (619) 276-2937. Work, (619) 566-2170 or 566-2190. I request that you use the latter only if you've no other choice.

Subscriptions 22c per copy in multiples of ten, or in trade for your equivalent publication all-for-all. Game fees: New recipients \$7, present recipients \$3. This single fee covers you for the duration of your game, unless you drop out without the courtesy of telling me, in which case I drop you from the mailing list and consign you to the ashes.

KEN PEEL DEPT.: Without summarizing (for new subscribers) the situation, I nevertheless want to insert the following comment:

John Caruso has reminded me that, despite my noble essay on Ken's actions in this journal and my overbearing reaction thereto, I did not in fact make formal apology. True that the intent, implication and spirit were there; that's not the same thing.

Ken Peel: Be it known that I apologize, publicly and without equivocation, for singling you out in an uncalled-for manner for what is essentially a minor sin. You deserved better, and I regret my intemperate exposition.

ERIC DEPT.: There is an ancient joke that goes like this: Teacher: "Can anyone tell me one of the major uses for cowhide?" Student: "Well, it holds the cow together."

I thought of this the other evening when Eric and I took a shower. Apropos of nothing, Eric looked up and asked, "Daddy, if I take too many showers, will my skin wash off?" "No, Eric." "Good. Without my skin, I'd fall to pieces!"

DEPARTMENT OF TYRANNIES: As an avid reader, I go through a lot of books, and I make a point of re-reading a few of my favorites on a regular basis. I have, for many years, ritualized an annual 'read' of Tolkien's RING. Ditto Conrad's NOSTROMO (from which this journal is named) and SECRET SHARER. Many other works are not so programmed, but they do get periodic re-involvement depending on my whim and mood.

As I write this, the minority dictatorship in South Africa is engaged in murdering huge numbers of its black citizens. And my sorrow at the weak American response to this brutality led me back to the books of a white South African of real value and sensitivity: Col. Laurens Van Der Post.

Handwritten scribbles and numbers at the bottom of the page, including what appears to be '205-1248'.

GAME 1983HK - THE AMBIDEXTROUS AARDVARK - Spring 1908

I suppose it was a little unreasonable of me to ask the question I did (about draws) at a time when most of you wouldn't have any other need to write. That probably explains why so few answers. So let's leave it open until Fall; please state with your next moves what form(s), if any, of negotiated settlement of this game you would accept. If anyone is confused on what I'm looking for, here's an example using fictitious countries: "I will agree to any of the following, in order of preference: Draw between Serbia & Rumania, Serbia and Albania, Serbia and Spain; three-way settlement between Serbia, Rumania, Albania or Serbia, Rumania and Spain; four-way settlement between Serbia, Rumania, Spain and Albania."

Or you could keep it simple: "I will agree to any settlement as long as I'm included," or "...any settlement except one that includes Norway."

Just tell me what you will and won't agree to, and I'll see what can be pieced together. Don't worry, you'll all have a chance to veto anything that comes out of this before it's made official. And if nothing does come of it, we play on - and I must confess, I won't be all that unhappy about it. This could get interesting....

ENGLAND (R.Anderson): a lon-wal. a par-bre. f nat-mid. f cly-lvp.
f nth-hol. f den-hel. f eng-bel.

FRANCE (Rauterberg): f iri-eng.

GERMANY (Keller): a ber-kie. a hol (s) ber-kie.

ITALY (D.Anderson): a gre-ser. a bel-pic. a bud-gal. a gal-ukr. a ser-
bud. a ven-pie. a rom-ven. f nap-ion. f alb (s) ion-gre. f spa
sc - por. f mid (s) FRE iri-eng. f tyn (s) nap-ion. f ion-gre.

RUSSIA (Egli): a mun-bur. a war-ukr. a tyo-pie. a sil-ber. f kie
(s) ENG nth-hol.

TURKEY (Touchette): a rum (s) bul. a bul (s) rum. a con (s) bul. f eas
(s) aeg. f bla (s) rum. f aeg (s) bul.

There are, astonishingly, no retreats.

Fall 1908 Moves are due Saturday, September 28, 1985.

Oh - and about those cards and letters on what you'll accept in the way of draws? Well, next time you all have to write, right? (Heh heh...) So let's just mention that if you miss the move, or send the move but don't make any comments on the draw business, I will interpret it that you will agree to absolutely anything. Fair?

ITALY: We hope that peace has finally arrived, and that

JAMUL: Oh, did you need more paper?

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THE COSTAGUANA STANDBY LIST

The following have indicated willingness to serve as standbys should a regular player miss a move: (In no particular order) Konrad Baumeister, Matt Fleming, Lu Henry, Keith Sherwood, John Walker, Paul Rauterberg. (I know, Konrad; desperation-time only, eh? Have I ever used you yet?) Anybody wish to be added? Deleted? Let me know....

And a note to any and all publishers reading this: I am available for your standby lists. Please feel free to call on me. Variants only by prior agreement, please....

One- and two-unit positions a specialty.

KEN PEEL has kindly sent a couple of pages from a magazine called WASHINGTON DOSSIER, which in its Sept. '85 issue gives us photos and capsulized biographies of the various Ambassadors to the U.S. from all the countries to whom we're speaking. I thought you might enjoy meeting the Ambassador from the State of Brunei.

"The envoy from Brunei represents a small Southeast Asian nation that was known to Westerners as far back as Marco Polo. By the 14th century ((SIC - actually, the 15th)), ships carrying rare spices to be carried overland to Europe were leaving from the island homeland of Pengiran Haji Idriss. A Cambridge-trained economist, Idriss has held a variety of government posts back home, and he was high commissioner in London and Singapore before he came here last year.

His country was a British Protectorate until 1971, when it was granted internal self-government. Full independence was declared with great fanfare on New Year's Day 1984.

Situated on the north coast of the island of Borneo, Brunei is a country of low coastal plains bordered by timber-rich jungles. Revenues from oil and gas fields provide a per-capita income of more than \$20,000. Japan is the largest importer of Brunei's oil and has an exclusive contract for the natural gas.

Reports of Brunei's wealth create an image of an exotic, trouble-free state. But Idriss, 51, insists that smallness brings its own problems. Brunei must rely on other nations to respect its sovereignty, he says. With a population of only about 200,000, lack of manpower precludes much industrialization, and the country is heavily dependant on imported food. To remedy this, the government has bought cattle ranches in Australia that, Idriss says, are larger than his whole country.

Although Idriss is the first Bruneian representative to come to Washington, relations between the two countries go back to the 19th century. ((Well...yes, in the sense that in the 1870's American filibusters tried to take over the place....)) Brunei is also a member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as the Islamic Conference ((and the U.N.)). It has not seen the need to join OPEC.

Idriss is a ham radio operator, a pilot and a photographer. He also collects stamps and the silver and brass antiques for which Brunei is famous. ((Extremely famous. Next time you're in your local artifacts shop, ask to see some examples of Bruneian silver and brass. Note the curator's blank stare.))"

((And by the way - Pengiran Haji Idriss' first name is not Pengiran, as the article implies. Pengiran is a Moslem/Malay title, roughly approximating 'Prince.'))

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GAME 1983CA - THE OLFACTORY OKAPI

Time to resume play. After you all voted on possible ombudspeople, no one name had garnered five votes; but I got on the 'phone, negotiated a little, and got acceptance of the two names that had garnered four votes each: Rod Walker and Doug Beyerlein. Because he was the closest to me, and could therefore give the quickest report, I referred the matter to Rod, supplying him with all documentation. His opinion follows.

1 september 1985

The present dispute in 1983AC is an unusual one. Although it involves that most ancient of bugaboos, the missed move, the situation is (insofar as I can tell) a unique one. It might be helpful to recap the situation. The following events occurred:

1. France sent in orders for W08.
2. The GM used those orders and then disposed of the sheet on which they were written (or filed it so that he couldn't locate it later, which amounts to the same thing).
3. After the S09 deadline, the GM had no orders from France, and so published the season with "NMR" indicated for that Great Power.
4. The French player protested that he had sent his S09 orders with those for W08, and set out in his protest a set of orders which he says were those submitted before the W08 deadline. He also pointed out that the GM had (to his knowledge) not called on the deadline date.
5. The GM accepted the French orders and readjudicated the S09 results. He sent these out to the other playes with the proviso that anyone could protest his action...and, if so, he would submit the matter to an ombudsman agreeable to himself and the players.
6. The player for Russia did protest.
7. The dispute was submitted to me.

The following facts concerning the case are also relevant.

1. The GM states that he cannot recall whether S09 orders were in fact included with those for W08.
2. The GM's HRs do provide that he will call players whose orders are not received, provided the given player gives his/her consent in advance.
3. The French player had in fact not given his consent for a call. (It is not clear that he understood that consent needed to be given. The GM's HRs were codified and mailed to the players with the S09 results. The game was inherited from another publication in F08.)
4. The German player, whose postion was most directly affected by the GM's decision, did not protest.
5. The French player did not keep a carbon copy of his own S09 orders and reproduced them from memory.

As has been noted above, this situation seems unique. It is not a case of a player claiming to have sent in orders and the GM denying it. If that were the case, the failure of the French player to produce a carbon of his own ordes would be cardinal. It is true, of course, that a carbon copy could be faked, but we have to assume here that both parties are acting in good faith. Certainly the GM is. But could the French player be trying to cover for failure to submit orders?

It seems not. There are two factors here that tell us the French player honestly believes he sent in orders. One is the fact that when he protested he had no way of knowing the GM could not lay his hands on the old W08 orders. The other factor is that the French orders are entirely natural outcomes of the current game situation. If these orders represented a crucial stab or guess, then they might be suspect, since the French player had of course seen everyone else's orders by that time. As it is, the orders are themselves unexceptional and unexceptionable.

The possibility naturally exists that the French player in fact did not submit S09 orders with his W08 orders, and has forgotten this fact. Human beings can easily deceive themselves, and we have all had the experience of "remembering" having done something which, in fact, we only intended to do and didn't actually do. However, there is no way to verify this, unless the GM should later come across the original (misfiled) orders.

The Russian player's protest really implies two questions. First, should the French orders be accepted and used? Second (assuming they are used), should this game be deemed "irregular"? I can only address the first question; the second can only be resolved by the Boardman Number Custodian, to whom I would refer any person who believes the game has become "irregular".

In making a decision, it seems to me that some factors are of paramount importance. These are:

1. No player should be given an undue advantage over another. That is, the GM is charged with maintaining equity in her or his administration of the game.
2. No player should be deprived of his right to order his units without good cause, and reasonable doubt as to whether good cause exists should be resolved in favor of the player.
3. The result of a Diplomacy game should depend, insofar as possible, upon the diplomatic & military skills of the players.

4. The GM cannot firmly declare that the French player sent no orders and feels there is a reasonable probability that he did.

5. None of the French orders is such that it can be reasonably supposed to be different from what it would have been had he not seen the other orders first; that is, the orders which the French player says were his original orders appear to be exactly what he says they are.

It is therefore my decision in this matter that the French orders should be accepted and the S09 results be left as originally re-adjudicated by the GM.

This resolution of the situation has the greatest equity and results in the least disruption to the game. The French orders for S09, although relatively commonplace, are necessary to his position and are orders which his opponents and allies would normally have expected him to make; it is therefore not damaging to the game overall to allow his orders, but it is damaging to his position to disallow them. Furthermore, if in the future the French player should fail either to draw or win in this game, and if his S09 orders had been disallowed, the possibility would always remain that that event was the root cause of his failure -- whereas allowing these orders cannot be viewed as giving him any significant advantage. It comes down, then, to asking whether it is better to allow France something he would have had anyway, in the normal course of events, or to give some other player(s) something which he/she(they) did not earn. The latter seems to fly in the face of the very nature of the game. If we disallowed the French orders, and some other player were later to win the game, how can we know that the win was not merely the result of a probable error by the GM? What self-respecting player wants a win under those circumstances? If, in the current instance, France had actually forgotten to submit orders, that would be his problem. But we have no clear evidence that France is at fault. It is better, therefore, to avoid penalizing France.

That is not to say that France is totally blameless in the matter. Nor the GM.

Evidently the French player failed to keep a carbon copy of his orders. That is plainly foolish. A game is intended to be fun rather than a bookkeeping exercise, of course; but in this sort of game it is essential to know what you've said, and to whom, and exactly what you've sent in to the GM. Failure to keep copies of game correspondence is possibly just carelessness; but failure to keep copies of orders (at least until they're published) is downright silly.

By the same token, and then some, it is very bad practice for the GM to dispose of orders immediately after use. My own practice is to hang on to old orders for at least 2 game-years after use, in case some question should arise. That's excessive, I admit; however, there is good reason to hang onto them for a minimum of a game-year. The importance of this is illustrated by the following facts: If the French player had kept a carbon, this problem would still have arisen (although possibly its resolution would have been easier). However, if the GM had kept the original W08 orders, this problem would not have arisen at all...or, at the worst, would have ended with his pulling them from file and (a) publishing a corrected adjudication or (b) telling the French player that his memory was wrong and that he did not, in fact, send S09 with W08. I strongly urge Conrad to keep order copies in the future. The worst kind of dispute is one which could have been wholly avoidable.



Conrad again. Needless to say, I have already altered my system and am now retaining moves for a game year.

My deepest thanks to Rod for his efforts and for taking the time to explain himself so thoroughly. I truly hope the players will accept this as the end of the problem, as I do.

So - shall we have at it again? Fall 1909 moves are due Saturday, September 28, 1985. I have orders on file (they may be changed, of course) for Austria, Italy and Russia; I did receive German orders too, based on the pre-adjusted positions, but they are rather useless as is.

Thank you, one and all, for your patience, and, again - I'M SORRY!

SAN FRANCISCO HILL STRIDE

by Doug Beyerlein

San Francisco seems to be on the leading edge of every new fad and idea to come along. This was true when on Sunday, August 11, some four thousand striders (walkers to the unknowing) assembled at San Francisco's Marina Green to walk seven of the city's major hills en mass. At 9 a.m. with numbers on chest and route maps in hand they (or actually we) strided briskly in unison towards our first hill. It was only an easy warm-up for the steep sidewalks yet to come, but we were on our way to completing a seven-mile walk that would take us through a number of San Francisco's nicer neighborhoods.

The Hill Stride, organized and promoted by City Sports Magazine, brought out many of the same type of health oriented active people who assemble for the famous San Francisco Bay-to-Breakers cross-city foot race and costume contest every May. But instead of the mass of runners trying to push and shove their way to the front to get a fast time, there was a mass of striders out for a pleasant non-competitive Sunday stroll through the city. Not only could one stop to admire the unique architectural styles of many of the homes, but it was also permissible to take a diversion into one of the many delis and bakeries that lined the stride course. Of course, you weren't going to burn off many calories that way.

For those striders (City Sports' term, not mine) who were not sure how to go about this soon-to-be-trendy sport, the organizers were kind enough to give each entrant a list of walking tips courtesy of The Rockport Company (a shoe manufacturer and sponsor of the stride). Some tips were rather obvious: "Reach out with your hip, knee, and heel, pointing your toes in the direction of travel." Others required some knowledge of advanced mathematics: "Plant the heel of your forward moving foot at a 40-degree angle; your foot should form a 90-degree angle." Too bad I left my protractor at home.

But even without studying proper striding techniques it appears that most participants were enjoying themselves and the morning's walk. And somehow the non-competitive nature of this mass sport activity made it all that much more appealing after annually clashing elbows in some of the most crowded foot races this side of the Atlantic. Could it actually be possible that we have walked into (if you pardon the pun) a new aerobic activity that requires nothing more than a comfortable pair of shoes and a little sense of adventure? At first I thought the notion silly, but then again who would have thought that you could find 80,000 people to dress up in strange costumes and run across a major city. Only in San Francisco.

Conrad here: Those of you who know me, know that I am no athlete. I have never been one, will never be one, and could no more gear myself up for a marathon run than walk on my hands to Mars. But the Hill Stride is quite another matter; I truly think I could love that one. Quite apart from the fitness and exercise aspects, San Francisco is my home, and it would thus be the ultimate Nostalgia Walk for me. Doug doesn't tell which seven hills they strode, but whichever they were, I've already done them all - not all at once, and all before I was nine, but I've still done them. And would like to again. Doug and Marie: If they set up a second annual, will you invite me?

And thanks for a nice little filler article, my friend.

HERMAN By Unger

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"I'm just going to get a pack of cigarettes."

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GAME 1984HI - THE EXTROVERTED EMU - Spring 1905

AUSTRIA (Pierce): a arm (s) ukr-sev. a smy-con. a ser (s) con-bul.
a vie-bud. a tyo-tri. a ukr-sev. a con-bul. f tri-adr. f aeg-
 gre.

ENGLAND: NMR. f's iri, yor, nwg (h).

FRANCE (Fleming): a ven (s) GER mun-tyo. a pie (s) ven. a pic-lon.
 f mar-lyo. f mid (s) eng. f tun-ion. f tyn (s) tun-ion. f eng
 (c) pic-lon.

GERMANY (Walker): a ruh (s) kie-mun. a mun-sil. a gal-war. a ber-pru.
 a kie-mun. f hol (s) den-nth. f den-nth. f edi (s) den-nth.
 f swe-nwy.

ITALY: f nap (h).

TURKEY (Sherwood): a sev-rum. a rum-bud. f bla (s) sev-rum.

The Turkish army Sevastopol may retreat to Moscow or off the board;
 Fall moves may be conditional on this.

Obviously Matt Johnston is no longer with us, and I regret his passing.
 I am not going to bother with a standby player; looking at the position,
 it is obvious that England can do nothing of major consequence next time,
 and will be down to one unit in the fall. So into anarchy we go.

Fall moves and retreats are due Saturday, Sept. 28, 1985.

PICARDY TO ENGLAND: You haven't failed me again, have you?

JAMUL: Depends. If you mean did he forget to turn on his hearing aid....

KHAN TO PIERCE: "From the deepest pit of hell with my last dying breath
 I spit at thee, for hate's sake." (I seem to have misplaced my video of
 Star Trek II to check the exact Melville quote.)

