

GRAUSTARK

#105

1966Q, 1966R, 1966AA

8 October 1966

1966Q "Winter 1909"
MORE ANARCHY IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

FRANCE (Latimer): Builds A Par, A Mar.
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Salamo): No move received. Gamesmaster removes A Sil.
TURKEY (Berman): Builds A Con, F Smy.

The stand-by player, Conrad von Metzke (see GRAUSTARK #105 for address) is asked to send in "Spring 1910" moves for Austria-Hungary. The deadline for "Spring 1910" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER 1966.

1966AA "Winter 1903"
NEW PREMIER TAKES OVER IN FRANCE

FRANCE (Vaughn): Removes A Gas.
GERMANY (Latimer): Builds A Mun.
ITALY (Aita): Builds F Rom.
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Walker): Builds A Tri.

Since John Smythe as France missed two successive moves, Michael Vaughn takes over. (See GRAUSTARK #103 for his address.) Charles Turner, the stand-by player, should send in "Spring 1904" moves for Russia as explained in GRAUSTARK #103. The deadline for "Spring 1904" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER 1966.

BERLIN: The Kaiser's been the quiet sort of late. His government has not indulged in the customary propaganda wars unlike the rest of Europe. But when he was informed of the perfidy of our neighbor to the south-east he flew into quite a rage. "Der Cherman peoples haif been betraye"; Austria has zold uz out to der Ruzzianz;

BORDEAUX: A Provisional government formed here by the Imperance Party was recognized as the legal government of France. This was because almost all the other major parties were in headlong flight for French Africa, which is reputed to be safe from Britons, Italians, and Germans. The new government has or-

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1966R "Fall 1904"
FRENCH DRIVE BACK ANGLO-GERMAN ALLIANCE

ENGLAND (Latimer): A St.P holds; F Norwegian Sea-North Atlantic; F Bar-Norwegian Sea; F Norway-North Sea; A Edi-Yor; F Hol not ordered, holds.

FRANCE (Berman): F Mid-North Atlantic; F Eng-Lon; A Ruh-Hol; F Bel S A Ruh-Hol; A Mun-Kie; A Bur-Ruh; A Pie-Mar.

GERMANY (Lobling): A Kie S ENGLISH F Hol; A Ber S A Kie; F Den S ENGLISH F Norway-North Sea.

ITALY (M. Thomson): F Tun-Ion; F Tyr S F Tun-Ion; A Tyr-Vie; A Tri S A Tyr-Vie; F Adr S A Tri; A Ser-Cre.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Uhr): A Bud-Tri; F Alb S A Bud-Tri; A Vie S A Bud-Tri.

RUSSIA (Levinson): A Liv-War; F Swe & A Mos hold.

TURKEY (Wagner): A Rum-Bud; A Sev-Rum; F Bla S A Sev-Rum; A Con-Gre; F Aeg C A Con-Gre; A Bul S A Coh-Gre.

Underlined moves are not possible. The English fleet in Holland retreats to the Helgoland Bight.

The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:
ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Nor, St.P. (4)
FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Hol, Lon, Mar, Mun, Par, Spa. (9)
GERMANY: Ber, Den, Kie. (3)
ITALY: Nap, Rom, Ser, Tri, Tun, Ven. (6)
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Vie. (2)
RUSSIA: Mos, Swe, War. (3)
TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, Rum, Sev, Smy. (7)

France may establish two new units, and Turkey may establish one. Austria-Hungary must remove one unit, and England must remove two. The deadline for these "Winter 1904" moves is SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER at NOON.

Press releases for 1966R - see p. 2.

1966R - PRESS RELEASES

CONSTANTINOPLE (May 16, 1904): Djemal Nasturtium, in his capacity as Supreme Commander of Turkish Armed Forces, left for Bucharest early this morning to take personal charge of the newly formed 1st Gas Corps. At a train-side news conference Nasturtium expressed his optimism for early victory in the war with Austria-Hungary and affirmed the treaty with Italy. The President also hinted that a cease-fire is being negotiated with Russia but gave no details.

ANKARA (May 1904, Turkish Royalist Press): Will no one save the Turkish nation from this oppression? Perhaps the worthy prince Ottoman will come to the aid of free Turks who desire a return to glorious despotism. Nasturtium is a pansy!

LONDON: All good wishes to the Italians but please don't mess up our moves.

MOSCOW: Albion come home - almost all is forgiven. Abdul - are Black Sea accommodations available yet?

LONDON: "Prince Otto, 'e's not such a bad chap."

BERLIN: Chancellor von Kluck, in his weekly speech before the Reichstag, announced that reports from the German underground in Bavaria and the Dutch and Belgian undergrounds confirm what the people of Germany have been expecting: An Anglo-French brook is expected within the next six months at the latest. There was a clash between British and French occupation troops at the Dutch-Belgian border only last week, the most resent in a series of fourteen such clashes, one of which cost the "Allies" nearly a thousand men. Apparently the conflict was brought into the open last month during a state visit of the French president to London. The visit, which was scheduled to last for two weeks, was cut short after four days. The British, seeing that their forces in Holland were the key to French success in the south of Germany, pressed for a better bargaining position over division of territory after peace, but the French, with typical shortsightedness, assumed that the British were maneuvering into a double-cross position. So, the French did what they would do if they were England: They decided that a rumor of an English doublecross of France was the same as a real doublecross, and moved to doublecross England several years before the English could doublecross them. Chancellor von Kluck has sent a communique to the King nominating the entire French government for the Empire's highest decoration: The Order of the Double Cross.

CONSTANTINOPLE (5 October 1904 - Official Turkish Press): Who is this Pope person? Why does he meddle in the internal affairs of the great Turkish Empire? Would he, with his insignificant troop of axemen, dare oppose the manly Turkish Republic? Does he mean to undermine the eternally unbreakable Italian-Turkish alliance? Ha! We ignore this insult; it is not worthy of serious consideration by even the lowliest of virile Turks. Inquiring after the Rumanian royal family was downright - ahh - Christian!

HAMBURG (12 October 1904): Prince Otto von Hohenzollern, Count of Srotelheinz-zerbergenplatz, Knight of the Order of St. Voracious, King of Rumelia, Sultan of Musquat, Satrap of Yalcan, and 497th in line for the throne of the German Empire, is a modest man. He hardly ever tells anyone about his adventures in the jungles of New Guinea, of the thirteen days he was lost in the Himalayas, or of the time he crossed a London street during rush hour. So, when he was notified of his appointment as new ambassador to Great Britain, he took it characteristically aplomb: "I will not go do Grade Bridain, iff you haves to nyzelf drag agross der North Zoa. I am goink to der Skvigi Islands to zee mine bruder's godt cousin Magks. I haf been to him tryink to go and zee since last year when der Vrench and der Englishes star-ded der blogado. To them have to go to der Grade Bridain and be nize to der gings and der brinces and der udder memberse of der royal famerly iss to much. I will not go."

At this point Count Alberecht Pimiento Fremantle, who, being just arrived from South America, being a Hohenzollern, and being in need of a job, was made Prince Otto's personal bodyguard, walked in the room. The Count is, to say the least, a rather large and muscular man, and he gave his opinion on the matter: "Brince Otto, I think that do Grade Bridain you must go and the ambassador to der Grade Bridain-ers be if you vent do go to der Skvigi Islands and zee your goodt guzzun, Magks."

If such a zing is nezzezary I will have to carry you."

And so, as your reporter leaves the palatial mansion of Prince Otto, off in the distance slowly recedes what appears to be a rather large gorilla carrying an equally large shnitzel, heading for the Hamburg docks.

YALTA (10 November 1904): The Rumanian crown prince appeared at Turkish 3rd Army HQ for a scheduled press conference today. As he entered the conference room the prince quipped, "If Col. Borden wanted to know how we were captured, she should have axed us." (The crown prince is known for his sparkling wit.) The prince then read the following prepared statement: "We are all in good health. We are being treated as guests of the Turkish government. We are all happy that the great Turkish nation has decided to extend its protection to Rumania. We have always felt that Turkey should rightfully dominate in the Balkans, and that their domination is indeed part of the natural law. Turkey has - yulp!" At this juncture, the prince became violently ill and had to be carried to his quarters.

1966AA (continued from p. 1)

dered the armies of France to stand fast. It has also urged that the wine crop be harvested as quickly as possible so that France will be able to buy off one of her attackers.

SALONA (25 December 1903): Her Imperial Majesty, the Empress Lucrezia, attended Christmas services at the Cathedral of St. Ichabod the Unseemly today. Her father, the Pope, conducted a special Requiem Mass for her late husband, Emperor Leopold XI. Her Majesty wore a long, black dress which hung very loosely about the waist. She seems to have been putting on weight lately. The new "waistless" dress has started a fad throughout the Empire. When asked to comment upon the Empress' new dress, the Imperial Office of Information, Protocol, and All That would only comment that it was "functional".

SALONA (3 January 1904): All the bells of the capital rang out today to celebrate the birth of the son of Empress Lucrezia and the Emperor Leopold XI "after an extraordinarily long pregnancy". The infant has been christened Leopold-Innocent and has been proclaimed Hair-Apparent.

SALONA (15 February 1904): In her first public statement since the birth of Prince Leopold-Innocent, the Empress Lucrezia spoke to the Reichs-Bundesrat on the current situation. "The Empire of Austria-Hungary has grown. Today we invite all members of the Empire, Austrian, Greek, Hungarian, Rumanian, Croat, Serb, Czech, and all others to come to the Seat of Government. Today We proclaim that Austria-Hungary shall become the Federal Empire of Balkania. All nations within the Empire shall be represented in the Reichs-Bundesrat."

Her Imperial Majesty also mentioned the notorious, unprovoked, perfidious, unjust, repulsive, repugnant, silly, horrible, awful, and thoroughly reprehensible German invasion of the province of Tyrol. "Be it known to the Kaiser that if he persists in his folly, it will mean war, long and horrible. Our father the Pope will most assuredly excommunicate him for such naked aggression!" The crowd gasped. Her Imperial Majesty announced that peace with Russia has been achieved, and that the war in the Balkans was almost over. "We shall not stand to see another foot of Russian soil taken by other powers!" she declared. The crowd, angered almost beyond belief by Her Majesty's denunciation of Germany's betrayal - especially after Austria's valiant troops had helped to save Germany from Russian conquest - attacked Baron Tabalard von Schlochtenbaden, the German Ambassador. Palace guards, however, managed to extricate His Excellency from the rail as he was being escorted out of town, and helped scrape the tar off. Baron von Schlochtenbaden is currently in protective custody at an unknown location.

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NEW ADDRESSES: Charles Turner, 843 Santa Fe Ave., Albany, Calif.
James Sanders, Apt. 5W, 149 W. 108th St., New York, N. Y. 10025
Conrad von Metzke, 5327 Hilltop Dr., San Diego, Calif. 92114
Michael Vaughn, 399 First Ave., New York, N. Y. 10010 (new player in 1966AA)
Eugene Prosnitz, 200 Clinton St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11201 (new stand-by)

THE ADVENTURES OF SECRET AGENT O-O-HATE

Chapter XII

The motorcyclist brought his machine to a stop, hung his helmet on the left handlebar, and dismounted. O-O-Hate noticed that the back of his jacket bore the words, inscribed in red-painted rivets, "Royal Riders of the Red Road".

"O-O-Hate," said his superior, Mac, "I'd like you to meet Sir Harley Davidson, of Canadian Intelligence. Sir Harley, this is O-O-Hate, with whom you'll be working to counteract this revolution."

"And about time, too," said Sir Harley as they shook hands. "One hundred ninety years is entirely too long to let matters of such importance go by."

"As you know," Mac went on, "the National Liberation Front of 1776 engineered a violent revolution against the established legal government. O-O-Hate has run down the records of some of these revolutionaries, and found them to be working directly opposite to the best interests of our country. Their chief theoretician, a certain Jefferson, actually laid down a set of conditions under which he felt it would be all right for people to overthrow the government by force and violence. And the rest of them signed their names to this seditious document."

"After the success of this revolution, they exported it just as Castro is doing today. The revolutionary government gave open encouragement to similar movements throughout Latin America. And a couple of radicals named Paine and Lafayette - neither of them American-born, by the way - went to France and helped get another and even worse revolution going there."

"This sort of thing has got to be stopped. You men are assigned to foment a counter-revolution and restore the legitimate government."

"Fine, Mac," O-O-Hate replied. "But - ah - our agency has never worked with foreigners before. Our main reason for existence is to get a war going again, and you never know who may be on the receiving end. After all, the important thing is a war - who we fight against is really secondary."

"True, O-O-Hate," Mac replied. "But remember that, if this plan succeeds, Sir Harley won't be a foreigner any more. Then it'll be perfectly all right."

"Say, that's right!" O-O-Hate exclaimed. "And there are 54 million Britons, and 18 million Canadians - think of the army we could recruit adding them in with America."

"I'm afraid you don't quite get the idea," Sir Harley said coolly. "You get added in with us. After all, it was you Yanks that walked out and started all the trouble."

"Well, as long as we get a war started after the counter-revolution, it really doesn't matter what the country is called," O-O-Hate replied. "Where do we start?"

"According to the Principle of Reversal," Mac pointed out, "the counter-revolution must proceed just like a revolution. So first we set up a front organization. It will have a program which can meet and overcome revolutionary Communism."

"That's right," Sir Harley said. "We will recruit people to the only ideology which can meet the threat - an ideology which has been upheld throughout most of the history of the human race - one which - an ideology which has stood the test of the centuries."

"And what will the organization be called?" O-O-Hate asked eagerly.

"SCRAM!" Sir Harley replied. "Society Committed to the Restoration of Absolute Monarchy."

(How will O-O-Hate and Sir Harley bring back absolute monarchy? Watch the counter-revolution proceed in future issues of GRAUSTARK.)

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Earl Thompson reminds all Diplomacy fans that there will be a Diplomacy tourney at the 20th WesterCon in Los Angeles on 1-4 July 1967. Details follow; stay tuned, or write to Earl at Apt. #2, 128 S. Mariposa Ave., L. A., Calif. 90004

ON THE PLAY OF POSTAL DIPLOMACY

by Allan B. Calhamer

In postal Diplomacy, there is no time for discussions back and forth between two parties; consequently, when an offer of alliance is sent, possible objections to it and questions about it should be anticipated and answered beforehand.

Over-the-board play shows that even alliances which are genuinely good for both parties are frequently questioned by the offerer. Frequently he 1) wants to know the exact variations visualized by the offerer and 2) wants to know what the alliance will do at very long range, that is, after they have knocked out their first Great Power target. Thus enough exact variations should be included to give the other player some feeling of security that you won't attack him, that you have a real intention of attacking the named enemy, and that the two of you have the capability to defeat the named enemy. The long range request is probably not a reasonable request, but nevertheless it is a frequent request, so some reasonable long range plan should be included, if there is one.

The result of all this is quite a lot of work on the first move. Later, however, the simplest notes serve to hold alliances together. Only occasionally is it necessary to write something lengthy, to a single player later in the game (when you want him to make a major change of policy and have a reasonable case for it in terms of mutual interest).

In the RURITANIA game, 1963B, I wrote messages of the following lengths to different countries in the first move. (I played Germany. The messages were single-spaced):

Austria-Hungary	$\frac{1}{2}$ page	Italy	1 page
Austria-Hungary & Russia	$1\frac{1}{4}$ pages	England & Italy	1 page
Austria-Hungary, Russia, & Italy	2 pages	France	$\frac{1}{2}$ page
Russia	1 page	Turkey	a few lines

The message to Russia, Italy, and Austria-Hungary asked for a four-way alliance ("RIGA", from the initials of the countries). The message to Russia and Austria-Hungary asked for a three-way alliance, calling for the same neutralized zones as the four-way alliance, in case Italy did not join. The message to Russia called for a two-way alliance consistent with the three-way alliance, in case Austria-Hungary did not join; similarly the letter to Austria-Hungary alone.

These messages laid the basis of my intended policy: alliances with Austria or Russia, preferably both, still better the three in one alliance; still better Italy, too. The remaining letters discussed minor points, opened channels of communication, hopefully lulled suspicions, laid the basis for other alliances if the eastern alliances misfired, and so on.

Russia and Austria-Hungary accepted; Italy did not. It would have been silly to offer the four-way only, because then I would have been left with nothing. There would have been no time to come forward with a three-way after learning Italy's intention, and he might decline by just not writing. As it was, England and Italy misplayed, and we swarmed over them. Turkey was overwhelmed, too, leaving four countries. I attempted to win by blitzkrieg against France, and went up to 15 supply centers; but I miscalculated and had to cover my homeland to hold it against Austria-Hungary and Russia, so could not raise beyond 12 pieces. Eventually Austria-Hungary and Russia prevailed against Germany. It was still a pretty successful game for Germany, and the serious mistakes were not in the opening.

It is well to remember that players who live closer together can communicate back and forth faster; they can then iron out more difficulties between them. Consequently they are more likely to ally at the start, and much more likely to drift into alliance later, even if they oppose each other at the start, than players who live far apart.

In 1963B, Germany was in Boston, Austria-Hungary and Russia in Los Angeles, and the other four in New York. I felt certain that the New York four, connected by ten-cent phone calls, would drift together eventually; hence I mobilized the other three, which were well-placed for an alliance on the board anyway. As it was, I had hoped to fool England into a German-English-Italian attack on France, without telling him that the RIFA alliance was in the background. Before I sent the letters, I realized that Italy would spill the beans to England, because they both hailed from a place called East Paterson, New Jersey; they couldn't talk about the game day after day without sooner or later telling each other all they know. Consequently I should have rewritten the letter to Italy to remove references to formal alliances with Austria-Hungary and Russia; but seven pages of letters are enough, so I let the matter ride, and Italy rejected the four-way alliance, and England and France allied instead of fighting.

The press releases can be used for propaganda value. In general, I think they should be used to attempt to justify one's actions in terms of the realities of the situation, to assure allies that you are with them (in the language of a statement to the world, of course) and so on. For example, Boardman, as Turkey, tipped me off that Bruce Polz was playing Russia under an assumed name and described Polz as a "Germanophile". Consequently, I sent in releases full of Teutonic cliches about Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia building a new order in Eastern Europe, destiny, culture, etc. These releases became especially mysterious and beautiful around 1904, when it became necessary to attack Russia by surprise, in order to seal the upper reaches of the Baltic before I wheeled against France.

I do not believe that releases taunting or belittling the other players are diplomatically wise.

Where players play many games, it might be wise for them to save copies of their best first-round letters and copy or even duplicate them in other games. Amendments can be written in, stuff can be stricken out, blanks can be filled in, and so forth. In due course, one might have more than one set of letters for each country. If as Russia you want to attack Turkey first, you send out the "Russia A" letters; if you want to attack Austria-Hungary first, you send out the "Russia B" letters. If you like letters you receive, you copy them in later games. (Thus, perhaps, "I sent him my version of Calhomer's RIGA letter. He sent me Snythe's ITA.")

This "canned correspondence" would apply only to the first move, of course, but it is precisely there that you need long letters.

((A review of the play in 1963B may be found in GRAUSTARK #87.))

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

CHARLES TURNER, 24 Boyd Court, Pleasant Hill, Calif. 94523: I have been following the various suggested rating systems with interest. Since I do not subscribe to all the Diplomacy publications currently floating around...perhaps someone has already proposed the following system. If such is the case, my apologies.

My idea is really quite simple. Just take a player's center-year total for all games and divide by the total number of years these games ran. This merely goes one step further than the suggestions of A. Swenson, Bob Whalen, James Goldman, and James Latimer who have all suggested dividing the center-year total by the number of games played. Their point was that a mere center-year total was inadequate because it gave such undue advantage to players entered in large numbers of games, and as such measured not ability, but superior endurance in the face of writer's cramp. The improvement my suggestion makes is 1) to make it possible to rate games still in progress, and 2) to reduce the size of the rating "number" to a point where it becomes more meaningful. To illustrate this second point: it is much clearer to say that Earl Thompson averaged control of 2.1 supply centers/year (as France in 1965I) than it is to merely say that he had a center-year total of 21.

Using 1965I (Wild 'n' Woolly 1965KJ) as an example (for no other reason than it happens to be handy):

Country and player	RFS	C-Y Tot.	C-Y Ave.	Brob.	Proposed
England (Tzudiker)	-1	15	15	-4	1.5
France (E. Thompson)	-1	21	21	-6	2.1
Germany (Koning)	1	78	78	4	7.8
Italy (Snytho)	7	88	88	6	8.8
Austria-Hungary (von Metzko)	1	64	64	0	6.4
Russia (Nelson)	1	57	57	2	5.7
Turkey (Harness)	1	17	17	-2	1.7

RFS - Reinsel Rating System
 C-Y Tot. - Center-Year Total
 C-Y Ave. - Center-Year Average/game
 Brob. - McCallum's Rating System outlined in Broddingnag
 Proposed - Center-Year Total divided by number of game years.

Note that no one's rating will ever go above 18 (or come close, for that matter) or below zero.

In this particular example, Jack Harness did not submit a single move, yet still had a single piece remaining after 10 game years. For this Reinsel gives him a point! McCallum, much more realistically gives him -2, fifth place. In my system he is next to last.

Andy Swenson once suggested something like your unmodified center-year system, but in which a player would not receive credit for years in which he failed to submit moves. What do you think of this? ((Well, I can conceive of circumstances in which a player might deliberately not submit moves. This would induce other players to attack him in hopes of picking up his supply centers. Once they had committed themselves to such an attack, believing him to have abandoned the game, he would counterattack and lower the boom.)) Under that system, Harness would receive a rating of 0, which is exactly what he deserves, in my opinion.

- This is
- O At
- P Great
- E Intervals
- R This
- A Appears
- T To
- I Inflamm
- O Optic
- N Nerves

About the problem of rating people who quit in mid-game: Suppose the player for France is being clobbered and quits. A replacement takes over and is finally eliminated. I say assign the country's score to the original player, just as though he had played the game out to conclusion. However, there should be these options: the replacement player has the choice of having the whole or partial credit for that game going on his rating. Also, if a player is winning, and is forced to resign for good reason, both he and the replacement should receive credit for the entire game.

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One last word, my system would encourage players to play to the bitter end, rather than just leave their pieces standing, since, though there would be no chance of winning, they would want to preserve their ratings. Also, replacement players, who are actually performing a courtesy, would not be penalized for the blunders of the former owner of a country.

Before I make this thing sound too good, however, I should point out one disadvantage: players who are winning a game could conspire to increase the length of the game, and thus improve their ratings. Anyone have any ideas on how to prevent this?

MICHAEL VAUGHN, 390 1st Ave., New York, N. Y. 10010: I have to say to start out with that your magazine is a very good one. The games are well played, the news releases funny and not too strained, and the layout imaginative and neat. There is one aspect however that I do not think is at all necessary or well-done.

That is the continual propagandizing in the letters, O-O-Hate and other miscellaneous pieces throughout the magazine. I call it propaganda and that's what it is, right or wrong. I'm not about to wade into a political discussion on Vietnam; I think Scott Duncan had the right idea in his letter except that he made some political comments and left himself wide open for your rather unfair comments. I certainly agree that Reinsel is as bad as Reiner; and further I'd say anyone who makes comments on the war (Duncan and you included) is whistling Dixie unless he has some kind of proof. ("The New York Times states that Ky rigged the elections.") My reason for opposing the propaganda is that propaganda, rightist or leftist, funny or otherwise has no place in your magazine. It is a Diplomacy magazine and I fail to see how this sort of stuff does any thing for the game. If you put it in to improve the magazine I could think of many better ways. For example you could print discussions on the play of the game such as those on Austria and Germany in Bölyer's. If you print the stuff in view of changing somebody's mind about the war and explaining your attitude to a captive audience this is morally wrong just as killing Vietnamese children is. ((What an equivalence? Your moral standards are even queerer than Reinsel's.)) So eliminating O-O-Hate (satires on O07 are rather trite anyway, and calling a halt to printing political comments, rightist and leftist, wouldn't hurt the magazine any. In fact if you put something good relating to the game in place of it I think it would be more in the interests of players and readers both.

SSGT. C. R. WAGNER, Box 6008, APO San Francisco, Calif. 96328: I realize that contemporary political and policy comment in GRAUSTARK may be considered inappropriate by some and that it has probably led to bad feelings here and there; I guess there are valid arguments for discontinuing it. I, however, will be very sorry to see it leave your pages. I have observed that the vast majority of people, both in the "states" and overseas, just are not interested in the issues that are shaping their future. It's gratifying to see things discussed openly, by so many individuals. I feel the greatest sin today is apathy.

Now, you know I don't agree with your general philosophy as concerns our foreign policy, but some of your comments have caused me to reevaluate my personal position. I still hold essentially the same views (admittedly and appropriately chauvinistic) because I've been able to answer the questions you've indirectly posed in GRAUSTARK to my own satisfaction.

Well, without getting in over my head, I hate to see it go.

JAMES LATIMER, Austin Centre, Room 223, Merrimack College, North Andover, Mass. 01845: Hey, John, those comments in #102 about the rating systems were not mine. Whose were they? ((I haven't the faintest idea. A number of short letters on various topics apparently got mixed up.)) I don't really like the idea of rating systems as I have said earlier.

...I wish you would borrow a device Don Miller uses. He lists the positions of the countries' units after the winter builds/removals. Would you also do this? It makes the player's part much easier.

((The positions of the units given in the "Fall" moves are sufficient. It shouldn't be so difficult to look up the last previous issue in your files.))

RODNEY C. WALKER, FV 3 129 356, TUSLOG Det. 183, APO New York, N. Y. 09254: Please print the following:

"Rod Walker, Editor of Frehwon, wishes to announce that he is now in Turkey, but that the greater part of his personal effects have yet to arrive and may not do so until the middle of October. Difficulty in procuring duplication supplies (masters and paper) locally may delay the publication of Erehwon #4 for another week or so, but publication is now tentatively scheduled for 7 October. Because some materials used for the 'zine are in his baggage, some of Erehwon's regular features will not appear in that issue, but all games and press releases will be printed - the latter, space and time permitting. Subscribers to Erehwon are urged

to contact the Editor immediately, since his address file has not yet arrived. Members of the various games need only send their moves, as usual."

...I'm tempted to comment on the "Coastal Crawl" business, except that I am going to treat that subject in Erewhic. Let me say now that I approve of the interpretation originally offered and which Allan Galhamer has endorsed. It seems logical, and even if it may seem in conflict with the Rules, I doubt that anyone can deny the essential equity in doing things this way. At any rate, a move "F Spa (s.c.)-Por, F Por-Spa(n.c.)" will be ruled legal by me, as well as all similar moves involving a double-coasted province.

((A discussion of the "coastal crawl" problem appears in John McCallum's Probing #41 and the letter columns of subsequent issues. I agree with Rod's decision on this problem, and will use the same interpretation in GRAUSTARK.))

DAVID LEBLING, 3 Rollins Court, Rockville, Md. 20852: I wish you would take your own advice and shut off political debate in GRAUSTARK. You tried once a couple of months ago and once again a couple of weeks ago; Keep trying. I realize how hard it is to refrain from answering statements which you consider ridiculous, and not to take advantage of the opportunity to do so where it will have the greatest effect (GRAUSTARK). However, this thing has been going on so long that the people writing the letters seem to have lost sight of the real issues. I am not going to try and be omnipotent and give a list of the issues with the real ones on one side and the phoney ones on the other, but such remarks as whether the Civil War was fought over negro ((sic)) rights or states rights are not at all apposite to the question. (Incidentally, Lincoln's prime reason for going to war with the South was to preserve the Union: He said that if freeing the slaves was one way to get the country back together again, he'd do it, but it was not one of his prime considerations.) (That is, as I said, though, beside the point)

((Now you're doing it. But, to correct the above paragraph, Lincoln did not "go to war with the South"; the southern rebels went to war against their country, by seceding and opening fire. And it is true that in 1861, when the rebellion broke out, Lincoln considered slavery secondary to preventing disunion. But a couple of years later the real import of the war had come home to him: it was quite a different Lincoln who signed the Emancipation Proclamation, and the second Inaugural Address leaves no room for doubt that Lincoln considered the slavery question to be the pivot of the war, and prime reason for it.

((One other thing. "Caucasian", "Negro", and "Mongolian" are spelled with capital letters. The colors "white", "black", "yellow", etc. are spelled with small letters. Is that clear?))

"And have you been able to find an American democracy yet?" indeed. Unless you define democracy differently from Noah Webster, you are living in one right now. It is not a pure democracy...but they are next to impossible to run on a national level...When you get to a nation the size of the US, they are impossible to run at our stage of technology.

((Among other things, in a democracy it is a criminal offense to deprive any citizen of the exercise of his political rights. Please tell me when the murderers of James Lee Jackson, James Robb, Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, Viola Liuzzo, Lemuel Penn, and Medgar Evers went to prison. Or, on a much simpler - perhaps even trivial - level, can you tell me why a Communist cannot get a driver's license in New York? Or why it is not legally possible for an Atheist to get married in your own state? Have you been able to find an American democracy yet?))

Now, I happen to believe in the superiority of our system of government to that of any in the world, and our system of economics as well. ((Are you satisfied to merely be better than the competing product?)) There are also certain systems of government and economics which I find odious in the extreme. I would not hesitate a moment in saying that I would do anything to prevent their spreading to areas which do not want them. If those areas decide in a free election to adopt such systems I will not approve of that action, but will not intervene. ((Fino. Now, since Ho and Ky agree that a free election in Vietnam would put the NLF in power, how do

you stand, sir?)) Similarly, I will not work to remove those systems from areas where they have been adopted by free elections (note that this would not include China, Russia, Cuba, etc.) ((It wouldn't include much. Czechoslovakia is the only nation in which the Communist government was preceded by a representative democracy with free elections. And Communism came to Czechoslovakia in accordance with the constitutional processes of that country.)) To prove to me the legitimacy of a system in an area I must see a free election held there during which that system is sustained by a majority of those voting. By "free" I mean with any political group that wishes to participate that does not advocate violent overthrow of that system (groups which advocate violent overthrow may legitimately be excluded.) ((Fine. Let's begin by applying your criteria in the Atlanta legislative district that sent Julian Bond to the Legislature. In fact, they sent him twice, and he still hasn't been allowed to take his seat.)) By those criteria, there are no legitimate Communist states, and not a great many legitimate states anywhere outside of Europe and North America. (I gladly exclude Monarchy, Anarchy, etc. as systems of government, as there are no absolute monarchies left in nations of any size.) By those criteria South Vietnam has no legitimate government, although it comes closer than does North Vietnam. In short, in my opinion, the possession of a working democracy is my criterion for legitimacy in government. Take it or leave it.

((Fine, again. Now, since neither Vietnam has a legitimate government, what are we doing trying to fight one Vietnamese government on behalf of the other?))

I suggest that future political debate not be aired in GRAUSTARK, however, if you want to try to change Duncan's or Reinsel's or Blake's (or my own, for that matter) Views, why not do it on your own - with the space you save you could run another game.

((Okay. From now on, political debate in the letter column of GRAUSTARK absolutely ceases. For those of you who want to continue the controversy over the topics aired herein, or others, I recommend Ted Pauls' excellent, approximately once-in-three-weeks Kipple. Kipple is 5 copies for \$1 from Ted at 1448 Meridene Drive, Baltimore, Md. 21212. I have a column in Kipple, and Ted has a very liberal policy on printing letters of comment, so it is a far hotter place for this sort of debate than is GRAUSTARK.

((These debates began in GRAUSTARK only because, since it is the most frequently published of my 'zines, it afforded a convenient medium for getting off my chest my own comments on a topic of immediate interest. Many of the letter-writers took up the cudgels for the same reason. I'll see you all in Kipple.)

GRAUSTARK #105
 John Boardman
 592 16th Street
 Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218
 U. S. A.



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 air mail)

Charles Wells
 3678 Lindholm Rd.
 Cleveland, Ohio
 44120

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