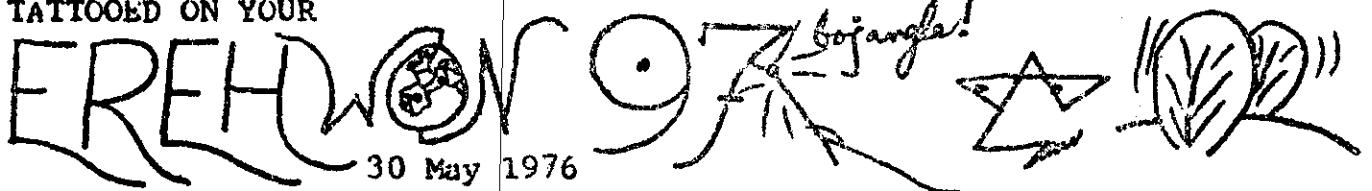
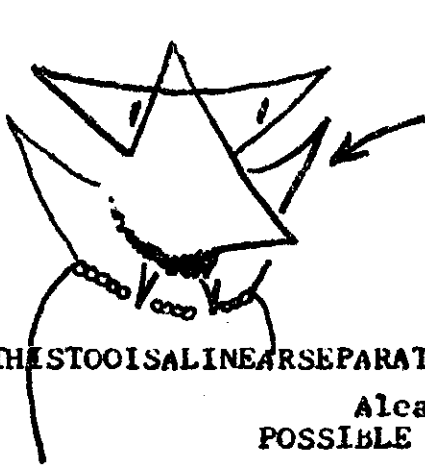


"OH?" EXCLAIMED THE GOOD FAIRY OF POSTAL DIPLOMACY IN SURPRISE. "WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE A DEDICATED VICE OFFICER, I HAD NO IDEA YOU HAD YOUR BADGE TATTOOED ON YOUR



30 May 1976

HARKHARKTHEYARKLINEARSEPARATORASCENDINGTHEDESCENDINGSTAIRCASEINMETAMANWHOWAS THEREEATINGPEANUTSBYTHEPECKSOAPINGHERBREASTSINTHEBATHBYTHESHORESOFGITCHELEG



Fangmaster

Oh...you've been stabbing me in the back, haven't you? The blade wasn't silver, was it? How careless....

THESTOOISALINEARSEPARATORBUTHOPEFULLYITWILLMAKEMORESENSEMOREORLESSIHOPEBUT

Alcala Press' Spring List:
POSSIBLE BOOKS BY IMPROBABLE AUTHORS

How to Rite an Srel Good. . . . .	..Gordon Anderson
Elementary Logic. . . . .	..John Boardman
A Primer on Humility. . . . .	..John Beshara
The Haemoglobin Cook Book . . . . .	..Don Horton
The "How to" Book of Neatness . . . . .	..Rod Walker
The Independent Thinker . . . . .	..Eric Verheiden
Making Yourself Understood. . . . .	..Peggy Gemignani
In Praise of Tolerance. . . . .	..Bob Lipton
Diplomacy for Fun and Profit. . . . .	..Carol Buchanan
Guide to Functional Simplicity. . . . .	..Bob Sacks

WELLSOMUCHFORTHATNOWWEAREGOINGTOTELLYOUWHATTOAVOIDTHISISSUEWHICHDOESNTHAVE

WELL-LAID CONTENTS OF THIS CONSENTING ISSUE

DINKICON III. . . . .	..2
EREHWON #100! . . . . .	..2
1975CY. . . . .	..2
1976BR. . . . .	..3
AC/DC (Plugs for the People). . . . .	..4
SUBSCRIPTION PRICES IN POSTAL DIPLOMACY . . . . .	..7
REVIEWS AND COMMENTS. . . . .	..8
ANGOLA AND THE NEXT DECADE. . . . .	..9



TOOAWFULLYMUCHINITB: CAUSEITISMYCATCHUPISSUEFORALLTHEPLUGSLOWEVERYBODYANDT

SPECIAL NOTICE

I need stand-by players in both of my games. If you are interested in being on the list for one or both of them, please let me know. This list will include the third game when it starts.

Next issue: Two games (one old, one new) get underway. We will hopefully have a couple of pages of amusing press, some more thoughts on World War III, maybe a report on running a boarding kennel, and like that.

* Entire contents copyright ©1976 by Rod Walker. Exceptions and lim- *
* itations to the copyright are listed in issue #94. Except as so *
* stated, all rights reserved. *

This is EREHWON, a monthly (if you're not too precise about it) journal of postal Diplomacy and other fine points of Kantian jurisprudence. Subscriptions are 5/\$1; however, you may sub at 8/\$1 if you are a postal Diplomacy publisher, and I have refused to trade for your "zine, and you are not a member of "TDA". Game fee is \$8.50 (\$4.00 if we trade).

Back issues available: 40, 45, 50-96. They are 20¢ each; sent 3rd class they are: 10¢ each in batches of 2-11; 12 issues for \$1, with 8¢ for each additional issue.

All prices quoted are in U.S. currency or stamps.

This is **Alcala** Publication #657, edited and published by Rod Walker, "Alcala", 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas CA 92024; (714) 753-7657.

DIPLOMACY is a game invented by Allan B. Calhaver and copyright by the Avalon Hill Company, 4517 Harford Rd., Baltimore MD 21214.

EGADYETANOTHERLINEARSEARCHTOREMAKEHATSEPARATOREVENTHOUGHIFRANKLYHATSTHETHI

DinkiCon III

Well, now we have the final word on DinkiCon III. It will be at Holmby Park, but on Sunday, 22 August 1976. I believe the bloodletting will be underway by 10. As I said before, I will be there, come hell, high water, 50 dogs, or whatever. And of course it will be written up in the next EREHWON. That issue should be #100, although I'd sure like to have #100 done before. If you need any further details, write me or write the official host, Don Horton. But I can tell you how to get to Holmby at any rate.

Lunch: I imagine that the traditional lunch of hot dogs, potato salad, soda, and turnovers will be served. The ante was \$1 last time, if memory serves. Anyway, you can also bring your own.


NGSANDCANTREADTHEMANYWAYHOPEFULLYIWILLBEINDUCEDTOABANDONTHEMATTERTHISTIME

EREHWON #100!?

Late this summer will see my 100th issue, gang! It will also be my 10th Anniversary Issue. You can expect something special, of course. It will probably be 20-30 pages long. I cannot give you the full line-up, because I don't know it yet, but there will be articles by Allan Calhaver, Len Lakofka, Don Horton, Nicky Ulanov, and other luminaries of the postal Diplomacy firmament. Individual copies of that issue will sell at a premium (50¢ to \$1, I don't know exactly), but regular subbers will not have to worry about that.

NOBODYEXPECTSTHESPANISHINQUISITIONOURMAINWEAPONISSURPRISESURPRISEANDFEAROUR

1975CY
OH, ALL RIGHT...

 Why, of course we
Palestinians will guarantee
Israel's borders! *jawohl!*

Winter 1902: Charles Bell and Steve Brooks, having never submitted orders of any kind for this game, are removed without prejudice (not dropped). OK, raters?

Now, I had three offers to stand by for this game. I naturally mis- misplaced the notes, but I remember two of them: Brad Payne and Peggy Gemignani. If the third person who so kindly volunteered would remind me who you are, you'll be #1 on the list. If other kind people will

volunteer to stand by, we'll keep the game afloat. Brad Payne accordingly takes over Italy, and Peggy Gemignani takes over Turkey. Their addresses: Brad Payne, 1106 NW Woodbine Pl., Seattle WA 98177.

Peggy Gemignani, 3200 NE 36th St., #907, Ft. Lauderdale FL 33308.

By the way, Brad, Henry Kelley (6721 NW 6th Ave., Seattle WA 98117) is thinking of coming down to Dinkicon III. You might get in touch with him if you have any similar idea.

For other players' addresses, see the last issue, page 4.

This game has gone on long enough that another short delay will not be too terrible. Therefore, players have until the deadline writer below to submit final Winter 1902 adjustments. I will leave some time for Brad and Peggy to negotiate. Because I don't know exactly when this will be printed and mailed, I will hand-write the deadline for the players only. The rest of you will just see an unattractive blank. Doodle in it or something.

WINTER 1902 DEADLINE: Friday, 18 June 1976

TWOMAINWEAPONSAREFEARANDSURPRISEANDUNSWERVINGDEVOTIONTOTHEPOPEOURTHREEMAIN

1976BR

UNDER WAY AT LAST!

Winter 1900: I had hoped to fill both games before assigning countries. That has proved to be impossible, in that I have 8 players and no more seem to be coming in. We'll have to advertize a little more. However, the first seven players who contacted me will be placed in the first game. They are:

R. Trevor Baillie, 17A Northview Ave., Montreal West, Quebec, CANADA

H4X 1C8. I strongly recommend air mail (17c) to Canada.

Douglas Happel, 2012 Ben Ali Rd., Anchorage KY 40223

W. Robert Johnson, 229 NE 7th St., Washington DC 20002

Dr. Robert Keathley, 204 W. G St., Elizabethton TN 37643

Len Lakofka, 644 W. Briar Pl., Chicago IL 60657

David Wan, 1357 Merrivale West Sq., San Jose CA 95117

Fred Winter, 2625 El Rancho Rd., Brookfield WI 53005

Gee... every player in a different State (or Province)

Country assignments were a bit sticky. The only first-choice countries were England (4) and Turkey (3). I therefore had to assign back-to-front, as it were. France was assigned first, as only one player rated it above 5th place. Then Italy, Germany, and Austria, which had one 2nd-choice plunk each. Then I flipped a coin as to which of the two remaining players who requested "E, R, ..." would get England. The loser got Russia and Turkey by this time had become a unique first choice. The lists were (the assigned country in CAPITAL LETTER):

Len Lakofka	t(A)rg e i f	AUSTRIA
Doug Happel	(E)rg a i t f	ENGLAND
Bob Keathley	e r (F) t g i a	FRANCE
Trevor Baillie	t (G) r i e f a	GERMANY
Fred Winter	e (I) r a f g t	ITALY
Robert Johnson	e (R) a t i f g	RUSSIA
David Wan	(T) r a g e f i	TURKEY

DEADLINE FOR SPRING 1901 ORDERS: Friday, 2 July 1976 (Again, this will be written in for the players and the rest of you can doodle.)

Plugs for the People

Actually, we are going to do some honest reviews of the 'zines (or at least most of them) I trade with. You will note that I will also list game openings, and if you are looking for a new game to join...well, obviously you should join mine. But if you have already done that, then you may consider one of these.

Symbols: g/ indicates game fee. s/ indicates sub fee. All fees in \$US unless otherwise noted. (Number shows last issue I have.)

BLACK HOLE (36). Douglas Reif, 67 Grosvenor Rd., Kenmore NY 14223. s/11 for \$2. g/none open. This is a brief 'zine, frequently only 4 pages long. Ditto, tendency to blur or fuzz. Doug has a lot of interesting material in his 'zine, of general interest, that is. I enjoy reading it very much. It is triweekly and quite regular.

BUSHWACKER (V.5). Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3012 Oak Green Ct., Ellicott City MD 21043. s/12 for \$2.50. g/\$7 (but \$3.50 to stand by). Games are all Fred's excellent variants. Mimeo, sharp and clear. Always some interesting general material of thought-provoking quality.

CARN DUM (22). Raymond E. Heuer, 102-42 Jamaica Ave., Richmond Hill NY 11418. s/8 for \$2. g/none open. All games are variants. Mimeo, generally good. Other material of more general interest usually included. I have not seen an issue since March. Raymond indicates his machine needs to be replaced and he has no plans to suspend publication. I enjoy this 'zine. See page 6.

CENTURION (20). Russell Fox, 5160 Donna Ave., Tarzana CA 91356. s/12 for \$3. g/sub, \$1 for each extra game. Regular & some variant. Mimeo...damn neat; it looks like photocopy! Russell is one of L.A.'s two wunderkinder of the hobby. The 'zine is not always the best organized in the world, and one always begins to wonder about a GM who is already running 13 active games. However, CENTURION is interesting reading, with articles, D&D stuff, and 'zine reviews (à la Dave Kadlecak, although not quite as good, in my opinion). But the reviews are numerous and fairly complete. Every issue I've seen has been worth getting. Triweekly.

CLAW & FANG (66). Don Horton, 16 Jordan Ct., Sacramento CA 95826. s/11 for \$3 (sample 25¢). g/\$2. Uses Guest GMs mostly, and is a real warehousezine of games. Mimeo, extremely good. Always has interesting articles, including some extremely interesting recipes. Very regular.

COMMAND (5). Dennis Agosta, 900 L Foxridge, Blacksburg VA 24060. Moving to New Jersey. s/12 for \$4. g/sub plus \$2.50. Monthly now, may go to triweekly soon. Regular, Third Reich, Origins. Has been running articles and columns of various types and is converting one of its games to a demo with analysis. Mimeo, superb repro. My chief complaint here is that a 'zine which runs for 3/\$1 should offer more than 9 pages. The price per issue (33¢) is just a bit steep for the return. See p. 7

DIMAN (20). Brad Hessel, 15 Oak Ave., Tarrytown NY 10591. s/issue for 20¢ [i.e., 5/\$1]. g/none open. Ditto, extremely good. Heavy concentration on press releases, many of which are not bad at all. Always amusing reading. Heavy letter column, including a good deal of non-Dippy things. One game has analysis by Lee Childs (who is a good player of the "Old Time" group whom I'm glad to see back).

THE DIPLOMACY BARON (8). Rod Zaccalini, 23861 Park Belmonte, Calabasas CA 91302. s/10 for \$3. g/sub plus \$1 refundable deposit. Rod is

the other of L.A.'s wunderkinder, and also the other "Rod" of southern California. Mimeo, excellent. Articles and other features make the 'zine sparkle. I must quibble with the 30¢/issue cost of the thing, which seems excessive for an 8-page 'zine. Otherwise, well-run; monthly.

DIPLOMACY WORLD (III.1). Walt Buchanan, R.R. #3, Box 324. s/\$4 per year (4 issues at the moment). Offset, splendid. The premier 'zine of the hobby. An absolute must for any serious fan. Need I say more?

IMPASSABLE (65). John Boyer, 117 Garland Dr., Carlisle PA 17013. s/10 for \$2. g/none open?? Second to DIPLOMACY WORLD, this is the in 'zine for the hobby. Full of hobby news, letters, articles, and of course games. Mimeo, truly remarkable. Just switched to a new half-size format which makes it easier to read.

JANUS (16). Cal White, 1 Turnberry Ave., Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M6N 1P6. s/1¢ per page plus postage. g/\$2.50. Canadian funds, I believe. Lots of articles and other interesting goodies. Ditto, good. See p.7

LIAISONS DANGEREUSES (70). Len Lakofka, 644 W. Briar Pl., Chicago IL 60657. s/9 for \$2. g/\$7 (for Novices...and this includes rebates of various amounts if you get canned early in the game). Always full of extra goodies, particularly on ratings. Seventh Anniversary issue just out, and LD's 40th game just began. Triweekly, dependable and established. Ditto, fair to good (about like ERHWON, but with elite type). Now that Len is President of the IDA (Edi resigned), this should be an even more interesting 'zine. Always worthwhile reading.

THE MASTER MACHIAVELLIAN (20). Michael Homeier, 238 N. Bowling Green Way, Los Angeles CA 90049. s/10 for \$2.50. g/none open. Regular and variants. Needs stand-by players particularly. Ditto, good to very good, black. Articles and a unique and interesting front page by Niccolò Machiavelli. Things must be more expensive in L.A. ... here's another 'zine I consider to be a tad high on its rates (25¢ an issue). Anyway, I enjoy reading the 'zine, which has frequently had some good press. (At least which Russell Fox isn't trying to tell Mike Homeier that "czar" is a Russian word.) ["Tsar" is, but...oh, the temptation to turn it all into a polack joke is too much. Let's drop it.]

PAROXYSM (29). Harry Drews, P.O. Box 282, Kitchener, Ontario, CANADA N2G 3X9. s/8 for \$2. A truly excellent 'zine. Ditto, fair to good. Full of articles, letters, extra features. Just published a variant, "Norman England". Almost always well over 10 pages, so the price is actually quite reasonable. Issue 29 had poorer repro than most (poor to fair), but it was no way typical. Some really good 'zines come out of Canada. In #21 you can watch Len Lakofka and me attack poor Harry Drews bloodily for one of his articles.

THE POUCH (I.1). Jeremy Paulson, 63-60 98th St., #C19, Rego Park NY 11374. s/8 for \$2. g/???. This is confusing. Gil Neiger apparently also puts out a "POUCH". This combined NYConspiracy 'zine was VEKILAS VINCIT last issue, and God knows what it will be like next issue. Mimeo, quite good. by some of the people who brought you the old POUCH, long ago, before it split up. Always some interesting reading. THE POCKET ARMENIAN (one of the best 'zines in the hobby), URF DURFAL, and IMLADRIS (SON OF POUCH; sigh....) are subsumed within.

[ZIRKAST, THE] PREDAWN LEFTIST (#14). Ben Grossman, 29 E. 9th St., #9, New York NY 10003. s/\$2/8. g/\$2 or \$3 (depending) plus sub. Variant: Mimeo, fair to good. Interesting reading in addition to the games, none of which I understand. I do not advise entering the games, however, since the GM permits (encourages, even) black press.

QUO VADIS (#57). Dick Vedder, c/o Dept. of History, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ 85721. s/8 for \$2 (sample for SSAE only). g/none open, but needs stand-by players. Variants only. Ditto, excellent. Frequently has good press and some other features. Issue 57 contains the maps/rules for Dick's latest (extremely good) variant...multi-variant, actually... Diadochi V/Triumvirate/Imperator. All three games have just started. I must warn anyone who wishes to be a replacement, however, that this 'zine uses prophetic orders, which means you have to send in your retreats or your retreats and adjustments with your moves. I strongly oppose this procedure, as it robs the player of essential control over his own position. It is the one complaint which I have of this otherwise superb little 'zine.

REBUS SIC STANTIBUS (1.6). Drew Meece, 65 Winter Ave., Staten Is. NY 10301. s/year (12) for \$4. g/?? (apparently a subscription...but at 12 for \$3). Mimeo, excellent. Features period cartoons, articles, letters, and is interesting reading. The one complaint I have is my usual one of 33c a copy being too much for a 'zine which never runs over 1 oz. Monthly and so far very much on time.

RUNESTONE (#120). John Leeder, 208 SW Haysboro Cres., Calbury, Alberta, CANADA T2V 3G3. s/1c per page plus postage. g/\$2 (1.50 IPA, but apparently none open at the moment). Published weekly and issues are usually sent in bundles. Ditto, excellent. Of all of Canada's outstanding 'zines, this is probably the best, simply full of interesting reading and efficiently run games. John is probably the best GM in North America. This 'zine also contains the one postal game in which I am active as an original player (1975AT), and in which I will probably be stomped to fudge as Italy.

RURITANIA (23). Tony Watson, 201 Minnesota St., Las Vegas NV 89107. s/\$1 for 4. g/subscription plus \$1 deposit. Regular and variant games open. Ditto, fair to good. Generally has other things to read besides the games. Publication has been erratic on occasion. The last 3 issues were 7, 5, and 4 pages respectively.

SPECULUM (30). Dave Kadlecak, Box 802, Univ. of Sta. Clara, Sta. Clara CA 95053. s/8 for \$2, but 10/\$2 surface rate and 10/\$4. printed matter air-mail. Sample of 1 issue for 13c. g/\$3 (1\$ refundable) plus sub...regular or just about any variant. Has articles, letters, 'zine reviews (but not nearly so extensive as they used to be before Dave decided to publish ramblings by Lew Pulsipher and Bob Sacks virtually ad nauseum). Mimeo, poor to fair. A good 'zine to get, but often hard to read.

TURNABOUT (18). Peter Berggren, Davistown Schoolhouse Rd., Oxford NH 03777. Peter's family is in the process of getting moved to Florida, and this change is going to necessitate a lot of probable changes in TURNABOUT. This has consistently been one of the best 'zines in the business. However I am not certain at this point whether Peter is taking new games or subs.

VALINOR (9). Michael Muchnik, 2520 Hyacinth Ct., Westbury NY 11590. s/10 for \$2. g/none open. Ditto, very good. Like DIMAN, a strong Press Release 'zine, and well worth getting for that. Has other features on a space-available basis.

Well, now...In the interval it took me to type all that (3 days), the following 'zines have arrived:

CARN DUM (23). s/now 8 for \$2.50 and are mailed in batches of 2 at 3rd class. I mention this because my limit for considering a 'zine to be reasonably priced is 25c a copy mailed first class. C.D. is above that limit in cost and is mailed 3rd class.

COMMAND (6). New address: 9 Finlay Pl., Newark NJ 07106. 0
 JANUS (19 & 20). No. 20 is their anniversary issue, 27 pages long. Also featured is a "Gordy W. Anderson Memorial Dartboard", which is very much better than the one I have been using. The JANUS artist, Steve Mason, does some very funny stuff in the style of good ol' Ken Fletcher; I like it. My only complaint is that he probably has Gordy's tongue too short.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES IN POSTAL DIPLOMACY

This is an editorial/article associated with the above reviews. You will note that I have indicated that several 'zines are, in my opinion, charging too much. I have made this comment about any 'zine charging more than 25¢ an issue, unless the publication is usually more than 1 ounce in weight.

Even at that, I consider 25¢ a copy to be too much, although not exorbitant. I charge 20¢ a copy myself, which I consider to be about right. Let's see how I compute this.

I print by ditto, and I compute on the basis of 100 copies of a 10-page 'zine. Ten ditto masters will run about 80¢, while a ream of paper will run about \$3.50. Let's say you use 70¢ worth of fluid so it comes out even: \$5.00 for 100 copies. That's 5¢ a copy, plus 13¢ postage, or 18¢ a copy. I charge 20¢, so that I should make 2¢ profit...but that is eaten up in incidental costs such as occasional paper spoilage.

I am not, you will note, charging anything for my time because this is a hobby (I do make some charge for my time as a GM; the players pay more per issue than subscribers...but they also get special services).

My point is this: If I can turn out a 'zine for 20¢ a copy, ditto, I don't see why anybody else should not be able to. I realize that mimeo is a little more expensive, but I've put out mimeo 'zines too. I don't see how a mimeo-produced 'zine can possibly cost more than 25¢ a copy, including postage.

Of course, none of this takes into account the cost of trade agreements, but I see no rationale for passing the cost of expanding my 'zine library on to my readers.

I am therefore passing on this warning to potential subscribers.

If a ditto-produced 'zine costs more than 20¢ a copy, and weighs an ounce or less, it costs too much. Buy something else unless you just gotta have that 'zine.

If a mimeo-produced 'zine costs more than 25¢ a copy, and weighs an ounce or less, it costs too much. Same comment as above.

Considering this, the following 'zines are bargains: BLACK HOLE, BUSHWACKER, IMPASSABLE, JANUS, RUNESTONE.

And these are reasonably priced: CLAW & FANG, DIMAN, DIPLOMACY WORLD, PAROXYSM (usually more than 1 oz.), PREDAWN LEFTIST, SPECULUM, VALINOR. (D.W., by the way, is reduced-size offset and a special case.)

There are probably extenuating circumstances for some of the higher-priced subscriptions, although I can't imagine what they might be at the moment.

Anyway, it might pay readers of other 'zines with possibly inflated subscription prices to write the editors of them and to suggest that more reasonable rates be adopted. Remember, however, that if the 'zine in question weighs more than an ounce, my comments don't apply. (And 'zines sent by 3rd class should never cost more than 15¢ a copy.)



A lot of miscellany has gone across my desk, books and music, and I thought I'd pass along some thoughts on them.

Star (Psi Cassiopeia) by C. L. Defontenay. Published in 1854, this was the first modern work of science fiction, or so the introduction says. It purports to be the history of an entire planet and its race, and reads like a pot-boiler space opera of the 20s or 30s. That is not to say it does not have its charming aspects, but on the whole it tends to pall. That is because much of what it does has been done to death in the last 120 years. It does not succeed in projecting a feeling of "alienness" at all, and a good deal of it mirrors the even older traditions of French literature. The "Starian" plays, e.g., seem pure Edmond Rostand. Still, I've read it twice, so it's not that bad, either.

Inferno by Larry Niven and Jerry Fournelle. This modern retelling of the Dante classic is also classic. It moves well, has many clever and witty moments, and presents good food for thought. It is absolutely "must" reading for anyone interested in sci-fi. [I have one quibble. The main character's "guide" through Hell is a guy named "Benito". Now, supplying the correct last name is a knee-jerk reaction for me, and I suspect for any literate person these days, so how come he doesn't tumble right away? It's essential to the plot, for one thing; however, if you find yourself in Hell, maybe you're pretty disoriented....]

Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano by Claude Bolling. If you get a chance to hear this, by all means do. This is classical jazz, in the tradition of Gershwin, Lewis, and Milhaud (Creation of the Earth, e.g.). The writing is decidedly "up", and the entire effect is one of unaffected cheerfulness. It is some of the happiest music I've heard in a long time.

Cities in Flight by James Blish. This is a collection of 4 novels originally published separately (They Shall have Stars; A Life for the Stars; Earthman, Come Home; The Triumph of Time). As Toynbee provided the background for the "Foundation" novels, so Blish derives his overall plan (and far more openly) from the more sinister Oswald Spengler. The collection also provides an excellent analysis of Spenglerian historiography. I read all four novels long ago, and am glad to see this collection appear. As an ending, the last novel is a shocker!

Symphony No. 1, in D by Gustav Mahler (w/ James Levine conducting the London Symphony Orchestra). This is a powerful work and has the advantage of being the most accessible of Mahler's 10 symphonies. This recording is one of the few which restores at least a mention of the deleted second ("Blumine") movement, but then perversely leaves it out anyway. I've heard more vital performances in my time, but on the whole it's not bad.

Toy Symphonies & Other Fun (Raymond Lewenthal conducting from the piano). There is a considerable body of literature...musical literature, that is...which is written for and directed at children. Most people are familiar only with such things as the Leopold Mozart (not Haydn) "Toy Symphony" and Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite". This record includes six lesser-known gems of the genre which include the usual assortment of "kiddie" instruments: cuckoos, ratchets, toy trumpets, tam-tams, bells, funnel, wine glass, saucepans, milk jugs, and even kazooos. All very spiritedly performed; charming, charming! The program notes are gems, too.

Much of what happens in international relations can scarcely be called rational. Even so, these same events can be rationalized in the sense that they can be understood and their patterns analyzed. One cardinal rule of international affairs is this: the actions of nations are motivated by questions of power and perceived benefit, and seldom (if ever) by questions of ideology.

For the past 30 years a good many people have tried to understand the actions of the Soviet Union as if it were allowing the ideology of "communism" to determine its actions. When the USSR was the only Great Power espousing that doctrine, such confusion is understandable, if not forgivable. There is no longer any excuse for such outmoded theorizing.

Much of the ink which has been spilled on the Angola situation nonetheless betrays ancient "red peril" modes of analysis, less rational than mere knee-jerk reactions. The events in southern Africa should be viewed from a world-view of what is really going on, not Red Paranoia.

At the bottom of Red Paranoia is the notion that World War III will be the United States vs. "X" (Russia or China or both). I submit that the next great war, if it occurs, will be Russia vs. China, and that the leaders of those two countries know it.

There is no question that China is girding for war. Her immediate need is for more land, and the only immediately available source for that are the sparsely-inhabited stretches of Siberia and Soviet Turkestan. Since these areas were at one time ruled by China, reaching out for them again carries with it a patriotic emotional content. My own guess has long been that China will be ready to attack Russia some time after 1980, probably about 1985 or 6.

If Russia's defense were to be left to holding off a frontal Chinese onslaught south and east of the Urals, there is little question that they would lose. The western satellites are restive and there is always the fear (paranoid or no) of Germany. Furthermore, large segments of the Soviet population (Ukrainians, and various non-Slavic peoples) cannot be considered exactly steadfast in their loyalty.

Soviet strategy has therefore looked to outflanking the Chinese. The eastern end of the flanking operation must be in Vietnam, a nation traditionally antagonistic toward China and situated on the latter's soft underbelly (the non-Mandarin Chinese of the south are the Ukrainians of China).

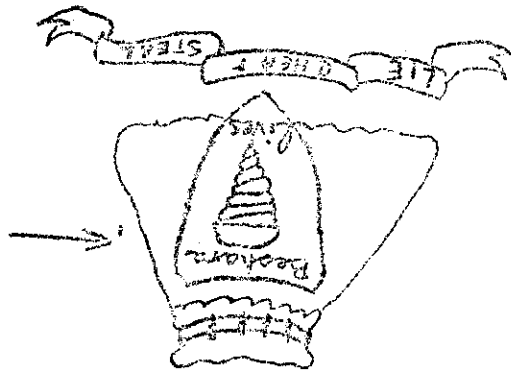
Over the past decade, the USSR has striven to erect a vast strategic arc through Suez and the Indian Ocean to Hanoi. There is no other rational explanation for Russia's growing network of naval bases in the area, nor the continuous and aggressive intrigues with India.

The Chinese, in turn, are seeking to neutralize the Soviet position by establishing a power base behind it, in Africa. They have not been particularly successful (yet). But this explains why China should have been so interested in Angola, and why the Russians thought it was so important to win there.

Africa is turning into a renewed "Scramble" area in which the Russian and Chinese are actively interested. The Russians see it as vital to their strategic arc in the Indian Ocean that the nations of Africa remain (at worst) neutral. A single pro-Chinese state could still be neutralized by pro-Soviet neighbors. But if a bloc of African states...especially in eastern Africa...should come under the influence of China....

Well, in such an event, we had better prepare for a new World War, and make up our minds that neutrality is the better part of valor.

THE DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION
presents:
A Coat of Arms



© 1976 by
Eric Blake



alcala®
1273 crest dr.
encinitas ca 92024

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Inflict upon:

FIRST CLASS MAIL