

PO Box 27273  
San Diego, CA 92128  
1-22-84

Hello.

You used to play DIPLOMACY - specifically, postal game 1983AC - in a magazine called DnD. Assuming you haven't lost interest, you are now playing DIPLOMACY - specifically, postal game 1983AC - in a magazine called COSTAGUANA. Hi. I'm the editor.

I have volunteered to finish this game myself, without cost to you, in my own publication. This represents, for me, a return to a hobby from which I retired a few years ago after a career that began in 1965; in its former incarnations, COSTAGUANA ran over a hundred issues and was once a mainstay of the hobby. I am a former Boardman Number Custodian, Miller Number Custodian, Orphan Games Director, and editor/publisher of DIPLOMACY WORLD. However, in this resumption of my career, I haven't the slightest interest in all that crap; all I want to do is run one (or maybe two) orphan games and have some fun.

IF ANY PLAYER IS NOT INTERESTED IN CONTINUING, I would deeply appreciate your taking the trouble to say so. There is absolutely no shame in losing interest in a game - for any reason whatsoever - but it is a damned dirty trick to just disappear. Please have the common courtesy not to do that.

This game was assigned to me through the auspices of the U.S. Orphan Service, specifically Scott Hanson of Minneapolis. He's done an exemplary job of getting this game transferred in a quick manner, and I laud him for it.

I plan to run on three-week intervals, with deadlines most always on a Saturday. The game moves will be typed on Sunday, mailed and printed on Monday. (Hmm...maybe that's printed and mailed; silly to mail them until after printing.) I do not have any great love for reams and reams of house rules, so we won't have any, but there are a few mechanical things you need to know:

Moves may be telephoned - my number is (619) 276-2937. But 'phone moves will only be accepted until the evening before the deadline, at 8 p.m. Pacific time. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU TO 'PHONE ME AFTER 8 P.M. - I have two very young children who need their sleep. If I'm not home, my wife will take messages; but as she doesn't play the game, I take no responsibility for her misspellings, etc.

As the game gets further along, I reserve the right to call for retreats and/or builds/removals in conjunction with the following season. I'll only do this if things are fairly simple, and subsequent moves may be made conditional on the retreats/builds. Normally, I run my games with what are called prospective builds and retreats; under this system you always send moves and conditional retreats and/or adjustments at the same time, and we have what amounts to a two-season game. I won't do this here because you're not used to it, but I will use an equivalent system from time to time when it seems reasonable.

There's not a lot else you need know right this minute; I'll explain my own private notation system for moves when the next set appears. (Don't worry, it's not a problem.) I would suggest that you immediately resume negotiating and prepare yourselves for the next installment of this game, Fall 1902 moves.

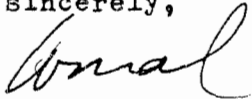
FALL 1902 MOVES ARE DUE IN TO ME NOT LATER THAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY ELEVENTH, 1984.

(Telephone deadline is therefore 8 p.m. Feb. 10.)

My mailing address is in the letterhead. Should you have some reason to wish to send a telegram, God forbid, my home address is 4374 Donald Avenue, San Diego, CA 92117.

I hope you're all still with us, and are prepared to have a bit of fun. And with that - GET TO IT!

Very sincerely,



Conrad F. von Metzke

Final comment. I note that five of you live on the eastern seaboard, and the others not that much closer. Please don't forget the fact that your gamesmaster is now in California, and mail takes 3-4 days to travel. Allow ample mailing time.

Let's see - one player in Lawrence, Kansas (where my father went to college), one in St. Louis (where my wife was born), one in Brooklyn (where my father-in-law was born), the others in places I have no touch with. Although two weeks ago I was vacationing in Las Vegas and met a couple from Syracuse - which can't be all that far removed from Rochester. And I do have a very close friend in Baltimore, which isn't forever from Marlboro. And as for Massachusetts, my paternal grandmother was born in Boston. Does any of this help?