

# DIPCON IV

26 August 1971

26-29 August 1971

San Diego California  
This issue is dedicated  
to the glorious DIPCON IV,  
the Fourth Annual Diplomacy  
Convention, which is going  
on right now...oh, god,  
it's unbelievable! Yech  
...oog...uuuuuuuuuuuurp!

...incorporating LILLIPUT

Here we are, gore fans, right in the middle of the first round of this year's DipCon. We are bringing you **EBENON**, a live journal of postal Diplomacy\*, typed here in Larry Peery's living room, in the middle of a combination Diplomacy game, reception, and transubstantial orgy conducted by Pope Joan II Herself! Subscriptions to this glorious goody are 7/\$1.00. This is Pandemonium Publication #370, edited and published by Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego CA 92116; telephone, (714) 282-1921; member, National Fantasy Fan Federation Games Bureau, N3FGB Diplomacy Division; International Federation of Wargamers, IFW Diplomacy Society; and the Diplomacy Association.

\*DIPLOMACY is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhauer and copyright by Games Research, Inc., and available therefrom, postpaid, for \$8.00. The English set, copyright by Intellectual Diversions Ltd., is occasionally seen in this country in import/gift shops at around \$4.00. The American set is also sold by some toy chain stores at considerably under list (Games "R" Us, for instance, has it at \$6.00).

## WELCOME TO DIPCON IV

An annual Diplomacy Convention is beginning to be a postal Diplomacy tradition, a most enjoyable and interesting tradition. Just briefly, let me recount how this tradition began.

I was being released from active duty in the Air Force, after serving for seven years, in August 1969. My good friend and fellow Gamesmaster, John Koning, has invited me over for a weekend sometime before I left the area (I was stationed in Illinois; he was living in Ohio). We had tentatively decided on a weekend in June. It fell out that Derek Nelson, a noted player, was coming down from Canada at about the same time. Living nearby were two other noted Gamesmasters, Charles Wells (in Cleveland) and Charles Reinsel (in Clarion PA). We were pretty sure Charles Reinsel could be inveigled to come up to Youngstown if Derek were there. It was thus arranged that I should drive over on the same weekend without Reinsel's being told. He and I were having a feud then, in which Charles absolutely refused to speak to me, and we thought it would be a splendid (not to mention interesting) confrontation to surprise him with me after he arrived.

At this point, things snowballed. Others expressed an interest in coming. Ultimately, Dave Johnston of Columbus took a ride with me up to Youngstown, and Ed Birzan of New York took a ride with Jeff Key and his wife Mary Ann, coming in from New Jersey (and also representing Jeff's home state, Oklahoma). Ultimately, with other arrivals (Bud Stowe, Loring Windblad, &c.), nine people representing seven states and Canada, assembled around the playing boards at Manso Koning.

I mentioned to John that, although small, our gathering was a veritable convention, and therefore the first Diplomacy Convention. John told me of an earlier gathering, also at his house, which had featured people from

several states and Canada. I therefore proposed that that meeting be DipCon I, and the 1969 meeting be DipCon II. Jeff Key, noting that he would be back in OklahomaCity the next year, volunteered to hold DipCon III there. We all thought that would be a good idea, and I further suggested that DipCon IV, 1971, could be in SanDiego. DipCon III was in fact then held in OklahomaCity during July 1970, and DipCon IV, August 1971, is now going on. What joy! What bliss!! What utter, overwhelming nausea!!!

That is how we have come by our growing tradition of annual DipCons. The site of DipCon V, 1972, was to have been Seattle; however, we are not sure that Seattle still wants to do it, and other sites have expressed an interest. As postal Diplomacy grows, there will no doubt be a proliferation of DipCons on a regional as well as a national level. Southern California DipCons, one a quarter, are becoming a staple feature of SanDiego Diplomacy activity. As more and more people come into postal Diplomacy, and as more cities develop large and active Diplomacy-playing groups, interest in holding the annual DipCon will no doubt grow.

This situation could easily lead to a situation in which several sites could claim to be having the annual DipCon at once. This situation is not desirable. It does not really matter where the DipCon is in any given year, so much as it matters that we avoid confusion, fighting, and hard feelings, while at the same time have some authoritative way of resolving the site of each annual DipCon in a fair and equitable manner which will spread the site to various locations around the country, giving everyone a chance to have one.

I am therefore proposing to the Diplomacy players assembled at DipCon IV that a self-perpetuating permanent committee be created to deal with this problem. The first committee will be selected here, and will have two jobs: (1) to select the site of DipCon V, and (2) to provide for the selection of its successors by some fair and equitable manner which will insure that major Diplomacy-playing areas and groups are represented.

For DipCons III and IV, our informal method of "I'll do it"... "OK" will not work any longer...that is, will not work beyond III/IV. I hope we are able to give the Diplomacy world some concrete solution to the problem of competing DipCons before it arises.

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OVERHEARD AT DIPCON IV RECEPTION

"Walter, you're a rat!"

"How does that get into Trieste, prithes?"

"Why are you so double-dealing?"

"Doesn't anyone want to talk to me?"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. ADDRESS CHANGES: Tom Eiler is now at 44 Bigelow St., etc. Brenton VerPloeg is now at 520 Parker, #202, SanFrancisco CA 94118.

2. LARRY PERRY, Gamecreator Extraordinaire (or perhaps Incredible), 816 24th St., SanDiego CA 92102, is opening some interesting games for novices. The game fee is \$5.00; discounts of 33 1/3% for members of the Cicero Society and \$3.33 1/3 for members of the Diplomacy Widow's Association. Players from SanDiego and NewYork are especially wanted for two novice games which, hopefully, will feature players (one for each city) only from these areas.

3. GAMERS GUIDE has published its latest poll on Diplomacy players; in this one, votes were cast for skill only. According to GG's readers, the 10 top players in the country are (with points):

1. Smythe...87	4. Beshara....39	7. Tretick.....30
2. Walker...56	5. Jones.....36	8. VerFloeg.....27
2. Birsan...56	6. Prosnitz...33	8. Beyerlein....27
		8. Reuschlein...27

4. SERENDIP, a Diplomacy 'zine begun by John McCallum as temporary home for my EREHWON games, has come home to roost. Now the home for orphaned ATTAQUER Games, it came under my editorship after #76. It will continue with games 1969U and 1969BH, along with the "masthead quotes contest" and a new invitational Winters' Game, in which some of the country's best gaming talent will, I hope, be enlisted. John McCallum and Gary Jones are already registered, and those two alone guarantee a well-played game. I am hoping to see others of our best players in the game. Subscriptions are 10/\$1.

5. BROODINGWAG is now edited by Bob Ward, 2423 P St., #7, Sacramento CA 95816. He will trade all-for-all with other Dippy 'zines.

6. MITCH SCHEELE, editor of DIE MUNICH ZEITUNGSENTE, announces that a life-time subscription to his hilarious 'zine is now \$5.00.

7. GERMANY VS. THE WORLD, Fred Davis' new variant appearing in ZOTH-IQUE 39, has one map error; to wit, Archangel borders on Moscow, and is not cut off from Moscow, as shown on the map, by St. Petersburg.

8. WELL, HERE WE ARE. The first mini-session of DipCon IV is winding up. Thrillsville. Standing around, not knowing what to do, are: Walt Buchanan of Indiana, Doug Beyerlein of Washington, Bob Strayer and Pete Weber of Arizona, and Larry Peery, George Harter, and Rod Walker of California. Messages: Larry Peery: "Yech". Doug Beyerlein: "Congratulations to Jerry White on his marriage." Pete Weber: "Hi, Mom." George Harter: "The heart knoweth not its own depth until the moment of separation." (Funny, I thought it was the head.) Rod Walker (looking at a picture): "That's John Boardman??" Walt Buchanan: "Send old Dippy 'zines."

#### A CALHAMER PARADOX

I have a letter from Our Founder, Allan Calhamer, dated 16 August 1971, which propounds an interesting semi-paradox. I quote from it, changing the order of the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs for greater clarity:

"This case is not important, but...suppose England: A London to London, convoyed by F North Sea and F English Channel. France: A Wales to London. Germany: F Skag to North Sea, supported by F Denmark. (The reader should note that this pertains to the rule, assumed by all GMs and stated in the new Rulebook, that an army, ordered to a space via convoy, has no effect on that space if the convoy is disrupted.)

"England's reason for writing those orders is that his ally demanded he convoy to Brest, and insisted on seeing the moves. After showing the moves, England had time only to alter one of them, and then had to do it hastily and thought that by writing A London to London he would get the effect of a hold order.

"England claims that since the convoy was disrupted his army remains in London and defends that space. France claims that since the convoy was disrupted the Army in London has no effect on its intended destination. London; therefore, the French Army enters.

"I rule for England, by the way."

after several hours of typing this on Larry Peery's electric Sears typewriter and watching a sordid tale of betrayal, treachery, deceit, double-dealing, lying, back-stabbing, and other fun thing (a Napoleonic game won by Pete Weber's France. I am now back at my manual Sears typewriter.

and God went before them, as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night, leading them to

THE GAME

1971: 13 -- RUSSIA TAKES COMMANDING LEAD AS GERMANY GOES \*POOF\*

Fall 1905: This game, delayed by the GM's inability to see a retreat that there in front of his face, now resumes. Had it been a bear, that retreat would have bit me. It did. Also, my thanks to John Seman for his s/b orders for England.

AUSTRIA (Power): A Rum (R)-Gal. A Gal-Rum, A Bud-Tri /a/, A Vie-Tri /a/. No change (2 /a/).

ENGLAND (Garland): F Eng (R)-Bel. A Lon H, F Den-Kie /d/Hel, Ska, ob/, F Bel S GERMAN A Ruh-Hol. Owns: Lpl, Lon, ~~Bel~~ (3). No change.

FRANCE (Lissandrello): F Eng-Wal, F Mid-Eng, F Lyo-Tyr, A Mun S RUS-AN A Sil-Ber, F Tun S ITALIAN F Tyr-Ion, A Bur-Bel S by A Hol, A Tyr RUS-AN A Boh-Vie. Owns: Bae, Mar, Par, Por, Spa, ~~Hol~~, Tun, Mun (8). N.C.

GERMANY (Phillips): A Mun (R)-Ber, A Kie (R)-Ruh. A Ber-Kie /d/ ob/, A Ruh-Hol. Owns: ~~Hol~~, ~~Ruh~~ (0). Remove 2. OUT.

ITALY (Warden): F Tyr-Ion S by F Nap. A Ven S FRENCH A Tyr. Owns: Rom, Ven (3). No change.

RUSSIA (Jones): A Rum-Bud, A Ukr-Rum, F Nch-Den S by A Swe, F Edi-Cly, Boh-Vie, A Sil-Ber S by A Kie, F Bul(sc)-Aeg. Owns: Mos, StP, Sev, War, ~~Edi~~, ~~Bud~~, ~~Den~~, ~~Kie~~, ~~Vie~~ (12). Build 3.

TURKEY (Nash): A Con H, F Ion-Apu S by F Adr, F Eas-Ion, A Tri S RUS-AN A Boh-Ven [sic] (NSO), A Ser S RUSSIAN A Rum-Bud. Owns: Ank, Con, Smy, ~~Adr~~, ~~Ion~~, ~~Apu~~, ~~Tri~~ (7). Build 1.

AUTUMN 1905 RETREAT and WINTER 1905 ADJUSTMENTS are due on Thursday, September 1971. They will be sent out by carbon copy.

SPRING 1906 ORDERS will be due on Thursday, 23 September 1971, thus bringing this game back into line with the rest.

Note that Winter builds may be made conditional upon the direction of the English retreat.

BERLIN: Dispatches from Istanbul and Paris were received by the Kaiser shortly after the arrival of his special train in this city. He seemed to be momentarily startled, then thoughtful, and finally amused. He turned to one of his aides, Baron vonGeher: "Do you have a coin? Let us have it!"

"No, Your Majesty. We left Bavaria so sud."

"Yes. You forgot your corset. We can see that. That medal will do."

"Now, heads or tails?"

"Heads!...Your Majesty."

"Right. Send this message to Paris. 'Turkey has a "game-length" alliance with Moscow too. Tough, Stephen! See you in Argentina!'"

PARIS: Pope Obnoxious III welcomed Italy back into the Papal fold. "Let's put the Pope back in Christmas!" He cried.

PARIS: At last the crimes of Henry the Bloodthirsty and Leonard the Treacherous of England are revenged. It took us 839 years, but we have returned!

PARIS: Ambassador leRarry returned to the capital in a fit of pique from his post in Constantinople. Arriving in that city to make the customary tip of the hat to the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, he found the capital moved to the absurd little village of Ankara, hundreds of miles distant. As the Chief Eunuch in Constantinople told him, "It's a long way to tip, leRarry!"

GASTRITIS: And as Ambassador leRarry wended his way back to Paris, he naturally stopped off at some of the gay centers of entertainment in Poderkagg. While there, he confided to King Pandemonium V, "Of course, Ankara is hundreds of miles from Constantinople as the crow flies. But if the crow has to use the Turkish transportation system...ah, truly is it written that in Ankara it's the Middle Ages, but outside, it's 1000B.C."

Before he left, leRarry was given by the King a copy of Ahrydd Pedant's new monograph, St. Paul in Poderkagg, in which the noted scholar proves that in 57 CE the Apostle stopped in Gomorrum Novis (now Neu-Gomorra). It is said that he asked, "Where's the men's room?" and was immediately ushered to a local brothel. This same brothel, now known as Madame Miriam's Gospel House, is the site of interesting rites which each year commemorate the event, including the perhaps apocryphal story that as St. Paul entered the place, he cried out, "Oh Holy Ghost, descend on me that I might perform miracles." The story also recounts that he did.

#### OTHER PRESSING BUSINESS

LONDON: OH, WELL, ANYBODY WHO HATES KIDS AND DOGS CAN'T BE ALL BAD... The first day they met had been a very rough one for Foost-Smythington. With elections only a week away, the slaughter of cats and dogs in the countryside had reached wholesale proportions. Alertly noting that his constituency was threatened, Foost-Smythington passed a law making such activities a capital offense. But the slaughter continued, claiming humans as well as the law was put into effect. Foost-Smythington did not like the idea of being forced to tamper with the election results, finding such behaviour distasteful. Being caught between these problems did little to improve his disposition, which was abusive in the best of times.

As he was moving through the palace gardens in his peculiar gait, he was looking about for a dog to kick, so he could feel better. This habit may seem strange for the manufacturer of pet food, but came as no surprise to those who knew the fearless leader at all. Instead, he chanced upon his nephew, a small child, who was constructing an elaborate structure with twigs. Foost-Smythington seized the opportunity and shattered the structure with a swift kick. "God! That felt good!" Thereafter, the ruler made a point of repeating this scene at every opportunity. Lately, the kid had been playing with an outlandish collection of junk, which he fashioned into vaguely mechanical forms, when Foost happened upon him and dispatched the stuff as usual. He was somewhat surprised that the child did not avoid him more frequently, and always with that damn junk. "That stupid brat's crazy was Foost-Smythington's appraisal.

Oh--that was 1969Z.

#### 1970AX Press

Note: I have now heard from Mike Monahan, who is in France, and who will be back in Halifax on the 13th. He requested an extension of the deadline until the 20th, and since it is the 23rd, we have no problem.

GENEVA: Escorted by three Swiss Navy frigates, the Amazon, with Kaiserin Mergatroid aboard, sailed into Lake Geneva. "We had a rough time coming over the Alps," the Kaiserin said upon debarking, "but aside from that the trip was uneventful." Present at the docks to welcome the Kaiserin was Kaiser Melvin's aide-de-camp's assistant press secretary. The Kaiser himself was unable to greet his beloved wife because he is recovering from a bout of shingles. Kaiserin Mergatroid plans to be reunited with Kaiser Melvin in the latter's chalet before she goes on her goodwill mission to Ikipu and Queenis in Poderkagg. Meanwhile, the word from the Balkans is that J. Wilhelm Halfbright is eagerly awaiting the Kaiserin's visit. It is rumored that royal blood makes a tasty midnight snack.

LOME, TOGO: The Provisional Revolutionary Pygmy Government has taken over complete control of the former Reich Colony of Togo. Kronprinz "Sambo" de Film-Flam, the new Chief of State, is reported to be very upset about Austrian allegations that he has deserted his forces and is wandering around the Balkans. "The Provisional Revolutionary Pygmy Government is giving serious consideration to proposals that we declare war on and invade Austria," the Kronprinz said in a statement to one captive and terrified German reporter. "The whole world will tremble when millions of little feet overrun Germany."

LEOPOLDVILLE, CONGO (Butler Press)(16 February 1905): Glubdrubb and Gerabend, acting as agents for Madame Flossie's Camp Follower Company of the Gomo-Sah, today hired the first consignment of 1000 pygmy maidens, to be transhipped to Poderkagg for eventual duty in Austria (in the event of a pygmy invasion from Togo). T. T. Thing, the company's chief agent, wrote reporters (Mr. Thing does not speak, for reasons obvious to those who know him), "In order to be as compatible with possible tastes, we are also sending to America and England for shipments of dwarf goats, midget sheep, gay pigs, toy collies, miniature dachshunds, Shetland ponies, and some other goodies. You ought to see the vest-pocket vibrators we got in Hong Kong!"

VIENNA (1 January 1905)(CP): The Foreign Ministry has denied the "totally unfounded" rumors that His Imperial Majesty has been kidnapped by agents of Poderkagg. The spokesman for the Foreign Minister stated: "Any country that is (a) so stupid that they don't know that 'Cdn' means 'Canadian', and (b) wants to WELCOME the German Kaiserin, couldn't kidnap anybody." Why the Emperor himself hasn't been seen for 6 months was dismissed as a silly and irrelevant question.

GASTRITIS (2 January 1905)(Butler Press): King Pandemonium today also denied rumors that Poderkagg had kidnapped the Austrian Emperor. "Unless," he added His Majesty, "this guy who keeps claiming he is Leroy the Boy is in reality the Emperor. We don't know who anybody is these days. Identities are presently almost as uncertain as alliances."

VIENNA (2 January 1905)(CP): At the request of the German Ambassador, the Foreign Minister has clarified the Austrian stand vis-à-vis the Kaiserin. "Yes," he sighed, "we can provide an express to take her to Switzerland in Berlin. BUT this is only done because Germany is such a good ally."

DUBLIN (3 January 1905)(CP): The Austrian Embassy here has confirmed that there is NO Austrian Embassy in England. It is suggested that the lack of action from Paris and the trouble in London may be related. "Never can I roll with these French Presidents."

GASTRITIS (4 January 1905)(Butler Press): It is reported here that the above confirmation was also confirmed by the Austrian Embassy in London.

1971A Press

ANKARA: This sleepy little Turkish town was jolted awake recently when it was suddenly invaded by 500,000 Russian tourists. These tourists were hidden in the hold of the Game Plan and other ships of the Black Sea Fleet. Tsar Soong expects Tinpa Nallie to be overjoyed at this great leap in tourism for Turkey, but is puzzled because he hasn't yet received a word of thanks from the Turkish Sultan.

ANKARA (Butler Press): Russian tourists here are becoming very disgruntled. Although the town is admittedly sleepy and little, there is even so an amazing paucity of things to do. Among the local entertainments:

1. For 100 piastres, one can pick up some very interesting diseases in the local compound and other places of ...um, entertainment.
2. For 1000 piastres, one can receive a cure for these said diseases which would be delightful if one were a masochist.
3. For 50 piastres, one can pick up some very interesting physical ailments at any restaurant.
4. For 5000 piastres, one can obtain some nice home remedies for the said ailments, a few of which may work.
5. For 10 piastres, one can ride in a gaily decorated horse cart and smell the town. Actually, the town may be smelled for free anywhere within 100 miles. But riding behind a horse adds an interesting counterpoint.
6. For no charge whatsoever, one can spend a fascinating four or five hours (minimum) looking for a public ~~W~~ comfort station.
7. One can go to a night club and stay until closing. After that, there will still be an hour or two of daylight in which to do some shopping at the quaint shops with their even more quaint prices.
8. One can go to the museum. Its room is filled with a variety of exhibits, such as genuine fossilized goat stools uncovered in Mrs. Ergezdeli's beet garden. The museum is open between 6 and 7 am on Saturday morning.
9. Leave town, the most entertaining thing one can ever do in Ankara.

BERLIN: For the fourth consecutive year Europe is embroiled in political animosity. The Ottomans hate the Austrians, the British hate the Deutch ...and Kaiser Siegfried doesn't like anybody very much. And for what it's worth, nobody likes Kaiser Siegfried very much either. Poor Siggy! He seems to have lost all his allies. But Germany is not giving up, no sir! Somebody somewhere must be in the market for a German ally. Maybe the Poderkaggians.

GASTRIITIS: Yech....

LONDON: A strange and uncharacteristic silence has descended upon the English capital of late. The usual bustle of foreign dignitaries is absent. Attempts by English media to get at the source of the problem have proved fruitless. However, one industrious reporter was able to evade guards at #10 Downing St. He said that the only person he saw was the Prime Minister, who spent the entire morning pacing up and down, wringing his hands and moaning over and over, "No one will talk to me any more. Why won't anyone talk to me?" The Prime Minister seemed most distressed.

1971C Press

CONSTANTINOPLE (1 April 1904)(Trojan Press): \*\*\*FLASH\*\*\* His Majesty, Abdul Hamid, today informed the Committee of Foreign Affairs that Italian and Turkish negotiators in Poderkagg were unable to reach an agreement over the Turkish Fertility Rites. The Second Turkish Fleet was therefore given orders to advance on Greece with the support of the Seventh Army of Ankara.



The Foreign Minister held a conference with the Italian Ambassador to Turkey in Gastritis, at which time he read a formal declaration of war. Our King calls on all his subjects to support the war to rid the Mediterranean of the prudish Italians. "Porfirio Rubirosa will see our Fertility Rites in his own back yard!!" said Abdul as he left the committee room. The Committee of Foreign Affairs then went into a closed session while it decided the fate of Gregorio Tullio, Marchese di Marco Polo, Emperor Montini, Marchese d'Andrea Doria, and others in the degenerate Italian Government.

BERLIN (20 March 1904)(GIB): The situation on the economic front looks grim as inflation continues to run wild. Asked about it in a recent press conference, the Emperor said, "I think I can safely say now that the exchange rate has finally been stabilized at 1,760,000,000 marks to the dollar...er, make that 1,880,000...that is, 2,160,000,000 marks...uh, I mean 2,400...oh, forget it. Next question." Meanwhile the telephone company has instituted a new service. By dialing 375-9211, you can hear a recording saying the current exchange rate. And all across Germany, people are singing, "Say, buddy, can you spare a 292,000,000-mark piece?"

### 1971C Press

SOMEWHERE IN THE STEPPES: The catastrophic collapse of the Russian Army has been linked to a plot by the German government in league with certain members of the Swiss government. The Tsar vows to fight on to the death (expected soon) against the "Black Plague" of Germans sweeping across the face of Europe. The Tsar appeals to all decent people of Europe (especially the Italians) to aid in the new holy war to preserve civilization. An appeal to "God" was considered, but rejected by the Tsar and members of the Imperial Family, because of the fear that the coming of "God" to Russia might be worse than the coming of the Germans.

BARAD HAWLEY: Besides, it is doubtful that "God" would remove to Russia from his present location in NewYork, where he has purchased a large crowd of worshippers, high priests, and yea-sayers (this last because no self-respecting scot-sayer can be bought by "God"). Besides, at the moment, "God" is in a High Holy Snit because he has been unable to buy the whole world.

BONN: Death to the Tsar!!!! Onward to the Sultan's Harem!!!!

GENEVA: Investigators here are trying to learn the reason for the removal of the German Empire's Ministry of Information from Berlin, the capital, to Bonn, a sleepy village on the Rhein known only as the birthplace of Beethoven. "Of course," remarked one Government spokesman in Berne, "we are not too surprised at anything which comes out of the Reich."

### VERITAS VINCIIT

The publication of this open letter marks the beginning of what I hope will be an opportunity for postal Diplomacy players to have an organization which is really theirs (or ours, since I'm a player too). Many of you will have already received this, others will soon (it was mailed "printed matter" in many cases because of cost limitations). Many more will receive copies at DipCon IV.

Earlier this year, Larry Peery (West Coast Membership Chairman for the Diplomacy Association) began to compile a collection of letters passing between various personalities involved in the formation of, and dispute over, the Diplomacy Association. In this he was aided by Walter Buchanan, a member of the DA's Board of Directors. The purpose of the file was an attempt



to find out what was going on, despite the rigid curtain of secrecy which surrounds everything the DA does (a policy of which I have complained in this publication). I contributed to Larry's collection every document in my possession relevant to the issue, although I was not told the purpose of the file (nor was I allowed to see its contents). The collection now numbers well over 200 items, all of them catalogued and indexed.

From this file, Larry has drawn information which shows conclusively that we have all been deceived, that the Diplomacy Association is in no way "run by the members for the members", and that the DA is being managed for private purposes of self-advancement and self-glorification. The result is VERITAS VINCIT, a 25-page letter (plus appendices), heavily documented with references to, and quotations from, the Papers in his possession (there is also a complete copy in Walt Buchanan's Diplomacy Archives).

Larry's contentions are simple and easily summarized:

1. When the DA was formed, it was to be a democratic, member-controlled organization with a responsible collective leadership whose composition was to be equally balanced between three geographic (East, Midwest, West) areas.

2. This organizational structure never materialized.

3. The DA is not member-controlled; in fact, one person alone has totalitarian authority over the DA. It is his claim that he does nearly all the work and pays all the bills; in other words, he has bought the Diplomacy Association.

4. The DA is being managed for private, partisan, and personal purposes, sufficient to "do credit to a Lenin, a Hitler, or a Stalin" (to quote from VERITAS VINCIT directly).

5. The time has come to reform the Diplomacy Association, and return it to the announced initial intentions of the founders. The DA must become an organization controlled by the membership (who are also informed as to exactly what is going on), as we were all originally promised.

Larry's position is concurred in by three members of the DA Board of Directors (50% of its membership, and all of its non-NewYork members): Brenton VerPloeg, Jerry Model, and Walter Buchanan. Brenton's concurring letter goes on to express doubt that internal reform is possible and expresses the complete collapse of his interest in Diplomacy organizations.

It is highly significant that these well-known personalities--who were hand-picked for their positions by the DA's founders--should do as they have done. After months of attempting to achieve some modicum of member participation in the DA (even so little a thing as an election to add a single member to the Board for better geographic balance), to obtain information (even so minor a thing as a list of the members), they have failed utterly. The self-righteous "leader" of the DA (who has not learned lesson one about leading) remains adamant in the scope, totality, and holiness of his power.

We, the members of the DA, must now see our duty and do it. The standard of revolt, surmounted by the Liberty Cap, has been raised! Aux barricades! If the DA is ever to be an effective force for good in postal Diplomacy (it is already an effective force for something else), it must be reformed as Larry Peery proposes. If it cannot be reformed, then those of us who wish a player organization which represents the players, and does not dictate to them, must go our own way. Despite the bad taste which the DA has left in all our mouths, we can still have an honest, responsible, and useful organization with a truthful leadership.

Down with the tyrant! Liberté, fraternité, égalité! The players have been given the royal shaft. The time has come to return it whence it came.

## MORE ABOUT LA GUERRE

I neglected to note one thing in last issue about Buddy Tretick's interesting 'zine. His latest stunt has been to refuse to inform players as to errors in moves reported until after the next season's moves are in, thus forcing them to "move blind". I have protested this, but since one other player in the same games, who also protested, was told where to get off, I doubt there will be any response--it may even be that sweet, generous Tretick will report me "dropped" from the games, as he did with Charles Reinsel in 1968BU. He may rest assured that I will not pull the same cheap trick on him. Some of us are familiar with the meaning of "honor".

The point I am making is that it is becoming increasingly clear to me that Tretick does not give a damn about players. He is only interested in collecting money and rushing through a game (with the usual gaps of months without any moves at all) in the most slipshod manner possible. If you wish to pay \$5 for that sort of treatment, go ahead.

It is of course possible that things will get better in LA GUERRE, if Buddy decides he might give the players a break for a change. But don't hold your breath. The same man who said he could steal anyone's rating system any time he wanted to would no doubt not be above doing the same with your game too.

## TACTICS &amp; VARIANTS

Kevin Zucker, Box 6411, Sacramento CA 95860, to whom subscriptions should be sent, announces that the first issue should be out in September. My Diplomacy column will be very different from the one in S&T. For one thing, it will appear every issue. For another, it will be much longer. Each column will be a part of The Diplomacy Cook Book, a concept similar to Larry Peaty's tour de force on the Great Powers which has been reprinted in 7 sections in HOOSIER ARCHIVES. The first 7 parts will handle the problems of the Great Powers through the various stages of the game: opening, mid-game, and end-game (à la chess). Subsequent sections will cover various two-, three-, and even four-tiered alliance patterns. As you can see, this will go on for some time. Each article will be quite long and will be illustrated with one or more maps. Subscriptions to T&V are \$6/year (6 issues). I think you will find it worth it.

## MORE ON PRESS RELEASES

Players are asked to read HR 6. Then read the statement on page 9 of ERENWON 47. I am not obligated to print everything I receive. Quite frankly, if my editorial policy on these matters is not clear now, I don't know how I can make it more clear. ERENWON has three purposes: (1) to publish news and information on postal Diplomacy, (2) to report the progress of games, and (3) entertainment. Press releases come under the last category. At least, some of them do, and those which do will be published. I am not going to publish things which you can send other players in letters (negotiations, threats, promises, &c.), nor will I publish snide or ugly comments about other players' playing ability, tactics or strategy in a given game, or whatever. If you can work such material into a good, interesting, entertaining PR, fine. However, the Editor's judgement as to what conforms to the prime purposes of this 'zine and what does not is final.

I realize, by the way, that ERENWON has not been its old jolly self of late. I have given you a rest by not mentioning J. B. (with one necessary exception on page 3) at all this issue. Next issue will see the return of the History of Poderkagg and of How to Give the Carthaginians a Thorough Trouncing. Thank you all for being patient. We now resume normal trans-