

THE DOGS OF WAR

#54

81IA 82N 82AA 82CQ 82HB 82IL 83Z

6/4/83

Diplomacy is the art of saying, "Nice Doggy," until you can find a rock.

Anonymous

Thanks to Steve Knight for a very appropriate quote.

This is THE DOGS OF WAR, a zine for the play of postal Diplomacy. DOGS is published every twenty-four days by John and Betty Daly at Rt. 2, Box 136-M5, Rockwell, NC 28138. The subfee is ten issues for \$3.50.

DOGS is mailed to the players on the day after the deadline. Well, most of the time anyway. Up until this issue I was only late once and then only by one day thanks to being called into work on deadline day. This issue is going to be a day late also because I did a dumb thing: when I scheduled this deadline I forgot that I would be at Marycon on the days I expected to publish the zine! If it's any consolation to those of you who worried why this issue didn't get to you on time, I've been kicking myself all month.

Stan's article last issue on draw votes got people writing. Below and on the last two pages are some comments on Stan's ideas...

From Charles Letcher: ... I agree wholeheartedly with all three of Stan's points on submitting draw proposals.

From John Michalski: Stan Johnson's remarks about NVRs having to be "no" votes are completely off base. His whole argument amounts to saying that it is unfair to penalize players who simply forget to vote no, which is absurd. Anyone who would agree would have to admit that it is even MORE unfair in a game that an NMR freezes their units; after all, an NVR=yes gives them part of the draw, while an NMR hurts them substantially in most cases. Stan asks that we not penalize non-voting, so what's the difference with non-ordering? Forgetfulness is forgetfulness, isn't it? Why punish it in one case and not the other?

((Me here. I'll stick by my remarks from last issue: I think that NVR should equal "no"; not to protect the player so much as to protect me from being accused of deliberately losing a vote in order to end a game. Another thing worries me about counting NVR=yes: suppose a player proposes a concession to himself in S'01 and nobody remembers to vote in F'01. I wonder what the Boardman Number Custodian would have to say to the win that would result if all those NVRs counted as yes votes. I hope that by counting NVR=no I can minimize the number of trivial proposals made by players hoping to sneak a vote through.))



1982IL PICTURE PRESS

PARIS to THE WORLD: The government of France regrets the slowdown in negotiations of late. This was due to an unfortunate and unavoidable incident involving the President's limousine. Be assured the person who made a left turn into the front of said vehicle has been dealt with properly.

GM to PARIS: I'm glad you thought of this - I've been meaning to suggest a Picture Press section. Anyone out there who'd like to give it a try is welcome to, but I must have any picture press at least twelve days before the deadline. And please keep it clean! I don't want a gross picture press contest with DOWN AND DIRTY.

1981IA

EUROPE IS BLACK AND BLUE

FALL 1911

Following Spring moves Germany retreated A Ukr to Mos. All of the draw proposals failed.

FRANCE (Dan Stafford): f EAS s GERMAN a ank-smy; f ion-AEG; a VEN-tri; a TYO s GERMAN a gal-vie; f lyo-TYH; a mar-PIE; a PIC s a bur; a BUR hold; f ENG s a bel; a BEL hold; f NWG s f vor-nth; f YOR-nth; f cly-EDI.

GERMANY (Mark Rowell): f NWY-nwg; f DEN-nth; f kie-HOL; f STP(nc) hold; a hol-RUH; a ruh-MUN; a mun-BOH; a gal-VIE; a sil-WAR; a ank-SMY; a MOS s a sev; a SEV hold.

ITALY (Porter Wightman): f BLA s AUSTRIAN a con-ank; f smy* eas.

AUSTRIA (Stan Johnson): a RUM s a ukr-gal; a vie-TRI; a SER s a vie-tri; a con-ANK; a tri-BUD; a GRE hold; a ukr-GAL.

The Italian F Smy must retreat to Syr or otb. The supply center chart is below.

F - home, spa, por, lon, edi, tun, ven, nap, bel, rom, lpl	(13) even
G - home, den, hol, swe, nwy, mos, stp, sev, war, <u>SMY</u> , <u>vie, ank</u>	(13) build 1
I - con, ank	(1) remove 1
A - tri, bud, ser, gre, rum, bul, <u>ank</u> , nie	(7) even

The retreat, Winter and Spring orders are due together at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28. Please vote on an F-G draw with those moves.

CONSTANTINOPLE: Admiral Sargasso today gave a rousing speech to the cleanup crews as he prepared his last ditch, desperation defense. "We certainly won't rust!" he exclaimed.

AUSTRIA to GM: You say draw votes aren't too much extra trouble for you. Here you couldn't be bothered to list all the votes called for. That seems contradictory to me.

GM to AUSTRIA: I thought what I did was just a simpler way of getting the same message across.

1983Z

SEPARATION REQUESTED

WINTER 1901

ENGLAND (Tom Thorsen): Build A Lon and F Edi. Has A's Lon and Yor; F's Edi, Nwy and Den.

FRANCE (Eric Diamond): Build F Bre and A Par. Has A's Par, Bur and Spa; F's Bre and Por.

GERMANY (Mike Cannon): Build F Kie and A Ber. Has A's Ber, Mun and Bel; F's Kie and Hol.

ITALY (Paul Grosch): Build F Nap. Has A's Ven and Tun; F's Nap and Ion.

AUSTRIA (Pete Sidelinger): Build A Vie and A Bud. Has A's Vie, Bud, Ser and Gre; F Tri.

RUSSIA (David Blaylock): Build A Stp and F Sev. Has A's Stp, Ukr and Rum; F's Sev, Bla and Swe.

TURKEY (Tim Burton): Build F Con (impossible); Has A's Arm and Bul; F Con.

The deadline for Spring moves is 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28. Press is on the bottom of the next page.

1982CQ

F-R-T DRAW FAILS

FALL 1906

ENGLAND (Steve Knight): NMR! f lon*hold.

FRANCE (John Michalski): a wal-LON; f ENG s a wal-lon; a nwy-FIN;
a bur-MAR; f SPA(sc) s a bur-mar; f mid-NAF; f nat-MID.

GERMANY (Ken Iverson): a ber*mun; a SIL-mun; a SWE s FRENCH a nwy-fin;
f nth-DEN; f BAR s f nwg-nwy; f nwg-nwy.

ITALY (Stan Johnson): a tyo*tri; a apu-ROM; f NAP s a apu-rom.

TWIDDLE DUM (Ed Menders): a STP-fin; a MOS-stp; a pru-BER; a WAR-sil;
a LVA s a mos-stp; f BAL s a pru-ber; a PIE-ven;
a VIE s TURISH a ven-tyo; f LYO s TURKISH f tun-wes.

TWIDDLE DEE (Dan Stafford): f tun-WES; f ion-TUN; f aeg-ION; a ven-TYO;
a TRI-ven; f adr-APU; a bul-SER.

The German A Ber must retreat to Kie or otb. The Italian A Tyo must retreat to Boh or otb. The English fleet is removed for lack of centers. The supply center chart is shown below.

E - X	(0) out
F - bre, mar, spa, por, lpl, bel, hol, lon	(8) build 1
G - mun, kie, den, swe, edi, par, nwy, ber	(7) build 1
I - rom, nap, X	(2) remove 1
R - home, rum, bud, vie, ven, ber, tyo	(9) even
T - home, bul, ser, gre, tri, tun	(8) build 1

The retreats and Winter orders are due by IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL so they arrive by 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15. Spring moves will then be due at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28. Press follows.

ITALY to GM: Boy, this position sucks! I thought you gave all the ones like this to your brother! I will be coming to N.C. soon, so if you are wise my next standby spot should be 8-11 centers, to make up for this!

GM to ITALY: My little brother is bigger than I am and he's moving down here next week, so I figured I'd better stop sticking him with lousy positions until he gets back to college this fall. You got this one because I know how much you like a good fight.

ITALY to TWIDDLE (CLARK) DEE AND TWIDDLE (LEWIS) DUM: What a pair of brutes you are! If you don't stop this instant, I'll just get soooo mad!

RUSSIA to ITALY and ENGLAND: Welcome to the game.

RUSSIA to GERMANY: Just bringing in the vodka that Hitler requested.

STRAIGHT PLAYER to LIST: I'll be there sooner than you think. Start worrying.

1983Z PRESS

FRANCE to WORLD: I will be out of town from June 8-24. This will limit my ability to correspond in SO2. But since the only person who writes me is Italy (as should be obvious from my moves and builds), I guess it won't matter.

BREST to LONDON: Maybe we should talk.

BURGUNDY to MUNICH: Maybe we should talk also.

PARIS to MOSCOW: I know we should talk.

Following Spring moves England retreated A Nwy to Fin and Italy retreated A Ven to Rom.

ENGLAND (Porter Wightman): f NWG-edi; f BAR-nwg; f lon-YOR; a FIN-swe.

FRANCE (Ben Schilling): a NAF-tun; f WES s a naf-tun; a pie-TUS; a BUR-bel; a pic-PAR.

GERMANY (Eric Diamond): a MUN-bur; a HOL-bel; a edi-LPL; f NTH-edi; f DEN-swe; f HEL-nth.

ITALY (Terry Richwine): a ROM hold; a TUN hold; f TYH s a tun; f ADR-ion.

AUSTRIA (Ichiro Matsumura): a bul-RUM; a con-BUL; a SER s a bul-rum; a tri-BUD; a VEN s FRENCH a pie-tus; f ION-gre.

RUSSIA (Jake Walters): f NWY s GERMAN f hel-nth; a STP s f nwy; a MOS s a stp; a ank-CON; a SMY s a ank-con; f BLA s a ank-con; a rum*bul.

TURKEY (Ed Menders): f AEG-gre.

The Russian A Rum must retreat to Ukr, Gal, Sev or otb. The Supply center chart is shown below.

E - edi, lon, lpl , lpl	(2) remove 1
F - home, spa, por	(5) even
G - home, hol, den, bel, <u>lpl</u>	(7) build 1
I - rom, nap, tun, lpl	(3) remove 1
A - home, ser, gre, bul, <u>ven</u> , <u>rum</u>	(8) build 2
R - home, swe, ank, <u>smv</u> , <u>nwy</u> , <u>con</u> , lpl	(9) build 2
T - lpl , lpl	(0) out

The retreat, Winter and Spring orders are due together at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28. I would like to do Winter by IRM moves, but as you'll see from the press there are a couple of you who wouldn't be able to handle the IRM moves. Press follows.

LONDON: England wishes to announce its availability as an anti-German puppet. Prime contenders for puppeteer are Jake and Ben. Other offers will be considered - we are an equal opportunity puppet. Just send a post card with your orders and I'll sign and send.

BERLIN to OUR COMRADES AT ARMS: Please be advised that the Kaiser will be out of the country from June 8-24. He will try to send out communique before he leaves, and will certainly respond to any correspondence awaiting him upon his return.

ROME to WORLD: Now that I have lulled you into a false sense of security....

AUSTRIA to WORLD: Yo ho ho, and I'll bottle up Rum.

AUSTRIA to RUSSIA: Twinke, twinkle, Little Czar
How I wonder what you are.
To think I could not make you die
I'll stick a pitchfork in your eye.
Twinke, twinkle, little Czar
You won't live to see the scar.

AUSTRIA to GERMANY: Now is the time for all good Germans to come to the aid of the party.

AUSTRIA to RUSSIA: You crane in the grass. (I don't know how that one got through Quality Control). ((Me either)).

ST PETE to WORLD: I'm going to Italy from 6/3 to 6/23 but have no fear - I will return.
((More on middle of next page))

1982N

ENGLAND FINDS AN ALLY IN RUSSIA

FALL 1909

ENGLAND (David Blaylock): f WAI-lpl; f eng-BEL; f NTH s f eng-bel; f nwg-CLY; f DEN-kie; f bal-BER.

FRANCE (Terry Richwine): f LPL hold; f bre-ENG; f MID s f bre-eng; a bel*s a hol; a HOL s a bel; a RUH s a bel; a BOH-gal; a TYO s a tri-vie; a tri-VIE; f ADR-tri; f ION hold; f TYH s f ior

GERMANY (Neil Daly): a KIE-hol; a MUN-ruh; a ber*kie.

AUSTRIA (Tim Burton): a vie*s RUSSIAN a sil-boh; a SER-tri.

RUSSIA (Stan Johnson): a PRU s ENGLISH f bal-ber; a SIL-boh; a STP hold; a bul-GRE; a rum-BUD; a GAL s AUSTRIAN a vie; a SMY hold; f gre-ALB; f aeg-EAS; f bla-CON.

The French A Bel must retreat to Bur, Pic or otb. The German A Ber and the Austrian A Vie are annihilated. The supply center chart is below.

E - lon, edi, nwy, swe, den, <u>ber</u> , <u>bel</u> , <u>XpX</u>	(7) build 1
F - home, spa, por, tun, nap, rom, ven, vie, tri, <u>lpl</u> , <u>hol</u> , <u>hax</u>	(13) build 1
G - kie, mun, <u>hax</u> , <u>hox</u>	(2) even
A - ser, <u>hax</u>	(1) even
R - home, rum, con, ank, smy, bul, gre, <u>bud</u>	(11) build 1

The French retreat and the Winter builds are due by IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL so they arrive by 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15. Neil has a COA to Rt. 2, Box 448, Rockwell, NC 28138 for the month of June. Spring moves are due at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28. Press follows.

PARIS to MOSCOW: Some hand of friendship you extended to Germany. I see you didn't recognize his right to Silesia.

PARIS to LONDON: Are you letting Russia take Norway uncontested? Or are you going to make him earn it?

PARIS to BERLIN: Don't you answer your mail?

RUSSIA to GERMANY: A more vigorous correspondence would have changed your fate. I must support my ally!

MORE 1982IL PRESS

ST. PETE to VIENNA: Reports of your double dealing are too numerous to ignore. If you moved against me your fate is sealed. If you kept your promise I'll return Con.

TURKEY: Medical authorities have announced that all camels in Smyrna and Ankara have herpies. Rumors of vodka ridden herpies camels to Constantinople are as yet unfounded.

TURKEY to AUSTRIA: I know you are a slow reader so I wrote my orders slowly.

TURKEY to ITALY: Couldn't find a Turkish flag for my coffin so I am going to use yours. Promise to have it back in time for you.

TURKEY to WORLD: Thanks to everyone. I feel that I have made some friends.

TURKEY to FRANCE: Stop helping Austria.

1982HB

ENGLAND GOES AFTER GERMANY
Otherwise, This Game Is A Yawner

WINTER 1905
SPRING 1906

- ENGLAND (Blaine Fowers): Even; f swe-BAL; a nwy-SWE; f nth-HEL;
f nwg-NTH; f bar-NWY; a STP s a mos; a MOS s RUSSIAN a ukr-sev.
- FRANCE (Dave Marshall): Build A Mar; a mar-PIE; f LYO s a mar-pie;
a pie-TUS; a ROM s a pie-tus; f TYH s a rom; f TUN s f tyh;
a BEL hold; f MID hold.
- GERMANY (Neil Daly): Even; a MUN-tyo; a GAL-vie; a BOH s a gal-vie;
a VAR-gal; f BEL hold; f DEN hold.
- AUSTRIA (Norm Schwartz): Build A Tri; a TRI s a vie; a TYO s a vie;
a VIE holds and gives the evil eye to the German hordes;
a SER s f gre; a BUL s a rum; a RUM s a bul and wishes A Ukr
luck; f GRE s TURKISH f ion (otm) and asks for peace; a VEN hold.
- RUSSIA (Stephen Lee): Even; a ukr-SEV.
- TURKEY (Dan Gorham): Even; f CON-bul(sc); f ION-gre; f AEG s f ion-gre;
f NAP-ion.

The deadline for Spring moves is 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28.

LONDON to BERLIN: Silence is ominous and I am using my best defense.
So sorry to have to bring my messages with armies.

LONDON to MOSCOW: Is this the alliance you were counting on?

VIENNA to CONSTANTINOPLE: Study the game's moves and our letters and
see who stabbed who. P.S. It's never too late.

1982AA

AUSTRIA MISSES!
England Slows French Attack

WINTER 1908
SPRING 1909

Following Fall moves England removed the dislodged F Stp(nc) and
Italy retreated A Pie-Ven.

- ENGLAND (Tim Burton): Even; f NAF-mid; f NTH-eng; f NWY-nth; f SKA-den;
f SWE s f ska-den.
- FRANCE (Jim Grosch): Built F Bre and F Mar; f BRE-eng; f mar-LYO;
f mid-NAT; f WES-mid; f lyo-SPA(sc); a DEN s RUSSIAN a fin-swe;
a bur-BEL; a HOL s a bur-bel; a PIE s AUSTRIAN a tyo-ven (nso).
- ITALY (Mark Rowell): Removed A Gre; a VEN s f tus; f TYH s f tun;
f TUS s f tyh; f TUN s f tyh.
- AUSTRIA (Steve Knight): Built A Vie and A Bud; NMR! a LVA, a BER, a MUN,
a TYO; a VIE, a BUD, a RUM and f NAP hold.
- RUSSIA (Brent Adams): Even; f STP(nc)-nwy; a FIN-swe.
- TURKEY (Jake Walters): Even; a MOS s RUSSIAN f stp; a UKR hold;
a SEV hold; f con-AEG; f aeg-ION; a arm-SMY.

The deadline for Fall moves is 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28.
Standing by for Steve will be Al Ross (6125 Honeysuckle Lane, Charlotte,
NC 28212). I don't expect Steve to miss the next move, though. Press
follows.

CONSTANTINOPLE: I'll be away until 6/24, on vacation. Will write to
all upon my return.

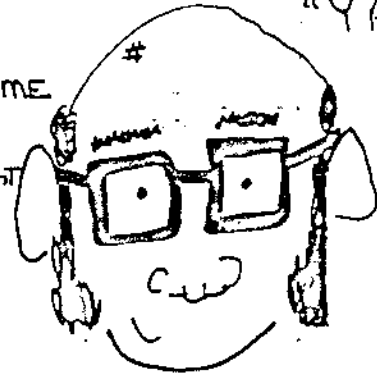
PLAYER NOTES

Thanks to everyone who got their moves in early so I could get most
of the zine done before leaving for MaryCon. It sure made things
easier on me this issue.

FROM TERRY TALLMAN'S NORTH SOUTH WEST GEAST

Hi little dippers! I'm Mark Berch and I'm a
YAWNER! AND THIS IS THE -
"YAWNER POLL"

QUITE FRANKLY NSWG IS TOO ENTERTAINING FOR ME TO EVEN THINK ABOUT BUT WHEN I HEARD THAT THAT INCREDIBLY NON-CONTROVERSIAL SZINE WAS GOING TO RUN A POLL ON BORING SZINES I JUST HAD TO BE PARODIED. IF YOU'RE A PUBBER, TERRY WANTS YOU TO PLUG IT IN YOUR SZINE. IF YOU WANT YOU CAN EVEN COPY THIS PART OF THE PAGE.



THE CATEGORIES IN THIS POLL ARE:

- MOST BORING SZINE
- MOST BORING PUBBER
- MOST BORING PLAYER
- MOST BORING SUBSZINE
- SPECIAL INTEREST CATEGORIES
- MOST OBNOXIOUS HOBBY MEMBER
- MOST OUT-OF-TOUCH-WITH-THE-HOBBY-MAINSTREAM PUBLISHER

HOBBY PEARL DIVER - A CATEGORY THAT WILL ONLY MAKE SENSE TO NSWG READERS.

YOU CAN VOTE FOR AS MANY PEOPLE OR PLACES OR SZINES AS YOU WANT. JUST LIST THE ONE YOU FEEL MOST STRONGLY ABOUT FIRST AND WORK DOWN. YOU DON'T NEED TO LIST EVERY SZINE, PLAYER OR PUBBER YOU KNOW - JUST THE ONES YOU FEEL ARE WORTHY. AND NO, I WON'T DISCUSS TALLMAN'S RATING SYSTEM HERE. BUT IF YOU ORDER DIP DIGEST ISSUES 467Z THRU 518Z I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE.

BALLOTS ARE DUE JUNE 15TH - 1983
SEND THEM TO:

YAWNER POLL C/O TERRY TALLMAN
820 W. ARMOUR ST.
SEATTLE, WA. 98119

FROM ROD WALKER (1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024)

1. Please announce the publication of ARDA 11 from the North American Variant Bank. It's \$1 from me. Contents are 2 British variants: Beleriand (set in JRR Tolkien's First Age of Middle-earth) and Warwick (a Wars of the Roses variant) and two articles: one on variant design and one on the various versions of the Youngstown Variant. 16pp.

2. DW 34 will soon be out. Subs are \$8 (\$10 first class or in Canada... US \$). The new Demo Game, 1983X, begins thish. We have an all-star cast: Mark Berch, winner of the last Demo; Konrad Baumeister, winner of the DipCon IV tournament; Larry Peery, editor of XENOGOGIC and author of The Strategy and Tactics of Postal Diplomacy; Edi Birsan, the infamous BirSauron of hobby legend; Lee Kendler, editor of WHY ME? and former BNC and present MNC; Don Ditter, present BNC; Paul Rauterberg, long-time player and editor of THIRTY MILES OF BAT DUNG... commentary by Eric Verneiden and GMing by (name withheld to protect that elderly). Don't miss this smashing free-for-all, in which the end of S01 saw more foreign units in Austria than Austrian units! Has BirSauron already met his match(es)??? Tune in to DW 34 and find out the shocking denouement of this cliff-hanger. (If subscribing after 10 June, #34 will already be published and available for \$2.50 from me as a back issue.)

SECOND ANNUAL EMINENT AWARDS OFFICIAL BALLOT (1983)

You can use this form, or any piece of paper with your vote written in. Thanks to all those who submitted nomination forms. The nominations look fair, but I have as promised left in the space for the write-in vote. The deadline for ballots is August 5, 1983.

In each category simply check the nomination for which you are voting in the space provided. Thanks.

BEST ZINE (5)

- Coat of Arms
 - Europa Express
 - Magus
 - Murd'ring Ministers
 - Whitestonia
-

BEST NEW ZINE (5)

- Magus
 - Midlife Crisis
 - No Fixed Address
 - The Prince
 - Thirty Miles of Bad Road
-

BEST ZINE FOR HOBBY NEWS (5)

- Diplomacy World
 - Europa Express
 - Magus
 - Murd'ring Ministers
 - Whitestonia/Kathy's Korner
-

BEST ZINE FOR GAMES OTHER THAN "DIPLOMACY" (6)

- Bushwacker
 - Emhain Macha
 - Envoy
 - Life of Monty
 - The Shogun's Sword
 - Ter-ran
-

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (5)

- John Daly (orphans)
 - Don Ditter (BNC)
 - Roy Henricks (ZD)
 - Lee Kendter, Sr. (BN/MNC)
 - Larry Peery (Miller Award)
-

MOST IMPROVED ZINE (3)

- Anduin
 - Modern Patriot
 - Retaliation
-

BEST ZINE LETTER COLUMN (5)

- Anduin
 - Appalling Greed
 - Europa Express
 - Sleepless Knights
 - Whitestonia/Kathy's Korner
-

BEST LOOKING ZINE (6)

- Diplomacy World
 - Envoy
 - Europa Express
 - Damn The Torpedoes
 - Snafu!
-

BEST ZINE FOR "DIPLOMACY" (6)

- Appalling Greed
 - Cheesecake
 - Coat of Arms
 - Dogs of War
 - Ter-ran
 - Murd'ring Ministers
-

BEST GAMESMASTER (6)

- Gary Coughlan
 - Steve Langley
 - Andy Lischett
 - Steve Heinowski
 - Jim Mienel
 - Bob Sergeant
-

Mail to: Michael Mills
26 Laurel Rd.
Sloatsburg, NY 10974

From: _____

17 May 1983

SOME FURTHER THOUGHTS ON DRAW VOTES

Rod Walker

There is no doubt, as Stan Johnson points out, that the harassment of constant petty draw proposals is an annoyance players and GM ought not to have to put up with. This is not something which happened much in the early days of the hobby. People played the game to win it, and a draw was generally only a last resort: in any event, draws were generally legitimate events. I do not mean to sanction an unfortunate morbid fascination with victory for its own sake. Even if a game is played strictly for fun, aiming at the hope of victory is the best way to play it. However, a draw is honorable if that's how the game has to end.

It is true, however, that players have shown an increasing tendency to propose draws of various sorts. Sometimes proposing a vote on a draw is part of one's diplomacy. I personally question whether the use of this technique is strictly good sportsmanship, but many good and admirable players would argue that it's legitimate. In any event, I feel the GM has to be careful to play a minimal role in this, because draw proposals are often parts of diplomatic designs.

Much as I think Stan's proposals have merit, and are certainly one way of approaching the problem, in the final result I don't feel they are the best way of dealing with it. Requiring that an affirmative vote actually be cast by every player, from the GM's point of view, is asking for continuation of the game long after it is for all intents over. Furthermore, counting NVR=No simply rewards the careless or forgetful player and this is not behavior which ought to be rewarded. I prefer (and use) NVR=Yes in most instances, and on all draw votes, since if a player hasn't sufficient interest to register a vote the game might as well end.

I question whether it is at all good to reveal the proposer of a draw. If you are ultimately going to announce how every player voted, OK. However, if you are conducting a secret ballot it seems unfair to me to reveal the name of the proposer and requiring that he vote "yes", thus forcing him to be the only player whose vote is known. This procedure (announcing who proposed a draw) would be OK if the proposer were still free to vote as he pleases, but not in tandem with the other provision. Not at all.

Requiring the proposer of a draw to vote for it is unacceptable, insofar as I am concerned. For one thing, it is a well-known and acceptable parliamentary ploy to introduce a motion which you intend to vote against. More importantly, however, remember this: a player proposes a draw when he sends in his orders. On the basis of the results of that season, he may cease to be in favor of the draw he himself proposed (and favored) beforehand. Suppose a player has 14 centers and proposes a draw with his Fall orders. Unexpectedly, he nets 3 centers and is about to win. How, in the name of justice, can you require this person to vote in favor of a draw simply because he proposed it? No, a player must be free to vote for a proposal on the basis of the moves which he can see only after he has made it.

There are other ways, better ways, to diminish the number of harassing draw proposals. One is a requirement I have: that no player may be excluded from the draw who is as large as, or larger than, a player included in it. A draw is, after all, a joint victory, and if one of the losers hasn't been cut down to size, how can you claim you defeated him (even if he votes for the draw that excludes him)? (In like wise, I also require that if a victory is awarded by concession, the conceded winner must be the largest Power on the board.)

Another way to reduce frivolous draw votes is to require that if a particular draw is defeated, it may not be repropoed until there has been significant progress in the game. That can be defined in terms of seasons

played or some other criterion (or set of criteria) which the GM finds reasonable. This prevents the continual, repetitions introduction of the same draw season after season.

I have no doubt that these ideas can be justly criticized, particularly the second. There is probably no way of resolving the problem which Stan so ably presents...at least, ~~not~~ by GM action...without introducing other problems, potential or actual. You could of course cut the Gordian Knot by going to DIAS. After all, when it comes down to it, the Rulebook specifies that all surviving players share equally in a draw. I don't like DIAS; in fact, I despise it greatly...but there is no denying that of all draw results, it is the only one which is Scriptural, so to speak.

The real solution to the problem of draws is developing a sense of fair play, good sportsmanship, and balance on the part of players. A draw should be proposed only when it is a reasonable end to the game. The players have a right to propose and vote on draws any time they wish, of course; but a right should not be abused. Rights which are ~~not~~ abused are in grave danger of being reduced, circumscribed, or taken away. I have not doubt that some GMs have gone to the extreme of DIAS primarily ~~as~~ as a move to avoid the sorts of draw proposals and votes Stan complains of. I nearly did it myself in the D.W. Demo Game (1983X), despite my loathing for it, and for that reason. But I'm dealing with 7 mature, reasonable, and seasoned players, and I have hopes that we won't see that sort of juvenile nonsense.

And that's what it comes down to. Are we adults playing an adult game, or are we little kiddies out pushing wooden blocks? The mature player is going to use his right to propose draws reasonably. What are you going to do with the puerile twerp who proposes (as I have seen done) a draw vote in 1901 or 1902? What the hell is such an idiot playing Diplomacy for in the first place? He should only go back to Risk or Fish or whatever he came to the adult world from. No, the real solution to this problem is to convince the players that they need to behave as responsible adults.

Certainly Stan's #II proposal, identifying the submitters of draw proposals, would go a long way toward helping (so long as it is not used in tandem with the unacceptable #III). My own HRs are silent on that point, providing only that the vote is by secret ballot. I am probably going to adopt Stan's proposal for naming the proposer (despite the screams I shall assuredly incur from Alexandria).

Thanks for a thoughtful article, Stan.

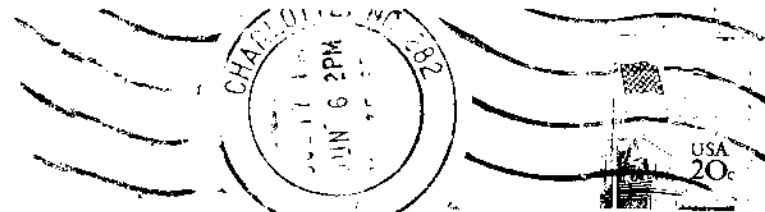
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