

This is EFGIART, the new year postal Diplomacy zine brought to you by Doug Beyerlein, 640 College, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Phone 415-329-8034. Never call between 9 pm and 7 am.

EDITORIAL

This seems to be the time of year to reflect on the past year's events and make resolutions for the new year. I have never made it a practice of doing this in the pages of EFGIART, but for this issue I will make an exception.

The postal Diplomacy hobby is at a very dangerous crossroads. In 1984 we saw the escalation of an ever widening feud between Bruce Linsey and Kathy Byrne. Not only are these two well known Diplomacy leaders throwing barbs at each other, but their friends on each side are being engulfed into what is becoming a bottomless quagmire of accusations and counter accusations. Much of the hobby press has taken sides in these attacks. Zines filled with this kind of endless verbiage are not fun to read; although apparently their editors find them fun to write.

The hobby has seen more than its share of feuds in the past and, while some have been quite colorful, I cannot remember any that divided so many people and for which it was so difficult to judge the relative merits of each side's case. For these reasons this particular feud greatly bothers me and makes me wonder if this feud can be resolved -- or at least buried. If it continues it will only serve to split the hobby and drive away prospective hobby members whose only interest is to play postal Diplomacy.

Can this feud be resolved? Optimistically I answer yes, but the only two people who can actually make it happen are Bruce Linsey and Kathy Byrne. If either one of them don't want to stop the spreading of flames the fire will continue to grow. And if the intensity of the attacks continue to escalate there will be considerable damage to the hobby and the principals on each side of the conflict.

How can this feud be ended? Short of one side driving the other out of the hobby (something that I hope won't happen as both Bruce and Kathy have done and can continue to do much good work for the hobby), the feud can only be ended by both sides either submitting their dispute to binding third party arbitration or burying the feud without further word on the subject. I ask that both Bruce and Kathy seriously consider these two options and I offer to do whatever I can to facilitate such an agreement.

What will happen if this feud cannot be successfully ended? I hate to predict bad news, but I can easily see a widening split in the hobby structure as each side continues its war on the other. The real damage will at first come to those whose only goal is to play in postal Diplomacy games. The hobby infrastructure (services, etc.) will suffer and people will be less willing to take on hobby oriented tasks. Eventually, if this war of words is allowed to continue, it will rip the hobby apart and destroy much of what has been built up over the past 22 years.

As much as I am concerned about the hobby's future I am even more concerned about what this feud is doing to Bruce Linsey and Kathy Byrne. The scars of a battle of this sort are deep and will last a long time. Even the winner (if there is one) will not get off lightly. And things will never be the way that they once were for either one of the antagonists or their supporters. Ultimately I can see this battle being waged in the courts if it cannot be stopped any other way. Slander and libel may not be easy to prove in a court of law, but I have seen a number of things in the Diplomacy press that could be financially very damaging to their authors if this feud should end up in court.

We are now at the start of a new year. I resolve that I will do all that I can in '85 to make this hobby of ours a better and more enjoyable place in which to spend our leisure time. Are you willing to say the same? For the good of the hobby say yes.

And now for something completely different:

1983HK -- Spring 1905

ENGLAND (Robert Anderson) a fin-swe, f wal-eng, f nth-hol, f nwy s a fin-swe.
 FRANCE (Paul Rauterberg) a ruh-bel, a bur s a ruh-bel, a par-pic, a mar h, f mid s f spasc, f spasc s a mar.

GERMANY (Michael Keller) a kie-ruh, a den-kie, a bel s a kie-ruh /a/, f swe-bal, f hol-nth.

ITALY (David Anderson) a ser-rum, a pie-mar, a vie-gal, a tri-bud, a ven-tyr, f bulsc-aeg /r-gre,otb/, f wmed-nafr, f tyrr-wmed, f glyo s f tyrr-wmed, f nap-ion.

RUSSIA (Chuck Egli) a sil-mun, a stp h, a war-lva, f ber-kie.

TURKEY (Pierre Touchette) a ukr-gal, a rum s f con-bulsc, f bla s f con-bulsc, f con-bulsc, f smy-aeg.

German A Belgium is dislodged and annihilated for lack of a possible retreat.
 Italian F Bulgaria (south coast) is dislodged and must retreat to Greece or off the board. The deadline for the retreat and Fall 1905 orders is Saturday, 9 February 1985, noon PST.

Press:

Italy to France: Purely precautionary.

Italy to Turkey: As I said in my letter about a quote from Wendall Owen, "My subject is war and the pity of war." Comprendi?

Italy to Germany: Hold on! Helps on the way... I think...!

Italy to England: Whenever you can... it will be appreciated.

Italy to Russia: Very strange builds. What are you up to, my comradski in armski?

1982HH -- Winter 1908

The concession to Turkey fails

Italian A Munich retreats to Bohemia.

Turkish F North Atlantic Ocean retreats to the Irish Sea.

1982HH cont'd.

ENGLAND: Build A London

ITALY: Remove A Vienna, F Tyrrhenian Sea

TURKEY: Build A Constantinople, F Smyrna

-- pre-Spring 1909 (separation of seasons requested)

AUSTRIA (Brad Wilson) Has a stp.

ENGLAND (Dale Bakken) Has a fin, a mun, a kie, a yor, a lon, f eng, f bal, f bre, f mid, f nat, f nwg.

FRANCE (Konrad Baumeister) Has a bur, a spa, f por.

ITALY (Melinda Ann Holley) Has a boh, a tyr, a mar, a pie, f glyo.

TURKEY (Bill Quinn) Has a ber, a pru, a sil, a mos, a gal, a tri, a apu, a con, f wmed, f iri, f tun, f nafr, f ion, f smy.

There is a proposal for a five-way AEFIT draw. The deadline for Spring 1909 orders and vote on the draw is Saturday, 9 February 1985, noon PST.

Press:

England to Italy: I hope you are on the good side.

England to Turkey: Seems to me you are doing this very slowly. Kinda like pulling teeth!

StP to London: Come on, Dale, get on your horse, or Turkey's going to own everyone's stable.

Paris to St Petersburg: Strangely enough, right after I stopped writing Bakko, he stopped taking my centers. I'm not going to tamper with success. Maybe you should try it...

NEWS

The house remodeling continues. Everything is a mess, but slowly order is being restored. It may be a while, though, before I can bring my computer home again. Sigh.

No cycling or running news since last issue. Too busy with the holidays and showing Marie's relatives from Illinois and Virginia the sights of California.

See you in February!