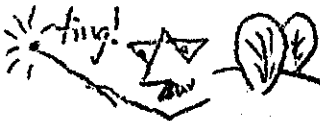


"BARTENDER," SAID THE GOOD FAIRY OF POSTAL DIPLOMACY, "PLEASE GIVE THIS CHARMING YOUNG MAN A DOUBLE MARTINI, TWO OLIVES, AND A COPY OF

EREWON 84 

4 January 1975



Mr. & Mrs. Beyerlein,
I pronounce you two
Diplomacy nuts man
and wife.



You may now stab
the bride....

OUR NATIONAL SLATE

High Muckity-Muck.	Rod Walker
Scapegoat.	Conrad von Metzke
Chief Exorcist	Lucretia Borgia
Minister of Cuhltchah.	Senile Quiverlips
Minister of Procurement.	Pussy Galore
Minister of Financial Dealings	John Beshara
Minister of Financial Double-Dealings.	Richard Nixon
Minister of Official Lies.	Gerald Ford
Minister of Unofficial Lies.	John Mitchell
Minister of Obsequiousness	Dickmiller Gollum
Minister of Palmistry.	Eric Verheiden
Minister of Ballyhoo	John Boardman
Minister of Matzoh Ball Production	Bob Lipton
Minister of Weasel Production.	Gil Neiger
Minister of Treacle Wells.	Peggy Gemignani
Minister of Knife Sharpening	Edythe Birsauron

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 "Decadent! Decadent!! Shriek!!! Akakakakrattatat!" --Patty Hearst.
 "You can't imagine how much the last issue surprised me." --Milton Cross.
 "I don't read anything more than one page long." --Ronald Reagan.
 "Sock it to me, baby!" -- George Foreman. "I love your mug...it has balls." -- Bobby Riggs. "Mlurg fooshum garbbenglutz tink!" --Tim Leary.
 "Rod, if you could spare \$500...." -- John Boardman.

This is EREHWON, hopefully, a brazen journal of postal Diplomacy and other frippery. Subscriptions are 6/\$1 (but 10/\$1 to postal Dippy publishers if we do not otherwise trade). There are no some openines. Original articles and other material are solicited. The right to edit, in the interests of space, grammar, maximum effect, and some virtually nonexistent standard of "taste", is reserved to the Editor. Blanket permission to reprint any item in EREHWON 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 reprint be sent to me.

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This is Pandemonium Publication #579, edited and published by Rod Walker, 4069 Jackdaw St., San Diego CA 92103.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. MOVIN' ON... Well, it's just about final. We enter escrow on our new home this month, and should be moved in by the end of February. We will be living in Encinitas, about 30 miles up the coast from San Diego. The most noticeable effect of the move will be this: EREHWON will become, if that is possible, even more irregular than usual. Most of my other projects are really not that time-consuming, but this one always takes up hours to type, run off, collate, address, and mail, and I will not always be able to keep up with it. Just thought I'd warn you-all.

2. LAPUTA is the business journal of the Postal Diplomacy Rating Commission. The PDRC's members include the ratingsmasters of all rating systems maintained in this country (with the exception that the DA has, typically, refused to make any sort of cooperative gesture). Our aim is to narrow the differences between our rating systems in terms of rating the same set of games (or as close to that as we can get). Anyone who is interested in our negotiations may subscribe to LAPUTA @15¢ a copy (sent on a time-delay basis). As noted in the last EREHWON, we are now dealing with the question of local games and are looking for input from all interested parties (due in to me--or any member of the Commission--by 31 January 1975). Note last issue for details.

3. RULES REVISION. The notion of rewriting the Rulebook (again) has been bruited about in some quarters. The argument is that all the paradoxical situations which can be produced by the current convoy rules justify the rewrite. My reason for not buying this is that I regard it as alarmist. None of the hypothesized situations occurs with any frequency at all, and I have yet to see one in postal play. There is a need to interpret the Rulebook, of course; but rewriting it would be a total waste of time and money. Additionally, I know that Allan Calhauer is less than thrilled about redoing the job we did in 1971. I mentioned my misgivings to John Moot, and his reply, dated 3 October 1974, follows:

"Concerning the rules to Diplomacy, I am not, nor did I ever wish to imply that I am interested in revising them once again.

"There were questions concerning the Pandin Paradox and I referred them to Walt Buchanan as perhaps a topic for his publication. From what you say, the situation is so unlikely to occur that I question whether it is even worth discussing. Rest assured that I personally see no reason for revising the instructions once again."

"...we must dance and we must sing," warbled the Good Fairy of Postal Diplomacy, "all about

THE GAME

1973IK: AND, AS ANOTHER DRAW FADES SLOWLY INTO THE SUNSET, SO DOES THE ENGLISH SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, AND FRANCE OOZES INTO THE LEAD. MORE RUSSIANS BITE THE DUST AS THE ENGLISH ARMY OF THE VOLGA HIGH-TAILS IT BACK TO THE FLESH-POTS OF ST.PETERSBURG.

Fall-Winter 1905: Two votes on a 6-way draw were taken in Fall & Winter. Each got 4 "yes" votes, but, respectively, 1 and 2 "no" votes. So the game goes on. The GM has put a restraining order on further draw votes until the end of 1906.

AUSTRIA (Scout): A Vie-Tri, A Trl-Mun, A Gal S RUSSIAN A War /otm/, A Boh-Sil, A Bul-Con, F Ion S ITALIAN F Tyn. Owns: Bud, Tri, Vie, Bul, Gre, Ser, Rum (7). Build A Vie.

ENGLAND (Kelly): A Mos S GERMAN A Sil-War (R-StP), A Lvn S A Mos, F Nwy-Bar, F Bal /h/, F Nth C FRENCH A Bel-Nwy, F Mid-Wes, F Eng H, A Mun S ITALIAN A Ven-Tri /nso/. Owns: Edi, Lpl, Lon, ~~Waf~~, Den, Hol, StP, Mun (7). Disband F Eng.

FRANCE (Brooks): F Bre-Mid, F Lyo-Tus, F Naf S F Tun, F Wes-Lyo, F Tun S ENGLISH F Mid-Wes, A Bel-Nwy, A Mar-Pie. Owns: Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa, Bel, Tun, Nwy (8). Build A Par.

GERMANY (McKeon): A Sil-War S by A Pru, A Ber S ENGLISH A Mun. Owns: Ber, Kie, Swe, War (4). Build A Kie.

ITALY (Blank): F Tyn H, F Nap H, A Ven MS A Pie. Owns: Nap, Rom, Ven, ~~Tri~~ (3). Disband A Ven.

RUSSIA (Vagts): A War-Lvn /d/, A Sev-Mos S by A Ukr, F Con H. Owns: Mos, Sev, ~~Waf~~, Ank, Smy, Con (5). Build A Sev (1 short).

SPRING 1906 ORDERS were due on Monday, 6 January 1975, so at last the 'zine is catching up with the game.

1973IK -- ANALYSIS

Well, in Spring 1905 the draw vote failed. So what else is new? The current resident of Moscow, for one thing. It seems the Russian player made what is known as a "blunder", which the English player was able to follow up on the basis of "pure luck". The upshot is that the ownership of Warsaw is likely to change over the coming year. The thing is that while the English have Moscow now, they can't hold it. They could however hold Warsaw, which is vulnerable. On the other side of the coin, the Russians can retake Moscow; however, a simple counting argument (i.e.: they are outnumbered 4 to 3) will show that Warsaw cannot now be held.

So what is the end result of all this maneuvering in the east? Not a great deal, actually. It seems that the Austro-Russians can live quite nicely without Warsaw or Moscow--i.e., A Trl S A Boh, A Vie S A Gal, A Sev S A Ukr. If Moscow is retaken, it can be held (with support from A Ukr and A Sev), but if not, it can be seen that it makes little difference.

Two other moves seem worthy of note: the Italian A Tus-Ven and the "conflict" between the English and the French in the west. The Italian order was apparently in response to certain fears about Venice. If so, it may be hoped that these fears could be resolved quickly in view of what the French could do with an army convoyed to Tuscany. The east might still be able to hold out, but a certain amount of retrenching might be involved.

Continued on page 5



In the Ballantine edition of the Zothique tales of Clark Ashton Smith, there is a map of Zothique. It was prepared by the Editor, Lin Carter, from a map done earlier by L. Sprague de Camp and corrected by Smith himself. I have not been very satisfied with the map and a revised version appears above.

Smith's stories are admittedly vague about locations in many instances. Even so, it is possible to make a number of deductions about things which are not shown on the de Camp/Carter map. For one thing, even when the locations of cities are precisely noted (as in the case of Mirouane--see The Master of the Crabs), cities simply do not appear on the map (except Zul-Bha-Sair). The map also does not make clear that Zothique lies in the southern hemisphere. The Ilozian Sea is located to the north of the archipelago which streams eastward from Zothique, although The Voyage of King Euvoran makes it pretty clear that is the sea enclosed by those islands. And so on; a bunch of little things. Anyway, every place mentioned in the Zothique tales is mentioned on the map above, save some of the islands to the east, such as Tosk, Yumatot, and Orneva.

Some of you may remember that my main variant 'zine, when I was involved with variants, was named ZOTHIQUE. Correspondence on the above map is welcome, especially any corrections or additions which might need to be made.

which would of course increase the chances of more blunders such as the one with Moscow this season. There is one other explanation for A Tus-Ven, a subsequent move of A Pie-Tus, A Ven 3 AUSTRIAN A Trl-Pie; AUSTRIA: A Trl-Pie, A Vie-Trl. But then the question arises: why bother? The stalemate they had already was quite suitable; revisions for the sake of revisions seem pointless.

Now as for the apparent conflict between the English and the French: it is still not great enough to buy it quite yet. The bounce in Holland seems reasonable, if displaying a certain apparent lack of trust between England and France; likewise the conflict in the Mid-Atlantic. However, until one or the other really starts making some serious attacks, most likely pulling back some of the forces on other fronts (which, it should be carefully noted, neither has shown much inclination of doing yet), full credibility will be lacking. The Fall orders should provide a truly singular opportunity to resolve the matter. Portugal is wide open. If the English are serious about France, now would be the time to move, no doubt about it. If the English fail to take Portugal or, by the strangest coincidence, block each other's attacks (e.g., another bounce in Holland coupled with: ENGLAND: F Mid-Bre S by F Eng; FRANCE: F Bre-Mid S by F NAF), it should be readily apparent that the phoney war is on in earnest. It will be interesting to see if anyone buys it. The Russian player, having had a recent unfortunate experience with another phoney war in another game, may be on to things more quickly this time. If the English do grab Portugal or pick off Brest, the French reaction can be anticipated; it will be interesting to see if the Anglo-German interests can weather the ensuing storm.

1973IK -- PRESS

TORINO (8 August 1905)(from the Northern Italian Standby): Col. Rocco Vermicelli returned today from an important staff meeting in Florence. Security considerations prevented him from revealing the decisions made at the meeting, but he did state that the forces under his command would remain stationed in the Piemontese region for the foreseeable future, news which was greeted with mixed emotions by the local populace. When questioned about the non-military aspects of his trip, the colonel was far less reticent. He announced that a large portion of the city of Florence has been declared a Papal State by Her Holiness, Pope Joan II. Col. Vermicelli's aide, Staff Serpeant Giacomo Lasagne, was honored during the visit with an audience with Her Holiness and, although he returned in a condition of acute exhaustion, he claims that he "gave as good as he got". SSgt. Lasagne obtained from Her Holiness several sacred relics: well-worn brass tokens whose engravings were scarcely legible. The legend appears to have read, at one time, "Good for one [unintelligible] at Lucy's House". Meanwhile, according to Col. Vermicelli, Prince Cesare has been named Minister of the Interior and Decoration for the Papal State of Florence. As a whole, the cleanliness and appearance of the area have improved dramatically, but many of the traditional purple banners have unaccountably faded to a pale lavender. Col. Vermicelli also heard rumors of the arrival in Florence of an organization known as the Travelling Whordes of Madame Floozie. Unfortunately, the Colonel gave no further information on this subject, as he hurriedly left the press conference when SSgt. Lasagne rushed in to inform him that he has located a doctor in Asti with a fresh supply of penicillin.

FIRENZE (9 August 1905)(Butler Press): Her Holiness the Pope today flatly denied the authenticity of certain sacred relics possessed by one

SSgt Lawrence of the Standby Reserves. Her Holiness spoke with two young ~~reporters~~ reporters during a Missa Pro "Menage a Deux" early this evening. Quoth She: "For one thing, they are obviously very clumsy forgeries of the real thing. It is well known that Our tokens read merely 'Good for One'. It is not necessary to specify where, or what, or with whom. Of course," mused the Cutest Vicar of Christendom Ever, "those could be tokens distributed by Our dear brother Cesare to the local soldiers...but those were on his account."

WHOM DO YOU STOMP?

James B. Thomas

[The following short article is from a letter from Jim Thomas. It's interesting and perhaps others would like to follow up or expand the ideas in it.]

I've been working on the question of: assuming that the most effective way of playing this game is five countries wiping out the other two, then three countries wiping out the other two, then the devil take the hindmost, what two countries should each player favor wiping out first? I further assume that nobody wants to wipe himself out, and that everybody ought to be either a wipee or a wiper (nobody wants to see Italy just sitting there while everyone else concentrates on England and Russia), and that the maximum combined offensive force should be applied to each victim. For purposes of the last assumption, I've rated each country on a 0 - 5 scale for its offensive capacity (at the beginning of the game) against each other country:

<u>Attacker</u>	<u>Victim</u>						
	AUS	ENG	FRA	GER	ITA	RUS	TUR
AUSTRIA.....	0		0	1	3	4	4
ENGLAND.....	0		4	4	0	4	0
FRANCE.....	0	4		5	3	0	0
GERMANY.....	2	4	5		0	3	0
ITALY.....	4	0	3	0		0	3
RUSSIA.....	4	3	0	3	0		4
TURKEY.....	4	0	0	0	2	4	

If you think I'm off base in any of my ratings, I'd certainly appreciate your opinion. So far it looks like the strongest openings in general are against Austria and Germany and against Austria and France. The weakest is against England and Germany (with Italy and Turkey screaming epithets from the distance)--the weakest with everyone taking an active part seems to be against England and Italy.

GOD HELPS THOSE WHO...

That's right. And perhaps the most compelling notation on who ought to be helping themselves appears in #IV.1 of BUSHWACKER, Fred Davis' fine variant 'zine. He strongly recommends the reading of Johnson Montgomery's article, "The Island of Plenty", in the 23 Dec 74 NEWSWEEK. Fred then quotes from the same:

"Some of us have polluted the planet by reproducing too many of us. If we try to save the starving millions today, we will simply destroy what's left of Eden. The problem is not that there is too little food. The problem is that there are too many people.... We should not deplete our own soils to save those who will only die equally miserably a decade or so down the line--and in many cases only after reproducing more children who are inevitably doomed to live and die in misery.... If everyone [on

Earth] shared equally, we would all be suffering from procein-deficiency brain damage--and that would probably be true even if we are every last animal on earth.... Our grief must not interfere with our perception of reality and our planning for a better future for those who will come after us. Someone must protect the material and intellectual seed grain for the future. It seems to me that that someone is the U.S. We owe it to our children - and to their children's children's children. These conclusions will be attacked as simplistic and inhumane. But truth is often very simple, and reality often inhumane."

Fred then adds this paragraph of his own thoughts: "To which we would add our own belief that the group which should attempt to preserve civilization through the coming "Great die-back" (as it was called on Star Trek) includes all of North America and most of Europe (excluding southern Italy), plus the granary/technology outposts of Argentina, Australasia, Japan, and Israel. Everything else is probably already hopelessly lost - with the exception of a few spots like Iran - and the sooner we recognize this the better. In short, there is not one "Island of Plenty" on Earth; there are several islands in which we, the Sea Peoples, should be able to survive when the Heartland collapses."

I couldn't agree more. The basic problem of this planet is population. The United States is on the verge of achieving zero population growth, which is a step in the right direction, although decreasing our population below 200 million is a better goal.

This nation, other nations, and international agencies have labored greatly over the past three decades to feed the overpopulated areas--and the result has been, largely, to encourage them to produce even more people. That is not only rank stupidity, it is ingrate arrogance. Procreation is not a right--it is a privilege, and the sooner the various nations act to curb the unbridled exercise of that privilege, the better.

I am not so pessimistic as Fred. The more primitive areas of Eurasia, Africa, and Equatorial America may yet be saved. But the answer is not more food--it is discipline. Nations which act to institute rigid population controls (including mass involuntary sterilization, if necessary) will merit agrarian assistance from individual nations or an international cartel. Perhaps stern measures can help preserve these areas from total disaster.

In our own nation, we must come to realize that "marriage" is not a license to reproduce. We must look forward to the time when the reproduction of our population can be eugenically regulated. Vast numbers of our people are already beginning to recognize that parenthood is a condition whose emotional satisfactions are outweighed by the drudgery involved, not to mention the inherent immorality of bringing more children into a world which needs fewer. We also need to set our sights on better children. In animals, breeding is directed; in humans, it is by chance. We are presently handling the important question of "birth defects" with kid gloves. It is about time we put on the iron gauntlet.

That may sound selfish. It is. Overpopulation means a new Dark Age ahead unless we face the problem squarely. If we cannot save ourselves, how can we be expected to save others? If the World-Island be like to die, then let it; but it must not drag us down with it. That would be their selfishness, far more invidious than our determination to save at least this small parcel of modern human civilization.

BIG APPLE PIE

I've been in correspondence with Edi Birsan, Scott Rosenberg, and Nicky Ulanov. We've been talking about my stand relating to what has

... a few statements:

My endorsement of Len Lakofka for the IDA Presidency was not intended as a criticism of Eda Bircan's tenure of office. This is a case in which we have two good men running for office. My personal choice, as the better of the two, was Len Lakofka. Len has many ideas and programs which, I believe, would benefit the IDA. It seems to me that he should be given a chance to try them out.

Nicky and Scott both fervently deny that there is any New York cabal. I will agree to this in part; not all Diplomacy fans in New York are of the same political persuasion in the hobby. There is the IDA clique, for instance, dominated by people like John Boardman, whose contempt for democratic principles approaches mania. Edi Bircan is a force all by himself, in many ways. And then there are a great many other people, players and publishers.

I do not mean to imply, therefore, that everybody in New York is in some vast plot. Nonetheless, I have been very concerned, and it seems to me that the plain facts justify that concern.

1. Nick Ulanov is quoted in the POUCH as calling for a united New York front. Nick says what he meant was a call for moral support for Bob Lipton's right to express his own opinions. Now, it seems to me that this hobby has always operated on that principle, so that the statement was not really necessary; and moreover, the statement appeared to say something quite different. Of this, Nicky says: "The interpretation may have been ambiguous, but it was not written for publication, and Gil, to whom it was sent, knew what it meant. It was only published because at the time Gil was angry and knew that its meaning would not be at all clear to the reading public at large." I can buy that, but the point is not what Nick meant, but what other readers--particularly in New York--thought he meant and the action they took based on it.

2. The whole flap over DIPLOMACY WORLD was centered in New York, and so far as I know only New York publishers (Lipton, Neiger, and Boardman in particular) are pushing the party line about how awful ("boring" or whatever) DW is supposed to be. The coincidence is striking, to say the least.

3. Since DipCon VII several people from New York up and joined the IDA, many of them showing considerable interest in the election. When the IDA ballot came out, lo and behold there was a candidate from New York for every office (except the regional ones). That is also a very striking coincidence and I doubt it could have happened without planning by some of the people involved.

Now, I should add that there is nothing inherently wicked about all this. There are many political interests in the hobby. The most political of all is IDA, also located in New York. There is also a largish group centered around the IDA, although it is neither so well-organized nor so secretive as the cabal which dictates the policies of IDA. Then there is a loose sort of New York group.

My main complaint about the latter group is the hysterical tenor of their attacks on DIPLOMACY WORLD in particular, and their tendency to back a person on an issue because he is a friend, rather than because he is right.

I do concede, however, that I have previously stated my misgivings too strongly. I apologize specifically to Nicky Ulanov, who has always been an asset to the hobby and a voice of moderation--and also to Scott Rosenberg... Scott and I disagree on some things but his position is certainly an honest one and he has really tried to be fair.

However, the events of past months show that there is a political group centered in New York, with a definite political position, and it is time we recognized it for what it is.

THE DIPLOMAT IS ALIVE AND WELL

...in San Diego, yet. Postal Diplomacy was conceived independently by three people in the hobby: Conrad von Metzke of San Diego in 1962, John Boardman of New York in 1963, and Eric Just of Oklahoma City in 1967. The result of the last inspiration was THE DIPLOMAT. Eric ran the 'zine regularly for a number of years, and then irregularly in more recent months, and during the last year not at all. One game remains in THE DIPLOMAT to be completed.

Jeff Key, one of the players, contacted me last year to see if I would be willing to take over the game. I replied I would, if the GM would agree to it. I have now heard from Eric. He has turned the 'zine and the game over to me. I will begin publishing TD shortly.

However, I need replacement players! One of the players in the game (John Koning) is deceased, and at least one other is probably missing. I do not wish to restart the game with positions in civil disorder. Therefore, anyone wishing to play in this game may do so for free, yet. First-come, first-served.

Copies of THE DIPLOMAT will be sent automatically to the Boardman Number Custodian and to the National Diplomacy Archives in Lebanon IN. Subscriptions will be 10¢ a copy (sent in batches of 2 or more) or 15¢ a copy (sent individually). Since the Editor Emeritus, Eric Just, has promised (sworn, even) to make occasional contributions, this otherwise dull turkey might actually be worth getting. And then again....

HALF A PAGE OF FILLER

Well, let's see. I've run out of stuff for this issue. One observation struck me the other day. The situation or condition which makes one eligible for welfare is called a "linkage" to the program. For AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children), the linkage is "deprivation"...that is, the child(ren) is(are) deprived of one parent. This is either because one parent is absent or the father is unemployed.

Now, it follows that AFDC applies to unborn children as well as the others, right? So an unwed mother can apply for AFDC because the imminent arrival is deprived of its father, right? And what, specifically, can she apply for? An abortion.

Lissen, kid: you think you're deprived now? Just wait....

I suppose you have all heard the sad tale of the Polack who joined the IRA. His first assignment was to blow up a school bus. Poor guy gurned his mouth on the tail pipe.

In New England, "Mainer" jokes are the local equivalent of "Polack" jokes. One Mainer had two horses which he could never tell apart. Now, this was really bad because one of them was very sweet but the other was wild and couldn't be ridden safely. On the nights when he made a mistake and got bucked off, he would sit up, vainly trying to think of a way to tell one horse from the other. He rejected branding as too cruel, and a good solution simply escaped him. This went on for months as he puzzled and puzzled over the problem. Then one night, at 3 in the morning, he sat bolt-upright in bed and snapped his fingers. "I've got it!" he cried to himself triumphantly. "I know how to tell them apart!" He chuckled at his own cleverness. "The white one is two hands higher than the brown one."

Yeah, well, as I said...filler....

ADDRESS CODES:

P - player
 S - Subscriptions expires with issue indicated
 I - Trade
 I? - Wanna trade?
 J? - Well, are we trading or aren't we?
 XXX - Last issue on sub/trade/whatever
 NNN - None below
 EEE - Enclosure
 CCM - Ray Hever says "Hi"
 JJB - Golda Kolt says "Shalom"
 ABC - Parker Bros says "Happy"
 GRI - Mr. John
 BB - Bob Lydon says "Hi"
 RIT - Fred Davis says "Hi"
 IT - Fussy Galore says, "Did you know that cars are litards?"



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 for explanation