

FOL SI FIE is a magazine of postal Diplomacy published every six weeks (usually) by Randolph Smyth, 212 Aberdeen St. S.E., Medicine Hat, Alta. T1A 0R1 CANADA. Phone (1-403-)526-7963 between 6:00 and 10:00 MST. Present games include 1979-HZ 1982-AR, 1983-AE, 1984-AJ, and 1984-HW (formerly "Water"). Subscriptions are 60c per issue, with U.S. money at par. Any subber is welcome to join my standby list which presently includes Acheson, Berrigan*, Cusack, Diehl*, Gautron*, Gabriel*, Karnes, Ronald*, and Tinker* (priority to those asterisk'ed, who are playing fewer than two games here at the moment).

The newest game, "Xylene", has three entries at this typing, so I doubt it will fill by the time this issue goes out. \$9.00 each for those interested; pref lists are optional, but you'd best put something in unless you WANT to play the Italians... and even then, why not make it official?

Faithful (and long-suffering) readers may have noted a substantial improvement in legibility beginning on p. 4 of last issue. I received a new shipment of printer tapes in time to reproduce that page, and future issues should be better than past ones in that respect. Next time, I won't let myself run down to the point where I have to rely on "retread" ribbons (though WD-40 does a reasonably good job when only limited runs are necessary).

I was going to put my initial comments on the "Water" players into last issue... then thought they were entitled to at least one full period of negotiation without having my opinions horning in. (Also, I ran out of space last time) So here, two weeks before the deadline, is my initial assessment of early prospects for each player:

AUSTRIA (DAVE CARTER): Well-known to most Canadians as the publisher of SLEEP-LESS KNIGHTS, Dave has also slyly accumulated the largest number of Calhamer points of the playing field, almost all in games ending within the past two years. Consider also that he was branded a "wimp" in FSF #159 for rarely winning a game, and you will get an idea of how active Dave has had to be recently to put together 7.86 CPs. Perhaps he rarely wins, but I daresay it's equally rare that he's left out at the finish.

He'll need that kind of staying power in the Austrian hot-seat. If opening strategies are fairly traditional, he must first tackle his neighbours to the east; he has a hard, though well-defined, choice there. Both Russia and Turkey are former publishers themselves; he's probably more personally familiar with Ron, but he may find Harry more of a philosophical soul-mate if their similar draws-to-wins ratio is meaningful. Or can he afford to postpone an immediate choice in the east to pick up centers quietly, or strike westward?

(2/1, 7/2, 5/3, 2/4, 1/5). (This is the Calhamer point record I have for each player, i.e. Dave has two wins, 7 two-way draws, 5 three-way draws, etc.)

ENGLAND (STEVE BERRIGAN): Steve hasn't established the hobby-wide track record of some of his opponents here, but got the nod on the basis of his FSF performance as my most tenacious player when the going gets tough. I suspect his negotiations often fall flat, since he's frequently in trouble by 1903; but something seems to click at that point, and I'd take an even-money bet that his two-center position will still be around five years later! His sole win was scored in FSF a couple of years back, from a standby position that was really on the ropes when he took it over. If he gets through the opening with an ally and the position, look for him to come on strongly later.

England was therefore a good choice to put at the head of his pref list: his strengths and weaknesses neatly balance his own and should give him a steady performance throughout. He'll likely have to negotiate mainly with two high-mile U.S. players in France and Germany; initial success will probably depend on persuading each to attack the other with the eager help of po' li'l unknowns. If Mark and Paul feel any sense of fellowship amidst a sea of Canadians, the job will be that much tougher. (1/1, 1/2, 1/3)

FRANCE (MARK BERCH): This man probably needs the least introduction of any of the players. Publisher of DIPLOMACY DIGEST and ubiquitous contributor to DIPLOMACY WORLD, Mark has been a household word throughout the hobby for several years. But how well does he play? Four wins and 5.73 CPs suggest he's no slouch, and rather more aggressive than most of this field. A disappointing result in the recent DW demo game may have tarnished his reputation somewhat, but a single game is a poor reflection of ability. He's played one game in FSF, winning in impressive style over some other strong finishers.

Mark's article on the French openings in DW last year may bear some study by his neighbours. France was astonishingly unpopular in this game's pref lists. Mark and I both consider it the most flexible of nations--perhaps the strongest in the right hands. Overall, if I had to pick one of the seven as having the best chance of a good game here, I'd have to go with Mark's France.

(4/1, 2/2, 1/3, 2/5)

GERMANY (PAUL RAUTERBERG): Of all the players, Paul is the only one I scarcely know. He publishes THIRTY MILES OF BAD ROAD, one of the better U.S. zines, and has established an excellent playing record with 5.66 CPs. He's the only one that's never played in FSF before, so his style and fortunes are of particular interest to me. As Germany he'll have ample opportunity to steer himself right or wrong!--and his principal early neighbours (F/E/R) could hardly offer him a more differing mix of playing styles and backgrounds. (2/1, 3/2, 3/3, 4/4, 1/6)

ITALY (DON TINKER): Frankly, I had to think especially hard before putting Don into this one. His CP total suggests that he won't be a match for most of the other players here. Ultimately I passed over applicants with considerably better records, and I'm not sure I can tell you why. Italy is hardly a piece of cake to play, either, though it's rarely attacked outright in the opening. I've never played against him (have I, Don? Nothing memorable, anyhow) but he's been in FSF for several years. I get the impression of a good, prompt, and enthusiastic writer from his orders, which are always legible and on time; and more importantly, though he hasn't had notable success yet, his moves have a flavour that I regard as more than just competent. Reputation-wise, he has much to gain and little to lose from participation here; so in one sense he could become the most dangerous player here if he gains an initial foothold. As Italy, that may be relatively easy; can he then hold his own in the middlegame where Italian positions traditionally get left behind? (2/2, 1/3)

RUSSIA (HARRY DREWS): Harry was one of the most capable Canadian players in the mid-70s; perhaps his major contribution as co-editor of the immortal PAROLYSM was his articles on play-of-the-game--the kind of analysis that has all but disappeared from the hobby these days. I don't recall him ever doing poorly in a game, but he lacked the killer instinct and almost invariably ended up with part of a draw. Couple that with Dave Carter's similar record, and I'd be surprised to see this game end up as a solo victory: anyone who DOES win will have to get out full value for it!

I think Harry has set himself a challenge in choosing Russia, though. Of all the countries, Russia probably benefits the most from an adventurous style, something incompatible with the old Harry. Of course, he's been out of active play for some years and may have changed--or may deliberately treat this as a chance to blow off steam in a final fling, totally heedless of reputation. He doubtless the player that most spectators will be watching: how will an unrestricted '70s player make out today? (1/1, 2/2, 2/3, 4/4, 2/5)

TURKEY (RON BROWN): Until its fold about six months ago, Ron's SNAFU! was one of the best Canadian zines. With relatively few completed games, Ron has established himself as one of the premier Canadian players: in contrast to his northern neighbours here, he tends to win a lot. On the level of game philosophy and style, then, the most interesting early development will be the R/A/T show-out: can Ron persuade "drawers" to attack each other in alliance with a "win" ... or not? Of course, in a game at this level, personal relationships are ill

to be more important than reputation and records, still, I'll be most interested in endgame comments on what principally influenced these players. (2/1, 2/2, 1/3)

PRINCIPAL SPRING 1901 PREDICTION: No "surprising" moves. Even those players that are temperamentally inclined to go out on a limb early will likely save these tactics for games where an inferior level of opposition will permit recovery from a bad opening strategy. Initially, I expect the same "problem" here as in the DW demo games: with an eye to the multitudes of spectators, no player wants to leave himself open to be pasted too thoroughly, so the moves may lack "spice". I would regard anything out of the ordinary as indicative of a "what the hell" attitude. Overall, look for a cautious pickup of neutrals in 1901, perhaps with no fights/alliances obvious by yearend; in 1902, the "witches" (E/T) may have the most difficulty in finding allies among their neighbours, who share more characteristics with each other and may regard the "witches" as odd-men-out.

With all available factors considered, I can weight the positions according to my estimate of their chances, out of a total of 100: sort of a "percentage chance of a Calhameer point". For pre-Spring 1901, this comes out to A=15, E=12, F=18, G=14, I=11, R=16, T=14.

(All this was drafted when the gamestart first went out, well before any orders came in. Let's see now what happened after weeks of negotiations:)

1984-HW ("Water"): NOT OFTEN THAT EVERY MOVE SUCCEEDS, EVEN IN SPRING 1901!

Austria (Dave Carter): A Bud-Ser, A Vie-Bud, F Tri-Alb.

England (Steve Berrigan): A Lvp-Yor, F Edi-Nwg, F Lon-Nth.

France (Mark Berch): F Bre-Mid, A Par-Pic, A Mar-Bur.

Germany (Paul Rauterberg): F Kie-Den, A Ber-Kie, A Mun-Ruh.

Italy (Don Tinker): F Nap-Ion, A Rom-Ven, A Ven-Tyo.

Russia (Harry Drews): F StP(sc)-Bot, A War-Ukr, A Mos H, F Sev-Rum.

Turkey (Ron Brown): F Ank-Con, A Con-Bul, A Smy-Ank.

As I said, all moves succeed. Paul, I should note that your ONLY set of orders came in on Thursday, i.e. the day before the deadline. It wouldn't have needed much more of a glitch in the postal service for you to have been NMR. I STRONGLY urge everyone to send preliminary orders upon receipt of each season's results, to be amended later. (Most of you do that anyhow, but Paul's new here....)

I don't think I've sent you guys copies of my houserules, either. I'll try to remember to include a set with this issue; if I forget again, remind me.

Only one scrap of press:

Turkey-Kraken: I hope you weren't looking for new openings, like A Smy-Syr and F Con-Ank! Maybe someday, but not this time.

Kraken: That's what I thought (see above).

Turkey-World: Ah, ha, the old Brown Sultan again, eh? He has many personas, from the benign dictator who sends belly dancers to his allies, to the raving lunatic who will send an army to Edinburgh if he's cheesed off enough.

Which will he be? Even he doesn't know.

Kraken: Give him Holland, guys, you wouldn't want to cheese him off.

GM ANALYSIS, Spring 1901: I seem to have got off to a fairly good start with the prediction that S01 wouldn't feature any really startling moves--though the fireworks could easily begin this Fall ahead of my original projections. Harry has already served notice that his style is still unaggressive and his tactics a bit unusual by today's standards. A Mos H is rarely seen, but looks exactly the right order for this opening where the unit could be needed anywhere. The demilitarization of Bla suggests it won't be headed south in the Fall, anyhow.

Dave is probably the most disappointed man on the board. The Italian moves are not unusual in themselves, but his own orders suggest that he wasn't expecting them, which looks bad. It's inconvenient at best to be defending a vacated

Vie/Tri against Italian armies, while R/T have apparently taken some positive diplomatic steps to prevent hostilities between them. Austria hasn't suffered anything so crude as A War-Gal, but it certainly seems that he must do the most effective talking over the next few seasons to catch up.

Italy has come the closest to boldness with his moves: if he continues in the same vein, it may pay dividends in the Fall, but an enemy made so early may stall him thereafter. Interesting that the dramatic spotlight has been stolen, at least for the moment, by the least experienced player--but perhaps that was to be expected, since Don is most likely to be operating on the "what the hell" attitude mentioned above!

Mark seems intent on Bel, and barring some pretty tall cooperation between E/G, he'll likely get it this Fall. The peaceful, "cookbook" moves give no real hint of how negotiations are going in the northwest, though France's northward motion will leave Italy breathing easier. Could F/I cooperate against Mun? It's possible, but the overall situation has left both of them with what appear to be more promising options elsewhere. In Paul's shoes, I'd return A Ruh-Mun since Germany is unlikely to gain either Bel or Swe, but use A Kie to take Hol unless he has good reason to suspect that Mun is in serious danger from F/I. While the questions remain, though, I wouldn't antagonize Russia with F Den-Swe.

However, Italy in particular is unlikely to pass the East for the North unless he has a "deep" alliance with both Austria and France--which could in turn put Dave's orders in a completely different light. Harry could even be surprised by a supported attack against Rum if Dave plays such a gamble to the limit! All that remains an unlikely possibility, though: look instead for battle over Tri/Vie this Fall, with relative calm elsewhere as most of the neutrals are snapped up. Under this scenario, England will take Nwy, France gets Bel and his choice of Spa or Por, Germany grabs Hol and Den, and Russia nips into Rum and probably Swe. As Turkey, I would give A Bul-Gre, F Con-Bul (probably sc) a try: it's better than even money, I think, that he can pick up two that way, though an R/A stab could be disastrous. Italy takes Tun, and....

The I/A frontier is tactically the most interesting, assuming they are at war. Even A Ser S F Alb-Tri, A Bud-Vie doesn't guarantee the safety of Austria's home centers, if Ron can be persuaded to cut support with A Bul-Ser. But on the other hand, F Alb-Gre, A Ser-Tri, and A Bud either -Vie or S A Ser-Tri could give Austria two builds against even an all-out attack by the Italian armies if Don guesses wrong and Ron is content to sit in Bul. As Italy, even A Tyo-Vie, A Ven-Tyo merits some thought if he's expecting A Ser-Tri. The most one can say is that both Italy and Turkey have good shots at a second build at Austria's expense; Dave could still take two, but could also be held to none--a single build is most likely there.

Profound, eh?

A=11 (-4), E=12 (=), F=19 (+1), G=13 (-1), I=13 (+2), R=17 (+1), T=15 (+1).

ZINE PLUGS: Now here's a couple of new zines that COULD use a mention, unlike m plugs of last issue for well-established ones:

CONFERENCE CALL (Bruce McIntyre, 6191 Winch St., Burnaby, B.C.) I have the #1 issue put out in late November, so really should have mentioned it last time. Billed as "Vancouver's finest Dipzine": he's thinking too small, it's actually the best zine in all of B.C., if I'm not forgetting one. It's really intended for phone games, and most of the first (4-page) issue is devoted to introducing himself, etc., but I'm most impressed by the reproduction, similar to NFA's (see plugs last issue), and Bruce writes entertainingly. Could become an excellent one if he chooses to get more involved with the postal hobby.

THE CANADIAN DIPLOMAT (Robert Acheson, P.O. Box 4622, Station S.E., Edmonton, Alta. T6E 2A0) Robert has been around as a player for a loooong time: I'm confident enough about his publishing effort to have gotten into his first gam as a player. Slick it is not (well, physically better than this zine, but that says nothing!), but these days I prefer something solid and unpretentious.

THE RUNESTONE POLL "VERDICT"

I went through my version of this controversy last issue, so won't repeat any of that here; I should, however, apologize to Jim Meinel et al. for implying that they might be keeping the controversy alive to save themselves some embarrassment over having started it in the first place. Further letters from Jim and others have convinced me that they are, at least, being intellectually honest.

When writing for EUROPA EXPRESS in December, I suggested that if Bruce and his collective opponents could each put together a list of supporters by the beginning of February, the hobby would be in a better position to decide on the practicality of leaving the 1985 poll in Bruce's hands. At the time, I had envisaged each side producing their own lists and publicizing them in zines willing to give space to the matter; instead, a lot of people have sent their opinions to ME for collation! Well, thanks to all who wrote, but as several people have already predicted, I'm not much further ahead.

I have a couple of dozen "votes" against Bruce, most of them associated with preprinted ballots put out by either Terry Tallman or Kathy Byrne. This proves that their subscribers are loyal and willing to accept their version of events, and, obviously, unwilling to vote in Bruce's poll... but doesn't say much about hobby opinion beyond those zines. Bruce has taken a different tack, making a list of those publishers who support him and those who don't, without asking them to contact me directly. Jim Meinel has done the same: combining the lists suggests that publishers are still generally behind Bruce by about a 3-to-1 margin. However, this method doesn't address the relative enthusiasm of those publishers and their subscribers in plugging/voting for a poll that has been marred by so much controversy. The "anti" group seems more committed to their stand, on the average---but is this "average" meaningful? Two zines, VOD and EE, together accounted for 60-75% of the total ballots cast in the RUNESTONE poll in the past two years; anti-Bruce publishers plugged it just as hard while it was with me, but based on past results, will their equally enthusiastic boycott hurt the poll significantly? On balance, despite the substantial list put together by Bruce's opposition, I can't see a change of custodianship improving the response to the 1985 poll at this point.

So, I for one am not going to do anything about the status quo. Further, I will be plugging and voting in Bruce's version of the poll this year, to the same extent I would have if this controversy had not arisen. However, this does not imply unconditional support for Bruce. I simply cannot believe that he was unaware of the magnitude of negative response that was in the wings when he volunteered to take over the poll. We specifically discussed his "controversiality" before the transfer was formalized, since it was (and is) my only concern about his custodianship. The only thing he offered at that time was assurances that "I can handle it"---no idea of what "it" might become. To that extent I feel he pulled a fast one on me and the hobby... so I have a better reason to accept stories of similar dealings told by a few of Bruce's opponents. Bruce has phoned me several times in the past couple of months, and always, I thought, hung up rather dissatisfied with my responses. No wonder---they must have reflected my disinclination to take his statements at face value any more.

However, he's not been the first and won't be the last to treat the whole hobby like a giant Diplomacy game. Some of his present opponents don't do a bad job of this themselves. I think it's inappropriate, and I don't have the time or interest to play that game, but it's not something to ruin a hobby service over. I don't intend to get all worked up over the more outrageous stuff that Bruce has been accused of without proof, though that's an individual decision.

Amid all the hullabaloo, everyone seems to have forgotten that the results from the poll aren't statistically significant anyhow. I wouldn't have lost interest myself if I thought the poll was worth the effort needed to run it. Why Bruce or anyone else would bother to fight over it is beyond me---so, if any of you insist on degrading it further as an adjunct to your personal feuds, could you please do so without taking up any more of my time? Many thanks....

Time once again for an address list:

1. ~~Robert Acheson~~, Echo Bay Mines, c/o Lupin, N.W.T. XOE 1M0 (175)
2. ~~Mark Berch~~, 492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304 (163)
3. Steve Berrigan, 36 Stokes Cresc., Kanata, Ont. K2L 2Z4 (171)
4. ~~Doug Beyerlein~~, 640 College, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (164)
5. ~~Ronald Brown~~, 70F Chesterton Dr., Nepean, Ont. K2E 5S9 (162)
6. ~~Dave Carter~~, 118 Horsham Ave., Willowdale, Ont. M2N 1Z9 (169)
7. Greg Costikyan, 23 Wayne St., #21, Jersey City, N.J. 07302 (166)
8. ~~Pat Conlon~~, Box 17014, L.S.U., Baton Rouge, LA 70893 (171)
9. ~~Gary Coughlan~~, 4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis, TN 38118 (185)
10. Blair Cusack, General Delivery, Revelstoke, B.C. V0E 2S0 (173)
11. Jim Diehl, 10530 West Riverview Dr., Eden Prairie, Minn. 55344
12. Harry Drews, 85 Wimbleton Cresc., Kitchener, Ont. N2B 3K4 (167)
13. Peter Fuchs, 3585 Inspiration Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80917 (185)
14. Claude Gautron, 150 rue Masson, Winnipeg, Man. R2H 0H2 (164)
15. ~~Michael Gabriel~~, 111 West 4th Ave., Prince Rupert, B.C. (162)
16. ~~Ron Galicia~~, 6672 Plaza Ridge Rd., San Diego, CA 92114-7065 (164)
17. ~~Steve Hutton~~, 704 Brant St., London, Ont. (182)
18. Ed Innes Jr., 97 Moffatt Dr., Cambridge, Ont. N1R 6C1 (168)
19. Doug Karnes, Box 77, Kemnay, Man. R0K 1E0 (164)
20. Matt Kazur, P.O. Box 5492, Washington, D.C. 20016 (169)
21. Tom Kissner, 1305 Maitland Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K2C 2C4 (165)
22. ~~John Leeder~~, 224 20th Ave. N.W., Calgary, Alta. T2M 1C2 (164)
23. ~~Bruce Linsey~~, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226 (170)
24. Andy Lischett, 2402 S. Ridgeland Ave., Berwyn, IL 60402 (167)
25. Alain Martine, 47 Chartres, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, P.Q. H9A 1J6 (169)
26. Curtiss Matern, 1435 Monroe St., Racine, WI 53405 (172)
27. ~~Conrad Minshall~~, 3702 Tarragona Ln., Austin, TX 78727 (163)
28. ~~Bruce McIntyre~~, 6191 Winch St., Burnaby, B.C. V5B 2L4
29. Ralph Morton, R.R. #2, Greely, Ont. K0A 1Z0 (171)
30. Gerry Paulson, Box 6, Amisk, Alta. T0B 0B0 (164)
31. Mark Petersen, Shiinotsubo 768-9, Shimokitakata, Miyazaki 880, JAPAN (175)
32. Hugh Polley, 183 Maranda Cl. N.E., Calgary, Alta. T2A 3E7 (173)
33. ~~Bill Quinn~~, 301 Conroe Dr., Conroe, TX 77301 (BNC)
34. ~~Paul Rauterberg~~, 4922 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53208 (166)
35. Bryan Ronald, P.O. Box 2745, Huntsville, Ont. POA 1K0 (173)
36. ~~Mischa Sandberg~~, 3818 Dundas St., Burnaby, B.C. V5C 1A4 (166)
37. ~~Ben Schilling~~, 24730 Roosevelt Ct., #315, Farmington Hills, MI 48018 (202)
38. ~~David Spector~~, Dane Hall, Rm. 122, 22 Everett St., Cambridge, MA 02138 (162)
39. ~~Ronald A. Spitzer~~, 761 N. Bundy Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90049 (169)
40. Alan Stewart, 702-25 St. Mary St., Toronto, Ont. M4Y 1R2 (166)
41. Don Tinker, 840 N.E. 56th St., Seattle, WA 98105 (167)
42. Lynn Torkelson, 992 Rosedale Rd. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30306 (172)
43. ~~Pierre Touchette~~, 1 rue Georges, Masson, P.Q. J0X 2H0 (162)
44. Gerry Van Alkemade, P.O. Box 65036, 154.10, Athens, GREECE (162)
45. Brenton Ver Ploeg, 1980 Tigertail Ave., Coconut Grove, FL 33133 (184)
46. ~~Fred Weidemeyer~~, 8526 83rd Ave., Edmonton, Alta. T6C 1B1 (166)

A modest rally in total subscribers since the last list, which I hope isn't due entirely to the (rather unwelcome) notoriety surrounding the RUNESTONE poll debate. I make it 23 from Canada, 21 from the U.S., and one from each of Greece and Japan. Nice geographic balance across North America, too, with representation from virtually every region. Ontario still weighs heavily here, with ten subbers resident there.

And again, it's time to point out that some of you should really get some bucks in to me if you want to keep getting this: Berch, Brown Gabriel, Minshal Spector, Touchette, Van Alkemade, that means you unless my financial records are screwed up again.

THE GAMES:

1979-HZ, Winter 1915/Spring 1916

France (Dave Carter): F NAF-tun, F mid-WES, F bre-GAS, F nat-MID, F EDI H, A BEL H, A MAR-pie, A BUR-mar, F ENG H.

Germany (Andy Lischett): Builds A Ber; A war-UKR, A sev s A War-Ukr/a/, A MOS S A Sev, A SIL-war, A BOH-gal, A BER-sil, A MUN H, F HOL H, F HEL H, F DEN H, F NWY H.

Italy (Michael Gabriel): NMR: GM removes A Tyo. As Vie, Tri, Ven, Pie all hold.

Turkey (Bryan Ronald): Builds F Smy, A Con; F smy-AEG, A con-BUL, A GAL-war, A rum-SEV, A ARM S A Rum-Sev, F BLA S A Rum-Sev, A bul-RUM, F adr-ION, A SER H, F TYR-tun, F ROM-tyr.

The G/F draw proposal was defeated. No press or nothin'.

1982-AR, Winter 1910/Spring 1911

Austria (Don Tinker): A vie s A Bud/a/, A BUD S A Vie.

France (Robert Acheson): Builds A Mar; F eng-MID, F tyr-ION, F lvo-WES, A NWY H, A mar-PIE, F DEN S F Nth-Ska, A KIE S F Den, A BER H, A SIL-gal, F BAR H, F NWG S A Nwy, F nth-SKA, A tyo-VIE, A BOH S A Tyo-Vie, A mun-TYO.

Italy (Gerry Van Alkemade): A TRI S French A Tyo-Vie, A VEN S A Tri, F ion-ALB, F APU-adr, F TUN S French F Tyr-Ion.

Russia (Blair Cusack): NMR: As Gal, Mos, Ukr, Fs Bal, StP(nc) all hold, F ska H/d/ (-Swe, OTB).

Turkey (Steve Berrigan): A BUL S A Rum, F ADR s Italian A Tri, A GRE S A Ser, A SER S A Rum, F EAS s Italian F Ion/moving/, F AEG s Italian F Ion/moving/, A RUM S Austrian A Bud.

The vote on concession to France is carried over since several people didn't bother to vote. In many zines, such apathy is cause for ending the game; my houserules give me a bit more leeway. If I don't get a definite negative from one of the players by the next deadline, the game is over.

Rome-Constantinople: I'll propose the concession once more.

Rome, S.I.P.I.: Let it be known to all peoples that indulgences granted by the Holy See are invalid in the event of broken promises.

1983-AE, Fall 1907

England (Doug Karnes): F MID-gas, F ENG-bre, F IRI-mid, F NAT S F Iri-Mid, F nwg-BAR, A STP S Russian A Mos.

France (Hugh Polley): A GAS s Italian A Par, F POR S F Bre-Mid, F BRE-mid, A mar-BUR.

Germany (Peter Fuchs): A bur-PAR, A PIC S A Bur-Par, F BEL S A Pic, A BER S A Mun, A MUN H, A SIL-war.

Italy (Robert Acheson): F NAF s Turkish F Wes-Mid/nso/, F SPA(SC) s Turkish F Wes-Mid/nso/, A par s French F Bre/a/, A pie-MAR, A TYO-mun, A BOH-sil, A VIE-boh.

Russia (Gerry Van Alkemade): A MOS s English A StP-Mos/imp/.

Turkey (Blair Cusack): NMR: As Ank, Rum, Sev, Ukr, War, Gal, Fs Eas, Bla, Wes all hold.

E (6): Home, Nwy, Swe, StP; -/-, even.

F (2): Bre, Por; -/Mar, Spa, remove two.

G (7): Home, Den, Hol, Bel, Par; Par/-, build one.

I (9): Home, Tun, Vie, Tri, Bud, Mar, Spa; Mar, Spa, 1a, 1 short/Par, build 3!!

R (1): Mos; -/-, even. Proof of the proverb, "Where there's life, there's life."

T (9): Home, Bul, Gre, Ser, Rum, Sev, War; -/-, even.

Press next page.

Moscow: Russian Army goes commercial! The last remaining Russian army has been released from its oath of loyalty to the Czar and is now available to support any army--anywhere, if the price is right.

Since the Court of St. James has previously offered the Crown Jewels for the Kremlin, the Russian army supports the British against itself. If this move fails, other offers will be considered. It has been rumoured that the Czar is VERY interested in the Topkapi Palace in Constantinople.

1984-AJ, Winter 1902/Spring 1903

Austria (Lynn Torkeison): Builds A Bud, F adr-ION, A VEN S Turkish A Apu-Rom, A mun-RUH, A tyo-MUN, A bud-SER.

England (Ron Galicia): NMR: Plays two short; A Hol, Fs Eng, Nwy all hold; F mid H/d/ (-NAf, Wes, Gas, Iri, NAT, OTB).

France (Fred Weidemeyer): A PIC S A Gas-Bur, A BRE H, A gas-BUR, F por-MID, F SPA(SC) S A Gas-Bur.

Italy (Hugh Polley): F tyr-NAP, A rom s F Tyr-Nap/d/ (-Tus, OTB), F TUN-ion.

Russia (Mark Petersen): Builds F StP(sc), F Sev, F ion-tun/d/ (-Tyr, Apu, Alb, OTB), A KIE S Austrian A Mun-Ruh, A BER S A Kie, F bot-SWE, F DEN S F Bot-Swe, F stp(sc)-BOT, A mos-STP, A LVA S A Mos-StP, F SEV H.

Turkey (Curtiss Matern): Builds F Smy, F smy-AEG, A con-BUL, A apu-ROM, F GRE S Austrian F Adr-Ion, F EAS S Austrian F Adr-Ion.

Austrian Counsel-World Court: Your Honor, the people of Austria thank the court for its speedy and just decision. In vindicating our beloved nation, you have once again affirmed the importance of honest negotiation and upright conduct between nations. Bolstered by your decision, we shall continue to demand the highest standards from our diplomats and from representatives of other great powers.

Vienna-Constantinople: Rome is a nice place to visit this time of year. If you'd like, we can try to arrange an audience for you with the Pope. However, rumours have it that he is on his deathbed, so you'll have to hurry.

Munich: The Austrian Army accepts your kind invitation to Oktoberfest. We understand that you provide great entertainment. Now just relax and you'll enjoy it as much as we do.

Austria-Kraken: According to my new Dixienary for the South, the word "pervariation" means "the act of concealing one's perversions". Although we admit to a peccadillo or two, we feel no shame and have certainly made no attempt to conceal them!

Kraken: After all those rumours about squeaking beds, I have to reject that one.

Venice: At the request of the secret police of Tsarina Xherpes II, Austrian officers extradited a band of aging, homosexual Russian dissidents recently arrested. A member of the group who happened to be visiting in Paris at the time of the arrests announced his disappointment at the new development: "At the very least they could have waited until I got back," he whined. "Now I'm going to miss all the fun--damn, damn, damn."

Turkey-Russia: Your failing to mention the complete terms of my bribe might lead the others to take you for a fool. On your behalf, I think it is only fair to mention that you also forced me to include a three-year subscription to Blueboy magazine, and an inflatable latex replica of Michelangelo David. I hope this sets it "straight" to your complete satisfaction.

Ankara-World: I have been informed by several sources that we are being duped one of the players in our game. It seems that England's name is not Ron Galicia as he is claiming. He is in fact an expatriate Irishman attempting to hide his past ties with the IRA, when he went by his true name Ron O'Bothnia.

Turkey-Austria: In regards to your last letter concerning you-know-who, I wholeheartedly concur with you. I feel, however, that we should wait one or two

seasons before we implement this plan. Remember the lesson of Julius Caesar. In the mean time, let him have his way. We can put up with his seemingly pointless and endless diatribes for a few more issues.

Rome-Turkey: I did not give your position away to Russia intentionally. I wrote and told you to expect an attack upon Con. Unfortunately the letter came back with "Moved, unknown" written across it. In any case, welcome to sunny Italy.

Russia-Turkey: Sorry fella. I didn't think you'd object to my letting the cat out of the bag as to your real personality. (Notice, too, that I never said a word about your little "You'll Never Walk Alone" routine.)

Russia-The Rest: If I ruled the world, every day would be the first day of spring.

Kraken: Sounds like you could settle for Camelot and forget the world outside.

Russia-Italy: Know ye, now, Polley? Glimpses do ye seem to see of that mortally intolerable truth: that all deep, earnest thinking is but the intrepid effort of the soul to keep the open independence of her sea, while the wildest winds of heaven and earth conspire to cast her on the treacherous, slavish shore?

But as in landlessness alone resides the highest truth--shoreless, indefinite as God--so, better it is to perish in that howling infinite than be ingloriously dashed upon the lee, even if that were safety. For worm-like, then, oh, who would craven crawl to land! Terrors of the terrible, is all this agony so vain? Take heart, take heart, O Polley! Bear thee grimly, demigod! Up from the spray of thy ocean-perishing--straight up--leaps thy apotheosis!

Kraken: Huh?

Russia-France: Now that we are ever closer to being neighbours on the board, I suppose it's time I revealed something to you that may be helpful to our future negotiations for you to know. When I started this game, I began by telling everyone that I was an American named "Mark Petersen" who had "recently been living in Japan," etc., etc. In fact, however, I only said that to avoid being the victim of any unnecessary prejudice during the critical opening stages and since I've proved myself to be a "worthy opponent" (as you North American fellows are often wont to exclaim), I feel confident enough now to tell you about my true self. Actually, my name is Hidehiro Yamazaki. I am a 19-year-old college boy from Nobeoka-City in Miyazaki-Prefecture, Japan. My family is five members: Father, Mother, younger Sister, younger Brother, and me. I like baseball, swimming, and popular music ("pops"). Do you have some hobby? My father raises miniature carp. I want to learn all about Canada. I am very glad will you please be my pen friend forever. Do you know our "famous slugger" Sadaharu Oh? Now is getting cold in my town. I like older men, too, so we can get along "swimmingly", I think, of course. Goodbye now, okay? Yours truly, Hidehiro.

Kraken: At this point it's necessary to break into the press for a moment to point out that Hidehiro has been deceiving the GM with an alias. When I got this press release, I managed to get him on the phone and explained the situation. He was very sorry, and I'm sure he did it unintentionally, but I had to stick to the rules and eject him from the game. He cried a little, but understood. In conversation, though, I found out that he got the "Mark Petersen" name, and his good English, from an actual person by that name who is boarding with his family, who has taken an interest in Diplomacy. I therefore talked to Mark and agreed to use him as a standby for Hidehiro's position. Hidehiro will therefore be able to follow the position which he got off to such a good start, and is welcome to contribute further to the zine. Please send all future negotiations to Mark, at the same address: he'll also be using the same typewriter, so you may notice little change from before. It's not often that such a delicate situation is solved this easily.

Also, while Ron Galicia NMRed this time, I am able to run some of his press which was deferred last issue; starting on the next page:

FUN FACTS FOR 1902: "General Grooty, I haven't tasted anything more frooty!"

seems to be the consensus among the French, as the former German General Grooty releases his new grapefruit-flavoured bubblegum, called Grooty Fruity, in France. The advertisements are getting great acclaim, not to mention the "big-francs" (a term coined by French economists to describe Grooty's amazing economic success). These advertisements, showing General Grooty dressed up as Chita Rivera, have reached astounding popularity as far as Budapest, from where the General has reportedly received countless marriage proposals. Grooty has also caught the attention of Debit Clarke, who is now considering the General for his new book, **THOSE FABULOUS COMMERCIALS!** The General will be up there with the other greats, such as Wendy Peller, a close cousin of Joan of Arc, off on a campaign in Jolly Old England only to find nothing to conquer at their destination. Oh, don't you just love it when she hollers, "Where's the fief?"

This has been Robin the Leech, saying good-bye and see you next time on FUN FACTS FOR 1903.

England-Austria: Don't you think it's just great that you'll probably be the only other one in this game to understand that? I guess not.

RADIO LONDON: The Lady Deanna Chartruce Bridge has issued a public apology this morning to all who attended or heard last night's symposium on Norwegian diplomacy. However, when she was told that her remarks were censored by Robert J. Dumont long before the transmission, she said, "Gee whiz. That son-of-a-XXXX should have told me before I got up here! Who the f--- does he think he is?"

England-Kraken: Is this a family 'zine?

Kraken: It used to be.

RADIO SWITZERLAND: Switzerland has declared war on France. The results of the press conference between the ambassador and himself are as follows: "Kick butt! Kick butt! Kick butt!"

RADIO LONDON: Londoners today have protested in the streets against the restrictions imposed on press releases by the Kraken Conference in Switzerland. Citizens discontent with the rise in ink tax caused by the restriction have dressed up in Chita Rivera costumes, imported from France, and dumped barrels upon barrels of ink into the Thames, reminiscent of the Boston Tea Party. More demonstrations are scheduled throughout England.

Kraken: ...which will have to be reported on NEXT time...at this rate it will take me a total of 4 issues to complete the releases that your protesters wanted me to cram into ONE! Sorry, no can do.

A rash of NMRs this time (well, actually, only three people, but it's affected four out of five games). Hope the Christmas mail wasn't to blame, but you guys were warned last time! Anyhow, standbys are requested as follows:

1979-HZ, Italy: Jim Diehl 1982-AR, Russia: Claude Gautron
1983-AE, Turkey: Steve Berrigan 1984-AJ, England: Bryan Ronald

All addresses on p. 6.

As I complete this last page (Sunday Jan 27), I have five registered for Xylen the new game. I would therefore expect that we can get going with it next time unless interest slacks off. Anyone else interested should send cheques now; I'll return them if you miss out.

Speaking of "next time", the deadline is MARCH 8, 1985, the usual six-week interval. Christmas was nice (yours too, I hope), though hectic as I went to Ottawa and Vancouver and back home all within 8 days. A couple of badly delayed letters arrived this month as expected--par for this time of year--but the mail should be no more inefficient than usual for the next 7 issues or so.

I'm expecting to do some travelling on short notice this spring and summer so it's possible that publication of the next few issues could be delayed up a week. Order deadlines remain the same: don't count on the telephone.

Until March 8 (or a bit later),

Randolph