



This is EREWON, a now-and-then journal of postal Diplomacy and other White House tapes. Subscriptions are 10/\$1 to postal Dippy publishers, and 6/\$1 otherwise. There are no game openings. Original articles, poems, and short humor items are solicited. The right to edit in the interests of space, grammar, maximum effect, and some very low standard of "taste" is reserved to the Editor. Blanket permission to reprint any item in EREWON is hereby given to any postal Diplomacy editor, subject to two requests: first, that the original author and source be properly credited; second, that a copy of the publication carrying the reprint be sent to me.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. I hope nobody expects too much regularity out of me. For one thing, we are still in the process of rebuilding our home, and that will continue until Pearl Harbor Day, after which we will be up to our snouts in poodle puppies. And we have a book in final stages of draft and I will be working on the first full text by Christmas. So Diplomacy is taking a back seat here and EREWON will continue its congenial now-and-then career.

2. It has previously been my practice to include so-called "local" postal Diplomacy games in the results of my rating systems. STARS is no exception. However, I am now convinced that these games are not really the equivalent of regular postal games. Therefore, irregular games of that type have been removed from the STARS & BARS system. The following games are removed: 1966Q; 1968BD; 1969BQ, BS, BU, BW; 1970A, I, AF, AG; 1970C, EL; 1972F, H, AA, BF, GD, GK; 1973AO, BV-BW, DX; 1974R. In addition, the following games in progress will not be included: 1972EF, EX; 1973EE, EE, BY, CA-CC [completed; sorry], CH, CI, DJ, DX, EC, EM, EU, EX, FY; 1974F, CH-CI. And in case anyone feels I am discriminating against anyone, let me point out that three of those games (1969BQ, 1970I, 1970AF) were games I GMed here in San Diego.

3. I have been asked if I would include in STARS & BARS a series of presumably postal games which have been and/or are being conducted in secret by the Diplomacy Association. My answer is an unqualified no. I have several reasons for taking this position:

a. If TDA chose later to publish supply center charts on these alleged games, there would be no way to verify their accuracy, nor even that the games actually took place. It is obviously foolish to take something as undependable as the DA's word for it.

b. Even if complete game records were printed, ex post facto, there is no way of verifying that the orders published later were those actually made. TDA strongly backed and favored Buddy Tretick, and many of you will remember that one of his favorite tricks was to "reprint" orders for a game he GMed, altering them in the process. We have no guarantee that the organization which officially sponsored Tretick would not also follow his policies.

c. It seems highly possible that games would be published or withheld selectively in order to favor certain "pet" players.

d. Since John Boardman is one of IDA's godfathers, I regard it as very likely that any "game" the DA published could consist of as many as six Eric Blakes (the "winner", of course, would be one of Boardman's buddies).

Inasmuch it is impossible to verify the honesty, accuracy, or completeness of any retroactive publication of alleged postal Diplomacy games conducted by the DA, I will not include any such games in my rating system.

4. It is my intention to run for Ombudsman of the IDA, since someone has nominated me. It is not my purpose here to make a campaign speech. My readers are well familiar with my experience in the hobby. If you are a member of the IDA, I solicit your vote. I can pledge to you that this office will have first call on whatever time I have available for postal Diplomacy activities.

#### LEN FOR PRESIDENT

I cannot express too much pleasure at Len Lakofka's decision to run for President of the IDA. I want to take this opportunity to give him my enthusiastic endorsement.

I have known Len for more than 5 years now. We have had our differences, and even a little feud, during that time. Even so, we have remained in pretty constant communication and I have come to know Len pretty well.

Len Lakofka is one of the most earnest, dedicated, hard-working people I know. Most recently, I've been working with Len on the Postal Diplomacy Rating Commission and--as other members of the PDRC can certainly testify--he has done a backbreaking amount of spadework in getting information collated and organized for our use. I know he is determined to devote this same kind of devoted energy to improving the IDA.

Len comes on strong, as they say, and we need that, too. There is no substitute for leadership, and Len has plenty of that to offer.

Furthermore, Len has been in leadership positions in wargaming organizations for many years. He can thus bring to the IDA Presidency a wealth of valuable experience.

It should be noted that the IDA is the only thing which represents postal Diplomacy as a whole. It is thus up to us to insure that our hobby's spokesman is ably led. We are being given an opportunity to put the best at the top. Let's do it!

I urge you to vote for Len Lakofka for IDA President.

#### PLUGS

Several "zines have asked me to plug them. As I have said previously, ERHWON goes to people who get several other "zines anyway, so why duplicate effort?

However, in the future, when I get time and space, I am going to join the "honest-review" bunch for California "zines only. In so doing, I'll be mentioning sub price, for instance. This should be considered a sort of plug, I guess.

But be patient. This isn't going to happen overnight. I'm not Duncan Hines, you know.

"Yes, Cinderella," said the Good Fairy of Postal Diplomacy, "I know you wanted to go to the Ball. I'm sorry, my dear, but the only place I can send you is

THE GAME

1973IK: HAS KELLY MET HIS BACKSTABBING MATCH? SEE FRENCH NAVY BLOAT!

Fall/Winter 1904: A 6-way draw proposed by Arn Vagts was defeated, 4 yes to 2 no. The game is continuing in BESEROVIA, now (19 November) up to #17 and Fall 1905.

AUSTRIA (Scott): A Trl S A Boh, A Gal-Vie, A Rum-Gal S by A Boh, A Con Bul, F Ion S ITALIAN F Tyn-Tun. Owns: Bud, Vie, Bul, Gre, Ser, ~~W~~, Rum (6). No change (1 /d/).

ENGLAND (Kelly): A Nwy-StP S by F Bar, F Nch-Eng, A Den-Lvn C by F Bal. A Mun S GERMAN A Sil, F Ska-Nth, F Nrg-Nat. Owns: Edi, Lpl, Lon, ~~W~~, Nwy, Den, Hol, StP, Mun (8). No change.

FRANCE (Brooks): F Tun M S by F Naf, F Lvo-Mar, A Bur-Bel, A Spa: Mar. Owns: Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa, Bel, Tun (7). Build F Bre, F Mar.

GERMANY (McKeon): A Sil-War, A Ber S ENGLISH A Mun, A Pru S ENGLISH A Den-Lvn. Owns: Ber, Kie, ~~W~~, Swe (3). No change (1 /d/).

ITALY (Blank): F Wes-Lvo, F Tyn-Tun, F Rom-Tyn, A Ven-Gal, A Pie S FRENCH A Bur-Mar /nso/. Owns: Nap, Rom, Ven, ~~W~~, Tra (4). Disband F Wes.

RUSSIA (Vagts): A Ukr S A War, A Mos-Lvn S by A War, F Ank-Con, A Arm-Sev. Owns: Mos, Sev, War, Ank, Smy, Con (6). No room to build 1.

1973IK -- ANALYSIS

Eric Verheiden

Well, what happened in Spring 1904? The two most significant events of the season were (1) the German capture of Silesia and (2) the successful Italian move into the Western Mediterranean. Neither event, it should be noted, is likely to have much effect on the eventual outcome of the game, aside perhaps from the shifting of a few units and perhaps the exchange of a center or two.

In any event, the immediate result of (1) was to put the Anglo-German alliance in a somewhat more aggressive position and the Austro-Russians in a correspondingly more defensive one. The loss of that front-line unit in Silesia hurt as much as anything else, which is why such annihilations should be avoided.

As for (2), the French are now definitely on the defensive, although it seems unlikely that they could lose much more than the western end of the Mediterranean. Still, things could be a bit sticky for a while, which should liven things up somewhat.

Looking toward Fall, the Anglo-Germans have a choice of erecting an impenetrable defense of Silesia, attacking Warsaw (with or without success), or supporting the convoy to Livonia. Given the facts that Livonia could probably be taken eventually anyway, and an attack on Warsaw is unlikely to be very productive, making sure of Silesia is probably the best and most likely choice. We then have:

ENGLAND: A Den-Lvn C by F Bal, A Nwy-StP S by F Bar, F Nrg-Nat, F Nch H, A Mun S GERMAN A Sil, F Ska-Den.

GERMANY: A Sil S ENGLISH A Mun, A Ber S A Sil, A Pru S A Sil.

The problem of the Austro-Russians is of course the opposite of the Anglo-Germans. Silesia would be easier to hold than Livonia, but the Anglo-Germans are unlikely to give it back. Consequently, the move on Livonia is probably best. We then have:

AUSTRIA: A Gal S RUSSIAN A Ukr-War, A Rum-Bud, A Bul H (or -Gre), F Ion S ITALIAN F Tyn-Tun, A Boh-Mun S by A Trl.

RUSSIA: A War-Lvn S by A War, A Ukr-War, A Arm-Sev, F Con-Aeg.

On the southern front, things should be more interesting, at least for a while. The French dare not allow the Italian fleet to raise havoc with a successful move to the Mid-Atlantic. F NAF-Mid is thus called for. Yet that effectively removes the support of F Tun (insuring its forcible removal from the area) and still does not eliminate such minor problems as holding Spain and Marseilles against probable or possible Italian attacks and simultaneously providing a needed support for England's A Mun. But for France, under the circumstances:

FRANCE: F NAF-Mid, F Tun-Wes, F Lyo-Mar, A Spa-Mar, A Bur S ENGLISH A Mun.

The Italians, as a result of their excellent ploy, have a multitude of possibilities. First on the agenda, though, is probably the recapture of Tunis. Assuming that the Italians remain as devious as they were last season, a good possibility is:

ITALY: F Wes-NAF, F Tyn-Tun, F Rom-Tyn, A Ven-Tus, A Pie S FRENCH F Lyo-Mar.



You remember Bill and Mary? ... He plays football, she models clothes...yeah. Anyway, I'm over at their place playing Diplomacy....



1973IK -- PRESS

TORINO (16 November 1904)(from letters to the Food Editor of the North Italian Standby): The following recipe was received just before press time from the Commander of the French forces in Nice. In the interest of time and good will, since the French government has heretofore shown evidence of nothing but animosity, we present the recipe in its entirety with no editing.

From the files of General Balrog:  
 1 Prisoner of War 217 cloves garlic  
 15 cups pepper (coarsely chopped)  
 2 pounds salt 3 cups oregano

Clean prisoner and rub thoroughly with seasonings. Place on a slowly turning spit, and roast for 8 hours, or until the screaming dies down to a bearable level. Serve whole, garnished with sprigs of parsley. Serves 1. If guests are present, double the recipe for up to 15, and disjoint all but one prisoner.

The following notes were scribbled in the margin: "To the chef--due to the quality of the recent prisoners from Italy, of which I may state there are far too few, please omit all seasonings; tenderize thoroughly; and roast for at least 24 hours due to the extreme toughness. The natural spiciness, I feel, also calls for a large portion of bland white sauce--and if you can really clean any one of these prisoners, there's a two-month bonus in it for you!"

NICE (18 November 1904)(Butler Press): "Hroooooom!" snorted General Balrog. "It's a fine thing when any damn spy can steal top-secret recipes. I was going to enter that one in the Pillsbury Bake-Off this year! Oh, well, I'm working on another one...". The General had to yell at the reporters, standing as he was next to a spit on which, screaming rather loudly,iddled with cloves, and garnished with pineapple rings, was the Food Editor of the North Italian Standby.

...and the situation is real tight. So Mary comes up to me and she says, "Support me into Munich and I'll give you what you want, baby." And she winks at me. OK, so it's a deal, I tell her.



Boy, was she pissed when I took Bill home with me!



Well, he winked at me first....

and now, porno fans, straight from the Ballwin MO Grotchrot, we have:

**SALERNO (Sept. 1904):** King Walter has enlisted outside aid in his struggle with Pope Joan II. "We seem to win every battle, but we keep losing cities--the people flock to her banner," stormed the King. "They use unfair weapons. Well, I've sent for my cousins in the Carpathian Alps--the Rec Tombs, and their cousins, the Far Tombs. The answer to unfair propaganda techniques is force, and more force, and still more force. By golly, wait 'till they see the three units we got this week!"

**ROME (Oct. 1904):** Stolen Italian Military Estimates:

**"ARMPICA MILITARY REGIMENTS.** Very offensive. Stack it out when going gets hot and hairy. Used to damp forested areas, but operate under any conditions.

**"FAR TOMB HUSSARS.** Mere promise of their tougher cousins from Rec Tomb. Comics of the army--a real gas!

**"ORAGENTALICAN ARTILLERY.** The regiment is especially proficient in counterbattery fire. Opposing cannons are blown away in minutes. One bad trait, overeating: the 69 sections are voracious eaters and each tries to outdo the others.

**"COMMANDER IN CHIEF (Gen. Scrottdillious):** Used to be considered a softy, but has been known to wield a big stick. Has invented a telescoping cannon which can be erected in minutes and fires huge balls. The guns should be fired from forested or bushy areas since they are quite prominent in exposed positions and vulnerable to counterbattery fire.

**ROME (12 November 1904)(Butler Press):** Her Holiness Pope Joan II made a triumphal entry into the holy city today...for the 17th time this year. The Cutest Pontiff in History immediately proclaimed the "usual treatment of the civilian population", and within hours there was a huge line of stevedores, welders, truck drivers, carpenters, and construction workers outside the Vatican. Appointments were made for all, while the Pope Herself immediately requisitioned the person of General Scrottdillious himself.

Shortly after the General's arrival at the Pope's private quarters, Her Holiness' Personal Secretary, Count Visi d'Arce, emerged. "Her Holiness wishes a ruler?" he cried. Obtaining same, he went back inside. A few moments later he came back out. "Pope Joan," he announced, "has requested (a) a yardstick, (b) a tube of K.Y., and (c) not to be disturbed."

**TUNIS (via Paris):** Prince Adam awoke crying one night. When asked by his man-servant, Conrad the Dwarf, he replied, "I dreamed that there was an Italian behind me, boo-hoo, BOO-HOO!"

"Fear not, young Master," said Conrad, "look out the window. The bad Italians are gone!"

"Good," said Prince Adam, "Let us go visit Rome and sell them out 68½ boxes of Pope Joan II holy love charms. Good King Steven has not sent my allowance this year yet."

### HOW BAD CAN AN APPLE GET?

It would appear that the hobby has begun to be involved in a feud over nothing less than postal Diplomacy's premier publication, DIPLOMACY WORLD. Overlooking such things as circulation (the largest in the hobby) and the fact that D.W. has gained the official sponsersip of Games Research, it is enough to say that it is the only publication which gives a complete overview of what's going on in postal Diplomacy. Its coverage of the hobby is complete, balanced, and nonpartisan--which is more than I can say for any other 'zine, including my own, and especially the stuff coming out of New York.

How can you fault, honestly, an outstanding publication like DIPLOMACY WORLD? That was the problem which faced a cabal of New York publishers. Obviously piqued by the fact that the hobby's biggest gun wasn't coming from the Big Apple, they launched a campaign to convince people that there was something wrong with D.W. This began with opposition--perfectly legitimate--to the IDA subsidy. Since then, however, they have carried things to extremes which I would expect only of an anti-moral person such as John Boardman (who is, indeed, involved).

The opening barrage was an "honest review" of D.W. by Bob Lipton in MIXUMAXU GAZETTE. It was neither honest nor a review; it was a blatant and unfair attack, the gist of which is that DW is "boring". Well, now, that is a rather subjective thing, and if Bob finds it dull, that's his problem. The fact that DIPLOMACY WORLD is enthusiastically supported by the rest of the country would seem to indicate that Bob's "review" was not only highly subjective, but deliberately and unfairly denegrating.

The next shot fired in this one-sided feud was a letter from Nicky Ulanov in THE POUCH #69. It was an open call for unity by the New York people to back Bob. There was no appeal to the merits of Bob's case (since there are none), but merely the statement that "because we back each other up...let's back Bob when the time comes".

And sure enough, MIXUMAXU GAZETTE, POCKET ARMENIAN, POUCH, and GRAUSTARK are all following a party line with respect to DIPLOMACY WORLD. It is obvious that they are not the least concerned with what is true, but only in what will serve their irrational hatred for D.W. The latest move in this idiocy is the cancellation of trade agreements because D.W. is "boring", again to quote MMG.

The most ludicrous portion of this New York plot is an article by Bob Lipton in a recent POUCH in which he claims there is no conspiracy (what, never? No, never? What, never? Welllllll...).

The most disturbing aspect is the large element of untruth in the New York anti-DW campaign. Bob Lipton has made repeated false accusation regarding DW. These have been called to his attention, but there has never been a retraction. This sort of behavior I might expect of GRAUSTARK--which is too fanatic to bother with truth--but I had expected better of Bob. He has accused Walt of reprinting items without citing the original sources (and I have personally cited the citations to him), and he has most recently claimed that Bruce Schlickbernd's "Gods of Diplomacy" press series was not printed by DW--but in fact it appeared in #5. Apparently merely being unnecessarily nasty isn't enough; it is also needful to lie.

Quite frankly, I find the whole business disgusting. It reeks of jealousy and rank emotionalism. The last-ditch stand against the IDA subsidy--regardless of whether one agrees with it or not--was honest and admirable because it involved a real issue of real merit. There is nothing honest nor admirable about this melange of ill-conceived ill-will. The people responsible for it should be ashamed of themselves.

Gee, gang...I'm so busy I just don't have time to do more. This is going to have to be a short issue; I'm sorry. Anything else I do right now would have to be filler or something and I'm not in the mood. I've got stuff to write for DW, and COSTA, and MMG, plus heavy work for the PDRC...well, I'll have more time after the puppies are born and Thanksgiving is over with, so I'll do another issue fairly soon.

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