

GRAUSTARK

#342

74HQ, 74IA, 75H, 75Q, 75AP, 75OQ, 75ET, 75GW, 75IX

21 February 1976

1974IA

"MARCHONS, MARCHONS!"

"Fall 1906"

John Malay sent in no "Spring 1906" order for the Turkish F Eas, which consequently held.

ENGLAND (Heuer): F Nwy-Swe; F Ska-Den.

FRANCE (Parks): A Pru holds; A Ber S A Pru; A Kie-Den; A Tyr-Mun; A Boh-Gal; A Vie S ITALIAN A Bud; F Tyr S ITALIAN F Nap-Ion; F Spa(s.c.)-Mid; F Bel-Nth; F Eng S F Bel-Nth; F Yor-Edi; F Cly S F Yor-Edi.

ITALY (McKeon): A Tri-Ser; A Bud S A Tri-Ser; F Ion-Alb; F Adr S F Ion-Alb; F Nap-Ion.

RUSSIA (Kissner): F St.P(n.c.)-Nwy; F Nrg S F St.P(n.c.)-Nwy; F Den-Swe; A Liv-Pru; A War S A Liv-Pru; A Sil-Gal.

TURKEY (Malay): F Bla holds; F Eas-Ion; F Aeg & F Alb S F Eas-Ion; A Gre S F Alb; A Gal-Bud; A Ser S A Gal-Bud; A Rum S A Gal-Bud.

Underlined moves are not possible. Italy must retreat F Ion-Apu or -Tun; the direction of this retreats should be phoned in at once, and the other players will be informed. England retreats F Nwy-Bar. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Liv. (1)

FRANCE: Bel, Ber, Bre, Edi, Hol, Kie, Lon, Mar, Mun, Par, Por, Spa, Ven, Vie. (14)

ITALY: Bud, Nap, Rom, Tri, Tun. (5)

RUSSIA: Den, Mos, St.P, Swe, War, Nwy. (6)

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, Rum, Ser, Sev, Smy. (8)

France may build two units, and England must remove one. These orders, which should be sent in BY IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL, may be made conditional on the Italian retreat. The Gamesmaster will inform all players. The deadline for "Spring 1907" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 13 MARCH 1976.

A Turkish press release is postponed to the next issue owing to lack of space.

1975ET

MORE GERMAN ROADBLOCKS

"Fall 1904"

Following "Spring 1904" moves Italy retreated F Spa(s.c.)-Lyo.

ENGLAND (Penn): F Swe-Den; F Pic-Bel; F Nth S F Pic-Bel; F Hol-Hol; A Par-Bur; F Por S F Spa(n.c.); F Spa(n.c.) holds.

GERMANY (Squires): F Bal, A Ber, A Boh, A Mun, A Bur & A Hol hold; A Bel holds.

ITALY (Lerman): A Gas-Bre; F Lyo-Tyr; F Tun S F Lyo-Tyr; F Wes-Spa(s.c.).

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Rittel): A Sil-War; A Gal S TURKISH A Rum-Ukr; A Vie-Boh; A Ser-Tri; A Ven-Pie; A Rom holds; F Adr-Ion; F Nap S TURKISH F Ion-Tyr.

RUSSIA (Birsan): A Pru-Sil; A War S A Pru-Sil; A Ukr-Gal; A Mos S A War.

TURKEY (Remmele): A Arm S A Sev; A Rum-Ukr; A Sev S A Rum-Ukr; F Ion-Tyr; F Aeg S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN F Adr-Ion ((sic; no such unit exists)); F Con not ordered, holds.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Austro-Hungarian A Sil and the Russian A Ukr are annihilated; Germany retreats A Bel-Ruh. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bel, Den, Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy, Par, Por, Spa. (9)

GERMANY: Ber, Hol, Kie, Mun. (4)

ITALY: Bre, Mar, Tun. (3)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Bul, Gre, Nap, Rom, Ser, Tri, Ven, Vie. (9)

RUSSIA: Mos, St.P, Swe, War. (4)

TURKEY: Ank, Con, Rum, Sev, Smy. (5)

England may build two new units, and Russia and Austria-Hungary may each build one. Italy must remove one unit, and Germany must remove three. The deadline for these "Winter 1904" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 13 MARCH 1976.

1974HQ

"Fall 1908"

ENGLAND (Robinson): F Nrg-Nth; F Lon S F Nrg-Nth; A Yor S F Lon.

FRANCE (Lariton): A Mar holds; A Gas S A Mar; F Mid-Spa(s.c.).

GERMANY (McCullam): A Mos-Sev; A Gal-Rum; A Ukr S A Gal-Rum; A Vie S ITALIAN A Ven-Tri;
A Boh S A Vie; A Tyr-Ven; A Mun-Bur; F Nwy-Nth; F Den & F Eng S F Nwy-Nth; A Swe-Nwy.

ITALY (Drakert): F Con S A Ank; A Ank S F Con; F Ion-Gre; A Ven-Tri; F Lyo-Mar; A Pie S
F Lyo-Mar; A Spa S F Lyo-Mar; F Naf-Mid; F Wes S F Lyo-Mid.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (McKean): A Sev S A Rum; A Bul S A Rum; F Bla S A Sev; A Rum & A Tri S
A Bud; A Ser S A Bud; A Bud S A Tri.

Underlined moves are not possible. The French F Mid must retreat to NAT, Iri, Bre, or Por; the direction of this retreat should be sent in with the "Winter 1908" moves, which may be made conditional upon it. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Lon. (3)

ITALY: Ank, Con, Gre, Nap, Rcm, Smy, Spa, Tun, Ven. (9)

FRANCE: Bre, Mar, Par, Por. (4)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Bul, Rum, Ser, Sev, Tri. (6)

GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mos, Mun, Nwy, St.P, Swe, Vie, War. (12)

France and Germany may each build one unit, and Austria-Hungary must remove one. The deadline for these "Winter 1908" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 13 MARCH 1976

1975H

"Spring 1907"

FRANCE (Heuer): A Por holds; F Mar holds; A Gas S F Mar; A Bel S A Ruh; A Ruh & A Bur S
GERMAN A Kie-Mun.

GERMANY (Chafetz): A Lon-Wal; A Kie-Ber; A Hol-Kie; F Hel-Nth; F Eng-Mid; F Iri S F Eng-Mid.

ITALY (Lariton): A Pie-Mar; F Lyo S A Pie-Mar; F Tyr-Wes; F Nap-Tyr; F Mid-Gas; A Mun-Bur; A Boh-Sil; A Ukr-War; A Gal S A Ukr-War; A Ven-Tri; A Bul-Smy; F Aeg C A Bul-Smy; A Bud-Rum; F Con-Bla.

RUSSIA (Cathcart): F Swe-Nwy; A St.P-Mos; A War S TURKISH A Sil-Gal; A Mos-Ukr; F Bla S
TURKISH F Ank-Con; A Sev S A Mos-Ukr.

TURKEY (Silver): A Sil-Gal; F Ank-Con.

Underlined moves are not possible. France retreats F Mar-Spa(s.c.) and Italy retreats F Mid-Bre, -NAT, -Spa(n.c.), -Spa(s.c.) or Naf. (If Italy elects to retreat to either coast of Spain, this will conflict with the French retreat and both units will be annihilated.) Italy also must retreat F Con-Bul and must specify which coast. The Italian A Ukr is annihilated. These Italian retreats should be sent in by IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL and the Gamesmaster will inform the other players. The deadline for "Fall 1907" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 13 MARCH 1976.

The historical trivia quiz in GRAUSTARK #339 was won by John. No last name was appended to the letter, so as a guess I am saying it was John Malay. However, he did not wish to enter a new game, so the first game entry goes to the runner-up, Ray Heuer.

GRAUSTARK would like to thank Paul Girsdansky, Ray Heuer, Robert Sacks, Ira Dornitz, Gary Tesser, and the others who rally round for the collating sessions every third Saturday afternoon.

"Spring 1906"

1975

ENGLAND (Laves): A Mos-War; A Edi-St.P; F Nrg & F Bar G A Edi-St.P; F Nwy holds; A Kie-Ber; F Bal S A Kie-Ber; A Mun-Bur; A Lon-Kie; F Nth & F Hel C A Lon-Kie; F Bel-Eng.

FRANCE (Johnson): A Spa-Por; A Mar-Pie; A Tus S A Mar-Pie; F Lon-Nap; F Rom S F Lon-Nap; F Bre-Mid.

GERMANY (Gillispie): A Ber S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Boh-Mun.

ITALY (Westergaard): A Ven-Apu; A Tri-Ven; F Apu-Ion; F Gre S F Apu-Ion; F Nap S F Apu-Ion.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Robinson): A Boh-Vie; A Gal-Bud; F Atr-Tri; A Tyr S F Atr-Tri; A Smy-Con; F Bul(s.c.) S A Smy-Con; A Sev holds.

RUSSIA (Pern): F Arm-Bla.

TURKEY (Heuer): A Ank-Smy; F Con & A Ank-Smy.

Underlined moves are not possible. Italy retreats F Nap-Tyr, Germany retreats A Ber-Pru or -Sil, and Turkey retreats F Con-Aeg or -Ank. THE DIRECTIONS OF THESE RETREATS SHOULD BE SENT IN BY IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL. The deadline for "Fall 1906" moves, which may be made conditional on the directions of the retreats, is NOON, SATURDAY 13 MARCH.

1975AP

"Winter 1906-Spring 1907"

Following "Fall 1906" moves Russia built F St.P(n.c.) and Italy built F Nap.

GERMANY (Michal): A Hol-Ruh; A Kie holds; A Bur-Mun; F Hel-Hol; F Yor-Nth; F Lon S F Yor-Nth.

ITALY (Eisen): F Liv & F Ion hold; F Iri-Eng; A Pie S A Ven; A Ven S A Pie; F Atr S F Ion; F Apu-Nap; F Nap-Tyr.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Murray): A Boh-Gal; A Tyr S A Vie-Tri; A Vie-Tri; A Tri-Ser; A Alb-Gre; A Bul-Con; F Eas-Smy; A Bud-Rum.

RUSSIA (Cathcart): F Nrg-Cly; A Edi-Liv; F Nwy-Nrg; F Nth-Eng; F Den holds; A Swe S F Den; F St.P(n.c.)-Nwy; A Mos-War; A Sil-Mun; A Mun-Bur; F Aeg S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN F Eas-Ion; A Ber S A Sil-Mun.

Underlined moves are not possible. Russia must retreat F Nth-Hel, -Bel, or -Ska. The direction of this retreat should be sent in by IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL; the Gamesmaster will inform the other players. The deadline for "Fall 1907" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 13 MARCH 1976.

1975OQ

"Fall 1905"

ENGLAND (Ripper): F St.P(n.c.) holds; F Swe-Den; F Nth-Hol; A Wal-Bel; F Eng C A Wal-Bel; F Bre holds; A Bur-Far; F Mid-Spa(s.c.); F Spa(s.c.)-Mar.

FRANCE (Robinson): A Pic-Bur; A Par S A Pic-Bur.

GERMANY (Wienczek): A Mos-Sev; F Den-Swe; A Gal S ITALIAN A Bud-Rum; A War-Ukr; A Tyr-Vie; A Sil-War; A Mun-Boh; A Mar holds.

ITALY (Kramer): A Ven-Apu; F Adr S A Ven-Apu; F Nap-Ion; F Tun-Ion; A Vie-Bud; A Bud-Rum; A Tri-Ser.

TURKEY (Bowman): F Gre & F Aeg S F Ion; F Ion, F Apu, A Alb, A Bul, A Rum & A Sev not ordered.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Turkish A Rum & F Apu are dislodged and annihilated, and England retreats by pre-arrangement A Bur-Mun. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bel, Bre, Edi, Hol, Liv, Lon, Mun, Nwy, Por, St.P, Spa, Swe. (12) GERMANY: Ber, Den, Kie, Mar, Mos, Vie, War. (7)

FRANCE: Par. (1) ITALY: Bud, Nap, Rom, Rum, Ser, Tri, Tun, Ven. (8)

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, Sev, Smy. (6) England may build three new units and Italy may build one. France and Germany must each remove one unit. The deadline for these "Winter 1905" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 13 MARCH 1976. Tom Ripper's new phone number is 314-426-1763.

1975GW

"Fall 1903"

Following "Spring 1903" moves France retreated F Eng-Wal.

ENGLAND (Spiegel): F Nth-Lon; A Edi-Liv; F Eng-Bre; A Pic S F Eng-Bre; F Nwy holds.

FRANCE (Bowman): No moves received. F Wal holds; F Bre dislodged and annihilated.

GERMANY (Sergeant): A Bel-Ruh; A Par S ENGLISH F Eng-Bre; A Tyr S A Sil-Boh; A Sil-Boh; A Pru-Sil; A Bur-Gas; F Swe holds.

ITALY (Douglas Dalman): A Rom-Ven; A Mar holds; F Mid S FRENCH F Bre; F Ion-Tyr; F Tyr-Lyc; F Aeg S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN F Gre-Bul(s.c.).

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Trtek): A Gal-Vie; A Ser-Tri; A Bud-Tri; F Gre holds.

RUSSIA (Ilves): A St.P-Fin; A War-Ukr; A Mos-St.P; F Rum holds; F Bla S F Rum.

TURKEY (Girsansky): F Con-Aeg; F Ank S A Smy-Con; A Smy-Con; A Bul holds.

Underlined moves are not possible. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bel, Bre, Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy. (6) AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Gre, Ser, Tri, Vie. (5)

GERMANY: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun, Par, Swe. (7) RUSSIA: Mos, Rum, St.P, Sev, War. (5)

ITALY: Nap, Mar, Rom, Spa, Tun, Ven. (6) TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Smy. (4)

The last French unit is removed, and England and Austria-Hungary may each build one new unit. These builds should be sent in to the Gamesmaster by IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL, and he will inform the other players. The deadline for "Spring 1904" moves, which may be made conditional upon these builds, is NOON, SATURDAY 13 MARCH 1976. Charles Spiegel's new address is Apt. 3-F, 515 York Road, Willow Grove, Pa. 19090. His new telephone number is 215-657-5497.

IMMEDIATE MEANS IMMEDIATE

When only one or two builds, removals, or retreats are required in a game, rather than postpone deadlines 3 weeks I often require the affected persons to reply with their orders by IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL. Some players have a private and highly unusual interpretation of these words. If return of these moves does not speed up, I will set deadlines for them of 9 days after that issue's publication date, and remove units left unretreated or unremoved, and prohibit any builds not in by then.

THE ONLY 1976 ELECTION THAT MAKES SENSE

It's time once again to vote for the annual Gemignani Awards. Non-players will get the ballot enclosed with this issue in a bundle of third-class mail. Active players will get it along with GRAUSTARK #343, three weeks from today. The address and deadline appear on the ballot.

Along with this ballot, GRAUSTARK sends a few recommendations. Of the candidates for "Seven Most Infamous Persons in the Hobby", seven coincidentally have outstanding qualifications: Anderson, Birsan, Buchanan, Lakofka, Peery, Reinsel and Walker. For "Publication Most Needing Improvement" I recommend a write-in vote for BOAST, whose name was unaccountably omitted. Among New publications of this sort, regrettably Magna Avis deserves the vote; I know its publisher, and know he is capable of doing much better with experience. "GM Most in Need of Improvement" is Greg Costikyan by a narrow margin in a well-qualified field. Against stiff competition Daniel Gorham deserves "Most Irregular GM" because mere negligence can account for the others, but his irregularity seems to involve actual criminal offenses.

For "Least Reliable Ally" GRAUSTARK would like to endorse the candidacy of Edwyn Jacobs, whose unprecedented five-dot doublecross won 1974GR for him. "Least Meritorious Contribution" has to be Gordon Anderson; I'm surprised that Robert Sacks even bothered to name other candidates. The "Award for Confusion" should go to IDA, but with the proviso that IDA's corporate confusion is in unfair competition with the merely individual confusion of the other candidates. (Perhaps in future years separate categories could be established.) All the candidates for the "Award for Delay" are worthy, but IDA's are the most worthy. This also holds for the "Special Award".

THE GRAUSTARK CONTEST - IV

As far back as I can remember, various foreign nations, parties, factions, racial and religious minorities, governments-in-exile, and plain nuts have come to Washington and, in effect, said to the United States Government, "Kill my enemies for me!" It would probably be helpful if there existed a questionnaire which such applicants could fill out. GRAUSTARK readers are asked to design such a questionnaire. A free entry to a game of postal Diplomacy, or to two \$5 games in EMPIRE, will go to the reader who designs the best such application form. The deadline for entries is NOON, WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH 1976.

1975IX

"Fall 1901"

ENGLAND (Chafetz): A Liv-Yor ((sic; no such unit exists)); F Nrg-Nwy; F Nth-Lon; A Edi not ordered, holds.

FRANCE (Jacobs): F Eng-Wal; A Pic-Bel; A Spa-Por.

GERMANY (Perm): F Den-Swe; A Kie-Hol; A Ruh-Bel.

ITALY (Kramer): F Ion-Gre; A Ven holds; A Rom S A Ven.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Whitmore): A Tri holds; F Adr-Ion; A Ser S ITALIAN F Ian-Gre.

RUSSIA (Eisen): A Ukr-Sev; F Rum-Sev; A Sev-Arm; F Bot-Swe.

TURKEY (Fischetti): A Bul-Gre; A Con-Bul; F Bla S A Con-Bul.

Underlined moves are not possible. Each country may build one new unit except Germany, which may build two. These builds are to be phoned in to the Gameamaster at 693-1579; when all are in, he will phone the players and inform them. The German "Spring 1901" move "A Mar-Spa" was a misprint for "A Ber-Kie". The deadline for "Spring 1902" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 13 MARCH 1976.

1975GW - PRESS RELEASES

LONDON (CONDM):

Greenspade: "The Lost Funnel, part 3." The next day, outside the garrison of Wunshealwypr..."

(CRASH!)

Dipgoon: I say, what's the matter?

Greasepipe: Our saddlebag broke, I'm afraid.

Dipgoon: Don't I know you?

Greasepipe: Yes, but act as if you don't. It makes the plot run more smoothly. (Audience laughs)

Dipgoon: Very well. (Audience titters.) Do I know your companion, Count Noriarty? (Audience titters.)

Noriarty: Of course not. We've never seen each other before, Neddie. (Audience laughs.)

Greasepipe: Now then, portly military breadbasket (amused) our saddlebag broke, spilling the contents. Will you help us gather it up? Have you a broom or a rake?

Dipgoon: Yes, here comes Major Bloodclot now. (Audience pauses, then roars.)

Bloodclot: I-ohhhhhh...What is this?

Greasepipe: I'm afraid we've spilled our gold all over the front porch of your fort.

Bloodclot: Blazen me squashbobs! (Audience laughs.) Where did it come from?

Noriarty: They're giving it away free at the Khyber Pass!

Bloodclot: That does it. Quick, Dipgoon, saddle up! We're going on maneuvers!

Dipgoon: Where to, Major?

Bloodclot: The Khyber Pass, of course. (Audience laughs.) (sings) "Oh, those golden choppers..." (Audience titters.)

Dipgoon: Soon, dear readers, we were ready to depart. But, Major, what about the garrison? What if rebels break down the door and capture it?

Bloodclot: We'll take the door with us! (Audience laughs.)

Greenspade: And so, the door carefully folded and put in his back pocket, Dipgoon set out with Major Bloodclot for the great gold giveaway at the Khyber Pass...

WOGASTISBURGER-NEUSTADT (CONDM): The Dipgoon-Anaconda paternity case took a new twist with the surprise calling of Major Dennis Bloodclot to the stand. With relentless questioning, Dipgoon lawyer BlauflÄschl convinced himself that it had in fact been the Major who fathered the lad.

"You filthy swine!" thundered the Major. "He's no nipper of mine, I tell you!"

"I should like words with you in camera, Major," the judge remarked, intending to discuss courtroom manners with the military man.

"Not in those robes, you won't!" Bloodclot screamed. The proceedings were then continued as the Major was questioned by his own solicitor, Advocate Achles.

"Now, den, my goo' man," Achles began, "How yer ol' dad?"

"Oh, Jeem," cried the baliff. "How could you? How could you. J-e-e-e-m?"

Needle, noddle, noo.

----- (formerly MONTENEGRO) (CONDM): Residents of this once-happy kingdom expressed outrage upon learning that their native country was actually a false front for American bunco artists. The hoax was exposed by the government of Pundschruck, and further detailed in evening editions of the Drzunkdump Chaser-Times. Portions of the scheme included promotion of Croatia Court and Bosnian Fields Forever land developments, sale of alleged Montenegrin handicrafts later traced to Dressler's of Macao, and mail fraud employing false Montenegrin postage stamps. "Everyone, including my parents, called it Montenegro," said potter Vsliv Nigruki, "but they was ignorant folks, I guess. Sure is a shock to learn you're a figment of somebody's imagination." Banker Dgrinki Kinrosi had other worries. "If this place isn't Montenegro, then what is it? Mail delivery is bound to be a problem." Meanwhile, a lottery was announced to select a new name for the country. In addition, officials were seeking two Americans, Clifford Irving and Nero Wolfe, in connection with the case. Both were rumored alive and well in the Bahamas or points west.

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

BILL DRAKERT (12 January): Thus ends 1974GO which was for me a particularly interesting game. While most would not consider a four-way tie a good result, I think I do in this one. As Turkey my usually astute diplomacy earned me the insistent enmity of Austria-Hungary, Russia, and Italy. While things looked very bad for me at times, I kept trying, tactically and diplomatically, and pressure on what was at one time called the 'unholy alliance' allowed me to fight back and escape, at the same time annihilating the Russians and Italians.

Alas, Germany who was of such great help to me committed the unforgivable diplomatic sin - he exposed himself to his friends and neighbors. This profited England and France, and out goes Germany.

At this point it appeared that France would sweep the board, but further negotiations held the Turks, Austro-Hungarians, and English together against him, forcing the draw. In the end though I as Turkey was the weakest force on the board I feel I earned my share of the tie.

For me my off-again on-again relations with Mark Zimmermann were a high point in the game. We each demonstrated to each other several times during the game that:

- 1. We were not to be trusted, i. e., were good diplomats. This is
- 2. We were realists and ready to try again, i. e., good diplomats.

At the end our relationship held firm in the draw of exhaustion. It would be a pleasure to cross swords again with any of these players. Allan Amer is very skillful - He is always trying to help but never actually does make a move to aid you this turn...always next turn! (He almost won.)

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

AL NOFI (8 December): I suspect ((Laurence)) Gillespie is a too avid enthusiast of certain far right publications. ((See his letter in GRAU-STARK #338 for background.)) The principal reason why the U. S. 'lost' in Viet Nam was because the war was neither in our National Interest, nor presented to us in a rational fashion. After all, the Philippine Insurrection was just as dirty, just as unjust, and just as little import to our National Interest, but the Powers-that-were were far better at convincing us that it was in our National Interest than were Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and their ilk. Nor do I suspect that the anti-war movement will cripple our effectiveness in any future conflict, in as much as it was essentially an 'anti-thiswar' movement. Almost all college students, even relatively radical ones, during the height of the period freely admitted a willingness to help defend Canada or Mexico, or Israel. And in each case those three are of importance to the National Interest, or are at least perceived to be of such. In the case of Israel, of course, we find many of the so-called leaders of the peace movement were - and are - advocating a firmer support of the country. Actually one could say that the Vietnam war marked a turning point in American power, but not in the way Gillespie would define it. Rather, it was the first purely irrational war the country entered upon. A habit 'great powers' fall into when doubting their power is precisely to attempt repeated tests thereof. What defeated America was not the peace movement or any lack of will; it was hubris.

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It just occurred to me that all those politicians who claim to have been against the war can be checked up on far more easily than scrounging around for their statements on it early in its long and unfortunate course. All we have to do is check to see how they voted on appropriations for its prosecution!

((I most emphatically disagree with the notion that the Vietnamese War, or the Angolan War in which the United States is presently engaged, is "of little import to our National Interest". In both cases, the political leadership of both parties, business, and labor are virtually unanimous in determining that it is. This is a position that I feel unable to refute and, considering what happens to those who try, unwilling to oppose. In the New York Times of 18 January 1976 there appeared the first of a series of advertisements with long lists of names in opposition to the Angolan War - just like the lists that so long and so ineffectively opposed American policy in Vietnam. The usual names were on the list - Angela Davis, Nathan Schwerner, Julian Bond, Leon Davis, Jane Fonda, Tom Hayden, Charles Rangel, Hosea Williams, David McReynolds, etc., etc. So it's not just an "anti-thiswar movement", but a virtual duplicate to the movement that tried to oppose

America's imperial destiny in Indochina.

((For what the American government will do about this sort of thing, see Robert Sherrill's review of Jonathan Schell's book The Time of Illusion, in that same Times. Sherrill cites the Doctrine of Credibility or, in Richard Goodwin's words: "American military power, once committed to defend another nation, cannot be driven from the field." "Since the Doctrine of Credibility," Sherrill observes, "depends as much on the verve and spirit and support of the folks at home as it does on front-line action...Nixon quite logically saw the anti-war dissenters as part of the enemy forces, for they shattered the image of national will to fight.")

((The men presently governing the United States of America held these views during the Johnson and Nixon Administrations, and are speaking and acting about Angola as if they still believe them to be valid. Therefore, it is a very foolhardy person indeed who will let him- or herself get on record against American policy in Angola - or in Vietnam, when we go back to show that we cannot permanently "be driven from the field" there. If there will be any differences between Angola and Vietnam, it will be in the fact that the government will squash the opposition right away, instead of letting the matter dribble along and dribble along as was done a decade ago. That "Hands Off Angola" button will make a dandy target for a National Guardsman's rifle.))

PETFR A. BERGGREN (24 December): I find the Rod Walker/leukemia story ((as told by Bob Lipton in the letter column of #339)) fascinating; fascinating that we can make such a fuss over it. But that's why I enjoy this hobby and its myriad of personalities (some in conflict and others in - well - debate) so much; it repels people like Burt Labelle, but I enjoy every minute of it.

DICK TRTEK (29 December): Since you seem to regularly get mail concerning the International Diplomacy Association, let me add some words of my own. I was a charter member of IDA, believing at the time that "the hobby" had grown so large that some sort of group structure was desirable to protect players from dishonest publishers and gamesmasters. One problem with organizations that derive from fannish interests, however, is that the structure becomes less an instrument for substantive policy and more a way to realize fantasies. Many children's clubs serve no purpose other than to give the kids a chance to invent secret codes and rituals. Similarly, many in IDA had visions of producing "professional" magazines. More and more, it seemed to me, the IDA membership supported this as the top priority for the organization. Thus, money was sunk into producing the Players' handbook and subsidizing Diplomacy World. To complete the set of rituals, the IDA handled those various awards that are so meaningless. When talk then began about producing a second volume of "How to" articles, I decided to allow my membership to lapse.

GRAUSTARK #342

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U. S. A.

F I R S T C L A S S M A I L

"NELDIE, THEY'RE GIVING AWAY
FREE GOLD AT THE KHYBER PASS!"
- see page 6