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What this country needs is a good 5¢ rating system.

LAPUTA is an occasional publication by and for the postal Diplomacy Rating Commission, a voluntary association of postal Diplomacy Ratingsmasters. It is automatically sent to members of the Commission. Interested parties may subscribe (on a delayed basis) @15¢ an issue. A copy will also be deposited with the Postal Diplomacy Archives in Lebanon IN, and with the Boardman Number Custodian. This issue is Alcalá Publication #593, edited and published by Rod Walker, "Alcalá", 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas CA 92024.

THIS ISSUE is concerned with the issue of local games. The results of Ballot #3 are below, in the same format as for #2 in LAPUTA 14. You will note that I have printed Jeff Key's votes. He is technically not a member at the moment, (see LAPUTA 14, item 2) but he was a member when the ballot went out. In order to avoid constitutional hassling, I have voted "no" on the one issue where a negative vote from Jeff made a difference (considering a game in the same area code "local"), so it will not make any problem to decide whether his votes should be counted. Hopefully, the issue of his status can be resolved quickly.

	1	2	3	4	5	5a	5b	5c	5d	5e	5f	6	6a	6b	6c	7	73BY	73DX	73GH	74P	8
B	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	-	-	Y
BU	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
K	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	Y
L	Y	-	-	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	Y
P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	-	-	-	-	Y
W	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

One. On the basis of this vote, the following decisions have been made:

a. Local games are excluded from the SRB.

b. A "local game" is defined as a game in which all of the players are "local" with respect to each other; that is, they live, work, or go to school in an area in which it is possible for them to negotiate FTF or via local telephone calls, or they live, work, or go to school in the same metropolitan district (e.g., Washington-Baltimore, New York-Long Island-Newark, Chicago-Gary, Greater Los Angeles, &c.). If a game is local at its beginning, or is local for any period of time equal to or greater than 1/3 of the game's length, it is considered "local" and excluded from the SRB.

c. All games listed as "local" in LAPUTA 10, item III, plus 1973HT, but minus 1973BY, DX, GH, and 1974P, are local and excluded from the SRB.

d. The games listed as "FTF/local" in LAPUTA 13, p. 3, item 7, are local and excluded from the SRB.

Two. I have information from the BNC regarding the 4 doubtful games, as follows:

1973BY. "Conrad changed the designation (from local) during the course of the game, probably because of the entrance of non-local replacements into the game; I will stick by his decision until the PDRC comes up with a standard." [I have a complete run of the POUCH. It is hard to tell from the addresses whether the game is local. Does anybody know?]

1973DX. "Local NY game."

1973GH. "A five-man game (I don't think it was local, however)."

1974P. "A six-man game, now abandoned (not local)."

The upshot appears to be that the last 3 games are not going to be rated (1 local; 2 not 7-man, 1 of them abandoned). The last game, 1973BY, is in limbo until we come up with some concrete info. Walt...you voted that it was local; do you have specific info?

Three. Walt Buchanan sent me a list of other games he considered local. In most cases, they've been noted as not rateable under other categories. They are:

1966Q. This was an FTF game. See One, d, above.

1966W. Same as 1966Q.

- 1967BE. GM also played in this one.
1968CI. This was cancelled.
1968CX. Also cancelled.
1970EO. This was a 5-man game.
1971EN. GM played in this game.

These games are unanimously not rated by members of the Commission for the reasons stated above. I believe Walt is correct in all instances in noting that they were also local games. I will try to remember to so note in future print-outs of game status. ... Unless anyone objects to any one of these games being called "local". Anyone?

Four. Len Lakofka raises one point on the back of his ballot. He notes that if a postal game is formed and (e.g.) 3 of the players are "local" with respect to each other, and if the other 4 are eliminated, those 3 might play out the game for a period of time equal to 1/3 of the game or more and it would then become "local" and not part of the SRB. It appears that he objects to this result.

My own position is that this is an appropriate result, since in all probability the result of the game was decided by the 3 local players and it was therefore essentially local with a non-local obligato. However, it may be that others of you feel as Len does. If so, then there are several possible solutions to the difficulty:

- a. Vote to change the policy as now stated.
- b. Examine specific games and vote exceptions where warranted.
- c. Apply this policy only to games which are begun (or perhaps ended) after a stated deadline.

d. ...?

Please send comments and suggestions on this.

Five. The results on my request for notes on what games you will be rating out of EVERYTHING 19 are a little sketchy. However, insofar as I have them, they are:

Beyerlein. Rates all games printed in EV19. Does not rate any game noted as abandoned in EV 19.

Buchanan. Same as Beyerlein.

Lakofka. Same as Beyerlein.

Power. Same, but does not rate 1971BL or 1971BP as "tournament games"

Walker. Same as Beyerlein, except does not rate 1971BL or 1971BP as "tournament games", and does not rate 1973AD. I will not rate any game originating in the racist "Republic of South Africa".

Please send any corrections to my notation of what you rate, if there are any. Please also indicate your attitude(s) with respect to 1971BL, 1971BP, and 1973AD.

Six. EVERYTHING 20 is out. Please indicate if you are not rating any games reported in that issue. Unless I hear otherwise, I will list you as rating all games reported, and not rating the abandoned game, 1973BT.

DEADLINE for responses to all this is Tuesday, 1 April 1975. I will print whatever I have that week.