

GRAUSTARK

#529 1984V, ID, IO; 1985H, CA, CT, CY, HD, HF, HL; 1986AF, AM, AV, AZ, CW, HI 27 December 1986

Big news from the Ignobel Prizes...

"IT'S MORNING AGAIN IN AMERICA!"

Two days before Christmas, as is traditional, the Ignobel Prizes were awarded before a large crowd of citizens of the Four And A Half Kingdom and tourists from all over the world, in the Salon du Grand-Duc in the Hotel de Wogastisburg et Metropole. These prizes, established by the will of the famous master spy, war profiteers, and currency manipulator Alfors Ignobel. (1838-1937), go annually in five fields which he did his best to promote during his lifetime.

These awards have become a regular feature in the jet set's annual December tour of The Four And A Half Kingdoms, beginning with the Winter Solstice Festival in the ancient matriarchy of Skandalutz, and continuing on to the annual Circus Bowl game in the Circus Minimus in the Temporary Roman Empire. The Winter Solstice Festival culminates in the Sacred Lottery among all men, Skandalous ~~or~~ tourists, to determine who will be the next King of Skandalutz. Another feature of the Festival is the Sacred Feast, at which last year's King is sacrificed to the mother goddess, cooked (usually by a recipe from his native country) and eaten.

Last year's King, the North Korean Kim Kip Ling, was served with bok choy and kim chi, and eaten with chopsticks. (A cultural attache from Taiwan had spent a couple of weeks teaching members of the Skandalous Court, including the Queen, how to use these implements.) Shortly before his sacrifice, this younger son of North Korean Preaident Kim Il Sung explained the strange press reports that had come out of his country a month ago. "I fled to Skandalutz," he told reporters, "because North Korea is on the point of becoming the first hereditary monarchy in the Communist world. My older brother, Kim Dae Jung, wanted to make the succession completely secure by putting me out of the way. One of his toadies set loose a rumor that I had returned to Pyongyang. Kim Dae Jung panicked, and opened fire with an AK-47 on a palace janitor who is actually our half-brother and therefore resembled me. When Kim Dae Jung appeared at a diplomatic reception with a smoking gun, crying 'The reactionary dog Kim is dead!', what were people to think?" Later Kim Kip Ling remarked that he had lived longer than he would have if he had stayed home.

The winner of the 1986 Sacred Lottery was the American actor Silvio Scumbaggi, who rose from obscure schlock movies to make a reputation in famous schlock movies. His first film was Dirty Mary, in which he played the lover of the world's female mud-wrestling champion. (It had been intended as an X-rated film, but so much was covered by mud that it was able to get an R-rating.) He then made the Rocco series, in which a poor boy from a Philadelphia slum rose to become the greatest mob "enforcer" the world had ever seen. (In successive Rocco films he killed the entire membership of a rival Irish gang that had ruled the West Side of Manhattan since the Potato Famine, a special Senate committee on the rackets, an entire Federal Circuit Court, and the whole population of a South American country which tried to ban the export of certain vegetable products.) However, Scumbaggi was best known for his "Bumbo" films, in which he restored America to greatness by conquering six tropical nations especially invented by his studio for the series.

Present when Scumbaggi was chosen was his wife, the Icelandic actress Eirika Raudha, who is chiefly famous for having legs so long that there are two knees in each of them. Eirika seemed highly enthusiastic about this honor conferred upon her husband,

and informed reporters at great detail about her own career in films. Eirika's most famous role is the Viking heroine Hallgerdh Longlegs, whom she brought to the screen in Divorce Icelandic Style. This great success was followed by Divorce Icelandic Style II: Foster-Father Dearest. Soon to be released is Divorce Icelandic Style III: Not with My Hair You Don't.

These events still had the crowd buzzing when it assembled in the capital of the Grand Duchy of Wogastisburg-Schlampenbüttel to hear the reading of the Ignobel Prizes by Aloys Ignobel, 80, son of the prizes' founder and of Mata Hari. The War Prize is traditionally awarded first. Though speculation about the Middle East, the Persian Gulf War, and the continuing conflict in Southeast Asia was rife, the War Prize went to President Ronald Reagan for the U. S. war with Libya.

At this announcement, loud cheering was heard from the many American present. It was the first award of the War Prize to an American since President Nixon's victory in 1969, and some Americans had despaired that such a thing could ever happen again. In making the award, Herr Ignobel praised the innovative approach of the American President to war. "We need not think of war only as a continual conflict, begun by a border crossing, and continuing without pause until one side caves in," he told the assemblage. "There is a place still in the world for this sort of war, as the 1980 War Prize to President Hussein of Iraq showed. But President Reagan is boldly proceeding with new initiatives in this ancient art. Moving in for one tremendous bash, and then acting as if nothing had happened, may well be the coming style." The War Prize was accepted for President Reagan by Lt. Col. Oliver North, who mumbled something inaudible about "the shores of Tripoli".

The Espionage Prize also went to an American, Edward Lee Howard. "This was much easier than last year's Espionage Prize," said Herr Ignobel. "This year, unlike 1985, there was one candidate whose merits stood out far above the others. The foolish idealism of years gone by is now no longer a part of the ancient and noble profession of espionage. Now espionage, like war, is a strictly cash business without bothersome sentimentality." Almost every Espionage Prize has been awarded in absentia and this one was no exception. Howard's prize was accepted for him by Victor Louis, a Soviet journalist who is so shadowy that he disappeared before he left the dais.

A third American won the Genocide Prize: John Gotti, Honorary Mayor of Howard Beach, New York. "In a day and age when the pacifistic notions of 'brotherhood' are rampant throughout the world," Herr Ignobel said, "John Gotti and his fellow residents of Howard Beach are determined, at whatever cost in blood, to keep their own ethnic group dominant in their community." The award was accepted for Mr. Gotti, who regretted that family business kept him away, by P. W. Botha, who called him "an inspiration to all of us who are engaged in this common effort." However, Pete Hamill was heard to mutter over the punch bowl to Mike Royko that "this is the first time the Genocide Prize was ever awarded to anyone who offed a whole lot of his fellow-ethnics."

The enthusiasm of the Americans present, already high, mounted further when Lt. Col. North was called back to the dais to receive the Provocation Prize. "His deeds as agent provocateur," said Herr Ignobel, "are bearing fruit, in that the American Congress and press are already trying to investigate his conduct, and that of the man whose orders he has faithfully followed throughout. These investigative efforts will provide the U. S. government with the excuse it needs to clamp down on pacifistic opposition to its policies, once and for all."

But when the Military Science Prize was awarded, pandemonium broke out among the Americans, since this also went to one of their countrymen. (This is the first time that one nation has made a clean sweep of all five Ignobel Prizes since Germany did it in 1939.) The award went to Doubledoctor Jerry Pournelle, the brilliant American war theorist, and science-fiction writer and editor. "Doubledoctor Pournelle," said Herr Ignobel, "has taken a small but influential American subculture, that once was a hotbed of Pacifism, and turned it into enthusiastic advocates of nuclear war. In the larger society of which he is a member, he has promoted the development of many marvelous new weapons of great killing potential, and even greater potential for fin-

ancial profit. The American economy is already bounding upward again as a result of the heavy expenditures made in the construction of that fabulous new weapons system, the -". At this point Herr Ignobel broke off and asked an aide, in a soft whisper, "What is proper to call that thing this year?"

The aide, believed to be his son Albrecht Ignobel, returned in a whisper which we can pass on because, right in the front row, were 3 CIA, 2 KGB, 2 MI-5, and one Surete agent all trained in lip-reading. "They don't like it to be called 'Star Wars' any more - 'Peace Shield' gets people thinking about peace, which is a bad idea - nobody knows what 'SDI' stands for - 'Astrodome' leads to confusion."

"Aha! I've got it!" said the elder Ignobel. "When I was younger, there was a plan just like it." He continued to address the crowd. "That marvelous, profitable military plan, the Great Big Maginot Line in the Sky."

"And so, for his efforts in promoting this and other weapons systems, the Ignobel Prize for Military Science is awarded to the man who will certainly become Secretary of Defense when America gets its first Yuppie President - Doubledoctor Jerry Pournelle!"

Doubledoctor Pournelle was unavailable for the award, since urgent government business had called him to the Hull Ranch in Costa Rica. The award was accepted for him by a man who was so drunk that nobody caught his name. The same front-row espionage agents claimed that he spoke English with a Finnish-American accent, and mumbled something about "if I only had my Galaxy back again."

By this time, scarcely anything could be heard owing to the pandemonium created by the Americans, most of them 'Yuppies', who were snake-dancing through the salon, squirting champagne at the crowd, and chanting, "We're Number One! We're Number One!" This last chant seemed to mystify Aloys Ignobel, who said to his son, "When I was a boy, my father sent me to school in America to get away from World War I. I learned there what 'Number One' means..."

The celebration went on until the small hours of the morning, and ended only when the last somnolent bodies were swept out by the janitor into a gutter, where they were jack-rolled by small children on their way to school.

1984ID

"Spring 1910"

FOG IN CHANNEL; CONTINENT ISOLATED

ENGLAND (Jordan): A Nwy holds; F Lon-Eng; F Eng-Mid((sic; no such unit exists)); F Nth S F Eng-Mid((sic; no such unit exists)); F Liverpc 1 & F Iri not ordered, hold.

FRANCE (D. Martin): A Por-Spa; F Edi-Nth; F Mid-Bre; A Mar-Bur.

GERMANY (Cameron): F Eng-Mid; A Bre-Gas; A Bur S A Bre-Gas; A Gal-War; A Sil S A Gal-War; A Pru S A Gal-War; A Mun-Boh; A Pic-Bel.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Brooks): A Rom-Nap((sic; no such unit exists)); A Ven-Tri; A Vie S A Ven-Tri; A Nap not ordered, dislodged.

RUSSIA (Verheiden): A St.P-Nwy.

TURKEY (Addison): A Rum-Gal; A Bud & A Ukr S A Rum-Gal; A Ser S A Bud; A Liv-Pru; A Smy-Arm; F Gas holds; F Con-Aeg; F Nat-Nrg; F Ves S FRENCH F Mid; F Apu-Nap; F Rom S F Apu-Nap; A War S A Liv-Pru; F Tri holds.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Austro-Hungarian A Nap is dislodged and annihilated. Turkey retreats A War-Mos, F Tri-Adr. The leadline for "Fall 1910" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987. The vote for a concession to Turkey once again fails of the necessary unanimity, and is again submitted to the players. Players are

reminded that under the rules of postal Diplomacy an abstention counts as a negative vote. See the report of 198H, below, for Eric Verheiden's new phone number.

ST. PETERSBURG: Methinks the game's over...

APULIA to NAPLES: If I were you, I'd move to Rome to cut my support again.

NORWEGIAN SEA to LIVONIA: You look familiar; don't I know you from somewhere?

MARYLAND to AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Actually, our new Senator didn't have to say much of anything to win the election - her opposition was one of the most revolting "politicians" to run for serious office in this state in a long time. In this state, that's quite an accomplishment.

FRANCE: "The question is not how much did Reagan know and when, the question is when did he forget it."

BROOKLYN (URRP): In submitting press releases, the Powers are cautioned to avoid such redundancies as "revolting politician".

1984IO

"Winter 1909"

"'TIS THE FINAL CONFLICT..."

Following "Fall 1909" moves, Germany removed the dislodged F Nwy, and therefore had two builds. These were A Mun & A Ber. Italy builds F Rom and A Ven, Turkey builds F Con, and Russia removes A Arm. St. Petersburg remains an Italian supply center, but Italy had only 2 home supply centers available for builds. Interestingly enough, all four players sent in "Spring 1910" orders. However, they have the usual deadline to determine whether they still want to go with them in the light of these "Winter 1909" orders. The deadline for "Spring 1910" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987.

BERLIN to ISTANBUL: Didn't you know? It's not important when you jump, just where (and how hard) you land.

1985H

"Winter 1907"

GERMANY (Verheiden): Builds A Mun.

TURKEY (McHugh): Builds F Smy, F Ank.

RUSSIA (P. Martin): Removes F Pic, F Sev, A Tyr.

The deadline for "Spring 1908" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987. Eric Verheiden writes that after 5 January his telephone number will be 714-879-4616.

1985CA

"Spring 1907"

DUAL MONARCHY FIGHTS TRIPLE THREAT

ENGLAND (Eragdon): A Bel holds; F Eng S A Bel; F Nth-Den; F Ska S F Nth-Den; F Nwy-Swe; A Boh-Tyr.

FRANCE (Petty): A Bre-Par; F Spa(s.c.)-Lyo; A Por-Spa.

GERMANY (Quirk): A Bur-Mar; A Hol-Ber; F Den-Nth; A Sil-Boh; A Mun S A Sil-Boh.

ITALY (Plachta): A Par & F Ion hold; A Ven-Pie; A Tyr S A Tri; F Adr S A Tri; A Tri S A Tyr; F Nap-Tyr.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Foster): A Con & A St.P hold; A Bul S A Con; F Gre-Alb; A Vie-Tyr; A Bud & A Ser S A Vie-Tri; A Gal-Vie; A Mos-War.

RUSSIA (Wrobel): A Fin-Nwy.

TURKEY (D. Martin): F Aeg-Con; F Smy S F Aeg-Con.

Underlined moves are not possible. England retreats A Fon-Gal, Italy retreats A Tri-Ven, and Germany must retreat F Den-Hel, -Kie, or -Bal. The deadline for "Fall 1907" orders, which may be made conditional on the direction of the English retreat,

is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987. (If any of the players with retreats should instead choose to remove the unit, they should let the gamesmaster know at once.)

1986AF

"Spring 1903"

DUAL MONARCHY IS TRIPLE THREAT

The 3. Austro-Hungarian moves "A Ser-Rum; A Rum-Ukr; A Gal S A Rum-Ukr" were accidentally left out of the report of the "Fall 1902" orders in GRAUSTARK #527. All players were informed shortly afterwards.

ENGLAND (La Rocco): F Bel-Eng; F Iri S F Bel-Eng; F Liv-Nat; F Nwy-St.P(n.c.); A Hol-Bel; F Nth S A Hol-Bel.

FRANCE (Schembari): A Pic-Bel; A Bur S A Pic-Bel; A Bre holds; F Mj.-Nat; F Spa(s.c.)-Mid

GERMANY (Hurwitz): A Ber & A Kie S A Mun; F Swe-Bot; A War S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Ukr-Mos; A Ruh-Bur; A Mun S A Ruh-Bur

ITALY (Rosen): F Nap-Tyr; F Ion-Eas; A Con-Smy; F Aeg S A Con-Smy; A Tyr not ordered, holds.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (J. Brennick): A Boh-Sil; A Gal-War; A Ukr S A Gal-War; A Bud-Gal; A Ser-Rum; F Gre-Bul(s.c.); A Bul-Con.

RUSSIA (McCarthy): F Bla-Sev; A Mos-St.P.

TURKEY (Bragdon): F Ank-Bla; A Arm-Ank; F Smy holds.

Underlined moves are not possible. Turkey retreats F Smy-Syr, Germany must retreat A War-Pru or -Liv, and France must retreat A Bur-Mar, -Gas, or -Par. The directions of these retreats (or removals) must come in to the gamesmaster by IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL, so that they arrive by FRIDAY 9 JANUARY 1987. The deadline for "Fall 1903" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987.

TSAR to KAISER: Which of you craves caviar?

MOSCOW to ISTANBUL: We may have waited a mite long - world domination now appears to require some careful thought and more hard work than my atrophied condition can cope with.

JIM to GERRY: What about my slice?

RUSSIA to AUSTRIA: Will you not support me into Warsaw?

ST.P to NOR: Lets give up this game next year, okay?

JIM-NUNCIO: Kick as will you, north, east or south but lift a foot, I just can't bear the whole burden forever.

MCC to GM: If they get me this year, can I get a new start? No? Too late?

OTTAWA to OWINGS MILLIS: Why couldn't you have been put out of this game instead of IO - I like it when you're just one unit and babble a lot.

ENGLAND to RUSSIA: Pizza and beers are on you.

ENGLAND to TURKEY: Pizza and beers are on you, too.

ENGLAND to AUSTRIA: Pizza can give you heartburn.

ENGLAND to ITALY: Too many beers can go to your head.

ENGLAND to FRANCE: Just beer? No pizza?

ENGLAND to GERMANY: Here's to your health!

*

GRAUSTARK, the first bulletin for the postal play of Diplomacy, is published every 4th Saturday by John Boardman, 234 E. 19th St., Brooklyn, NY 11226-5302. Subscriptions are 10 issues for \$7. New games are open at a \$20 fee including subscription. Back issues from the beginning of 1986 are 10 for \$2.

This is

O At
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A Appears
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1412

NEW PETROGRAD MENU SENSATION - FROG-AND-DACHSHUND PIE

Following "Fall 1905" moves, England built F Liv, France built F Bre, and Germany removed A Ruh. All players were informed. Tarlach MacNiallais's new, and permanent, address is c/o Sylvia Parks, 114-04 78th Ave. (Apt. 1-K), Flushing, N. Y. 11367; 718-482-8713.

ENGLAND (MacNiallais): F Bel-Nth; F Hol-Kie; F Nth-Ska; F Bar S FRENCH A Nwy; F Liv-Nat.

FRANCE (McHugh): F Bre-Mid; F Lyo-Tyr; F Tun S F Lyo-Tyr; A Dur-Mar; A Nwy-St.P.; A Pie-Ven; A Naf S F Tun.

GERMANY (Quirk): F Den S A Kie; A Kie & A Mun S A Ber; A Ber S A Mun.

RUSSIA (Austin): A Boh-Mun; A Tyr S A Boh-Mun; A Liv S A St.P; A Swe-Nwy; A Fin & A St.P S A Swe-Nwy; A Ven-Pie; A Sil-Ber; A Pru S A Sil-Ber; F Bal-Kie.

TURKEY (Rosen): F Wes-Naf; F Tyr-Tun; F Ion S F Tyr-Tun; F Tus S RUSSIAN A Ven-Pie; A Rom S F Tus; A Gre, F Aeg & F Eas hold.

Underlined moves are not possible. The French A Nwy, A Pie & F Tun and the German A Ber are dislodged and annihilated. Germany must retreat A Mun-Bur or -Ruh; the direction of this retreat (or removal) must be sent in with the "Fall 1906" moves, which may be made conditional upon it. The deadline for "Fall 1906" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987. Another press release appears on p. 11.

RUSSIA to World: With the land secure behind the great Russian Army and triumphant Turkish Navy, the Austrians and Italians have returned to their happy lives. Their new intelligence monitoring stations have been picking up a great deal of French chatter, most of which seems to come from Morocco. Sources in newly acquired Piedmont have revealed the calls to be vacationing French seamen yelling something about missing the last merry home.

NEW BALKAN MENU SENSATION - NEW RECIPE FOR GOULASH

In the report of "Spring 1902" moves in the last issue, the German order "F Kie-Hol" should have been underlined as impossible. All players were informed.

ENGLAND (Rigley): A Edi-Nwy; F Nwy-St.P(n.c.); F Hth C A Edi-Nwy.

FRANCE (Drakert): A Bur-Bel; A Pic S A bur-bel; A Gas-Mar; F Lyo-Tus; F Spa(s.c.)-Wes.

GERMANY (Campbell): A Ruh S A Bel; F Kie-Hol; A Bel S F Kie-Hol; F Den-Nth; A Mun-Bur.

ITALY (Fall): A Pic-Mar; F Tyr holds; F Wes-Mid; A Tri S TURKISH A Bul-Ser.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Knapp): F Alb-Ion; A Gal-Vie; F Aeg-Con; A Gre-Bul; A Ser S A Gre-Bul.

RUSSIA (Chafetz): F Swe-Den; A Mos & F Rum S F Sev; F ~~Liv~~ & A Ukr S F Rum.

TURKEY (Hurley): A Bul-Ser; F Bla-Bul(v.c.); F Con S F Bla-Bul(e.c.); A Arm-Smy.

Underlined moves are not possible. Austria-Hungary must retreat A Ser-Alb or -Bud. The direction of this retreat should come in with the "Winter 1902" orders, which may be made conditional upon it. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy, St.P. (5)
 FRANCE: Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa. (5)
 GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun.
 (6)

ITALY: Nap, Rom, Tri, Tun, Ven. (5)
 AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Gre, Vie. (3)
 RUSSIA: Mos, Rum, Sev, Swe, War. (5)
 TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Ser, Smy. (5)

England may build two new units, and Italy, Turkey, and Germany may each build one. Austria-Hungary must remove two units. The deadline for these "Winter 1902" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987.

There is an interesting application of the rules in the situation in the Balkans. The Turkish "A Bul-Ser" was supported by the Italian A Tri and therefore succeeds. This dislodges the Austro-Hungarian A Ser and therefore cuts the support it was delivering into Bulgaria to the Austro-Hungarian move "A Gre-Bul". That move was therefore stood off by the Turkish "F Bla-Bul(e.c.)". Since the support given to that move by the Turkish A Con was cut by the Austro-Hungarian F Aeg. See Rule X for details.

VIENNA to WORLD: As our gracious Emperor had feared, his valiant attempts to instill peace among our brothers has resulted in a knee-biting back-stab. The Emperor must now announce the end of Austrian neutrality, as he joins with the French in crushing the Italians.

BERLIN: Germany does not intend to annex any of the areas currently occupied by German forces. We only wish to remove those governments that have committed hostile acts against the German Empire and to restore authority to the legitimate rulers of these countries. We have no wish to defy any Great Power ~~ai~~ would be happy to submit to outside arbitration. In particular, we encourage the United States of play an active role in leading the European powers to a peaceful settlement. - Chancellor Bernhard von Bulow.

ROME: Due to aggressive moves by the French into Burgundy, Piedmont, and the Gulf of Lyon Italy declares war on France. Attempts by any nation to help the French or harm our ally Germany will be construed as an act of war by the Italian people.

LONDON: This one's for you my dear Sultan. My tent is now open for the delectable Fatima. Please no camels.

TURKEY to WORLD: Many thanks for expressions of concern over Austro-Russian aggression in the Balkans. Actually, thanks to the intervention of Italy, the situation is well under control. As a matter of fact, front-line Turkish units are being sent back to Istanbul for R&R (under the careful ministrations of the delectable Fatima), and their places in the trenches are being assumed by the Mujahadettes, a select unit of pre-pubescent teen-age girls armed with weighted batons. Given the way Austria has fought to date, we expect to be in Vienna in a fortnight. Cheers.

TURKEY to AUSTRIA: Does this mean that I'm still going to be knocked out in '04?

ST. PETERSBURG: The Tsar has overhauled his diplomatic corp and will be in touch with all next year.

1986CW

"Winter 1901"

ENGLAND (Harkin): Builds F Lon, F Liv.
 FRANCE (Pribe): Builds A Par.
 GERMANY (Kandara): Builds F Kie, A Ber,
 A Mur.

ITALY (Plachta): Builds F Nap.
 AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Currie): Builds A Vie, A
 Bud.
 RUSSIA (Sargent): Builds F Sev.
 TURKEY (Schenck): Builds F Smy.

The deadline for "Spring 1902" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987.

GRAND FENWICK (via Munich) to AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Help is on the way! A shipment of Pinot Grand Fenwick is even now being transported through Switzerland. Guarded by our best longbowmen, the wine should reach you without delay.

GRAND FENWICK (via Stuttgart) to TURKEY: We are sending the three cases of wine that you requested. We hope you enjoy it; the wine is Premier Grand Cru '57. Much better than the colored water they process in Burgundy.

BERLIN to WORLD: The recent crash in the spice market led to calamity in the Dutch government. Germany has, at Holland's request, assumed control over Dutch colonial ~~cominions~~ in Inconesia and movec into Holland to help maintain order.

GRAND FENWICK (via Danzig) to the TSAR:

O Romanov, Romanov! wherefore art thou Romanov?
Deny thy program and renounce they fame!
Or, if thou wilt not, at least send a note,
And we shall not say that you never wrote.

BERLIN to World: Recent attacks by the Belgian Congo on German East Africa, which were supported by naval units of a great power with an island base off the coast, have obligated the German government to seize Belgium. The Berlin Foreign Office hopes that this will not cause any disruptions in international relations.

VIENNA to CONSTANTINOPLE: The Austrian Government requests the return, in good Health, of Der Rote Kriegspieler. His attempt to steal the linot Grand Fenwick from the German U-Boat was entirely on his own initiative, and not sanctioned by the Austro-Hungarian government.

VIENNA to WORLD: Trapped on the dock, Der Rote Kriegspieler knew he would never get the Pinot Grand Fenwick off the German U-Boats. "Rats!" DRK says aloud, as the guards carry him off to the signing of the declarations of War against Russia. A grand Dinner and Wonderful Fireworks display had been officially prepared. A good dinner and a million Fireworks later, Der Rote Kriegspieler was finally (so he thought) going to meet the Sultan. "How nice," thought DRK, "The Sultan sent One hundred men to escort me. That's funny, they keep talking about 'Execution!' Will our Hero Return..."

FRANCE to WORLD: Behold the English scurvy dog in his true colors, laced with treacherous intent. Rally to the battlecry "Albion Demise".

PARIS to CONSTANTINOPLE: "Material" received. Had two very odd dreams as a result. The first was that I received a communique from Russia (talk about far cut). The other took place at a very formal ball in Paris. Many french officials and all the foreign ambassadors were there. While sipping a very fine champagne and talking to the Spanish and Portuguese ambassadors about several large cash investments in their countries, the English ambassador, the Rt. Hon. Sir Edmund J. Monsen, came up to me and out of the blue tweaked my nipple. The Prime Minister de Dernberg, the German ambassador, and I looked at each other and then we both drew our swords and swiftly cut up the Rt. Hon. Edmund J. Monsen into very small pieces. We then proceeded to serve these pieces as hors d'oeuvres to the rest of the guests. Weird. Very weird.

LA JOLLA to BROOKLYN (via Paris): Well, like hey dude, it appears that old Jack Kolius and the New York Yacht Club didn't make it to the Semifinals in the Cup trials. That leaves only Dennis Conner and Tom Blackaller of San Diego and San Francisco to bring the Cup to where it belongs - California.

BROOKLYN (URRP): Local reaction from the New York Yacht Club on the loss of their chance at the America's Cup was difficult to obtain, as most of the members were too drunk to talk. However, an unidentified Brooklyn publisher was heard to remark: "Personally, I'm rooting for the En-Zedders. They're good folk, with sound ideas about nuclear armaments, and as a physicist I wouldn't mind seeing this honor go to the countrymen of Ernest Rutherford and Roy Kerr."

CONSTANTINOPLE to VIENNA: Fabulously clever of you, darling. Yes, you're moves didn't make any sense, and yes I did have to "trust" you. Haha, we have them "fooled" now, don't we.

CONSTANTINOPLE to POPE: His letters are written in crayon? He writes to me on "olde style parchment" paper.

BERLIN to TSAR: Most of your Cossacks in Silesia have deserted to our armies in Berlin and Munich. Such is the price you pay for ignoring the outcome of the Seven Years' War. Your ancestor, Peter III, signed a treaty with mine, Frederick II. Prussia was granted authority over Silesia. If this army is not removed from German soil by Summer 1902, Germany will declare war on Russia.

ANAKHIT, SKANDALUTZ (URRP): "Successors of Peter III and Friedrich II the Tsar and the Kaiser may be," said the High Priestess of the Mother Goddess after reading the despatches from the warring nations, "but descendants they are not. Those two monarchs, alas, had a distaste for the events ordained by the Mother Goddess as necessary for leaving descendants."

YGGDRASIL LEFTOVERS

Howard Dawson recently had to give up publication of his postal Diplomacy 'zine Yggdrasill Chronicle, and I am taking over publication of its two remaining games, 1985CY and 1985HD. The players, including stand-bys brought in to take over vacant or possibly vacant positions, are listed below.

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 Ray Ulman, 4505 Garvin, Detroit, Mich. 48212
 John Van De Graaf, 31220 Burton, St. Clair Shores, Mich. 48082

I wish to welcome these players to GRAUSTARK, and to assure them that Howard Dawson has passed on their subscription money. They will be receiving GRAUSTARK to the end(s) of the game(s) in which they are enrolled.

1985CY

RING AROUND THE EMPIRE

"Fall 1905"

Following "Spring 1905" moves, France retreated F Tyr-Lyo and Germany retreated A Tyr-Mun. The Russian moves had been left out; they were "F Bla-Kie((sic)); A Sev-Ukr"

ENGLAND (Ulman): F Nth-Den; F Ska-Den; F Bar-Nwy; A Nwy-St.P; A Fin S A Nwy-St.P;
A Mos S GERMAN A War.

FRANCE (Van De Graaf): A Tus-Ven; A Pie S A Tus-Ven; A Spa holds; F Wes S F Tun;
F Lyo-Tyr; F Tun S F Lyo; F Mid-NAf.

GERMANY (Scensny): F Swe-Bal; A Kie holds; A Mun-Tyr; A War-Ukr; A Bah. & A Gal S
 AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Bud-Vie.

ITALY (Bargender): F Tyr S TURKISH F Ion-Tun; F Rom-Tus; A Ven S F Rom-Tus; A Tyr-Vie;
 A Tri S A Tyr-Vie.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Botimer): A Bud-Vie; A Rum-Bud.

RUSSIA (Barents): No moves received; F Bal & A Ukr hold.

TURKEY (H. Jordan): F Ion-Tun; F Ahr S ITALIAN A Ven; A Ser-Rum; A Cre-Ser; A Bul &
 F Bla S A Ser-Rum.

Underlined moves are not possible. The French A Tus is dislodged and annihilated. It should be noted that the Italian order "A Ven S F Rom-Tus" was valid and was not cut by the French order "A Tus-Ven", since Rule X states that "If a unit ordered to support in a given space is attacked from a space different from the one into which it is giving support, or is dislodged by an attack from any space...then its support is 'cut'." Neither of these things happened to the support given by the Italian A Ven to the attack "F Rom-Tus" and so that attack succeeds.

The English order "A Mos S GERMAN A War" and the French order "F Tun S F Lyo" were invalid under Rule IX.6, since "A unit ordered to move may receive support only for its attempted movement. It may not be supported in place in the event that its attempted move fails." Had these support orders respectively been written "A Mos S GERMAN A War-Ukr" and "F Tun S F Lyo-Tyr", they, and the moves they supported, would have

been valid.

The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers, based on the list that appeared in Yggdrasil Chronicle #157 after the "Fall 1904" moves:

ENGLAND: Edi, Hol, Liv, Lon, Mos, Nwy, St.P. (7)	ITALY: Nap, Rom, Tri, Ven. (4)
FRANCE: Bel, Mar, Par, Por, Spa, Tun, Fre. (7)	AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Vie. (2)
GERMANY: Ber, Den, Kie, Mun, Swe, War. (6)	RUSSIA: Sev. (1)
	TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, Rum, Ser, Smy. (7)

England, France and Turkey may each build one unit, and Russia and Italy must each remove one. The deadline for these "Winter 1905" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987. Stand-by orders for Russia should be sent in by Scott Ruffing, 856 Linworth Rd. East, Worthington, Ohio 43085; 614-888-0011.

1985HD

"Winter 1904"

The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND (Parents): Lon. (1)
FRANCE (H. Jordan): Bel, Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa. (6)
GERMANY (Cunningham): Ber, Den, Edi, Hol, Kie, Mun. (6)
ITALY (Scensny): Gre, Nap, Rom, Smy, Tun, Ven, Vie. (7)
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Bargender): Ser, Tri. (2)
RUSSIA (Potimer): Ank, Bud, Bul, Con, Liv, Mos, Nwy, Rum, St.P, Sev, Swe, War. (12)

"Winter 1904" orders are:

FRANCE: Builds A Par, A Mar.

GERMANY: Builds A Kie.

ITALY: Builds F Nap.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Removes A Tyr.

RUSSIA: Builds F St.P(n.c.).

Positions are:

ENGLAND: F Eng.

FRANCE: A Boh, A Pic, F Bre, F Bel, A Par, A Mar.

GERMANY: F Nth, A Hol, A Bur, A Mun, A Ber, A Kie.

ITALY: F Gre, F Ion, A Vie, A Ven, A Rom, F Adr, F Nap.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: A Ser, F Tri.

RUSSIA: F St.P(n.c.), F Iri, F Nat, F Nrg, F Rum, A Nwy, A Sil, A War, A Gal, A Bul,
A Con, A Bud.

The deadline for "Spring 1905" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987.

1986AZ - PRESS RELEASES

GERMANY to FRANCE: What's the matter?

GERMANY to WORLD: The minister of postage has finally located the weak-link in the present inter-country mailing system. In the following seasons, the rate of mail delivery should increase.

GERMANY to ENGLAND: It's a distinct possibility.

GERMANY to ITALY: How is it going down in Dixie land?

GERMANY to RUSSIA: No Hard Feelings, eh!

BUDAPEST: Following the unexpected clash between Austrian and Ottoman troops in Serbia, ministers from both countries met again in Sistova in an attempt to resolve their difference. Count Poniatowski, the Empire's representative to the session, expressed his confidence that the matter had been settled. He stated that the Ottomans had agreed to renounce their claims over Serbia and recognize the Empire's sovereign rights to manage affairs in that region. The Count also said that the two great powers agreed that Imperial Russia was to be considered the primary threat to peace and that all efforts would be channeled into destroying the Tsar's influence, both in the Balkans and elsewhere.

BUDAPEST: Encouraged by setbacks suffered by Tsarist forces in the Ukraine, Polish revolutionaries stormed the governor's palace and in a grisly display, executed the governor, together with his staff and family. From Warsaw, the revolt quickly spread

to all of Poland. Fearing what the effects of the rebellion might be on the Polish population in Galicia, the Chief of Staff's office in Vienna ordered an immediate invasion of Poland for the purpose of restoring order. IX Corps, having recently concluded a successful campaign against Russian forces in Kiev, was dispatched to the area. The disorganized Polish army stood little chance against the Empire's finest and the rebellion was soon quelled. In a ceremony held in Warsaw, the new Austrian governor announced the official reannexation of West Galicia into the Empire, along with large portions of Posen and Masovia.

CONSTANTINOPLE: The Sultan of Turkey wishes to thank the Emperor of Austria for his support in the North and his misplaced trust in the South. The Balkans shall again be beneath the Star and Crescent.

1985CT - PRESS RELEASES

GERMANY to WORLD: German SS troops have arrived. We shall now conquer what is rightfully ours.

PARIS to BERLIN: Your esrtwhile 'ally' just plunked down another army. Do I have to translate that to German for you?

BREST to EDINBURGH: Another dockworker's strike!?

FRANCE to ITALY: Mind if I have Tunis. You're not doing anything with it.

BURGUNDY to MUNICH: Whoa! You're moving too fast.

BERLIN to WORLD: The German SS will now conquer what is ours.

BERLIN to ITALY: Good things come to those who wait.

BERLIN to FRANCE: The pen is mightier than the sword. I hope your words work where your armies and navies can't.

1985HF - PRESS RELEASE

BERLIN: In view of the imminent fall of Berlin, the capital of the German empire is being moved to Kiel. The next stop is Cleveland.

1986AM - PRESS RELEASES

MOSCOW: English plan to capture Russian Capital failed due to information obtained in the course of international correspondence.

COPENHAGEN (via St. Petersburg): Russian intelligence has learned German scientist are performing Sexchange operations on English Sailors free of charge. Bizarre Sexual Practices always seem to creep into everything the English do.

MOSCOW to WORLD: Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

MOSCOW to PARDMAN: Congrats on new granddaughter. Should have named her Ludmila.

ROME to MOSCOW: Yes, there is a cold, sinister wind blowing from the west and the east. It will get HOT where they meet.

BERLIN: The Second Reich, under the new leadership of Kaiser Benj the First, has overcome its problem of troop desertion. Our sincere thanks to the French and Russian monarchs, who are now welcome to join in a game-wide Italy-bash.

1985HL - PRESS RELEASES

GERMANY to FRANCE: Some people just don't know when to quit, do they?

WOODMERE: Postal clerk shot by deranged gamer. Trial defense planned claiming irresistible impulse brought on by loss of 14 positions from one week's mail.

1984V - PRESS RELEASES

ENGLAND to WORLD: Aus Hung refuses to draw and Instead beats up little Italy. Now is the time to rally around the allies to save little Italy from the world menace in Aust Hung. It is time for austria hungrey to call for a four way draw or for the allies to win back the Italian capital of Rome!! Well A H, you bully!!!

1986HI

"Spring 1901"

"HOORAH! HOORAH! THE COUNTRY'S GOING TO WAR!"

ROME: It is with great regret that we announce that negotiations with France have failed. Therefore, war is the only choice left to Italy. Abace Francia!

BERLIN: The Kaiser, taking opportunity to celebrate the new century, remarked upon a departure from the 'enlightened' years of Kant, and an entrance into an era of Man and Machine. The Kaiser was inspired, no doubt, by a review of his troops and the naval prowess of Deutschland's steamships.

KIEL: The German fleet sails for Copenhagen, escorting Baron Klein, a minor noble, to his wedding with the Princess of Denmark. This marriage unites two great cultures, securing peace and happiness in Denmark.

VIENNA to WORLD: Greeting's from the Arch Duke. He is off on a fishing trip in Venice. But he sends his hopes for a Merry Christmas to all.

LONDON: British forces are surveying for the best placement of a British station, symbol of stability all over the world. Britannia has not ever been, nor ever shall be, on the offensive.

PARIS to all: Sorry about the lack of diplomatic activity on my part. I've been kind of busy lately.

PARIS to ENG/GER: Given the lack of communication on my part you must feel you have no choice but to attack me. I therefore act to defend myself.

ENGLAND (Chang): F Lon-Eng; A Liv-Yor; F Edi-Nth.

FRANCE (Clarke): F Bre-Eng; A Par-Bur; A Mar S A Par-Bur.

GERMANY (Ruffing): A Kie-Der; A Mun-Ruh; A Ber-Kie.

ITALY (J. Goldman): F Nap-Ion; A Ven-Pie; A Rom-Ven.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Rigley): F Tri-Alb; A Bud-Ser; A Vie-Bud.

RUSSIA (Plachta): F St.P(s.c.)-Bot; F Sev-Rum; A War-Gal; A Mos-Ukr.

TURKEY (M. Brennick): A Con-Bul; A Smy holds; F Ark-Con.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1901" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987. Douglas Clarke's new address is 784 Main St., Leominster, Mass. 01453.

1984V

"Winter 191 "

"WORK, FOR THE NIGHT IS COMING"

ENGLAND (Brooks): Builds F Lon, F Liv. AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Manna): Builds A Vie, A Bud.
GERMANY (Caughan): Builds A Mun. ITALY (Sims): Removes F Tyr.

The deadline for "Spring 1916" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1986. No vote on a concession or draw will be called for, since the players most instrumental in blocking them have indicated that they are not going to change their minds. A press release appears on p. 11.

GERMANY: Hold that line! Hold that line! Hold that line! (Et cetera ad nauseam.)

PAX BRITANNICA GAMES OPEN

GRAUSTARK's sister publication EMPIRE now has openings for postal Pax Britannica. The entry fee is \$25, which includes a subscription as long as the game lasts. For the postal rules for Pax Britannica see EMPIRE #234. With your entry fee, send in a list of the countries that you want to play, in your order of preference.

1985CT

"Fall 1906"

WELCOME TO STALINGRAD, BULGARIA

Following "Spring 1906" moves Germany retreated A Kie-Ber.

ENGLAND (Chafetz): A Yor-Edi; F St.P(n.c.)-Nwy; A Swe S F Den; F Kie S F Den; F Ska S A Swe; F Den S F Kie.

FRANCE (Addison): F Naf-Tun; F Wes S F Naf-Tun; F Tyr-Rom; A Tus S F Tyr-Rom; A Bel S A Bur; A Bur S A Bel.

GERMANY (Skellie): A Ruh-Hol; A Ber-Mie; A Mun & F Bal S A Ber-Kie; F Nth-Lon; F Bot-St.P(s.c.); A Mos-Sev; A Ukr S A Mos-Sev; A Ser-Bul; A Rum S A Ser-Bul.

ITALY (Sims): F Ion-Gre; F Nap-Apu; A Rom-Tus; A Ven S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Tri.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (J. Jordan): No moves received; A Tri holds.

TURKEY (Quarto): F Apu-Ion; A Gre-Ser; A Alb S A Ger-Ser; A Bul-Rum; F Bla S A Bul-Rum; A Sev S A Bul-Rum.

Underlined moves are not possible. England retreats F Kie-Hel, Turkey retreats A Sev-Arm, and Italy retreats A Rom-Nap. Germany ~~has~~ retreated A Rum-Bud, having sent in a conditional retreat with his orders.

The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

- ENGLAND: Den, Edi, Liv, Nwy, Swe. (5)
- FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Rom, Spa, Tun. (8)
- GERMANY: Ber, Bud, Bul, Hol, Kie, Lon, Mos, Mun, St.P, Sev, Vie, War. (12)
- ITALY: Gre, Nap, Ven. (3)
- AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Tri. (1)
- TURKEY: Ank, Con, Rum, Ser, Smy. (5)

France may build two new units and Germany may build one. (Germany would have a second build, but no home supply center is open for it.) Italy and Turkey must each remove one unit, and England must remove two. The deadline for these "Winter 1906" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987. Stand-by "Spring 1907" moves for Austria-Hungary are requested from David E. Schwartz, P. O. Box 813, Springfield, N. J. 07081. Press releases are on p. 11.

1986AM

"Winter 1902"

Following "Fall 1902" moves, England retreated F Nwy-Nrg.

- ENGLAND (Hurwitz): Removes A Fin.
- FRANCE (Parents): Builds F Mar.
- GERMANY (Austin): Builds A Kie, A Ber.
- ITALY (P. Martin): Builds F Rom.
- AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Fortner): No removal received; gamesmaster removes F Alb.
- RUSSIA (Dolan): Builds A Sev, F St.P(n.c.).

The deadline for "Spring 1903" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987. Stand-by moves for Austria-Hungary should be sent in by Warren K. Ball, 107 W. Cuthbert Rd., Oaklyn, N. J. 08107-1016; 609-358-8010 (home); 609-461-3400 (work). Press releases are on p. 11.

FRESH BLOOD

The following people have sent in inquiries about postal Diplomacy:

- David Boor, 216 Kimball Ave., Westfield, N. J. 07090
- Michael Borgeson, 291 Prospect St., Stoughton, Mass. 02072
- Matthew Grasse, 1871 Putnam Ave., Ridgewood, N. Y. 11385
- Stuart B. Lange, 904 Fox Chase Lane, Riverdale, Ga. 30296
- Randolph A. Marsh, 1036 S. Spring Ave., La Grange, Ill. 60525
- Norrin Ripsman, 47 Sandale Gardens, Downsview, Ontario M3H 3V3
- Perry Thompson, 5759 Red River Dr., San Diego, Calif. 92120
- Jonathan Will, 1380 W. 47th Ave., Vancouver, B. C. V6M 2L8

TURKS INVADE ITALY AND GERMANY

Following "Spring 1905" moves, Turkey retreated A Sil-Boh and France retreated F Nth-Hel. All players were informed. For Tarlach MacNiallais's new permanent address see the report of 1985HF.

ENGLAND (MacNiallais): A Pic-Par; F Mid-NAF; F Nat-Mid; F Lon-Eng; F Nwy holds;
F Nth-Hol.

FRANCE (Chafetz): F Hel-Den; A Bur not ordered, holds.

GERMANY (Austin): A Ber-Kie; F Ska-Swe; A Den S F Ska-Swe;
A Spa holds; A Sil-Mun; A Ruh-Hol;

ITALY (Palter): A Ven-Rom; F Nap-Tyr; F Adr-Ion; A Mar S GERMAN A Spa-Gas.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Thornsen): No moves received; A Vie, A Bud, A Gal & A Ser hold.

TURKEY (Drakert): A St.P holds; F Ion-Nap; F Tyr S F Ion-Nap; A Rum-Ukr; A Gre S A Bul;
F Bla-Rum; A Bul S F Bla-Rum; F Aeg-Ion; A War-Sil; A Boh S A War-Sil.

Underlined moves are not possible. Italy retreats F Nap-Apu. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bre, Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy, Par. (6) ITALY: Mar, Rom, Ven. (3)

FRANCE: Bel. (1)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Ser, Tri, Vie. (4)

GERMANY: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun, Por,
Ska, Swe. (8)

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, Mos, Nap, Rum,
St.P, Sev, Smy, Tun, War. (12)

Turkey may build two new units, and Germany may build one. (There would be a second German build if a home supply center were available for it.) Italy and France must each remove one unit. The deadline for these "Winter 1905" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987. Press releases are on p. 11.

TURKS PROVE DEVIOUS EVEN BY DIPLOMATIC STANDARDS

ENGLAND (M. Thompson): F Nth-Lon; F Ska-Tth; A Swe holds; F Ear-St.P(n.c.).

FRANCE (Cook): F Eng-Wal; F Mid-Eng; F Lyo-Mar; A Spa S F Lyo-Mar; A Bel not ordered,
holds.

GERMANY (Barbehenn): A Ruh-Bur; F Kie S F Den; F Den S RUSSIAN F Bot-Swe; A Hol-Ruh;
A Ber holds.

ITALY (Blaine): A Pie S FRENCH A Spa-Mar; A Tus holds; F Tyr-Lyo; F Wes S F Tyr-Lyo.

AUSTRIA HUNGARY (Powell): A Ukr-War; A Gal S A Ukr-War; A Rum S TURKISH A Arm-Sev;
A Bud-Ser; F Gre holds.

RUSSIA (McHugh): F Bot-Bal; A Sev holds; A Mos S A Sev.

TURKEY (Reebel): A Arm-Sev; F Bla S A Arm-Sev; F Aeg-Gre; A Bul S F Aeg-Gre; F Eas-Ion.

Underlined moves are not possible. Russia retreats A Sev-Ukr and Austria-Hungary retreats F Gre-Alb. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy, St.P, Swe.
(6)

ITALY: Nap, Rom, Tun, Ven. (4)

FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa. (6)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Rum, Ser, Tri, Vie,
War. (6)

GERMANY: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun. (5)

RUSSIA: Mos. (1)

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, Sev, Smy. (6)
 England may build two new units, and France, Turkey, and Austria-Hungary may each build one. Russia must remove two units. The deadline for these "Winter 1902" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 1987. Press releases begin on p. 10.

NO NEW RULES!

In nearly 24 years of running postal war-games, I have from time to time found examples of the player who thinks that the first step in playing a game is, negotiating the rules. If I comprehend such a person's frame of mind correctly, he (I've never found a female one yet except Margaret Gemignani) thinks that Allan B. Calhamer once published a set of suggestions, on which an interesting board game called "Diplomacy" might be based if you didn't pay very close attention to them. Aside from Gemignani (who once submitted moves for "Summer 1901") the names of W. Elmer Hinton, David Braunagel, Buddy Tretick, and Stanley Johnson come to mind.

We've got another one on our hands, it appears. I will pay more attention to his reputation that he himself does, by not giving his name. But it was he who objected in the situation I described on p. 11 of GRAUSTARK #528. To repeat, this was the situation and the adjudication according to the rules, with impossible moves underlined:

PLAYER 1: A Tri-Bud; A Vie S A Tri-Bud; A Ven-Tri.
 PLAYER 2: F Alb-Tri; A Bud S F Alb-Tri; A Rum S A Bud.

The key to this situation is our contentious friend's claim that the support order "A Bud S F Alb-Tri" has been cut by Player 1's order "A Vie S A Tri-Bud". In his exact words, "A Vie is clearly attacking the army in bud by its support of A Tri to Bud."

Let's see what the actual rules say, a matter which apparently does not bulk very greatly in this individual's mind. Rule IX.1 begins "A unit may give up its move in order to support another unit trying to hold or enter a space." (My underlining.) A support is, therefore, not an attack. Rule X says, "If a unit ordered to support in a given space is attacked from a space different from the one into which it is giving support, or is dislodged by an attack from any space, including the one into which it is giving support, then its support is cut." (My underlining, again.)

If this claim is allowed - and it is nowhere supported by the rulebook - a support becomes an attack at the same time. This would profoundly change the character of the game. What we are having proposed to us is a change of rules, giving us a situation not to be found anywhere in the rulebook. In the above example, there is no order which cuts the support given by Player 2's A Bud to his attack F Alb-Tri. The order "A Tri-Bud" does not cut this support, since the A Bud is being attacked from the space into which it is giving support, and is not dislodged because A Bud is in turn supported by A Rum. The order "A Vie S A Tri-Bud" is not an attack, and therefore cannot cut a support.

There are some other questions about how support orders should be written, which have come up in the adjudication of the "Fall 1905" moves on 1985CY on pp. 9-10. Players curious about the actual adjudication of support moves should consult those situations.

GRAUSTARK players are assured that present and future games in this publication will continue to be adjudicated by the rules (as revised in 1971 by the game's designer, Allan B. Calhamer, and published in 1976 by Avalon-Hill, its publisher), and not by such innovations as the one attempted above. In fact, if you are in doubts about the competence of a postal gamesmaster, put the above situation before him or her. If you get any adjudication other than the one given above, you should seriously question whether you should play in a 'zine so badly managed. The same thing goes for the situations discussed in this issue in the adjudications of 1985CY and 1986AV. Pose these as problems to any gamesmaster of whose competence you have doubts, and then judge for yourselves.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

I would like to thank the many readers who have written in their congratulations on the birth of our first granddaughter, Diana Lynne Wright. We got our first look at her a week ago, when her parents came here to spend their usual split Christmas vacation, half at our home and half with the Wrights. Diana is an extremely alert baby, and insists at the age of 5 weeks on being held up where she can see everything that's going on. Our other grandchild, her cousin Anthony (2½) was quite impressed by her, and showed no sign of jealousy except over the fact that our daughters chose identical styles of milk bottles for their offspring.

Tomorrow, at the behest of her paternal grandparents, Diana will be subjected to a formal christening under the rules of the Roman Catholic Church - a ceremony which, as H. G. Wells once remarked, "advertises the church, gratifies the faithful, and does no perceptible harm to the object blessed." There may be a problem when the officiating priest is told to baptize her in the name of a Pagan goddess, but that's his problem and not mine. I vaguely recall being sprinkled, at the age of 6, under the rituals of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and it never did me any harm. (In fact, it might do me some good if President Reagan gets his plan for a "Christian Republic" off the ground. The only alternative, armed revolt, does not fit my age, character, and life style.)

*

My best wishes to everyone in this holiday season, as it is technically the Third Day of Christmas (just what is a "French Hen", anyway?), First Day of Hanukah, and four days before New Year's Eve. Thanks to all the people who sent seasonal greetings, and my hopes for a happy and prosperous New Year, even if a peaceful one isn't within the bounds of probability.

*

Scott Skellie asks about a variant called "free set-up Diplomacy". The only difference from the original game is that each player gets to decide what units he wants to begin with, and is not restricted to the set-up mandated in the rules. (For example, Germany could begin with a fleet rather than an army in Berlin, or Austria-Hungary could abandon a naval strategy altogether and begin with 3 armies.) Any player who knows about whether such games are currently being organized by mail should let me know, and I'll pass it on to GRAUSTARK's readers.

John Kandara similarly asks about a global version of Diplomacy in present-day politics. Does anyone have any information about whether such a game exists?

GRAUSTARK #529

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Great Big United States of America



F I R S T