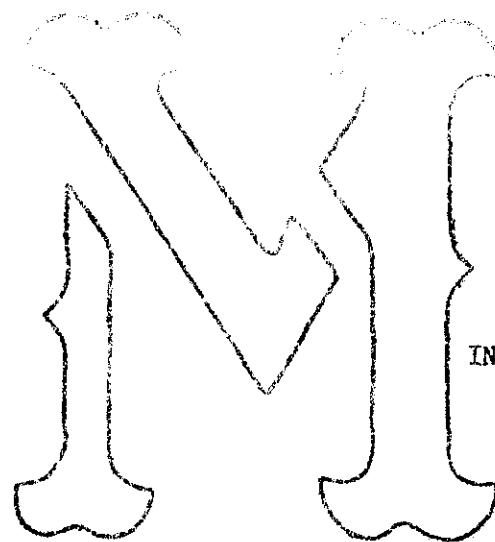


MURD'RING



MINISTERS

Vol. 11 No. 14

November 30, 1979

STUFF

MURD'RING MINISTERS IS A gazette dedicated to the play of postal DIPLOMACY, a multi-player game invented by Alan Calhaver and owned by The Avalon Hill Game Co. Sub rate is 12/\$4.00, gamefee for Regular DIP \$3.00; see GAME OPENINGS section for further information. MM is published by Ken Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304; (805) 834-8409.

Well, horrors of horrors! MM is late by about three days this time in getting to you. My most profound apologies to all. But the delay is not without good reason. On Monday, November 26, 1979 someone by the name of Corey Brown entered the world and decided that he wanted a home where there would always be a DIPLOMACY board around, I guess, and he chose Char and I to be his parents. That's right, I'm now a daddy and this past week (the one wherein I normally type MM) has been unreal. First of all, my wife has been fairly incapacitated because of her surgery. This means that you-know-who has been changing diapers and washing baby clothes, etc. So anyway, Corey is the reason this issue is a bit late. It shouldn't happen again unless something else of an equal magnitude takes place.

This issue, will consequently be a warehouse-type issue consisting of game results and not much else. To take the time to type all the other articles I had planned would necessitate another few days delay, and I don't want any of you to have to wait any longer for the all-important results of your games. I'll include just a couple of things of note in STUFF, then it's right to the games. Next issue should be a biggie, with all the stuff I'm leaving out this time PLUS what would normally be going into the next issue anyway.

If you sub to any other zines besides MM then you may already know that the POSTAL DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENT is ready to sign up players. The fee for the tournament is \$20.00 per player, which signs him up for three games. Starting date for the tournament is the first week in January. The field is restricted to 63 players, so it's the first come, first served routine. No entries will be accepted after Dec 31. Tournament Director is Bob Sergeant, and Tournament Organizer will be Mark Berch. CM's name: Steve McLendon,

Lee Kondter, Jerry Jones, Jim Bumpas, Jeff Richmond, Bill Buck, Don Ditter, Dave Burke, Vic Carpenter, John Kador, Jack Barman, Kenzel Baumsteter, Phil Cooper, and Dave White. The three rounds of the tournament will not start simultaneously. They will be staggered starts. Round 1 will begin the first week in January, Round 2 six weeks after, and Round 3 six weeks after that. Players will not play the same country twice, nor will any two players ever be in the same game more than once. You are guaranteed the chance to play one Western power and one Eastern power. Game assignments will not be made public until the end of the tourney. The DRAGONSPERH rating system will be used to score the tournament. The winner will receive a huge trophy and \$50.00 as a cash prize. To sign up, send your \$20.00 entry fee to Bob Sengerat, 3242 Lupine Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana 46224. Upon receipt of your entry, you will receive the complete tourney rules as confirmation.

News from the IDA: Edi Biran has defeated Robert Sacks in the interim election for President 16-4. Nominations are now open for the 1980 elections. IDA offices are: President, Treasurer, Editor, Spec. Proj. Editor, U.S. Rep, Canadian Rep. Nominations will be closing soon, so if you are an IDA member (fat chance! to my knowledge there's only one other member of IDA who subs to NM) and wish to nominate someone for office, send it to Scott Marley, 12682 Swiller Pl., Santa Ana, CA 92705.

TRACUSPID is the graph of an equation of the form $x^{2/3} + y^{2/3} = a$. If this means nothing to you then think of THE TETRACUSPID, a Digest published every fourth week by Richard Kovalick, Jr., Apt. 40, 1001 Marriote Boulevard, Livermore, CA 94550. Richard has game openings in several games of DIPLOMACY run on three week deadlines. Sub rate is one cent per page. Gamefee is \$2.00 plus a \$3.00 deposit (refundable). THE TET is nonsexed and easy to read. Write for a sample.

The next issue of NM should be rather large in comparison to this one. Let's hope that my wife doesn't give birth to anyone for awhile. Till then . . .

GAME OPENINGS:

REGULAR DIPLOMACY - There are no current game openings. Anyone who wishes may begin signing up for the next game which will begin when one of the current games concludes. \$3.00 gamefee plus maintaining a subscription.

SUBMARINE - \$2.00 gamefee to play in this multi player scenario involving Allied convoys vs. Nazi U-Boats. An Avalon Hill Game. Need six; have four.

A brief but sincere thank you goes to the Boardman Number custodian, Bernia Agosta. We previously have been giving some of the credit to husband Dennis, but Bernia informed me that, "I'm the BNC, not Dennis, since I do ALL the work." That's tellin' it like it is! Way to go Bernia and you and Dennis(?) keep up the great job. ((By the way, I did not get EVERYTHING#42 and would like to get hold of one. Good luck on your moving excursion!))

* THE GAMES *

Formerly known as MW-8, now to be known as . . .
 1979HO SPRING 1901 GERMANY INVADES FRANCE AND DENMARK; COULD THIS BE THE
 START OF A WORLD WAR?

Austria (Tucker): A Bud-GER; A Vie-TRI; F Tri-ALB.
 England (Staley): F Edi-NWC; F Lon-NTH; A Lpl-YOR;
 France (Williams): F Bre-MID; A Mar-SPA; A Par-PIC.
 Germany (Blank): A Mun-BUR; F Kie-DEN; A Ber-KIE.
 Italy (Barker): A Ven-PIE; A ROM-EI; F Nap-TYS.
 Russia (Coughlan): F StP(sc)-MOT; A Mos-STP; F Sev-BLA; A War-MKR.
 Turkey (Kuszynski): A Con-BUL; F Ank-CON; A Smy-ARM.
 Fall 1901 due 12/28/79.

1979HO Press-

ST. PETERSBURG: An ominous silence from all the capitals of Europe, except Constantinople, has ex calated the tension here in Russia.

"What is Europe up to?" asked the Tsar at a recent meeting of the Crown Council. "Russia is supposed to be the riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma but the bashak is certainly on the other nega now. I can't fathom these fickle foreigners who do not even bother to reply to official diplomatic correspondence."

Consequently, the Tsar issues an open note to all foreign powers: The Bear has awoken from his hibernation and is fully alert.

LONDON: The King of England gives Seazen's Greetings to all of the Great Powers of Europe.

BREST: The French National Weather Service has issued a gale warning for the English Channel. Any ship or ships planning on a channel crossing in the next year or so are advised to use an alternate route.

VIENNA: What's this I hear about a "fool-proof" plan.

1979CP WINTER 1902

Austria - even	Germany - Build F KIE
England - NEM, GN removes F Bal	Italy - Heven
France - even	Russia - Build F STP(nc)
	Turkey - even

1979CP SPRING 1903 LIXEYS AND TURKS FORGET ABOUT WAR AS NEW AUSTRIAN URGES
 DECLARES ITS INTENTIONS!

Austria (Paltar): F GRE-g-Italian F Ion-Ang/NSC/; A Gal-RUM; A SER-s-A Gal Rum;
A BUD-s-A Gal-Rum; A VIE-cal.
 England (Sherwood*): NMR! has F NTH; F ENG; A YOR.
 France (Rodriguez): A SPA-H; F MID-s-A Spa; A Par-BRE; A GAS-s-A Par-Hra.
 Italy (Heftl): A MAR-Gas; F HEV-Sig(sc); F LYC-s-F Wes-Spa(sc);
A ALB-s-Austrian F Gre; F ION-H.
 Russia (Kerchner): F STP(nc)-BAR; A NWY-H; F SWE-s-A Nwy; ~~XXXXXX~~ A WAR-Gal;
A Rum-s-A War-Gal/d/-s-Sov,OTB; F BLA-s-A Rum; A Sev-MKR.
 Turkey (Tucker**): NMR! has A BUL; F ASG; F CON; A ARM.

Fall 1903 due 12/28/79

*Would Dave Grabar, c/o Dalrymple School, Ave 18 1/2, Concordia, CA 93610
 please submit standby orders for England?

**Would Bob Amick, Suite 625, 6330 Newtown Rd, Norfolk, VA 23502 please
 submit standby orders for Turkey?

1979CP Press follows on the next page. . .

197904 Press-

BERLIN: The Germans have stormed the French Embassy in Berlin. We are holding 60 hostages. We want the body of Alfred Rodriguez shipped to us, or we will execute the Frenchies.

RUSS-GER: Hey, this is fun.

RUSS-Italy: Thank for coming.

RUSS-TUR: Don't worry.

RUSS-ENG & FR: This isn't very fun for you is it?

RUSS-WORLD: Sorry for not corresponding. I will communicate more in the future.

VIENNA: The Hapsburg Empire is dead -- no Austrian player can defeat Italy, Turkey, and Russia. However, do not presume that I will make the divisions of the spoils TOO easy.

Formerly EM-6, now to be known as . . .

197904 FALL 1902 ENGLISH ARMY TAKES RUSSIAN CAPITOL!

Austria (Carson): A VIK-s-F Tri; A BUD-s-A Vle; F TRI-H; F GRE-H; A SER-s-F Gre.
England (Hawkins): F Nth-NWY; A Fin-STP; F NWC-s-F Nth-Nwy; F BAR-s-F Nth-Nwy;
France (Lee): F MID-H; F PIC-Bel; A RUH-s-F Pic-Bel; A BUR-s-A Ruh;
A GAS-s-A Bur.

Germany (Parker):

Italy (Williams):

Russia (Hastnet*):

Turkey (Schilling):

Winter 1902 and Spring 1903 due 12/28/79.

*COA - Art Hastnet, 1055 Ceve, Prospect Heights, ILL 60070.

197904 Press-

VIENNA: The newly-crowned Emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire has opened channels to any nation wishing to better its position by allying against any foe presently assaulting Austrian territory. Come on, let's make a deal.

CONSTANTINOPLE: The government of Turkey regrets that personal negotiations will not be possible until after 21, DEC 79.

BERLIN-MOSCOW: You were sure right on that. You know it from the start, I'm finding out the hard way. He really is a jerk, isn't he?

ROME: Pope Ren Vito Brownetti issued a statement today hailing the overthrow of the Austrian Empire. At present Pope Brownetti bears no ill will toward the new Austrian dictator, but adds that any aggression against Italy is also against the Church. In a related story the Pope announced that he has chosen his Holy Ruling Name as Pope. From this day forward Ren Vito Brownetti will be known as Pope George Ringo the First.

PARIS: After conferring with the new Pope, French cardinals have loosely interpreted his recent dictum, "Get Austria" as meaning: get all German speaking people.
(See top of next pg. for 1902 Supply Center Chart)

David Barker informs us that the BIPCON at Cal State Fullerton will be March 15, beginning at 8:00am till whenever the tournament ends. Note that a more suitable date could not have been selected: The Ides of March!

1979CW 1902 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Home, Ser, Gre	(5)	0
England- Home, Nwy, STP	(5)	+1
France- Home, Spa, Por	(5)	0
Germany- Home, Hol, DEN	(5)	+1
Italy- Home, Tun	(4)	0
Russia- Mos, War, Sev, StP , Swe, Rum	(5)	-1
Turkey- Home, Bul	(4)	0

1979AN FALL 1903 AUSTRIAN EMPIRE CONTINUES TO GROW AS LAST RUSSIAN ARMY STARVES:

Austria (Carson): A ANK-H; A SER-Rum; A BUL-Ser; A CON-Bul; F GRE-H; A WAR-H; A Bud-GAL.

England (Haffey): A Fin-STP; F NWY-Swe; A LIV-s-German A Sil-War/NSO/; F Edi-NWG; F BRE-H.

France (Palter): A Par-s-A Gas/a/; A GAS-s-A Par; F Lye-SPA(sa).

Germany (Sulsberger): A Pic-PAR; A BUR-s-A Pic-Par; A SWE-H; F SKA-s-A Swe; F Hel-NTH; A PRU-War; A SIL-s-A Pru-War; F Bel-s-F Hel-Nth/NSU/; F HOL-H (unordered).

Italy (Sayth): F Wes-MID; F Tys-WES; A MAR-GAS; A PIE-Ven; F Apu-NAP.

Russia (CD): A UKR-H.

Turkey (Masters): A ALB-Ven; F ADR-s-A Alb-Ven; F Ion-TUN; A SEV-Rum; A MOS-s-Austrian A War.

Winter and Spring due 12/28/79.

1903 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Home, Gre, Con, Bul, Rum, ANK, WAR	(9)	+2
England- Home, Nwy, StP, BRE	(6)	+1
France- StP , Spa, Por	(2)	0
Germany- Home, Den, Bel, Hol, Swe, StP , PAR	(8)	0
Italy- Home, StP , War	(4)	-1
Russia- StP	(0)	OUT
Turkey- Sev, Ser, Mos, StP , TUN	(4)	-1

1979AN Press-

LONDON-SEVASTOPOL: If you are going to quit why don't you just quit and stop messing me around, Turkey.

GASCONY: The former French Minister of Information was shot yesterday for failing to change communique with the new orders. The reincarnation of Isabelle of Bavaria now rules France. Long live England's chief puppet.

SMYRNA: During 1903, five Austrian armies and one Austrian fleet were deployed into Turkey. This was certainly overkill as not a single Turk could be found anywhere. All the Austrians found was this message for the left behind by the banished Turks: "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

BERLIN: The Kaiser arose into the conference room with his usual arrogant look glaring at the large number of officials who were to report to him. "I've no time for a lot of nonsense. Supper's on the table and my sauerkraut is getting cold. Henry, I can count on you to be brief, what's the situation? Herr Kissinger looked the Kaiser in the eye and said, "France is now an English puppet, we cannot attack the Austrians since this is what the Turk wants so that is obviously wrong, the English want us to give them Sweden which is absurd, and we can't cooperate with anyone as egotistical as the Austrians. What are we to do?"

The Kaiser closed his eyes and thought for a moment. "The obvious answer is to attack them all. Not only does it give us lots of room to expand we will save millions on embassies."

WARSAW: The plight of Turkish refugees fleeing their ravaged homeland has touched the heart of his royal majesty. After consultation with his ministers, the Emperor was agreed to launch an attack on the Turk with a much more

1979AR Press con't

which, cooler environment " as his majesty stated. This location is conditioned upon the maneuverings of the German and English armies around Warsaw.

BORDEAUX: A new landmark in town is the rotting corpse of the former minister of information, to be seen hanging by the town hall. The new minister, Pierre Laval, a former Tuetonophile, is now quite happy in his role of English Stoege. In related developments the fall of both Paris and Spain still looks likely. But if defeated the government promise, to flee to Corsica where a provisional capital has already been established.

BERLIN-BAKERSFIELD: Ron, are all Californians as leveable as this bunch?

1978IX WINTER 1905

Austria- NBR, plays one short

England- Build A LON

France - OUT

1978IX SPRING 1906

Austria (Shatto⁶):

England (Michalski):

Germany (Palant):

Italy (Kellay):

Russia (Mastors⁶):

Turkey (Rodrigues):

Fall 1906 Aug 12/28/79.

Would Ron Kelly, 6038 Richmond Hwy #314, Alexandria VA 22303 please submit standby orders for Austria?

My thanks to John and the rest who sent in orders for Russia this time. John's arrived first so he'll assume the position. John Mastors, 25711 No. Vista Palms Dr., Valencia, CA 91355.

1978IX Press:

MOSEAU: There are widespread rumors that Jovanne Mastorovich is now running the Russian Empire and has been since late last year. His predecessor (whose name has been stricken from Russian history books) left office in disgrace, and was transferred overseas, for his failure to prevent the Turkish invasion of Sevastopol and the English invasion of St. Peter. The present Russian policy is resigned to the loss of these two provinces but will resist vigorously any attempts by antagonistic powers to take Moscow or Warsaw. The other nations of Europe are called upon to support the Russian cause, which is in simple terms -- SURVIVAL.

ETHICS - WHAT DOES THIS WORD MEAN WHEN APPLIED TO POSTAL DIPLOMACY?

Wanna find out? Then check out the next issue of MM for a not-so-brief discussion of this topic of concern.

Don't missit . . .

Formerly H4-7, now to be known as . . .

1979HN SPRING 1902 EUROPE FAIRLY STATIC AS DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE RESUMES!

Austria (Leing): A VIE-Tri; A BUD-s-A Vie-Tri; A SER-Rum; F Gre-BUL(oo).
 England (Carmody*): A Nwy-STP; F Nwg-NTH; F LPL-Wal; F LON-Eng.
 France (Hartman): A POR-H; A BEL-H; F Mar-SPA(oo); F WAL-Lon; F ERE-Eng.
 Germany (Masters): A HOL-Bel; F KIE-Bal; F DEN-Swe; A Mun-SIL; A Boh-GAL.
 Italy (Shelton): A TRI-H; F VEN-s-A Tri; A TYA-s-A Tri; F ION-H.
 Russia (Burnett): A FIN-Swe; F BOT-Bal; A War-PRU; A Ukr-Rum/NSU/; A SEV-H(unordered).
 Turkey (Howard): A Rum-UKR; A Bul-RUM; F BLA-s-A Bul-Rum; F Con-AEG;
 A Sny-ARM.

Fall 1902 due 12/28/79

*COA- Bob Carmody, 16 W 500 58th St., Apt. 15, Clarendon Hills, ILL 60514.

1979HN Press-

ENGLAND TO FRANCE: Your time has come.

CONSTANTINOPLE: Sultan Howard announces that there will be a suspension of diplomatic relations from Turkey until early January. The Sultan will be away and visiting New Zealand.

ENGLAND TO ITALY: R This is your bloody last chance to stab the Hotdog.

BERLIN: The Kaiser of Germany expresses thanks to Ren Brown ((who?)) for taking over ATO-6. It is far better to be swallowed up by the French-Russian conspiracy than to have the game outcome lost in the ambiguous outcome of unfinished.

ENGLAND TO GERMANY: Stop stalling!

ENGLAND TO RUSSIA: Is it safe?

* * *
~~1979AI~~ 1979AI FALL 1903 ENGLAND AND RUSSIA MAKE MASSIVE GAINS WHILE EVERYONE ELSE LOSES GROUND!

Austria (Garrett): A PIE-Mar; A TYA-Mun/d/-r-Boh,OTB; A Bul-GRE; F Ion-NAP.
 England (Masters): F Eng-BEL; F NTH-s-F Eng-Bel; F DEN-s-Russian F Ber-Kie;
 F Mid-POR; A Nwy-s-Russian A Mos-StP.
 France (Sparling): A EUR-Mar; A SPA-H; A Bre-GAS; F PIC-Bel; A RUH-Hel.
 Germany (Kuszynski): A Kie-Hol/a/; A MUN-Ber; F StP-H/d/-r-Ber,OTB.
 R Italy (Mooney): A Vie-TYA; A VEN-s-A Vie-fyz; A TRI-s-A Ven; F Adr-ION;
 F AEG-s-Russian F Con.
 Russia (Arnett): F Bor-KIE; A SIL-Ber; A Mos-STP; F RUM-Sov; A Gal-BUD;
F CON-s-Italian F SEV Ang-Sny/NSC/; A SER-s-Italian A Tri.
 Turkey (Smyth): F SBY-Con; F ANK-s-F Sny-Con; A ARM-Sov.

Winter 1903 and Spring 1904 due 12/28/79

1903 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Ty, Sp, Bul, Gre, NAP	(3)	-1
England- Home, Swe, Den, Nwy, BEL, POR	(8)	+3
France- Home, Bel, Sp, SPA	(4)	-1
Germany- Mun, Kie, Nwy	(1)	-1
Italy- Roa, Ven, Sp, Fun, Vie, TRI	(5)	0
Russia- Home, Rum, Bud, Ber, SER, CON, KIE	(10)	+3
Turkey- Con, Ank, Sov	(2)	-1

1979AI Press-

BUDAPEST TIMES: Yesterday, "Crazy Victor" and "Looney Nikolai" were seen walking across the Black Sea. Over 10,000 Turkish devils witnessed this spectacle. It was reported that all 10,000 Turks immediately dropped to their knees and began crying for forgiveness . . .

1979C FALL 1904 FRANCE OFFICIALLY BECOMES GERMAN STATE:

Austria (Haffey): A Tya-TRI; F Gre-BUL(sc).
 England (Grabar): F POR-Spa(sc); F NAT-MID; F ENG-s-F NAT-Mid; F Ska-NWY;
 F NHG-s-F Ska-Nwy; F WTH-s-F Ska-Nwy/d/-r-Ion, Yer, Edi, Ska, OTB;
 France (GD): F Bre-H/d/-r-OTB; A SPA-H.
 Germany (Dumps): F Hel-WTH; F DEN-s-F Hel-Wth; A Kie-HOL; A Ruh-MUN;
 A Pic-BEL; A Par-BRE; A GAS-s-A Par-Bre.
 Italy (Haelmel²): A Tri-SUD; A SER-Gre; F ALB-s-F Nap-Ion; F Nap-ION;
 F Eas-SNY.
 Russia (Kussynaki): A RUM-s-Austrian F Gre-Bul; F SEV-s-A Rum; A Bud-VIE;
 A Ukr-GAL; F SWE-s-English F Nth-Den/NSO/; A FIN-s-F Swe;
 F Nwy-BAR.
 Turkey (Michalski): F Cen-BLA; F ARM-s-F Cen-Bla; F AEG-Gre; A Bul-s-F Aeg-
 Gre/d/-r-Cen,OTB.

Winter 1904 and Spring 1905 due 12/28/79.

COA - Art Haelmel, see 1979CW for address.

1904 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Yya , Gre, TRI, BUL.....	(3)	+1	no room to build
England- Home, Nwy, Swa , Yya , Per.....	(5)	-1	
France- Yya , Spa.....	(1)	0	
Germany- Home, Hel, Bel, Par, Mar, DEN, BRE.....	(9)	+2	
Italy- Home, Tun, Yya , SER, SNY, SUD.....	(7)	+2	
Russia- Home, Rum, Yya , Yya , SWE, VIE.....	(7)	0	
Turkey- Cen, Aeg, Yya , Yya	(2)	-2	

1979C Press-

ROME: There is a growing concern here that Italy has become a Russian puppet. The King denied this saying "Unlike Austria and Turkey we will take actions according to our own best interests. We would like to work together with Russia, but as equals, not as dupes. We will not set ourselves up for a Russian takeover." His majesty apologizes to the Czar and hopes moves taken by Italy will a not destroy relations between the two countries.

KOBENHAVN: Frenchmen alleged to have been here by the 3rd Bavarian Army were not scared by sailors from the 1st Fleet. This city is as peaceful as if there were no war at all.

BERLIN: Newspapers are full of reports that every Army reports over 90% of personnel are AWOL. They are all lined up on the Biscay, Channel, and North Sea coasts to watch the beautiful English Navy in action.

KM-1 KINGMAKER KM-1 will be temporarily delayed while requests are being made to find another GM. I am asking Ramon Lesare, publisher of TOUCHE if he's interested in taking over an "orphan" KINGMAKER game. If he can't, then D.S. Heiter has offered to drop the game and sell it. I hope to be able to let everyone else know next issue what will happen. Soxy.

SUB-1

I haven't received SUB-1 orders from either player so this one will be delayed one issue also.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM BRUCE SCHLICKBERND VIA JOHN NICHALSKI

Dear John,

Thank you for taking the trouble of writing to me -- I certainly wouldn't have done the same for someone who dropped because of such gutless reasons. Which is to say that I did not drop for the reasons you stated.

I dropped for a combination of reasons, all due to the way the game was being run. Roy (Roy Brown is the publisher, right?) was either not going to replace Italy, which meant that the natural pressure that country would bring on you wouldn't happen, or he was going to replace him with Ren Kelly. I regard Kelly as a cheat (to be fair, I doubt if he feels he is doing anything wrong) or at least guilty of some highly questionable tactics and have said so in print on numerous occasions. I don't feel that he belongs in a demonstration game. Option one, then, had the GM screw me (which the sacrosanct Walter Buchanan, a very nice fellow whom I like, had just done to me in the HA Demo game), and I had no desire to play in the same game with Kelly. Inasmuch as I didn't pay any fee, and Roy was at least trying, I felt that I would be doing him a favor by dropping (resigning -- let's keep these terms straight), rather than annoying him about the way he was running the game. I had very little confidence in his ability to run the game properly, but I felt that would be impolite to tell him. Further, I sent in my resignation before the first season was due -- it apparently did not arrive in time (it should have made it with a day to spare). I was extremely annoyed that my first set of orders were used because I took one look at the moves and figured some people might think I was resigning because of the game situation. Such was not the case. I did not receive any MM's after that one season, so I have no idea how Roy explained my resignation, though he had the above story. If Roy was the one who gave you the impression that I was a coward, please forward this letter to him. . . I'm not too worried about my reputation, except that dropping because everyone was out to get me is something of an insult. I would appreciate it if you could set the record straight with anyone else in Roy's game, or at least refer them to me. . . So what happened in the game?

Bruce Schlickbernd

((OK. Now I get a chance to talk. Bruce is so worried about being "insulted" yet he has no problem insulting others in quite an off-handed manner. But before I address the points in this letter, let me backtrack a bit and explain exactly what's going on here. MURDERING MINISTERS began as a novice line; a project of the International Diplomacy Association. IDA said they wanted a DEMO game for the purpose of demonstrating to the game many novice subbers a game that was well-played by a talented field. I agreed and tried to get the best I could to agree to play in it. Of course this included a free sub and no gamefee if the players agreed to help me out and more especially, the novice section of the hobby as a whole, by playing in this DEMO game. The first seven to agree to begin the game was indeed a group of good players which included: Dave Grabar (ITALIANO PRIBE), Jim Bumpas (LIBERTYPERREAN), Dennis Agosta (COMMAND), Bob Hartwig (PODUNK NEWS), Sun Chuan-fang, John Michalski (BRUTUS BULLETIN), and Bruce. All fine and good until . . . the game was listed with the above seven and set to begin on 2/16/79. Then in time for the first deadline came a note from Hartwig saying he would have to quit (and he very soon left the hobby). This was in MM#3. If it

(Con't top of next pg.)

wasn't for the fact that two other players requested a delay in addition, then neutral moves would have been used for Italy and the game would have started then anyway. So the game was delayed until 3/16/79. The day ~~of~~ of the deadline I received a non-dated letter from Bruce which went like this (and he even managed to get the name right in this one))):

Dear Ren,

Everything but the kitchen sink, they say. This is to unfortunately to let you know that I am resigning from MM-2((1979)) as of this moment, and I am furthermore withdrawing any moves that I submitted. This is due directly to the Italian situation. I consider Ron Kelly a cheat, and I really have no desire to be in any game with him. This is not your fault, of course. Quite simply, Ron's cross-game alliances and threats go beyond what I consider ethical in the game. Certainly it will warp this game. If you really are a masochist and want elaboration, I can give it.

If Ron was not to take the position, I'm still left with an Austria and Turkey who won't have any pressure (or threat thereof) on them for the first turn. The potential detriment to Russia is somewhat unfair.

Anyway, you are probably best rid of me since the only way I would care to stay is for Ron Kelly to be replaced by a different player (something you don't owe me) (though I would advise it anyway -- he isn't even a very good player) or go through another delay while a definite Italian is selected, which I don't particularly want to do. I ask that I am not listed as the player of record as Russia inasmuch as I'll never had played the position.

I really am sorry, Ren, you don't deserve all these problems, but it is a matter of principle that I feel I must stand on.

Bruce Schlickbernd

((As I said this letter arrived too late to alter anything. In fact the earliest I could make the change in players was with MM#6 4/20/79. In it I said, "Bruce Schlickbernd felt he had to drop for reasons which I'm not that happy about but that's another story I may elucidate upon at some future time." As George Allan said, "The future is now." I'm not crazy about the idea of a name player on the hobby (and Bruce IS a good, name player) "resigning" or "dropping" (it's all the same to me), from a DEMO game which is solely for the benefit of the hobby as a whole, for the reasons Bruce gives in his letter. At any rate, there was no way I could not use his orders for the Spring 1901 deadline without further delaying the game. And since, as I said, this was to be a game that benefited the hobby, so I did NOT want a yet another delay. I want to alter Bruce's name as far as any claims in which he dropped because he's a "coward". An Asshole, maybe but not a coward. Perhaps I wouldn't feel that way if it weren't for the remarks in his letter to John about my personal abilities (which he knew and knows nothing whatsoever about) and the minor fact that he can't even manage to get my name right. I've met Bruce personally and I really kinda liked him. . . Oh, well, I guess that's about it; there's really not much else to tell. I just wanted all my readers to know what's goin' on in case you should hear something about this in another zine or something. So Bruce, you got a cleaned name, but next time don't be so disappointed that your MM's stopped arriving just because your FREE sub ceased when you dropped out of a DEMO game because you personally don't like the standby player who was called, and all at the last second when you had an entire month to let me know how you felt . . . (I won't get into the ethics of dropping a game on the grounds you don't LIKE someone; much less a Demonstration Game.))

Anyone else like to comment on this? Michael? Ron Kelly?

CHRISTMAS WISHES
by

Lois Anne Williams

May the songs of Christmas
Come softly to your ear,
And tell again the meaning
Of this blessed time of year.

May the bells of Christmas
Chime their tunes so bright and gay,
Ringing out their cheer and hope
On this glad Christmas Day.

May the peace of Christmas
Fill your heart with strength anew,
As you know what God gaveth
When He sent His Son to you.

May all the gifts of Christmas
Be a means of sharing love,
Like the gift of Christ, our Saviour,
Sent with love from God above.

May the joy of Christmas
Dwell so deep within your heart
That throughout the year to come
It never shall depart.

May the love of Christmas
Fill your heart and soul,
So peace on earth, good will toward men
Will be your greatest goal.

To this I would like to add one more stanza:

May your most secret plans,
Stay hushed and not be blabbed.
For in this game of DIPLOMACY,
You surely will be stabbed!

WRAP-UP

Well, that takes care of another one, somewhat brief though it was. I hope to have more next time for your reading pleasure (or pain if you will). There are a couple of articles that I've been meaning to get into ~~print~~ print and I will have plenty of time to get them to you. Watch out for the short deadline and get your orders here promptly by the 28th and allow for the heavy mail flows at this time of year. You should be reading this on the 10th or the 11th; that gives you almost exactly 3 weeks to the 28th. Bye, and have a Merry Christmas.

* * * * *
NOTES AND WORDS OF WISDOM:

SEE PAGE _____

WOULD YOU STANDBY IN _____ ON PAGE _____

TRADE X

SAMPLE _____

THANK YOU _____

SCREW + U _____

I'ma fool X

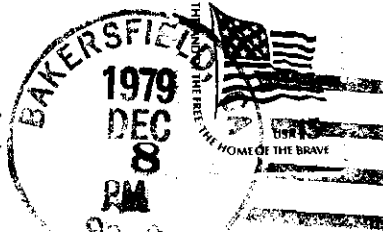
*Merry Christmas,
Ron & Char
(+ Coney)*

MURD'RING MINISTERS
Ron Brown
1528 El Sereno Pl.
Bakersfield, CA 93304

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