

GRAUSTARK

#5:6

1983AJ; 1984V, IC, ID; 1985L, AG, CA, CT, HF, HL

28 January 1986

1983AJ

"Fall-Winter 1917"

SOMETHING HAPPENS!

ENGLAND (J. Baker): A Sev-Arm; A Cas-Mar; A Pic-Par; F Mid holds; F Ere, F NAT, F Eng & F Iri S F Mid; F Bel-Nth; A Bur S A Pic-Par.

FRANCE (Jordan): A Par holds.

GERMANY (Ripper): A Pic-Tus; A Mar-Pie; A Tyr-Ven; A Rum-Ser; A Tri & A Bul S A Rum-Ser; A Vie S A Tri; A Ukr-Rum; A Gal S A Ukr-Rum.

ITALY (Wrobel): A Rom-Tus; A Ven S A Rom-Tus; F Adr S A Ven; F Spa(s.c.) & F IAF holds; F Por & F Wes S F Spa(s.c.).

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Rusnak): F Aeg-Ion; A Alb & A Bul S A Ser; A Ser S A Bul; A Arm holds.

Underlined moves are not possible. The French A Par is dislodged and annihilated, and France is now out of the game. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bel, Bre, Edi, Liv, Lon, Mos, Ivy, Par, St.P, Sev, War. (11)

GERMANY: Ber, Bud, Den, Hol, Kie, Mar, Mun, Rum, Swe, Tri, Vie. (11)

ITALY: Gre, Nap, Por, Rom, Spa, Tun, Ven. (7)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Ank, Bul, Con, Ser, Smy. (5)

England may build one unit, and Germany may build two. The English build is A Lon Germany builds A Mun & A Ber. The deadline for "Spring 1918" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1986.

Under the present circumstances a draw is again proposed to all players. Votes on this proposal should be sent in with the "Spring 1918" moves. Only a unanimous approval will bring about the draw; an abstention counts as a negative vote.

1984IC

"Fall 1906"

THE WEAK GO TO THE WALL

ENGLAND (Loiacono): F Eng-Mid; F Spa(s.c.) S F Eng-Mid; A St.P S GERMAN A Ukr-Mos; F Nrg-IAt; F Liv S F Nrg-NAT; F Nth not ordered, holds.

FRANCE (Chafetz): F NAT-Cly.

GERMANY (Manna): F Mid-Por; A Bur-Mar; A Ukr-Mos; A Mun-Tyr; A Boh S A Mun-Tyr; A Sil-War; A Ber-Pru; F Liv-Pal; F Bot-Swe; A Tyr-Pie; A Pie-Tus.

ITALY (Clarke): A Vie-Tyr; A Ven-Tyr; A Bud-Tri; A Rom-Tus; A Bul S RUSSIAN A Smy-Con; F Alb-Gre; F Lyo-Pie; F Wes holds.

RUSSIA (Schembari): A Gal-Boh; A Smy-Con; F Bla-Ank; A Rum-Ukr; A Mos S A Rum-Ukr; A Sev S A Mos.

TURKEY (Quirk): A Con-Ank; F Aeg-Con.

Underlined moves are not possible. The German A Ukr and the Turkish A Con are dislodged and annihilated. The situation around Moscow and the Ukraine illustrate the rules on support. The German A Ukr-Mos, supported by the English A St.P, did not succeed because the Russian A Mos was supported by A Sev. However, since the A Mos was attacked from Ukraine, it can still support the Russian A Rum-Ukr, which thus succeeds. See Rule IX.1 and Rule X, Example 8. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Hol, Liv, Lon, Nvy, St.P, Spa. (7)

GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Bre, Den, Kie, Mar, Mun, Par, Por, Swe, War. (11)

ITALY: Bud, Bul, Gre, Nap, Rom, Ser, Tri, Tun, Ven, Vie. (10)

RUSSIA: Ank, Con, Mos, Rum, Sev, Smy. (6)
Italy may build two new units, and England

(continued on p. 2)

1904HB - GAME REVIEW

VINCENT J. MANNA (Austria-Hungary): This game could not have been won by me without the help of Marc Hurwitz. He co-ordinated the old WW-I alliance of Germany, Austria, and Italy. I was able to get Turkey on my side, I guess he thought he could take me out with Italy's help later.

Fortunately for me Russia fell quickly and Turkey left himself vulnerable at a key time in the game. Without knowing of the secret G/A/I alliance, I was able to make the decision to move for Turkey sooner than Turkey thought I was going to. With Germany and Italy fighting France and England, I was left unhampered to take the East.

If it was not for a weak Italian player (sorry R. J.), Italy could have gone far vs France and might have been trouble in the future. Each time he had a chance to blow the game open he withheld, as if he didn't want to attack someone, but that is the game, to take over other areas. When R. J. dropped, I thought of hitting him, but gave the new guy a chance. I would have probably been content with my original 3 way draw but Italy never responded to my letters so I decided to take all of it.

Unfortunately for Marc, he needed the direct help of Italy, thus he was forced to comply with France - something I feel he should have never have done. Marc had England beaten at one point and backed off. With me moving north to attack England, Marc could have done well vs France, and then England.

Dick, in England, probably will never make the mistake of relying on an ally too long, as he did this game. The temptation of stabbing and grabbing centers is too strong for some allies. If Fra/Eng would have worked better, I would have sought a three way alliance with them, only if Germany was done for.

Obviously, this game was fun for me since I won, but it was or came close to being a game of true alliance victory, something rare in Diplomacy.

1984IC (continued from p. 1)

and Germany may each build one. (Actually, Italy also has only one build, since only one home supply center is available.) These builds should be sent in by IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL, so that they arrive by FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY 1986. They will then be sent out to all players. The deadline for "Spring 1907" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1986. Doug Clarke writes that his address is once again Box W, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. 06457.

1984V

"Winter 1910"

ENGLAND (Brooks): Builds F Edi, F Lon.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Manna): Builds A Vie, F Tri.

GERMANY (Gaughan): Removes A Liv.

TURKEY (Verheiden): No removal received.

ITALY (Sims): Builds A Ven.

Gamesmaster removes F Syr.

The deadline for "Spring 1911" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1986.

MEMO FROM THE EXILED FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN SPAIN TO THE CRY-BABY KAISER: You chose your allies and enemies in this game --- now you wish you had allies who MOVE and COOPERATE and NEVER GIVE UP. Why should anyone WANT to help you?

ENGLAND to GERMANY: Anyone can be a quitter. Quitters are ALWAYS losers. Therefore you must be a loser, IF you're throwing the game to A-H. I'd suggest you show some leadership and you come up with a brilliant plan otherwise YOU are the ONLY loser in this game. THINK ABOUT IT. If I had your address I'd send you a plan.

BROOKLYN (URRP): Pete Gaughan, Apt. 165, 3121 E. Park Row, Arlington, Texas 76010; 817-633-3208.

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Stand-by "Spring 1911" orders for Turkey should be sent in by David E. Schwartz, Suite 304, 460 Bloomfield Ave., Montclair, N. J. 07042. It is not likely that they'll be necessary, since Eric Verheiden has been a stand-by player longer and more reliably than any other GRAUSTARK reader, but it's a good idea to be prepared.

ITALIANS CARVE THE TURKEY

Howard Dawson, who missed his moves in the last issue, has just resigned. He is succeeded as France by Lawrence Chafetz, whose address was published with the report of the "Spring 1904" moves.

ENGLAND (Bennett): F Ska-Nth; F Swe-Nwy; A Den holds; F Nth-Eng; F Lon S F Nth-Eng.

FRANCE (Chafetz): F Pic-Eng; F Bre-Mid; A Por-Spa; A Par-Bur.

GERMANY (Schembari): Bur-Mar; A Mun-Bur; A Bel S A Mun-Bur; A Ruh-Hol; F Kie holds; A Pru-War.

ITALY (Jordan): A Ven-Pie; A Tyr-Lyo; A Tri-Tyr; F Eas-Smy; F Aeg S F Eas-Smy; A Gre-Bul; F Con-Ank; A Ser S A Gre-Bul; A Gal S A Rum; A Rum S A Gre-Bul.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Hurwitz): A Liv-Mos.

RUSSIA (Cameron): F St.P(s.c.) holds; A Mos-Sev; A War S TURKISH A Ukr.

TURKEY (McCarthy): A Smy-Con; F Bul(e.c.)-Rum; A Ukr S F Bul(e.c.)-Rum.

Underlined moves are not possible. Turkey retreats F Bul(e.c.)-Bla. The High Comatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Den, Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy, Sve. ITALY: Ank, Bud, Bul, Gre, Nap, Rom, Rum, Ser, Smy, Tri, Tun, Ven, Vie. (13)

FRANCE: Bre, Par, Por, Spa. (4) AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Mos. (1)

GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Hol, Kie, Mar, Mun. RUSSIA: St.P, Sev, War. (3)

(6) TURKEY: Con. (1)

Italy may build three units and England may build one; England must remove two units. I am going to try an experiment here, since two of these players live at a large distance from here. (To judge from our experiences with them, the U. S. and Canadian postal "services" seem to think that Ottawa is somewhere the other side of the Mare Imbrium.) If these three players can get these "Winter 1904" orders in by FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY 1986, I will mail them out to all players and set the "Spring 1905" deadline at NOON, FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1986. If this proves impossible, I will publish these orders in GRAUSTARK #517 on 22 February, and set a new date for the "Spring 1905" deadline.

TURKEY to World: Will no one subscribe to The Save The Turk fund!

LIVONIA to BERLIN: Any time, IIP!

RUSSIA: Hold & support -- the key to world hegemony!

LONDON to ITALY: The gentleman in London is getting his act together.

BENNETT to JORDAN: Stop building units I am running out of those funny little green pieces.

ENGLAND (Bragdon): Builds F Liv, F Edi. AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Foster): Builds A Vie, A Tri.

FRANCE (Petty): Removes A Pic.

GERMANY (Strickland): Builds A Kie.

ITALY (D. Walker): Builds F Nap.

The deadline for "Spring 1903" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1986.

ENGLAND to RUSSIA: Someone here has nominated you for the Order of the Bath because of the showers of ill fortune that have been raining on you. Do you accept?

LONDON to ANKARA: Overextended. We sure are and we worry about it. Why can't we get our units into a nice compact position like yours?

1984ID

"THE INMOST SEA OF ALL THE WORLD IS SHAKEN WITH HIS SHIPS"

"Spring 1906"

ENGLAND (Jordan): F Mid-Spa(s.c.); F Nth-Eng; A Nwy holds.FRANCE (Gratto): A Pic S A Bur; A Bur S A Pic; A Dre & A Edi hold; F Bar-Nrg; F Lyo-Spa(s.c.); F NAT-Mid.GERMANY (Cameron): A Mun-Bur; A Ruh S A Mun-Bur; A Hol-Bel; A Kie-Mun; A Ber S A Kie-Mun; F Den-Nth.ITALY (Stewart): A Gal-Bud; A Vie S A Gal-Bud; F Apu-Adr.AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Brooks): A Tri S A Bud; A Bud S A Tri; F Ven S A Tri.

RUSSIA (Rauterberg): A Mos-St.P; A War-Liv; A Ukr-War.

TURKEY (Addison): A Bul-Rum; A Ser & A Sev S A Bul-Rum; F Bla S A Sev; F Tyr-Wes; F Nap holds; F Ion-Tun; F Con-Aeg.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1906" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1986.

TURKEY: Not satisfied with just his own harem, the Sultan has declared himself to be ruler of the entire Mediterranean Sea. Visitors are welcome by reservation only. Derelicts will be shot on sight.

TURKEY to FRANCE: Since you've taken a liking to the Gulf of Lyon, you may stay there. Rent is due every winter.

SULTAN to TZAR: I like your idea, but I hope you don't mind if I take my time about it. A layoff of shipyard workers is not good for the Turkish economy.

TURKEY to POPE: No need for a defense in Rome, God will protect you.

GERMANY to FRANCE: I have an idea -- you can have Bel in the Spring & I'll take it in the Fall. If interested write to: "Unstoppable German Juggernaut, c/o German High Command, Paris." Or just leave a note tacked to the front door of Versailles -- I'll get it eventually.

1985AG

WHAT'S RUSSIAN FOR "RAMBO"?

"Spring 1904"

ENGLAND (Lack): A Den-Bel; F Nth C A Den-Bel; F Hol & F Eng S F Den-Bel; F Nwy-Nrg; F Iri S F Eng.

FRANCE (T. Goldman): A Pic-Par; F Mid-Bre; A Bel-Pic; A Pie-Mar; A Por holds.

GERMANY (Drakert): A Bur-Gas.

ITALY (Bennett): F Spa(s.c.)-Mar; A Tyr-Pie; F Ion-Tyr; F Tyr-Wes; F Rom not ordered, holds.

RUSSIA (D. Walker): F Aeg-Ion; A Vie-Tyr; A Tri & A Ven S A Vie-Tyr; A Gal-Bud; F Bal & A Mos hold; A Sil-Mun; A War-Sil; A Ber-Kie; A Mun-Bur.

TURKEY (J. Schwartz): F Gre & F Eas S RUSSIAN F Aeg-Ion; F Smy-Aeg; A Con-Smy; A Bul S F Gre.

Underlined moves are not possible. Italy retreats A Tyr-Boh; if the Italian player would rather remove this unit he should write to the gamesmaster AT ONCE, and I will pass the information on to the Russian player. The deadline for "Fall 1904" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1986. A proposal has been put forward for a concession to Russia, and players should send in their votes with the next orders.

1905CT

"Spring 1902"

TWO-HEADED EAGLE FRIED IN GREECE

ENGLAND (Chafetz): A Nwy-Fin; F Nrg-Bar; F Nth-Nwy; F Edi-Nth.FRANCE (Addison): F Bre-Eng; F Spa(s.c.)-Mid; F Mar-Lyo; A Por-Spa; A Pic S ENGLISH
F Nth-Bel.GERMANY (D. Walker): A Ber-Pru; A Mun-Sil; A Hol-Kie; A Bel holds; F Den-Swe; F Kie-Bal.

ITALY (Tendering): F Nap-Tyr; F Tun holds; A Tus-Rom; A Ven holds.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Jordan): A Vie-Tri; A Tri-Ser; A Bud S A Tri-Ser; F Gre S ITALIAN F
Nap-Ion.RUSSIA (J. Goldman): F Bot-Swe; A Fin S F Bot-Swe; A Mos-St.P; F Rum holds; A Ukr S
F Rum.

TURKEY (Quarto): A Bul-Gre; A Con-Bul; F Aeg S A Bul-Gre; F Smy-Eas.

Underlined moves are not possible. Austria-Hungary must retreat A Gre-Ion or -Alb or remove the unit. The direction of this retreat should be sent in by IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL so that it arrives by FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY 1986; it will be sent on to the Turkish and Italian players. The deadline for "Fall 1902" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1986.

LONDON: With deep regret the Prime Minister declared that a state of war exists between the British Empire and Guess Who.

FRANCE: This year it is the French sailors that are getting lost. "Which way to the Western Med?" asked the crew as they washed ashore on the south coast of Great Britain.

FRANCE to GERMANY: Enough of your implied threats! Take the loss of Belgium as a little warning.

BROOKLYN (URRP): Of what?

FRANCE to ITALY: Chafetz insists you're moving to the Western Med. Does he know something I don't?

FRANCE to TURKEY: How's the weather over there? Watch out for high winds.

ITALY to TURKEY: Did you realize that the Quarto was an Italian scout cruiser built before World War I. It's true.

ITALY (Ravioli International Peaceful Reporters - RIPP): The admiralty noted the great new French warships that had been constructed recently. An insignificant little ensign named Mussoleenee suggested that we should build some more dreadnoughts. He was overruled when Grand Admiral Yessir Ima Rat demanded we build many more dreadnoughts. The Admiral's suggestion was wholeheartedly approved.

BROOKLYN (URRP): The United Rabble Rousing Press, publisher of Fifi's Fighting Ships, confirmed the report from Rome that there had once been an Italian Navy ship named Quarto. "This is not to be confused with Vittorio Emmanuele Quarto," a spokesman cautioned. "We are quite certain that there will never be a Vittorio Emmanuele Quarto in Italy. And, if by some strange chance there should be," he concluded, "we can be absolutely positive that there will never be a Vittorio Emmanuele Quinto."

BROOKLYN (URRP): The Italian consul in this city, Generoso Pope, indignantly rejected a recent statement by the editor of Fifi's Fighting Ships concerning the make-up of the Italian Navy. "Edward the Second of England was what he was," the consul observed. "But the sense of duty is strong in royalty. There was nevertheless an Edward the Third."

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1354

1985HL

"Fall 1901"

OPEN BACK, INSERT KNIFE

ENGLAND (MacNiallais): A Wal-Pic; F Eng C A Wal-Pic; F Nth-Nwy.
 FRANCE (Chafetz): F Mid-Por; A Bur-Mun; A Mar-Spa.
 GERMANY (Austin): F Den-Sve; A Kie-Hol; A Mun-Ruh.
 ITALY (Palter): A Pie-Tyr; F Ion-Tun; A Rom-Ven.
 AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Thornsen): A Vie-Gal; A Ser-Bud; F Tri-Alb.
 RUSSIA (Manna): A War-Ukr; A St.P-Ivy; F Bot-Swe; F Rum S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Ser-Bul.
 TURKEY (Drakert): A Bul S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Ser-Rum; A Arm-Sev; F Bla S A Arm-Sev.

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

ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Lon. (3)	ITALY: Nap, Rom, Tun, Ven. (4)
FRANCE: Bre, Mar, Mun, Par, Por, Spa. (6)	AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Tri, Vie. (3)
GERMANY: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie. (4)	RUSSIA: Mos, St.P, Rum, Mos. (4)
	TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Sev, Smy. (5)

France may build three new units, Turkey may build two, and Italy and Germany may each build one. This is the first time in the history of GRAUSTARK (23 years come May) that as many as three powers have been left without builds after "1901". Accordingly, since three of the four players with builds live in Greater New York City, I'll try to do this fast. The "Winter 1901" builds should be sent in by IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL so that they arrive by FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY 1986. All players will then be informed, and the deadline for "Spring 1902" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1986.

PARIS: Napoleon has all units to advance.

PARIS to LONDON: We will remember your words false as they were.

MARS to World; Robespier would like to know why the western powers want to attack the peace loving French. This was stated as he held Marie Antoinette's head in his hand.

GERMANY to Subscribers: Lest any of you question the foundations of GRAUSTARK, the front page of #514 refers to my dear ally Vince Manna as "one of the stronger new players in this 'zine". Vince should, therefore, have little trouble pulling Russia out of its current abyss.

CEDARHURST: The Concert of Europe: Sorry for the slow dipping this time but John's first copy of GRAUSTARK went astray & it's awfully hard to dip blind on the board position.

CEDARHURST to John: Thanks for the extra copy. God bless the U. S. Snail.

1985HF

"Winter 1901"

ENGLAND (S. Ellis): Builds F Lon.	ITALY (C. Johnson): Builds F Nap.
FRANCE (Iack): Builds F Bre, A Par, F Mar.	RUSSIA (Austin): Builds A War, A St.P, A Mos.
GERMANY (Quirk): Builds F Kie, A Mun.	TURKEY (Rosen): Builds F Smy.

The deadline for "Spring 1902" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1986. The first Russian press release below was written in Kirillic characters, which owing to the limitations of my typewriter have to be transliterated.

RUSSIA to World: POZARAVL YA GO VAS VSEKH C NOVYM GODOM!!

New Jersey to England: Al's disbanding service, located in convenient Plainfield, New Jersey, is happy to disband armies at no charge for those who have trouble with the rules of the game. We sail daily from ports in France, Germany, and Russia. Just dial 1-800-DISBAND.

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OPERATION GRAMMO

(Following is the transcription of a tape which we have recently acquired through the international espionage network from a member of the Kingdom of Skandalutz's Titanian Guard. It is a conversation that took place on 23 December 1985, in Room 770 of the Hotel de Wogastisburg et Metropole, among two members of the (US) National Endowment for Democracy and the leader of the Stalwart National Iron Fist. It was surreptitiously taped from the next room by Inelda Markdown, an operative of the Skandalous espionage service, who with her male companion was posing as a honeymooner. The Titanian Guardsman put in a claim for extra hazardous duty pay, on the grounds that being in a hotel room alone with a woman was hazardous to his sexual orientation. When this claim was denied, he sold a copy of the tape in a fit of pique.

(The voice identified as "PVM" belongs to P. Vigurus Macho, leader of the SNIF; he learned English as a teen-age busboy at the resort hotel in Resilient Springs, Skandalutz. One of the NED agents is Spiro Patrick Duh, President of the Brotherhood of Steamfitters, Plumbers, and Plumbers' Helpers, and, during the last Nixon Administration, Undersecretary of Labor for Bashing Pacifists. His remarks are identified with "SPD". The other voice, labeled "SL", is something of a mystery. The other conferees addressed him as "Sir Lewis", but he spoke in an eastern U. S. upper-class accent. Suggestions as to his identity would be welcome. - JB)

SL: Before we put our proposal before you, Mr. Macho, could you tell us a little about your organization?

PVM: Excuse me, Sir Lewis. In the Temporary Roman Empire we retain all the old imperial customs. The family name is the second one, not the last one.

SL: Excuse me, Mr. Vigurus.

PVM: The Stalwart National Iron Fist was founded in the Kingdom of Pundschruck in 1927, in line with the tendency towards anti-Communist patriotism that was then sweeping Europe. Our Founder, General Anagnostopolous, was placed in control of the kingdom in 1931, after King Eustace the Useless was declared unfit to govern. He was however, a useful figurehead provided that they took him to the bathroom often enough, and so following the Italian precedent everything was done in the king's name.

Pundschruck remained neutral in World War II, since declarations of war have to be signed personally by the king, and that one couldn't make an 'X' and get the lines to cross. In 1947, unfortunately, certain Trotskyite malcontents mounted a revolution - and, I regret to say, your government refused to come to our aid.

SPD: Well, they wasn't really Communists, you know.

PVM: They were real enough for us.

SL: Things were different in those days, Mr. Vigurus. The Trotskyite revolution proclaimed itself to be anti-Stalinist, of course, and we were having enough problems with real Stalinists in Greece and Iran.

PVM: And, for some reason, the ideas of the SNIF were unpopular in Europe just then, so no one there would help us either. That was how the present Trotskyite dictatorship was founded. SNIF had to go underground for some time, and the refugees in other of The Four And A Half Kingdoms began recruiting members there.

SL: So that's why, as a subject of the Temporary Roman Empire, you became a member of the SNIF. Do you have members in the other nations of the Balkan Massif?

PVM: Yes, except in Skandalutz. That petticoat government -

SPD: Last time I was there, they weren't wearing no petticoats - and not much of anything else, either.

PVM: It is the ancient tradition of that matriarchy that they will only fight a war if someone attacks them. That scarcely makes them good material for Fascism.

SPD: Hey! Don't use that word!

SL: My colleague has a good point. If we are to support your efforts, Mr. Vigurus, you may preach any doctrines you like. But just avoid the word 'Fascism'.

PVM: While we're on the subject, Sir Lewis, I'm not exactly comfortable with anything calling itself the National Endowment for Democracy.

SPD: Well, if the U. S. government is to get anti-Communist revolutions going, we have to call it that. Have you realized how difficult it is to do anything through the Central Intelligence Agency these days? We're having to phase them out now, and eventually we'll just leave enough to draw fire from the liberals. The real work of subversion -

SL: Counter-subversion, Spiro.

SPD: Okay, Lewie, have it yer way. But if we gotta knock over some nervy foreign government, NED will carry the can from now on. Sir Lewis here has another little outfit that's going great guns in Angola and Nicaragua.

PVM: And another thing, gentlemen. It is my understanding that the United States of America doesn't give out knighthoods. Why are you Sir Lewis?

SL: It's a papal title.

PVM: Well, some of the popes have been on our side.

SL: In which of The Four And A Half Kingdoms is the SNIF strongest?

PVM: Well, Skandalutz is a lost cause. The Temporary Roman Empire, the Pravoslavian Patrimony of Polykarp, and the Pundschrudi Peoples Republic are all dictatorships. Our organization cannot easily function in any of them. But the day will come - the Stalwart National Iron Fist will overthrow those tyrannical dictatorships - we will pile their corpses high in the marketplaces - we will take over - we will have freedom - then everyone will have to do as we tell them -

SL: Er - of course, Mr. Vigurus. But then, you are strongest in the Grand Duchy of Wogastisburg-Schlampenbüttel?

PVM: Of course. It's a decadent democracy, where everyone gets to think and speak as he pleases. Naturally a Fascist party is strongest there. We even have two seats in the Landnacht, and have dibs on a cabinet position next time but three that the government falls.

SPD: So do you think you could take over the government of the Grand Duchy in a suitably financed coup?

PVM: You pay for it, you got it. But what's in it for you?

SL: This is what we call "Operation Grambo". You see, there has been a great political agitation for a balanced budget in the U. S. lately. The new Gramm-Rudman Act will cut back military spending to the bare bones. Among other things, it will make the Star Wars -

SPD: Peace Shield, Sir Lewis.

SL: We're not talking to the press now, Spiro. It will make Star Wars financially impossible, and that will cause a catastrophic depression in the aerospace and electronics industries. However, every supporter of budget cutbacks says he wants to make an exception in case of war. So, if the U. S. goes to war, the cuts in those useless non-military programs will remain, but we will be able to get what we like for the armed forces.

PVM: But where does this coup fit in?

SL: You take over the Grand Duchy and declare war on the United States of America. We'll make it well worth your while. A rake-off of .01% on the war appropriations will make you the richest man in The Four And A Half Kingdoms.

PVM: It sounds attractive, gentlemen. But who will take the Grand Duchy seriously as a military menace to the U. S. A.?

SL: Just leave that to us, Mr. Vigurus. Three years ago, who would have taken Grenada as a serious menace? But everybody bought it just the same.

PVM: But the actual fighting? Mind you, as leader of the Stalwart National Iron Fist I'm not afraid of war, but -

SL: Oh, it won't be serious. Every so often we will blow up a building that you have evacuated in advance, or bomb any town where there are demonstrations against the coup. Except for the money in your Swiss bank account, you'd scarcely know there was a war on.

SPD: And back home we'll get to beat up them peace creeps again! I haven't had a good time like that in nearly fifteen years! Mr. Vigurus, if you can bring off

this coup, every union man in America will be grateful to you!

PVM: Union men? Socialistic rabble?

SPD: Why - uh - sure! The National Endowment for Democracy is operated, on paper at least, by the AFL-CIO. We can claim to be helping union brethren in foreign countries -

PVM: Red Russian Communistic labor unions???

SL: Please, Mr. Vigurus - in America it's not like that at all - our unions are in favor of war. Really, they are.

PVM: I got my start in the SNIF beating up pickets at the Polykarpian Relics Works, and you want me to work for labor unions?

SL: Please, Mr. Vigurus. I've got considerable support for a conservative political program from union men, even before I was baptized -

PVM: Baptized? When? And what were you before?

SL: I was born Jewish, Mr. Vigurus. But at about the time President Reagan visited Bitburg I decided that the way things were going, it might be a good idea to get baptized. And so -

PVM: Not just a union man, but a Jew too! Get out of here with your tainted money! I'm a respectable Fascist, I am!

(Several miscellaneous slamming and banging sounds occurred on the tape at this point.)

SL: Ohhhhh! Go easy with those bandages, Spiro.

SPD: I tale you he wasn't a good prospect, Sir Lewis. Now lessee what the Libyans can do for us.

1985HF (continued from p. 6)

AUSTRIA to board: Ima Pair Anoid received the fall news with even more distaste. The German invasion of Vienna was repulsed and the acquisition of Serbia was secure, but the Greek campaign was foiled. And the Russians had Budapest! Trying to cover all of the homeland and conquer new territory, too. We need more troops.

VIENNA to FRPO: The currency is still stable, though unfriendly takeover still threatens. There is real panic at the threat of Vienna being occupied by hostile Heandertal forces from Russkieland.

FIRESIGN THEATRE to board (vie Vienna): Let's Practice Being Soviet Shooters - On Our Family Game Computers - Rüskie Pow! Rüskie Pow! (long U)

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

"Throughout his long diplomatic career, the ambassador has learned that the best way to get two opposed parties to agree upon a point was to convince each that he wanted what the other wanted. It was a long, delicate process, he informed people who asked how he went about it; interminable questions to be posed, opinions sounded, positions stated and restated. But what happened was nothing logical. Time after time the ambassador had seen how, although at first the party of the first part said he would accept only such-and-such a solution and the party of the second part said he would accept only a solution opposite in every particular, over the course of time, the party of the first part and the party of the second part grew so familiar to each other that each began to confuse the other's position with his own. With the ambassador's gentle coaxing and rephrasing, it eventually appeared to them that they had been in agreement all along. They shook hands, the best of friends.

"The ambassador had then often been asked, Of what use was he in the process? Was not the course of time the true resolver of differences?

"No, it was not, he had always replied, and for this reason: although his role during negotiations was insignificant - a tape recorder could produce the same effect - it was at their conclusion that his presence was vital. For then the two leaders had to be able to explain to their respective constituencies how it was that they now agreed when previously they had not agreed at all. The ambassador saved them from the embarrassment of having to admit they had misunderstood one another. They

could blame it all on him. 'It was his fault!' they could say. 'He misrepresented everything!'" - Kathryn Kramer, A Handbook for Visitors from Outer Space (Knopf, 1984)

*

GRAUSTARK, the first bulletin for the postal play of Avalon-Hill's board game Diplomacy, is published every fourth Saturday by John Boardman (address below). New games are open at a game fee of \$20. This game fee includes a subscription for as long as the game lasts. With your entry fee send in a list of the countries that you'd like to play, in your order of preference. The postal rules for Diplomacy were published in GRAUSTARK #437; if you do not have a copy of these rules already, ask for one when you send in your game fee.

GRAUSTARK subscriptions for non-players are 9 issues for \$6. Back issues from #500 are 10 issues for \$2.

Diplomacy was designed in 1959 by Allan B. Calhamer.

*

Those dedicated supporters of the American war effort, the liberal Democrats, have been slandered again. On the Meet the Press program of 19 January 1986, Senator Phil Gramm (Rep., Texas) called the liberal Daniel P. Moynihan (Dem., N. Y.) "one of the weakest supporters of national defense in the country". Senator Moynihan, a chemically pure liberal, was indignant. He snapped back, "I have voted, with one exception, for every defense appropriation bill since I've come to the Senate." Moynihan repeated this counterattack two days later on the Senate floor. He indignantly rejected the notion that a liberal Democrat could be weak on military appropriations. Quoting another liberal Democrat, Gary Hart of Colorado, he said, "We will not have our patriotism impugned and will not have our record misrepresented."

Senator Moynihan is perfectly correct. The war with Vietnam, which President Reagan has called "a noble cause", was entirely the creation of liberal Democrats. There were 16 times as many US troops fighting in Vietnam when President Kennedy died, as when he was inaugurated. President Johnson and Secretaries Rusk and McNamara were all liberal Democrats. The Democratic Presidential candidates McGovern, Humphrey, Carter, and Mondale were all on record in support of this war; Governor Carter of Georgia once urged Americans to stop criticizing President Nixon on its conduct, and on 2 April 1971 declared a day in honor of Lieutenant William Calley, who led U. S. troops in the Battle of Mylai, one of the proudest victories in the whole history of the United States Army.

Nor is liberal support for war a thing of the past. Last week's newspapers reported that today's congressional Democrats were going to give their support to President Reagan's plan to subsidize the Nicaraguan rebels with U. S. money. No proposition is so firmly based in U. S. political life, than the overwhelming and enthusiastic support of America's liberals for every U. S. military action without exception.

GRAUSTARK #516

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