

(Marsovia)

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SPRING 1904

March 1, 1967

GERMANS SILENT

AUSTRIANS VERBOSE

TURKS EFFECTIVE

Players were notified by mail of the Fall 1903 builds and removals and a deadline for Spring 1904 set for February 23, 1967.

The Winter builds were:

Austria Hungary: Army Vienna

France: Army Paris, Fleet Brest

Germany: Remove A Prussia

Italy: Remove Army Venice

Russia: Remove A. Norway

Turkey: Army Smyrna

The gamesmaster ruled that the Russian attack on Kiel was not successful because the English support order failed to specify that it was supporting a Russian unit. Correspondence on this point from the three players involved follows.

ROLAND TZUDIKER: I must obviously protest the Gamesmaster's decision to allow the Russian move Fleet Denmark-Kiel. The English move reads "Fleet Bight support Denmark-Kiel". I do not see where England has a unit in Denmark to support. If, in error, the English player believed he had a fleet there, he could have wished to support it to Kiel. But since he has no unit in Denmark I can not see how the Gamesmaster can assume that the English player's intent was to support a Russian unit without this intent being expressly stated. Therefore the Russian move is unsupported and is unsuccessful.

((I find it very easy to make that assumption. It is the clear intent of both parties in the alliance. However the order does admit of two possible interpretations however improbable one of them may be and the rules state that orders that admit of two interpretations are invalid))

CONRAD VON METZKE; In a very early issue - #1 I think - you stated words to the effect that once a precedent is established for a game it will hold. If you run through recent moves you will find that I supported the Russian move into Denmark and that was ruled valid. I did not specify nationality then either. This I consider a precedent. Come on now, Bob; I have been playing Diplomacy for six years and postal for two, and I haven't yet specified nationality in my support orders, and nobody has yet made such a ridiculous ruling - not even (name deleted).

((I consider a precedent to be set once a ruling has been made, which it was in this case only after protest from a player. I was in error in allowing the earlier move but will not go/ back to correct it. Since the gamesmaster error is felt so keenly I will offer him either a free game at my expase in his choice of mags- or a Haydn record compliments of the record club to which we both belong.))

JAMES LATIMER: I was reading all the moves and I noticed something. I don't know if this was due to typographical error or omission but when the support orders were given there was no distinction between armies or fleets (A Belgium sup, German Holland). Things like this shouldn't work.

As regards the situation with the attack on Kiel I would follow what Tzudiker says. He has a point. I do know that England was supporting my fleet as he told me he would - there was no confusion involved. But if we do this we are going to have to apply the rule universally. Therefore the Austrian support of the Turkish Army in Rumania shouldn't have worked, the French support for the German army in Holland shouldn't have worked, and the similar cases.

((The French order was correct, the omission of unit type was done by the gamesmaster. The Austrian support of Turkish Rumania failed because the Turkish army attempted to move. It was in caps because the support was not cut. Since I do not list cut support as holding the lower case must be reserved for cuts. Thus even ineffective support may be in caps if the unit is not attacked.))

MARSOVIA: Following a brief pause in the War for New Years celebrations the combatants have returned to the fray. Early odds on 1904 indicate that Italy and Germany will have a hard time of it while Turkey is expected to expand rapidly. The English still have a parliamentary crisis to weather, and the Austrians are too busy drinking bitter almond cocktails to pose a threat to anyone other than pretenders to the throne.

ST. PETERSBURG: Who can explain the hold the Sultan has over the Austrians? It is contrary to all rationality and logic. The Austrians fail to see what will befall them if the Sultan succeeds in his treacherous war against Russia, with whom the Turks had once made treaty.

WIEN: (15 Jan 1904) His Imperial Majesty Ladislas II today proclaimed that the holy season of Ramadan has begun. All good Moslems (and all people in the Austrian Empire are good Moslems - or else) shall not eat between the rising and the setting of the sun, nor shall they drink alcohol during the holy season. That's a good idea by the way since the Empress Lucrezia is on a cocktail mixing binge again and all good Moslems are warned against her alcoholic drinks especially. As His Majesty remarked to Her Majesty "Don't bother honey; having used that route myself, I'm not going to let you use it."

Wien: (2 Feb 1904) Speaking to a Joint Session of the Austro-Hungarian Imperial Diet today, the Emperor declared war on Italy. "It is said", he observed, "Pick on somebody your own size. Now Italy is our size. Besides it is the home of the infidel and we shall conquer it for the glory of Allah and of Muhammad ((Ali?)) on whom be peace! His Majesty pleased Prince Cesare Bordscha, brother of the Empress in charge of the campaign, seconded by the brilliant tactician Hary Pasha Janos. His Majesty also noted that recent Russian peace overtures had been rejected and that the Austro-Hungarian Empire would continue to aid her Turkish allies in the war against the Christian dogs.

Wien: to Gamesmaster. No, No, No!! (Re our 3 Oct 1903 press release)
 That's Tsar ... "Death to the Tsar!" "Czar is (ugh) Polish! We may
 want to destroy his Empire, burn his cities, ravish his women, and
 ravage his country, but at least we should spell his title correctly.
 Were not barbarians you know! Love Lucrezia

((Szar-y about that Lucy, baby!)) (((that too)))

WIEN: (20 Feb 1904) Reports that P.M. Krajewski did nit have a press
 conferece last 20 Oct. are true. He was in Wien at the time calling
 on the Empress Lucrezia and ...ah... reading her some of his ...ah
 ...poems(!). Her Majesty later expressed her gratitude for the visit,
 which brake the solitude of Her husband's trip to Constantinople. When
 interviewed later she commented "poems? ..Oh ... his poems. Why
 they were lovely! We loved them. He even wrote a little one about
 a mole on Our th ah,ah.... neck"

Constantinpple: Force, without wisdom, falls of its own weight.
 -Horace

What stupid dolts we have for soldiers ! They bumble around like a
 bunch of Italians!

AND NOW THE MOVES:

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
 (WALKER)

A VIENNA -TYROLIA
 A TRIESTE-VENICE
 a budapest-galacia

ENFLAND
 (VON METZKE)

F. HELGOLAND BIGHT SUPPORT RUSSIAN F. DENMARK-KIEL
 f. north sea c. yorkshire-holland
 a. yorkshire to holland
 F. SKAG HOLD

FRANCE
 (BARROWS)

f. brest - mid atlantic
 f. spain (sc) to western med
 F. LYON -TYRHENNIAN
 f. tunis support Lyon to Tyrhennian
 A PARIS - BURGUNDY
 A MARSAILLES - PIEDMONT
 A BELGIUM HOLDS

GERMANY
 (TZUDIKER)
 NO MOVES REC'd

A's Silesia, HOLLAND, BOHEMIA HOLD
 a kiel hold (must retreat)

ITALY
 (SEENSON)

R. PIEDMONT-TUSCANY
 f. western med- mid atlantic
 f. ionian tunis

RUSSIA:
(LATIMER)

F. DENMARK-KIEL
F. BALTIC SUPPORT F. DENMARK-KIEL
f. black sea -sevastopol
a warsaw -silesia
A MOSCOW SUPPORT F. BLACK SEA_SEVASTOPOL
a galacia-rumania

TURKEY
(CARTIER)

A SERBIA-GREECE
a rumnia -sevastopol
A ARMENIA SUPPORT RUMANIA_SEVASTOPOL
a bulgaria-rumania
F. CONSTANTINOPLE -AEGEAN
A. SMYRNA-CONSTANTINOPLE
A. ANKARA SUPPORT SMYRNA-CONSTANTINOPLE

Since a quick glance at the board limits Roland's choice to Berlin I will set a Fall deadline of March 20. A formal retreat order must be received with the Fall moves or the unit will be removed. Other players may make their fall moves conditional on the retreat or non retreat of the Germany fleet (oops that's an army and he may also retreat to ruhr and munich. The orders may be conditional on the place of retreat as well as its occurrence)

There is nothing else to cover this issue but I hate to waste space so I recommend to those of you interested in real Diplomacy a book by Morton A Kaplan entitled System and Process in International politics. I especially suggest the few pages having to do with the "balance of power system" and its six rules for success which apply equally to it seems to diplomacy. they are: (p. 21-36)

1. Act to increase capabilities but negotiate rather than fight.
2. Fight rather than pass up an opportunity to increase capabilities.
3. Stop fighting rather than eliminate an essential national actor.
4. Act to oppose any coalition or single actor which tends to assume a position of predominance with respect to the rest of the system.
5. Act to constrain actors who subscribe to supranational organizational principles.
6. Permit defeated or constrained essential national actors to re-enter the system as acceptable role partners or act to bring some previous y inessential actor within the essential actor classification. Treat all essential actors as acceptable role partners.

Numbers 1,2,4, and the last part of 6 sound like successful diplomat tactics at any level. The rest of the book is well worth reading also. Available in paper back for \$1,65 .

UNTIL MARCH 20 FAREWELL AND GOOD BYE.....