

FRANCE & ASIA

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Propaganda & Rule Discussions for Variant Diplomacy Games: FMH-A, FNI, FOH * * *

FNI (Scotice Scripti) -- Propaganda for WINTER, 1015 season:

Cashel -- As the festivities ran their way down, a servant entered and whispered urgently into the King's ear. Teige choked on his wine, coughed violently, and shouted: "What?! Say that again!" Conversation and revelry ceased and all eyes turned to the messenger. He stammered, but a hard look from his king prompted him.

"M...My lord. Bjarni Thordarson, usurping King of Cork, is not dead." He would have ended there, but the silence prodded him on. "He...he was hurled into the sea from the clifftop as you bade, but he could... 'swim' is the word I believe the Gaill use. A typical pagan practice; St. Columba, blessed be his name, always said that man was not meant to walk upon the water as did Our Lord Jesus Christ." A savage kick ended his digression.

"Sire, a dragon-ship lay at the cliff's base, and drew Bjarni Thordarson from the water. On its deck he did revile you most excessively, and he said: 'Tell King Teige this: I, Bjarni Thordarson, King of the Danes in the City of Cork, am no usurper; and this also: no puppet of yours shall rule over my people. I was willing to be at peace with you, but you would not have it so. Very well; I anticipated your treachery. Even now the ashes cool where Cork once stood; if I am not to rule there, none shall. I and my people return to Denmark under the protection of Harald II Sveinsson, but do not think you shall ever use Cork for your vessels. Not one ship shall enter or leave but we allow it. Keep our land well; we shall return for it. May you fare well. Until that day.' And with mocking laughter he did disappear with a great fleet into the Eastern Sea."

Teige pursed his lips and waved the man away. "Win some, lose some", he muttered, then roared with upraised fist: "On with the entertainment!"

Caithness-Sutherland -- Norse settler and Scot farmer alike gave wild welcome to the fleets of Thorkel the Tall and Olaf Ospak, as their crews speedily cleared the Scottish tax-kings out of their districts. The Norsemen joined their fellow Vikings, while the Scots enthusiastically acclaimed Findlaech of Moray as their leader against the tyrant Malcolm. "I forswear Malcolm, who would, and did, murder my cousin that his grandson Macbeth might be heir to the throne. I forswear him for daring to violate the rules of succession, and will not rest until he makes amends, or lies dead before me. I forswear Macbeth, my son, also; any who would tolerate, let alone support, such as Malcolm is not of my kin. Death to Malcolm! Long live a free Scotland!"

Kymru -- A Wise man never fights when he will lose. England, if thy continue to try and ravish my lands, ye will meet my armies in the field. Ye gain nothing. The next season thy neighbors shall devour thy lands while ye are engaged in a fruitless war. Kymru, my brothers, is bending to listen. If any man consider himself or his house grieved, let him present himself to me. I will render justice.

London -- Sources close to the King today reported that the uproar in progress in Kymru is due to Ethelred's rage and chagrin at losing the Fourteenth Annual Anglo-Saxon Aggie Championship to the rulers of Kymru. "Capture, mutilate, and burn every taw and catseye or we shall have your heads!", he told his commanders. "Fear not the enemy; my advisors deserted to them--smartest thing we ever did."

North Minch -- "Row, you kitchen-chieftains! Thor's blood, one would think Eagle-of-the-Sea had a pack of Christians at the oars to see the speed we make!" Red-faced, Thorkel the Tall, Jomsborg-viking, raved at the gods, then his men. "Not a ship in my pack do worse; Odin be praised that my father not be here to see this crew, for I know not if I should be more ashamed by his laughter or his weeping." His eyes swept the benches, but none met his gaze. He had just turned his face toward the fifty

FNI (Continued) --

long-ships that comprised his following when to eight score ears came the sound of Loki's Reply to the Gods When Questioned Concerning his Part in the Death of Baldur. A ripple of coughing and choking ran through the boat. Thorkel never turned, but his shoulders and upper body shook, though whether from amusement or rage none could say, but he did not admonish them again for many hours.

Orkney -- Thorfinn Sigurdsson, loyal to his country, is off to pay audience to Olaf Haraldsson the Stout, King of Norway. For some days even Thorfinn will be uncertain of his whereabouts, but by 24/11 he should be able to inform all his friends and retainers as to his position, to their everlasting joy. Hold all parchments until then.

Skuyo -- Macbeth MacFindlaech, Teige Thrice Usurpersson: I, Thorfinn Sigurdsson, am well pleased to learn that my good cousin is entertained by the outlawing of our grandfather. But, cousin, rather than dwell on the entertainment value of a word that you do not even begin to understand, why not see how "outlawry" has upset poor Grandfather? Not a Norseman stands in Scotland and the entire kingdom is in uproar. Even Silkbeard, with only a retinue, can outface an entire fleet! ##### But let us consider your position, dear cousin. Do not think that all the ocean that lies between you and Orkney makes you safe--you have how many armed men to command? Grandfather had thousands, and one word brought him to naught. Consider before making any more rash slurs upon my father, lest I should visit upon you the same courtesy that Sigurd gave Malcolm. ##### For you, Munster-King, advice: curb your guests' tongues; some think Macbeth's too long for either his wit or arm, and there are those who might take offense at you.

GM Notes -- To he who asked: F Islay Firth (S) F Lismore(SC) would be legal, but F Lismore(SC) (S) F Islay Firth is not. ##### Bill Linden reports the misspelling of two province names on the map: "Stadford" for Stafford and "Caldeonia" for Caledonia. Rod? Peter? ((We believe the latter is a correct spelling, but are not certain about the first. --ed.)) ##### W'15 moves appeared in DIPLOPHOBIA #72 (F#50).

FOH (M-V-T-W IV $\frac{1}{2}$) -- Propaganda for TUILLE, 3006 season (Cont. from DPBA #72) --

Imladris -- Elrond passed the thick sheaf of papers to the elf messenger. "Bear these to the borders of Rohan. There may the Eorlings bear them in their turn to the Dark Tower." ##### Lindir stared at the bundle. "What be these, Master Elrond?" ##### Elrond smiled. "It has reached me of late that the Dark Lord looks upon Carn Dûm as our border; this be a map of Middle-Earth, clearly showing that elven homes lie no farther north than the Weather Hills. Consider it a gift to my future liege-lord; he needs aid in geography!"

Imladris -- Receive thou thus the first of many wages of sin, Théoden! May the dregs of thy stirrup-cup be ever bitter!

Official Announcement! -- Elrond, in preparation for a last battle against the mad rulers of Mordor and Rohan, has departed for destination unknown to practice fencing. Not even he knows where he is going, so hold all notes--he shall inform you when he reorients himself.

NSG -- North rode the Riders. Forth Eorlingas!

With an orc in every saddlebag to insure loyalingas.

FMH-A (M-V-T-W IV, A) and FOH -- A couple of quick questions and answers --

(1) If a fortress, unaided, stands off an attack, can a dislodged unit of the owner country retreat into that fortress? ((No.)) (2) ((Modify rule given in F#46 under FOH to allow NA to build and go to sea in BB -- but NA may not fly from or to BB which is at sea. O.K.??)) (3) ((Thanks for suggestions, Lincoln; will consider them when writing rules for MVTW-V.)) ((Anyone else out there have any suggestions for rule-changes/improvements?)) (4) ((Did we catch all the questions this time, or are there still some outstanding?)) ##### FMH-A and FOH moves appeared in DPBA-72.

Address of Publisher: Don Miller, 12315 Judson Road, Wheaton, Maryland, USA, 20906.