

DIPLOMACY DIGEST

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DIPCON XII Championship Game

Mark L Berch
492 Naylor Place
Alexandria, Va 22304

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL SUBSCRIBERS!!!! Issue #27 will not be mailed out by me. Instead, it is being mailed out with Diplomacy World #23, which was mailed in early and mid October. If you get DW, then all is cool. If you do not, then you must notify me. Send me a postcard telling me that you don't get DW, and I will send you a copy of #27, plus 10¢ for the postcard. Overseas will probably get an IRC for their postage. I assume that the great majority of you get DW. If not, you are making a big mistake, because if you like DD, the odds are you will like DW. This is for two reasons. First, both zines are devoted to the presentation of articles (tho I suppose you'd never know it from this issue!!!!) Second, if you like my writing, you will find plenty of it in DW. I write more for DW than any other zine besides DD, and I suspect that I have written more for DW than anyone else, including any of its editors. DW is the flagship zine of the hobby, and the closest thing we have to a central unifying force. It is the only institution which links the face to face and postal hobby, with the possible exception of DIPCON. ((Jerry Jones, 1854 Wagner St Pasadena, Calif 91107. 4/\$4))

This issue deals with the Top Board of the recent DIPCON. I covered the negotiations with a tape recorder. The negotiations actually began well before the tournament, as I sought to persuade John Boyer to allow this to happen. He was initially quite skeptical, but I was able to persuade him on some points, and to compromise on the others. The result of this was the following handout that was given to the players, and was posted conspicuously in the previous rounds. I am including it for historical reasons, and because, I hope that someone else will try the same tape-recorder procedure at DIPCON XIII. If they do, this handout should be a useful guide to at least how one person managed to persuade seven players to allow someone else to sit in on their negotiations.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO THE PLAYERS OF THE TOP BOARD IN THE THIRD ROUND

Greetings. I am Mark Berch, the short, balding guy who possibly handed you this sheet. As you probably know the moves for the top board in Round #3 will be saved. I will be publishing them in my zine, DIPLOMACY DIGEST, along with full commentary on the game. I will be saving the orders, checking them for completeness (e.g. builds recorded) and closely watching the game's progress. This game will become, I anticipate, a classic. My goal is to produce the best commentary ever done on a Diplomacy game. Towards this end I plan to collect as much information about the game as the players will permit.

Why collect it? While the orders themselves tell a great deal, they can be misleading or ambiguous to an outsider. A move can be inexplicable or seem downright foolish, but to those who know the "inside story" of the game, the move might well be quite shrewd. Further, while the moves reflect the diplomacy, they don't describe it. A player breaks off the attack ---- but why? With the players' permission, I

plan to gain additional insights in two ways:

A. Passive Tape Recorder. I will be there with a portable tape recorder. Any player who wishes can speak into it about the game. While a dippy game is quite busy and frantic, there are usually lulls: time waiting for orders to be turned in, or an odd moment waiting for an ally to finish another conversation. I would also be asking simple questions to elicit information I feel will be needed later. Samples: "Was that standoff in the Black Sea prearranged?" "Did you get Germany's permission to take Belgium?" "Is that new fleet headed for E or R?" "Did you vote for the draw?" But most common will be just: "Any comments?" I want to stress that participation in this option is 100% VOLUNTARY. If you're not interested you can just totally ignore the tape recorder. If you see me coming, just shake your head and I will understand. In addition, you can state at the beginning of the game, or at any time during the game that you are not interested, and I will ignore you. I anticipate that a majority of these interactions will last 15 seconds or less.

B. Active Tape recorder. In this phase, I would sit in on the players' conferences, remaining entirely mute. This information will be of enormous value --- negotiation is after all the heart of the game. This option has the advantage of not taking any additional time. Again, participation would be 100% VOLUNTARY. If you don't want me there, just wave me off. Alternatively, before the game starts or at any time during the game, you can state that all your conferences with player X, or all your conferences period, are off limits. If you change your mind in the middle of a conference --- out I go. Note that if one person doesn't want me there, that's it; his rights prevail over another party who might feel differently (absolute veto).

Here's how it will work procedurally. All 7 players will get a copy of this sheet. I will be available before the game (and on Saturday too) to answer the questions which may arise. The players will then decide on whether these options will be permitted, first A, then B. At this time, any player may veto either procedure A or B, or both. If that happens, the vetoed procedure will not be done for anyone at all. Please note that not-vetoing in no way binds you to cooperate with the tape recorder. Assuming that there is no veto, players who wish can declare themselves off limits, etc. Those who would like me to sit in on their conferences should indicate that too. Then the game will begin, with selection of countries.

Naturally, I urge you not to veto it. Even if you haven't the slightest intention of participating, why prevent others? It's their time and tounge, so please let them do as they see fit. This proposal has the full support of the GM, John Boyer, and his decision in all matters pertaining the tournament is final.

I might add that if the players agree to permit A and B options, the result will be as John Boyer put it, "historic and precedental", as nothing like this, to my knowledge, has ever been done before. However, there have been some partial precedents in postal Diplomacy. Players often write the GM about their game, and these GMs sometimes write commentary on some of the seasons' action. To the extent that the players' information can influence the commentary, it resembles option A. Indeed, it is far more intrusive than my option A, since such a commentary appears while the game is proceeding, while mine will not appear until it is long over. As for option B, when Doug Beyerlein, one of the players in the famous "Average Aces" game (1972CR) wrote his commentary on it for the 1974 IDA Handbook, he was given over 200 letters to work from. These letters are the equivalent of sitting in on the players' negotiations.

One question you might ask is: Why not collect the information after a player is eliminated, and after the game is over, in place of Option A? I will try to do exactly that. But such a procedure has several limitations. Some may have to leave quickly. Others after all those hours just may not feel like talking even more about the game. Most important, it won't be possible to recall all the details --- trying to remember at 3:00 PM why you did something at 10:30 AM.

Except for one small factor, my presence should not directly affect the players' negotiations the exception is this: For many people (like myself), the act of ex-

PRE-SPRING 1901:

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Austria-Italy: in their initial discussion dealt with neither strategy nor tactics, but rather playing style. E^{ch} tried to persuade the other that he was not a stabber, with Italy bemoaning the fact that he had been stabbed 5 times already this weekend. They agreed that I-A had to cooperate to survive. There was brief talk of putting and Italian army in Greece.

England-Germany began with E bringing up the idea of attacking Russia, which Germany was agreeable to --- they discussed how this had worked in another game. At this point, Turkey wandered by and was given a big invitation to join, which he did briefly. He told them that if they decided to attack Russia, "Just flash me the signal, but gave no commitment to join in.

Austria-Russia found the two countries with different agendas. A wanted Gal neutral, and stated explicitly that any entrance would "be an act of war." Russia readily agreed, but was more interested in Rum, saying that he "might not" go there, but wanted it kept open by A. A Brief conversation.

England-Russia began with R stating that in his last few games, F-G formed and "England got screwed...is that going to happen in this game...do you have a friend over there?" "Probably one, maybe two," replied England (note the frequent reference to other games). Ignoring the implications to Russia of E with two western allies, R delicately inquired as to whether he'd have trouble from G over Swe. When E said, "It looks that way," Russia immediately asked for support in 1902. When E gave a non-committal answer, R immediately brought up the threat of A Mos-StP, and then said he'd agree not to go A Mos-StP if he'd get that promise from England. This failed. Russia then tried to get E to accept A Mos-StP with a promise not to contest Nwy, but England said he'd consider that "hostile" and that he didn't want to "have to play it safe" up there. They broke up agreeing that they understood each other, but that R had made no promises re A Mos-StP, and E made none for support into Swe in 1902.

England-Italy began with I inquiring about alliance structures in the north, being told that "its every man for himself." E was more concerned about T, but I said he'd war with T only if T started "rolling in my direction." I brought up France very briefly, but E did not follow up on this.

England-France began by agreeing that some previous agreement was still agreed to, and E brought up G's interest in a western triple. Just as F was starting to grouse that that left him nowhere to go, Germany entered and took control. He cited the danger of A/T, on the basis of last night's game. When France complained that he didn't really want to hit Italy, he was told that Turkish help could be gotten. His fears about A Ven-Pie, were smoothed when G said that he had no objection to A Par-Bur. It appears that F tacitly but unenthusiastically agreed to this plan.

Austria-Italy were finishing up their discussion when Austria called for Germany to join in. They agreed on a triple alliance, with no one allowed to enter Tyo. G expressed a disinterest in discussing joint military action, but I pressed him about France. He stated that he wouldn't move against F unless he had some solid commitment from either E or G. G said that E and he had discussed it, but gave no promises, instead launching into a discussion of the Lepanto, saying R help would be available.

Italy-Turkey began with T stating that there was a E-G alliance, so I should attack France. I said that he'd do it if he had one commitment from E or G but had been unable to get it. T just asked him to keep pressing G on this point.

Italy-France began with I complaining that he keeps hearing about F having "alliances against me," but F poo-poo's this as self serving. Both agree to trust each other, but nothing substantive comes out of this.

Austria-Turkey began with T stating flatly that I would definitely be joining E/G in an attack on France, which he surely knew at this point wasn't true. A was relieved, and promised to move A Vie-Bud "to give additional support into Rum."

Turkey in an aside to me said that Italy would attack F, and A/T would hit R, to

be followed by A/T taking out I to give GTEA. Since E did not have a win going into the game, that would assure him one of the top three spots, "and maybe the top."

Table talk at this point was about the format for turning in orders. Turkey wanted a rule to have no showing of orders to others: "Games can get so paranoid, people won't turn in their orders until others show their orders, they want to take their pens away...the game can deteriorate." There wasn't much opposition, and a vote on this passed. But enforcement of this rule was not discussed, and I saw it violated on several occasions, usually by I/A.

SPRING 1901: ITALY OUT ON A LIMB AS AUSTRIA IS BETRAYED.

Austria: A bud-SER, F tri-ALB, A vie-BUD Germany: A mun-RUH, A ber-KIE, F kie-DEN
England: F lon-NTH, Fedi-NWG, A lpl-EDI Turkey: A con-BUL, A smy-CON, F ANK-bla
France: F bre-MID, A par-BUE, A mar-SPA
Italy: A ven-PIE, A rom-VEN, F nap-ION
Russia: F Stp(sc)-BOT, A war-GAL, A mos-UKR, F SEV-bla

COMMENTARY: No really remarkable moves have been made as yet. Italy has moved against France, but with no visible help. We know that the move to Bur was prearranged. In the East, the tone has been set by Russia's invasion of Austria. Note that while Turkey is supposedly anti-Russian, there has been no move to Armenia. However, I never heard Austria press for this --- but then again, Austria had no intention to move to Gal either. A/I must draw some comfort from the fact that the other is busy elsewhere, and so no threat is forthcoming. A rather cautious start. The one player (Austria) who should have been on the defensive notably wasn't. Turkey should be in the drivers seat somewhat, since he is less committed, but this is not a strong factor as yet

PRE-FALL 1901:

Italy-England began with Italy accusing E of reneging on his commitment to go to the channel in 1901. E replied that I had misunderstood, that no help would be coming until 1902, because he had to worry about Russia. He urged I to foil the self-standoff by doing A Pie S Fre A Spa-Mar, but I made no promises, and made it unclear whether he accepted this misunderstanding story. E made no apologies.

Austria-Russia had R trying to get A to talk; Austria was very resentful. This broke up very inconclusively when Turkey ambled by, tho things seemed friendlier.

Italy-Germany found G somewhat more friendly than E (I came in on the end of it), but I expressed a fear of having "three fleets coming down on my ass." G just coun-illed patience, and appeared not to have made any FO1 promises.

Turkey-Russia had R urging T to try for Greece. They agreed on an anti-A alliance. Russia agreed to either go for an Austrian home center, or use A Gal to support something to Rum --- T would not accept A Gal-Rum. Tur in turn agreed not to move to the Black Sea. At the end of the conversation, R urged me to follow T to his next conference with A. (Q #1: Assuming that T does move hostile to A in FO1, will T tell A an accurate version of the Russian plans for A Gal?)

Turkey-Austria began with T giving an enthusiastic description of how E/G said that they would hit both F and R, and that he (T) had urged them to give I the go-ahead to attack France, so that A/T could hit Russia. But Austria was very concerned about Italy, who he felt was "ticked off" about being left alone by E/G. T opened the bargaining with a suggestion that F Alb-Gre, guess with A Bud (but favored A Bud-Vie, since Russia could be expelled from Bud in SO2) and do A Ser S Tur A Bul-Rum. A demurred, saying he needed support to Gre, but tactfully said that I was the problem there. He countered with F Alb-Tri (mentioned several times that Tri was open) and asked for T support for A Ser-Gre. T agreed, but the plan was then dropped. Finally, it was decided that Austria would do F Alb-Gre, A Bud-Vie, A Ser-Bud. Turkey gave him an accurate version of Russia's statements re A Gal (Q#1=Yes), but Austria assumed that R would go for one of the home centers, and thus planned to be able to retain Serbia and get two builds (Q#2: Again assuming T hostile to A

what will his moves be in FO1?)

Russia in an aside says to me that G has agreed to allow R to take Swe, and has in turn not to build a fleet anywhere in StP in WO1.

England-Germany has G unconcerned with A Bur, and promises E support into Bel.

Italy-Turkey must have started with some indication of T attacking R, because Italy wonders why R says that its R/T vs A. T freely admits that he is saying R/T vs A, to R but is also saying A/T vs R, to A, concluding, "Hey, that's diplomacy." Italy agrees, but I saw a bit of a scowl on his face.

England-Austria started with England joking that MB seemed to always be following him; Austria says no, he's been following me. E reassures A that I is really going after F. Austria again mentions his fears about Ven, but then says that if he's attacked, "I told Italy, I'm Italian, I never forget...I'll wipe him out." England agrees, adding that "The first attacker never gets anything out of it" --- an ironic comment, considering Italy's stance vis-a-vis France.

FALL 1901: E/G and R/T FORM AS ITALY STAYS ON THE FENCE

Austria: F alb-GRE, A bud-VIE, A SER-rum Germany: A kip-HOL, A RUH S Eng A edi-BEL
England: F nwg-NWY, F NTH CA edi-BEL F DEN-H
France : F mid-POR, A SPA-mar, A BUR-mar Turkey : F ANK H, A BUL-ser, A CON-bul
Russia : F bot-SWE, A GAL & F SEV S A ukr-RUM Italy : A PIE H, A VEN H, F ion-TUN

COMMENTARY: Note the Turkish move A Bul-Ser. Turkey had set up his diplomacy for this to work. He had stressed to Austria how Russia would surely go for one of the home centers. If Austria had done what he said he would, and Russia had moved as he actually did, then Turkey would have zipped right in Serbia. This is an extremely strong position for Turkey to be -- much more useful than A Gre, since A Ser can support the Russians into Bud, or themselves into Gre, or the Italians into Tri. But that was not to be. For reasons unknown to me, Austria tried the doomed A Ser-Rum. Turkey was left with only one home center open. In his endgame statement (a letter) he said "...I could kick myself for taking the shot at two builds in 1901, tipping my hand. If I would have waited, I could have chosen between A And and R for allies." But I think it was a good move. E/G has come into force, but in an emasculated way. The Russian front did not materialize at all: England did not send an army over there; Germany did not deny Russia Swe. In the west, the support into Bel was unneeded, and there is little likelihood that it would have been needed, given Ital A Pie, and all the talk about an Italian attack which existed. Apparently, E/G didn't believe Italy when he said he would only proceed against F with an ally, because that's exactly what he did. Russia's position is quite strong. He has two builds, an ally against A is he likes, but might well be able to really with A. Or he could take a lower profile, and send A Gal against the Germans. However, it must be said that this has not been a terribly exciting 1901. Note that all neutrals were taken, and only one of them was contested.

WINTER 1901: ARMIES IN THE NORTH, FLEETS IN THE SOUTH

Austria: A Bud, A Tri Russia: A War, A Mos England: A Lon, F Edi
Italy : F Naples France: F Mar, A Par Turkey : F Smy
Germany: A Mun, A Ber

COMMENTARY: Remember, in FTF games there is no diplomacy before the builds. As a result, the builds tend to just confirm what has gone before, with a few exceptions. England and France seem to be very cosy, each building their fleets away from each other. Italy's restraint doesn't seem to have impressed France too much. Germany affirms his alliance with England by not raising a fleet. Russia keeps his promise and goes one further: StP is open altogether. But those armies mean big trouble for some central power. The Turkish and Italian builds are fairly automatic. In short, it's a nice, tidy, boring game. (Question #3: In the next season's negotiations, a conference will be held which will be the most influential single conference of the game. For six points, name its participants.)

PRE-SPRING 1902

(I-A began talking immediately, but I didn't follow that one.....)

Russia told England that he was "nervous" about the the new E/G alliance, because of the danger to Swe. England told him not to worry, because there wasn't anything he could do about it. R threatened to "send troops north" but E again pointed out that such aid would come too late to help Swe. After some fencing, Russia suggested a bounce in StP. England, who apparently hadn't considered the idea, agreed to it once he could establish that that was what Russia really wanted.

France-Austria was just getting started when Italy joined. Austria took control initially, saying that he had a real problem with Turkey, and he wanted Italy to back off France, allowing F to deal with G/E, of whom he was also afraid, but also so he could gain Italian aid. Italy quickly agreed, saying that for "geopolitical reasons" he'd rather attack Turkey. France agreed not to move to Pie, but I said no, he had to agree to move to Spa. When France hesitated, Italy pressed: "You've got to take my word for it", and A chimed in that Italy would have to help out in the attack on T. Italy then gave a bit of history about how he had come to be in Pie, sayin that E/G swore to attack F, and so he felt he should be there. He added that he would surely be going against T, and couldn't possibly fight two wars. F stood firm, promising not to enter Lyo or Pie, and Italy decided to buy that. In this decision, Austria vigorously argued that France could not possibly double cross Italy since he had two enemies up north and was far from Italy. In retrospect this was a crucial conversation, directly impacting every country except possibly Russia (This was Q#3; score two points if you only got two of the countries.)

(A rather long E-G talk concluded just as I was leaving F/I/A)

France asked England what he was planning to do with A Bel. E calmly said he was going to support the convoy into Hol, but then asked if France had anything he wanted to have done with it. When France said no, he offered support into Ruhr. France again declined, saying that he had problems with Italy, but encouraged the convoy to Holland. Germany next wondered if France was going to Pic, but F was evasive on that too. E then speculated that G was going to attack R, and wondered if F knew or thought so. F said that that would be a great idea, but that G wouldn't do it with out an ally, "and he doesn't have an alliance with me." They joked briefly about the implications of that. This was a somewhat desultory conversation, and E tended not to be looking at F during the conversation. Surely F must have wondered how sincere E was about the convoy when he kept pushing alternatives on France.

When I entered, Russia was trying to persuade Germany to allow A War-Sil as part of an attack on A, I guess. But G was worried about being stabbed. This was bantered a bit, and then R suggested a fall back position: Would entering Boh be OK? Sure, said Germany, and they agreed that it was OK to enter Sil even, in a fall turn, th he didn't seem pleased with that (Note the similarity to R's approach to England: Push for a rather forward, aggressive stance, then back off and suggest something a little less threatening, which naturally looks better by comparison).

Turkey offered to support Austria into Rum, but wanted to get Greece as payment. Austria declined, and offered T support into Rum. T accepted.

Italy was reproaching England for some inconsistency: "Your actions have not shown me anything, your words have said one thing....I'm not saying you're lying, but....I've gotten one drift.... but the drift from the board has been adifferent thing." England countered that it was now 1902, "And I know pretty much where everybody stands." "My patience is wearing thin," replied I. England promised to attack F that season. "When I see you attacking France, I'll be there," repld I. (Q#4: Is that statement sincere?) England's pleas for Italy to attack that season as well were turned down.

Austria-Russia found the two on better terms, with Austria stressing exactly how hard it would be for R-T to come thru him. But he clearly put the onus on Russia to come up with a specific plan. R said that if he hit T, that he'd want

A^Ustrian help against G. Austria readily agreed, but was not to be distracted: He wanted some assurances that Russia would be moving on Turkey. R stalled a bit, but agreed to enter the Black Sea. Perhaps emboldened by his success, Austria pressed further, asking R to leave the neutral zone (Gal), calling that move "a nice gesture of friendship." Russia was non-committal on this, saying that such a move would "annoy Germany no end" ((Q#4: Assuming that Russia does not keep his promise about going to the Black, will he move his A Gal out (other than to an Austrian SC, naturally!)?)).(Q#5: Will A tell I that R and A have been reconciled?)

Italy began by sounding out Austria about attacking France after all, and indicated that he was beginning to believe the excuses E and G had presented for the delay in their actions against France. A was hostile to this, saying "let them fight their own goddam battles." He appealed for help, saying that he was fighting two "giants". When I asked, he said that he was sure that R and T were allied against him (Q#5: No). Some plans for an Italina convoy to Gre were discussed, but I's mind was apparently still in the west, as he broached the idea of A Pie H. A counseled that I then might as well attack F as do that, since A Pie H would violate the agreement. Italy agreed that this was no time to be "wishy-washy".

That entire conversation was watched by France, but I could not tell if F had overheard anything. Italy then tried to reassure France.

In an aside to me, Germany said that he was playing "a very paranoid game." But he had heard from someone else that England was a good ally to have, so he felt the E-G alliance could go a long way, and they planned to hit both F and R, at the same time. He was unsure of why it had been A Lon, but opined that it was designed to get F to deploy against Italy. He said that he expect England to move on both the channel and to go for StP. (Q#6: Will this pair of moves be tried by England?)

Turkey told England that he had set things up to take Ser, but that Aus had changed his mind without telling him. Now, Aus was offering him support into Rum, and "I'm thinking of giving it a shot." But T really wanted to find out what E/G were up to: Attacking F or R? "Maybe both." Turkey wanted to know if G would be moving into Pru or Silesia, but he never got an answer.

Table talk at this point was about a friend of several of the players who had jumped and then robbed the previous night. Russia seemed to be having trouble writing his orders and was the last one to turn in.

SPRING 1902: BROKEN PROMISES LITTER THE BALKANS. THE WEST SORTS OUT ITS ALLIANCES, BUT NOT ITS TACTICS.

Austria: F GRE S A ser-BUL, A tri-SER, A BUD S A vie-GAL
England: A LON H, F NWY-stp, F nth-ENG, F edi-NTH, A BEL S A MUN-bur (no such order)
Germany: F DEN & A HOL & A BER H, A MUN S A RUH-bur ((Note Q#6: Yes))
France : F mar-SPA(SC), A spa-GAS, A PAR S A BUR
Italy : A ven-APU, A pie-VEN, F nap-ION, F tun-TYR
Russia : A WAR-gal, A gal-BOH, F SEV S A RUM, A RUM S A bul-ser(No such order),
A MOS-stp, F SWE H ((Q#4: Yes))
Turkey : A bul-rum (ANNIHILATED), F ank-BLA, F smy-AEG, A CON-bul

COMMENTARY: Note the miswritten English order --- not the last one of the game. The players were more self-conscious on the matter of miswritten orders than any other matter, afraid that they would look like bumbling fools in a postal zine. They wanted me to be sure to mention that they were frequently pressed for time, trying to catch up. But its more than that. Miswritten orders are far more common in FTF play than in postal play, even among good players, at least in my experience. For example, I have had very few real miswritten orders in my postal games. But I don't know that I've ever played in a tournament game without at least one miswritten order.

Turkey's actions highlight the Balkans. His A Bul was apparently offered support in ocversations to both Ser and Rum. Had he accepted the offer to Ser,

he would still own Bul, and, with F Aeg in position to cut F Gre, would be in a good position to go for Ser in the fall. But Turkey accepted the wrong offer, and paid the price. Russia has kept up his anti-A stance, as he tries to step up the pressure on Vie. He got G's consent to enter Boh, and probably thought that his A War-gal would proceed without the need for support. That in retrospect the A Rum would have been better used to support A War-Gal, there was still the consideration of trying to help his Turkish ally. In contrast to the Diplomatic failures of Russia in the south, things have gone well in the north. The agreed upon standoff in StP takes place, and, possibly because England could see no immediate future in attacking Russia, England has attacked France, which of course means no anti-R move like F Edi-NWG, or F Nth-Ska. And Germany has left R alone as well.

Germany, for all his talk about attacking both R and F, has done nothing on the Eastern front at all. The cause of the foulup in the attack on Bur was

Germany not telling England. France has had a lucky escape. It seems that he is pressed by either I, or E/G, but never both at once. France decided to believe Italy, and was richly rewarded, as his new fleet has been moved into a spot (spa(sc)) where it can immediately be used in the defense of France against E/G, and of course the evacuation of both Pie and Mar will help cement the alliance with Italy that he desperately needs. However, he is not out of the woods yet, as both Bre and Pic are exposed. However, England's western seas are open, and the switch into Pic would require a backup of either A Hol-Bel, which deprives E of a unit, or F Nth C A Lon-Bel, which would surely make Germany nervous. On the other hand, a blunt assault on Bur just isn't going to take the province, if defended

PRE-FALL 1902

England tried to convince Russia not to cover StP, ostensibly because he was concerned about Russian weakness in the south. There was quite a bit of fencing going on here. England said that Russia covering StP was "fine", but that an English attack on Swe would be a lot "safer" because he'd have German help, and there wasn't anything that R could do about that. Russia pointed out that the advantage of going for StP was that then E could safely take Nwy next year. E countered that if he took Swe, Russia would "lose 2" and R would be very weak anyhow. Russia still said he wanted to cover StP unless E had something else he needed to do with F Nwy. England missed the opportunity, and said no, he didn't have anything else. At the end, E said that he'd not go to StP with Nwy. Russia promised not to go A Mos-StP, saying "that's the other half of the deal, isn't it?" "I don't care," replied England, somewhat contradictorily. He added that he would not like A Mos-StP, and that's the curious conclusion that this came to.

England tried to persuade Germany to begin the attack on Russia with support into Swe, but G did not want to start this until the attack on F was going better, and hoped to persuade Italy to return to the attack on France. But E wanted to convoy to Pic, but he felt that he couldn't afford to do that without getting abuild which he would need to cope with F Mid-Iri/NAO; otherwise he'd have to do A Lon-Wales "or whatever". But G was worried that if he antagonized R, that G would be more vulnerable to R revenge than would E. They then agreed that A/T didn't look like they'd get together against R, leaving G to ask: "So why should we kick the bear?" But finally they agreed on a doubly supported attack on Bur, a convoy to Pic, taking Swe and building F Lpl. They hoped that this activity would then bring I back onto the scene.

When I entered the conversation, Italy was telling Austria and Turkey that he really needed another fleet to go against France, and he expected to then go against England with the help of G. I didn't hear any promises, tho.

The France-England conversation was really quite wierd. They discussed the upcoming E/G attack, with F emphasizing how many problems he faced, and E stressing how they probably wouldn't be able to take Bur. When F mentioned the possible convoy to Pic, E made a big show of not having thought of it.

When I entered, Russia was suggesting that Turkey take Bul from Aeg, and he would

cut Serbia from Rum. He then reconsidered, and suggested that F Aeg-Gre would be better, plus F Bla S A Con-Bul, which they both agreed was a much better plan.

When I came in, England was explaining to Italy how well the attack on F would go. Italy: "I wish you good luck, I hope you pick up a lot of supply centers, but I'm going to have to wait." When E pressed him to enter Wes, he cut him off, saying "I've made other commitments." I tried to put a good face on this refusal, saying that if he made commitments that he would not keep, that would just make E mad at him. He said he had "an 85% chance" of picking up a third fleet, and he'd then be able to handle it. He stopped short, tho of firmly promising help in SO3, but felt with two fleets, he'd not have enuf strength. ((Q#7: Will Italy build a fleet in WO3?))

England told Turkey that I expected to get a build, and wondered where it was coming from. Turkey responded "Austria's giving him Tri, probably, that's the kind of alliance there is." T urged E to hold off taking Swe, so as not to weaken R, and said that G was "wishy-washy" on that attack. When he suggested that R might lose two, E asked if R would lose Rum. T backed off and said he really wasn't sure. He did not mention giving R any aid in this regard.

When I entered, Italy-Austria were having another last minute conference (there was one before the previous E-T), agreeing that I would support A out of Gre, and re-assuring a slightly confused I that he (A) already owned Gre.

In a hurried conversation, Germany told Russia that he was thinking of switching sides, but was concerned that R was in so much trouble in the south that he would not be able to help G later on. R asked who was to get Swe, and was told England, in tones that indicated that he was not too happy about this. R put in a final plea to be allowed to keep Swe.

FALL 1902: FRENCH FORTUNES CONTINUE TO RISE AS CONVOY IS BLOCKED AND GERMANY SWITCHES SIDES! AUSTRIANS SWAP BUL FOR RUM . BUT THE BUILD GOES TO ITALY!

Austria: A SER & A BUD S A bul-RUM, F gre-AEG, A gal-VIE EVEN
England: F NWY-swe, F NTH H, F ENG C A LON-bre, A bel S Ger A mun-bur(NSO) (ret: PIC)-1
France: F mid-NAO, F spa(sc)-MID, A PAR SA BUR, A GAS-bre EVEN
Germany: F DEN-nth, A HOL S A ruh-BEL, A ber-MUN, A mun-RUH +1
Italy: F ION S Aus F gre-AEG, F TYR S F ION, A APU H +1
Russia: A boh-TYO, A war-GAL, F SEV-rum, A mos-STP, F SWE-nwy, Arum-ser (ret: Ukr) -1
Turkey: F BLA S A con-BUL, F aeg-gre, (Retreat: Off the board) +2

COMMENTARY: Austria moves smartly in the Balkans. Given the actual cooperation of R-T, which we saw in the negotiations he anticipated, he could not hold Bul. The attack on Rum had an extra support but there was little else to do with the units, which had to stay in place to avoid a Russian forward retreat from Rum. Turkey has recovered Bul, and with the spring ann, can now turn the previous army into a fleet, sorely needed now that the a-I alliance has taken such a forward position in the south. With his fleet in the Bla, and Russia being pressed by the Austrians, he has no fears from the Russians. But the A-T alliance means he has almost no freedom of action.

Quite different is Italy. He almost certainly had Austrian permission, from the viewpoint of right now, for the stroll into Tri. He had been telling people that he had an extra build lined up, with no mention of Gre. Further, had Aus really wanted to block this, he could have insisted on a Ser or Bud standoff in Tri with the Ita ina A Ven. This would have deprived Aus of one support in the attack on Rum, and that would have all the difference. If Russia moves as he did, only one support is needed. If R did F Sev S A Rum, A Rum S Tur A Con-Bul would have taken Bul. Italy can now stick with his Austrian ally, gaining the slight upper hand against R-T, an possibly open a second front against F, or can stab Austria, secure in the knowledge that he has two allies, and will have first crack at the Austrian centers, as he has better access to Gre and Alb.

France is now reaping enormous benefit from his alliance with Italy, as his fleets prepared for a back door assault on England that the latter does not have the units to cope with, once it really gets going. Italy could have tied up both of those fleets, plus possibly one other unit to guard Mar. Perhaps he was tipped off by Germany about where the convoy was going, perhaps he drew an inference from that curious E-F talk we heard earlier, perhaps he just played it safe.

Germany has made an important, and questionable, strategic decision. I wonder if he wasn't planning to do this from the start. Note that the English attack Swe, and not support a German attack on Swe. Normally, one would expect that with the English in Belgium, that Germany would ask for Sweden, especially since quick German gains are not seen in France. Indeed, I think it was poor play for England to even want Swe, especially since he had a shot at Bre that very season. Perhaps he just got greedy. Anyhow, perhaps G felt that with I out of the French picture, things were just going to go too slowly. The problem is, with F Nth blocking his progress in SO3, and Russia in a position to press Nwy immediately, Ger is in third place in the race for English spoils.

Russia has made an interesting positional move to Tyo. A move to grab Vie is unlikely to succeed, and standing off A Gal-Vie would in turn block the unsupported A War-Gal. A Tyo would be in a fine bargaining position, possibly to entice an Italian stab at Austria, or vice versa, or even intervene in the west. ((Q#8: what will the Russian removal be?))

WINTER 1902? COMMENTATOR CAN'T THINK OF A DECENT HEADLINE AT ALL, AND GIVES UP!

England: Remove A Pic Russia: Rem A Tyo (Q#6) Italy: B F Nap (Q#7) Germany: B F Kie
Turkey: Build F Con, F Smy

Commentary: A^S he said he would, I^Taly has built that third fleet, probably to the slight relief of Austria --- thos A Apu isn't that far away. Turkey signals a hard line defensive stance with his two fleets, limiting his ability to hit R real hard. Russia has decided to conciliatorily remove A Tyo, the presence of which would have made a rapprochement with Austria and /or Italy much more difficult. The English and German moves were predictable.

PRE-SPRING 1903:

(At this point, a disaster occurred. I think that I failed to snap the tape into the machine properly. As a result, the upcoming taped material was of much lower quality, and a lot was lost. S/M was terrible. I had checked the first tape, but not the second one. Possibly the tape was defective, but at any rate I feel awful about what was lost, and I will never make that mistake ever again!)

(During the Winter period, Italy made a fast check of the other Tables to see how the other France's were doing. It seems that his win had been with France (13 centers), and he wanted to know whom he had to keep his eye on for competition for best France.)

With Turkey also there, Russia pressed Italy: "You're going to have to make a decision pretty soon." Italy pointed out that Austria had been pretty fair and honest with him, and so was reluctant. Either R or T pointed out that "Everyone here won a game somehow." The discussion then switched to another game that had taken place the previous day, that apparently all three were familiar with, with someone suggesting that R might have had hard feelings from it. R denied it (This was Round 2, board 13, which had the aforementioned French victory by the (now) Italian player, and in which the (now) Russian player had done poorly as Austria. According to the English player, who was not in the game, Italy had been "given" his game to avoid being beaten by a woman." I have no idea whether this is true. But in that game, it was 10-10 at 1906, and after 1907 it was 13-10. Comments?) Anyhow, T was filling me in very briefly on the fact that they had been in this game, R denied that he had any hard feelings, and I said he didn't want to carry things forward from the other game. Russia cut this short by trying to get I to grab Greece, and saying that if I supported A, there wasn't much R-T could do about it. T took a different

tack, pointing out the fact that France would be getting some builds soon. But I remained hesitant to attack the "one solid ally I know I can trust." Turkey then pressed I for a commitment to "at least not help him so much," and move against F. I said that hitting France was "on my priority list," but did not respond to the other request. R this time scaled down the request, just asking him to stay out of Eas Med. I turned this down too, using his now familiar procedure of saying how he didn't want to make a promise that he might not keep, and wasn't he being thoughtful for not lying.

At this point, Italy left Austria and Russia to talk tactics, with emphasis on how to annihilate Austrian A Rum.

England tried to persuade France not to take Lpl, while F tried to get E to accept the loss. E was very willing to cooperate with F, but wanted F not to take Lpl, saying that if it was to happen he'd provide no help with G if G grew too strong. Alas, I couldn't make out most of this one.

When I entered, Austria-Italy were finishing up a tactical discussion of the east, with the latter agreeing to move to Alb. Austria pressed Italy to move into Wes. I seemed hesitant, but agreed.

France to Italy that he was somewhat concerned about all those Italian fleets. I brushed this off, and said that he was interested in a little action here (Pointing in the general area of Nat). When F balked, I said that he didn't know if he could trust France. When F pointed out that he had kept all deals made with I, I retorted that F really had little choice in the matter. After seeing that this was getting anyone anywhere, I renewed his interest in pushing a fleet west. But France complained that this would force him to cover Spain, and suggested that I delay the move till Fall, so that Spa would not be threatened. He suggested that I move to Tun, and then NAF, so as to bypass Spa. Italy agreed. (Q#9: Does I do F Tyr-Wes or -Tun).

When I came in, Austria-Russia were discussing the retreat of a dislodged Tur A Bul, during which Italy entered. They agreed that a retreat to Gre could be dealt with without involving F Ion. The attack would come from Rum, A agreed. R then asked as to whether A would try to take Gal, but got no answer. During this time, I was wandering in and out, keeping an ear to the conversation, and at one point, England came in as well, complaining that Russia was being monopolized. Eventually this broke down into I/E talking alongside A/R, an odd arrangement. The conversation was pretty light at this point.

France-Germany-Turkey were wrapping up a friendly conversation, with G/F agreeing to the neutralization of Bur, and German entry into Tyo to pressure Austria. Turkey repeatedly offered help "when you get down there."

In an aside to me, Germany said he felt compelled to explain his stab of England. Basically, England wanted too much from him: To fight F all out as well as support E into Swe, with E getting the neutrals. He thus decided to stab, and wanted France to get Lpl immediately, "so he didn't live long enough to bother me in the future." However, a stab of F was still available, as he did not trust France at this point. He expressed confidence that F/G/T could take on the other three (apparently, E didn't weigh in for much).

English Press on the Blackboard: I hate Sauerkraut.

There was a Turkey-Germany-Russia conversation which I couldn't get much from.

In an aside to me, Turkey said that "we" are trying to get E/G to cooperate against England, and also to get Germany to move against Austria, and felt confident that this would happen. He listed his principle ally as Russia, who he said was very firm against I/A. France was described as scared about the obvious cooperation of I/A with regard to Tri, and would thus encourage G move on A. ((Q#10: Will R be friend Turkey? Will G move against both E and A?--that's Q#11 the second Q there)).

SPRING 1903: RUSSIA SWITCHES SIDES, BUT MUST WATCH HIS ALLY BLAST INTO GALACIA! F-G AND E-R ALLIANCES CLEARLY VISIBLE AS G ENTERS THE EAST!

Austria: F aeg S Ital F ion-EAS (ret to Gre), A SER S A rum-BUL, A VIE S A bud-GAL
England: F nwy-SKA, F NTH-hel, F ENG-nth, A LON H
France: F MID & F NAO C A gas-LPL, Abur-GAS, A par-BRE
Germany: F DEN S F kie-HEL, A RUH S A BEL, A HOL S A BEL, A mun-TYO ((Q#11: Yes))
Italy: F ion-EAS, Ftyr-TUN, F nap-ION, A apu-VEN, A tri-ALB ((Q#9: Tun))
Russia: A STP & F SWE H, Aukr-RUM, F SEV-bla, A gal S A ukr-RUM (ret Ukr) ((Q#10No))
Turkey: F SMY S F con - AEG, Abul S Rus A ukr-RUM (ret Con), F BLA S A bul

F-G have dramatically evacuated both Mun and Bur, putting their alliance into full gear. This allowed G to keep his promise to menace E, while F can both cover Bre and prepare for a second convoy this fall if he so desires. France continues to benefit from his Italian alliance, as Italy moves to Tunis. England has trustingly moved out of Nwy, into a spot where he can attack Den --- but that will require Russian help, as F Nth must guard Edi. Russia makes no move on Nwy at this time but then again, htere's no rush. A Lon H is a clear tactical blunder --- it should have moved to Yor, where it could be used either in the defense of Edi, or, by doing A Yor-Lpl, it could have gamble that France would try A Lpl-Gly/Wal, A Gas-Lpl. If France had done that in FO3, Lpl would have been saved. As it is, if Edi is to be defended, Nth, which has other duties, must do it. Russia has two supports into Rum, both are cut, but as the Austrians are leaving, its no problem. But his position is not that great. War is exposed, and Austria is capable of holding Bul and quite possibly retaking Rum. He has exchamnged a Turkish ally for an Austrian who does not really seem to need an ally, and so could turn on him. Turkey's problems deepen, as he is now surrounded by enemy units --- save for his control of Aeg and Bla. As for Italy, we know his move to Alb was prearranged, and his move to Ven seems prudent in view of Germany's entry into Tyo. But in Apu he could have convoyed to Syr.

The retreats are of some interest. Note that both A and T could have retreated to Gre. Recall that there is no diplomacy there. Also -- R has not retreated to War, perhpas signally that he does not mean to try to retake Gal this year. A retreat to War would have allowed A War-Gal, serving both goals.

PRE-FALL 1903:

In an aside to me, France said that he chose the convoy route both to get an aermy into England and also to guard against F Eng-Mid.

Germany told Italy and Austria that his move to Tyo was as part of a scheme to stab France by moving into Pie next. After A and I agreed that Tri would be covered no matter what, and that there was no way to allow G to retreat to Pie, G left. A and I got into a squabble about Trieste. I conceded that Tri was Austrian, but felt that if he did not gain a center elsewhere, he'd have to give up a fleet which he was most unwilling to do. Both an attack on Smy, on the theory that T might go to Syr, and an assault on Aeg were discussed, and it seems that the latter was preferred. They speculated on the Germany army.

England and France confereed, but I couldn'y make too much out. E expressed dispair about his fate, and felt he could do nothing about Nwy either.

Russia and Trusky discussed tactics in the Balkans, with Russia saying "I want Austria Hungary dead, that's what I want." R counsellod F Aeg-Gre, and said he would support the attack on Bulgaria. He said that such support would likely not be cut, as Gal would cover Bud. T predicted A Alb-Syr and A Ven-Tri, and wanted R to urge that G attack an Austrian home center. R disagreed, saying that he wanted Aus armies on his SCs, so that Gal would be open.

Turkey told Germany that Russia was back on his side, as R was ticked off about the move to Gal. Germany was advised to go to Ven, or Pie, but not to Vie, as R wanted Gal cleared. T stressed the need to break up A/I, and G seemed quite agree-

able. T disclaimed any big chunk for himself, saying that G could have "the lion's share," adding that he'd be content to "play kingmaker to survive", hoping thereby to finish in the top three of the tournament. INdeed, he expressed sorry that it had to be England, who was the one person without a win (and thus, I assume, no threat to the others) who would be taken out so soon.

FALL 1903: FRANCE BREAKS OFF ATTACK ON ENGLAND JUST AS RUSSIA STARTS A NEW ONE! AUSTRIANS SPOOKED BY GERMANS AND BEFRIENDED BY RUSSIANS

- Austria: A gal-VIE, A vie-TRI, A SER S A BUL, F GRE-aeg Build 1
- England: F SKA & F NTH S Rus F SWE-den (No such order), F ENG S F NTH, A lon-YOR -2
- France : F nao-NWG, A bre-PIC, A gas-BUR, F MID-eng, A edi H (nsu), A LPL unordered +1
- Germany: A HOL S A BEL, F HEL S F DEN, A ruh-MUN, A TYO - ven EVEN
- Italy : F EAS & F ION C A ALB - syr, F tun - TYR, A VEN S Aus A vie - TRI Minus 1
- Russia : F SWE S A stp -NWY, F SEV S A RUM, A ukr - WAR, Build 2
- Turkey : F BLA S A CON - bul, F AEG - gre, F SMY-syr Remove 1

COMMENTARY: England and France seemed to have worked something out here. Note that both Bre and Edi were left unguarded, and neither was attacked. However, its by no means clear that France is finished with England. F NWG is is a very dangerous position, and he may have left Bre open just to take his build there. And note the unsuccessful move to Eng Channel. In the meantime, however, the moves to Pic and Bur must not sit too well with Germany, since E-F could guess to take Bel as early as S04. Germany has sticked to his policy of moving rather cautiously. Note the as-it-turned-out unnecessary support for Den, indicating that he did not trust the Russians, or that he expected England to leave Edi unguarded and try to support himself into Den. His somewhat obscure attack on Ven certainly serves Russianx interest, who as we saw was trying to make sure that Gal end up open, as it did.

Note that Russia has again betrayed Turkey, not giving him the promised support into Bul. Altho T guessed correctly in the far southeast (he told me later it was a guess), he has a removal to make and is bereft of allies. Furthermore, tow of his enemies will be building, and have no serious problems else where. So his removal will really hurt. Italy has not taken up the offer to go to Naf, tho I did not get an F-I converstation to find out why. It doesn't mush matter, tho, since that fleet is a prime candidate for removal at this point. (Q#12. Assuming that Rus builds in StP, what is the exact nature of the build? Q#13 What is France's build?)

WINTER 1903: FLEETS DISAPPEAR IN THE SOUTH, ONLY TO REAPPEAR UP NORTH

- Austria: B A Bud, England: Rem A Yor, F Eng France: B F Bre (Q#13) Italy: Rem F Tyr
- Russia B A Mos, F StP(nc) (Q#12) Turkey: Rem F Aeg

COMMENTARY: The builds show more trouble for England, as the new fleet could not possibly be helpful. And no new army was build against Germany. The fresh Russian fleet will likely spell more trouble. Russ ia is forced to build in Mos, rather than Sev as he probably would have preferred. However, he did not trust Austria enuf to either use A Ukr to defend Rum, or not support Rum at all., which would have allowed Sev to be open via F Sev-Arm, for example. Italy signals his complete absorption with the east by removing the western fleet that just one year before he argued he had to have.

PRE-SPRING 1904:

Austria and Russia began by quarreling over the disposition of their forces in the Balkans. R wanted Aus to have the line Bul-Bud-Vie, while R had Gal-Rum. But Aus countered that it had been agreed that Gal could remain open, and that's why he had moved out, and suggested that A Ukr could guard Rum. R agreed to stay out of Gal, but it is unclear whether he really trusted Aus in this.

Germany told France that he expected to be expelled from Tyo, and wanted permission to retreat to Pie. France was very unhappy about this prospect, but I could not tell how it all turned out.

Germany and Russia discussed tactics against Engalnd, with G agreeing to try to get Franch support into the Nth. The also discuees what they hoped would be

qune upcoming F-I war, with R feeling that Italy would go west soon.

In a short conversation, England tried to frighten France with the prospects of Ger A Pie, without much success. E inquired about an attack on Belgium.

France-Germany began with both parties suspicious of the others' armies in the north. Germany asked for support into Nth that spring, which he would repay by supporting F into Lon in FO4. He pointd out that France was getting all of England, and that F-G cooperation against Russia would later be essential. He pushed hard for this. When F a ked G if he had an alliance with R, G replaid "He thinks so." To this F pointèd out that he (F) thought he had an alliance with G. If there was a resolution of the support for F Hel-Nth, I didn't hear it.

Engalnd and Russia agreed to F Nth C Rus A nwy - YOR

Italy asked for extra time for his orders but didn't get it

SPRING 1904: RUSSIA AGAIN A VICTIM OF AUSTRIAN SIDE-SWITCHING, AS FRENCH ATTACK ON ENGLAND ENTERS ITS FINAL STAGES, WITH GERMANY GOING NOWHERE

Table talk at this point had Austria bemoaning the fact that he had screwed up his orders, and much commotion about the Russian disorder

- Austria: A SER S A bul-RUM, A TRI-S A vie-- BOH; A bud - VIE, F GRE S Ita F ion-Aeg(nsc)
- Engalnd: F SKA S F NTH, F NTH C Rus A NWY - yor (no such order)
- Germany: F HEL S F DEN, A HOL S A BEL, A MUN S A TYO
- France : A PIC S A BUR, A BUR S A PIC, A lpl-YOR, F nwg-EDI, F MLD-S F bre-ENG
- Italy : A Ven-tyo, F ION C A alb - APU, F eas-SMY
- Russia : A WAR-gal, A RUM-gal (ret Bud), F SEV-bla, F STP-fwy, A NWY-lpl (impossible)
F SWE S A MOS-stp,
- Turkey : F smy - SYR, A CON H, F BLA S Aus A SER -rum (no such order)

This is a rather messy season. T has failed to coordinate with Austria, apparently not getting the word about the direction of the Austrian attack. As a result, Bul is left open, and Austria takes Rum only because Russia used his fleet for another purpose other than directly defending Rum. Russia's distrusting self standoff in Gal has worked out very badly, as now the retreating-to-Bud Army has no support from Gal, either for holding or for returning to Rum. Elsewhere, T has missed his guess and Italy finally hits some turkish paydirt, altho Turkey can expell him if he likes. Austrian and Italina attention seems to be reveted on the German army. The unsupported Italina attack on Tyo may ahve indicated that G promised to depart Tyo, or may have indicated that Italy expected support from Aus A Tri for his attack. Instead Austria used the army to support an attack on Boh, which would hardly seems needed. In the West, the failed convoy keeps matters somewhat simpler. But France is pulling ahead of Germany and locking up England. Meanwhile, Germany continues with the same hypercautions sytle of play that he has used for the entire game, and he has rather little to show for it. An ever-solifiying ring of French units faces him in the west, there is no sign of any F-I conflict as yet, and G hasn't even slipped an army into Pie to menace France's only weakly guarded area. Considering that there are and have been numerous conflicts occuring on G's borders, G's inactivity is certainly not based on any lack of opportunity.

PRE-FALL 1904:

A brief Englan-France conversation indicates that the former will not resist, and he expresses a cheerfully doomed attitude.

Austria-Turkey-Italy HAD A Friendly talk, with T agreeing not to try to retake Smys, and to concentrate on Russia. Italy reminded one and all of how hones he'd been.

In an aside to me, Turkey stated that the move to Syr was just to get it out of the way of the Italian attack. He agreed at this point to being a 2-unit puppet to IA.

When I entered, France was pressing Russiato attack on Germany, but R wanted to wait because it was a fall turn coming up. But F pointed out that he might as well start now, as France did not see Germany gaining anything this year. R gave him only

limited sort of promises, and it ended inconclusively.

At the start, Russia was resentful to Austria about being thrown out of Rum, pointing out how he had stayed clear of Gal, and thus his retreat to Bud was justified. At this point, Turkey entered, but seemed unaware of the presence of Russia. He stated that he felt that Russia would support Sev, and so he would convoy to Arm instead. (Q#14: Will Turkey in fact do A Con-Arm?)

France and Germany discussed a possible attack on Italy, and France promised support into Nth. Germany expressed considerable unhappiness that he had stayed at six while France had gained three. France was rather shy of making firm commitments.

In an aside to me, Germany said "He's gonna stab my ass". He also felt that France would take Bel from him that turn, rather than later, and that there's nothing that he could do about it. (Q#15: Assuming F attack Bel, will England help?)

France and Italy reminded each other of how honest they had been with each other, and how both parties could certainly be expected to continue to respect their alliance, although Italy implied that it wouldn't last forever. This one I left before its end.

When I entered, Turkey was telling Russia and Germany that he hoped to get Bul and or Smy on that turn. Parts of this I could not make out.

There was a last minute T-A which I couldn't catch.

FALL 1904: MINOR POWERS SLIT THROATS! FRANCE SWALLOWS ENGLAND AND SNATCHES BEL FOR A COMMANDING LEAD. ITALY STARTS BUILDING AGAIN WITH SOUTHERN GAINS.

Austria: A RUM S F gre-BUL(SC), A SER S A RUM, A TRI S A vie-BUD, A boh-SIL EVEN
England: F NTH-hol, F SKA S Rus F SWE-den (no such order) ELIMINATED FROM GAME
France: A YOR S F eng-LON, F mid-ENG, A PIC S A bur-BEL, F LPL H (nsu) F Edi U +3
Germany: F DEN S F hel-NTH, A mun-RUH, A tyo-MUN, A HOL S A bel, A bel S A mun-RUH
(Unit is annihilated) EVEN
Italy: A APU S A VEN, F ion-GRE, F SMY H, A VEN S Aus: A tri (ordered to move)
Russia: F SWE S A NWY, A NWY S F SWE, F stp-BAR, A MBS-sav, A war-Gal
A bud S F SEV-rum (annihilated) EVEN
Turkey: F BAA-G-A con - ARM, F SYR-New York Mimas 1'

SUPPLY CENTER DISTRIBUTION AS OF THE END OF 1904

Austria: Bud, Tri, Vie, Bul, Rum, Ser (6)
England: (0)
France: Bre, Par, Mar, Lon, Lpl, Edi, Bel, Spa, Por (9), only three short of a win
Germany: Mun, Ber, Kie, Hol, Den (5)
Italy: Rom, Nap, Ven, Tun, Gre, Smy (6)
Russia: StP, Mos, War, Sev, Nwy, Swe (6)
Turkey: Con, Ank (2)

COMMENTARY: France's comeback has been nothing short of amazing. Recall that at one point he was faced by E-G with Italy sitting on the fence but located strategically in Pie. Now he is the undisputed leader, with a raft of builds coming. But he is far from carefree. Italy has two builds, and has shown no inclination so far to attack Austria. And there's not much left of Turkey to chew on. He is facing a line of three German armies, and two German fleets, the F Nth can be dislodged. And Russia has shown no inclination to attack Germany, despite repeated English supports for an attack on Denmark. Speaking of England, he presses his vendetta against Germany long after it has any meaning, and when it cannot do him any good. As this is England's final year, it would be a good spot to reprint most of his end game statement:

"...this was a unique experience and quite a thrill for me, being only my third tournament (and third Origins). The added incentive of possible glory helped. As it is, I was destroyed. There are several reasons for my total capitulation to France: Germany missed a golden opportunity, France was one of the more competent players, an attempt to cause war between a rapidly expanding France and a stagnant

Germany, to get back at Italy and Germany. Early on, Germany had a chance to cripple Russia and gain Bur on the same move. Instead, he chose to take Bel fromme, his last build for quite some time. France and Russia are prime targets for German expansion, as is Scandinavia. He cut off any chance of further aid with an unwise, premature stab. He was on his own from then on. France was quite competent; for him I have nothing but praise (That's quite a trick --- you wipe someone out and still he has "nothing but praise" for you!). He demonstrated good tactics --- not the convoy to Liverpool. After his stab (which I still don't understand), I did my best to stop the Germans, not a hard task, since he did most of my work for me. I had hoped that France would threaten Germany, but the game ended, for me at least, before anything came of that. Last, German and Italy chickened out of the attack just when France was about to be squeezed, so I owed them less than nothing. None of my strategies worked. I tried to offer support to each of the Northern powers with no strings attached, more desperately as the game progressed. Not even a hint of interest. I thought the objective of the game was to win, not sit around in a waiting game. "

Getting back to the game, note that G could have tried to outguess the French attack on Bel. A Mun A S A Bel-Bur would have stalled the attack, tho had the attack come from Pic, G would have had to deal with A Bel and A Ruhr. An ever better approach would be A Mun-Bur, which would either save Bel, or take Burgandy.

In the east, Austria has at long last taken both Rum and Bul, after so frequently switching back and forth. But he gets no build as Italy helps himself to Greece, and collects Smy as well. He has thus set the stage from a chance of alliances. The I-A-F alliance has severed all parties well, but it can't last forever. Austria has also moved rather obscurely into Silesia, from which he can either press his attack against Russia, or participate in any upcoming assault on Germany. Russia's position in the south continues to worsen, where he could use that extra unit that's up in the artic. If A-I holds, and T remains puppeted, his position is hopeless.

WINTER 1904: FLEETS RETURN TO THE SOUTH AS THEY VANISH FROM THE NORTH

Egnaldn: Remove F Ska, F dislodged from the Nth Italy: B F ROM, F NAP
France: B A PAR, A BRE, F MAR

France girds for a two front war against I-G. But I-F war will be slow in coming, since both parties have, for 1905, principally their builds to rely on ---note that Ion and Mid are both vacant, and even F Eng may be distracted by the need to take Nth from the Germans. One alternative for France might have been to build F Bre rather than A Bre, freeing F Eng for the west, but at the cost of running his armies rather slight.

PRE SPRING 1905:

Germany told Russia that he was concerned not only that France could run away with it, but that Austria might "throw the game to France" by attacking Russia. Italy entered at about this point, and said he'd speak to Austria, but pointedly remarked that "He can't attack me and he can't attack you (G)".

As I entered, France was offering Russia "the lion's share" of Germany, and they agreed to get back to work on tactics, which neither seemed interested in discussing just then.

Germany told Italy, Austria and Turkey a very different tale, guaranteeing Austria three Russian Supply Centers. I stressed that he would continue to work with A. T asked if he was to take Sev, but was told, I think, to wait.

As Austria and Russia were talking, Italy, Germany and Turkey tried to get them to join in a five-way discussion. This coalesced around the map, but France was still present, so it wasn't too substantial.

Germany suggested to Russia that Russia enter Nwg and Ska. He anticipated that England would take Nth, and it was agreed that F Nth-Bel with two supports would be best. Russia, ■

best. Russia, convinced G that F Bar-Nwg would be best.

SPRING 1905: RUSSIA, GERMANY, AND RUSSIA ALL MOBILIZE AGAINST FRANCE, WHILE AUSTRIA PLUNGES DEEP INTO RUSSIA AND TURKEY SITS IT OUT

Austria: A SIL S A bud-GAL, A ram-UKR, A tri-VIE, A ser-RUM, F bul(sc)-CON
France : F mar-GUL, A YOR-Lon, F eng-MID, A bre-GAS, A bel S A PAR-bur (ann)
A PIC S A bel, F lon-NTH, F EDI S F lon-eng (no such order)
Germany: A RUH & A HOL S F nth-BEL, F DEN-nth, A ~~MM~~-bur
Italy : F rom-TUS, F nap-TYR, F gre-ION, A ven-PIE, A apu-Ven
Russia : A MOS S F SEV, A nwy-STP, F bar-NWG, F swe-SKA, A gal-WAR
Turkey : F HLA H, A ARM H

COMMENTARY: France has really botched his moves here. The miswritten order for F EDI cost him Nth, and he was unprepared for the assault on Bel, as the army is ann. Had he done A Par S A Pic-Bur, Pic could have been available as a retreat square. As it is, Bar is now open, meaning that not only cannot bel be retaken, but Germany has some freedom of action here. Note that he has opted to send F Eng south. Russia has moved as he said, but I wonder if A NWY H might not have been better. A StP isn't going to be very valuable this year, and he could have slipped a convoy into Cly in FO5. Had France, as he tried to do, moved to Lon, Lpl would have been undefended in SO6, and he'd have a good shot at Edi that fall. Italy's moves all are unopposed. Note that while he does evacuate Gre, even as Aus leaves Bul, he puts the army into Ven, where it will hardly be needed against France, since A Pie is unlikely to take Mar. Austria has moved very smartly on a tactical level, and now has War for the taking, and threatens Sev as well. But he has grabbed Con and therefore probably lost the turks as an ally. On the other hand, he may be moving to shorten the draw, figuring that Tur will be easier to knock out than Russia. It is possible that Italy was not told about this move --- note that F Smy does not support it. Turkey is now in deep troubles. His only ally (R) is in no position to help, Con cannot be retaken, and Ank is open. He has no sure center, and if he tries to take a center he could be wiped out in the next season.

PRE-FALL 1905:

Table talk initially was about France's miswritten orders, but quickly turned to the question of whether Austria's eastern expansion could be stopped. Austria protested this, saying that he had only six, and the real danger was still France with nine.

In an aside to me, Turkey said that he did know in advance of the move to Con.

Turkey pressed Austria with the plan of A Rum s Tur A Arm-Sev, A Ukr-Mos to cut any support by A Mos, and supporting himself to War. Austria said that he had promised not to attack Russia, but said that nothing prevented him from supporting Tur into Sev. Turkey wanted to do F Bla-Ank, but with no A Ukr-Mos, that risked not taking Sev. T somewhat ambiguously replied that then "I'd be taking my won chances!"

Turkey summarized to me the I-T conversation, in which they agreed to garrison Smy and Ank against Austria getting 12.

Austria told Germany, Italy and Turkey that he had promised not to attack R, and had so far not done it, that he moved into Gal only because R had refused to leave. G accused him of taking advantage of the F situation "to build yourself up". Austria reiterated that he had not taken any Russian S.C.

Austria told Italy that T was pressing for support for an attack on Russia. He said that Turkey had "been a nice puppet", but that if he supported the attack, the others would say that he's attacking Russia anyhow. Italy said that Austria had really two choices. He could either call off the attack on Russia, or could grab everything he could, provided that Italy was allowed to take Tri, "so you don't get too big." Austria agreed to this latter plan; after they worked out the fact that this would give both of them a build, as Aus figured to take

both War and Con. (Q#16: 3 points. Will Turkey do 1) attack Sev 2) defend Ank 3) Both attack Sev and defend Ank, or 4) Other (specify)???????)

FALL 1905: FLEETS AVOID EACH OTHER UP NORTH AS GERMANY RETAKES THE NTH SEA. FLEET LINES HARDEN IN THE SOUTH, AS TURKEY EXECUTES A DARING CONVOY TO BALKANS

Austria: FCON-bla, A UKR & A SIL S A gal-WAR, A vie-BOH, A RUM S Tur A arm-Sev(nso)EVEN
France : F gul-WES, F mid-NAF, A PAR S A pic-BUR, F edi-NWG, A GAS-mar, F lon-ENG
A YOR H, EVEN
Germany: A RUH S A hol-BEL, F DEN S F bel-NTH, A mun-BER Build 1
Italy : A PIE-mar, F SMY-con, F TYR S F tus-LYO, F ion-TUN, A ven-TRI, BUILD 1
Russia : A MOS S F SEV, F nwy-CLY, A stp-LIV, A war-gal (dis ret:Pru) F Ska H MINUS 1
Turkey : F BLA C A arm-BUL EVEN

COMMENTARY: Turkey's convoy to the Balkans has had a devastating effect on Austria. It blocked his seizure of Bla, deprived him of his build, and perhaps worst of all, exposes all of the Balkans to his army. Notice that Austria is completely out of position to deal with this, as his units are far from Ser and Gre, the retreat squares available even if the unit in Bul is dislodged. Further, Austria is deeply at war with Russia, and appears to have some designs on Germany to boot, so he hardly has plenty of spare units. And F Bla is available to support the unit, should Turkey guess that Ank will not be attacked. On the other hand, all is not hopeless. A Rum S Ital A Tri-Ser would probably succeed, giving the parties a guess of a fall attack on Bul, with one of the Italian fleets being used to cover Greece. But that will really take the pressure off Russia, specifically off Sev, so Aus may want to put off Bul until 1907. But then there's the danger that the army will wander. Elsewhere, the offensive against Russia proceeds, tho R has now established a line or sorts in the north, tho that could be harmed by the upcoming removal. Still, both Mos and Sev are in trouble, and R is fortunate to have Turkey available as an ally, as a distraction.

In the west, France now pays the price for his ineptitude last season, as Ger both hold Bel for a build, and retakes Nth. France now faces some guesses in Britian, and matters could get much worse if G or R brings another fleet into play, or is able to convoy into Britian. On the other hand, Germany may become preoccupied with the slow Austrian invasion, or may be tempted by Swe. Problems with Italy mount, as now Spa is threatened, and both parties place a second unit around Mar. Still, France does have prospects --- if he can get the German armies to lya off. A Gas-Spa can guard Spa, if F chooses to bring F Eng-Mid to cover it in the fall. If this is combined with A Bur-Gas and A Par-Bur, France will be in a good position to try to retake Mar in the fall. Plus he can now pressure Tun if he desires. There are plenty of possibilities . '

FALL 1905: Italy Raises A Fifth Fleet, Russia raises some questions

Italy: Build F Nap Russia: Remove A Pru Germany: Build A Mun

COMMENTARY: Russia shows less than complete trust in Germany by not removing the Fleet in Ska. Either he feels that he can work things out with Austria, or perhaps thinks that there's too small a chance of retaking War to make it worth while. Italy's failure to build A Ven may arise from a desire not to alarm Austria, or may arise from a feeling that he will not take Mar this spring (for is he did, A Ven-Pie would be almost essential to holding Mar, if France defends maximally) The new fleet may be meant as a backup to defend Tunis in the fall, or may be used to deal with the loose Turkeish army in the Balknas

PRE-SPRING 1906:

Table talk at this point had Italy telling Austria that taking Tri was all a big mistake, and Austria seemed pretty unhappy. Note that Austria moved F Con-Bla, so he did not have that sure build. Also, Italy and Turkey were conferring even as the Fall 1905 adjudications were going on, and perhaps this influenced the Italina build decision.

At this point, mercifully, I switched to a better tape!

Draw discussions began around the table. Recall that the tournament Rules stated that no draw could take place before W05. In these, tho, I could not always tell who was talking. Trukey began with a bold pitch. He said that obviously (there had been some disorganized discussion first) none of the "big 5" would vote themselves out of a draw, and so the only draw worth discussing was the 5-way without turkey, which he then proposed!!! He asked if there were any objections. In what followed, I had to participate to a certain extent, trying to get some onlookers to keep quiet, reminding them that these discussions could start all over again after S06 if they so desired, and tried to keep them from going on too long, as the game was behind. I also said that I wanted this settled before formal negotiations began, because there was going to be a need to set a formal deadline for the S06 orders. It came down to Italy and France both opposed to a five way draw, tho as they indicated, they were not so much opposed as not willing at that time to vote for it. After this, there was some discussion of a four way draw, but this broke down when the parties could not agree on who was to get the axe.

As the parties broke up, Turkey announced that he'd vote for any draw, and would help in any elimination effort if needed.

In a general discussion, Germany, I think, said that he'd stick by Russia. Italy said he'd agree to a five way draw. It was agreed that neither Austria nor Italy could be taken out, and when the discussion turned to France, a similar conclusion was drawn. France tried to pull away three other players, but had trouble getting them away from the board.

Germany, Russia, and Turkey agreed with each other that if the group were not united, "they" would get too strong. People were running around very fast. They were mostly concerned about Austria or France. Turkey said that he would be with R against Austria.

Austria told Turkey, as France was entering, that he didn't see any way of taking Turkey out, because "you can wander around Serbia and Gre all you want!" He proposed the plan whereby T, G and A all knocked out Russia, giving a four way draw. T agreed to anything that would ensure his survival.

France, Germany, and Austria agreed to knock Russia out, taking Sev and Mos while G took care of the northern fleet. After this was agreed to, G then backed out saying that it was too dangerous. Germany pushed to knock out Trukey.

Much discussion at this point, with Italy reluctant to accede to demands put on him. Discussions here were purely concerned with the draw; no tactics were mentioned. Italy repeatedly said that he would not stab Austria.

Italy, Austria and Turkey discussed the last seasons moves, with Italy again saying that there had been a mixup. Prior to this there had been some I-A tactical discussions.

In an aside to me, Trukey said that he would try to keep things as stirred up as possible until 1907, at which point he would then veto all draw proposals.

SPRING 1906: AUSTRIA ADDS GERMANY TO HIS ENEMIES LIST TAKES MOS, BUT SKEES RUM, WAR AND SER TAKEN. GERMANY GOES BACK TO SLEEP AS FRANCE DIGS IN

Austria: A UKR S A war-MOS, A BOH S A SIL-mun, F CON S A rum-bul(dis, ret to Gal)
France : A YOR S F wng-KDI, F eng-LON, A par-PIC, A GAS S A bur-MAR, F NAF S Fves-TUN
Germany: A MUN S A BER, A BER S A MUN, A RUH S A BEL, F DEN S F NTH,
F NTH S Rus F ska-NWY
Italy : F nap-TYR, F tun-S F.tyr-WES (dis, ret to ION), F smy-AEG, A tri-SER,
A PIE-mar, F LYO Unordered
Russia : A liv-WAR, Amos-ukr (dis ret to Liv), F SEV S Tur A bul-RUM, F ska-NWY
F CLY-edi
Turkey : F BLA S A bul-RUM

COMMENTARY: Austria has gone for broke this season, but doesn't have much to show for it. The R-T initiative in the south has caught him unprepared, and to compound his troubles, he has taken a questionable retreat into Galacia. Any attempt to retake Rum will risk the retreat to Bud, which could have been avoided by retreating to Bud in the first place. Its possible that he wants A Gal just against the Russians, , figuring to mop up the turks in 1907 with some Italian help. In the north, War and Mos have been exchanged, with Russia getting some use out of that army that might have gone to Britian. His grab for Mun, which would really have hurt if it had succeeded, has failed because Germany did not move on Russia and in fact has actually aided Russia against a possible French grab for Nwy. Or maybe G just wanted to get that fleet away from Den, and get into R's good graces. France is doing the best he can with no ally. A Yor must now decide whether to defend Lpl, or guard against F Cly S Ger F Nth-Edi. In the south, he must either watch as Italy retakes Tun --- or tires for a breakthru into Spa. This was not a very incisive season. The approaching-the-end-of-the-game phase should be marked by determined attempts either by one power to go for a win (Austrian actions here might qualify), or ruthless attempts to shorten the draw. But Germany is clearly having none of that

PRE-FALL 1906:

Table Talk was joking about another Italian "screwup" in taking Serbia. Austria proclaims that he is giving up cupply centers so that no one will worry about him overrrunning Russia.

Draw discussions had Italy voting against the 5-way draw. Again, Turkey tried to control. He tallied the Italian centers, adding all sorts tht Italy didn't have yet, stating that Italy was going for the win. Italy denied this saying, "I just want a bigger cut of the pie." Turkey then switch his accusations, saying thaj Italy was going for crucial tie-breaking points. He stated flatly that "almost all us came in here with 72-something points" a statement which was immediately disputed. He then narrowed his focus, saying that Italy was trying to "out-piece Austria". Italy admitted this, bringing calls to "stifle Italy". France jumped into the Fray, forcing Italy to say that he wanted a four-way but that he would not attack Austria. "You're not going to clean me out" said France. Turkey jumped back in with a fresh approach about Italy just trying to finish ahead of Austria and Germany in the tournament, and so it want.

Austria told Italy that he was down to 4 centers ((!!)) and that Italy was up to eight, and this had to change. Italy agreed to do F Aeg S A Ser-Bul. I did not catch some other Austrian suggestions.

Turkey was proclaiming that "new developements are going to come out as to who outpieces who" and challenged the other players to divulge their fractional points. Italy gave his, but others just couldn't be sure, somehow. At one point, players dashed to the other boards to see if any one else had won, on another boards.

Germany told Austria that he could trust France again, because Italy was so large. Germany said that he would take both Swe and Nwy on that turn, and urged Austria to attack Russia, which he agreed to do.

In an aside to me, Germany said that he would try for a win. He expected Asutrian help against Russia, and Itlaina help against France

Turkey told Russia that he wanted to guard Ank, but R warned that this would allow F Con-Bla, and F Ank would be out of it. He suggested holding in the Bla. This was discussed back and forth, with no resolution.

FALL 1906: GERMANY FINALLY ENTERS FRANCE, BUT FAILS TO MOVE DECISIVELY ON RUSSIA
TURKEY GETS DEEPTER INTO THE BALKANS AS AUSTRIA MOVES AWAY FROM GERMANY

Austria: F con-SMY, A gal-BUD, A SIL & A mos (dis, ret SEV) S A ukr-WAR, A boh-VIE
France: F NAF S F tun(annihilated), A mar S A gas-SPA (ret GAS), A PIC-bur,
F lon-NTH, A yor-LPL, F EDI H

Germany: A BEL & A MUN S A ruh-BUR, F den-SKA, F nth-NWY BUILD 1
 Italy : F LYO S A pie-MAR, F ABG S A ser-BUL, F TYR S F ion-TUN, F WES-naf BUILD 1
 Russia : F nwy-STP, A LIV S A war-MOS, F sev-RUM, F CLY S Ger F nth-edi (nso) MINUS 1
 Turkey : F bla-ANK, A rum-SER

COMMENTARY: Germany has moved against Russia, but for some unexplained reason he did not grab for Swe. The only reason that I can think of is that he was afraid that F Nwy-Swe would foil both that move and F Nth-Nwy. Yet surely, this was the season for decisive action. All along he had cooperated with Russia, so surely Russia would trust him (as in fact he did). Furthermore StP was wide open to the Austrian enemy, so that there was a compelling alternative to F nwy-swe. Germany's ~~fit~~ failure to take Swe means that Russia can afford to have a piece not on a S.C., presumably A Liv. That unit will make it practically impossible to shorten the draw by taking out Russia, given the actual positions of the Austrian and German pieces. Even the choice of Ska seems dubious. Baltic Sea would at least put StP in range in FO7, even as F Nwy-StP goes for the immediate grab. Russia's problems go beyond Germany, tho. He continues the center swapping with Austria, exchanging Sev and War for Mos and Rum, a poor swap, but better than losing some. Austria is not moving well here. A Boh should have moved more aggressively to Gal, even tho that risked problems with a trecherous Italy in 1907. Turning to the west, France retains Edi thanx to the German stab of Russia --- even tho Germany is his enemy. This is a common sort of problem when someone attacks two countries which are at war with each other. France as expected has lost Tunis, and has guessed wrong in the south, portending farther losenext year.. The loss of Bur is not quite as serious as it seems --- after all, Mar is already gone. Note that with the regaining of the Nth (which Germany might have avoided had he decided to risk convoying A Bel-Nwy means that both Hpland and Den are open, should he decide that F Nth will not be delegated to the defense of Bre. Indeed, the likely removal of Rus F Cly will free F Edi for an attack on Nwy in FO7 as well. Italy continues to roll, exchanging Bul for Smy and gaining on France. He retains the alliance with Austria and the upper hand against France.

WINTER 1906: THE UNEXPECTED DOES NOT OCCUR!!!!!!

Italy: B A Ven Russia: Remove F Clyde Germany: Build F Kiel

COMMENTARY: With the removal of F Cly, Russia's northern adventure comes to an end without ever having anything to show for it. This is not meant as criticism, I hasten to add. This will give France a somewhat freer hand. Likewise, the new German fleet will be able to take Swe, freeing the other two fleets to deal with France. Italy's A Ven is a natural, but it is unclear whether he'll go left or right. Its nice to have choices. One other thingabout that German fleet: There is the matter of Holland. If E is to take a quick grab --- not an unreasonable tactic in the final year --- Hol looks like a good choice.

PRE-SPRING 1907:

Draw dsicussions saw Turkey use a tactic for a second time (I'm not sure which season he used it before). When the last Holdout against a five way draw (usually Italy) seemed to be really wavering, he would loudly switch to proposing a four way draw. This stalled things a bit as discussions swirled as to who the four would be. When it got back to five way, Truekey kept repeating that Italy wasn't buying that one. Eventually they began the actual discussing of how to knock Russia out in one year. At one point, a five way draw seemed quite near, but then Germany veoted it, feeling that Russia (and presumably Turkey) could be knocked out. The discussion then flowed to just knocking off Turkey, which T tried to sidetrack by pointing out that this might give Italy enuf centers to win outright, in the tournament, tho not in this game. Italy denied that he had more centers than anyone else, coming into the game. Turkey then advanced the theory that knocking him out would help no one, sicne it would help all the others equally, and what they really should be going for is centers to pull ahead. This of course,

conveniently overlooked the fact that taking Turkey out would add some easy S.C.s to people's scores. Against the idea of checking out all the other games was raised, with me reminding them that the tournament director would not be giving out this information. Italy decided it would probably be leaked out.

France told Germany that he would not use FNth to attack Germany, but would go (in some unspecified manner) against Russia. G pressed for him to ~~not~~ leave Nth altogether, but France was reluctant, fearing that Germany would enter. But France said that he would want some flexibility, in case Germany turned on him in S07.

Tureky told Austria flatly that if Austria "outpieced" the Germans, then Austria would win the tournament, and said that he was "up for bids". He pointed out that annihilated T would give the same number of extra points to everyone. They struck a deal in which Turkey moved into the Black Sea, and would then help Austria take the Sev in F07.

General discussion at this point had to do ~~the~~ with the large number of outsiders who were floating into the room at this time, in some cases bearing information about other games that was viewed with some suspicion. I myself did not like this. It was decided that except for the (former) English player ("respect for the dead," someone called out) the others should keep their mouths shut.

In the tail end of Italy-Austria, Italy said that he would move to Gre, Tyo and Pie, which seemed OK with Austria.

Italy told Austria that A was already in Sev, but A was afraid that he might kick him out with Mos and Rum, and so still wanted Tur F Bla.

Germany and Italy agreed to proceed with the attack on France. Italy said that he did not want to move the A in Mar, but would support the Germans, tho he expected that it would be cut. Germany pressed him to accept German support into Gas. Italy went to recheck the board, and I never got the answer.

Turkey asked Italy about whether he would be attacking Austria, but I said that his growth would be at the expense of France, not Austria, so Turkey decided that his help would not be needed. Turkey said that he would help Austria, and asked Italy to tell him that "so he'll believe me". Italy agreed.

Truekey told Germany that he'd like G to move to Tyo, and if he would, Turkish help would be available if Tur were still in the Balkans.

SPRING 1907: TRECHERY ABOUND AS GERMANY TRIES TO HELP FRANCE AND IS STABBED BY HIM
BALKANS ROIL IN CONFUSION AS TURKEY HAS A SAFE FUTURE

Austria: A vie-TRI, A sil-PRU, A bud-GAL, A war H (dis, ret to Ukr), F SMY-con
A SEV S Tur A SER-rum (nso)

France: F nth-HOL, F edi-NWG, A liv-YOR, A pic-PAR, F NAF-wes, A GAS S A spa
A spa S A GAS (dis, ret to Por)

Germany: F ska-SWE, F kie-HEL, A BUR S Fre A GAS-mar (no such order), Abel-PIC,
A BER S A mun-SIL, F NWY-stp(nc)

Italy: F aeg-GRE, F LYO S F wes-SPA(SC), F TYR-wes, F TUN-naf, A BUL-ser,
A ven-PIE, A MAR-gas

Russia: A MOS S A liv-WAR, F RUM-bul, F SPP(NC)-nwy

Turkey: F ank-CON, A SER S Rus F sev-rum (no such unit)

COMMENTARY: Turkey has assured his survival. Even as late as W06, an I-A-R alliance could have knocked him out. He could only block one of A Ser-Arm. F Smy-Con, F Rum-Bla. That would leave the other two units to take ank, with no retreat to con possible. There were plenty of Balkan armies to take care of the other unit. But Tureky's appearance of willingness to cooperate with a voted draw, and vigorous last minute diplomacy kept him in the game. That and the earlier convoy to the Balkans, which gave him some flexibility. Elsewhere in the east, Russia actually retakes War, tho this likely won't last. In the west, Germany has inexplicably moved to Hel rather than Hol. Perhaps he figured that a french stab would not take place until fall, and wanted to force a guess. As it is, tho,

Holland cannot be retaken; and F Hel will have nothing to do in the fall. France has moved in even a less efficient manner. F Edi has no need to move to Nwg; Nth, even tho there was no guarantee of success, would have been much more sensible. How- Such a move would have threatened a supported attack on Bel in FO7, which would divert either A Pic or A Bur to cover Bel. Perhaps he was worried about F Nwy-Nwg, but he had the fleet or A Yor to take care of Edi. Another poor move is F Naf-Wes. With the game about to end, Ital F Wes would cause no problem. But F NAF-Mid would allow the fleet to be used in the defense of Bre, freeing the two armies to deal with the threat to Paris. Germany oddly tries to help the French against Italy even as he moves into Picardy. However, this can be looked at in another way: With the French army out of Gas, Paris is that much weaker, setting the stage for A Pic S A Bur-Paris in FO7.

PRE-FALL 1907:

Draw discussions consisted of Turkey saying he'd veto all draws, period.

Russia and Trueky had a brief discussion, trying to decide how I-A would mount their Balkan attack.

Germany told Russia that since A was his main competition, he would support Rus A Was with his A Sil, and would further try to cut Pru with A Berlin --- all this to try to keep Austria from getting the extra center.

Italy and Austria just discussed the tactical problems in the Balkans

English Press appeared on the blackboard: "Lpl in exile! 3 cheers for the brave gallant Turks, and the clowns who let him live! Good Game!" To this Turkey commented that Austria never had any intentions of him living, but was "stuck" when he convolved to the Balkans. Things were fairly informal at this point.

FALL 1907: GERMAN ATTACK STYMIED, THO HIS ATTEMPT TO HELP THE RUSSIANS WORKS

Austria: A TRI-ser, A GAL S A PRU-war, A UKR S A sev-MOS, F smy-CON Build 1
 France : A GAS S A PAR, F NWG-nwy, other units either unordered or orders lost
 Germany: A PIC S A BUR-par, A SIL S Rus A WAR, A BER-pru, F SWE S F Nwy, F HEL-hol
 Italy : F GRE S A BUL, A BUL S Aus F smy-CON, A PIE & F SPA(SC) S A MAR,
 F tyr-WES, F LYO & A MAR S F SPA(SC)
 Russia : A mos S A WAR (Dislodged), A WAR S A mos, F STP(NG) H, F RUM-bul Remove 1
 Turkey : F ANK-con, A SER S Rus F rum-bul (no such unit)

Commentary: I'm not sure how much point a commentary is at this point. Germany has guessed wrong, and as a result, his entire offensive against France has not only not taken anything, but actually lost Hol. However, if the game were to continue on its present course, France would eventually be wiped out by I-G. If the I-A alliance held strong, G-I conflict could be expected in the British isles, perhaps with the remnants of France participating. Similarly in the east, if there were no changes, Russia and turkey would eventually go.

Country	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	Final Supply center holdings
Austria	5	5	6	6	6	6	7	Home, Mos, Sev, Con, Smy
England	5	4	2	0	0	0	0	None
France	5	5	6	9	8	7	7	Par, Bre, Lpl, Lon, Edi, Por, Hol
Germany	5	6	6	5	6	7	7	Home, Den, Swe, Nwy
Italy	4	5	4	6	7	8	8	Home, Tunis, Mar, Spa, Gre, Bul
Russia	6	5	7	6	5	4	3	War, Stp, Rum
Turkey	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	Ser, Ank

Recently I have heard from the Austrian player, whom I wrote after the game, asking him why he had suddenly moved to Rum, rather than to Bud as he originally said he would, foiling the Turkish plan. He responded: "At the end of SO1, it had become apparent that R & T were working against me. Therefore, I told T my plans so that R would know. Therefore, I counted on the fact that R would not attack either Bud or Vie (which would tie up my home centers and lose me ser - if I made the move.) Since I counted on no attack, I was free to stay in Ser and keep

it. I moved A Ser-Rum on the chance that R or T would move to Rum without support since they expected no opposition. In any event, I would gain either Ser or RUM." This is true, of course, but he risked the loss of Gre even if his theory of no Russian attack on a home center was correct. Also, note that his move presupposed no Russian support for the attack on Rum, but also no Russian attack on Vie or Bud. What was R to be doing with all his units?

In a tape recorded statement after the game, Italy said that he wanted to see how well he could do in a game without a lot of backstabbing and double dealing. He felt that he had stuck to his goal of how to play the game, and still had done well, so he was pleased with how the game had turned out. Germany and I discussed why the draw had not been shortened. He was rather responsible for this, since he vetoed a shortened draw at one point, and because his cooperation would have been essential in removing Russia. He felt that players were at that point solely concerned with the tie-breaker points to get ahead of other players. He and others felt that, unless someone won a game, they were already ahead of the pack, and what was being determined was the final order of players, determined by the number of centers that they could garner on this final game. This was largely true --- except for Zablocki's win, they were ahead of the pack. However, because T was allowed into the draw, he finished ahead of F and R in the final standings.

Whether this game was a success or a failure I leave entirely up to you. Please keep in mind the rather severe restrictions I had in doing this taping. There was just one of me, so I missed between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the conversations. I often entered conversations into the middle. I cannot get down facial expressions or other non-verbal interactions. Sometimes a plan was presented and then inexplicably dropped. Was this because the speaker suddenly thought better of it, or was it because of a frown from the listener? People often pointed into a map as part of their plans. Two or three people would talk at once. But I hope that this gives you some feel for what a face to face game is like. Note the large numbers of triple conversations, something that cannot really be done in postal diplomacy. Realize also that because of time limitations, what is labeled as a "negotiation" is often a player just thinking aloud in front of his ally. As for the quiz, I have no idea of how to score it. If enough of you tell me your numerical score, I'll print a distribution in a later issue, and you can see how well you did compared to others.

paralizing something, verbalizing it, sometimes clarifies it, exposing possible inconsistencies and confusions to oneself. "If you can't explain it, you don't understand it" overstates the case a bit, but the principle is true. In a dippy game, one ordinarily rarely gets the opportunity to set out one's strategy fully. Even to one's ally, some things are going to be left out, or shaded. The opportunity to do this to a tape recorder may reveal something to the player even as he speaks.

At any rate, once the game is over, and I've gotten any final statements on the taperecorder, I'll take the orders, type them up, and write the commentary, relying on the tapes, if any, and my notes. Each of you will get a copy, as will the GM.

Finally, for those who do not know me, a bit of introduction: I began playing Diplomacy in 1967, and am experienced in both postal and face to face play. I have written numerous play-of-the-game articles and commentary on postal games as well. I am fully aware of what it will require to collect this information and not interfere with the player's actions in the game.

THE PLAYERS: Austria was Peter Stassun of Miami, Florida, and was playing in his first diplomacy tournament. England was Richard Martin, and I think he is the D. Martin who finished 26th in a field of 149 at Origins '77. He publishes a dipzine "Retaliation" (26 Orchard Way, Rockville, Md 20859). France was Fred Townsend of Washington, D.C. Germany was Matt Rosworm of Silver Spring, Md. At PennCon '76 he was best Italy and finished second overall. Italy was Scott Walker of Phila Pa. Russia was Steven Hokanson, also of Philadelphia. He finished third at DIPCON IX, and tied for best Italy at Origins '77. Turkey was Jack Brawner, who publishes The Flying Dutchman, a zine of Diplomacy and Rail Baron (14906 N. Bayshore Dr Madiera Brach, FL 33709) My apologies for any forgotten honors!