

HAGALIL HAMAARVI is ONE year old



Shalom Everyone,

Has it been a year already? Where did the time go? It seems to me that the older you become, the faster the months go by. What a depressing thought! Anyways, now that I've successfully made it through the first (hardest?) year of publishing, this next year will be (should be?) a piece of cake.

As most of you may be aware, the CDO elections are upon us. Enclosed with this issue you will find a ballot that you can fill out and send off to Ron Brown. Both myself and Doug are running for positions on the committee and we would appreciate your support, by voting for us.

Why us you ask and not the other guys or even why bother voting? I think we deserve your vote since we were the ones who have taken enough interest in the hobby to organize the first major con in Canada in the last ten years. This alone should show that we care about the direction the Canadian Hobby is going and that we have the initiative to do something about it.

As for why bother, this election is turning into not just an election to fill the two empty posts but on whether the CDO should continue to function as an organization. You maybe wondering, well why do we need it? I am not to sure on the reasons the CDO was formed in the first place but I do know that one of it's duties should be to ensure the continuance of the Canadian Postal Hobby. One way to do this is making it easy for new blood to find their way into the hobby via the play-by-mail (pbm) flyer in store bought Diplomacy games or through the interaction of postal players with face-to-face (ftf) ones, which takes place at cons.

I want to go back to the flyer for a minute. Am I the one in the hobby who is aware that the pbm flyer that is in the Waddington (Canadian) Edition of Diplomacy, has Ron Brown as a contact for prospective pbm players, with an address that is AT LEAST two years out of date? Now, think of all the games that Waddington has sold in Canada the last two/three years and that is the number of potential players we have lost out on. Just because for the last two years the CDO has been totally non-operative. If events like this keeps up, where will this hobby be in another five years? I don't believe that the new blood generated through personal contacts is enough to keep up with the drop-out rate.

There is one Canadian publisher who has even gone as far as predict that no more than twenty votes will be sent in. This works out to each Canadian publisher and one subscriber voting. This is why I am urging you to vote and don't let apathy win out.

Shalom,

Ran

HAVEYOUVOTEDINTHERUNESTONEPOLLYETYOUBETTERHURRYTIMEISRUNNINGOUTDEADLINEISJUNE30

YIDDISH PROVERB #690: Laig nit op oif morgen vos du kenst heint bazorgen.
(Don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today.)

The Constitution
of the
Canadian Diplomacy Organization

1. General

The Canadian Diplomacy Organization (CDO) exists to provide certain services to the Canadian Diplomacy hobby. From the beginning, it has tried to avoid the political infighting that has destroyed many previous hobby institutions.

Every person who subscribes to a Canadian Diplomacy 'zine is a CDO member. The CDO has no membership fees and it is not affiliated with any other hobby organizations.

2. Elective Offices

There are three elective offices: the Coordinator and two other members of the executive committee. To be nominated for an elective office, a person must be a CDO member and a Canadian resident. No person may hold or be nominated for more than one elective position at a time. (There are no restrictions on who may hold non-elective offices.)

2.1 The Coordinator

Within the limits of the constitution, the Coordinator may take action on behalf of the CDO. Where possible, he should obtain the agreement of the other executive committee members on important decisions. The Coordinator can, and probably should, appoint non-elective officers to perform certain specific functions on behalf of the CDO. Three important positions which have existed in the past are Orphaned Games Officer, Ombudsman, and Novice Director. The Coordinator may appoint and replace non-elective officers, create new non-elective offices, and change the powers of existing non-elective offices. He may overrule any decision made by a non-elective officer. (This is a power which he should use seldom, if ever. Officers cannot function effectively if their power is continually undermined.)

2.2 The Executive Committee

Any decision made by any officer (including the Coordinator) may be overruled by two members of the executive committee. If one member of the executive committee is not properly fulfilling his duties, or is unlikely to be able to fulfil his duties properly in the future, the other two members may appoint a replacement for part or all of his term of office. Two members of the executive committee may make any decision which could ordinarily be made by the Coordinator.

All members of the executive committee are expected to keep in touch with the mainstream of the Canadian Diplomacy hobby. The main function of the executive committee is to act as a check on the Coordinator, overruling any bad decisions and, if necessary, replacing him.

3. Elections

The Coordinator shall be elected every two years. The other two committee members shall be elected in alternate years (each having a two-year term of office). For every election or plebiscite, the Coordinator shall appoint a returning officer. The returning officer must not be a candidate in the election. Nominations must be sent to the returning officer. To be a candidate a person must be eligible (see section 2), must agree to run, and must be nominated by one other CDO member. Every CDO member may vote in an election or plebiscite.

3.1 First Terms of Office

In order to initialize the terms of office of the executive, whoever is Coordinator at the end of 1983 under the terms of the previous constitution will remain in office until the end of 1984 when he must stand for re-election. As soon as possible after the adoption of this constitution, the Coordinator will appoint a returning officer to accept nominations and hold an election to fill the other two executive offices. These two officers must stand for re-election at the end of 1983. (A term of office will normally be considered to be from January 1st until December 31st of the following year. Elections will normally be held during the Fall months.)

4. Amendments

Any executive committee member may propose that a plebiscite be held to amend this constitution. This plebiscite may, or may not, be held in conjunction with an election. To have effect, a constitutional amendment must be approved by 66% of the legal votes cast in a plebiscite. The plebiscite must be preceded by a sufficient length of time for the opposition to voice their opinions.

LETTER COLUMN

Rod Walker

I need to tell you, first off, since you were kind enough to ask: don't look for A Death in Jerusalem to show up in your local bookstore soon. The foot in the door I had with an agency got kicked out again. Since then I've been rejected by another agent and two publishers. Not to worry; this is par for a first novel. Gone With the Wind, you may know, was rejected 28 times before it was accepted. I'm not at all discouraged.

You may recall that my sf parody, "Queen of Borne", will be out in an anthology, Shaggy B.E.M. Stories, this summer. I've written a new parody (this time of Sherlock Holmes) called "A Pastiche in Purple" -- it was done on this machine. It's a little too long, 25K words, but I may be able to sell it as a serial if an editor finds it funny enough. I'm also resurrecting yet another parody, done years ago, called "Bright Eyes for Gretel" (a rather nasty retelling of the kiddie story for an adult audience with strong stomachs).

Finally, I've already begun writing my next novel, which is about King Saul, "Passing the Love of Women". I've got the prologue done, and a good piece of the first chapter. This one will be easier to sell because it will be shorter and more conventional in organization. It will, however, be also on the controversial side. The story of Saul is approached as if it were a Greek tragedy. If there is a villain in the piece, it's David -- which will also raise some hackles. I have always had the opinion that David was a nasty, treacherous, scheming little ingrate who deserved to have Saul run a spear through him, and at last I'm going to be able to vent my spleen on the issue. My picture of him is also that he's too stupid to be very subtle until he meets and marries Abigail, who is the real brains behind his later career. ("Later career" in terms of the time prior to his getting what he'd always wanted: his butt on the throne.)

NOTE TO GENE PROSNITZ: How come you are being such a stranger, already? My address is no secret: 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas CA 92024. I'm glad to see you're still around. We Hobby Old Farts are always glad to hear from each other, so write. Hell, Gene, you're one of the few people who not only can remember when I actually played this silly game, but actually played in a game I was in. Oooops! Maybe I should not have mentioned that ... ?

I suppose I should say a few words about Israel, since somehow that topic seems to keep cropping up in your zine. Can't imagine why....

I may be one of the world's few remaining unrepentant goy Zionists. In 1966 I was infuriating certain sectors of hobby opinion by publishing (on the cover of my zine) a map of the "Israeli Empire", and openly expressing the opinion that a boundary extension to the Europeans could not happen too soon.

Adriana Karmel has very aptly put it: that Israel is making herself less and less lovable by acting more and more like a neighborhood bully. To know Shamir is to get queasy in the gut. Peres, on the other hand, has got his eyes on the right prize. I fear for Israel because I perceive that she is setting herself for terrible reprisals.

On the other hand, it seems to me that Adriana is guilty of at least one terrible non sequitur: "There can't be too many Palestinians around today, who were adults living in old Palestine. Why should the children of such refugees, who have been residing outside Israel for the past forty years, insist on living in a country they have never seen? A country, according to their viewings, that is hostile

toward them. Amongst people ... with an entirely different culture and different religion? ... I beg you to consider: if that statement were written 40 years ago, but about the Jews, it would have fit exactly -- and, in fact, it is precisely what the enemies of Zionism were saying at the time. *Ho, la plus sa chance, plus cest la meme chose.* And the Palestinians have carried that irrational, silly attachment to a mere homeland for only 40 years; the Jews carried it for 1700. Does that tell you something about the future of Israel?

In the final result, we must realize that any settlement of the dispute over Palestine will result in discommoding somebody. Given that fact, I would as lief it were the Palestinians. Despite some temporary bullying, the children of Rachel still have my sympathies.

((Sorry to hear about the book, hopefully it will still get published one of these days, as I would like to read it. As for your next novel, there are a lot of people who would agree with you, that David was not such a nice fellow.

Shamir is a pussycat compared to the likes of Arik Sharon. While Peres may be well liked by foreigners, but Israelis do not care too much for him (even Labour supporters would rather see someone else heading the party. The last election, I didn't vote Labour (like many thousands others), even though I was a card carrying member of the party. If you know anything of Canadian politics, Peres is in the position as John Turner (head of the Liberal Party). In case anyone is wondering, no I did not vote Likud. I voted for one of those small parties (that flourish in Israeli politics), the left-wing Citizen's Rights Movement.

It is refreshing to know that there are still people (especially non-Jews) who unequivocally support Israel, even though some events in the last few years have tarnished her image.))

Gary Coughlan

I'm sorry this is (probably) late but I hope all the clippings make up for it.

I was stunned to read about Munich musicians still operating under a Nazi law to ban a Scott Joplin song and this in 1988!!

I also thought you'd enjoy the Global Affair article on ISRAEL AND NUCLEAR DETERRENCE. The two most chilling sentences from it to me were: "Well over half the Jewish population of Israel lives within a radius of 12 miles from the centre of Tel Aviv. One 1.45 megaton nuclear bomb or warhead can liquidate it, sending the Jewish State into oblivion."

Adriaan Karmel's writing was great. I hope we hear more from him. One senses he would view Jonathan Jay Pollard as an American traitor and his sentence as well-deserved.

How far are dual allegiances compatible? Where is the line drawn?

Munich bans Joplin ballet

By Seumas Milne

THE Royal Ballet's chief choreographer, Sir Kenneth MacMillan, vowed last week that he would never allow his work to be performed at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich again.

He took his decision after hearing that its orchestra has won the right not to play his ballet *Elite Syncopations*, under a law passed by the Nazi regime in 1937 which holds that no German can be compelled to play music written by a black man. Most of the music in *Elite Syncopations* is by the American ragtime composer Scott Joplin.

Sir Kenneth was only told about the legal action taken by the Munich musicians when the Bavarian State Opera Ballet Company's director, Ms Claudie Algranova, asked him if he would consider bringing a new work to Munich.

When he pressed her about why there had been problems with *Elite Syncopations* — his most successful work — Ms Algranova admitted that the musicians had objected to playing the piece, and

their claim had been upheld in court, Sir Kenneth said.

"I am appalled. I think the Opera House is appalled. Once I found out, I said I could never go back. I could never work in a place like that," he added.

Elite Syncopations, which is set in a sleazy dance hall and has a full band on stage, was first performed in the Munich Opera House six years ago. But there were soon problems with the orchestra. The musicians objected to appearing on the set in costume.

"Last year the ballet company rang me to ask if I would give my permission for the music to be performed by two pianists instead of the orchestra," Sir Kenneth said.

He did; but was not told at the time that the orchestra was suing the ballet company. "It now turns out that the judge upheld their claim under the 1937 law, and the musicians got huge compensation."

Performances of *Elite Syncopations* at the Bavarian State Opera House have staggered on with two pianos and a missing orchestra.

Well since this is already late I'll close for now. Let me know if you want more clipping! P.S. I'm glad to see that many companies may be exposed by all the PLO documents the Israelis scooped up in the Abu Jihad killing, "Documents of Terror."

((The post office must of zipped your letter through, you weren't late. Yes, I enjoyed the clippings, keep them coming. Your access to foreign publications is far greater than mine, it helps to get the different perspectives that is in them and for the articles such as the one above that doesn't make the headlines.

Don't worry, Adriaan will be contributing many more articles in the future, especially now that he is starting to get some feedback. Re your questions to Adriaan, I expect you'll get an answer in the next issue.))

Brent McKee

Should governments give in to the demands of terrorists holding hostages? Does the expression "That depends" qualify as a suitable answer. Because in truth it does depend on circumstances. There is a significant difference between a group holding hostages in an isolated building or an airplane or a ship, and between hostages held in the middle of a city, the population of which is friendly to, or at least not hostile to, the hostage takers. In the first circumstance, military force can be brought to bear successfully by competent leaders. Witness Entebbe and Mogadishu. On the other hand, the current hostages in Beirut, and the Iran hostages were in a situation where military options could not be carried out effectively. Had the American rescue force reached Tehran in 1980, they might very well have been cut to shreds, because of the sheer number of people who were hostile to their aims.

In the circumstances where the military option is not viable, and that is increasingly the case, negotiation of some sort is necessary. It is ridiculous to say "We do not deal with terrorists" when some of your people have been held for over two years. If you care about innocents then you have to negotiate and make a deal especially if they are from your own country, and you face political pressure. You can't appeal to the humanity of the terrorists, because by definition these are people dedicated to a political cause and humanity really does not take precedence over their political aims. So you have to make the best deal that you can and get your people out, regardless of the cost, if only because you are seen to be superior to those who took the hostages in your regard for innocents. Once the hostages are free, then you can take action against the people who hold them, and let them know that although you may seem to give in, taking action against you will bring eventual retribution.

((The only point I can really pick on in your argument is the in Entebbe, the population (Uganda Army) was friendly with the hostage-takers, but the raid was still successful.))

Melinda Holley

No government should give in to any terrorist. The philosophy that the governments should not play with the lives of the victims is a naive one. Governments play with our lives...just about every part of our lives, as a matter of fact.

Terrorists, after seizing hostages, will execute at least one of them. This is a proven fact. This sacrifice shows (not only to the watching world but also to their hidden puppeteers) that they should be taken seriously. So someone will die. This sacrifice also strengthens their hold over their hostages through fear. The terrorists must maintain their hold over the hostages. Even with weapons, the terrorists are usually overwhelmingly outnumbered. Therefore, they enlist fear as their ally.

Giving in to terrorists is exactly like giving in to the proverbial schoolyard bully...it only encourages them to repeat the offense. At some point, the terrorists/schoolyard bully has to be stopped. The sooner the better.

It's a harsh philosophy but war usually produces harsh philosophies. Terrorism has existed practically since Day One. And it will continue to exist until the reasons for terrorism are eradicated. But everybody has an axe to grind if you go back far enough in history.

But no matter what the provocation, there is no excuse for terrorism. In my opinion, the terrorists should be shot on sight for the mad dogs they are.

((Governments are starting to realize that terrorism is a form of warfare and are acting accordingly. Israel has on numerous occasions sent out hit teams to track down and kill terrorists, the latest one being Abu Jihad in Libya. Also recently the British Army gunned down three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar. Hopefully more gov'ts will begin to carrying the war onto the terrorists' homeground.))

Heather Venables

Terrorism. Never, never, ever give in! If we give in to terrorists and free prisoners, what's the point of having a justice system? The justice system is to protect the people and to punish those who commit crimes. It's unfortunate that innocent hostages lives are taken but which would you rather have, freedom for thousands of prisoners who are going to harm and terrorize thousands more or freedom for the chosen few.

((True, handing over convicted terrorists or criminals, devalues the justice system. Why bother sentencing them to prison if you are just going to release them at a later date? Maybe, one of the solutions would be to start giving out death sentences to terrorists.))

Bruce Linsey

For whatever my two cents is worth (about that amount, no doubt), I believe we should not be negotiating with terrorists at all. I have to agree with the recent stance taken by the Kuwaitis who, when their people were being held hostage, publicly wrote them off as already dead (and felt fortunate when survivors were then "found"). Giving terrorists what they want is the reason we have terrorists at all.

((Giving in to terrorists is not the reason there are terrorist in the first place but it does encourage more people to turn to terrorism as a means to get what they want.))

Jary Coughlan

My position is never give in to any terrorist demands as it only encourages such behavior. If I were held hostage, I would want the rescue team to assault right away. I'd prefer a 50-50 chance to live or die immediately rather than being slowly tortured to death like the 2 Kuwaitis in Cyprus.

((I agree with you. I think I can honestly say that if I was held hostage I would not want my government to give in to the demands of terrorist.))

Adriaan Karmel

Concerning the highly controversial question you posed last issue, "should governments give in to the demands of terrorists, on the grounds, the hostages are innocent victims and no one has the right to play with their lives"? I would suggest, the answer is already contained in your question, i.e., no one has the right to play with their lives. Obviously that means the terrorists in the first place, it therefore follows governments have no right to compound the crime!

The government officials and their agents who advocate (for instance), the storming of a grounded skyjacked airliner or a building occupied by terrorists and their hostages, should in such a situation be prepared to exchange themselves for the innocent men, women and children, prior to giving the order to elite police or army units to attack the terrorists and before the terrorists start their carnage on the hostages. ((1))

Your second point, "seventeen terrorists were not released to continue their grizzly profession", big deal! There are thousands of such fanatics eagerly awaiting to take their place in what they view a holy war.

Why then, should the Kuwaiti Government be prepared to sacrifice the lives of innocents, rather than release seventeen people, who amount to a drop in the ocean compared to the numbers in manpower the terrorist organizations can call upon?

Are we to believe, the recent unbending attitude of the Kuwaiti Government will suddenly terminate Arab terrorism? Or contribute to it's termination? Or even contain it? The fact is, it hasn't altered the situation one iota! ((2))

The terrible truth is, at this particular point in history, no government or any other kind of agency, has the foggiest notion how to combat the invisible spectre of terrorism. This is not an attempt at ridicule but rather a statement of fact. They have not even begun to comprehend the terrorist mind. Nor do they seem to be aware of the resentment against all things western, festering in the minds of certain Islamic sects since the days of the "so called" Holy Crusades. ((3))

What makes an Arab terrorist strap a bomb around his middle, for the express purpose of blowing himself and his antagonists to kingdom come? What makes an IRA man starve himself to death in some dark cell in an Ulster prison. The common denominator, if an over simplification, seems to be, above everything, they honestly believe their cause to be a just one!

Recent history tends to indicate, terrorism does not work. Lenin said, terrorism cannot work. You kill a despot and another replaces him, often worse than the former! Lenin should know, his older brother, an anarchist, was executed by the Tsarist Government for his participation in a bomb throwing incident that blasted a Romanov tyrant to smithereens, during the latter part of the last century.

For decades during the last century and the early 1900's, Russian anarchists conducted continuous, individual and collective acts of terror against the oppressive Tsarist Governments. But it wasn't the anarchist that eventually toppled the the three hundred years old Romanov Dynasty!

Terrorist have been waging war against Israel for the past thirty years, yet that particular state has survived. IRA terrorism has not altered the British stand with regard to the six counties. During the 1920's, the

Trotskyists embarked on a punitive campaign of terror within the borders of the, then, new Soviet State, yet the Soviet State survives. ((4))

The terrorist activities waged by the Stern Gang and their associates in Palestine, played little or no part in the British giving up their mandate. Rather it was pressure from the United Nations, the Governments of the United States and the Soviet Union, plus world opinion in general, coupled with the fact, the British, weary from nearly six years of war were anxious to relinquish their role of world policeman.

The right wing EOKA (Union With Greece), realized only part of their aspirations when the British left Cyprus, but it's ultimate dream and ambition, union with Greece, never materialized.

During comparative recent history, it is doubtful terrorists have ever achieved their objectives. In some cases, perhaps these objectives have eventually been achieved by other methods, political pressure or by groups other than terrorist, but not by the actual acts of terror!

I do not deny harsh and tough methods have to be applied against terrorists in the vast majority of instances. Negotiations, whilst they must be attempted will rarely prove fruitful, as the demand of the terrorists for the most part, will be outlandish or impossible to acquiesce to. ((5))

Having said that, these tough methods must never include the sacrifice of innocent hostages. These unfortunates are in nearly ever case, non-partisan and in no way concerned with the machinations of their captors or the conflicts of the governments involved. ((6))

No government official, politician, police chief or army commander has the right to ignore the plight and fears of these innocent souls, in order he may become some kind of hero, by proxy of course. ((7))

((1. In a lot of cases there are government officials or others that would like to exchange themselves for the hostages but the terrorists won't even consider it since having innocent victims hostage is their only card and they are not going to give it away.

2. It is a fact that due to the unbending attitude of the Kuwaiti Government, there are 17 terrorists less roaming the world, free to kill as they please. This means that there will be less acts of terrorism in the future than there would have been if they were set free. Yes, to a small degree terrorism has been contained.

3. By taking the attitude that terrorism is a form of warfare, governments are starting to combat it. Only by thinking that it is war will governments be successful against terrorism. I'll concede that they will never defeat it since there is always some manic out there who will kill himself to kill others. However, the majority of terrorist would like to live, therefore will think twice before embarking on a mission if he knows that the chance of survival is slim or even surrender rather than be killed.

4. My knowledge of Irish history is a little vague but if it wasn't for the terrorist acts of the IRA, why did the British give up Ireland.

5. Precisely because these demands are outlandish or impossible to acquiesce to, is the reason you do not give in.

6. In most cases the hostages are concerned with the conflicts of the government since they themselves are citizens of the country involved. True terrorist sometime take victims from a non-involved third state but usually these are released since the concerns of citizens of another country do not concern the government the terrorists are trying to blackmail. Look at Entebbe, the only non-Israelis kept hostage were Jews or the airplane's crew (who were free to go but chose to stay).

7. Come on now, do you really believe that someone would order the storming of a jetline or building just so that he can be a hero?))

JUL 14 40

I was a little disappointed with the number of participants for the baseball quiz but who knows maybe there aren't too many baseball fanatics amongst you all. However, with the short deadline when the quiz came out and then extending it another issue didn't help much either. Plus by looking at the results, it would seem like this one was harder than usual. Anyways another quiz is still slated for the next issue.

I would like to thank the three who did take time out to send in answers, Dan Sauland, Gary Coughlan and Brent McKee.

- 1) Steve Stone of the Baltimore Orioles won the 1980 Cy Young award.
GC 0, BM 1
- 2) Erskine Mayer was the first Jewish pitcher to twenty games in consecutive seasons (1914 & 1915).
GC 0, BM 1
- 3) Lioman Pike, baseball's first professional player was paid \$20 a week.
JB 0, GC 0, BM 0 (everyone guessed, a share in the sale of refreshments).
- 4) In a game played the day after Yom Kippur 5726, two Jewish starting pitchers opposed each other, they were Sandy Koufax & Ken Holtzman.
GC 1/2, BM 1/2
- 5) By 1986, three Jews had been inducted into Baseball's Hall of Fame. They are players Hank Greenberg & Sandy Koufax and owner Barney Dreyfuss.
JB 0, GC 2/3, BM 2/3
- 6) The Boston Red Sox bat boy who later became President of the United States was John F. Kennedy.
JB 1, GC 1, BM 1
- 7) There were four Jewish players on the 1941 New York Giants. Catcher Harry Danning, pitcher Harry Feldman, outfielders Sid Gordon & Morrie Arnovitch
JB 0, GC 0, BM 0
- 8) Al Schacht was a pitcher for the Washington Senators but made his name as a pantomime entertainer "The Clown Prince of Baseball" at baseball games.
JB 0, GC 0, BM 1
- 9) Walton Alston, the manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers kept a Jewish calendar, because of the controversy that arose in 1961, when Sandy Koufax was scheduled to pitch on Yom Kippur.
JB 0, GC 0
- 10) Barney Dreyfuss made a lasting contribution to baseball when he ended a dispute between members of the National and American Leagues by creating the modern World Series.
JB 1, GC 0, BM 1

The total scores are JB 2, GC 2 1/6, BM 6 1/6

Congratulations to Brent on winning his second straight quiz and once again my thanks to Gary and John for giving it the old college try. Brent, three issues have been tacked onto your sub balance. My answers were: Steve Stone, Erskine Mayer, share in the sale of refreshments, Sandy Koufax & Jim Palmer, Koufax & Greenberg & Dreyfuss, Kennedy, 5, ?, Jewish calendar, ? for a total of 6 1/2.

WORLD SERIES PREDICTIONS. Along with the answers for the quiz, I ask for prediction on the baseball season and Gary was the only respondent. Gary predicts a World Series between Cleveland and the NY Mets with the Mets winning the series. I'm predicting a New York, New York series with the Mets losing the Yankees in six.

can*con

DIPLOMACY

Toronto

"An IDTR sanctioned
tournament"

UPDATE: JUNE

CAN-CON '88 PREREGISTRATION FORM

Glendon College
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
August 12-14, 1988

WHAT: A 'Diplomacy' gamer's face-to-face tournament, with four scheduled times for gaming.

WHEN: From August 12th to the 14th.
On Friday Aug. 12th - 1st time set - 1800h (6pm)
On Saturday Aug. 13th - 2nd time set - 0800h (8am)
On Saturday Aug. 13th - 3rd time set - 1800h (6pm)
On Sunday Aug. 14th - 4th time set - 0800h (8am)

WHERE: At Glendon College Campus, Toronto, Ontario
Bayview & Lawrence Ave.'s
Instructions given upon request. There is lots of parking.

WHO: People (can you call Diplomacy players people?) who want to play Diplomacy. Or, if you're from out of town, people who want to play Diplomacy and see Toronto, not necessarily in that order (I'm thinking of some spouses here!).

WHY(HOW-KUM): To meet some of the names you've heard about in face-to-face or postal varieties of Diplomacy. To try your hand at beating the best. And, to be involved in an 'International Diplomacy Tournament Ratings' sanctioned event. Or, just to win the tournament on a best, three game total point scoring system. Or, hey, only you know why you want to come out!

(K)NEED TO KNOW: The immediate facilities for food will be a cafeteria which will be staffed for breakfast, lunch and dinner BUT there is one wee catch. These facilities and services will be provided for the number of people who preregister. They will need to know how many people they are going to have to prepare food for and they want this info shortly after deadline for preregistration.

PREREGISTRATION: Deadline will be July 1st, CANADA DAY, 1988
Costs will be \$15.00/person for the whole weekend.
Residence reservations can be made with the same deadline, for single or double accommodations (info/costs provided upon request).

IMPORTANT Inquiries and/or monies to be made to Douglas Acheson at the address indicated below.

95 DUNDONALD ST. BARRIE, ONT. L4M 3T4

SADHE-HAKRAV

1988H

HANITA

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA OPT FOR FLEETS WHILE EVERYONE ELSE MOBILIZES THEIR ARMIES

winter 1901

AUSTRIA-Acheson builds a bud, a vie
 also has a tri, a ser, f gre
 ENGLAND-Oaklyn builds f lon
 also has f eng, f nwy, a pic
 FRANCE-Lowes builds a par
 also has a bre, a mar, f por
 GERMANY-Bauland builds a mun, a kie
 also has a hol, a den, f ska
 ITALY-Holley has a pie, a ven, f lyo
 RUSSIA-McMaster builds f sev, f stp(nc)
 also has f rum, a ukr, a mos, f swe
 TURKEY-Hyatt builds a con
 also has a bul, f bla, a arm



I have Spring 1902 moves on file for you, YES ___ NO ___

DEADLINE for Spring 1902 moves is Friday July 15, 1988.

PRESS:

PARIS NEWS FLASH: It is reported that Parisian Courtesans are excited by the news that the English navy may be landing close by. The "ladies" know that the one thing on the mind of the English is to do what the English are known for. So the French belles will be ready with open // // // // arms.

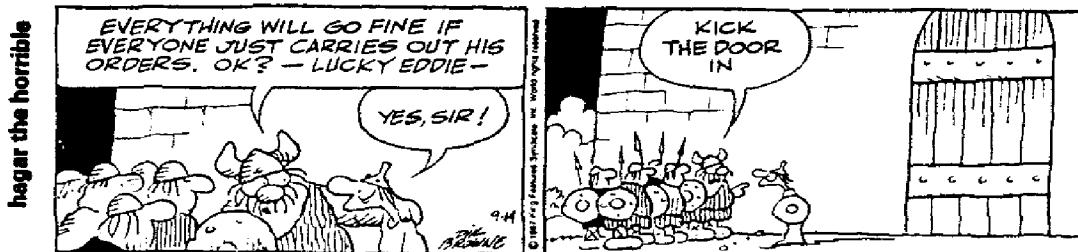
PARIS NEWS FLASH: Rumours of a high level meeting between Italian, English and French officials in Burgandy are being denied. "There is no such meeting scheduled!" was the response of the press secretary when questioned. No comment was given on the reason for the contingents trying to cross the borders into France.

PARISIAN NEWS REPORTS indicate that the King of France has expressed a grudging admiration for the Italian delegate on this sojourn. "No thought of her own comfort or safety, even giving up a safe centre for the winter. It's admirable that the Italian would do this for the English. It is quite a trek that she has started upon and nicely executed so far. My only hope is that she receives some of the benefits for her hardships. My fear is that someone else will gain instead.", was the quote from the King.

RDM-PAR: You're not half as interested as I am in seeing how this turns out.

RDM-VIE: See? I can be nice. Now go play in the east.

RDM-GM: To answer your question - I am crazy.



1987HI

MATZUVA

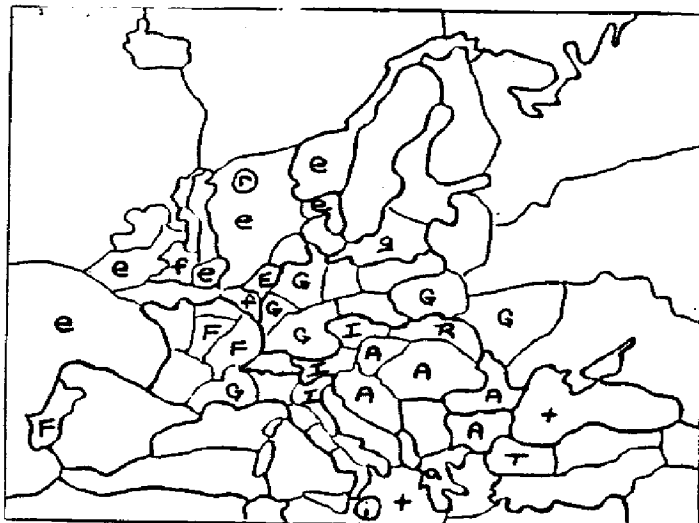
SEPERATION OF SEASONS FAILS DUE TO LACK OF SUPPORT. ITALY STOPS RUSSIAN ~~IN~~ INVASION OF GERMANY AND LOSES THE IONIAN SEA.

Autumn 1903

ENGLAND	retreats	a bel to hol
RUSSIA	retreats	f den to nth

Winter 1903

AUSTRIA	builds	a tri
ENGLAND	builds	f lon, f edi
GERMANY	builds	a kie
RUSSIA	removes	f sev, f rum
TURKEY	removes	a arm



Spring 1903

AUSTRIA-Milewski	<u>a tri-ven</u> , <u>a vie-boh</u> , <u>a bud-gal</u> , a ser-rum, a bui s f gre, f gre s TUR f aeg-ion
ENGLAND-McKee	f lvp-iri, <u>f maq-eng</u> , f stp(nc)-nwy, f swe-ska, <u>a hol-bel</u> , f edi-nth, f lon s f edi-nth
FRANCE-Gestiehr	f iri-wal, a spa-por, a pic-bur, a par s a pic-bur, f bel h
GERMANY-Holley	a kie-ruh, a mun s a kie-ruh, a den-kie, f bal s a den-kie, a mar s ENG f maq-spa(nc) (NSO), a mos-war, a ukr s a mos-war
ITALY-Easton	<u>a tyr-boh</u> , <u>a boh-sil</u> , a ven h, <u>f ion h</u> (ret tun, tyh, nap, apu, adr, alb, eme, otb)
RUSSIA-Williams	<u>a gal-sil</u> , <u>f nth-eng</u> (retreat to yor, nwg, hel, den, otb)
TURKEY-Touchette	f aeg-ion, f ank-bla, a con h

DEADLINE for Summer retreats and Fall 1903 moves is Friday July 15, 1988

PRESS:

CROSS CHANNELER (in the London Express): And so as the sun sets in the west we bid leave of the Beautiful North Coast of St. Petersburg which we so recently liberated from Czarist (Tsarist?) oppression. The memories of the kind people we met there will linger in our hearts. And the memories of us will remain alive among the people of St. Petersburg ... especially in nine months.

RUS-ENG: If you're looking for friendly femmes, you should be looking to your ally and her troops of Amazons. It hurts a man's ego to have been taken for so much and have gotten so little in return. Heck, that's grounds for divorce. Beware my not so good friend.

BER-SEV: What's this barefoot and pregnant nonsense? I thought you had more sense than your brother!

RANBAM: Are you kidding? All three Acheson brothers are the same.

ENG-AUS: In case you haven't seen "Wall Street" you should know, in the immortal words of Michael Douglas, "GREED IS GOOD".

TUR-AUS: It is a deal!

AUS-RUG: My thanks, comrade! You have my future friendship!

RANBAM: Right! With friends like you ...

press continued →

RUS-A/IT: Heck, you guys can work something out. I've got a minor grudge
 match to settle with a couple of northern ALLIES.
 RUS-ENG: Blackpool looks more inviting all the time.
 HOL-KIE: C'est la vie Liebchen. (This brief interlude of French is not
 intended to indicate any snift in loyalties, and shame on any of you who
 think that.)
 RUS-GM: I didn't NMR once, yet France is still in this game. I don't
 understand.
 RANBAM: I guess superior players can get away with missing the odd move.

1987Xrb BEN-AMI

GERMAN HORDES CONTINUE TO MARCH ACROSS
 EUROPE WITH LITTLE HINDERANCE. AUSTRIA
 MAKES THE MOST OF ITALIAN NMR.

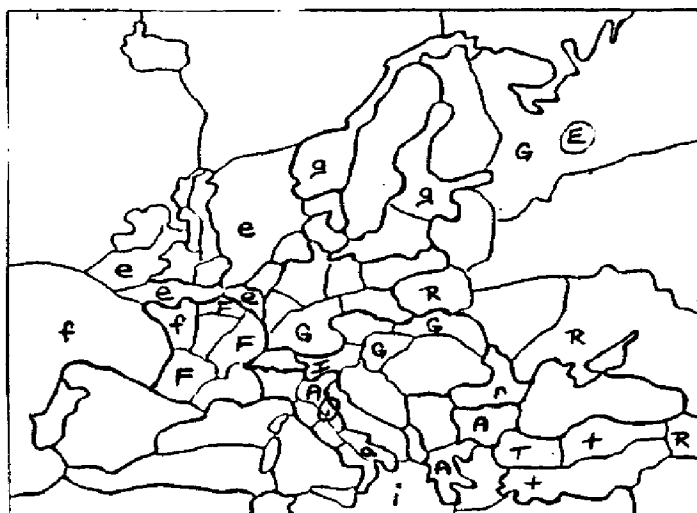
Summer 1904
 FRANCE retreats f eng to bre

Fall 1904
 AUSTRIA a tri-ven, f apu s a tri-ven,
 a ser-bul, a gre s a ser-bul,
 a vie-tyr (ret bud, tri, otb)

ENGLAND f eng s f bel, f iri s f eng,
 f bel s f eng, f nth s f bel,
 a stp s GER a fin-lvn (NSD) (retreat to lvn, mos, otb)

FRANCE f bre-eng, f mao s f bre-eng, a pic-bel, a bur s a pic-bel, a mar-gas
 GERMANY a boh-vie, a gai s a boh-vie, f swe-nwy, a fin-stp, f gob s a fin-stp
 a ruh-mun

ITALY NMR f ion h, a tyr h, a ven h (retreat to pie, tus, rom, otb)
 RUSSIA a mos-war, a sev s f rum, f rum s AUS a ser-bul, a arm-smy
 TURKEY a bul h (surrenders), a con s a bul, f bla-ank, f smy h



Will _____ please standby for Italy.

	SUPPLY	CENTRE	CHART
AUSTRIA	7	build 2 (annh)	tri, VIE, bud, ser, gre, nap, BUL, VEN
ENGLAND	4/5	lose 1/even*	lon, lvp, edi, NWY, bel, MOS??
FRANCE	5	even	bre, par, mar, spa, por
GERMANY	9	build 3	mun, kie, ber, hol, den, swe, NWY, STP, VIE
ITALY	2	lose 1	rom, VEN, tun
RUSSIA	4/3	even/lose 1*	STP, mos??, war, rum, SEV
TURKEY	3	even (annh)	con, ank, smy, BUL

* If ENGLAND retreats to moscow or otb then he remains even and RUSSIA loses 1

Remember that conditional builds and moves can be made.
 It take three requests for a seperation of seasons.

DEADLINE for Winter 1904 builds and Spring 1905 moves is Friday July 15, 1988

PRESS:

GER-FRA: If you didn't retreat to Wales then my moves will have been premature but your invitation to the hunt has not fallen on deaf ears.

GER-ENG: I stand to be next. In my humble opinion, as France seems to have created a little stalemate position. So-o-o ...

RUS-ENG: Welcome to the Venice of the North! But can you trust the German?

RANBAM: Sure he can, those are just imaginary stab wounds in his back.

STP-BER: Sometimes the best laid plans of mice and men go strangely awry.

GER-RUS: You have been left to your own devices and what do you do? Not Much!! I give you MORE time!!

RUS-GER: I hope I have nothing to fear from you for the foreseeable future. We have much to discuss!

RANBAM: Come again? Weren't you just saying something about German trust.

ANK-SEV: Ever think of defending your northern borders? Probably not, as that would make sense.

ANK-VIE: See the above.

GER-AUS: As you seem to be the power behind the wimpy efforts of the Russians, it befalls me to cut off the head before the heartland realizes what is going on. The Russian heartland, that is.

RUS-AUS: I appreciate the support last season. Let's hope that my support was this season was of any help!

RUS-ITA: A practical Italy? What a refreshing change!

GER-ITA: And what kind of support may you be thinking of?

GER-TUR: And what kind of support may you be thinking of?

GER-RANBAM: Who else is there to communicate with except the Red Cross in Switzerland and all they are is a crying towel of some other player in this game!

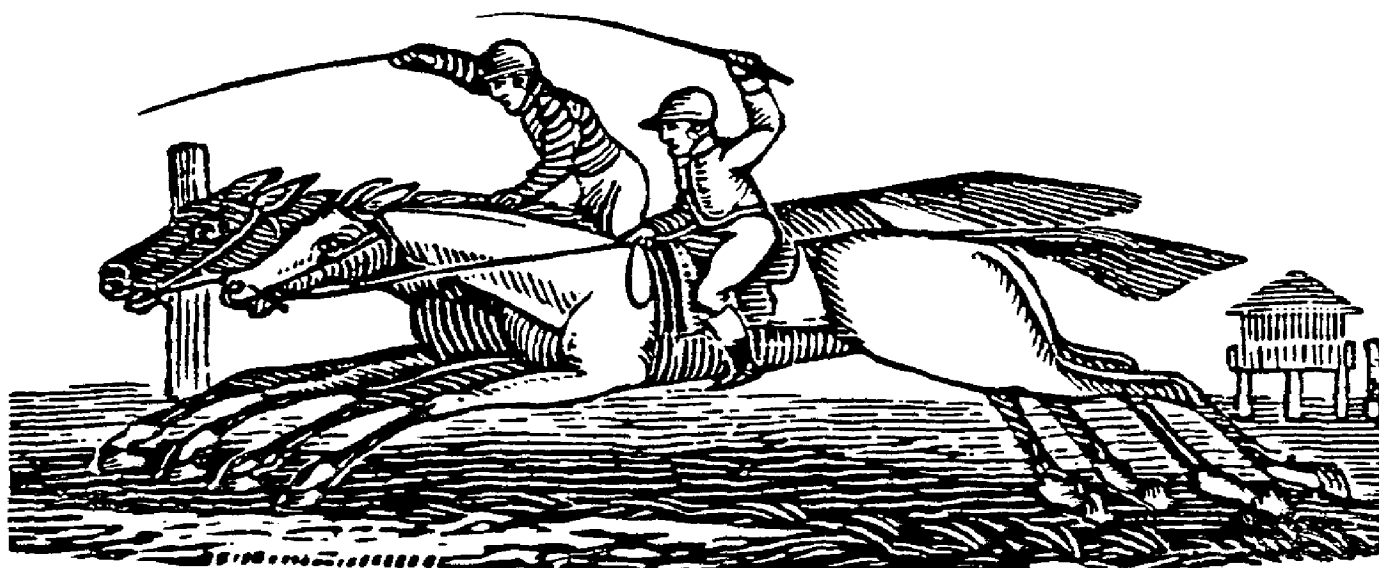


YIDDISH PROVERB #888: Vellen zein kliger fun allen iz di gresen narishkeit.
(Trying to outsmart everyone is the greatest folly.)

Last call for all LORD OF THE RINGS fans. We are short two players for "Downfall of the Lord of the Rings". This is a diplomacy variant that needs eight players and simulates the books to a fair degree. The powers are Dwarves, Elves, Gandalf, Gondor, Mordor, Rohan, Saruman and Umbar and the rules are available on request. Surely there must be more Tolkien fans among my subscribers than just Dave Anderson, John Bauland, John Etheridge, Steve Heinowski, Heather Venables and Conrad von Metzke. I would really like to start this game with the next issue, so speak up and sign up NOW!

Also, I am looking for four volunteers to join Dave Palmer, Pierre Touchette and Conrad von Metzke in a regular game (ADAMIT) of diplomacy.

On my standby list is Sob Acheson, Dave Anderson, John Bauland, Gary Coughlan, John Etheridge, Ken Gestienr, Melinda Holley, Fred Hvatt, Rob Lowes, Tom Margarites, Mike McCormack, Geoff Milewski, Dave Palmer, Pierre Touchette, Gale Wetmore and Doug Williams. Is there anyone who wants on or off the list.



DOUGLAS WM ACHESON - 95 Dundonald St., Barrie, Ontario, Canada L4M 3T4
telephone (705) 726-9362 between 1930-2200 hours

.....

ATTENTION

HURRY

HURRY

STEP RIGHT UP

THAT'S RIGHT FOLKS. STEP RIGHT UP AND GET YOUR LATEST COPY OF . . .

BACKSTRETCH

YOU'LL LAUGH! YOU'LL CRY! THIS IS IT, THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE THAT YOU'RE NOW FEASTING YOUR EYES ON.

YOU SIR, SHUT THAT DROPPIN' JAW. WHY FOR ONLY ONE WEE SUBSCRIPTION TO (RANDY, WHAT DO YOU CALL YOUR SECTION AGAIN?), YOU CAN GET RELIEF OF ? FOR !. NEVER HAS AN ANNIVERSARY ISSUE PROMISED YOU SO MUCH AND PROVIDED SO LITTLE. (WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR NOTHIN'. SHUT UP RANDY, THIS IS MY SECTION.) YES SIRREE FOLKS. DISCOVER HOW THE GAME OF DIPLOMACY CAN BE BRUTALIZED THROUGH THE MAIL. DISCOVER WHO IS STILL STANDING AFTER UNAUTHORIZED SURGERY IS PERFORMED ON AN 'ALLY'. DISCOVER WHY NOBODY WRITES TO THIS SECTION (BECAUSE I WRITE BETTER STUFF!). DISCOVER WHY YOU SHOULD BE READING NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC OR EQUINOX TO DISCOVER THINGS. HURRY! HURRY!

Turn the page →

Now that you've turned the page, I guess I should give you more of this 1st Anniversary issue. By the way, this is BackStretch issue # 11. Dedicated to Dr. Seuss. (No, it is not a race horse.) The latest book read, and reread, and reread again is FOX IN SOCKS written by said good Dr.. Try it you may like it. May I quote, page 50 . . .

What do you know
about tweetle beetles?

Well . . .

When tweetle beetles fight,
it's called
a tweetle beetle battle.

When beetles
fight these battles
in a bottle
with their paddles
and the bottle's
on a poodle
and the poodle's
eating noodles . . .

. . . they call this
a muddle puddle
tweetle poodle
beetle noodle
bottle paddle battle.

AND more to come!

Meanwhile back at the racing commissioner's office,
the latest edition of

THE OVERNIGHT SHEET

- Regular Diplomacy

Race #1 signed up: Easton, Etheridge, Holley, McMaster, Oaklyn

- Gunboat Diplomacy

Race #1 1988 ?????? "?" - winter 1900

Race #2 signed up: none - seven needed

- Colonia VI (nine player world map with colonies)

Race #1 1988 Agh "Allez France" - spring 1752

Race #2 signed up: Etheridge, Hyatt, Prosnitz, Russell

- Colonia VI Gunboat

Race #1 1988 Bgh "Battlefield" - spring 1752

Race #2 NO PRESS GAME signed up: six - three needed

DEADLINES: July 13th for gunboat games, July 15th for regular games.

There is a five (5) dollar entry fee for any race in BACKSTRETCH. No charge to stand-bys. Stand-bys will be rewarded with an extension of their subs by one issue when called to submit and an extra issue if brought into the race.

Whoops. Got so carried away with this anniversary issue I forgot my statement of claim.

"Diplomacy" was invented by Allen Calhamer and copyrighted by Avalon Hill Game Company stateside, which is somewhere south of Fort DrErie.

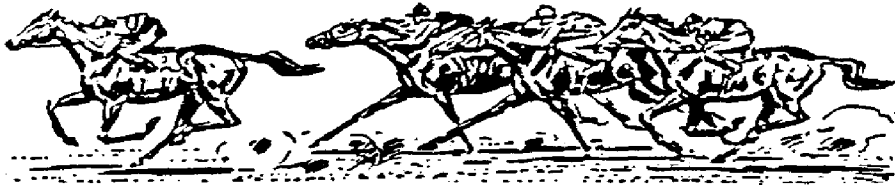
statement of claim, pardon me, disclaim

If you got this far you might as well keep going.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Will never be found in BackStretch due to the fact that I'm quite content publishing without it. Paperwork is for bureaucrats.

(Can anyone tell me how to spell the word: stateside, or is it stateside, or is it hyphenated like states-side or should I have just said south of the ??)
(Do you think they could get confused with Mexico? They all have accents!)



COLONIA VI
1988 Agh - "Allez France"
spring 1752

Due date for fall 1752 - July 15th

NMR's the ORDER OF THE DAY. CAUTIOUS EXPANSIONISM STILL ADHERED TO THOUGH THE NMR's MAY CHANGE THOSE ATTITUDES.

AUSTRIA(Prosnitz) A Lou holds; F Fla-GME; A Bav-Hes; A Bud-Sil; F Tri-Bos;
A Gal s F Tri-Bos; F Nap-Adr; F Gua-WPO; F Haw-Mel.

CHINA(Hyatt) A Mon s A Chg-Sin; A Chg-Sin; A Man-Kor; A Wuh-Sze;
F Amo-Ctn; F ECS s AUSTRIAN F Gua-WPO.

ENGLAND(McSherry) NMR all units hold: A Ecu; A Pru; F Lon; F Yor(wc); F WAO;
A Fez; F Mla; A Sia.

FRANCE(McKee) A Mas-Ohi; A Que-Ont; F EAO-Ire; F Bdx-BBi; A Par-Bdx;
A Sav-Tou; A PpS holds; A Tbk-Num; F Dak-MAO.

NETHERLAND(Bauland) A Bel-Mat; F Sur holds; F Den-Swe; A Han-Den; F Ant-Eng;
F Hag-Hel; A Gab-Kam; F Ang-GGu; A Niz-Mah; F Goa-WIO.

OTTOMANS(McMaster) A Bul-Bos; F Gre-Adr; F Bag-PnG; A Ist-Arm; A Per-Afg;
F Jer(sc)-Red; A Sud-Fez; F Izm-EMS; A Arg-Bol; A Bra-Mat.

PORTUGAL(Grigsby) A Ala-Van; A Mta-Ore; F Lis-EAO; F Can s F Lis-EAO;
A Nat-Moz; F CpC-SIO; F Mbo-Cor; F NWZ-Bis; A Mor-Tau.

RUSSIA(Potter) F Tah-AnO; F Sam-SPO; F SoJ-Jap; A Ura-Oms; A Kie-Cri;
A StP-Pol; F Bal c A StP-Pol; A Rum s A StP-Pol.

SPAIN(Oaklyn) NMR, all units hold: A Tex; F Mex(ec); A Val; A Tun;
F WMS; A Ken; F Som; F Cam; F Mnl.

STAND-BYS

Will Mike Atkinson stand-by for ENGLAND and will John Etheridge stand-by for SPAIN. WARNING! WARNING! The BackStretch is desperately short of stand-bys. Volunteer today. See your name in print. Have the GM think you're alright.

ADDRESSES

Mike Atkinson	393 Little Ave., Barrie, Ontario, L4N 2Z8 CANADA
John Bauland	P.O.Box 133, Victoria Harbour, Ontario L0K 2A0 CANADA
John Etheridge	Unit #6 - 360 Blake St., Barrie, Ontario, L4M 1L1 CANADA
Randy Grigsby	RR#2, 571 Sunnidale Rd., Barrie, Ontario, L4M 4S4 CANADA
Fred Hyatt	60 Grandview Place, Upper Montclair, New Jersey, 07043 USA
Brent McKee	901 Avenue T North, Saskatoon Saskatchewan, S7L 3B9 CANADA
Glenn McMaster	Rockton, Ontario, L0R 1X0 CANADA
Edward McSherry	Apt #2, 450 King William St., Hamilton, Ontario, L8L 1P9
Bernie Oaklyn	13412 Brackly Terrace, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20904-3225 USA
Kenn Potter	484 Parliament St - 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M4X 1P2
Gene Prosnitz	200 Clinton St., Brooklyn, New York, 11201 USA

Finally. We get to the press section, which I'm sure you're all going to read. Just in case someone says something about you. The GM is just about forgotten as general statements seem the order of the day. Take it away boys. . .

OTTO-GM: Thanks for the "player of the year" vote, I've got 20 points (hey, I bet even Ed Broadbent votes for himself). Think Ed McSherry will vote for me?

GM-OTTO: Sorry to let the air out of your balloon. Mr (heavy on the MR) Robert Acheson has changed the rules in his little poll - NO VOTING FOR ONESELF. So you loose 10 and I loose 1 point, now you're only 10 points ahead of me. I think I'll swing the CDO vote my way with a little soap-boxing. You all listening out there?

More press coming, just turn the page -

Colonia VI 1988Agh "Allez France" spring 1752 press continued . . .

Angola-Somalia: I hope you have enough good sense not to interfere in the private war between England & myself.

CHINA-ENG: Opinion noted. Brush up on your history, I recommend "The Fall of Singapore 41-42"

Interested Party: China didn't build the two fleets but on the other hand, he didn't build two armies either. Obviously a compromise between policies have been formed, or is China trying to lull everybody?

OTTO-ENG: Three cheers for Sesame Street! You counted all eleven centres in S. America! And rumour had it you couldn't get past five without help.

OTTO-RUS/FRA: You're a bunch of wimps. Shame on you for trying to disavow any and all press releases as originating from you. I wouldn't be the least bit surprised if the two of you are supplying 80% of the Black Press.

OTTO-ENG: I've gained a great respect for you! No, really, it does take a man of great talent to tick so many people off so quickly. Keep up the good work.

POR-RUS: What can I say, except I figure to take my fair share of the spoils.

Warsaw: Commissar Pottervsky announced the discovery of oil in Poland. He stated: "The discovery of blossoming oil wells on the shores of the Baltic makes all our struggles worthwhile. It shows that our decision to give up Korea, Manchuria, Mongolia, Vladivostok and Omsk, in order to obtain the riches of Poland, was Eminently correct."

Moscow: We have adopted a matching fund program, as practiced in American politics. For every centre which you earn by your own hard work, we will match it by offering you a free centre.

The first recipient of the matching funds award is China. As a reward to the hard working Chinese peasants, who so diligently stabbed us and took Mongolia and Manchuria, we are matching their performance by giving them Omsk and Vladivostok. We are extending a similar offer to our Slavic brothers in the Hapsburg territories. If you can demonstrate your effectiveness by liberating Poland and Rumania, we will match your performance by offering you Moscow and Kiev. Hurry, Hurry, Hurry. Grab this offer quickly. This offer is limited as we will soon run out of centres to give away.

AUS-OTTO: These moves may look anti-Turkish, but they're not, they're merely defensive. I hope you bounced me in Adriatic as I requested in my letter.

FRA-World: His Majesty, Le Nouveau Roi du Soliel wishes to inform the rulers of the world that this is the only item of press which he will submit on this occasion, in deference to the typing fingers (both of them) of the sainted GM.

GM-FRA: Imprimatur!

CONCESSION PROPOSAL

We have a proposal for a concession to ENGLAND, please vote with your next set of orders. Be reminded that no vote received is a YES vote.

FEEDBUCKET: Ah well, too late an arrival to change the MANURE-PILE section, but we will squeeze Mr. McKee in here somewhere.

"Speaking of horses Doug, I saw a book you might be interested in. It was written by Richard Adams, who wrote Watership Down, and what he did for rabbits in that book, he does for one particular horse in his new book Traveller. Traveller is the story of the American Civil War as told through the eyes of Robert E. Lee's horse, Traveller. I think Adams has an understanding of the psychology of horses."

"You want race horses? Try Peter Gzowski's The Unbroken Line, if you can find it. The book is about the Queen's Plate and looks at the people and animals involved. The title refers to the fact that the starter for the first Queen's Plate was Sir Casimir Gzowski, great-grandfather of Peter, who claims that there has never been a Queen's Plate that has not been attended by a member of the Gzowski family; which is better than the attendance record of the Royal family."

(I'll have to check both of them out. Now Mr. Hyatt might be interested in #1)



GUNBOAT COLONIA VI
1988 Bgh - "Battlefield"
spring 1752

Due date for fall 1752 - July 13th

EQUATORIAL HEAT NOW MATCHED BY WORLD-WIDE CONFRONTATIONS. MEDITERRANEAN, N.E. AFRICA, INDONESIA ALL ERUPTING HOT SPOTS. PRESS WARS EASE AS REAL STATE OF ARMED CONFLICTS ATTAINS CENTRE STAGE SPOTLIGHT.

AUSTRIA A Vie-Bav; F ADR-Nap; A Nap-PpS; A Ven s A Nap-PpS; A Fla-Lou;
A Vir s A Fla-Lou; F Haw-NPO; F Gua-Mel.

CHINA A San-Gob; A Sin s A San-Gob; A Kor-Vla; A Ctn-Lao; A Wuh-Sze;
F Amo-ECS; F Pek s F Amo-ECS; F Jap-SoJ.

ENGLAND A Col-Ama; A Ecu-Pru; F Nwy-Bar; F Edi-NwS; F Lon-Nth;
F Ire-Iri; A Nig-Fez; A Kam-Con; A Sia-Bma; F Mla-MlS.

FRANCE A Que-Mas; A Ont s A Que-Mas; F BBi-EAO; F Bdx-BBi; F Tou-Agn;
A Sav holds; A Dak-Sah; A Tbk-Num.

NETHERLANDS A Sur-Ven; A Ric-Bel; A Hag-Han; F Ant-Hel; F Den-Swe;
A Ang-Gab; A Zam-Kat; F Goa-BBe; A Mah-Ben.

OTTOMANS A Bol-Pru; F Bra-MAO; A Egy-Sud; F Jer(sc)-Red; A Oma-Yem;
F Bag-PnG; A Per-Afg; A Izm-Arm; F Bul(sc)-Gre; F Ist-EMS.

PORTUGAL A Ore-Cal; A Ala-Van; F Azo-MAO; F Lis-Can; A Lag-Hue; A Mad s
A Lag-Hue; F CpC-SIO; A Nat-Moz; F Mbo-Cor; F NwZ-Bis.

RUSSIA AUra-Oms; A Mon-Man; F ECS-Amo dislodged (ret. WPO, Jap, Kor, Ctn,
Tia, SCS); F Pol holds; A Lit-Rum; F GCa-Hon(wc); A Mos&ASTp uno.

SPAIN A Tex-Mis; A Mex-Tex; A Tun s FRENCH A Tbk-Num; A Sud-Egy;
A Som-Eth; F Bor-MlS; F Val-WMS; F WMS-Nap.

GM accused of "drivel". Do not forget that I, the GM, knows who you are and it would be folly indeed to incur his wrath! Take heed, oh most vocal France.

FRA-GM: I saw your last letter column. You want us to limit our brilliant press output for drivel like that?! Better you should have space at the bottom of the page.

Ang-CpC; I hope we are on the same wavelength.

AUS-FRA: Are we together or are we going to let Portugal take North America?

CHINA-FRA: No matter what delusions you have of yourself, you're still an incompetent Bonehead in my books.

Red Cross-FRA: Definatly, your common garden variety.

CHINA-NETH: Taking lessons from France?

FRA-NETH/ENG: So you're trying to gang up on me. What have I ever done to either of you to make you want to take me out. . . I mean besides being terribly obnoxious.

FRA-POR: I can live with the division of NoA provided I can get some help with Austria in return for helping you with Spain. In North Africa, I can live with you on the Med coastal strip as well as your southern holdings.

FRA-OTTO: Are you prepared to help with Spain, and maybe Austria?

POR-OTTO: There's a 'No Trespassing' sign in the MAO, heed it.

POR-SPA: Use those fleets against the infidel and you will be allowed survival.

POR-GM: Pretty damn generous of me I'd say.

CHINA-ENG: Stay out of any sea with my name on it!

CHINA-SPA: Ditto!!!

Forbidden City-Sublime Porte: Please feel free to enter AFG, please exit, whenever you choose, but only to the west.

"Battlefield" GUNBOAT COLONIA VI 1988 Bgh - spring 1752 press continued. . .

FRA-RUS: Are you ready to help with Austria (I already know you want help against Spain)?

Peking-StPete: You have lost your east coast build centre. I would suggest that you remove your fleet from my coast. Perhaps you might send it to join the one on the N. American west coast.

CHINA-POR/ENG: It looks like we are the powers to be and everyone else in this game is a rookie.

"The time has come," the walrus said, "to speak of many things."
"Of manure-piles & CDO, of CAN-CON and related things."

CDO

It occurs to me, that at some point through this CDO co-ordinator challenge/election, one of the candidates should take a stand on issues.

This point has been brought to the fore by Francois Cuerrier in Passchendaele and Robert Acheson in The Canadian Diplomat. Good for them. I appreciate their concern in attempting to give the hobby at large an insight into motivations or at least platforms and ideas of the candidates, Alan Stewart & myself.

There is one wee problem with this, in this particular election. The Canadian segment of the "Diplomacy" hobby has no problems that require "taking a stand on". Because it, the CDO, is not particularly well known, it must be doing its mandate well or not at all. For me, this is what is to be found out. This is an observation of mine which doesn't address the question raised by Acheson & Cuerrier.

I have thought long and hard on this issue of taking a stand on issues, and I've come to the conclusion that - To stand on an issue in a hobby that is made up of such a diverse group of people, with such a diverse economic, educational and even, emotional backgrounds, would be akin to standing on marbles. As I am not that athletic or inclined to gymnastics of a physical or mental nature, the issue of taking a stand on issues will have to be observed from a more relaxed and less taxing position of sitting on the fence.

(As I do, do a lot of rail-sitting or rattlin' in the BackStretch kitchen, I feel more comfortable in that position.)

I will throw a few observations at you though. My erstwhile opponent and very capable candidate, Alan Stewart, has said very little on this subject himself. As editor/publisher of the hobby forum zine Praxis, it would seem to me that such an important topic as 'standing on issues' would have been discussed at length in his zine.

But nothing. Not a dot or diddle.

This leads me to believe that those good gentlemen, Robert Acheson and Francois Cuerrier, are trying to raise a none issue in this election. Now, what with all the serious problems that have to be dealt with and the various personal speaking commitments that have to be met, I'm sure Alan and myself have no time, NO, just can't be bothered with such trivial tripe.

So with those observations now behind us, I am down to my three point summary -

- point 1) Taking a stand on issues is a non-issue.
- point 2) Sitting on the fence is more productive and constructive in a hobby like this (as any issue should be dealt with at length in Praxis)
- point 3) I've made a CDO comment, where's Stewart's?
- point 4) I will now prepare my election winning speach to be given at CAN-CON '88 along with a special appearance by Brux Linsey who will announce the results of the Runestone Poll.
- point 5) Before the Canadian hobby accountants, McMaster & McKee, write to tell me that there are more than 3 points here, yes, I know already. That's what would make me good for the co-ordinator's position, the growth aspect.

This is an anniversary issue - 1 year. It occurs to me that what with a years growth behind me, I should concern myself with natural replentishment of the literary fields so I can have another productive year. So, let's take the tractor & spreader and go disperse a goodly amount of genuine b.s. from the manure-pile and let nature take her course. Oh, by the way. On the race track, mushroom growing companies come around once a week to pick up the horse shit. This eventually becomes the growth medium of those umbrella shaped fungii you delight in eating. Have you ever wondered what those little, black pieces of organic material were that are on the caps of those mushrooms you buy? Also makes you wonder if Campbell's Soup Company washes ALL those mushrooms? Never mind, just a thought. It seems we're filling the spreader up fast right here so let's get over too the . . .

MANURE-PILE

You will recall that we were leaning out the window of the clocker's stand discussing a few things with Brent McKee, last issue. Now Brent got off on a tangent, nothing at all to do with horse racing, but never mind, he said he'd rectify that this issue.

Well, between issues Mr. McKee had his chance to expound upon some insight or incident that he had experienced with 'EQUUS', unfortunately the BackStretch security did a check on his credentials and hauled him quite unceremoniously out of here. Nothing worse than one of those pretentious grandstanders sneaking onto the backstretch and acting like a regular working stiff. I should have realized. He was wearing shiny new shoes. No-one wears clean shoes on the backstretch.

Take him away boys.

Well we've wasted enough time here with Brent, back to mucking out stalls at the barn. As we make our way back to the barn, I recall an incident of my own.

Now we all know, and if you didn't you soon will, that horse-racing is a dream industry. Everyone from hot-walker to guinea to trainer to owner, dreams of the next 'good-un' which will be a great one. That will immortalize all concerned. The truth and reality is, as long as the bills are paid, an owner can send his 'horse' to the track. We had one of these cases.

MAPLE SPUR. A gallant steed.

Field-bred and not broken.

This colt, we got him late in his 2-yr old year, was a magnificent chestnut with blonde tail and mane. Colour and markings wise were the last things of any good about him. This horse was white-eyed, had a pronounced 'parrot-beak' from having been introduced to the twitch in it's youth. Why the youthful intro to the twitch? This beast was slightly inbred. It's sire was it's mother's son or in other words, it's father was it's half-brother. This beast was plum-loco. But, remember, this is a 'dream' industry, it's owner felt he had a Queen's Plate candidate.

The first night with us, the mighty Maple Spur broke out of his stall and charged around the backstretch for half the night with most of the track security and myself in hot pursuit. Since he had his work-out overnight we left him locked in his stall for the rest of the day.

The second night settled in, a hot muggy one. A night so hot and muggy that the crickets couldn't be bothered scratchin'. It was a night similar to the previous night in shutting up the stalls. The exception was of course, Maple Spur's. Instead of webbing in front of his stall, the mighty Maple Spur had his upper screen closed, as well as webbing.

Well, about 0100hrs, this stupid beast attempted to make a break for it again. This time by trying to crawl, yes crawl (prior to this, I'd never known a horse to crawl on it's knees) under the screen.

He got stuck.

In the ensuing debacle, the screen's latch was torn from the wall. The screen was bent into a U-shape and the wild-eyed, mighty Maple Spur had broken free. But does he charge off around the backstretch like he did the night before? Nope. He turns around and tried to jump the webbing of the next stall - to get into it.

The Manure-pile continued . . .

Well there was an old trooper of a gelding in that stall and he didn't particularly want company. He went nuts! Kicking the walls, the water-bucket anything that was in the stall including the ugly head of the 'Spur', who was now hung up on the webbing of that stall.

Of course, by this time every horse stabled in the barn was snorting, screaming and kicking. The place was bedlam. Feed-buckets, water-buckets, everything that was loose was sent flying out into the shedrow. (It's a good thing that trainers and owners go home at night, if they only knew what their fragile darlins' go through after hours.) One of the reasons that I and others stay on the track is for problems like this. Well, since there was a disturbance of sorts going on in the barn, other crews were staggering out of their tackrooms, in various degrees of inebriation (tis the past time). their yells and cussin created a veritable cornucopia of sounds and sights for the senses. It was wonderful -ly insane.

I was faced with a minor dilemma, how to get the mighty Spur off of the webbing without getting my head kicked in. For, everytime that Gord Be Good, the gelding, kicked Maple Spur in the head, the mighty Spur would kick out at anything behind him and that was me.

One answer was to get him into the stall with Gordie and let the two horses go at it, but I was still faced with the problem of getting him off the webbing and his ass-end. Forward or backward, I wasn't going anywhere near those flying feet.

Well, the answer finally can to me.

Webbing and hook-eyes are only so strong and with 1200 lbs of horseflesh frantically jumping up and down on it - something had to go.

You know, it's amazing how reflexes work. One minute you're scratching your head and pickin' your nose, the next minute you're vaulting into action.

In the span of a few seconds, the hook-eyes popped from the door jam, the mighty Maple Spur fell into the stall, Gordie jumped out of the stall over the top of the Spur and I'd vaulted into the shedrow, over the shedrow railing and slammed the metal door (lower half), shut on the stall that the Spur had fallen into. Ah but what of Gordie? Well, Gordie was so shocked at finding himself outside, free, that he just stood there taking in the sights. This gave me the chance to slap a shank on a halter and the halter on Gordie. (Gordie wasn't too bright or overly energetic - he must have expended himself trying to kick the head off of the Spur). It was then a simple matter of walking Gord Be Good into the Spur's vacated stall and shutting the bottom part of the door.

The mighty Maple Spur, by this time, was trying to figure a way out of the stall he now found himself in. To nip that endeavour in the bud was easy to rectify. All I had to do was shut the top screen and he'd be shut in, completely.

Nothing simple should be left that way.

I had this feeling, no, it was a basic understanding, that as I shut the screen he'd try to stick his ugly, parrot-beaked, wild-eyed head out of the rapidly closing gap between the screen and door-jam. He did.

Now I was into a slow boil and I was going to get even for the last two nights of aggravation he had caused me. In a flash I decided not to slam the screen on his ugly head but to give him a good shot between the eyes with a left handed, clear shot. It was perfect. I was wound up like a prize fighter entering the first round with an opening that would send him to La-la land.

I did it. I just crushed a fist right between his eyes and with my right hand , slammed the screen on his retreating beak.

You know, never, ever, hit a horse in the head, especially with your hand. Their skull is considerably stronger and in Maple Spur's case, thicker than . . .

the vet said I'd busted my hand. All I know is that I didn't know hands could swell that much. As for Maple Spur, I'll tell you more after we get some work done here. I've only retold the first two days (nights).

I find myself with an unexpected luxury, an extra page. What to do?

Something that I haven't gone on at length in the BackStretch is what is going on in Toronto in August. That of course is CAN-CON '88. So maybe I should do a bit of an update and cover various items that have dropped on my desk from the mail-man.

can*con

DIPLOMACY

Toronto

There is of course, if you have been following the flyers, three of us who have been putting this thing together. Frank Easton has been the man in Toronto who has done most, if not all of the leg work at getting the facility that we are going to use. Randy Grigsby has done most of encouraging and pushing to get info to set up the scoring systems and watching the calender. It has fallen upon myself to put together most of the flyers.

We're pretty excited at the prospects of having people coming in from 'down south' ie: Maryland, New York, Michigan, Tennessee, Illinois, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Wisconsin. If I started naming names I'm sure to have forgotten somebody and I don't wish to slight or forget anybody. I do find it interesting that there has been little to no feed-back from the Toronto element of PBM diplomacy. Now don't get me wrong, there has been conversations with these people and they have mostly said that they would be there but where are the registrations? It would be nice to know who might be there and when. It makes a few things a lot easier to tackle. A few of these things are spelled out in the June flyer, especially the cafeteria situation. Also, I'll need to know the rough count of bodies, whether alive or dead, for insurance purposes.

We are into the last month prior to preregistration and Francois Cuerrier is most interested in knowing if it will be worth his trouble to come out. If it appears to be worth your trouble, let me know, even if it is for one day only. If that looks to be the case, try to make it Saturday because some time after lunch and before the afternoon gaming begins, it looks like there will be a number of presentations. The CDO results and the Runestone Poll results. Also, there appears to be shaping up, a dinner with spouses Sat. evening down at the Harbour Castle - there's five couples already signed up. What the heck, let's see what Toronto has to offer besides beer at Alan Stewart's. And a special note here to Mark Weidmark - I think I've got a sitter lined up!

If you have any questions, let's hear them. See you later. **Doug.**

LATE BREAKING NEWS FLASH!!

For the first time ever, there will be a FTF game at the home of the author of this section. "The Scourge of Simcoe" as alluded to in Costaguana Canada, vol XII #1, will be played on Saturday June 25th starting at approx. 1900 h. Directions given to only those that wish to be beaten by the Barrie bunch (who said we're allied already - snuff the buzzard). Trish says it'll be nice to be caustic to a wider audience of dippy players.