

DIPLOMACY DIGEST

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1980AY/Spain

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In this state V.P.I. normally stands for Virginia Polytechnic Institute, but around here, it stands for Very Peculiar Issue. I've put out such things from time to time (#14/15 was the first), and this is another. There's bound to be something in this issue to make you shout in anger and bellow: "Why are you sending me this crap?!"

First up is an ambitious experiment. I sometimes get suggestions from readers about theme issues they'd like to see. One of the commonest ones made comes from newcomers, a group of people which pubbers, who are rarely newcomers, are prone to ignore. The wording varies, but as Robert Paquin put it several years ago: "A theme issue on how people decide what to do in a Diplomacy game." During the running of 1980AY, the Demo game which has been running in Diplomacy World, I kept a diary. This included my reactions to the moves, summaries of the correspondence, and most of all, how I went about deciding on the strategy and tactics which I used during the game. The moves have been included to make this easier to follow. If you'd like to get the most out of this, I suggest you set aside a good block of time, set up the board, and, most important, try to put yourself in my shoes. I'm not saying that any of you should play this way --- it is, after all my story. This is likely to be the most intimate view you'll ever get of somebody else's play of a postal Diplomacy game. Let me know what you think of this experiment.

Next for you travel fans is an account of our recent trip to Spain. Its in the fine Berch tradition of being overly long. Finally, there is the practically obligatory Coughlan editorial. I hasten to reassure you that the name of Dick Martin does not appear even once therein. This is primarily (but not exclusively) due to the fact that I just don't have anything useful or original to say (publically) about the topic. I don't know if that reason will be acceptable to Gary, as he recently took another pubber to task for letting two issues go by without commenting on Martin. So if nothing in this issue tics you off, perhaps you can be offended by something that isn't there. And to make matters better/worse, this issue has 4 extra pages --- you won't see that again.

On the Miller Numbers, Lee has been corresponding with John Leeder, and has tentatively agreed to assume the job. The plan is that John, who is in the process of wrapping up most or all of his Runestone games, will bring the records up to date, and then mail them off to Lee Kendter, Sr, who would at that time become the new MNC. I'm reasonably confident that all this will happen, so I hope people will be patient, and let things take their course. Regardless of anything you may have read anywhere, both Rod Wlaker and myself are and have always been completely supportive of Lee... On another topic, Larry Peery P.O.Box 8416 San Diego CA 92102 would like to establish an annual hobby service award, named after the late Don Miller, and somewhat modeled on the Les Pimley award which the British Hobby has. If you're interested, write him.

This is not a headline

The Voice of Doom recently celebrated its third anniversary with a 54 page #66. VOD is the best non-reduced reading Zine in the hobby. The days in which it stuck mostly to Rulebook discussions and hobby controversy are long since gone, and you will not find a greater variety of writers and topics anywhere, with the possible exception of EE. The issue features some very clever press, especially by Olsen and Barno to the tune of some Beatles songs, a funny story by Bruce, setting forth how a player could take advantage of a HR which allows a player to complete a telephone call turning in orders even tho the deadline passes during the call (I won't get it away, but it does involve installing a second telephone and serving testicles for dinner), a page of cartoons from Mark Paul, whose contributions regularly appear, 10 pages of letters, John Kador humorously taking apart people's grammatical errors, and a very challenging article by Brux, asking people to deal with difficult decisions in off-the-record-type letters ----- such as the GM who tells you, off the record, that in a game you're not in, one of the players is the GM's brother, playing under an alias. There's also a humor item from Bob Olsen, "Alex's Column", in which a 10th grade student where Bruce teaches cheerfully ridicules Brux every month and much much more. VOD has seen over 400 pages published in the past year, a remarkable record for a third year, and included just about the funniest thing I have ever read, Hamlin's account of a losing battle with a dishwasher. Averaging 30 pages per issue and underpriced at 10/\$5.00, with a sizable stable of regular contributors, and with an editor who seems much more secure and much less strident than he used to be, VOD is, for my taste, about as good as dipzines get. There is no zine I enjoy receiving more. (Bruce Linsey 24A Quarry Drive Albany NY 12205. Subs 10/\$5.00, no game openings). (Goto Page 40)

1980 AY: The DipiMaster Takes Care of Business

Winter 1900. My reaction to the final lineup is one of disappointment. What I was looking for, and what I assumed that the famed DW demo game would provide, was a game with six other experienced and reasonably successful postal diplomacy players. I have nothing against a mixed-skills game; but all my other games had been like that, and I was looking for something different. Alas, Eric Verheiden had other ideas. England was Bernard Sampson. At gamestart (April 1980) he'd had only one game end (a draw), and indeed, except for one game starting late in 1978, he had only started in 1979. His opening letter to me was extremely unimpressive. He did not stake a claim to Nwy, nor try to dissuade me from A Mos-StP. He also said that if faced with an E-F alliance he would give his centers to me --- which is patently impossible. And this was the only letter I got from him in WOO. Both Italy and France commented to me on delays in hearing initially from England, and T said he never did hear from him! Austria, Scott Marley, had even less experience. He had only joined a few games here and there and hadn't excelled, and so was little more than a beginner. I learned from an outside source that both Eric and Jerry Jones had had to twist Scott's arm to enter the game. Why they chose Scott for this treatment is an absolute mystery to me --- with so many experienced players around, why pressure a beginner to enter? His opening letter was even more bizarre. Naturally, he was enthusiastic about an alliance against T. But the moves that he stated that he wanted to do were just about the most pro-T moves you could come up with: A Vie-Gal, F Tri-Ven!!! I wrote him back in some detail about the problems that such an opening would cause me, and the delays this would cause in an A-R attack on T, but he never bothered to respond --- that was the only letter that I got from him. Naturally, that locked me into A War-Gal. Another person with little postal experience was Hal Norman, Italy. He had entered a handful of games as an original player in 1971 and 1972, and had resigned or dropped out of all of them prior to completion. In this game he was reentering the postal hobby. Thus, unless I have missed something here, there are three players here with a combined total of one completed game. Of course, this is Eric's game to organize, and he can choose whomever he likes, but if I had known this game would be organized this way, I would have passed it up and signed up for Smyth's invitational game, which is being organized right around now. Making matters even worse is the unfortunate geographical distribution. Two of us are

from Alexandria, and a third is almost local in Baltimore. And two are from L.A. If the local pairs ally, the east will quickly bog down to T-R vs A-I.

Anyhow, moving away from my bitching and back to diplomacy, I offer Italy the choice of A or T as the first victim. He is leaning toward T as first victim, but I am leaning toward A, entirely because of his reluctance to write letters. To preserve both options, and to blunt a possible T stab, I add A Mos-Ukr, F Sev-Bla. T agrees to move F Ank-Bla, A Smy-Con. Whether he will or not is another matter. I can only hope that A has been as lazy writing to T as he has been to me.

As for the west, I cannot find an ally for a move west/north, so that is out of question. Lee is very concerned that a rumor that I actually do know Reese (T) (which I do not) might be true. After several exchanges of letters, he agrees to allow me Swe, but says he will move to Den just in case I attack in SO1. I am not thrilled with this, since I know how tempting F Den-Swe is once the army is there. I am not terribly confident at this point, mostly from a lack of mail. Altho I answered every letter I got, I hear from no one but T in the last 10 days or so of WOO, which is very unusual. Thus, my principle ally is T, with secondary allies G and I --- I hope!! So far, my alliance structure is being set by who will deign to write me. Once I get attacked, that will undoubtedly change.

Spring 1901

England: F Lon-Eng, F Edi-Nth, A Lpl-Yor (Bernie Sampson)
Austria: F Tri-Ven, A Vie-Gal, A Bud-Ser (Scott Marley)
France : F Bre-Mid, A Par-Pic, A Mar-Spa (Bob Sergeant)
Germany: F Kie-Den, A Ber-Kie, A Mun-Ruh (Lee Kendter, Sr)
Italy : F Nap-Ion, A Rom-Apu, A Ven H (Hal Norman)
Russia : F StP(sc)-Bot, A War-Gal, A Mos-Ukr, F Sev-Bla (Mark Berch)
Turkey : F Ank-Bla, A Con-Bul, A Smy-Con (Pete Reese)

Spring 1901 I'm off to a reasonable, but not great, start. I'm pleased that T has moved as he promised, and that England has opened to the Channel. But the German move to Den could presage the loss of Swe, or perhaps F Den-Ska. And then there's Austria. Actually, my position vis-a-vis Austria is even worse than the board position indicates. Has Aus decided that I am definitely hostile? Or is he just pying it safe? Or perhaps he was unpersuaded that his proposed moves would cause a delay in the attack on T? Or maybe he's dropped out of the game, and those were moves sent in before that happened?

Diplomacy-wise, this game has become a total farce. Naturally, T and myself are good telephone contact. And I did talk to France briefly at Dipcon (he tells me that G is blaming the move to the channel on me! I'm surprised that G is trying something that blatant.) Beyond that --- nothing. Not a peep from E, A, I, and G, despite my writing all of them. Were it not for the fact that I have a fixed rule against resigning from games except in cases of GM misconduct, I would have submitted my resignation along with the FO1 orders. If this crew doesn't want to negotiate, fine, I'll find me a game where they will. I have never been in a game with anything even near this low a level of correspondence. Eric (GM) speculates that this may be due to the long deadlines (4 and 5 weeks). Possible, but very unlikely. As of the FO1 deadline, I have received a grand total of three letters and one fone call from E, I, and A combined. These are the three inexperienced players in this game, and that's no coincidence.

As a result, I have little decision making to do. I will never ally with someone who does not write. T seems concerned by Italy's Lepandto start, so keeping F in Sev (blocking the build) doesn't seem like a problem. A will be my first victim if T stays honest, and if I doesn't start writing soon, he might well be number 2.

Fall 1901

Austria: F Tri H, A Vie-Bud, A Ser-Bul-4
England: F Eng-Mid, F Nth C A Yor-Nwy -4
France: F Mid-Por, A Spa H, A Pic-Bre-5
Russia: F Bot-Swe, A War-Gal, A Ukr-Rum, F Sev S A Ukr-Rum-6
Germany: F Den H, A Kie-Hol, A Ruh-Bel-6
Italy : A Ven H, F Ion C A Apu-Tun-4
Turkey : A Bul-Ser, A Con-Bul, F Ank-Con-4

Fall 1901 Now, this is more, to my liking! T remains honest, and G lets me into Sweden. And inexplicably, I get into Gal. Austria's a vie-bud is a total mystery to me. Now he has an army in Bud and builds in Vie instead of vice versa --- so what? England decides to try for early entry into the Mid, suckering A Pic-Bre, preventing the build. Frankly, I suspect that E has fallen under the spell of G. But there remains the slight fear that the west has concocted up a brand new western triple, with E-F "war" designed to put me off guard, with the English fleet off to attack Italy.

Diplomacy again is minor, tho there is little to discuss. I agree to avoid F StP (sc) in exchange for no f ber. As I am treaty bound to avoid F StP(nc), that pretty much locks in my builds as A StP, A War, and T is forced into F Smy.

I am irritated by England's repeated refusal to answer my letters. As a result, I plan to relieve him of Nwy at the first opportunity, probably FO2. I am careful not to say anything to G about this, or to say anything to him indicating Nwy is his.

Winter 1901. A: A Vie; E: F Lon; F: A Par, F Mar; G: A Ber, A Mun, F Kie;
I: F Nap; R: A StP, A War; T: F Smy

Winter 1901 Once the builds arrive, the pace of Diplomacy picks up a bit, particularly in the form of a long call from England. He is undecided whether to ally with F or G. G is pushing him to move against my Swe and against F as well with his new fleet. France wants him to move to Ska to preserve his options vs me or G. I tell him this will be viewed as very hostile (F later tells me he told E to get my permission first). I am less committal, and when he asks, I say that if he feels he can trust France, E-F is better than E-G because while he can be an equal in the first, Kendter is almost certain to dominate an E-G alliance. But if he can't trust F, stick with G. Naturally I would prefer more side switching, as that would slow things down even further, but I do not push him on this --- I'll save the real pressure for when I actually need it. He makes no commitment. In the south, the discussions with T are primarily tactical in nature, as I will support him into Ser in the spring, and he'll support me into Ser in the fall, even as he takes Gre. Italy tells me at last that he too will turn on Austria, but conducts little diplomacy toward unhinging the unfolding R-T alliance.

Spring 1902

Austria: F Tri-Ven, A Bud H, A Vie S A Bud, A Ser-Bul (Dis, Ret to Gre)

England: F Lon-Eng, F Nth S A Nwy, A Nwy H, F Mid-Gas

France : F Por S F Mar-Spa(sc); A Bre S A Spa-Gas, A Par-Pic

Germany: F Den S F Kie-Hel, A Ber-Kie, A Mun-Sil; A Hol & A Bel H

Russia : F Swe-Fin, A StP-Fin, A War-Sil, A Gal-Bud, F Sev S A Rum, A Rum S T A Bul-Ser

Turkey : A Bul-Ser, A Con-Bul, F Ank-Con, F Smy-Aeg

Italy : A Ven-Tri, F Ion C A Tun-Alb, F Nap-Apu

Spring 1902 England makes a blatant error, moving against France in the very season that G betrays him by supporting himself into Hel. E is further embarrassed by his own as-you-can-see-G-is-trustworthy-press. But G has also erred, tho in a more subtle way. He should have moved his new fleet to Hol rather than Hel, as F Hol could be argued as anti-F, but F Hel is unambiguous. Of course, F might have demanded F Hel, but I hardly think he was in a position to do so. More importantly, he should have stuck with his English ally, whom he could have dominated, and then finished ^{him} off by himself once F was gone. As it is, G is now gambling everything on a breakup of R-T. Once E is gone, who is next??? G vs F will be almost a standstill unless it participates in the south, but if R-T sticks together, then it will be of no help. Alternatively, he could attack me next, but in such a war, E is much better placed to help than F, who will be primarily interested in the Medit area. Plus such an alliance would make him very dependent on French goodwill, as the French will arc from Pic to Nwg at the very least around him. Thus, G threw away what could have been a well placed, useful ally -- or fodder.

Back to the diplomacy, G and myself again agree to a stadnoff in Silesia, as I

do not want him to get any ideas about a second front, or a piece in the demilitarized zone. Both F and G press me to take Nwy from E --- and to think, I was once worried ~~that~~ G would claim it for himself! I write E, telling him of what I am going to do, and try to put the best face on it. I urge him to convoy the A back to the homeland for a more stubborn defense, and of course no threat to me. A respnse from him says he was going to do the convoy anyway, and accepts the loss of Nwy quite well. I suspect that his negotiations did not go well with F when E leaked some of the details to G, which G quoted back to F, to F's annoyance. And of course he feels utterly betrayed by G, so who is there to turn to but friendly ole' Russia -- he even agrees to F Stp(nc).

France, in urging me to take Nwy, mentions the upcoming F-R attack on G. I am glad to hear of this! The problem here is that I will be ready for this attack before F is. ~~So I must look for the possibility of E-F-R against R, as early as 1804.~~

Fall 1902

Austria: A Gre-Ser(ANN), F Tri-Ven(ANN), A Vie S A Bud, A Bud S A Vie-2 (Resigns)
England: F Nth C A Nwy-Yor, F Eng S F Nth, F Mid H (ret to Wes)-3
France: F Spa(sc) S F Por-Mid, A Gas & A Pic S A Bre, A Bre S A Pic
Germany: F Den S F Hel-Nth, A Kie S F Den, A Hol S A Bel, A Bel H, A Mun-Sil-6
Russia : F Swe S A StP-Nwy, A War-Sil, A Gal-Bud, A Rum-Ser, F Sev-Rum-8
Italy : A Alb S A Ven-Tri, F Apu-Adr, F Ion S A Alb-5
Turkey : F Aeg S A Ser-Gre, A Bul S Rus A Rum-Ser, F Con S A Bul-5

Fall 1902 Things go smoothly north and south, and I'm up to 8 already. Plus I am almost impossible to attack. Turkey knows that war with Italy is coming very soon and cannot afford to antagonize me seriously. Germany is already at war with E, and I have so many units that he can't hope to snatch anything from me. If he were allied with E, he could afford a two front war, letting E take the lions's share of the war with F. And lacking Nwy, my position in Swe would be much more vulnerable. Ah, but that's a different game. In a well-played game, one serious error should doom a country, single elimination style, as the jackels turn on the weakest. In my opinion, A, I, E, and G have all made their error.

In the south, I now hear from a probably desperate Italy that he will accept Second to my win, an understandable offer, since the status quo can only lead to his destruction. This is a tempting offer, since I could probably arraigne things so that he would never have the opportunity to change his mind. But two factors hold me back. The first is that Pete (T) has not lied or betrayed me yet. Until there is a compelling reason for me to do so, I will not turn on such an ally. In this sense, Italy pays the price for his slow diplomacy earlier in the game, for only my primary ally can be assured of this treatment. The second is a more practical consideration. A war with T will probably bring a German attack, and, at this point, a G-T alliance is the only thing that could defeat me. Conversely, G will not attack me without Turkish help. Fortunately these two factors point me in the same direction.

I would prefer to build A Sev, and bring it directly to Kum, but that would require that my fleet get out of the way --- into the Black. But T will have none of this, and I guess he does have a point here --- it would be quite a risk for him. But at the same time, it would provide an A Kum, which might be useful in FO3,

Winter 1902: E: Rem F Wes; I: Build A Ven; R: B F StP(nc), A Mos; T: Build F Smy

Winter 1902 Unfortunately, not separated, and in reality ist one big season. My builds have been cleared in advance to a certain extent, and England has even asked for a northern fleet. Russia does not mention the build, nor does he mention A War. The build of F Smy helps cement the I-T war, which is just fine. I send detailed plans to England, as I want him to put up as stiff a resistance as possible. If France cuts the English F Eng, Germany can take Nth. But if he moves his army to Edi, FO3 can see A Edi-Yor, retreated F Lon-Yor, thus covering all three porvinces against attack or convoy, leaving F Eng to either pin down the French F Spa(sc) with F Eng-mid (and thus safeguarding Lpl thru 1904) or to move F Eng-Nth in case ~~Russia~~ does F Nth-Nwg, F Den-

Nth. Ultimately, the goal is ~~xxx~~ to turn France around, to really against Germany. But mostly, I'd like that next German build to come as late as possible.

In the south, I am trying to delay having to take a public stand in the I-T conflict. Plus, I've taken neither Vie nor Bud, my intended centers in the anti-A campaign. I am in Serbia only for tactical reasons, as that was the most available center. Turkey is interested in taking Ion as soon as possible, and thus wants to switch ownership of Gre to a fleet, moving the army there to Serbia which I shall vacate. I seek, and get, Italian support for my attack on Bud, and I urge Italy to slip in behind me with A Alb-Ser. That will waste the Army, as T will move to Ser with the strength of 2. Both T and I wonder why Italy built A Ven rather than a fleet I entertain fantasies that this will go to Tyo or even better Pie.

Spring 1903

Austria: A Vie S A Bud, A Bud SXA Vie(ANN) (Arnold Vagts)

England: A Yor-Lpl, F Eng S F Nth, F Nth S Rus F Swe-Den(nso)(Dis, ret to Edi)

France : F Mid-Eng, A Gas-Bur, A Pic-Bur, F Spa(sc)-Mid, A Bre H

Germany: F Den S F Hel-Nth, A Kie S F Den, A Hol S A Bel, A Mun-Ber, A Bel H

Italy : F Adr C A Ven-Alb, F Ion S A Alb-Gre, A Tri S Rus A Ser-Bud

Russia : F StP(nc)-Bar, A Gal S A Ser-Bud, A War S A Gal, A Mos-Ukr, F Rum&A Nwy&F SweH

Turkey : A Bul S A Gre-Ser, F Aeg-Gre, F Con-Aeg, F Smy-Eas

Spring 1903 Rude Surprises! Am I taking things too much for granted? Italy very cleverly convoys his new army Ven to Alb, and supports that army to Greece (A Alb-Gre). That plan had not occurred to me at all and is quite clever. He has brought his new army immediately into play (hard to do with A Ven when you have an immobile A Tri), takes a SC from his enemy Turkey, rings Ser with three armies, and carries favor with me by supporting me into Bud. An extremely impressive season. I now have some fast talking to do, since I want to use my new A Bud to wipe out the last Aus A Vie, not help Italy against Serbia. Further, with no A Rum, I am under some pressure to help Turkey in Serbia. Sure enuf, Italy writes me with a very sensible plan whereby his A Tri will support me into Vie, while my A Bud helps him take Serbia to add to Gre. I manage to persuade him to play more conservatively, urging that he try to safeguard Gre, knowing that T can retake Gre if Tur follows my plan. That entails using A Ser to cut Ital A Alb which will, I hope, be used in a futile attempt to hold Gre. Of course, that exposes Ser to risk of being retaken in case Italy decides not to try and hold Gre. Italy agrees, and I am relieved, as I would like to postpone my betrayal of Italy as long as possible, in case some event will occur that will make my decision easier.

In the north, England once again declines my advice, and does the utterly pointless A Yor-Lpl. This annoys me greatly, since the clever plan for the FO3 defense is down the drain, and this is not the first time he has done such a stunt. I suggest to him a Lpl/Edi standoff in Yor, with F Eng either just covering Lon, or, more daringly, blocking F Spa(sc) from entering Mid. This is what the other plan would have done, but now it takes leaving Lon open to do it, rather risky. But if he doesn't, he will face another fleet after SO3. I write England, masking my annoyance and inquiring of his reasons, but he doesn't share them. I suggest that I will try to talk my way into Nwg, without saying that I'll actually move there if Lee strongly objects. He writes back immediately that he will support me into Nwg with F Edi. This would be helpful, I suppose, but I know that England is just doing his utmost to provoke G-R war. Actually, I have promised to help him against Germany, but the actual attack on Germany will wait until I get the go-ahead from France. That would give F-E-R vs G, my kind of attack! I decide that it is too risky to respond, as E might send the letter to Germany. Meanwhile, G writes me that entry into Nwg would be "a direct threat to my existence." This has me puzzled and worried. Lee gives me no explanation whatsoever as to why this is such a terrible threat --- if its so sensitive, why was it not mentioned earlier? I'd like to get in, but not at the cost of war with G. On the other hand, if Lee can bluff me away just by arbitrarily labeling a space as critical without explanation when 1) I am quite strong and 2) he is embroiled in war and 3) The space really isn't all that

critical, then what will I do when things are a little fuzzier? If he gave me the reasoning that would be one thing. But he didn't, and I suspect its because he can't actually make a case for it. Letting him get away with this would set a very bad precedent. I write him late in the season asking for reasons, but giving no commitment, and he does not respond. I decide to move in.

Fall 1903

Austria: A VieH (Dis, Out of game)

England: F Eng-Lon, A Lpl-Yor, F Edi-Nth -3

France : F Mid-Nat, F Spa(sc)-Mid, A Gas-Spa, A Bre & A Pic H-5

Germany: F Nth C A Hol-Edi, F Den S F Nth, A Kie S F Den, A Ber & A Bel H-6

Russia : F Bar-Nwg, A Bud S A Gal-Vie, A War-Gal, A Ukr-Rum, F Rum-Sev, A Nwy&F Swe H-9

Turkey : A Bul S F Aeg-Gre, A Ser-Alb(ANN), F Con-Aeg, F Eas-Ion-5

Italy : A Tri S A Alb-Ser, F Adr S F Ion, F Ion S T F Eas-Aeg(nso), A Gre-Bul(D, r.Alb)

Fall 1903 England does not give the promised support, tho to be sure I never said I wanted it, but it turns out not to be needed. Instead, Lee oddly convoys to Edi, which is where England retreated to. I can't figure that move out at all. More evidence of a strong F-G alliance is seen, as now Mun, Bur, and even Gas are all vacant, with armies stored in a line from Bre to Berlin! France now has NAO, Mid, so he can take Lpl in FO4 unless I intervene, and I'm not so sure that I want to any more. E tells me that he is trying to make up with F, but F turns him down. Unless the blitz of Italy goes super fast and that of E real slow, the game seems headed for RTFG.

I must choose my next build with great care. My main concern is with Lpl. With the Germans pinning down the English fleets in Lon and Edi, only A Yor is available to deal with what will be, after SO4, F NAO and F IRI. My plan is to convoy A Nwy-Clyde, and then in FO4, A Cly S Eng A Yor-Lpl. Of course, A Cly and F Nwg will give me options on Edi should England become unreliable. But building A StP would be too obvious, a tip-off to my upcoming convoy, thus making F NAO-Cly much more likely. StP(sc) would be too provocative, A War less so, but poorly placed. A Mos will hopefully look anti-T to Italy, and I can move it up to StP to replace the leaving army. And yet, I am itching to build another northern fleet. I must be realistic about this game. Aside from a letter on the subject back in Aug (its now Dec) F has shown no inclination to attack G. If the game gets down to FG vs TR, then northern fleets will be vital. Unless I can break thru, F can hold Mar/Spa with his armies, and thus can block the Mid with only 2 fleets, freeing the rest plus the German fleets to deal with me in the north. Also, it will be vital for me to try to slip a fleet behind the French lines to help T into the Mid. My present F Nwg is probably my most important fleet -- indeed, unit. But I will need additional fleets to pull this off. But I think that this is too early to build another F StP(nc). If I take Tri this coming year, then I can build it next winter. Hopefully in 1906 T will be able to spare the units to ann my southern fleet.

Germany finally writes, telling me that he fears the possibility of my cooperating with England, and still considers it to be an offensive threat. He hopes I don't do "anything rash" but declines to say just what a rash action would be

WO3: Italy retreats A Gre to Alb, build F Nap. R build A Mos, T builds A Con

Winter 1903 Now is the time for my final decision on choosing between I and T. Positionally, I am probably better off attacking T. This will give Italy builds, which I can insist be fleets to go against France, even tho the thrust of his other fleets is eastward, those builds would bring fleets west faster than T can push them. I should be able to reach 18 well before Italy can reach 16, even without relieving I of his Turkish holdings. Of course, an attack on T might be the catalyst that G needs to turn on me. But that is not a major concern. After the first year, T will lose Gre and Bul and possibly even ank. At 2-3 centers, it can hardly provide much of an ally for Germany. On the other hand, I began allying with Trukey primarily because

he was very faithful in contacting me and responding to me, whereas neither I nor A were. In the last 1 1/2 game years Italy has improved somewhat, tho he still lagged. But, more to the point, Turkey has been a very faithful ally from the start. I am extremely reluctant to turn on a reliable ally when there is no compelling reason to do so. True, a Trukish ally gives the west a slightly better chance of sealing the Mid, but thats not strong enuf a reason. While Italy has agreed to take second to me, T and I have no agreement at all as to how the game will end, so I still have the option of going for the win. I opt for Turkey.

Altho I had written him earlier (before the Winter moves) Italy calls days before the deadline. I assure him that I will move my fleet to Bla, and will cut Bul for him. Italy says he will move on Turkey. The question is whether he will go all out, and use F Ion in the attack (and thus risk losing the Ion) or will play it safe and doubly support F Ion. Italy says that he will garrison F Ion in Spring, figuring that a Fall loss is OK, as Turkish removals will force F Ion removal by Turkey. He realizes F Eas will cut F Ion, so will just be moving with his armies. Turkey is uncommittal on whether he should go all out and try to take Ion, at the risk of losing Gre, since F Aeg can only support one thing at a time. I agree to slam into Tri, with the plan to do a Tri-Alb in FO4 if this is needed. I figure that either I can keep Tri, in which case F StP(nc) can be built, or I can retreat to Tyo, which is not covered by any demilitarization agreement with Germany. I would prefer an all out attack on Ion by Turkey, as I want naval pressure as soon as possible on France. But this is really T's decision.

England I leaned on. I pointed out that France, hell-bent on taking Lpl, would move F Mid-Iri, and do either NAO-Lpl for the immediate grab, or NAO-Cly as a safety more keeping E or R from defending Lpl. Thus, I pushed for A Yor-Lpl, F Edi S Rus A Nwy-Cly, plus F Lon-Nth to block any F Den-Nth move in case of e.g. F Nth-Eng. He generally agreed with the logic, OOKed the convoy, but was reluctant to support it, thinking that France would not go for Clyde. He was leaning toward my moves but gave me no commitment. He did agree to call if he didn't want to follow my plan, but no call came.

Spring 1904

England: F Lon S F Edi-Nth, A Yor H

France : F Mid & F Nat C A Bre-Cly, A Pic & A Gas H

Germany: F Nth C A Hol-Lon, F Den S F Nth, A Kie-Mun, A Bel & A Ber H

Italy : F Adr S F Nap-Ion, A Alb S A Ser-Gre, A Tri-Ser(Dis, r Tyo) F Ion-Aeg(D, r Tun)

Russia : A Vie S A Bud-Tri, A Gal-Bud, F Nwg C A Nwy-Cly, A Mos-StP, F Sev & F Swe H
A Rum S Tur A Bul-Ser

Turkey : F Aeg S F Gre-Ion, F Eas S F Gre-Ion, A Bul-Ser, A Con-Bul

Spring 1904 Lots of surprises.. England has once again rejected my advice and taken all kinds of risks. Had France done either the Lpl or Cly move along with F Mid-Iri, Lpl would be a loser --- note A Yor H. It is clear that E expected to retake the Nth, and wanted to block the retreat to Yor. But that German move was rather unlikely --- G has been playing very cautiously, having taken so long to take the Nth. It is possible that he knew that F would try the convoy to Ely, tho its a mystery to me how he could have figured it would. So E took a tremendous risk that actually turned out quite well. However, I am getting more irritated at his negotiating style and his tactics. He had agreed to go A Yor-Lpl. He has not played it straight with me, and has used poor tactics, tho events have made them look better than they might have.

France's convoy indicates to me that either 1) He did not consider the possibility of the convoy actually being blocked 2) He is concerned about the south. So he left the fleet in Mid, where it could quickly move south, and used one of his many armies as the second unit to use against England, figuring to do F NAO S A Cly-Lpl. The latter seems more likely. Thus my plan to stall the F-G offensive against E is succeeding. But will it produce the desired FER vs G or will it backfire, as the English press indicates, and give FEG vs RT?

Turkey tells me he's pleased with the results, but a problem looms. What if It decides on a defensive stance, doing this in SOS: F Tun-Tyh, F Nap-Tyh; A Ven-Apu, F Adr-Apu? The standoffs would disrupt the vital westward movement of the Turkish fleets, so necessary to prevent the Mid from being plugged. I favor an immediate move to Tyh in FO4, but I must admit that this will probably fail. And there are other considerations. With Germany now for the first time in Ber and Mun, War is very vulnerable. The next build will have to be F StP, so I must move A Rum-Ukr. But with A Vie and A Bud tied down defending Tri, who will defend Ser (Tri can be cut)? So it was decided that F Ion-Alb will do the job, and hopefully Italy won't bother attacking Ion so that the unsupported F Eas-Ion can succeed. Its a gamble, but its reasonable, because hopefully F Adr will be used in an attempt to retake Tri rather than F Adr-Ion. I toy with the idea of moving to Tyo to block the probable A Mun-Tyo, but don't want to risk Tri, and it might tick off Germany. My worst fear is that Italy will retreat off the board, use F Adr to cover Tri, permit G to enter Tyo, and then build F Rom! I don't think Hal is good enuf to come up with this plan, but Kendter might. And he might want to enter Tyo just to have a bargaining chip to get me out of Nwg. Thus, if It does other than retreat to Ven, I will attack Tyo to try to forestall disaster.

Germany gets a delicate letter. I put my northern actions in the best possible light, and tell him flat out about A Rum-Ukr, so that he won't think that War will be easy pickings. And I say I might do A Bud-Gal as well. This could cost me Tri (and the build in War) but then I'd have 2 defenses for War. But the main reason here is that I want Lee to encourage Italy to try to take Tri, on the hope of A Bud-Gal. This will cause the waste of F Adr, increasing the cahnces for F Eas-Ion.

France I remind of his much earlier plan to join with me in an attack on Germany. His answer is very non-committal - he wants me to take the first step and attack G, but even then there are no promises. But the most ominous sign is a letter from England. The bad news, he says, is that he thinks he is better off allied with FG than with R. He had asked me previously if I would guarentee his survival, saying he would accept that promise if FG would not ally with him. I told him I would try, but if FG stuck together I was not sure that I could hold them back. Anyhow, the good news was that his price for FEG was that Lee had to allow him back into Nth, and that Lee was balking. But I am more apprehensive about this season than any other. Its not so much that G is in both Mun and Ber. But if G is going to stab me, it will be FO4. After that, it will probably too late, since my reduced Balkan commitments will free up armies,

and I'll have another northern fleet. If G is going to change his mind about attacking E, he really has no reason to wait on the point. I decide to send my army to Fin, in part becazuse I can't be sure the convoy will succeed, (and I do want StP open for the build) and because in Fin it can give me better flexibility in defending Nwy/Swe. I ask England to do A Yor-Lpl, and stand himself out of Yor.

Fall 1904

England: F Edi S F Lon-Nth, A Yor S F Edi-3

France : F Mid & F NAO C A Bre-Cly, A Gas-Mar, A Pic H -5

Germany: F Den S F Nth-Ska, A Ber-Pru, A Mun-Sil, A Hol-Ruh, A Bel H-6

Italy : A Tyo S A Alb-Ven, F Adr C A Alb-Ven, F Nap-Tyn, F Tun-Tyn, A Gre-Bul(ANN)-4

Russia : F Nwg C A Nwy-Cly, F Swe H, A StP-Fin, A Rum-Ukr, F Sev-Rum, A Bud S A Tri, A Tri S Tur F Ion-Alb, A Vie-Tyo-10

Turkey : F Eas-Ion, A Ser S F Ion-Alb, F Aeg-Gre, A BulS F Aeg-Gre-6

Fall 1904

This is obviously my most cataclysmic season, totally transforming my chances in this game. Lee has indeed stabbed, even tho I had carefully kept each and every agreement that I had with him. The attack even has a strong influence in the south. If the F-E conflict breaks off, F will be in a better position to prop up It than otherwise, since he can swing his fleets south quicker. Furthermore, had G not attacked, even if a southern wall were formed, either E or R could eventually swing fleets around and cut the needed supports. The French A Gas-Mar is clearly destined to prop up Ven. Italy has once again come up with some fancy footwork, doing a plan I had not antici-

pated. However, even if those moves had occurred to me, I'm not sure that I'd have done the A Vie-Tyo, A Tri-Ven that would have blocked it (tho I am annoyed that the option hadn't occurred to me). It looks like Itis preparing to set up an army wall, ~~FA~~ A Pie & A Tyo S A Ven, and thus remove F Adr --- I can't see him going to all that effort and then just removing one of the armies. This would be good.- we want those southern fleets to go as fast as possible. T and myself decide on an aggressive plan: AVie S A Tri-Tyo plus T Ion-Apu means that (assuming another Tyn standoff) A Ven can block one of these moves, but not both. If I get into Tyo, I can cut A Pie to assure the fall of Ven. And if we get into Apu, Italy will still have to guess.

The northern situation is not as promising. I am facing a probable dislodgement of F Nwg, and there could be a supported attack on either Nwy or Swe - and Fin can support only one. I decide on a rather sophisticated procedure, which will hold both except against the unlikely F Nth S F Ska-Nwy, a plan that will give some role to F Nwy. Around War I have more of a straight guess, but I am too concerned about the high mix of Ger A Liv to permit the move this early. A Pru-War, A Sil-Gal will be a disaster, but A Vie is not available to support A Bud-Gal --- hopefully G won't know that, so won't do A Sil-Gal. A Turksih army will help, balancing a new German army coming in from Hol-Ruh-Mun.

As for diplomacy, I decide to let Lee write me first, I ask F where I stand with him, and I press E with the disadvantages of the E-G alliance. E asks me for evacuation of Nwy and Nwg. But I fear that he is just trying to grease the skids of my decline, and I ask him to take advantage of the fact that he has a sure R ally against G to convoy to Hol immediately. But E is still worried about F as well. I do have to re-evaluate my past relations with E in light of this stab. Did E tell F to block me out of Clyde once or even twice? Was this business about Lee-won't-do-it just to lull me to sleep? Indeed, when was the E-F war really called off?

England tells me that he will eject me from Nwg after all, urges me not to make F Sev my first removal, and tells me that G told him that A Bel would stick around the Nth littoral, so that a stab is not that promising. But what he is most worried about is that I will retreat my fleet to Clyde. He offers to tell me what his moves will be in advance if I do not retreat there. This is somewhat intriguing, not only for the value of knowing his moves, but for the fact that if I tell Lee about this, he might feel betrayed. But then again, he might not. I decide to play hardball on this one, telling him I will definitely retreat it to Clyde, as that will allow me to tie up 2 English units, whereas F Nwg-Bar in FO5 can "wipe out" my fleet with just one unit. I urge him to wait till FO5 to dislodge it, for then I might be able to retreat it OTB and rebuild it as F StP(sc) --- something I won't do for a SO5 dislodgement because I don't want to play a unit short. I figure I can always back down, but by putting the maximum pressure on E at this point, he might back off. This not only could give me the F StP(sc) build, but will buy a little time for Nwy and might tick off Lee (G).

F send me a brief non-committal note. G, amazingly enuf, does not write at all. I decide to pull a stunt I have never done before, and write him a "response" as if he had written me. I hint darkly that he has written a strange letter, with an unusual request. Perhaps Lee will wonder who has done the forgery. It probably won't go anywhere, but I figure that I've got nothing to lose, and since Lee didn't write, this would be a good opportunity.

In my last letter to E, I hint (correctly) that I might have to avoid Ret-Cly if there is a threat to StP. Perhaps he will then press Lee to move Pru-Lvn to do just that --- a move I plan to block.

Shortly after the deadline, Lee writes back that he is confused --- did he forget he had written a letter to me or am I responding in a way he doesn't understand. The idea of a forgery either hasn't occurred to him, or he'd decided to ignore that possibility. Interesting.

As I await the results, I continue to wonder about the stab, clearly my first crisis of the game. Should I have seen it coming? Could I have prevented it? Is it only a matter of time before everything from War-Mos and north is stripped away?

Winter 1904 Russia: Build A War; Italy: Rem F Adr; Turkey: B F Smy

Spring 1905

England: F Nth S F Edi-Nwg, A Yor-Lpl

France : F NAO & F Mid C A Bre-Cly, A Mar-Pie, A Pic-Par

Germany: F Den S F Ska-Swe, A Pru-War, A Sil-Gal, A Bel-Hol, A Ruh-Kie

Italy : F Nap-Tyn, F Tun-Tyn, A Ven S A Tyo, A Tyo S Tur F Alb-Tri(nso)

Russia : A War-Lvn, A Ukr-Mos, A Bud-Gal, A Vie S A Tri-Tyo, A FinS A Nwy-Swe,
F Swe-Ska, F Nwg-Nwy(D ret Bar), F Sev-Bla(nsu), F Rum U

Turkey : A Ser-Tri, A Bul-Rum, F Alb-Adr, F Ion-Apu, F Gre-Ion, F Smy-Eas

This season has to be the most disastrous season of any postal game that I have ever had. Germany has taken the precise set of moves that would net him War -- the only ones. England has indeed kicked me out of Nwg, and the French convoy to Clyde will surely reduce England's options. The attack on Tyo has failed, wasting A Vie, and meaning we have to guess to take an Italian center. And to complete my humiliation I have misordered my southern fleet, the first time I have accidentally miswritten an order in close to three years (1978IF). That means that I won't have Tur A Ukr that I sorely need. I am now assured of one removal and may face two. The move to Kie rather than Mun is a small consolation, but still I will have to face another German army. And since I am leaving for an overseas trip of 3 weeks, I have only one week to get my dippy done.

So I call England with a deal: How about he convoy^{my} A Nwy-Den, and into the evacuated Nwy, F Nwg could enter. He would have to ask G to do F Ska S England to Nwy and F Den-Swe to make all this work --- but he should be able to ask G for this maximum help in taking Nwy. To my surprise, E brushes this off, tells me there is no danger, to Nwy. He has agreed to dislodge A Cly, so that F can build F Mar in its place. But in the spring, yes, an attack on G would be quite a good idea, as he is afraid that he will be odd man out. So there may be hope here.

On later reflection, I see that France can do a spectacular doublecross, A Cly-Edi, F NAO-Lpl, allowing A Lpl-Clyd harmlessly. E had mentioned on the fone that he was not guarding Edi. I write him, strongly urging that a Cly/Nth standoff in Edi be done, particularly since F Nth has no other role. This is the correct tactical move, and yet I am not hopeful that this will happen, as E has been resistant to my suggestions for the entire game. Such a massive stab would be another bad blow for me, since I need help against G, and I will not get it from France, that is for sure.

Turkey tells me that he's decided to go for Ven with the fleet (figuring on A Ven-Apu to help Naples, backed up by A Mar S A Tyo-Ven I suppose). It's his guess, so I go along. He hopes for a fast killing if it tries to cut Apu with F Nap-Apu by doing F Ion-Nap. Frankly, I think that he's being a bit overoptimistic, but then again it may be that ordinary progress isn't good enough, so that a real risk is acceptable. At the time, I hadn't spoken to E yet, and he offers me Bul to guard against two removals (of course, E could be lying to me too) and so I accept. T figures he has a good chance of picking up an Italian center, and even if not, he has a spare army. So things do look brighter, as T is as worried about FG or EFG rolling over us as I am. And finally, I write Italy, urging him to go for Mun. Not only will this deprive G of a build, but, with no Tyo S A Ven, Italy will do the A Ven-Apu choice --- which is just what we want. But this is a real longshot.

Tactically, I decide to rely on the English promise, and move to the Baltic, and with attacks on War and Gal, one of these will have to succeed, so I should be able to retake War in SO6, tho I will have a big guess to do after a retreat to Ukr. But in Scandinavia, I am more determined to let E have as much of what I lose as possible. Lee has not only attacked me without any provocation, he has not written the traditional why-I-stabbed-you letter. And that does not sit well.

Fall 1905

England: F Nth-Edi, F Nwg S A Lpl-Cly-3

France : F NAO-Mid, F Mid-Wes, A Par-Gas, A Pie S Ital A Ven(otm), A Cly-Edi(Ann)-5

Germany: F Den S F Ska-Swe, A Kie S F Den, A Sil S A War, A War H, A Hol-Bel-6

Italy : A Tyo-Mun, A Ven-Tus, F Nap-Ion F Tun S F Nap-Ion (Zimmerman's orders used)-4

Russia : A Fin S A Nwy-Swe, F Swe-Bal, F Bar-Nwy, A Lvn-War, A Mos S A Lvn-War,
A Bud-Gal, A Vie-Tyo, A Tri S Tur F Apu-Ven, F Rum-Bul(ec)-10

Turkey : F Eas-Ion, A Bul-Gre, A Ser-Alb, F Apu-Ven, F Alb S F Apu-Ven(nsu) F Adu-6
F Ion-Nap(Dis ret to Tyn)-6

The critical move here is Italy hopping into Munich. This move is made by Mark Zimmerman, as Hal Norman NMRs. Mark has been sending in 7 sets of orders each season and he tells me that he generally uses fairly aggressive ones, and says that Norman did not put him up to the moves. This will not only deprive Lee of a build, but will be a major distraction for his remaining armies. I write Hal but get no response, and suggest to Mark that he move A Mun-Kie, tho I point out that A Mun-Bur will probably turn out well, as I anticipate A Gas-NAf in SO6, leaving Par wide open. I also suggest F Tun-Ion, which, if Turkey does F Tyh S F Eas-Ion will be a wasted move.

To England I turn on the steam, as this is a crucial season for him coming up. I see he has adopted my suggestion of a standoff in Edi, a switch from his original plan --- and a cheering sign. Again I outline the plan --- he convoys me to Den, and then convoys in behind me into Nwy, a slick plan, but it requires that Lee not defend A Kie, and I could lose Swe if he switches to F Ska-S F Den-Swe. Actually, I am quite vulnerable to an English doublecross in this plan, as A Nwy, F Bal are wasted, and A Fin and F Bar are virtually wasted. But it can't be helped; if E is against me, I am doomed in the north anyhow, and his betrayal will just speed things up a bit.

Meanwhile I am having a curious correspondence with Lee (G). He writes to say the stab was because I was threatening to run away with the game, because I had interfered with the attack on E (which simply isn't true) and ~~xxxx~~ in general, the game is a "farce" because of the "Alexandria Connection" --- T and myself being in Alexandria. I take strong exception to all of this. I set forth the saga of how I came to choose A and then Itas my victims, and the fact that T and myself are local was irrelevant. Further, I tell him he is just fooling himself to blame his troubles on the local business, and that he himself has not played very well. For example, while he blames my F Nwg for interfering in where his fleets could go, he never once asked me to use it to support him to ~~hit~~, or convoy him to Clyde or Lpl. I point out his tardy tactics in attacking England, once Nth was taken. I point out that he threw away a splendidly placed English ally when he stabbed in SO2. I have several purposes here. I want to convince him that he hasn't played well (which is entirely true) so he doesn't deserve to do well --- but I have, and do. Yes, its risky to write an experienced player and tell them all they've done wrong, but I have little to lose, he's mature enuf not to go into a huff at such a letter, and if it chips away at his self-confidence in this game, so much the better. He does seem resigned to doing poorly. Another goal is to get some response from him on why the big stab of England in SO2. If the stab was indeed justified, then I want to avoid getting myself into the same corner, somehow. And if he badmouths England, well, that can be used. There I get a limited payoff. Lee blames the stab directly on England, saying he was being "very unreasonable", but gives no details. This letter goes off to England immediately, and I think it will make it there before the deadline. Ordinarily I do not pass letters, as I think that more often than not, the passing rebounds to harm the passer, making others reluctant to write him. But Lee has stabbed me nmost grievously, so all gloves are off. And this is the season to influence England. Meanwhile, England has agreed to my plan. But then again, if he were going to betray me, he'd almost certainly also agree.

With T its the usual tactical planning. I want his A Gre kept positioned to retake Bul, now that I can retake War. One support is needed for the convoy to Ven, leaving me with a somewhat useless A Tyo --- T could have pressed me for a second support. So I order it to Mun on the chance that A Mun is departing. A decision as to whether to take War in SO6 (and have to deal with a retreat to Ukr) or put it off,

with a slight risk I might not take it at all: I decide that One of Sil, War will be ordered east to deal with Mun, so I go for it in SO6. This season is a real nail-biter with regard to England's intentions; my entire fate is linked to this decision. Who knows, I could even be stabbed by T. E tells me that T has written G, F, and E complaining about his second class status in the TR alliance, tho that could be just jive.

Winter 1905 France: Build F Mar

Spring 1906

England: F Nwg C & F Nth S A Cly-Nwy

France : A Gas-Bur, F Mar-Lyo, A Pie S Ital A Mun-Tyo, F Wes-Tyn, F Mid-NAf

Germany: F Ska S E A Cly-Nwy, A Kie S A Sil-Mun, A War-Pru, A Bel-Ruh, F Den S A Kie

Italy : A Mun-Tyo, A Tus-Rom, F Tun S Fre F Wes-Tyn, F Ion-Aeg

Russia : F Bar-Nwg, A Fin-Swe, A Gal S A Lvn-War, A Mos S A Lvn-War, F Bul(ec)-Rum,
A Tyo-Mun(Dis ret Vie), A Tri S T A Alb-Ven, F Bal S A Nwy-Den, A Nwy-Den
(Dislodged, ret to Fin)

Turkey : F Adr C A Alb-Ven, A Gre-Ser, F Ven-Apu, F Eas-Ion, F Tyn H(Dis ret to Nap)

Just before the results arrive I hear from England, who tells me what he has done. He says that France talked him into accepting a 5-way draw, FEGRt. He is confident that the west can form a line, and he'll stab G only if that fails. A five-way is a rather disappointing, uninteresting conclusion. Had E been more adventurous, better results were available. He and me could take out G and then settle for a 4-way. Of course, he'd

have to be very careful that I not be in a position to break thru, but that was doable. Alternatively, he and T could take out France to give a three way. Or we could go with my original plan whereby I stabbed T at about the same time he turned on F. This could give a two way draw or a win, tho the win would more likely be mine than his. But instead, E wants the 5-way. In a sense, this is unsurprising. In his initial letter to me at gamestart, he expressed feelings of being overmatched in his area ("as a rookie in with 2 pros..."). This was an accurate description, and could well account for his viewing a 5-way draw as a very satisfactory outcome ideed. This is one of the consequences of starting with such an unbalanced field.

However, there was another considration. RT did not in fact have their own stalemate line! Without Berlin, which I now have no chance of taking, I can easily be stripped of Swe, Stp and that means stronger E-G. Furthermore, unless T makes considerable progress in the south, which is unlikely given strong F-I cooperation, I cannot form a line around War/Mos either. If EFGI holds together, and they play well, RT can be completely wiped out.. Of course, its possible that somewhere along the line E will stab G, but the reverse is more likely. And this may happen too late to do me any good. Accordingly, I agree to the five way draw, and, to hurry things along, I write all the other players to ask them to vote for the draw along with their FO6 orders. I had first checked with F by fone and he basically sez, yes, that is what he wants. Actually, I'm not even sure the draw is legal --- the HRs ban "conceded draws", whaever than means.

Meanwhile dippy continues. Altho I expect Italy to vote no, I plan to blame failure on Germany, and I make two predictions to England. One is that Lee will plump for E-G to Qverrrun northern Russia --- so that G can use his builds from War/Mos to stab England. Second, I predict that G will press E to build a fleet this winter. An army at home will make E much more difficult for for G to stab, and an army in Northern Russia will provide competition for the German armies. Of course, if G recommends an army (or is silent on the point) this scheme will fall flat on its face, but its worth a try, and I do think that Lee does want to knock me out and then tackle E.

Tactically in the south, RT decide on a plan that guarentees Ven and Nap and at least gives a shot at Rome. The totally unexpected Italian fleet move (actually, I had raised the prospect, but we both felt that It would be unwilling to risk his Naples). I tell T to take Bul back, even tho it will cost me a removal, as it is essential that he get a build to deal with Italy. I would dearly love to ditch my southern fleet, but if Italy takes Con this fall, that probably won't be possible. Ultimately, I have do

decide whether to stonewall E or G. I would prefer to stonewall G, not only because of his stab, but because in frustration he may turn again on England. On the otherhand, if I let E catch up to G centerswise, that will strengthen the alliance, since it will become more equal.

Fall 1906

England: F Nth & F Nwg S A Nwy, A Nwy S Ger F Ska-Swe-4
France : A Bur S G A Mun, A Pie S It A Tyo-Ven, F Lyo S F Tyn, F Tyn S It A Rom,
F Naf-Wes-5
Germany: F Den S F Ska-Swe, A Kie S F Den, A Pru-Ber A Ruh S A Mun A Mun H-6
Russia : A War S A Mos-Lvn, A Vie S A Gal-Boh, A Fin & F Bal S A Swe, A Swe H,
F Bar-StP(nc), A Tri S Tur F Adr-Ven, F Rum-Bla -9
Turkey : F Nap S A Ven-Rom, F Apu S F Adr-Ven, A Ser-Bul, F Ion-Tyr-8
Italy : A Tyo-Ven, F Tun S F F Tyn, F Aeg-Coñ, A Rom S A Tyo-Ven(Dis r OTB)-2

Fall 1906: The western allies have made a error of potentially far-reaching implications. F-I are obviously cooperating, as each supports the other. But they have blundered in their tactics. Had they done F Tun S F Lyo-Tyh, F Lyo-Tyh, F Tyh-Nap, and the rest the same, they would not only have safeguarded Tyh, and thrown a triple attack on Ven, which they actually did, but also, by cutting Nap, had assured Rom's safety against any attack. As it was, Tyh was twice supported, which couldn't have been needed, and Rome was lost. With Rome held by the east, a stalemate line is now possible! Of course, it will be very difficult to set this up, since it will require 4 turkish armies in rather forward positions, but at least, its possible. And second, with Turkey now having 2 builds, I can afford to remove my southern fleet, and thus preserve my armies This is an immense relief.

Along with the adjudication, Eric informs us that a draw must include all survivors, so that if we want a 5-way we will have to either eliminate Italy or he will have to resign and instruct his units to go into cd.

I urge England to build an army. As I now have the safety of a probable stalemate line, I now am pressing to shorten the draw by eliminating Germany, as I want to repay his stab. I would think that such a plan would appeal to England as well, since Germany had ruined England fine and imaginative opening (F Eng-Mid in FO1). An army would be best for this, and should alarm Germany IF he wants to rip off Mos for himself, since with just one army, England cannot stand in Germany's way. Turkey and I agree that F Ank, A Smy is best, with F Ank to cover the Black in So7.

Winter 1906: Italy: Remove A Tyo, A Rom ret OTB Tur Build F Ank, A Smy R: Rem F Bla
England Build F Edi

Winter 1906: Before the winter orders were due, I had written F and E specifically about the stab-G option for them, sending a copy to T so he could see what I was doing. Bothe E and F turned me down. E gave no reason, just said he was prepared for the draw and of course his build of F Edi reduces his ability to stab Germany. France tells me that eliminating Germany would imperil the draw altogether. I think I could talk him out of this, but he adds that for this game, "a three way draw is as good as a five-way" I most certainly do not agree, but there's little chance I can move him if those are his values.

So Turkey and I go over the tactics needed, since there is still the chance that the West will decide to try and overrun us. We agree to try to rotate the Turkish pieces to get that army into Ven. Turkey is insistant that he wants to block the retreat to Aeg. In the long run, Pru is not essential to my line, so I concentrat on Sil and Tyo. Actually, I do not even want A Liv-Pru to succeed, as I want A Liv around to protect StP, but I figure if the attack is coming, A Ber-Pru will be ordered to cut my support, so I take action accordingly.

Spring 1907

England: F Nwg-Bar, F Edi=Nwg, F Nth S A Nwy, A Nwy S Ger F Ska-Swe(nso)
France : F Wes S F Tyn-Tun, F Lyo-Tyn, A Pie-Tus, A Bur-Gas
Germany: A Ber S A Mun-Sil, F Den S F Ska-Swe, A Kie S F Den, A Ruh-Mun

Italy : F Tun S Fre F Tyn-Ion(nso)(Dis), F Con-Bul(ec)(Dis)
 Russia : A Swe S F Bal-Den, A Boh S A War-Sil, A Tri S A Vie-Tyo, A Lvn-Pru,
A Fin S A Swe, F StP(nc)-Nwy
 Turkey : A Bul S A Smy-Con, F Nap S F Apu-Ion, A Rom-Ven, F Ion-Aeg, F Ank-Bla, F Ven-Adr

Spring 1907: Well, I was wrong, E moved F Nwg-Bar without Germany moving A Ber-Pru, so my army zipped out of Liv. With E in Barents, and neither E nor F willing to move on G (F has even evacuated Bur), I no longer have any good lines of play. The game has run out of things to do. With Birsan and Don Ditter signed up for the next game, the sooner this one ends the better --- and the draw should go thru.

T contacts me with a different idea. I am to move to Pie, and he will try to talk Italy into moving his retreated fleet to NAF-Mid. I am intrigued! If both succeed France, who has been sitting on his hands the entire game and thus certainly deserves to be attacked, would be in serious trouble. That Italian raider could even distract E, to my advantage. It agrees (or so T sez), so he should removed his eastern dislodged fleet, and T will then move out of Con, preserving the Italian center. In the north, my problems are more complex. A Fin must guess whether A Nwy will join with the Attack on Swe or the attack on StP. But if worse comes to worse, and EG sticks together, I need all of my armies (plus a couple turkish ones) but no fleets. The problem is, two of them are trapped in Scandinavia. If A Swe is ann the same season I lose Swe, I can't remove a fleet to compensate. But if I garrison Swe and leave StP to its fate, I lose StP if I guess wrong, I'll have made no progress in getting my armies out, and Mos could be threatened! So I opt to covoy A Swe out to Liv, and will remove StP(nc). Then in spring I can defend StP with A Liv S A Fin-StP, and if worse comes to worse, I can use A Liv to defend Mos. Meanwhile, my Tyo-Pru wall plus F Bal are all free to try to take a home center from Lee. I feel a little bad about letting G, not E get a SC. Then again, G probably --- I hope ---thinks its too risky to leave a Home center open for a build, what with all my units about, and is figuring that E will get the build (they are after all 6-4, 7-4 would look bad) So if G hits Swe, he may not be able to build for it, just yet, and keeping E from a build will increase the chances that Ital F Mid will distract him.

Fall 1907

England: F Nwg & F Nth S A Nwy, A Nwy S F Bar-StP(nc)-4
 France : F Wes & F Tyn S F Tun, F Tun S F Tyn, A Tus-Pie, A Gas-Bur-6
 Italy : (F Con ret Off the Board, F Tun ret NAF) F NAF-Mid-1
 Germany: F Den S F Ska-Swe, A Kie S A Ber, A Ruh S A Mun, A Mun & A Ber H-7
 Russia : A Pru & A Boh S A War-Sil, F Bal C A Swe-Lvn, A Tyo-Pie, A Tri-Tyo,
A Fin S F StP(nc) F StP(nc) H-8
 Turkey : A Ven S F Nap-Rom, F Aeg S F Adr-Ion, F Ion-Nap, A Bul-Gre, A Con-Bul, F BlaH8

This brings the SC holdings to E: Home Nwy (4); F: Home, Spa, Por, Tun (6); G: Home Hol, Bel, Den, Swe (7); Italy: Con (1); R: Home, Tri, Bud, Vie, Rum (8); T: Ank, Smy, Gre, Ser, Ven Rom, Nap, Bul (8).

Fall 1907: Well, now, this is interesting. It turns out that I could have avoided the loss of Swe, but no matter; Germany will have a hard time building for it. But the Italian raider puts a new complexion on the game. Turkey and I have a long tactical chat, one of the few seasons where being in telephone contact makes a big difference. It is tempting to have Italy seize an Iberian center and force a French removal. But F does not need his Italian army, and in Iberia, it could be trapped. Its key value will be to open the Mid door. But how much force will the west allocate to dealing with it? Natuarlly I write to England, urging that he ease off the attack on StP and deal with the real danger of F Mid-Iri, which could cause a removal if he does not get StP. After much discussion, F Mid-Eng looks to give the best flexibility. I like the notion of Germany worrying about Bel, and to a lesser extent E guarding Lon. But the nice thing is that adjacent to 3 sea spaces and 3 SC, it will be hard to wipe out, especially as Iri will be hard to guard. Unfortunately, more than a week later T calls me to get I's fone number --- he has forgotten to write, and deadline draws very near. I am not writing Italy at all because I do not want him to think he can play one off against the other --- not at this point. Plus, E writes me back, saying in effect to get lost, and

that the west plans to offer Italy a center of its own and go for a 6-way draw. He also says that, so far as StP goes, he will do whatever he is instructed to do by FG. Neither of these two items surprises me; his unwillingness to shorten the draw, and now talk of a 6-way, indicates to me that he likes long draws. My removal is a more difficult decision that I had thought. With a possible breakthru in the west, I feel that a bit more daring than original plan is called for. If I can take -- and hold Berlin, then maybe I can turn around England --- at least it will give me a more forward stalemate line. So out goes an army --- which I thought I'd never be removing while I still had fleets, as I prepare for a counterattack in the north. Nothing is to be allocated to the defense of StP. If they go for it, they can take it, and I don't need it. And they will probably have to ann both A Fin and F StP(NC), which will allow me to build a replacement A Mos even if I cant take Belin. There is a risk with my plan, tho. With A Tyo-Mun, and no A Tri in the backround, A Boh can block A Mun-Sil or A Mun-Boh --- but not both. And I need both for the stalemate line. While thats only one possible bad choice out of so many, Kendter found the move, the one move to kill me in SO5 and I am very nervous that he'll find it again (plus A Berlin-Mun to avoid the ann of A Berlin) and put me in serious, very srious trouble. A Fin-Swe assures that either I keep F Bal, or he'll have to deal with Rus A Swe(unless E moves A Nwy-Swe, which seems unlikely)

Winter 1907: Russia, Remove A Tri; France, build F Bre, Germany is one short.

Spring 1908

England: F Nwg-Nat, F Nth S A Nwy, A Nwy S F Bar-StP(nc), F Bar-StP(nc)

France: F Wes-Thy S by F Tun, F Bre-Mid, A Bur-Gas, A Tus-Pie, F Tyh-Lyo

Germany: A/Ber (A) S A Mun, A Ruh S A Mun, A Kie S A Ber, F Swe S F Den-Bal

Russia: A Fin-Swe, A Lvn S F StP(nc), F Bal-Kie, A Sil-Ber, A Pru S A Sil-Ber,
A Tyo-Mun, A Boh-Sil

Italy: F Mid-Eng

Turkey: F Rom & F Nap S F Ion-Tyh, F Ion-Tyh, A Gre-Alb, A Ven S F Rom, A Bul-Rum,
F Bla-Con.

Spring 1908. I am delighted --- and surprised --- at these results. The west seems to have no conception of how much trouble they are in. Thier moves are incredibly complacent. A grand total of 1 fleet is sent west to deal with the raider. England could have locked Nwy with F Bar S A Nwy and used F Nth to block F Mid-Eng --- instead an absolutely pointless attack on StP is launched. With no western entry into either Bal (to cut Lvn in fall) or Fin, StP cannot be taken, and building A Mos in W08 will, along with the Turkish army, toughen the line. Germany almost seems asleep --- what did he think I was going to do with A Fin? He makes no attempt to avoid the Annihilation of an army, making him 2 short for the fall. I can't quite figure F Tyh-Lyo either --- he could always retreat there, and so he gives up Tyh before he has to.

I favor F Eng-Bel for the fall, seeking to totally cripple G, but T points out that they might be able to ann the anit in SO9. Besides, with G so short, losing Bel may not cost him any pieces. F Eng-Lon looks tempting, but the west is playing so cautiously that this will likely not succeed. Ital F Nth can do me a lot of good in cutting supports, so thats what we decide on. Turkey will get to work on taking Tus. In the north, I figure to play this season cautious -- not only is there no need to take risks, but maybe the west will figure that if I gambled in Spring, I'll do it again. With A Pie-Tyo a possibility, Tyo can't support, so A Tyo-Mun. I'll try for Kie with the fleet, not so much to weaken Germany (he's so short that the loss of Kie waon't force a removal) as to safeguard my fleet --- after all, if forced to retreat to Bot, I might be hard pressed to avoid the ann of that fleet, something I need to avoid. A convoy looks tempting, but F Den S F Swe-Bal would foil F Bal C A Pru-Kie, meaning that A Kie S A Mun-Ber would retake --- maybe they'll gamble for that! Instead, A Pru, A Sil will shift to refill the line, which may be needed since I could lose Tyo to either G or F on this move. This means no shot at Munich this move, but I don't really want to take Mun anyhow, since the retreat to Boh would be very very awkward. It will be interesting to see what they do this season. England talks about including Italy in the draw, so perhaps he won't guard Lon; Will Germany try to give Swe to E for a build??

Fall 1908

England: F Nat-Mid, F Nth S It F Eng-Lon, A Nwy S Ger F Swe, F Bar S A Nwy (3)
France : F Mid-Spa(sc), F Wes S F Tun, A Gas-Bur, A Pie-Tyo, F Tun H, F Lyo H (6)
Italy : F Eng-Lon (2, will be one short)
Germany: A Ruh & A Kie S A Mun, F Den & A Mun S A Kie, F Swe H (6, will be one short)
Russia : F StP(nc) H, A Lvn S F StP(nc), F Bal-Kie, A Fin-Swe, A Tyo-Mun, A Pru-Sil
A Sil-Boh, A Ber S F Bal-Kie (9)
Turkey : A Ven & F Tyh S F Rom-Tus, F Rom-Tus, F Ion & F Nap S F Tyh, A Alb H,
A Rum-Gal, F Con-Aeg (8)

Fall 1908 The big question mark here is the loyalty of the Italian. Did he go for Lon for extra security, or has he been paid off? It is interesting that, in the latter case, Lon was chosen --- which, unlike Bel, causes a removal (G is short). Perhaps it was decided that since Lon could not be retaken if England removes F Nth, giving him Lon would make him feel secure. If he has joined us, then he can eat England right up. I write him urging just that, pointing out how he can become the most successful raider in HA-demo game history if he does. He promises T that he will move to Wales, but I am not optimistic. My new build will give me more flexibility, but we are getting close to the last stalemate lines. Basically, 2 are left. If we take Swe, they can still lock things up with F Hel and F Ska, provided that they hold Tun as well. This is a 14-center-14 unit line, which means that they cannot be short, and they must use the Italian fleet. This is why I do not want him to enter the Nth (and would like to see the removal of Eng F Nth). There is a second, in which we don't take Swe, but do take Tun and Lyo, with them using F Spa & F Naf to support Wes. This would be another 14-14 line, except that since I do not have fleets to fill both Bot and Bal, they can disperse with FSKa for that one (tho T suggests that we might try to cause me a removal of F StP(nc) and try to rebuild it in the south). Thus our efforts are targeted toward Mar and Kie to break the lines. I have 3 choices now for SO9. I can try to take Swe now, go for Kie with the F, or with the convoy. All are exhaustively studied. Taking Kie with the Fleet looks the best, but Kie could be a death-trap for the fleet in FO9 if an enemy F Nth remains to block retreat to Hel. Even if I take Swe, the main value of that is to threaten Nwy, but again, if there is a F Nth, then there is no threat to Nwy. That is why the lack of knowledge of Italy's plans is so exasperating. So I decide to accept a small risk to StP to convoy A Lvn. I cut Swe and Nwy to try to give more protection to Fin and Bal. Armies are shifted to Pru, so that Mun can be taken for sure in the fall --- the attack must come from Ber, with Bal-Kie, and A Pru must guard Ber against A Kie-Ber. The tactical decision is quite difficult, and involves deciding how much risk I should take. It is quite possible that I should take the risk of losing my fleet, but I think not.

Winter 1908/Spring 1909

England: (Remove F Mid) F Nth S A Nwy, A Nwy S Ger F Swe, F Bar S A Nwy
France : A Bur S Ger A Mun, F Swe S F Tun, F Spa(sc) S F Lyo, F Lyo S A Pie, A Pie H(d)
Germany: F Den S F Swe, A Ruh S A Kie, A Kie S A Mun, A Mun S A Kie
Italy : F Lon-Wal
Russia : (Build A Mos) F StP(nc)-Nwy, A Fin-Swe, F Bal C & A Ber S A Lvn-Kie, A Sil-Pru,
A Tyo S Tur F Tus-Pie, A Boh-Mun, A Lvn-Kie
Turkey : A Ven S F Tus-Pie, F Tyh-Tus, F Ion-Tyh, A Alb-Gre, F Aeg-Ion, A Gal-Sil,
F Nap-Rom, F Tus-Pie.

Spring 1909. The good news up north is that Italy does seem to be with us after all; the bad is that England did not trust him and kept F Nth. Turkey will urge Italy to go to Lpl, but tell E that he is going to Lon. The faint hope is that England will try to sucker Italy back to Lon by not moving to Lon, and thus will lose another unit. But even if this doesn't happen, we can profit by the upcoming ring-around-the-posie. That could see EF Lpl-Cly, IF Edi-Cly, in S11, followed by F Edi-Nth in F11, a crucial F Nth-Hol in S12, followed by a quick scoot to Lon in F12 if need be. Cutting Hol (or Den) could unhinge the line. There remains the backup plan of trying to build F StP(sc) after a removal. It looks like I will make no real progress against the Germans. France

must guess whether to allocate F Wes to Tun or Lyo, and thus we have a similar guess. If Lyo is to be the target, I volunteer to do A Tyo S Tur A Ven-Pie, as the precious F Pie must not be risked. But Pete decides to go for Tun. This would force a removal of course, but is not by itself fatal. France could hold on via Gas-Mar-Spa(sc)-Wes-Naf, but that would require that the Germans retreat an army to Bur before we get into Lyo. That won't be so easy, given that "two" units will be tied up running around England. This is a ways off, but planning for stalemate lines and their destruction can involve rather subtle considerations. In the north, I opt for another convoy to Kie, rather than the maximum force on Mun. I could land up with neither if either F Bal is dislodged or F Den is allocated to the defense of Kie. But I only need one season to pressure Kie, to take Kie, so I plan to continue the attacks. Germany has several lines which will lose just one center but no annihilation available --- and thus no removal as he is one short (A Kie-Hol, A Ruh S A Mun-Kie will Ann A Mun, but then Kie is open for the build) This makes me uncomfortable, as he may choose to build F Kie, complicating matters considerably. Of course, that doesn't give Germany A Bur either. We'll see.

Fall 1909

England: F Bar S A Nwy, A Nwy S Ger F Swe, F Nth-Lon
 France: A Bur-Mar, F Lyo-Mar (d), F Wes-Naf, F Tun H, F Spa(sc)-Wes, (SuO9 APieOTB)
 Germany: F Swe S A Nwy, F Den S F Swe, A Ruh S A Kie, A Kie S A Mun, A Mun S A Kie (ann)
 Italy: F Wal-Lpl
 Russia: F StP-Nwy, A Mos-StP, A Fin-Swe, A Pru-Kie, A Lvn S A Mos-StP, F Bal C A Pru-Kie, A Ber S A Pru-Kie, A Boh-Mun, A Tyo S A Boh-Mun
 Turkey: A Sil S Rus A Boh? F Ion-Tun, F Pie S F Tyn-Lyo, F Tus S F Tyn-Lyo, F Tyn-Lyo, F Rom-Tyh, A Ven H A Gre-Alb

Fall 1909 Once again the complacency of the west is amazing. Either that, or they have given up the fight. I now think we are odds-on to break thru even if Italy switches sides. Germany has allowed a critical annihilation to occur. Mun obviously could not be held (unless he knew of the upcoming Turkish error, and even then...), but A Ruh S A Mun-Kie, A Kie-Hol would have given Germany 5 peices regardless of how I attacked. Now Kiel can be guared only at the cost of unguarding Swe. The French moves is also unwise. He is surely retreating A Pie OTB, and doing the standoff, so that another fleet will be built. The price for this was of course that the French army had to remain in Bur, depriving Germany of a retreat space for A Mun. But with the new position, with my being able to cut A Bar from Mun, defending F Mar forces F Naf to choose between defending Tun and Wes. The French need armies in both Bur and Gas, but with the German short, this is not to be. Still, the situation is precarious. If Turkey guesses wrong, he could lose his F Lyo (e.g. by something like A Bur-Mar, F Spa S F Mar-Lyo, F Wes S F Mar-Lyo). So Turkey wants Italy to move out to NAO, and then south if possible to cut F Spa(sc) or F Wes. Moving to NAO, rather than clyde means that Italy will no longer be two steps ahead if England moves to Wales. But he can always recover that, since a F10 standoff in Lpl, and letting E take Lpl in S11 will force him to sit there, ~~xx~~ in F11. However, E may choose to just guard Edi by going back to Nth, and if that happens, the pressure on me goes up. With F Nth back in action, A Nwy is free to go back into action --- e.g. F Swe S A Nwy-Fin. Even without support, this will complicate my forcing a guess on Germany in the Kie/Swe arena. I hope that E does choose to chase Italy, but I suspect that he won't. In Germany, Turkey must slide over to Boh to bring my new army into play. I decide to risk Mun a little by using Berline to support the attack on Kie rather than just defend Mun, as I can afford even the ann of A Mun as the price for taking Kie. Of course, if E is back in Nth, he could block my reateat to Hol if I were kicked out of Kie in F10.

Winter 1909 France: F Lyo R Spa(sc), Build F Mar. Russia: Build A War

Spring 1910

England: F Bar S A Nwy, A Nwy S Ger F Swe, F Lon-Nth
 France: A Bur S Ger A Ruh-Mun(nso), F Mar S F Wes-Lyo, F Wes-Lyo(dis), F Spa(sc)
 S F Mar, F Naf S F Tun, F Tun H
 Germany: F Swe S Eng A Nwy, F Den S F Swe, A Ruh S A Kie, A Kie H(dis)

Italy: F Lpl-NAO

Russia: F StP(nc)-Nwy, A Lvn S A Mos-StP, A Fin-Swe, A Ber S & F Bal C A Pru-Kie, A Mun S A Pru-Kie, A Tyo S A Mun, A War-Sil.

Turkey: F Lyo S F Tyn-Wes, F Pie & F Tus S F Lyo, F Ion-Tun, A Sil-Boh, A Alb-Tri, A Ven^H

Spring 1910 A few days before the results arrive, Turkey calls me to tell me that he moved into Tri. We had not agreed to anything of the sort. He tells me that he was afraid that I would veto the plan. As it happened, I would not have, but this is a somewhat disturbing development --- the first time he has done such a thing. He explains that he is afraid that I will get too far ahead, especially if I take a center in 1910 and he does not. I point out to him that he could have moved into Tri in the fall just as well. He counters that this gives him the option of sliding his armies to Ven and Rome, which we ultimately decide will be done for F10. One thing that bothers me is that army is so far away from Con that we may be putting Italy on too long a leash, but Pete does not seem worried about that. At any rate, I am vulnerable to a rather serious stab at this point, losing the 3 Aus home centers, and even Mun and Kie as well. There is however, not much I can do about that.

The west has misguessed here. France guards Tun and Mar, but the attack comes on Wes. On the other hand, given the fact that Germany did not accept the use of A Bur, it was wasted, and F Spa(sc) S A Bur-Mar, F Mar-Lyo would have guarded Mar, and cut Lyo at the same time, thus guarding Wes from dislodgement, given the actual moves.

Germany, meanwhile, has guessed to use F Den to defend Swe, but instead the attack comes on Kie. Why he did this is a mystery, since I've left Swe alone for years, and have hammered at Kie, and a retreat by F Swe could be awkward. In the I-E area, with the Italinas in NAO, F Nth now has a free hand (and of course, Italy has less to worry about concerning Lpl).

T can take Mar against any defense if I cut Bur, which I agree to do. Both Kie and Mar are stalemate-line breakers, and it would be fitting that they both fall in the same year. This forces me to guess the intentions of F Den. If he does F Den-Kie, he can take Kie, provided he does F Swe-Bal --- but that means I can take Swe if I've guessed right. But if E does F Bar S F Nth-Nwy, A Nwy-Fin, F Den-Bal means I can't take Swe. I decide that Germany will either do F Den S A Hol-Kie (which I can cut) or will attack from Denmark, without the English backing up with F Nth-Den. With my moves, I'll keep Kiel or take Den, unless he does that maneuver. I hope that I don't have to face an ann so far from where it would be rebuilt. And of course, it is remotely possible that if I get to Den, he might move F Swe-Bal and I could get Swe from Fin! A more likely turn of events tho, is that they will ann A Fin, which can be done against any defense, if I don't go F Bal-Swe

Fall 1910

England: F Bar S A Nwy, A Nwy S Ger F Swe?, F Nth-Bel

France: A Bur-Mun, F/Mar-Spa(sc)(A), F Spa(sc)-Lyo, F Naf S F Mid-Wes, F Tun-Tyh

Germany: A Hol S F Den-Kie, A Ruh S F Den-Kie, F Swe-Den (S'10: GA Kie ret Hol)

Italy : F Nat S Tur F Mid-Wes?

Russia: F StP(nc)-Nwy, A Lvn S A Mos-StP, A/Kie S F Bal-Den(A), A Sil-Pru, A Mun-Bur, A Ber S A Kie, A Tyo-Mun, A Fin-Swe

Turkey: F Pie S F Lyo-Mar, F Tus-Lyo, F/Wes-Spa(sc)(A), F Ion-Tun, A Ven-Rom, A Tri-Ven, A Boh S Rus A Tyo-Mun

Fall 1910 What a fiasco. Germany springs to life and chooses a devastating set of moves. My F Bal-Den cost me Swe. My forwardmost army is Ann. MAKING matters worse is that England has taken Bel, so that I will now have to deal with additional Eng muscle, since the west is no longer one unit short. Of course, not all is lost. Den is open, and I will --- I hope --- no longer have to use A Mun against France. In the south, T has taken both Mar and Tun, but the gain is illusory; he can only build two, and will be hard pressed to deal with the Fre F Tyh, especially since his F Wes has been ann. Italy was supposed to move to Mid, but apparently didn't get the message, tho his actual move is garbled. But some of my confidence is gone --- are my moves becoming too predictable? All of my moves except for A Sil-Pru were wasted.

Winter 1910 T: F Smy, F Ank; England : A Edi; Russia: A War; France: Rem F Spa(sc)

Winter 1910 We are both very surprised --- and generally delighted --- with the west's moves in winter. A Edi will in the short run be much less of a problem for me. Turkey suggests that I have Italy move F NAT-Nwg; I readily accept, and send him off a postcard, and hope that Pete tells him the same. I think that E is overly concerned about defending his homeland, that's why he built an army. But an army cannot cut Ital F Nwg! Gloomily, I think that England will move F Bel-Nth, to shore up the defense of Den, and eventually give some flexibility to A Nwy (F Nth-Nwy S by F Bar, A Nwy-Fin, etc). But Pete thinks he'll opt for F Bel-Eng to guard Bre, or to take Lpl by force in 1912. I am really hoping that Italy will move to Nwg, which I suspect will catch them by surprise, I think, and I could use his help against Nwy. My own tactics provide for a number of guesses. I decide on my stoniest move, a convoy to Swe, as this will bring an extra piece into play. I've never gone for Swe, so maybe this is the time to switch, especially as the odds on Kie are much longer now. With no A Fin-Swe, the risk goes up that F Bal will be dislodged, but I have Den to retreat to, tho I think if they do that, F Bel-Nth is a certainty. But then I've got F Nwg S F Den-Nth! --- that would force F Bar-Nwg, unguarding Nwy. I'd also have play for Kie or Swe from Den. It's such a nice spot that I'm hoping they will throw everything into keeping me out. With my moves, if I don't get Swe, either Den or Kie will be open. I check out the retreats for GF Swe --- Bot is hairy, but I've got lots of options there too. The removal of F Spa(sc) leaves us wondering --- will he guard Spa? We both agree that F Mar-Spa should be done just in case -- but what did he gain by this? The move for F Tun is rather complicated. Control of con even comes into play F Ank-Con in Spring, but then that fleet must move out to Bul -- F Con-Aeg is too risky, as it may pin the fleet there if it fails. Perhaps this is France's plan, but I cannot think they'd take the risks on the chance we'd make such a mistake. I favor F Tus S F Pie-Lyo, since (unless F Wes is diverted to Lyo), its success will permit A Ven-Pie, bringing the A into better use. F Tun-Wes would be consistent with that, and the fact that Pete does not seem overly concerned about Fre F Ion. Privately, I still think that French fleet is headed for Con. I also don't think it will make it.

Spring 1911 (Irrelevant orders omitted)

England: A Edi-Lpl, F Bel-Nth, F Bar S A Nwy, A Nwy S Ger F Swe (nso)

France : F Wes S F Naf-Tun, A Bur-Mar, F Tyh-Ion

Germany: A Ruh S A Hol-Kie, F Kie-Den, F Swe-Bal(dislodged)

Italy: F NAT-Mid

Russia: F Bal C & A Fin S A Pru-Swe, A Ber S A Mun-Kie, F StP(nc)-Nwy/// F Tyh-Wes(dis)

Turkey: F Tus S F Pie-Lyo, F Mar-Spa(sc), A Rom-Nap, F Ank-Con, A Ven-Pie, F Smy-Aeg

Spring 1911 I am very disappointed to see Eng F Nth rather than Ital F Nwg, but not surprised. Pete and I wonder if Italy has switched sides at last. He had asked him to move to Nwg, but had gotten no commitment. Still, it's not the first time Italy has not done as he was asked, so it may not mean a thing. However, to reduce the danger that IF will do F Mid-Por, F Wes S A Mar-Spa, T decides on F Tyh-Wes. Pete seems not too worried, as he says that Italy is still sore about France "turning off the water" (trying to wipe out Italy earlier). But if Italy fails to take Bre, that will probably be the end of ITR. In the north, with no A Bur, I have a bit more flexibility. I'm tempted to play it conservative: A Mun & A Boh S F Bal-Kie, A Fin S A Swe, meaning that I must get either Kie or Swe. But that does not necessarily mean that I can get G to make a removal. A Ruh-Bel, F Den S F Bot-Swe keeps him at 4. If E moves F Nth-Hel in F11, then S12 could see A Bur-Mun, F Hel & F Den S A Hol-Kie to dislodge, and F Swe-Bal to cut off the last retreat. With F StP pinned down there, my flexibility will be severely retarded with no active fleet, and the west might decided to stonewall against me, hoping that a runaway Turkey will destabilize the eastern alliance. So F Bal is safer where it is. I can reduce its risk by A Swe-Den, foiling F Den S F Bot-Bal. That's not too likely, but could be horrible if it succeeds. F Bot S F Den-Bal will succeed, but then A Swe-Den will go leaving Swe open for a retreat. F Nth-Den or A Nwy-Swe could ruin either way my plan. This would then allow me to try the convoy A Pru-Kie. But if that failed, and either of the English moves were done, my fleet could be lost for good if Kie were not open for a retreat. That risk could be avoided by A Pru-Sil, A Lvn-Kie.

With A Fin-Nwy (which I'd be doing anyhow to help protect the moving A Swe), StP would be at risk only to an attack from Nwy supported by both fleets, which seems extremely unlikely. I would be hampered in S12 by the lack of A Lvn (StP(nc)-Nwy being too risky) but that seems like a small price to pay for the absolute assurance that F Bal cannot be killed no matter what, as Pru will be available as a retreat. Admittedly, F Bot S F Den-Bal plus an English move to Swe/Den is extremely unlikely, but this seems a small price to pay. This leaves A Mun: A Mun S A Lvn-Kie or A Mun-Ruh. The latter weakens the attack on Kie, meaning he could retain both Kie and Swe if he did A Hol S A Ruh-Kie. But my guess is that he'll go back to Bel to compensate for the loss of Kie. Indeed, if he tries F Den & A Ruh S A Hol-Kie, I'll get both Swe and Kie, not bad!

In the midst of my ruminations, what should arrive but a letter from E, the first in months. He claims that EFG is doomed, and the way things are going, "I'll no doubt finish 3rd to an RT 17-17 draw (or have you promised 3rd to Norman?)". He then offers to puppet "on the sly" starting in S12, "sending all my units south against T", in return for 3rd, i.e. survival in case of my win (Eric has draw-of-all-survivors, so he cannot survive unless one of us wins). His letter is cleverly full of traps. If I promise him third outright, he'll report to Italy that we have sold him out. If I tell him I'm going for the win, this will do doubt be passed along to Pete, including the part about how I encouraged him to move against Italy. Plus, it might all be a ruse. He may already know that Italy has switched sides (the raider was specifically mentioned as a factor in his "surrender") and is trying to lull us. Implicit in his letter is that he'll have something to go south with --- in part his new fleet to be built from Lpl --- which is meant to imply that G will not take Bel back. We'll see. I write him back generally accepting his deal, but disclaiming any control over the Italian situation. I also discuss the letter with Turkey, England writes me back, saying in response to my question that the deal starts in S12. I had asked him if G and F were being told about this. He says not. I am to tell him what moves to do, so long as they do not involve attacking France. All this gets me to thinking about whether I should really stick with a two-way draw. Turkey will not let me get a commanding lead over him, but if he is stalled by the determined English, he could easily be boxed in. My position is really quite good. However, HE has given me no excuse to stab him, and the mere opportunity alone is not reason sufficient to terminate the alliance.

Fall 1911

England: F Bar & F Nth S A Nwy, A Nwy S Ger F Ska-Swe(nso), A LplH
 France: A Mar-Bur, F Wes-Spa(sc), F Tun H, F Ion-Gre
 Germany: A Ruh S A Hol-Kie, F Den S A Bot-Bal, A Hol-Kie, F Bot-Bal(Su12: F ret Bot)
 Italy : F Mid-Bre
 Russia : F StP(nc) S A Fin-Nwy, A Mos S F StP(nc), A Mun-Ruh, A Tyo-Mun, A Lvn-Kie, F Bal C A Lvn-Kie, A Ber S A Lvn-Kie, A Swe-Den, A Pru-Sil
 Turkey : A Nap H, A Boh U, F Aeg-Gre, F Tyh-Wes, F Lyo & F Spa(sc) S A Pie-Mar, F Con-F Con-Bul(no ceast given) (Su12 F Tun R Tyn)
 England: Edi, Lon, Lpl, Bel, Nwy; Germany: Hol, Den; France: Par, Por, Tun; Italy: Bre
 Russia: Home, Tri, Bud, Vie, Rum, Ber, Mun, Kie, Swe; Turkey: Home, Gre, Ser, Ven, Rom, Naples, Bul, Mar, Spa.

Fall 1911. Speaking of reasons to stab! No one is perfect when it comes to writing orders, but the F Con move, and the failure to order A Boh represent, I think, the 3rd and 4th errors of that type for him so far. A Boh is of little consequence, but the other may cost him the Italian ally. Italy may even be suspicious of me. I had urged he move F NAT-Nwg, which would have put him in no position to take anything, so it might seem to him that I wanted him out of the game. His freedom of action is now reduced, and my guess is that he will now defect. EGFI is probably not strong enough to stop us at this point, but will mean much slower going. E May decide that its worth a shot, and renege on his deal with me even before it starts. I am now definitely thinking along the lines of going for the win if England follows thru. The press gives me further reasons for this. Both England and France have been expressing extreme dissatisfaction with Turkey's failure to negotiate earlier on the game, which I suspect is

true, tho perhaps exaggerated a little. Why should I share a draw with someone who has taken other powers for granted for so long.? Of course, this could all be England sucking me into destroying the TR alliance.

German moves continue to be hapless. He splits his attention between Bal and Kie and as a result gets neither. I suspect that G figured that the best way to protect Kie was to disrupt the convoy going there. But he should have known I'd do my best to protect my fleet, and as it is, he has absolutely nothing to show for his moves. I view the English order for A Nwy with suspicion. As I (usually) cut it, its actual orders do not matter. This is the third time that the move was unrelated to the supposed German move (i.e. nso). Perhaps he is trying to give me the impression that he is not cooperating with Germany. But this one seems overdone. Ska is surely the weaker retreat, so Germany "must" have told him that he was going there --- but why would Germany have moved ~~there~~ if he told England he was going to Ska? If G/E are not communicating, then why would E have guessed a retreat to Ska rather than Bot? This one is strange.

Turkey tells me he will build A Ank (destined for Gre, I'm told) plus F Smy. I'll just build A War, and reserve a build. T again mentions the upcoming need for a Bla standoff. This is fine by me. He won't want me to grow too fast in 1912, and I'll oblige for my own reasons. If Engaldrn evacuates Bar in S12, I'll move the fleet in behind, and in W12 can build F StP and F Sev (the latter from the fall of Den). I then plan to slide the fleet over to Rum, and in F13, a single standoff will occur. W13 will see another F Sev, so that S14 will have a double standoff in Bla. That I hope will tie up both Ank, and Con. I can then use my armies to build a wall, and take the 18th center with him unable to retaliate, or if necessary, I'll try to pick off Ser or Ven. That should give me a victory in about 1916. This has a lot of "ifs" in it (if I can time the seizure of Nth correctly, if I can hang onto an English ally, etc)

Winter 1911: R: Build A War; E: Build F Lon; T: Build A Ank, F Smy; G: Remove F Bot, F Den; F: Remove F Wes

Winter 1911 France's leaving F Ion on the board is convenient for me. T agrees to move A Boh-Tyo, and I point out that my A Tyo must guard Tri. To my surprise, he suggests I move it to Tri, where it borders both Ven and Ser. Vie could have done the same job with less risk to T. I readily agree. I further offer to take only one center this year, but T is confident of taking both Por and Tun, so he urges me to take Nwy and Den both. I don't know yet how E will react to this, but losing Nwy should not interfere with his plans to move his fleets against T, since he can just remove that army. With A Bur-Ruh-Hol I'm a little stalled on that front, but I figure France may drop back to Par, who knows. I see my next 6 centers as being Den, Hol, Bel, Nwy, Lon, Edi, with Lpl as an alternate. The question is when T will become alarmed at the better access I may have to the English home centers. T will also have weakness in the Bur and Ven areas, but may be able to counterpunch in Sev/Rum. All this depends on England remaining friendly. Rethinking will be needed if he is not. I write him and urge that he move F Bar-Nwg (plus F Lon-Eng which he'd be doing anyhow). T tells me he will urge Ital F Bre to Eng Channel. Germany again writes me, twice in fact, telling me that he still says the game is a "farce". Some things don't change.

Spring 1912

England: F Nth C A Nwy-Bel, A Lpl-Yor, F Lon-Eng, F Bar-Nwg; Italy: F Bre-Eng
France: A Bur S Ger A Ruh, F Ion-Adr, F Tun-Ion; Germany: A Hol S A Ruh, A Ruh H
Russia: A Fin S A Mos-Stp, F StP(nc)-Bar, A Swe & A Kie S F Bal-Den, A Ber S A Kie,
A Mun-Bur, A War-Sil, A Sil-Boh, A Tyo-Tri
Turkey: F Spa(sc) S F Lyo-Wes, F Tyh S F Aeg-Ion, A Mar-Gas, A Boh-Tyo, F Tus-Lyo,
F Smy-Aeg, F Con-Bul(sc), A Ank-Con, A Nap H

Spring 1912 With England sticking to his word, the season goes smoothly. When I speak to Turkey, his tune has changed some. He no longer wants me to take Den, even tho I assure him I'd not build for it. He vaguely suggest that I move the fleet to Ska --- he should have been more specific. Hel will be much more useful to me. Unless E swipes Den (which I can't see happening unless T tips him off) the main result of my passing up Den will be to delay a bit the essential process of convoying out some armies from Scandinavia, since too many are tied up there. The convoy across Hel to Hol should do

the job. Turkey also expresses surprise that England let me out to Bar so quickly --- but he says nothing about my moving to Nwg (another mistake), so there I'll move, which should succeed, since T cannot block F Nwg-NAO because he didn't move to Mid. He tells me that he doesn't want anyone convoning armies into E, but thats no problem --- by the time I'm ready to do that, I'll be ready to move more comprehensively on Turkey. The English moves make A Bel S & F Nth C A Yor-hol seem likely, so that if France covers Par, A Kie S A Mun-Ruh would ann both German armies, and of course that places me in a better position, Belgium-wise, if I get into Ruh. In this regard, T has not yet decided where he wants his 17th center to come from, Bel or Lpl. In the south, I outline my plan for building F Sev in W12, sliding it over to Rum, so that eventually we can have a supported standoff in the Bla (he can cover Bul with F Bul(sc). He agrees to this, but while I want to slide my fleet over to Rum in S13, and start the standoffs in F13, he wants an initial standoff in S13, and the move in F13, so the issue is unresolved. In this regard, he plans to sent his army to Gre, via Bul, rather than a convoy, which is fine with me. I can use the fear of A Bul-Rum in S13 to argue that I should be permitted to move F Sev-Rum in S13. This might affect the timing of my stab, which could come as early as S13 or as late as S14. I'd likemto be able to use the stab-season to slip into the Bla (tho I won't be able to hold it), but if I wait too long, I can't, or he'll protect Bla with a standoff. I also tell him I'll be building F StP. I think there's an excellent chance that E will switch sides as soon as I stab Turkey, and I'd like the additional muscle of 3 fleets up north. And if E takes Hol in F12, I will have to take it back immediately in S13. Finally, I decide to back up Mun this season with A Boh S A Sil-Mun rather than vice versa because a S13 stab would entail A Tri S A Boh-Tyo to grab Ven in the fall. T tells me he plans to convoy A Nap-Mar in F12. I certainly hope that France covers Par this year.

Fall 1912

England: F Nth S F Lon-Eng, A Bel-Pic, A Yor H, F Nwg-NAt, F Lon-Eng (4 centers, -1)
 France : A Bur-Par, F Tun-Ion, F Adr S F Tun-Ion (3, -1)
 Germany: A Hols A Ruh, A Ruh H (Even)
 Italy : F Bre-Eng (Even)
 Russia : A Swe & A Fin S A StP-Nwy, F Bar-Nwg, F Den-Hel A Ber S A Kie, A Sil-Mun,
 A Boh S A Sil-Mun, A Kie S A Mun-Ruh, A Mun-Ruh, A Tri S Tur A Tyo-Ven(13,+2)
 Turkey : A Gas-Par, F Spa(sc)-Por, F Lyo & F Tyn C A Nap-Mar, F Wes S F Ion-Tun,
F Ion-Tun, F Aeg-Ion, F Bul(sc)-Gre, A Con-Bul, A Tyo-Ven, A Nap-Mar(12,+1)

Fall 1912 The English decide to go west, rather than take Hol, which leaves me with 2 german armies to face rather than none, meaning that I cannot take both Bel and Hol so that a S13 stab won't net me enough centers to win in 1913. This is a problem because I can take Ven in F13, but I can't hold it, since he can put fleets into Apu and Adr. So a S13 stab would give me only Den, Hol, Ven and Edi/Lpl. A second problem is that even Hol is not assured, unless Kendter does just supports. A Mun S A Kie-Ruh, F Hel-Hol takes Ruh against any defense, but if he does A Hol-Kie, that will stand off A Berlin-Kie, leaving Kie open. The standoff in Tun deprives Turkey of a build. But if F Adr is left hanging, as soon as I stab in S13, France will prop T up by supporting A Ven in F13. On the other hand, leaving F Tun forces his fleets to move west, away from me. Its been over a year since I've made a long distance call, but I make one to France. I ask what his goals are in this game. My question is treated with a huge burst of laughter. While Bob calms down, he tells me that he'd like to outlast Italy. I explain to him why I need to have F Adr removed, because without its removal there is no S13 stab. With the stab, he can survive. Bob is worried, tho, that A Gas S A Mar-Bur will take Bur in the spring, and Par in the fall. I point out that A Pic should be there to help, and that T will be distracted by me. No committment is given, but then again, the W12 will speak for itself.

Turkey tells me that he will want me to significantly hold back in S13, and sez he wants a season separation. I am vastly relieved to hear this request. If I am stabbing in S13, then I'm in a position to promise anything reasonable. If not, then I want to push for as forward a position as Turkey will permit. But I won't know this till I see the W12 results. So I put off all discussion of S13, and he agrees. That would have been a very sticky problem.

I send England a short note, saying that I hoped he would remove A Yor, and that I wanted to hear from him if he didn't plan to remove it. This removal would be consistent with his earlier plans to throw everything against T. But if he leaves A Yor there, then the chances of A Nwy-Edi failing in S13 go up considerably, particularly if England believes France's story about an upcoming Russian stab.

Winter 1912 Russia builds F Sev, F StP(nc), and Turkey, F Ank; E rem A Yor, F rem F Adr

Winter 1912 The two removals seal Turkey's fate. Altho circumstances are not ideal for a stab, and a win is by no means guaranteed, I am realistic enough to know that the odds are against my getting as good a chance as this one again. A later stab will likely be more chancy, and also, a delay may give him the chance to stab me. I do not feel that Reese's play has been good enough to warrant a 2-way draw.

After some discussion, T agrees to allow me to slide into Rum on the spring, with a standoff in the fall. The argument about him possibly moving A Bul-Rum seems to do the trick. His fleet plans are a problem. He wants to put off Taking Tun till F13, and instead slide his fleets forward: F Wes-Mid, F Tyh-Wes, F Ion-Tyh, F Gre-Ion, A Bul-Gre. The problem with that plan --- from my point of view --- is that if F Tun is ordered to a spea space, the back part of the line won't move --- and I want that army in Greece. It takes some effort, but I manage to talk him into F Tyh S F Ion-Tun, arguing that his fleets are too backward to begin with, and he cannot risk such an enormous stall if France decides to move F Tun-Wes. Its a good argument, but T's main concern is that he'll be stalled from Mid in S13, and the retreating F Tun would add an extra piece to the west's defenses of Mid in F13, thereby balancing his additional fleet from F Lyo-Spa(sc). I point out that F Nwg-NAO and F Tun-NAf can neutralize the west's supports. Thus, F Spa(sc) & F Por S F Wes-Mid must succeed. On another front, T plans to move A Gas-Par. I do not like this at all. If it succeeds, then T is assured of a build (the gain of Tun and the loss of Ven will balance out) from Par. If there is a standoff, Then A Mar is well positioned to move Mar-Pie-Tyo, which I don't want. Of course, Tur A Bur is no favor either, but would be no worse than Fre A Bur. I persuade him that E might do F A Pic S F Eng-Bre, F Nth-Eng. This is a very plausible move, as it would replace Ital F Bre with E F Bre, thus putting great pressure on Tur in F13. It would also get rid of Italy, something we agree that E is probably itching to do for revenge. So T agrees to support Bre rather than lunging for Par. I promise support for A Mar-Bur but of course I have other uses for A Mun. If all goes well, tho, A Bur-Par and A Mar-Bur will both succeed. In F13, I can do A Mun-Bur. If T tries to take Par with A Gas S A Bur-Par, then I'll probably zip into Bur, a spot from which I can attack Bel in S14. If the attack goes the other way, the support will be cut and presumably Par will not fall (tho an E-T alliance could take Bre for Turkey instead). We agree on a mutual attack on Ven-tri. T also asks for enormous restraint--- he want me to take only Edi --- not Den this year, so as not to pull too far haed --- he is dubious about taking Par this year.

I speak to Samson on the phone. His plan was to do A Pic S F Eng-Bre, F Nth-Eng. He agrees to change his orders to F Nth-Bel at my request. I tell him I don't want anyone moving or retreating there, which is true or course, but the English fleet blocking the German retreat will mean one fewer army to worry about, and will simplify my taking Hol in the fall, and weaken the English hold on Nth. E's main concern at this point seems to be wiping out Italy. A quick call goes to France too, as I urge him to cover Par. Tho there is little chance of T actually grabbing for Par, my main concern is that if France does something else like accept German support into Mun I could be embarresed. Even if not, a French army in Bur after the stab would free up Tur A Mar to move east. I tell him that Tur has been promised, but won't receive, support for A Mar-Bur, so maybe he could talk Ger into blocking that with A ruh. He says he thinks German has enuf problems as it is, and I worry that F might think I am urging he cover Paris, and Ger move to Bur, all to prevent a supported attack on Mun, which I am not prepared for.

My major tactical decision is how to handle the German armies. Plan A is F Hel-Hol, A Mun S A Kie-Ruh, A Ber-Kie. But, now that I'm confident that E won't move to Hel, also attractive is Plan B: F Hel S A Kie-Hol, A Mun-Ruh, A Ber-Kie. A is flawed by A Bur-Mun which stalls everything, but is unlikely, and by A Hol-Kie,

which will stall off A Ber-Kie, and thus mean that F Bel S Ger A Hol would hold Hol. Neither problem occurs in Plan B --- indeed, A Ruh-Kie is a help, since it would leave Kie open for A Den-Kie, A Swe-Den in the fall. And B does guarantee my taking Hol in S13. But Plan A Does permit A Mun-Bur in F13 (tho that move might have no value if either FET forms, or if Italy is wiped out e.g. by F Mid S Fre A Par-Bre, A Gar-Par). And if G does not do A Hol-Kie, A Ber-Kie will succeed, and that will give me the option of A Kie S & F Hel C A Den-Hol, A Swe-Den. Its a close decision, but I feel that the fact that B gives a bonus only if A Ruh-Kie occurs, whereas A works in all cases unless A Hol-Kie is done, plus the vlaue of A Mun-Bur carries the day. Plus, A Ruh-Bel in F13 could also foil F Bel S F Eng-Mid, when combined with F Stp(nc)-Nwy-Nth.

I also must take into account that all players, except possibly Italy, will be at DipCon, at Origins, and that may facilitate an anti-R alliance, especially since they will likely get thier S13 results at that time. Then again, if E sticks with his original deal with me and accepts third place and survival, he should let me have Lpl in F13 for the win. That I'll beleive when I see it.

Spring 1913

England: F NAO-Mid, F Nth-Eng, A Pic S F Eng-Bre

France: F/NAF/NAF (A), A Bur-Par

Germany: A Hol-Kie, A RuhS A Hol-Kie(Dislodged)

Italy: F Bre S Tur F Por-Mid

Russia: F Nwg C A Nwy-Edi, F StP(nc)-Nwy, A Fin-Swe, A Swe-Den, F Hel-Hol, A Mun S A Kie-Ruh, A Ber-Kie, A Sil-Gal, A Boh-Tyo, A Tri S A Boh-Tyo, F Sev-Bla

Turkey: F Por-Mid, F Wes-NAF, F Lyo-Wes, F Tyh S F Ion-Tun, A Gas S Ital F Bre, A Mar-Bur, A Ven-Tri, F Gre-Alb, A Bul-Ser, F Aeg-Bul(sc), F Ank H

Spring 1913 This season was a huge disappointment. The Turkish moves in the Balkans not only mean that I have no build from that area, but I will have to guess to avoid a removal. Turkey tells me that these were the usual "purely defensive moves", but I do not believe him. Such a move would place one, not two pieces adjacent to my Tri. I think he felt that by not moving to the Black Sea, he could paint those moves as being not a stab. He tells me that he was suspicious of my pressing so hard for the fleet moves required to assure that A Bul-Gre succeeded, so apparently, I overdid things in that area. He also sez that I was pushing too far too fast in the north, even tho I never did anything he didn't want me to. We discuss the tactical situation in the south, which I present as a straight guess in the Ven-Tri area (I have to decide whether he will attack Tri from Ven, in which case I do A Tyo-Ven, or from Ser/Alb, in which case I do A Boh S A Tri-Ven), since he can stand himself out in Con, and I can guard Bud and Rum with A Gal and F Bla respectively. In fact, I plan to do nothing of the sort. Looking ahead, Ser seems to be Turkey's most vulnerable space. But with quite possibly only one build coming to me (F Sev), I must move my present armies forward more quickly. I can't see T tossing aside his 50% chance for a balkan gain for a grab at Bud, so I opt for A Gal-Rum. My other army will either be in Tri, or retreat to Bud, and either way, I'll have two pieces on Ser. Plus, I'll have A Rum and F Bla on Bul (with Ser support cuttable from Tri/Bud) to complicate T's defenses. Thus, if he attacks Tri from Ser or even better, from Alb, Ser will be in real trouble. He can bring a second army in by taking Tri from Ven. To compensate, I'll move A Tyo-Ven, so that if he does move to strenghten Ser, I'll at least have the consolation of a second build. If he blocks the move to Gal, again, he loses his 50% build chance. This leaves F Bla free to grab at something. If he figures I'll do F Bla-Rum, he may well do F Ank-Bla, leaving me to guess which of Con and Bul to grab for, as F Bul(sc) can't guard both. I should think he'd want to leave Con open for a build. But if he thinks I'll do F Bla S (F Bul(sc)-Con, to foil the self=standoff, who knows what he'll do, perhaps F Ank-Arm, optionally with F Bul(sc)-Con, so that he'll have three fleets in S14. My wrong guess with regard to the Germans means that I'll not get Hol, so perhaps some of those pieces could be put to better use. But so much depends on England. I suspect that Turkey is offering him a 3-way draw; I'm hoping that a history of poor E-T relations may sour that. I write E frankly that I do not see any 3-way draw ---- neither ~~E~~ R nor T is anywhere near their stalemate lines. I suppose E could pull it off by

keeping the R-T war well balanced by constantly switching sides, but that's a long shot. Instead, I ask him to just decide who he thinks ought to win the game. Who has been the better player? Egomaniac that I am, I'm hopeful that if he chooses this criterion he'll throw in with me, and I ask him to dislodge my F Nwg. With the loss of Bel and Edi, he will be hurting, tho with T's help, he could take Bre. I do not need to wipe him out in order to win (I need only Bel-Hol-Den-Edi-Lpl, and hold everything else -- or, morelikely, a Tri-Ser swap) for 18 centers, and of course I can always eye Par for another center. Then again, if E allies firmly with T, the most likely result will be a Turkish win. He writes me back that he is still with me, but plans to do F Nth-Edi (no doubt to prevent me from taking both Edi and Lpl), F NAO-Mid, F Eng & A Pic S Fre A Par-Bre. I tend to believe that he'll do just that, as I know he's hot to wipe out that Italian piece. This means that a simple A Ruh-Bur is pointless. Before, I figured that it would either enter Bur, or, much more likely, deny Par to T by cutting a needed support for the attack on Par. Now, cutting the support is of no value, so I decide the attack must go with support, even tho this means that I can't do A Mun-Tyo. Its a close guess between Bul and Con, but I figure that T must be plenty worried, and will feel that he must go for broke and leave all his home centers open for 3 builds to give the maximum pressure on me --- anything less may not be enough.

Fall 1913

England: F Eng & A Pic S FRENCH A Par-Bre, F Nth-Edi, F NAT-Mid (2)

France: A Par-Bre (1)

Germany: (Su'13 A Ruh ret Bel) A Hol S A Bel, A Bel S A Hol (2)

Italy : F Bre S Tur F Por-Mid (Dislodged) (0)

Russia: F Nwg S F Nwy-Nth, A Edi-Lpl, A Den-Kie, F Hel S A Den-Kie, A Swe-Den, A Ruh S A Mun-Bur, A Ber-Mun, A Tyo-Ven, A Tri S A Tyo-Ven (Dislodged) F Bla-Con. A Gal-Rum (15)

Turkey: F Por-Mid, A Gas-Par, A Bur S A Gas-Par(Dis), F Lyo-Spa(sc), F Tun-Ion, F Wes-Tun, F Tyh-Nap, A Ser S F Alb-Tri, A Ven S F Alb-Tri, F Ank-Bla, F Bul(sc) H14

England: Edi, Lon; France: Bre; Germany: Hol, Bel; Russia: Home, Bud, Vie, Ber, Mun, Kie, Rum, Swe, Nwy, Lpl, Den, Con; Turkey: Ank, Smy, Gre, Ser, Rom, Nap, Ven, Bul, Spa, Por, Mar, Par, Tun, Tri (14)

Fall 1913. Now, this is more like it. Altho I "guessed" wrong in Ven/Tri, with Tri taken with a fleet (and thus, no need to cover Vie), and armies in both Bud (on the retreat) and Rum, Ser can and will be taken immediately. F Con may only last a single season, and I've lost the Black Sea, it gives me that crucial second build, it prevents him from building three, and it will be useful even if its wiped out, F Con-Bla will prevent him from reversing my A Bud S A Rum-Ser with F Bla S A Ser-Rum. Germany didn't mess with A Ruh(cutting, or even worse, annihilating it), and England's moves were just what he said they would be. Turkey's retreat should cause him some problems. He would prefer to guard Gas by retreating there, but that could force F Spa to cover Mar, thus permitting the English into Mid. His taking of Tri with a fleet rather than A Ser looks bad, but clearly it was done on the assumption that I would have A Vie, A Bud or A Ven, A Bud, not A Bud, A Rum with 2 units on Ser so quickly. I write England, asking him to remove F Edi and A Pic, as he has agreed to do exactly as I ask starting this Winter.

Winter 1913: Russia: B A Mos, F Sev; T: Build A Smy, F Ank, ret to Mar; E: Remove A Pic and F Edi.

Winter 1913. Englands intentions are confirmed by his removals. If he were going to turn on me, he could not have made those removals. I talk about the board with Reese, as we've done thruout the entire game. I tell him of my plan to take Ser. I breezily inform him that the army must then retreat to either Gre or Alb, and will thus be out of the picture. I can then couver Rum and Sev in a routine manner, and thereby exchange Ser for Con, and with three in the north, win. He still insists, vaguely, that he can force a guess on me. I reality, I know its not that simple. If he evacuates F Bul to Aeg or Con then the army can retreat there. If I have F Rum and A Sev (from doing F Sev-Rum, A Mos-Sev in the spring), then A Bul-Rum cuts the support, and A Arm S F Bla-Sev takes Sev. I'd

like for him to think that all this hasn't occurred to me, so that he'll keep F Bla in place. Instead, I'll do A Mos-Ukr. This permits me to cover Sev with A Ukr S F Rum-Sev, and guard Rum with A Ser S A Bud-Rum! In that way, A Bul-Rum is rendered totally harmless. I don't know whether all this gab by me will work. More likely, he'll see what I plan to do, and can counter it with F Bla-Sev, A Smy-Arm, F Bul(sc)-Aeg, F Ion-Gre. That situation would force me to guess in Fall 1914. He could foil any plan of mine if he can guess how I'll use F Rum (attack Sev, attack Bul, or support an attack on Bul). It's about a 1 in 3 guess for him in F14, so I guess I'll have to live with it. I'll also do A Tyo-Tri to keep him from slipping an army into Tri, from whence he could hit Ser. In the west, I figure A Bur will be cut --- T will probably risk my going to Gas, so I might as well attack from there. If all goes well, both Ger armies will be ann in S14. The worst that can happen is that T supports Bel-Bur, but even then, I can take Belgium in the fall. On further analysis, I have found a foolproof plan in the south: F Sev-Arm, A Mos-Ukr. Even if he slips into Rum, he'll have to choose one job for F Ank: either block me out of Bla, or support A Smy-Arm--- not both. Either way Rum can be retaken without risk to Sev -- and letting me into Arm won't help either.

Spring 1914

England: F Nat-Mid, F Eng S F Nat-Mid

France: A Bre S Rus A Bur-Par(nso)

Germany: A Hol S A Bel (A); A Bel S A Hol (Dis, ret to Pic)

Russia: F Nwg-Cly, A Lpl H, F Nth S A Bur-Bel, A Ruh S A Bur-Bel, A Mun-Boh, A Tyo-Tri
F Hel C & A Kie S A Den-Hol; A Bud S A Rum-Ser, F Con-Bla, F Sev-Arm, A Mos-Sev

Turkey: F Por-Mid, A Mar H, A Par S A Mar-Bur(imp), F Spa(sc)-Gas(imp), A Ven-Tri,
A Nap-Apu, F Ion-Aeg, F Tun-Ion, F Tri-Adr, F Ank S F Bul(sc)-Con, F Bla-Rum,
A Ser S F Bla-Rum(Dislodged)(retreated to Gre)

Spring 1914 The win in F14 involved just retaking Rum, and walking into Edi, and so the moves will not be given here. I had written England saying that I'd cut Ger A Pic in case he wanted to try for Bre and finish off France. Instead, he guarded Lon, and F supported G into Par, so that each western power survived with exactly one center.

In his comments at the end of the game, Verheiden said, "Nobody has ever settled for a two way draw in one of these well publicized games and probably nobody ever will, even if they believe it in the beginning; when opportunity knocks, greed always wins out." I don't entirely agree, and, at least for me, it was not purely a matter of opportunity. I have a great deal of respect for a 17-17 draw, and they've been in general as difficult and as satisfying as my wins. In one of them (76IP) I had a reasonable shot at a win, but that was outweighed by failure meaning a 4-way draw. In the other, 77KJ, I was allied with A, so obviously I had my chances for a winning stab. And I would have been willing to play for the two way draw here, too. But I felt that Reese's play was not good enough to merit participation in a 17-17, an outcome which I hold in high regard as a difficult task, especially for neighbors (who have more chances for stabbing. An F-T or E-A 17-17 draw is much easier). While it is somewhat arrogant of me to sit in judgement of another's play, that's part of playing the game, evaluating the play of your ally. It may strike the reader as an odd reason to stab an ally, but, under the circumstances, it makes sense to me.

One final lesson of this game to me, ^{WAS THE} value of even a very small ally in a balanced endgame. Note that my stab did not go well at all -- T attacked the same season, and Kendter outguessed me. Yet with the help of tiny England, even perfect play by FGT could not have stopped the win. I would have preferred for England to have finished ahead of both F and G, since I think he played better than they did in this game. However, not taking Bre was England's choice, so it doesn't bother me.

Verheiden also notes that the field of players was the best he could do, since two of the original crew, Cartier and Baumeister changed their minds at the last minute.

To the players of the game, all of whom will be getting this, I say: I enjoyed the game, and I hope you are not unduly bothered by what is written here. Showing some "discretion" would have partially defeated the purpose of the diary. It is, after all, just a game. As for myself, I'm never going to do something like this again. It was a lot of work, and I have probably revealed too much of my own playing style.

DOS BERCHE EN ESPANA

This is going to be somewhat different from the write-up of my Israel trip. Probably not as interesting. I simply cannot provide the historical and political overlay which made that one so distinctive. In its place, tho, I will talk some about travelling per se, to give you some idea of the rhythm and purposes and joys of travelling, as least as we did it. This trip was a reversion to the style of our first two trips to Mexico in the mid 70's. I'm going to assume that you've done no traveling at all outside the US. Those of you who have, well, bear with and compare notes.

Disclaimers. First, when I say "Spain", I mean Spain-as-we-saw-it. We not only didn't see all of Spain, we didn't even see a representative portion of it. Entire regions of the country, such as the Atlantic coast or Extremadura we never got to. Except from the windows of a bus or train, we saw nothing of village or rural Spain. We didn't participate in the "night life" of the big cities. Even of the cities we saw, some of them (Madrid and Segovia especially), I feel we only saw fractionally. Second, I emphasize for new readers, this is purely a subjective account. When I give evaluations and opinions, they are purely mine. And I am no expert.

Preparation. The most important preparation for travelling is to find a good travelling companion. This was of course no problem for me, as Mona and I have been on 5 other trips abroad, and are remarkably compatible. The advantages are overwhelming. Many hotels in Spain have no single rooms, and even those that do are not likely to charge you much less. Four eyes are much better than two for spotting that interesting bit of tilework or the sign on the street, and it is always fun to be able to share your finds and delights with someone else. If you don't know the language, traveling alone can be very isolating --- with a companion you have someone to talk with. You will of course have to compromise from time to time on what to see, pacing, etc, but that pales in comparison. Some level of language skills is important --- but not vital. I know virtually no Spanish whatsoever. Mona knows a little, enough to keep up a very simple conversation, buy train tickets etc. And in Spain, you can get by with very little or even none at all. They will go out of your way to try to understand you, using gestures and bits of English whenever possible. In sharp contrast to the French, they don't seem to mind your mangling their language and are patient. But even if you know zero Spanish, don't let that stop you. You can use the subway system in Madrid or Barcelona, for example, without knowing a word of Spanish. Get yourself a good phrase book, and familiarize yourself with it. Go to the library and get hold of a record with basic Spanish on it, to familiarize yourself with how words are pronounced and to get a basic vocabulary of a few dozen words or so. Next, you will need guidebooks --- and it's best to have several types. My boss had loaned me his copy of "Fodor's Budget Spain '80" --- full of useful information. I had also gotten from him a collection of Xerox's of materials from various sources, stapled together by city to cover many of the cities we planned to hit. At the other extreme, my sister loaned me her copy of "Hachette World Guide to Spain" ---- over 1000 pages of small print covering the entire country in tremendous detail, often down to the history and construction of individual buildings. It is also over 20 years old and thus sometimes worthless. We also bought local maps in some cities, essential if you do a lot of walking, as we do. Multiple sources can be important because you may need to cross check. In Sevilla, for example, we wanted to visit Maria Louisa Park. The large map we had bought locally indicated it covered two adjacent tracks of land. One looked like it might have been a small park in another decade (past or future --- but not now). The other was a park but was totally walled in and we could not find an entrance. We wasted well over an hour until I thought to check another map, which showed it at another location --- which is where it actually was. The map, inexplicably, was mislabeled. Clothes. Take as little as you think you can possible get away with --- and then cut that by a third. For example, exclusive of what I was wearing, I packed two shirts, one pair of trousers, underwear, a sweater and a rain slicker. Most people, at first, try to take far too much. There's no need to prepare for every possible contingency. If someone steals your pants (which happened to me once in Mexico), just buy another pair. If something is small and light (e.g. bandaids) you can take it for the convenience, or things impos-

sible to get (e.g. books) it makes sense to take it with you. But otherwise, it will just take up room in your suitcase or pack which could be better spent dragging goodies back.

Transportation. We took a charter, only \$444 per person round trip. You will have to look around for the best rates. We flew on Spantax airlines --- you remember, the one that had the huge crash in Malaga two weeks before we left. Travel within Spain is quite cheap, except for air. A subway ride will cost you 23¢. Train rides will cost you maybe \$2 per hour, with bus rides comorable. Every single bus and train we took left right on time, and they were all reasonably clean. We heard that renting cars is quite cheap too. Scendulds are usually prominatly posted and easy to figure out. Air travel is a bit more expensive than in the US.

Accomadations As anywhere, the more you pay the more you get, but at whatever level, you'll pay much less than you'd pay here. Tourism is extremely important in Spain, and the government goes to some effort (by means of regulations) to make sure that plenty of housing is available and that people don't get ripped off. Every room has posted in it the legal maximum they are allowed to charge --- and those figures are available at the front desk. They must also keep a complaint book at the front desk, and they must tell you, by means of a notice in your room in three different languages (Spanish, English and French) that the book is there and that you can enter comments into the book. At the level we stayed at, we got two beds, or a "matrimonial" bed, a sink, a wardrobe and a table in a smallish, but not cramped, room. Sometimes we had a private bath, but usually not --- even then, it would be quite nearby. Sometimes we had hot water, sometimes not --- sometimes it will only be available during certain hours. The rooms were invariably clean, and we never saw a cockroach or a rodent. For this we paid the princely sum of \$7-9 per night, total; \$10 in Madrid. And you can go cheaper than that. Sometimes, access to the tub/shower is separable, so you can save a bit by skipping that. And there are several levels below what we stayed at, down to occasional signs that just say "beds" ("cama"). Indeed, in a pinch you can sleep overnight at the train station, particularly if you have a Euro-Rail pass --- just claim you have an early train the next day. And these hostals to stay at are plentiful and they are seemingly everywhere. You don't have to hunt them out and be stuck where they are. In most cases, you decide what part of town you want to be in, and there will be plenty of choices. Cheap and plentiful: What more could you ask?

Food Altho adjacent to France and Italy, Spain does not produce one of the world's better cuisines. To be fair about it, I should note that we don't eat shellfish, and Spain is famous for this, so if you like all manner of squid, small lobsters and anything in a shell, Spain may be your place, and we probably missed out on the best stuff. We did have fish, especially hake, and it was quite good, but we had a few meals that were pretty mediocre, and the sweets (except for flan, and flan-like pastries) were often a big dissapointment. Even at their best, they could not compare to what you can buy in France, Austria or the US. Spanish eating habits are often quite different than those here. If a fat/oil is called for, almost inevitably Olive Oil is used. Anything thats fried uses it --- it wouldn't surprise me if the potatoe chips used it. French fried potatoes are used even more commonly than here, and you don't get the traditional fried-baked-or-mashed choice. But the fries are irregular in shape i.e. hand cut i.e. not frozen, and fried in Olive oil they are quite good. Spaniards either eat a light breakfast --- or nothing at all. Eggs are absolutely unheard of for breakfast. The morning sweet rolls are terrible, and something that is shaped like, and called, a croissant will, except in Barcelona, definately not be one. Your best bet is to either rely on purchases from the day before, or try the "churros". This is a type of light dough, deep fried, good alone, but better dipped in hot choccolate, which is thicker and richer than that served here --- half way to a pudding. Lunch hour is late --- running 1 PM to 4 PM, except in Madrid, where it starts closer to 2 PM. It is the main meal of the day, often eaten in a leasurely fashion in a cafe or a resteraunt. The timing is very good for the traveller who is doing a great deal of walking. By, say, 1PM, your feet probably aren't tired. But if you eat a quick

lunch, or one standing up, by 4 or 5 PM, you will be tired. So we usually took an unhurried lunch, and then perhaps sat in a park a bit. It was then no problem to be on the go until 7 or 8 PM, when the stores and museums would all be closed. In the evening, the most popular form of food was something called "tappas", tho actually they are available nearly all day. They are a type of hors d'oeuvres, eaten at the bar, or (for a little extra cost) at a few tables by the bar if they have them. They run about 80¢-\$1.40, and a typical bar would have 8-12 of them on display for your inspection. These would typically include a squid dish, sausages swimming in some sauce, at least two shellfish dishes, a potato tortilla (a type of very thick omlett, extremely common and of variable quality), olives, "Russian Salad" (a fresh vegetable salad very heavy on the Mayonnaise), a large bowl of Mushrooms (which will be fried to order with olive oil and garlic), boquerones (a type of anchovy, but not in the least salty, and packed not in oil but in vinegar ----extremely tasty), and several items whose appearance ranged from mysterious to sinister. You could, of course, get a regular type meal, starting around 7 or 8 PM, but sometimes, the restaurant would remain closed for the evening, and they would just operate out of the bar in the front. There are other differences from how things are done here. A cafeteria is not self self-service --- it just means they have a more limited menu. In Spain, ala carte covers everything. If you want water, you order it (with or without "gas"--- carbonation), and you pay for it. Rolls are always put on the table, but they do not "come with" --- if you eat them, you will be charged. Most restaurants have (in fact, I think there's a law requiring all of them to have) a "menu of the day" or tourist menu, 2 or 3 courses, a beverage, bread and a dessert, usually a very good buy but of course it greatly limits what you can order. We ate at crowded bars or sat at a cafe with just a bottle of water, ate at a "auto-service" and at an occasional "splurge" place and not once were we ever "rushed" even in the slightest degree, by a waiter. You can of course also buy fresh fruit and vegetables to eat, and we probably did not, in retrospect, do as much of that as we should have. But we feasted on figs with insides like strawberry jam, and persimmons, the size of peaches and the most tasty almonds I've ever had and some superlative olives. I know I've spent a lot of time on food here, but its a good paradigm for the differences that you encounter in a foreign country. You can get strictly american style food here if you want --- there are even McDonald's in Madrid. But thats missing the point, really.

Gambling and Elections. Both are pervasive and unavoidable. Slot machines are in every bar or cafe, and some parlors have nothing but dozens of these machines. They have an odd habit of bursting into song at random intervals, playing to a little tune to remind you that they want to be fed. Vendors of lottery tickets (usually handicapped people) prowl all the main streets. And there are places to bet on horses, I think. The electioneering was even more intrusive. You'd be walking down the street, and suddenly from nowhere, a sound truck would materialize, blaring forth some incomprehensible political chant or song. Or cars would drive on an overpass, scattering hundreds of handbills into the wind. Giant posters and medium size ones too were everywhere, and in the morning you'd see the shoopkeeps sometimes at work with their knives, trying to scrape them off. It was considered apparently good form to paste your poster on top of the opponents, and you'd see evidence of posters 5 or 6 deep. It all may seem crude, but then again, the actual turnout in the elction was far greater than you'd see in this country. They had a more decisive choice, tho. The difference between their two top candidates for national leader was much greater than was the choice offered by Reagan and Carter in 1980, but thats another story.

Vibes If any of you were in Spain before the death of Franco, you'll be quite surprised at the degree of relaxation that has taken place. Pictures of Franco are almost no where to be seen; any many "Franco" squares and streets have been renamed. Armed soldiers, which Mona tells me were quite common in the streets when she was there in 1971, are now confined to the entrances of important buildings. You can buy a hex-style board game based on the 1936 civil war. They've got punk music, girlie magazines and soft porn movies, and, at least in Torremolinos, topless sunbathing. Tho of course we were not in the most poor parts of the country, things looked reasonably prosperous.

Outside of in Madrid and on the grounds of some of the Cathedrals, we saw no beggars. The communist party put up posters along with everyone else, and these didn't get defaced any more than those of other parties. Stores seemed well stocked with goods, and people seemed to be smiling and reasonably well off. Unlike, say, Egypt, things are well set up for tourists, and you will be made to feel welcome. Banks that change money were all unambiguously marked (not like in the US) and posted the rates in the window. Despite the fact that these were the closing days for an important election, people did not seem tense.

Churches. Except when they provide big stained glass windows (as rare in Spain as they are common in France) Mona and I are not real "churchgoers". But in Spain, you cannot avoid them, so we went to visit quite a few. Three stick out in my mind. The first is the cathedral in Grenada. Its is colossal in size, built in at least two styles, with enormous gilt-covered decorations, giant sculpture, lavishly overdecorated, walls covered with paintings, friezes dancing along the top, massive pillars with multiple columns, even some stained glass and side rooms full of treasures. Overdone in the grandest of styles. There are comparable cathedrals in Sevilla, Toledo, Malaga and a few others --- they start to merge in your mind --- this is really a category. The second is the capilla major in Cordova, which is, depending on your viewpoint, a sacrilege or merely appalling. Its pretty, but the problem is, its placed smack dab in the middle of a mosque. Not just any mosque, but the Grand Mosque, the largest in the world save that in Mecca. It is a most astonishing sight, hard to describe. There are around 850 columns, and in the words of Theophile Gautier, "It seems like walking in a closed forest rather than a building, whichever way you turn, your eye wanders thru avenues of columns, which intersect one another and extend far out of sight." Your sense of distance and orientation is distorted ---- a wonderful effect which is partially ruined by the chapel in the middle. When plans were first set, the local government was horrified, and threatened every workman with death if he participated, but the King, to his later regret, overruled them. Actually, this is merely the most spectacular example of a more common process. The Moslems were established for centuries in Spain, along with their sidekicks, the Jews. It was a period of unprecedented prosperity for Spain, then one of the major cultural and economic centers in the world. But, then as now, religion is such a fine excuse for killing people, and the Catholic Kings of Spain finally drove them out, and, naturally, turned the mosques either into rubble or churches, and you often see structures build in an Arabic style, then overlaid centuries later with a different hand. The third is Church of the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. The architect Gaudi began work on this in 1882, and it is still under construction. No, I don't mean a bit of ornamentation needs to be finished off. It has no roof, work hasn't even begun on one of the sides, virtually no glass is in place, etc. Mind you, its a big tourist attraction, and you have to pay money to get "in". There's a museum, with lots of models of what the extravaganza will finally look like, pictures of its progress over the decades, and you can ride up the steeple to get a fantastic view of Barcelona. The building is really weird, and like all of Gaudi's stuff, recognizable from blocks away by its somewhat wavy texture ---- Gaudi had no use at all for corners and edges. A lot of fun!

Museums. Mona and I both enjoy them wherever we travel, and there are plenty to choose from. We usually preferred to hit them during their morning hours, typically 10-2 PM. Many are not open in the afternoon, and information on PM hours proved to be notoriously inaccurate. There were other frustrations. The Gaudi Museum, which we really wanted to see, proved to be open only on Sundays. Several were closed indefinitely, and sometimes, like the fine arts museum in Sevilla, huge parts will be off limits. You must be prepared for these kinds of frustrations. All charge entrance fees (as do the cathedrals), ranging from 40¢ - \$1.80, and most will not let you take your camera. The Prado is Madrid's top attraction, one of the best museums in the world. The size and scope of the collection was stupendous. We were there nearly 5 hours one day, and even then, we skipped quite a bit, and had to pick up two annexes the next day. Many others were very worthwhile in their own way. The Spanish Theatre museum, in a strange building designed by Gaudi is a must in Barcelona, and there is a whole cluster of museums in one building in Barcelona centered around a Decorative arts museum. There

are archeological museums in Madrid, Cordova, Grenada and Barcelona. We saw fine military museums at the palace in Madrid, and at the Alcazar fortress in Toledo. Many churches and Alcazars have small museums attached. We saw so many I cannot remember them all. One of the most interesting was the smallest. The Altamira Caves are famous for their "paintings" which are prehistoric, but are understandably closed to the public now. In their place is a replica in Madrid --- down to the very low lighting, and its eerie to look at them, even if they are reproductions.

We arrive in Seville; our packs do not. I had originally booked us from Madrid to Seville, figuring to save us time ---- we'd be in the airport anyhow, and I didn't know how good the buses/trains would be on Sunday. But 8 AM found us in Seville with no packs. It was the first time something like this had happened to us, but you can't let yourself get rattled. Unfortunately we spent a good chunk of the day waiting at our hostel for unkept promises of delivery. This city of 1/2 million is really quite charming with plenty to see. There are extreme contrasts of space. The Alcazar has spacious gardens, somewhat overrun, great for just strolling. All of this is surrounded by a high wall. Snack up against the wall on the east side is Barrio Santa Cruz, a warren of twisting streets, some so narrow that you can stand in the middle of the street and touch the buildings on both sides. The Maria Luisa Park was only the first of many really impressive parks, and we took off our shoes and soaked the tired feet in a fountain until a guard ambled by. There were fountains with frogs and a sea of the tamest doves I've ever seen. And tile is everywhere. We start a pattern to be repeated in all of the southern cities --- peering into entraceways and admiring the amazing variety of tilework. Often there will be an interior courtyard partly visible from the street, which will typically have pots of plants and patio furniture. There are many fancy balconies, and the underside of these are often tiled as well. This is also a city of many churches, convents and mansions, with a very strong Moorish influence in many buildings. After 3 days, its time for the train.....

In Cordova we got lost. Twice we were utterly, helplessly lost, plus several other short-term befuddlements. We had an old, cramped map, and ran into the famous "Map Paradox" (tho its quite old, and was referred to in Ibn Gane's "Seven Sorrows of the Sojourner" a 14th century Islamic travel guide): "A street will be labeled in reality, or on the map, but not both." The locals don't bother to label the main streets ---- everybody knows those. And the maps just don't have the space to label anything but the main streets. Anyhow, Cordova is somewhat smaller, and we eventually walked the bulk of this old and winding city. The grand mosque, or mezquita, mentioned earlier is the main attraction. Not far away is a synagogue from the early 14th century, with Hebrew lettering still clear on its walls. We see the aptly named "Street of Flowers", with dozens of hanging baskets suspended from hooks drilled into the street's walls, and, with some difficulty, locate an oddly sedate Torres Museum, which actually shows nudes. The center of town is Antonio Square, with a splendid statue, but my memories here are smudged by recalling the incredible amount of traffic there ---- there must be some rule which requires every bus in town to idle there every day. After 2 days, we take the bus out of town. We pass entire mountains (small ones, mind you, but mountains just the same) covered with nothing but olive trees. I associate olives with Italy and Greece, but after sights of miles of olive trees, with rows that extend into the distance, becoming dots and then lines like some pointilist painting, Spain must be added to the list. It is said that some of these plantings date back to the Roman times --- same trees! When I say "nothing", I mean just that ---- no scrub, not even weeds. Perhaps they lay down some herbicide, or maybe the rainfall isn't right this time of year. After a few hours we are 2260 feet up to.....

Grenada. If you tell enough people that you are going to Spain, one of them is bound to say, "Oh, but you must see the Alhambra." I am suspicious of such talk. It implies that a trip to Spain is not worth taking unless you see it --- somewhat of an insult to the rest of the country. Having seen it, I can understand the sentiment, and might go so far as to say that if you're visiting Andalusia, and you like palaces, you'd be a fool not to see it. Even a barely adequate description would take a full page, and like so many works of art, descriptions cannot convey beauty. I was struck

by some contrasts in scale. One room, the Hall of the Ambassadors, has carvings so fine and detailed that in places you could barely insert your fingernail into the design. It would take quite a bit of work to do an entire panel of this. Yet the entire room, every square inch of it, was done this way. And this "room" you could fit an entire house into --- the room was 36 foot square with walls 59 feet high! The windows command a spectacular view of the countryside and parts of the gardens and nearby valley. The dome is networked with endless designs. Other areas of the Alhambra are more famous, perhaps justifiably so, but this room was almost overwhelming to me both in design and execution. I'm sure I'll remember it long after the rest starts to dim. It was used for grand receptions, and in its own way, was more impressive than any other ballroom or the like I've ever seen. I should also mention the two huge patios, each awesomely beautiful, but really, description after a while becomes pointless. All in all, this is the finest example of Arabic Art in all of Europe, and to see it is understand why people travel. There is more to Grenada, tho. The Generalife is a huge complex of gardens and pools, with lovely walkways and some walls and arches, which on close inspection turn out to be made entirely of shrubbery. There is so much to see there you could easily spend the entire afternoon and still not explore it all. The city of Grenada itself is not very large, and some of it is quite modern. There seems to be quite a bit of money being made around there, judging by some very fancy stores we saw in one part of town. Many of the streets are very steep, too --- Grenada is built onto the sides of several hills. After 2 days, we take the bus down, down, to:

Malaga is one of Spain's two major Medit ports, tho we didn't land up seeing a great deal of the city. There is a long park right by the Waterfront, filled with people. Interestingly, the people were of all ages, from old codgers to toddlers --- something one does not usually see in parks in this country. By now we are starting to get a bit jaded. We visited the Alcazaba (Moorish fortress), but its not well restored and provides little more than a good view of town. We wander thru the cathedral, but we've already seen better. So on two afternoons, we take side trips.

Porremolinos is a very strange place. It resembles a Tijuana or Acapulco. The tourists have become the natives and the Spaniards the outsiders. Many of the eating places do not bother with Spanish on their menu --- probably because no Spaniard would be interested in eating there. There are huge condo complexes and endless souvenir stands. The beaches are lined with one bar after another. They even had an all-you-can eat restaurant, the only one we ever saw in Spain. And yes, it was good!

The Caves of Nerja are in the opposite direction, to the east, and a radically different experience. They were discovered in 1959. You walk thru this enormous cavern with Stalactites and stalagmites, and you are really impressed with the natural beauty even of the mineral world. Its grandly lit, and inside there's a stage where apparently ballet is performed.

Visualize a circle of mountains, about 25 miles in diameter: The Serrania. In the center, on the edge of a rocky plateau is a city thousands of years old. And cutting thru the center of town is a huge chasm, 200-250 feet wide and over 500 feet deep. This is Ronda, so help me, as dramatic a setting as you will for a town. At the bottom of the chasm (the "Tajo") is a river, altho this time of year the flow is so slight that the effect is slightly comic. Splendid views abound. We especially enjoy looking downward at the vast expanse of mountains from the Campillo. We split a bottle of mineral water in a patio built right into the side of the Tajo, and eat pizza at a table overlooking the tajo (pizza with artichokes, very very good). Ronda seems to be filled with curio shops, each crammed with old paintings and strange objects that make for a pleasant afternoon stroll. The town is also famous for its bullring, which we didn't see, and its "birdcage" balconies which we enjoyed very much, ornate and kept in fine shape. This was a day-trip out of Malaga. We took the first bus in and the last one back, a pattern we were to repeat later with Toledo and Segovia.

Its over 1000 miles, so we flew from Malaga to Barcelona. This was easily the favorite of all the cities we saw, and we stayed 4 days. Much is changed from the south

Down there, the second language on e.g. menus would be English or German. Here it is Catalan, a very old tongue. In fact, Barcelona is such a bilingual city that it feels a little like Canada. Even words are pronounced differently ---the "c" in gracias is said as an "f". Tho the second largest city, it does not have that ponderous, unending quality like one sees in Madrid or Philadelphia --- monotony is forestalled because the city keeps changing. The people are bustling and active. To my eye, the women ---young and old alike --- are more beautiful here than anywhere else in Spain. There is a tremendous variety of things to do, and we could have easily doubled our stay and not come close to exhausting the possibilities. We stayed at a hostel in the Gothic Quarter, a very old part of town laced with narrow streets and crammed with an astonishing variety of stores, which we prowled thru during the evenings from about 6 PM till closing time at 8 PM. We wander thru an immense food market, of the sort commonly seen in Europe but quite unusual here. There were perhaps 200 stalls, with every possible variety of edible for sale. This gives you enormous choice. If you didn't like the looks (or smell) of one stall's fish, there would be ten others to choose from. If one stall didn't have the exact kind of nuts you sought, someone else would. Americans tend to think of themselves as such experts at merchandizing, but this is much more attuned to the needs of the customer than any supermarket here. The odd thing about this particular market is that it was staffed almost exclusively by women --- even the butchers and fishmongers were mostly women. We take a long hike to Montjuich Park and a museum there with murals and frescos salvaged from ruined churches in the area. They were exceptionally well displayed, mounted up on walls exactly as they had been in the original church. Alongside this was a map of the specific area, a foto of the church as it is now, and an interior drawing of the church, showing where the item was taken from. The care that was taken was usually more interesting than the art itself. We also visit the Ciudadela Park, with its museum of modern Art, Museum of Natural History, and huge greenhouse, the latter in ruins and overrun by cats. Another major expedition is to Guell Park, which involved a walk up a hill which nearly caused 2 cases of cardiac arrest (the maps never tell you the important stuff). This is a Gaudi fantasyland, a blend of art-nouveau and gingerbread styles, with a dazzling use of tile, walkways with twisting and slanted walls, strange walls and roofs --- an ideal playground for kids, and one of the most memorable (as in easy-to-remember) parks I've ever seen. This was designed and executed by the aforementioned Gaudi, and we spent several hours tracking down about a half dozen of his other buildings. They are so cheerful and give a carnival aspect to the town. We stroll thru the "fancy" part of town and laugh at a statue of a bull posed in the classic "The Thinker" pose. We hate=d to leave. We decided to take a "couchette", a second class sleeper. Its quite a good buy. Each compartment has two triple-bunks. But they are real beds with mattresses, linen, blankets, reading lights etc. It was only \$27, which covered the 10-hour train ride to....

Madrid. This city had been badmouthed by a few people I know, so my hopes were not high, but it turns out we had a good time. This may be due to the fact that we spent relatively little time exploring the city per se, since large blocks of time went to indoor activities such as the Prado. We got in around 9 AM, and looked for a place to stay near the Atocha train station, and one of the bus stations, since I knew we'd be using them for daytrips. The next order of business was El Rastro, a street market which exists only on Sundays. One guide book suggests you leave early as you will likely get lost; another citing the same reason, suggests a cab. This advice is spectacularly wrong. Far from being hard to find, it is nearly impossible to avoid,

spilling out far beyond its area indicated on the maps. It runs over at least 20 blocks, engulfing a square here and there. It seems that everything is on sale. Eight zillion earring displays. You can buy all manner of gadgets, and live dogs or birds, a huge variety of crafts items, posters and on and on. We did not buy a whole lot but did enjoy looking, and soaking up the relentlessly mercantile tone. On another day we "do" the Palacio Real, apparently second only to the Prado as a Madrid attraction. It was one of the worst tours I've ever been on, a classic in how not to run such an operation. After paying a very substantial fee, we were funneled into a large

waiting area and abandoned for over 20 minutes. Instead of starting tours at regular intervals, they organized groups all at once. The result was that we were constantly forced to wait in boring anterooms waiting for the group ahead of us. At times we could hear both the Spanish group ahead of us and the German one behind us. Our guide, who had a rather strong accent, gave only the most minimum of explanation, and even questions couldn't prod much out of her. At one point, a big chunk of us, perhaps a third of the group, got separated, and she either didn't notice (hard to believe) or didn't care, for the tour went on right without us, and we had to locate a guard to get us back on track. We saw about what you'd expect from a truly lavish palace. The ceilings were ornate, the furniture rococo, the carpets awesome, etc, etc. I'd give you some specifics, but you're really not that interested, are you? No, I thought not. One room that I did like was full of clocks --- one of the Spanish Kings collected them, so naturally royal visitors would always lay one on him as a gift. In a separate area but part of the same complex were some specialized museum. A collection of Royal Armor showed all sorts of ways to cover your body with metal, and had some very well preserved crossbows. The Royal Pharmacy we were able to locate despite their best efforts at keeping it hidden, and it was quite fascinating to an old chemist like me to see what would be kept on hand. There is also --- supposedly --- a museum of royal coaches, but there their (I always did want to use those two words in succession) skills at hiding got the better of us and we never did find it.

I shouldn't give the impression that we didn't see any of the city. The Plaza Major is properly grand, and if I were a Spanish Dictator, that's exactly the sort of place from which I'd want to harrange the (carefully screened) assorted multitude. And near the Retiro park there are some very spendid fountains. But Madrid is not as striking or distinctive in its appearance as most of the other cities we have seen, so that 1) there is less to say, and 2) I don't remember it as distinctly. We did spend more time in museums and in shopping, in Madrid, than any other city.

On Monday we took a daytrip to Toledo. I figured with so many things closed on Monday, it would be best to hit the road then. Very bad move. Two of the main things we want to see in Toledo, the Greco museum, and the El Transito Synagogue (famous for its stucco and mudejar architecture) are both closed because --- you guessed it, if its Monday in Madrid, its also Monday in Toledo. The day alternates between rain and threatening to rain, so we miss out on some of the fine vistas one can get by walking round the city. We enjoy a visit to the Alacazar, which is famous now because it withstood a harrowing 70-day seige during the Spanish civil war, until Franco's forces arrived and forced the Government militia to withdraw. There are several fine displays which give you a "real" feeling for what that must have been like --- showing where the bread was made, and one room has been kept unresorted so you can see the bullet holes. There is a weapons room showing the kind of guns which were used, etc. We visit the very fine cathedral, and then tour the practically deserted Museum of Santa Cruz, where a guard, clearly desparate for someone to talk to, tried to explain to us the vintage of various tiles and textiles displayed there. We also spend some time in the goldsmithing area, where an artisan-shopkeeper explains that this craft is dying because people buy the machine-made pieces. But his various pins are pretty, and the prices, reasonable to begin, with start to come down more when the volumn of purchase goes up, so we leave with some nice gifts, with a little story to tell.

Our daytrip to Segovia is intended to be ambitious indeed. I had hoped to see the city in the morning, zip over to Avila and walk the walls, then scoot over to La Grandja for the tail end of the afternoon, then hightail it back to Madrid. Alas, the bus scenduld tells us it will be "or", not "and". After pondering the descriptions, we decide on La Granja, a decison which proves to be spectacularly correct. Segovia has the "usual" cathedral, but I think we'll always remember the hole-in-the-wall bakery next to it which, at last, had the perfect pastry we had been searching for. The town is probably most famous for its Roman aqueduct, which is so well built that even today, it supplies water to parts of town. It has a surreal, Science-Fiction-like quality to it. It doesn't appear connected to anything else, and seems more like a giant creature from another planet which ambled into town, lay down and dies, leaving these strange

bones "marching" thru town. At the edge of town is the Alcazar, which looks just like Disneyland, and indeed, Walt Disney was inspired by this castle, complete with moat, perched at the end of the ledge overlooking two rivers. Actually, most of what is inside is resto ration, and not terrible interesting, but if you can climb to the very top, there is a splendid view not only of the entire town, but of the countryside.

La Granja was like a dream, and became one of the most pleasant afternoons we've ever spent in Europe. Adjoining the palace proper are several hundred acres of woods and gardens, studded with fountains which are supposedly the equal to those at Versailles. There are so many (26) that you can more or less wander aimlessly if you choose (tho that is not the Berch method), confident in the knowledge that every 100 yards or so you will come across another. Most are very elaborate, with various animals or merpersons or heros. There are also various pools and waterfalls. We were there on a day when the fountains were not turned on, which was fine --- you can see them better that way and it seemed like we had the place almost to ourselves. Of all the gardens we saw in Spain, this was the most entrancing. The palace was very impressive too. The tour (entirely in Spananish, alas, since the guide seemed quite talkative) seemed frantically rushed, but it took over an hour ---- there was just so much to cover. It has a vast collection of Flemish tapestries ---- including one room which must have been a good 1/2 block long, with every available inch covered by tapestries depicting events from the Bible, the conquest of some city, or the heroic exploits of a forebearer of one of the royal owners. I'm glad that we saw this relatively late in the trip, because had we seen it early on we would not have been quite so impressed with some other e.g. gardens (e.g. in Sevilla) or tapestries (e.g. in Toledo).

Alas, it is time to end, and there is so much I haven't mentioned. Some things are so similar to the US its startling. You can play "pacman" -- the machines are every where. Couples neck openly near the Universities. We saw an extensive Man Ray exhibit, just as incomprehensible in Spanish as it would be in English. And there were also differences. There is no "dime" in their currency. Jasmine was in bloom. Motorcycles are commonly used (handy in old cities which are laced with streets too narrow for cars) but helmets are almost never worn. If you want to take your room key with you, you'll probably be asked to leave your passport as security --- a rather strong disincentive.

And so we were on the plane for a flight which was dreadfully disorganized. As of the day before departure, they were telling different people different departure times. Before takeoff, they discovered one piece of baggage with no owner on board, which of course could be a bomb. So it was all offloaded, reidentified and reloaded, a process which inexplicable took nearly 2 hours. One film was announced, but a different one was shown. The meal was the absolute worst I've ever had on a plane (a catagory with stiff competition). Never mind. I buried myself in books, finishing off Heinlein's "Glory Road" (not recommended) and read Eric Ambler's "Backround to Danger" (top notch). And before long I was at Newark Airport, starving. I bought a small tub of Yogurt. It was \$1.25 plus tax.

I was home.

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The Zine Column #57

Gary Coughlan, Take One

Gary Coughlan has given his reasons for not renewing his sub to DD. For some reason, this appears not in a letter to me but in EE #10. Two reasons are given, one of which Gary admits in #19 was mistaken, so need not be discussed further. The other is that I have distorted his position on the Leeder Poll business, a charge he made in EE #17. Now he has escalated this, saying that the distortion was "deliberate", a somewhat more serious matter, and an accusation which 1) Gary admits he cannot prove, and 2) which, in EE #19 he does not withdraw. OK, that one I can deny --- if there was any distortion, it was not deliberate, but was accidental. Beyond that, however, I'm at a loss. I have written Gary at least twice, pointing out to him that he has not given me the specifics. Without these, I can neither defend myself nor print a retraction/apology.

All he will tell me is that it concerned my comments in DD about the Leeder Poll and him. But that's not enough for me to be able to respond meaningfully, and Gary knows it. Have I misrepresented his position, and if so, which parts of his position? Or was it his motives that I misrepresented? Or both? Or something else? Was it an error of omission (i.e. I left out some vital fact which should have been included) or commission (a statement that I made was not accurate)? If I'm wrong, an error of omission is dealt with by presenting the fact, and an error of commission is dealt with quite differently. Similarly a defense if I felt that I'm not in error --- to mount the defense, I need to know which sentences are under attack. This is no longer a small matter (if it ever was one). He has criticized me on this in EE #16, #17, #18 and #19. Gary makes big speeches in EE about how fair he is, but in my opinion, it is unfair to attack someone in such a way as to make it difficult or impossible for them to either defend themselves or make a retraction. Instead, I get such bull from Gary as, "I fail to believe you are as dense as you are making out!" And instead, he said flatly, "I am not even going to answer him in DD" (Quotes are from EE #19 and #18 respectively). In his introduction to the material criticizing DD (and several other zines) in EE #18 and #19, Gary repeatedly says that "untrue" things were said about him, his positions, and zine. However, until such time as Gary gives me some specifics, I stand behind the truth of what I have written.

Gary Coughlan, Take Two

I must caution all of my readers not to make any comments, serious or otherwise, about Gary's sexual orientation or his physical appearance. The man is extremely sensitive on the subject(s), and now that this is known, it would be very poor manners, to say the least, to bring this up or mention it. Writing in EE #18, he quotes Dan Stafford's comment in Diplomacy by Moonlight "...those"terrible"rumors about Walker and Coughlan", i.e. that Coughlan is a homosexual. Gary not only denied that he was gay, but wrote a blistering attack on Stafford, both in #18 and #19. In my opinion, Gary's criticism of Stafford is vastly overdone, uncalled for, and just plain wrong. It is one thing to correct an error. It is quite another to vilify the person *who made it*.

In my reading of what Stafford wrote, I see no evidence that he intended his comments to be derogatory, and I have considerable doubt that they are intended to be taken completely literally. To begin with, consider the zine that it appeared in: DbM has, in the words of its editor, a "B.S. style" In fact, the whole incident is somewhat reminiscent of the Ozog-Kane tiff of last year, when Kane took offense at something Ozog (later) said was intended as a joke. But Kane had a excuse ---- he was new to the hobby, and besides, DbM was pretty much an unknown quantity at the time. Neither of these factors applies to Gary. Second, one must also consider the comments made by Stafford just preceding that ---- the "And to think that I had thought the hobby was run by the Jews" Now obviously that is not meant to be taken literally.

Third, and most important, there is NO evidence that Stafford intended his comment to be taken in a derogatory manner, ~~from~~ the general context. Nor is there any evidence of maliciousness. Now, you may say that the context does not matter, and that the words should just be evaluated alone. I do not agree, and let me give you an example. And pay close attention, Gary, because this is taken from a recent issue of your zine.

In EE #17 there appeared a piece by Gregory Russell. It begins with some snide implications that I am not, shall we say, sexually satisfying to my wife. This did not result in any savage denunciation of Russell or Coughlan in DD. In fact, I didn't write either one of them about it at all. There is no evidence from the context of Russell's piece that he intended to be derogatory. The same is true here.

Indeed, in #19, Gary prints a letter that Stafford wrote Bob Olsen, in which Stafford says, "...I have nothing against homosexuals, so it follows that when I refer to someone as one (mistakenly or not), it certainly is not meant as an insult." You would think that would help resolve matters, particularly since Coughlan hasn't a scrap of evidence that Stafford is lying. But no, Gary flies completely off the handle. He reasons that "It certainly wasn't a compliment", and therefore it must be an insult, and concludes that "That sentiment is total garbage". He doesn't let up, and later in the

issue he refers to Stafford's "vicious lies", etc. Moreover, Gary's position has an internal inconsistency. In #18, he refers to the "scorn, contempt and disdain that gay people have to unfairly endure." See --- Gary is not anti-Gay, and there has never been any gay-baiting in EE. So if Gary called someone (correctly or mistakenly) gay, there would be no insult intended. But if Stafford calls someone gay, then somehow, it must be an insult. Gary is quite explicit on this --- on page 38 of EE #19 he refers to Stafford's comments as "name-calling" and "character assassination". And, as mentioned previously, he flat out rejects Stafford's plea that he is not anti gay and so didn't intend his comments to be insulting. By rejecting Stafford's position, Gary is in effect saying that Stafford must be anti-gay --- for only an anti-gay person's label use of the label "homosexual" could be considered name-calling. In short, if Gary is not anti-gay, I do not see why he can't accept Stafford's statement that he is likewise

Nor is this all. In #18, he also quotes a comment made by John Michalski about receiving two letters which said how "effeminate he seemed". It not entirely clear from EE #18 whether Gary considers effeminate = gay. IF so, well, he's got a lot to learn. If not, then this is a separate topic on which he is sensitive.

So folks, take my advice. If you've got some comment about Gary's physical appearance, keep your big mouth shut. And, despite the fact that quite a few people took Stafford's comments as a joke, don't you try your hand at that. A Woody-Brux-Suite-#100 joke is OK, a Goughlan-Walker crack is NOT.

In fact, as a public service, I urge Gary to publish the entire list of topics in the forbidden category. No one wants to stumble onto your shit list, Gary, so how 'bout making it easier on us, rather than having us learn the hard way.

There's a side issue that arises from all this. Gary was "feeling very bitter" about this stuff when it came out, and "called all my GMs and cancelled all the press in my games. This was preparatory to sending in final moves and resigning out of all my games. I fully intended to GM the games and nothing else" --- and said that he almost folded the zine. Fortunately, letters from Steve Langley and Mark Fassio saved the day, and the hobby thus owes them a considerable debt of gratitude, since EE is surely one of the hobby's major assets.

But notice that Gary was prepared to leave the games in which he was a player but not the games in which he was a GM, despite the fact that the precipitating events had nothing whatsoever to do with either type of game. It would seem that Gary feels that these are two different levels of commitment. This must be reassuring for his players in EE, but a bit worrisome for those in games in which Gary is "merely" a player. In my opinion (which of course Gary is not obligated to share), when you get into a game, you obligate yourself to stay the course, regardless of whether the role is that of player or GM. It might be argued that it is more disruptive to a game for the GM to leave than for a player to leave, but I don't think that's always true. In fact, I suspect the opposite is true here. Gary has so many friends in the hobby that I'm sure he could find top notch GMs willing to run the games on 5-week deadlines --- i.e. little change for the players. But if he quit from the game as a player, that's going to cause a great change unless his positions are all meaningless. At any rate, I view those types of obligations as equal. Comments?

Gary Coughlan, Take Three

Gary has, believe it or not, objected to my treatment of the Leader Poll results, in which I divided them into two categories, zines and subzines, a process which resulted in EE being at the top of the zine list. He notes that several zines have reprinted these results and concludes, "Thus misleading information is being spread again by you." No, Gary, I am not "misleading" anyone. I described exactly what I was doing in DD #63, and I noted explicitly that DW wasn't doing it this way. I edited the results in a way which I felt would make them more meaningful. That is my job. I'm the editor here, so I edit. Indeed, while some pubbers have run the results verbatim in the past (e.g. BB), I have always edited them in some way. Judging from what I have heard from my readers, they haven't disagreed (e.g. from Bob Olsen: "I agree with your version of the Leader Poll more than the one Leeder put out."). And if other pubbers run the results like this, it doesn't necessarily mean they've been misled. It probably just means that they too feel this is a better way of presenting the results.

Gary Coughlan, Take Four

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I wasn't going to mention this one, since its a fairly small point, but it fits in with some other points made above. Konrad Baumeister's GMAW #18-19 mistakenly said that Gary had been fooled by the fake Leeder Poll results. This is the sort of harmless little mistake that occurs all the time. For example, a certain zine recently said that I forgot to mention "Dipimaster" in DD #63. But its no big deal. I say "harmless" because even if GMAW's readers are temporarily misled into thinking Gary was fooled, well, this is hardly going to damage Gary ---- most pubbers are fooled at one time or another by a fake ---- I know I have been. A simple correction would have sufficed, but no, Gary has to make a big deal about it, including it in his "Police Call" in EE #18. And in a letter which was printed in the next GMAW he supposedly says, "If you cannot write the truth, I would appreciate you not mentioning my zine at all." See --- Konrad makes this mistake and already Gary is suggesting that maybe Konrad just "cannot" write truth. There is nothing to be gained by such exacerbation. (Incidentally, I said, "supposedly" because altho that sentence does appear in GMAW #20, when Gary reprinted his own letter in EE #19, the sentence is missing, and there is no "... " to indicate that something has been removed. I do hope that Konrad will not now be writing, "If you cannot quote my zine accurately...")

Gary Coughlan, Take some advice

Gary, ole' former and future friend, you've got yourself into a rut. And if you don't get yourself out, you risk alienating more of your friends, and making yourself miserable. Even if someone says something about you that isn't true, that doesn't mean you can conclude that, as you put it, "these people have gone after me." Just because someone presents things differently than you would does not mean he is misleading his readers. And most of all, you can't go off assuming the worst about people as a matter of course. Here's an example. You asked Don Ditter, the Boardman Number Custodian, to call 1979KG "irregular" because of GMing improprieties. He considered your request, and turned it down. Most people would mutter a bit, and accept the fact that you can't win 'em all. But not you. On this basis of this and this alone you concluded that Ditter was unfit to hold the job. You wrote venomous letters to me and others about Ditter, and then practically demanded that Rod Walker, Fred Davis and myself join the attack ---- without even waiting to hear if we agreed with the proposition that Ditter had screwed you. In your letters to me at that time, I saw no evidence that you had even considered the possibility that Ditter had done his job in a conscientious manner and just wasn't persuaded --- you just went and assumed the worst. The same seems to be true in your comments about DD. Even if you are 100% right and I have in fact distorted what you've said or done, you've no justification for assuming the worst and saying that I did it deliberately. Likewise with Stafford. Again you assume the worst, and when he says that it was not meant as an insult because he (Stafford) is not anti-gay, you can't accept this, and call it total garbage. Moreover, when you assume the worst in these kinds of cases, you make it much more difficult to resolve the matter. This to me is the most telling criticism of your attitude. Because if Stafford or I say that we printed something that isn't accurate, that gets us nowhere, because you still think we did it deliberately. You have Stafford in a box where the facts no longer matter. Even if you are gay and Stafford is right, he still is a louse because after all, he was trying to insult you. Once you reject Staffords statement that it wasn't intended as an insult, he has no way at all to resolve the matter ---- short of saying that Yes-I-tried-to-hurt-you-and-I'm-sorry-that-I-deliberately-insulted-you. But stafford cannot honestly say that, can he? The same goes with me. Once you've decided, without any evidence, that I'm deliberately distorting your position, you've not only attacked what I've written, you've attacked my motive. And there's no way to disprove a motive.

And another thing. If you assume the worst about people, they are going to be greatly tempted to assume the worst about you.

One final thing. Don't be seduced by your mail. You'll of course get plenty of favorable mail. People tend to write the person they agree with, not the person they disagree with. The anti-Coughlan letters will tend to go to others. I've gotten communications from 4 different people about you, with negative comments. If you

assume that practically everyone agrees with you, you will be mistaken.

I remain willing, and I would hope Stafford remains willing (tho I cannot speak for him in this), to resolve any difficulties that I have with you. But if you assume the worst about us, you bind your own hands, not ours, and you keep yourself in a rut. I stand willing, as I always have, to print a retraction or correction to my comments about you (on any topic). All you have to do is persuade me that I was mistaken. You can't persuade me that I did it deliberately, because I know better. And you won't be able to persuade much of the hobby either, on this, because the hobby knows me pretty well by now. So when it comes to me and Stafford, forget about the motives and get back to the issues. Stafford and I could not do you in even if we wanted to. The ball is in your court, Gary. How do you want to play it?

((Continued from page2))

OK, on the fakes front: I am crediting the second DD fake ("Grandson") to Jack Fleming --- he really did do it. In the third fake ("Digress"), I forgot to include Al Pearson --- and I'm closing the books on that one. I still have no credible claims on the 4th ("Swiss") one at all. On the most recent one ("Trivia Quiz"), I am tentatively crediting this one to Woody and Kathy, altho they have not provided as good evidence as I would like. If anyone wants to challenge them, speak up. Anyhow, 3 free issues go to each of these characters as my way of saying thanx. Also, a tip of the hat goes to Mike Barno who did the fake of the Leeder Poll results --- so far as I know that was the first Poll Results fake done here (there was one last year in England), and his joke about "DipiMaster" coming in first really was true.and if faking DDs doesn't impress you, Kathy and Woody have recently put out a fake Europa Express, a somewhat motley collection of contributions --- an odd choice since EE doesn't have many subzines. Then a few days later comes Y'all #4, again (supposedly) by Kathy and Woody, again focusing on Coughlan, as its mostly an ersatz account of ToadyCon by "Coughlan". Something is a little fishy here --- why didn't this stuff go in the Fake EE? I guess with EE turning so "serious" of late, the fakers provide the hobby with a balance....

Lets mention some unusual game openings here. Roy Henricks 128 Deerfield Dr Pittsburg PA 15235 who has extensive experience at running postal Kingmaker has openings in this at \$5. He's recently started a game of "Civilization" and has openings for a second, as well as Machiavelli and several other games....Mike Barno Box 1153 25 Andrews Memorial Dr Rochester NY 14623 has an opening in the variant "Delayed Stab"Mark Coldiron 3300 Parkside Dr #47 Rocklin CA 96577 has openings in various "Woolworth" variants

The better regional cons spawn a series of writes in dipzines, and judging by the number, PudgeCon, at Bob Olsen's was one of the all time winners, drawing people from both coasts and producing very entertaining accounts in EE, CoA, DDM and many other zines....John Leeder, who founded the North American Zine and GM poll, has turned this project over to Randolph Smyth 212 Aberdeen St S.E. Medicine Hat ALTA T1A 0R1. He has just bought a fancy computer which will be used for some hobby projects, including the poll, so we may be able to have some fancy preference-matrix like they have over in the British hobby (pause for pang of envy). If you've any suggestions to make on how things ought to be run in the future, drop Randolph a note. And what with having a new computer, his duplicator (ditto) is up for sale; he's asking \$200.....

Kieth "Tro" Sherwood is publishing You Know My Name (Look Up The Number), a ratings zine which will publish the results of the Modern Calhamer Point Count system. This is a fine contrast to the DTRS (the fate of which is unknown to me) because it rates only recent games, it doesn't devide by the number of games rated and its win/draw only, and it includes standbys. (Box 6457 La Jolla CA 92037)

This is the last call for the Intimate Diplomacy Tournament to be run by Mark Larzelere 7607 Fontainebleau Dr Apt 2352 New Carrollton MD 20784. Rules to this purely tactical head-to-head game are in DD #60. The fee which covers all of your games in the single elimination tourney and a prize fund is \$10. Those signed up include Don Ditter and myself, and there is only one slot left.