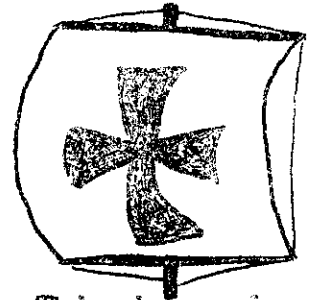


ERHWON

Incorporating LILLIPUT
#51.....3 August 1971



Weigh anchor! This is ERHWON, postal Diplomacy's* journal of discovery and other good eggs. There are no game openings; subscriptions are 7/\$1. This is Pandemonium Publication #353, edited and published by Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego CA 92116; telephone (714) 282-1921; member, NFFFGB DippyDiv, IFW DipSoc, and the DipAssoc.

This issue is dedicated to Cristoforo Colón (Columbus), who weighed anchor at Palos, Spain, on 3 August 1492, sailing west for Japan. But there was something in his way....

*DIPLOMACY is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhamer and copyright by Games Research, Inc., 48 Wareham St., Boston MA 02118, and available therefrom, postpaid, for \$8. The English set, copyright by Intellectual Diversions, Ltd., is occasionally seen in this country in import/gift shops for around \$4.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. ADDRESS CHANGES. Gary Jones, c/o Lewis Lingua, 4228 Woodcrest Dr., Memphis TN 38111. Gary will shortly have a permanent residence in Memphis, but this temporary one is effective now. Stephen Lissandrello advises me I have been misspelling his first name: two e's, no a. Sorry, Steve.

2. VARIANT GAMES. I still need 2 players for my Peloponnesian War game in CAPTOR (see ERHWON 48) and a few for Aberration III in ZOTHIQUE (see ERHWON 46).

3. NEW HOUSE-RULE. Add to the Pandemonium Press House-Rules of 15 June 1971 the following: *39. ADVISORS. If any player accepts, from the Diplomacy Association or any other organization, an "Advisor", "Consultant" or other person who assists or advises him in the play of games generally or in the play of a specific Pandemonium Press game, he is required to make full public disclosure of this fact. He must submit the name of his "Consultant" ("Advisor", whatever) to the Gamesmaster within two weeks of the assignment of the "Consultant" (etc.) or immediately upon his entry into a game, whichever occurs first. He must also notify the GM within two weeks of any change in "Consultant" or other alterations in his status. All such information will be published in the relevant 'zines. Failure to comply with this House-Rule will result in the removal of the player from all games under the provisions of House-Rule 11.

GOD HELP THE POOR OLD DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION

John Beshara, whose skin is so thin that it seems at times almost to disappear is, as usual, in a lather. Every time I mention the Diplomacy Association, John starts screaming that it is an "attack". Is it? I leave that to the reader's judgement, with the caveat that criticism is not necessarily an attack. I do not desire to make the Diplomacy Association, nor Chairman Beshara, look silly, bad, or evil; let those chips fall where they may. I criticize the DA because, first, I wish it to do right, even above doing well, and second, because many people prefer not to speak out because they wish not to offend Chairman Beshara. It is unfortunate, but true, that anyone who has the temerity to disagree with Chairman Beshara is immediately accused of "attacking" him, and is branded as stupid, idiotic, contentious, power-mad, hateful, and many other things from Chairman Beshara's seemingly

unexhaustable supply of names and epithets. This is unfortunate, because we would hope that any organization which is just starting out would be willing to accept, with an open mind, criticism aimed at improving it. It may be emotionally satisfying to brand one's critics as irresponsible enemies and dash off reams of hate-letters (and hate-calls) to dozens of people all over the country, but I hope that Chairman Beshara may someday find that his best friends are not those who say, "Yes, master", but those who say, "No, damnit!"

In EREWON 50, I discussed the dangers of the DA's apparent desire to keep details, names, data, statistics, facts in general, secret. Why is this so? Why are we mortals not to be trusted with concrete information about the organization to which we belong? Consider this: the person who controls that information can say anything he likes to anyone, without fear of being contradicted by the facts. This is a dangerous power--and even if I trusted Chairman Beshara to wield such power wisely, which I do not, I would still protest his having it. Such secrets may be all right in a government or a competitive corporation, but they are morally, ethically, totally wrong in a supposedly democratic, voluntary organization. The right to know is inherent in membership.

This passion for secrecy seems to be everywhere in Chairman Beshara's dealing with the world. His voluminous letters condemning me in the wildest possible terms always contain the exhortation that the contents be kept secret. Why? Because if they were not, I might be able to answer Chairman Beshara's ridiculous claims and charges. Does this cloak of secrecy serve us? Yes, I think so. Even in print this has happened. In ATLANTIS, Chairman Beshara claimed I had never told him that I had no interest whatsoever in a seat on the DA's Board of Directors--yet even then he had at hand my letter of 9 March 1971 in which I said exactly that. I have called this to John's attention. How much you want to bet he "can't find" such a letter? Of course, now that I've said that, he may come across it, which is why I said it, of course.

The question is, if Chairman Beshara is not above all sorts of shenanigans in his feud with me, and since he has connected the DA with that feud by claiming I am "attacking" it, can we really trust anything he says? Maybe yes and maybe no. The only way to know for sure is full public disclosure of all facts.

I again call upon Chairman Beshara, therefore, to release to the membership of the DA, and to the Diplomacy world generally, all pertinent data regarding that organization: membership list, financial statement, particulars on the "Consultant" program, details of accomplishments, workings of the Board of Directors, &c. Or are we just peons, to accept the "word from on high"?

###

This is for the DA's own good in another way, too. Since only Chairman Beshara (and perhaps a few favorites and cronies) is privileged to have accurate information, the rumor mill has already started to grind. So far I have been told, about a future election for the DA's Directors:

- a. There will be none; Beshara will simply appoint.
- b. There will be one, but it will be a Soviet-style election, with only a single "approved" slate of candidates for whom we may vote "yes" or "no".
- c. There will be one, but the candidates can only reach the members through Chairman Beshara and say only what he approves.
- d. There will be one, in a year or two, when Chairman Beshara's position will have been eliminated or discredited.

None of these rumors sounds very healthy, but it could be that none of them is true. Let us hope so. But how can we know, if the DA does not release details? There are other rumors equally disturbing. Does the DA wish to protect itself from such stories (assuming they are untrue), or does it prefer to brand all those who feel all is not wholesome in the state of Danmark as heretics and evildoers and assume that name-calling is evidence?

I think it's about time we all knew what was going on.

THAT NEW HOUSE-RULE

I hope you have all noted House-Rule 39. I mean it. I have been doing some thinking since the ERHWON 50 editorial, most of it relating to this question of giving advice to players.

Those of us who are experienced players are often asked for advice. I have given it where I felt it would not unduly influence a game, and I will always provide a player's game record--which I publish anyway--upon request. Most players want to know how trustworthy other players are, rather than how good, but that information is always touchy because many of us hold different viewpoints of the same players and such viewpoints are always highly subjective.

It therefore seems to me that anyone who advises new players always takes the risk of unduly interfering in a game. Even on questions of tactics and strategy, approaches are often conditioned by who's in the game. Quite obviously, anybody who advises new players has enormous power over games he's not playing in. I have given advice to many new players which I am sure affected their styles of playing; John Beshara has made quite a fetish of this sort of thing in NewYork, which helps to explain the remarkable similarity in playing styles among the newer players from that area.

But is it ethical to exercise such influence? I can't help it; my columns in STRATEGY & TACTICS are too widely read--but that influence is theoretically available to anyone who wishes to buy S&T. But what about the more direct influence on the player who asks for help, advice, information, whatever?

Quite frankly, I now believe such detailed "coaching" of players is unethical. It is not available to all players, and it is too easily biased and perhaps even wrong. Even if such advice is forbidden, the temptation to give it is often more than we mortals can resist. No, "advice" is dangerous. I think we ought to limit ourselves to noting a player's public game record and a list of 'zines in which he plays to which others may turn and judge for themselves what kind of player he is.

Now the Diplomacy Association has acted to perpetuate this kind of thing, and to perpetuate it in a particularly unfortunate manner. First, I have no doubt that the DA's "Consultants" do not include anyone who has dared to disagree with ("attack") Chairman Beshara, nor any of those who disagree with ("attack") what the DA is doing. That's going to skew the whole program to begin with.

Second, the "Consultants" are not subject to public scrutiny. They can do as they wish under cover of official secrecy. There may be groundrules to cover this, but we have not been told what they are nor how they are to be enforced (if at all). Like Chairman Beshara, I could think of a lot of names to call that situation, but let's just say it is unfair.

Third, you cannot extract this system from the personalities involved, even if the "Consultants" limit themselves to generalized help with grand strategy, management of play, and so on (which I doubt it is possible for mere mortals to do)(especially in this game). styles of play differ from

player to player, and what a "Consultant" thinks about the game is obviously going to affect the ways in which his consultee plays. But how can another player compensate for this if he doesn't know who the "Consultant" is?

The upshot of these problems is that those of us who are concerned about the future of the game of Diplomacy need to take a stand on this question. Because of its dangerous implications, we could condemn the entire "Consultant" program and try to get it stopped. But since this sort of thing has been going on informally for years, and always will, I don't believe that is an answer.

It seems to me that it would be better merely to insure that the worst potential aspects of this thing are prevented from realization and that its potential for good is increased. Specifically, I propose:

- a. That the limits of advice a "Consultant" ought to give are clearly stated to the player and that unethical types of "advice" should be noted.
- b. That there be full public disclosure of consultants and consultees be made by the Diplomacy Association.
- c. A pamphlet or booklet be prepared covering the commonly asked questions about the game and indicating the kinds of specific information which is normally given by the consultants anyway. This should obviate the need for a consultant in most cases, if it is properly done and updated at frequent and regular intervals.

The time to work on achieving this is now. We cannot wait for Chairman Beshara to do all these things. For one thing, he is only one person. For another, the fact that I have made this proposal has already doomed it in his eyes. John has long since set himself to say "Z" whenever I say "A".

Thus, we have House-Rule 39. I urge my fellow Gamesmasters to adopt similar rules for the protection of their players. I ask my players to cooperate voluntarily with this (assuming any of you have consultants), and I urge you to ask other GMs you're with to think about this and take some action.

###

One final word, to my fellow Gamesmasters. Remember that if Chairman Beshara and his DA are answerable to no-one, we are all in danger. John has already begun to gloat, in letters and telephone conversations, about how he is putting EREWON out of business, getting people not to join my games, and so on. This is not actually happening, but consider: if John Beshara could put me out of business tomorrow, he could put you out of business next week. Anyone who disagreed with him could be blackballed. Is that what you want? Do you want one man with so much power he could dictate policy to any "zine which wanted to survive?

What is the answer? To do away with the DA? No. The DA can do much good for this hobby once it ceases to be concerned with who's on what side. The answer is to make the DA responsible. It must be subject to the approval of its members for its actions; it must freely and fully disclose information. It must promote an active and informed membership. It must be "run by the members for the members", as Chairman Beshara has once promised.

I have spoken out on this because someone must speak out. Len Lakofka and Bob Johnson have also spoken out. Not to condemn the DA or its goals and purposes, but to express their fears that the DA is not living up to those goals and purposes. Within and without the DA, Chairman Beshara has pursued a feud with me which is without reason and without need. I fear that the DA may die of this feud; yes, and I fear worse than that. I have been outspoken--although I have been warned that Chairman Beshara is volatile and easily angered by imagined slights--but I feel Chairman Beshara has all too often given us the answers when we have yet to ask--much less discuss--the questions.

I am not attacking John. I am criticizing the structure he has already set up and suggesting it ought to be changed. It holds no water with me to say (as John does repeatedly), "I pay for it so I should run it any way I like". If a "John Beshara Fan Club" is wanted, then why disguise it as a supposedly democratic "Diplomacy Association"...and if the DA is not supposed to be democratic, why pretend in the beginning that it was? Either this is an organization to represent and serve all Diplomacy players or it is something John Beshara can run for his own pleasure and benefit. If the former, then the thing is being run very strangely; if the latter, I suggest we have all been deceived.

THE EDITOR LICKS HIS WOUNDS

Ordinarily, I prefer not to go around patting myself on the back, but it seems to me that blowing my own trumpet will be emotionally good for me and may be useful in all the current nastiness. Chairman Beshara and his chief toad Dick Miller have spared no pains, privately and in print, to accuse me of being malicious, jealous, spiteful, and useless. After years of devoting myself to the welfare of the game, that hurts. Such petty personal attacks seem almost unreal, and they are disappointing and unfair in view of the facts.

In 1969 I took a leaderless and almost defunct NFFFGB Diplomacy Division and helped it grow and function. Continuing the early policy of Games masters only membership, I conceived of the DD as something like the "Kiwanis" of postal Diplomacy, a group of the hobby's leaders devoted to service projects. Among other achievements, the Division commissioned Walt Buchanan to direct an Archives project, preserving postal Diplomacy's written heritage. We commissioned Gary Jones to start DIPLOGROK, which I hope someday will be a major Diplomacy genzine. Both Walt and Gary are of course independent agents in these projects, with very limited guidelines from the Division chief. In addition, the Division began postal Diplomacy's first organized project to rescue abandoned games and began our first drive for new players (through a flyer placed in Diplomacy sets late last year). As Chief, I obtained Bureau Chairman Don Miller's permission to turn my own position from appointive to elective and won reelection by a huge margin. Every question of importance is now carried to the members for vote; in fact, the only real control I retain these days is designed to prevent the work load from getting so large that no one person could do it, which would cause the administration of the DD to collapse. Even now, it's a little much, but the results are worth it.

Under the aegis of the Division, I undertook the rescue of abandoned regular games. During this year alone, games in VERBAL CHAOS, BROBDINGNAG, STAB, RAGNAROK, IF, and other 'zines have been rescued, either entirely by my activity or with my assistance. This service for players is almost the most important thing I do, and it is enormously time-consuming.

Late last year we undertook a major push for new players. In cooperation with GRI, I wrote (and John McCallum amended) a flyer which was printed by GRI and placed in the sets being sold. This flyer described the hobby and listed several people to whom prospective players could write. We have had very good response. In addition, my Diplomacy column in STRATEGY AND TACTICS, which reaches well over 2000 wargamers, has advertised postal play, and the vast majority of new players over the past 6 months or so have come into postal Diplomacy from this route and the GRI flyer.

In 1969, when John Koning first began to experience difficulty in publishing, he passed on to me the responsibility for maintaining the standard Boardman Numbers for postal regular games. This entails a vast amount of

record-keeping and other extra work I don't really have adequate time for, but I do anyway because of the importance of this responsibility. The maintenance of these records is of great importance to rating systems and to anyone who wishes to study the game, and it is easily the most thankless job in the business. In conjunction with this, I publish new game listings, changes, and completed game summaries in NUMENOR. I am now making arrangements for more permanent storage and wider dissemination of this data through machine records. If all the bugs can be worked out, the result will be TERMINUS, a periodical edited jointly by myself and Tony Pandin and published by Tony. Again, more extra work in transcribing, updating, correcting, and rechecking data. Sometimes I wonder if anyone really cares about accurate records of past games.

In addition, in the past two years I have Gamesmastered more postal games and published more Diplomacyazines (in both numbers and in number of separate titles) than any other Gamesmaster or Editor in the hobby. I have researched questions for people, written columns and reviews, published a steady stream of information, advertized generally nearly every single game opening available, designed variants, and god knows what-all. Quite frankly I know of no-one who has done as much in these two years to advance the general state of postal Diplomacy as I have.

I'm not asking for a gold medal. I did what I did because I wanted to, because I enjoyed doing it, because I thought that what I was doing was helpful and/or necessary. What have I got for all this? Privately, an occasional pat on the back; well, I didn't ask for even that--I was satisfied with the practical results of jobs done. Publically, for the most part I have been the target of vicious and hysterical criticism from ungrateful persons who seem to feel that abuse is a substitute for logic and that lying is a virtue.

Perhaps I am being overly emotional. There are times when I feel like strutting it all off and saying to you guys, "all right, you keep the records, run the games, manage the Division, find homes for orphans, and all that; see how much work it really is." I am tired of doing all this work for the good of postal Diplomacy and defending myself against lies, half-lies, innuendoes, misquocations, and hate campaigns being conducted by people who think that they, not I, are gods.

This is a game, but there are people abroad who take it so seriously that they spoil it for the rest of us. Well, in spite of their petty "me-firstism", I still enjoy this hobby of ours, and I hope to for some years to come. I will continue to work for the good of postal Diplomacy, so long as I have the time and energy to do so.

And if my criticisms of things I think are wrong or unjust are "attacks", then so be it, make the most of it. I will continue to speak out against those who would corrupt postal Diplomacy in the guise of improving it, and enslave it in the guise of saving it. On these important questions, game or no game, "I am in earnest--I will not equivocate--I will not excuse--I will not retreat a single inch--and I will be heard." (W.L. Garrison)

.....
 O MAY BE GOD--A COMMON ENOUGH DELUSION--BUT YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME CREDIT FOR THIS BIT OF ORIGINALITY: MY ONLY BEGOTTEN SON IS A GIRL.

I shall lift up mine eyes unto the Gamesmaster, whence cometh
 THE GAMES

1970AE -- TO FORGIVE IS HUMAN; TO ERR, DIVINE

Summer 1965: Uck! Well, it turns out that Leonard Garland did send me a copy of the '65. He had seen his '64 removal 4 days late and it therefore

was not used. But appended were S05 orders. Since they were made on the basis of a removal which was not made, I did not record them, figuring that Leonard would change them. But he did not, and I had by then forgotten, and reflected NMR. An issue of MEA CULPA (#2) was sent out to correct this, but there was an adjudication error in that. This has been corrected. So now, here are the English moves, S05:

ENGLAND (Garland): A Lon /h/, F Eng-Nth /d//Iri, Wal, Pic, Bel/, F Den -Swe S by F Bal (no F Bal).

Then, F Eng (R)-Pic.

Other retreats: I assume that Austrian A Rum (R)-Gal, unless no orders are received, and players should make moves conditional upon that bit of business.

In addition, the dislodged German A Man may also (R)-Ruh (as well as Ber, ob). Since Andy is usually quick to catch things of this sort, I assume he is retreating to Ber; however, players may also make moves conditional in case I receive no retreat at all or a different one.

FALL 1905 ORDERS still due on 17 August.

1970AX -- CIVIL WAR IN FRANCE HALTS DRAFT

Winter 1904: In F04, the entry for Turkey should indicate "No change (1 /a/)". No orders for France. Jerry White is removed from the s/b list for the game for failure to submit s/b orders. If Tom Bray fails to submit orders in S05, he will be replaced, period, by the next s/b player, but during S05 his units will stand in civil disorder if he does not order them.

AUSTRIA (Monahan): B F Tri.

ENGLAND (Strayer): E A Yor.

FRANCE (Bary??): NBR, 1 short.

GERMANY (Reilly): No change.

ITALY (Power): No change.

RUSSIA (Latin): B A War.

TURKEY (Brooks): No change.

SPRING 1905 ORDERS still due on 17 August.

1971A -- ENTIRE FRENCH NAVY SCUTTLED

Winter 1903: In F03 a rather obvious typographical error occurred; I forgot to underline the following moves which failed: ENGLAND: F Edi-Nth S by F Eng; GERMANY: F Bel-Eng S by F Nth. Players concerned were notified by airmail. I understand player Tretick wrote you all a rather tiresome accusatory note about this, prior to consulting with me to determine whether or not this was, as was obvious, a typographical error. I apologize to those of you who may have been bored by this sort of jumping off the handle.

AUSTRIA (Weber): No change.

ENGLAND (Shannon): No change.

FRANCE (Tretick): E F Wes, F Bre.

GERMANY (Strayer): E A Kie.

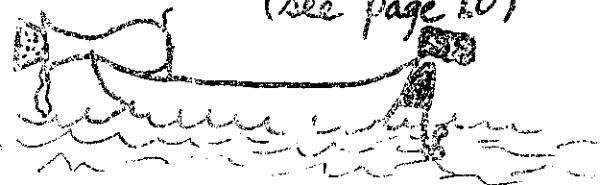
ITALY (Stanton): B A Ven, F Rom.

RUSSIA (Reilly): B A StP.

TURKEY (Buechs): No change.

SPRING 1904 ORDERS still due 17 August.

"The Game Plan"
(see page 10)



1971C -- RUSSIAN ARMY MUTINIES, FREEZES TO DEATH IN LAPLAND

Winter 1903: If Bruce Gletty misses S04, he will be replaced with the usual advance notice afterwards. ENGLAND (Manion): No change. FRANCE (Buechs): B F Bre. GERMANY (Stephanides): No change. ITALY (Tully): B F Nap, A Rom. RUSSIA (Gletty): NMR. A Nwy (R)-/a/. No change. TURKEY (Pandin): B A Con, A Ank. SPRING 1904 ORDERS still due 17 August.

Ah, 3 more pages. Well, we could have another "acc-
 cack on poor ego-punctured John Beshara, or more soul-
 searching by your overweight GM, or whatever...but we
 all know what's more important than Beshara or the DA,
 don't we?

1970AT Press

ANKARA (re: Munich P.R. W04): Turkey is fed up with the witty insults
 of Germany, and therefore refuses to lend Germany a hand as she bites the
 dust.

BARAD HAWLEY: Witty???

1970AX Press

BUDAPEST (Byzantium Press): The skies over this area have been darkened
 by the dimwitted Austrians' chickens coming home to roost. Reports have the
 Russian Army right behind them. The local reporter has a low opinion of Aus-
 trians since he has been operating out of secret police headquarters for two
 years. The Austrian General Staff has left Budapest open as they feel that
 the Russian army, like lightning, cannot strike twice in the same place.

PARIS (8 September 1904)(Echon Press): Academician Tilleul today blast-
 ed the incompetent and illiterate Hapsburg who alleged that the last invasion
 of Britain was led by the usurper William (of Glencoe fame). "He totally
 ignores the Battle of Fishguard in 1797, when the glorious forces of our
 glorious democracy fight with all their might against perfidious Albion for
 five straight minutes."

LONDON: Public interest continues to dwell upon the merry misadventures
 of the Austrian Ambassador, Gaye Abandon, and his Brotherhood of Pilican
 Noblemen who have apparently undertaken the task of making a shambles of
 British mores. King Leroy has demanded that Emperor Michael recall his Am-
 bassador immediately, but the last salvo of incoherent doggerel from Vienna
 has it that Austria never sent an Ambassador to England...a likely story.
 These dimwitted Austrians probably don't even know what an Ambassador is.

ODESSA: The Tsar reflecting, lost in thought
 Of long-ago battles waged and won,
 Of the Sultan's deceit in 1902,
 And now peace signs in Byzantium,
 The Tsar, tasting the taste of revenge,
 Now that the time for revenge has come;
 The Tsar, smiling a furious smile,
 And whispering again, "THANK YOU, CHUM!"



BUCHAREST: A contented sigh escaped from the Commander of the Imperial
 Russian 243rd Army as he inspected the contents of the latest Turkish peace
 offering: two pounds of baklava and chewing gum. As the General threw them
 into a nearby lake, the words "Thank You Chum" could be observed tattooed on
 his left arm. Since neither the Sultan nor his spies can read English, the
 meaning of this symbol has thus far escaped them. They will soon get the
 point.

VIENNA (26 September 1904)(CP): His Imperial Majesty commented today on
 the poor attendance at the opening of the Emperor Mikhail Dam. "One won-
 ders what kept the peace-loving peoples away--and I also wanted to see the
 French and English. But I think that it was a great success." The Emperor
 denied that the seized value of G&F was small--he pointed out that the value
 was quoted in "certain foreign and unfriendly capitals" and was, in fact,
 only the value that the assets has received when sold through the Imperial
 Assets Disposal Corp. "I can assure you," the Emperor beamed, "that my rela-
 tives, or the buyers, received a very fair deal." Experts rated G&F at
 100,000,000 (cdn).

GASTRITIS (27 September 1904): Poderkaggian officials today admitted that Austrian appraisals of G&F property in Austria were correct. "Yes," said Finance and Morals Minister Sir Reginald Duckworth, "the property was worth some \$189,000,000 (Chinese Deflated Notes). Unfortunately, the Chinese dollar, or tael, is presently worth, in American money, about 0.000000000000, or somewhat more in Canadian money. As it happens, we do not use Chinese currency in Poderkagg. A request such as 'May I pay you in tael?' is likely to draw unexpected responses in parts of the Kingdom. One never knows what kind of response to expect, nor by whom...or (chuckle) what."

VIENNA (27 September 1904)(CP): Grand Duke Spiro announced today that the Imperial Intelligence Service has discovered that the German Crown Prince has reversed his direction and is now in Bulgaria. He stated that he had ordered his Bureau to send some people to follow the Crown Prince. "No matter where in Turkey he may go!"

SOFIA (via Berlin): The dimwitted Austrian who writes the CP press releases should learn that he is mistaking J. Wilhelm Halfbright for the Kronprinz. We are ready to forgive the Austrians for their oversight, as the Balkans' most popular vampire is only seen at night and can easily be mistaken for someone else.

THE KAISER'S CHALET: High in the Swiss Alps, Kaiser Melvin has received word of recent German battlefield reverses. "I should have known this would happen now that I am no longer in Berlin and in direct control of the situation," he moaned. "Unfortunately, the radioactivity in these mountains caused by those Turkish guns makes it impossible for me to return to Berlin and save the country. Too bad, isn't it?" The Kaiser also hurled some verbal barbs at England's so-called "King", Leroy the Boy. "Leroy is nothing but an incompetent futhermocker who whiles away the hours smoking Moroccan cannibus. I should know, because he sent me some in the diplomatic pouch before I left Germany. And I think the Foreign Minister has been pilfering the diplomatic pouches, because things began to go bad for Germany at about the time my first shipment arrived. It would appear that Leroy has found the ultimate weapon." The Kaiser took a long drag from his cigarette and stared glassy-eyed at the ceiling. "Oh, I wish I were back in Berlin," he murmured. Yes, high in the Swiss Alps....

LOME, TOGO: Word of Germany's military collapse has reached this colony, and the natives are getting restless. Under the leadership of Kronprinz von Flim-flam (who has gone native and no longer even looks German), the Pagan Army has found increasing support among the local populace. The native uprisings have been so fierce that only Lome itself remains under the control of the Kaiserin and her Loyalist forces. Kaiserin Mergatroid has lost about 50% of her weight since arriving in Lome some years ago, and consequently is ready to go home. "I shall be departing soon for Switzerland to be re-united with my beloved Melvin," announced the Kaiserin in Lome. "At last we will be together again."

KAISER'S CHALET: Kaiser Melvin has announced his intent to send the Kaiserin on a goodwill mission to the flooded portions of Poderkagg after she comes back.

IKIPU, PODERKAGG: The natives of the Bog of Burzii are said to be eagerly awaiting the Kaiserin's arrival. Those most anxious appear to be the crocodiles.

DRACONIS, PODERKAGG: The entire region around Lake Nass is agog at the prospect of a visit by the Kaiserin. The Lake Nass Monster, Nassty, has even been signed for a special appearance for the occasion, although slightly miffed at losing "dibs" to the crocs of Burzii Bog.

1970BK Press

MOSCOW: Rome: Vienna, Budapest, and Greece? Are you sure that's all you want?? Maybe I ought to throw in Budapest and Warsaw as well???

BARAD HAWLEY: Possibly Budapest just once will be sufficient.

1971A Press

LONDON to Germany: May you die a worm's death a thousand times in a worm's stomach.

PARIS: I disagree with your ruling concerning the north sea. First of all the fleet cut out the support of the German fleet north sea. Then the German fleet Belgium cut support of the English fleet English channel. So, nobody moves. I have written the other six players about the matter. The roof should come down on your pointed head any moment now. [passim sic]

BARAD HAWLEY: As I said, tiresome....

PRESSBURG (16 July 1903)(Pressburg Post): We at the Post feel that it is in the public interest to print a special report, leaked to us from an anonymous source, about our great and exalted [sic] ruler, Bart the Bad. Bart is not the legal heir to the Austrian throne. Through a case of mistaken identity, he was brought to Austria from the American territories and he was able to seize the throne by rubbing out all opposition. Though Bart the Bad, he is worse. While in America, he was a cattle rustler, a bank robber, a train hold-upper, a sheep exorcizer, and more often than not, a murderer. We feel that the general Austrian people, illiterate as they are, should know about their tyrannical and illegitimate ruler, Bart the Bad, blaa, blaa, blaa....

VIENNA (17 July 1903)(Official Government Statement): Let it be known that even though the facts about Bart the Bad stated in the Pressburg Post yesterday are true and factual, the persons responsible for revealing these "government secrets" will be herded up and hanged by their scrawny necks. After that, they won't be able to "spew forth" facts and "ill-gotten truths" that hurt their government and its allies. As Bart has often said, "Ifn they don't like the ways Ah do things, let 'em dance at da end of a rope."

ST. PETERSBURG: Uncle Duckworth isn't so bad, but that Cousin Kevin is something else again....

SEVASTOPOL: After years of fiddling about in Rumania and Sevastopol, the Russian Black Sea Fleet has finally entered the Black Sea. Present at the Sevastopol docks to see them off was the Tsar himself. Just prior to the fleet's departure, Tsar Soong christened the first ship in the new "John Donnelly" class of battleships. Military observers expect the new ships soon to replace the outmoded "Spiro" class, whose salvos tend to turn 180° after being fired and hit the ship they were fired from. The first ship in this new line, the Game Plan, boasts bi-partisan armament. Future ships are planned, including: So What's Wrong With Six Percent, the Prosperity is Just Around the Corner, and the Herbert Hoover.

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BELGRADE (7 December 1903)(Trojan Press): Wild celebrations greeted the Seventh Turkish Lancers as they entered the city today after the withdrawal of the last remnants of the Austrian Infantry. Nidnap the Crafty accepted the surrender of the Austrian Governor, Farg the Terrible. His Majesty, Abdu Hamid, as bestowed the Lead Finger of the Greasy Palm with Hewlock Leaf upon Nidnap for his efforts in the Austrian campaign. Nidnap was the King's special undercover agent in Austria. His reports from the palace of Franz Josef gave Turkey the information necessary for the quick and bloodless conquest of Austria. The Foreign Ministry will not release the latest message received from Italy, but there is an unconfirmed report that Nidnap taught a self-instruction manual in conversational Italian in Belgrade.