

ITALIAN-RUSSIAN-TURKISH BROKEN PLAY

73-10 (1973GR) Spring 1902

Austria-Hungary (Gary Peterson)

AGal-Vie, ABudSAGal-Vie, ASer-Gre, FGre-Aeg

England (David Lagerson)

FNwy-Swe, FLon-Eng, AYor-Bel, FNthC
AYor-Bel

France (Robert Vivian)

FBre-Pic, ASpa-Gas, FPor-Mid, FMar-Spa(SC), ABurSFBre-Pic

Germany (David Claman)

FDenSFNwy-Swe, AHolsAYor-Bel, ABer-Sil, AKie-Ruh, AMunSAKie-Ruh

Italy (Kevin Gallagher)

ATyr-Tri, FIon-Gre, FNap-Ion, ATun

Russia (Wayne Gildroy)

AVie-Tri, ARum-Bud, FSev-Rum, FBoth-Bal, FSTP(SC)-Fin

Turkey (Zane Parks)

ABul, AConSABul, FBlasARum, FSmy-Aeg

* * *

More moves on page twelve.

* * *

NEXT DEADLINES:

- 73-3: February 2; 73-4: February 2;
- 73-5: January 26; 73-6: January 26;
- 73-7: February 2; 73-8: January 26;
- 73-9: January 19; 73-10: February 2;
- 73-11: January 26; 73-12: January 19;
- 73-B: January 19; 73-D: January 26;
- 73-F: February 9

AQUATIC ANGLERS ADROITLY ADVANCE

73-5 (1973DX) Spring 1909

Austria-Hungary (Leo Plotkin)

ABul-Con, AMosSAWar-Liv, ATyr-Vie, AUkr-Sev, ANap, ASer, AVen-Rom, AWar-Liv, ABud-Rum, AVie-Gal, FGre-Ion, FAegSABul-Con, FIon-IMed

England (Alex Katzoff)

ASwe-Nwy, FDenSFNth-Hel, FSkaSFNwg-Nth, FNth-Hel, FEngSFNwg-Nth, FNwg-Nth

France (Eric Robinson)

FPor

Germany (Duncan Smith)

APru-Sil, APicSABel ((sic)), ASpa, ABre, ASil-Mun, FBelSFHel-Hol, FHel-Hol, FKie-Hel, FBer-Bal

Italy (Bruce Wachtler)

FTun

Russia (Evan Jones)

ASmy-Con, AStP-Nwy

Turkey (Greg Costikyan)

AAnkSFCcn, FConSAAnk

A proposal to roll the game back to Spring 1909, passed unanimously. This game is now bi-weekly.

* * *

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THE POUCH

c/o Nicholas A. Ulanov
60 East 8th Street
New York, N.Y. 10003

send letters, comments, and press releases to the above address.

guest articles are welcome. we pay five free issues for every article.

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Miles Smith

The following corrections should be made to the 73-6 moves last printed: StP is a new center for England and should have been underlined in the owned list. The French move AMar-Pie failed, and should have been underlined.

The following people have been away from their regular addresses, and are now back at their regular addresses (which follow): Ken Muszynski, Box 1091 31 McAlister Drive, New Orleans, LA 70118; Jonathan Jacobs, 1717 Pierce Tower, 5514 S. University Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60637; Glenn Pape, 5514 S. University Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60637; Wayne Gildroy, 1005 E. 60th Street, 623B Matthews, Chicago, Ill. 60637.

Because Jonathan Jacobs has been on vacation, he has had some mail foul-ups and requested a postponement of game 73-4. The postponement has been granted, and the moves are put off for three weeks.

We do badly need fifteen new subscribers by the end of the month. So far we have gained four and lost one. If there were ten weeks in a month this would be great. But there aren't. So please do what it seems you haven't done this far: help us. You've done it in the past. This time it's more important than before, because we have absolutely no control over the situation. Costs have gone up 60%, and the postal rate hikes are coming. We've raised our subscription costs once and can't do it again. So please, get a friend to sub.

The Anniversary Issue is on track, and we remind those of you whose subscriptions are running out, that if you renew, you will receive it as part of your regular subscription.

The POUCH is now read in California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, Washington, D.C., British Columbia, Ontario, Belgium, and England.

subscriptions are 10/\$2.00

page two

SHOULD THE IDA AND GRI SUBSIDIZE A ZINE?

A commentary by Nicholas A. Ulanov

As most of you know, Walt Buchanan is converting his popular Hoosier Archives into a large, off-set, bi-monthly zine to be called Diplomacy World. DW will carry news of the hobby, many articles, and in general carry on the activities of HA, only more so. I, along with many others, have hailed this move as good news for the hobby.

Recently, Walt has proposed that the IDA subsidize DW, and announced that John Moot, President of Games Research, Inc. (publisher of Diplomacy) has offered to pay him a salary of \$100 a month to publish DW. I am opposed to this because I believe that instead of helping the hobby greatly, as a non-subsidized DW would, DW with this aid would cripple it.

I think one of the great things about the hobby is that it does not involve only the making of moves and running of games, but friendships and interesting trivia and ideas related and un-related to Diplomacy. The hobby is wide and diverse today, I think, because there aren't just one or two zines dominating the hobby, which can feud and make life unpleasant for some or many, but instead there are many popular zines. I think that by subsidizing a zine, the IDA and GRI are making it possible for that zine to have an automatically high circulation, in fact one higher than that of any other zine. By subsidizing the zine, the organizations will seem to make the zine "official". Some will sub because of this. By subsidizing, large discounts on subscriptions can be offered, and this also attracts subscribers.

If I am right, and a large circulation is guaranteed, rather than earned, then this zine will have unwarranted dominance. Rod Walker has admitted that by classifying certain games irregular when he was the Boardman Numbers Custodian, for reasons he felt valid, he inadvertantly forced some publishers to change their house rules just to stop being classified as irregular. Thus, in a real way, his opinions of what made a game "regular" governed how games were played. In the same way, if Walt or a friend had an opinion on something and voiced it, he might force it on the hobby.

It would be fine if this dominance occurred because people felt his zine was so good that they all wanted to sub to it. I think Hoosier Archives is so good everyone ought to sub to it, and I expect to feel the same way about DW. Walt now deserves a great say in the affairs of the hobby because he has earned it by supplying a great zine. But if he is handed a large circulation, and thereby does not earn the important position, this is unfair.

Since I feel this is a very important matter and should not be decided by the Council alone, I have asked that the IDA membership decide the issue. In addition I feel the Council made a different decision than the majority of members would want. Upon receipt of my letter, Edi Birsan (the IDA's President) has agreed to a vote of the membership, and one will be carried out by means of the organization's newsletter, Diplomacy Review. The organization will be offered not merely a decision to subsidize or not, but if to subsidize, by how much.

This completely satisfies me. If the majority of the members disagree with me, then I will not object. And I would like to see a hobby-wide referendum on whether the hobby would like GRI to pay anyone to put out a zine, thus creating a professional zine in a sea of amateur ones.

I want to make one thing clear. My objections are not personal. I can think of no one better than Walt to handle the job. But I think the idea is wrong, and object on that ground alone.

Since I and the other editors feel this is an important matter for the whole hobby, we are reprinting the letters that Walt sent to the members of the IDA Council and my reply to them, on the following pages.

If you are not an IDA member, you should join the organization, but particularly do so now if you have a strong opinion on the IDA's subsidizing a zine. You can do so by sending \$2.00, dues, to Walt Buchanan (Treasurer), R.R. 3, Lebanon, Indiana 46052.

19 December 1973

R. R. #3

Lebanon, Ind. 46052

Gentlemen of the Council:

I have a daring proposal to make to you. Perhaps you have heard of my plans to convert the functions of Hoosier Archives into a bimonthly offset magazine called DIPLOMACY WORLD? Actually, what I envision for DIPLOMACY WORLD is more than that. I would like to see it become a professionally printed magazine on Diplomacy that ties the hobby together. It would start out with a format similar to PANZERFAUST's right before Don Greenwood turned it over to Don Lowry, or IFW's now defunct INTERNATIONAL WARGAMER. Anyway, it would feature articles about all aspects of the hobby, carry rating systems and game results, publish new blood lists, advertise game openings, feature news items from all the hobby's publishers, conduct surveys about different aspects of the hobby, feature demonstration games with press and analysis that would be made possible by continuing Hoosier Archives as a biweekly vehicle solely for this purpose, run a give-and-take letter column about all aspects of the hobby of general interest, or publish any other features that would prove profitable to the Diplomacy community as a whole. In addition, each issue would run at least 30 pages so topics can be dealt with in depth and presented as an organized whole.

But I am getting ahead of myself and you may wonder what this might specifically have to do with IDA.

Well, to make a long story short, John Moot, the President of GRI, stopped by for dinner last night. Cornwall Corporation, of which he's also the president, has a branch in Indianapolis, and so Mr. Moot is able to conveniently stop by to visit the archives on occasion. Anyway, John is interested in helping postal Diplomacy and he offered GRI as a sponsor for DIPLOMACY WORLD. He then made a very interesting proposal. He proposed that sponsorship of DIPLOMACY WORLD be a joint venture between GRI and IDA with myself as editor. What GRI would do is this. They would pay me \$100.00 per month to edit DIPLOMACY WORLD and would ask IDA to cover the cost of the magazine itself. He then asked me to make a proposal to the Council.

So for the sake of expediency, I am writing to you all directly and asking you to send me your vote on what I propose below. I sincerely hope I am not going out of bounds in doing so, but since the constitution allows any council member to ask for a vote on a matter during the last 2 calendar months of a year, I hope you will allow me the additional discretion of asking for a vote directly. The reason I do this is that I must announce the results of your decision to my subscribers in the last regular issue of Hoosier Archives which comes out in less than 2 weeks as it will influence the converting of their subs to DIPLOMACY WORLD. And with a circulation of over 200, this is a nice base from which to launch the new venture. I would like to say, too, that so far all my readers have been enthusiastic about the conversion.

But anyway, after much thought, what I propose is this. Anyone that has joined IDA for 1974 before the end of this year will be offered a subscription to DIPLOMACY WORLD at half price, and anyone that joins next year may subscribe for a \$1.00 discount, the balance to be made up by the IDA Treasury.

What this means is as follows. By the end of 1973 we will have approximately 100 1974 members, and a treasury balance of approximately \$650.00. I have figured that a reasonable subscription price for DIPLOMACY WORLD would be \$5.00/year. Therefore, to subsidize the subscriptions for the current membership would involve an outlay of \$250.00, assuming that everyone took advantage of the discount. In my opinion, this would accomplish 2 things. It would be a bonus for the dedicated members that participated in the recent election and joined for 1974 early, and it would give a shot in the arm to DIPLOMACY WORLD to rapidly make possible the 300 circulation figure that the \$5.00 annual subscription price is based on. Also, this would leave us with at least \$400.00 to carry out other projects next year, such as proposals to rescue orphan games in the hobby, etc. As far as the \$1.00 discount for members who join in 1974 is

concerned, this would basically be covered by their dues, as only about \$1.00 now goes to cover the cost of Diplomacy Review, and assuming all new members subbed to DIPLOMACY WORLD, we would still have the above \$400.00 to play around with for service projects.

One thing I want to make clear, however. In no way do I want DIPLOMACY WORLD to undercut the fine work that our editor, John Boyer, has done on Diplomacy Review. As I see it, the function of Diplomacy Review is completely different from DIPLOMACY WORLD. Diplomacy Review is basically the newsletter of IDA. As such, it conducts the organization's elections, presents council business to the membership, airs membership discussions, publishes committee and council members' reports, and in general publishes the business and topics of concern to the membership of IDA.

Before you make your decision, however, I would like to make a couple more points. First of all is the matter of my "salary" paid by GRI. John Moot felt I should receive some compensation for my services as editor of DIPLOMACY WORLD. I, however, regard the time I will spend as nothing more than the time I have spent on Hoosier Archives. Mainly the time is activity on a hobby which I enjoy and don't expect to be paid for. The labors of my wife, Carol, is another matter, however. I consider myself very lucky to have a wife, Carol, is another matter, however. I consider myself very lucky to have a wife that is so indulgent of me that she will assist me in a hobby in which she has no direct interest. True, she likes the press releases, interplay and meeting the people in the hobby, but she has no interest in the game itself. Therefore, I feel that she should be compensated in some way for the work that she will do for DIPLOMACY WORLD. As some of you know, Carol presently does the typing for Hoosier Archives, without which IDA would not exist. However, I feel guilty in asking Carol to do as much as she does, and for DIPLOMACY WORLD, I feel that if she is to continue to do the typing, she should be compensated in some way. By this I don't mean directly, but if Carol is going to spend a lot of time typing and preparing DIPLOMACY WORLD for camera-ready publication, I feel I should provide for some of the work that a housewife ordinarily does. This involves paying someone else to help baby-sit and clean house, work that Carol would normally do if she didn't have all the work on DIPLOMACY WORLD to do. In addition to typing, she will be doing the bookkeeping, the book work involved in keeping track of subscriptions, etc., so I can devote my time mainly to content. Hoosier Archives has consisted mainly of what others have sent me for publication, but for DIPLOMACY WORLD, I feel that some time should be spent doing basic research from the archives so that really original contributions can be made to the hobby through DIPLOMACY WORLD.

The second point is the matter of trades. To make DIPLOMACY WORLD the forum of information it should be, I must trade with everyone in the hobby. Since the hobby is fast approaching 100 publishers, we are talking about \$500.00 worth of trades a year. Therefore, in addition to Carol's compensation, the income from GRI will defray this expense. And as an added bonus, we will get the goodwill of all the publishers in the hobby since, with few exceptions, they will be getting more than they are giving.

Lastly--and this may be the most important result of this whole venture--by this co-sponsorship, GRI is at last recognizing IDA as the voice of the hobby. In the next GRI postal flyer and their other literature, GRI will prominently advertise DIPLOMACY WORLD along with IDA. We will therefore pick up new players as they first enter the hobby and this should cause a real boom in membership. I just hope that we are up to handling it, and maybe soon we should consider compensation for our editor, John Boyer, as well.

So please give me your vote on this matter by return mail. I am also sending this to the new 1974 council members since I feel they should have a voice in this matter, too, since it directly affects the near future of IDA. And I hope I haven't overstepped the bounds of democracy by writing to you directly. However, due to the urgency of a decision, I felt I should take the matter into my own hands.

Please give me a Yes or No vote since I must be sure of my footing when I go to print in the next Hoosier Archives at year's end. I would also be interested in any discussion you have on the matter. It is possible I have been too conservative in the proposed reimbursement figures since DIPLOMACY WORLD would be of substantial service to the members and I feel we should encourage as great an initial circulation as possible. But of course we must consider other uses we want to make of our treasury as well.

/s/ Walter Buchanan. V-P/Treas.

6 January 1974

Gentlemen of the Council:

First of all, a tally of the votes on my proposal of IDA sponsorship for DIPLOMACY WORLD is presented below. Although only the 1973 council vote is official, we may consider the 1974 council vote an advisory one, and I am, of course, very gratified that both councils passed my proposal by a healthy margin in spite of the fact that 3 and 2 members respectively did not vote. (Y = yes, D = debate)

| 1973 | | 1974 | |
|-----------|---|----------|---|
| Beyerlein | Y | Birsan | Y |
| Biehl | - | Bowers | Y |
| Birsan | Y | Boyer | Y |
| Bowers | Y | Brooks | Y |
| Boyer | Y | Buchanan | Y |
| Buchanan | Y | Fujihara | D |
| Feron | - | Hilliker | Y |
| Fujihara | D | Key | Y |
| Hilliker | Y | Leeder | Y |
| Nozik | - | Piggot | - |
| Weidmark | Y | Ulanov | - |

Now on to specifics. Only 3 council members, Birsan, Boyer, and Fujihara, raised any real points of discussion and I would like to go into these below. Some of these points I hadn't thought of before and I am glad they were raised. I only had a couple of days between Moot's visit and our trip to Colorado to think up a specific proposal and on reflection, I see I didn't consider all the angles involved.

First, however, I should give you some more news. While in Colorado I did a lot of figuring to see if it would be possible to lower the annual subscriber cost of DIPLOMACY WORLD any. \$5.00 for 6 issues seemed a little steep to me and I wanted to avoid anything that might be detrimental to a large circulation. Well, I have good news and think I have come up with the most economical and yet attractive format possible. By going to a 32 page, 7" x 8½" magazine (and by using one of the advantages of offset--type reduction--each page would still contain as much material as a page of Hoosier Archives with the bonus of artwork), I can put out a center-stapled magazine for only \$3.00 a year.

This means that a discount to IDA members probably doesn't need to be as much as I had proposed and unless a majority of council members feel the treasure should be more generous, I will only accept a \$1.00 subscription discount for IDA members, no matter when they joined.

I should also point out another discovery. Assuming all Hoosier Archives subbers allow their subs to be converted to DIPLOMACY WORLD (and I feel this is fairly certain), at the present time, there are only 26 IDA members that aren't already getting HA. This should further decrease the drain on the IDA treasury. Of course, when the discount is announced, some concurrent IDA members/HA subbers may come forward and ask for the discount also, but I propose to let this be an affirmative act on their part and not on mine. That way we are being fair and economical at the same time. And of course, the discount won't affect HA traders either.

So now to the most important question that was raised. What does IDA get out of all this? First of all I should say that I didn't want a direct grant (as Dave Fujihara in his letter proposed the council make). I have figured subs to cover the direct costs. The reason I asked for an IDA member discount was to encourage as large an IDA circulation as possible. Although the discount is a service to the IDA members, of course there should be other reasons for the discount since the funds will come out of the general treasury.

Well, in addition to GRI's de facto recognition of IDA that the co-sponsorship will bring about and the fact that GRI will advertise IDA, as well as DIPLOMACY WORLD, in future Diplomacy sets, I think that the main thing IDA will get from DIPLOMACY WORLD is a voice to the whole hobby. DIPLOMACY WORLD will go to every publisher and have a large circulation as well, and will make an ideal vehicle for Calhamer Award ballots, surveys, or any other project news that IDA would like to get out to the hobby as a whole. IDA can have unlimited use of DIPLOMACY WORLD for hobby-wide projects and any reasonable say as to content. It also goes without saying that IDA will be plugged at every opportunity.

I feel IDA will get very good advertising out of DIPLOMACY WORLD and, before the year is out, will have practically hobbywide acceptance with a much larger membership as well. In fact, if it is successful, I will propose that a sub to DIPLOMACY WORLD become an incident of IDA membership with a corresponding increase in dues.

John Boyer raised an interesting proposal. He suggested that Diplomacy Review be incorporated into DIPLOMACY WORLD. This I would be loathe to do. I feel that DIPLOMACY WORLD is serving an entirely different function than Diplomacy Review. DIPLOMACY WORLD is meant to be a magazine for the entire hobby with a content covering all general aspects of Diplomacy. Also, although I obviously think IDA sponsorship is desirable, I think it should have some autonomy from IDA. I hope to publish DIPLOMACY WORLD for some time to come and don't want it tied to IDA politics of the moment. This of course leads us to the function, as I see it, of Diplomacy Review. Diplomacy Review is meant to be the internal news vehicle for the membership of IDA. Although, of course, hobby-wide topics are covered, its main function is for internal discussions of IDA, which direction the organization should be heading, what the council is doing, proposed new projects, etc. I would not care to take room for this sort of thing in DIPLOMACY WORLD. Besides, the internal affairs of IDA shouldn't be aired in front of the whole postal hobby but should rather be confined to IDA's own news zine. So in summary, although there is some overlap, as I see it, the main function of DIPLOMACY WORLD will be to cover general aspects of postal Diplomacy, while Diplomacy Review covers internal affairs of IDA. This, by the way, is Diplomacy Review's purpose under the constitution.

John and Edi also proposed that with DIPLOMACY WORLD, I might consider running for IDA editor next time. While I am flattered by the suggestion, I am opposed to the same person publishing both DIPLOMACY WORLD and Diplomacy Review. This is both on grounds of lack of time and on principle, in that I believe that there should be some independence between the 2 publications.

Another point raised was that by sponsoring DIPLOMACY WORLD, was IDA setting a precedent that it would have to follow if other publishers came to the council with a proposal for assistance for a hobby-wide magazine. I personally don't feel that this is the case. I feel that the hobby is large enough to support only one of these ventures (in fact I'm gambling that it can even support one!) at the present time. I should make it clear, of course, that if someone else comes along whom the council feels could do a better job on a venture such as DIPLOMACY WORLD than I, they would have every right to withdraw the DIPLOMACY WORLD sponsorship and support the other venture. Sponsorships can be taken away as well as given. It is a different story with Diplomacy Review which is a constitutional obligation that the council by itself is powerless to change.

Lastly, the question was asked whether GRI had attached any strings to my "salary." Although nothing was put in writing, I don't believe so. John Moot is a very decent man and has a very sincere desire to aid the hobby. He believes that what is good for the hobby is good for GRI. Needless to say, if DIPLOMACY WORLD aids the growth of postal Diplomacy and helps to bring about order in the hobby, it will be good advertising for GRI and sell more sets.

So with this letter I turn the ball over to Edi for any further discussion he thinks might be desirable in CC. In any further discussion with GRI, however, I will proceed under the assumption that DIPLOMACY WORLD now has IDA sponsorship and IDA will finance a \$1.00 membership discount for subscriptions of IDA members.

Best,

/s/ Walter Buchanan
V-P/Treasurer

Members of the Council:

I am very sorry to see the vote on Walt's proposal. I have made no previous statement on the issue because there was not time for a letter to be distributed before the 1973 Council made its vote.

I am against Walt's proposal for several reasons. These are outlined in the enclosed letter, and ~~were~~ drafted based on Walt's original letter, and before I knew the results of the vote.

Since I live in New York, I have been able to talk with quite a few members of the hobby and of the IDA in particular. Every member I talked to (with the exception of Edi Birsan) was overwhelmingly against Walt's proposal. The game-masters and publishers I talked to were even more opposed to the proposal, a couple to the point of anger.

I feel this is a very important matter since, in my opinion, it will radically alter the hobby, and I feel that a vote of the entire membership of the IDA should have been taken, rather than just of the Council. In addition I am upset that no debate was possible on the issue. I think some votes would have changed had there been debate. I therefore propose that the matter be reopened to debate. Even if the whole organization is not polled, at the very least, there ought to be discussion in the Council. In fact a very good case can be made that Walt's proposal failed. He speaks in his letter of the "healthy margin" by which his proposal was passed. In fact, since the proposal involved the organization's money, a majority was needed to pass the proposal, a majority of all Council members. So to pass, the proposal needed seen affirmative votes. Roberts Rules of Order are the official rules for procedures of the organization, and according to several portions of the Rules, Walt would be ineligible to vote on the proposal. In this event, the proposal only had six favorable votes, and the proposal failed.

I am not trying to nit-pick. I do not care whether or not the proposal passed the 1973 Council. I only care that a debate takes place on the matter and that possibly the membership be polled on its views. I think the majority of members will be against the proposal. So, Walt, I ask you to please not withdraw the funds from the treasury until we have further discussion and possibly another vote.

Another point is this. I am already producing over twice as much material as Walt says he will with DIPLOMACY WORLD. I have figured it out, and I could produce an off-set zine over twice as large as DW without any more time than I now devote to The POUCH, indeed possibly less, and I can do it at the same subscription price as Walt without any aid from GRI or the IDA. I want to know then, if I can do it why can't Walt? And if he can't, why shouldn't we let someone who can, set up what will be the dominating force in the hobby?

Several people have urged me to do just this. But I think this is silly. I am happy doing what I am doing. But what really angers me and several other publishers is not just the IDA subsidy, but the GRI salary. If Walt is entitled to \$100 a month based on his projected 300 circulation, why am I not entitled right now to \$33.33 based on my circulation? Surely among the people my zine goes to I enhance and further the hobby as much as Walt does.

I am absolutely against any zine having any advantages over other zines other than the ones the zine's editor brings to it himself. Outside help of the kind Walt wants (from the IDA and GRI) is inherently unfair, it seems to me — unless I get a pro-rated sum too (along with every other zine editor).

I will not give up my opposition to this subsidization unless I can be shown that a majority of the members favor the IDA subsidization and a majority of the hobby supports the GRI salary.

Think what Walt's proposal means to publishers like myself. I am happy as I now am. But if I make the small (for me) changes necessary to go off-set at double the size of Walt's DW, and am subsidized in the same way Walt may be (by the IDA and GRI), I will not only not lose money, but make about \$1000 a year profit. So why shouldn't I? I don't know. If Walt's proposal is implemented, I may do it. I am perfectly willing to file the forms and pay the fees to make my enterprise legal (and to withhold N.Y. tax as Walt does Indiana tax), because I will still make a profit.

At least one publisher (Robert Lipton) says he will continue to oppose Walt's proposal no matter what happens.

You tell me. Why should one zine and one publisher essentially run the hobby? I, for one, if Walt's proposals go into effect, will either go off-set and compete with him, or fold. If other publishers did the same, we would run out of game openings. Walt's ideas are unfair in principal and in practice.

I cannot accept one zine out of eighty having such an overwhelming official position. Only if DW came to dominate on its own, on its own merits, would it be fair.

If Walt's proposal goes through, and GRI pays him the salary, I cannot but feel that we will destroy something near and dear to us. Not the hobby, for the hobby will always survive, but the IDA. With feelings as strongly against the proposal as I've seen them — at least on the part of some — the organization could not survive this. We certainly do not want a return to the days of feuding among different elements of the hobby and organizations.

Please reconsider your positions. Thank you.

Best,

/s/ Nicholas Ulanov

December 22, 1973

Members of the 1973 and 1974 Councils:

I would like to make some comments on Walt Buchanan's proposal.

I wish DIPLOMACY WORLD well, and have plugged it in my zine. But I feel that Walt's proposal will be detrimental to the IDA and the hobby.

While a sophisticated, professionally produced zine like DIPLOMACY WORLD can hardly be but beneficial to the hobby, one such as Walt described would stifle the hobby, I think. Since he will receive a salary from GRI, DW will automatically become the official organ of the hobby. This will hurt other zines. In addition, if the IDA supports DW in the way Walt suggests, DW will have such a firm base that it will dominate the hobby, possibly reducing the other "amateur" zines to functionaries for games alone, and relegating their press, articles, news, etc. to second-class status. In the face of this, I think we will find publishing starting to decrease and with it the number of game openings and the overall quality of the hobby.

The kind of subsidization Walt is asking from the IDA will reduce the IDA to nothing but an organization devoted to DW's support. Not only will we be making a large initial outlay (which alone might be a good idea to help launch Walt's effort), but half of our dues will go to supporting DW. Thus, if Walt does not anticipate replacing Diplomacy Review, we will effectively have no treasury (since half will go to DR and half to DW), and any projects we undertake would then have to be profit-making ventures. This is not a good position for a service organization. We could only remedy this by raising our dues, and I do not think our support of DW is worth it.

If rather than stifling other publishing in the hobby, an officially-supported DW ushered in a new period of professionally-produced zines, then DW would have an unfair competitive position. With its financial aids and because of an IDA-guaranteed large circulation, no other zine could compete with it without its publishers being willing to lose \$1000-\$2000 a year, or the zine's becoming the house organ of a new organization-rivalling the IDA, and we don't want that.

I do not feel a service organization such as the IDA should support or have a particular zine other than a members' newsletter. In a hobby with many zines we should not produce or aid one of our own, professional or otherwise. If we aid DW in the way Walt wants, we should subsidize every zine on the basis of its circulation — again, clearly not a good idea.

I agree that DW as described would be a tremendous effort and strain for Walt and his family, but if DW can't make it competitively, on its own merits, then I feel Walt should stick to his already excellent Hoosier Archives.

It is good to see that GRI accepts the IDA as the voice of the hobby, but we should not have to buy this acceptance with subsidization of a zine. We can and should earn such recognition through our regular activities.

It is wrong, perhaps even dangerous, for the hobby to have an "official" zine, which is what any zine aided financially by GRI or the

IDA must be. We do not need this, and, I think, should not do it. If DW needs this aid, that is truly unfortunate, but the needs of the hobby must go beyond the needs of DW.

I wish Walt every success with DW, and will help him in any way I can in an independent venture. But DW must not be allowed to become indispensable to the hobby, nor the hobby to it.

I urge you to vote no on Walt's proposal.

Regards,

/s/ Nicholas Ulanov

If you agree with me, please write me and tell me so. This support is vital if this subsidization is to be stopped. Write whether or not you belong to the IDA. If you disagree with me, please also write me. Tell me your reasons for disagreeing. You could change my mind.

And I might as well take this opportunity to ask you to send me any suggestions you have at all for the IDA or the hobby. Send me your suggestions whether or not you live in the Atlantic Region of the IDA.

Thanks.

ORIGINAL SIN DEPT.

by Evan Jones

The "Perfect Game" as Britain Using Simultaneous
Placement, or The U's Blues

Britain has the best chance of winning a simultaneous placement game. This can only be exploited by the exercising of a few rules.

There are only two acceptable openings in 1935: 4 Cze, 4 Pol, or 5 Ger, 3 Pol. The former is a much safer move. The latter has better results, if pulled off, but there is a good chance it won't be. You must have full U.S. and French support, and even with this support, a Fascist power play on Czechoslovakia or Poland will be almost an assured success. In either opening, you need some French and U.S. support.

I have only used the former opening myself, and it has always resulted in a win, three or four times being a perfect game. John Hendry, a Graustark player, favors the latter opening. If Britain holds Czechoslovakia, Poland, and maintains a U Ger, he is pretty much guaranteed a perfect game, unless he forgets his 1940 moves.

The best time to try for a U Ger is 1937, 1936 is a little early because you cannot prevent a German 2:1 in Poland or Czechoslovakia unless you stock up there. You must, by all means, have a U Ger by 1939. If you hold U Ger and U Rus, you don't have to throw any more into the border countries, and you can stockpile all your non-necessary pf's until 1940.

(continued next page)

NEVER establish U Fra, U Ita, or U USA until 1940. If you don't you will have a relatively low score in 1939, and no one will probably attack you just to reduce your 'pf's. Then, in 1940, grab France, Italy, and the U.S. If you withstand a possible 1:1 attack in Germany, and have managed to hang on to Poland and Czechoslovakia, you will have clinched a perfecto.

* * * * *

Diplomacy moves (continued)

PLOTKIN STEPS IN MAN-HOLE AGAIN

73-7 (1973FI) Spring 1904

Austria-Hungary (Ronald Kelly) ABoh-Sil, ABud-Gal, AVenSABud-Gal, ARumSABud-Gal, ATyr-Ven, FTrisATyr-Ven

England (Leo Plotkin) FLiv-Cly, FIri-Eng, FLan-Wal, ANwy

France (Don Pitsch) FMid-Iri, AWal-Liv, FNatSAWal-Liv, AMar, FEng-Lon

Germany (Mike Ritter) FDen-Bal, AKie-Den, AMun-Kie, AHol-Ruh, ABelSAHol-Ruh, FNthSFEng-Lon

Italy (Jamie Adams) no moves received. APie, ARom

Russia (Duncan Smith) AMos-Sev, AUkrSAMos-Sev, AGal-Rum (-War), ALiv-Mos

Turkey (John Stevens) FCon-Aeg, FAnk-Con, FTun-WMed, FIon-Tyr, ABulSARum, FSevSARum, AArmSFSev

GERMANS AND AUSTRIANS STILL GETTING ON?!?

73-3 (1973BY) Spring 1904

Austria-Hungary (Jamie Adams) AVen-Boh, AWar-Sil, ABud-Vie, ATri-Ven, FAdr-Apu, FGreSFEMed-Ion

England (Nicholas Ulanov) FEdi-Nth, FYorSFEdi-Nth, FSkaSFEdi-Nth (-Swe)

France (Leo Plotkin) AGas-Mar, APar-Bur, APic-Wal, FEngCAPic-Wal FMar-GLyo

Germany (Duncan Smith) ABur-Mun, ABel, AMun-Sil, AHolsABel, FKie-Den, FDen-Ska, FNwysFDen

• Italy (Douglas Dick) AVen, APieSAVen, FIon-Gre, FNap-Ion

Russia (Gil Neiger) ALiv-StP, FStP(SC)-Both

Turkey (John Arensmeyer) FTyr-WMed, FGasSFGre-Ion, FCon-Aeg, FBla-Rum, AMos-StP, AUkr-Mos

The game's name is SINAI, if you haven't figured it out, and it's SPI's latest, and most interesting of their modern era games. The game is a recreation of the Arab-Isreali wars of 1956, 1967, 1973, and the future.

By nature, this game is a multi-front one. It pits the Isreali player against the Arab player, who is controlling forces in Syria, Jordan and Egypt (as well as Arab allies like Kuwait, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, and Saudi Arabia). The game is also multi-scenario, and I will describe each scenario separately, as each is practically a different game.

The 1956 scenario is the simplest. In the historical version, the Isrealis face the Egyptians alone. The Isrealis can overpower their enemy and within three days, the Egyptian morale breaks down. The Isreali goal is to take Sharm-el-Shiesh (at the tip of the peninsula), as well as the roads leading to the Suez ferry points as soon as possible. The Arab player must hold him off as long as he can. While it is practically impossible for the Egyptian to actually "win the war", he may find himself destroyed and still "winning the game". There are variations to this scenario, which include Jordanian participation, a semites only scenario (assumes that the British and French did not attack Egypt at the same time as Israel) and a Jihad (Arabic for holy war) which combines the two.

The 1967 scenario is the basic one, from the designer's viewpoint. Here the Israelis, with a better army than before, face Arabs on all three fronts. The Egyptians are much stronger. The Jordanians, who pose a serious threat to New Jerusalem, will almost definitely enter the war. The Syrians, although weak, have the advantage that they are defending behind the Jordan River, and in the Golan Heights and their own forts. This is a true three-front war for Israel, as the Arabs cannot effectively combine forces due to the realistic Arab non-cooperation rule. Here again, the Egyptian morale breaks fast, and the Arab player will find half his Egyptians retreating by themselves after the first day. The Jordanians pose the most serious threat to the Isrealis, as their army is far better organised than the Egyptian or Syrian, but still,

it is no match for for the Isreali. Here, the Israeli goal is to capture the suez crossing points, drive the Jordanians off the West bank, and drive the Syrians out of Syria (on the map only a small part of Syria is shown, besides the Golan Heights). Again, he must do this extremely quickly. An unforeseen delay can turn a decisive victory one way, the other way. Here there are countless variations, from quicker Iraqi response, to better Syrian and Egyptian officer Corps, to a united Arab front against Israel, to an Israel napping scenario, to a Jihad which combines the above and more.

The 1973 scenarios are different than the other two. The Isrealis are quite literally caught "with their pants down", and the Egyptians and Syrians can make quick gains in the Sinai and Golan Heights, respectively. But the Israeli mobilization is quick, and the Arab player may find himself losing ground, especially in Syria. Jordan usually does not enter the war, although she may send troops to Syria. This scenario shows the use by the Arabs of the SAM's (surface-to-air-mis-
sile). These have a large effect on the Arab defense ability, and against Israeli air attack. The Arabs, naturally, have the opening advantage, as the Israelis start with only seven units (three vs. the Egyptians, one vs. the Syrians, and three (paratroops) in reserve). But the Arab player must be careful, as the Israeli have a very strong army, once mobilized. The victory conditions in this scenario are actual; that is, if you win the game, you've won the war.

Finally, there are the mid-70's scenarios. These represent hypothetical actions in the future. There are several. There is one similar to the 1973 scenario. There are some assuming Libyan and definite Jordanian intervention in the war. The radically different ones are the full mobilization scenarios, where the Israelis are assumed to have had warning of the war; and the "race for the Sinai" scenarios, in which it is assumed that the Israelis withdrew (or withdraw) from the Sinai and Jordan west bank (but not new Jerusalem or the Golan Heights). There are evn scenarios assuming USSR and USA intervention! Of course there's a Jihad.

Sinai is not one game, but several. All are completely different in strategic outlook. The tactics are similar to many games: the combat is resolved on a differential (not ratio) system, and oddly enough, the combat results reflects the distance of a defender's retreat. No results affect the attacker, and the only way that units are destroy-

ed is by surrounding them or overrunning them. The tactical system in Sinai is the perfect culmination of the new differential system.

Sinai, like most SPI games is \$7.00. All SPI games and back issues are \$7.00, and boxed, except Strategy I (\$15.00) and 1812 (\$12.00). The current issue is always available for \$4.00 unboxed. Right now, the current issue is #42, containing the game, The East is Red, about a hypothetical war between China and the USSR in the future, in Manchuria. All the games are sent post-paid to the USA, via UPS. All foreign orders (including Canada) must add \$1.50 per game. Subscription to S&T are \$12/one yr., \$22/2 yrs., and \$30/3 yrs. \$6 foreign postage. Oh by the way, in February, SPI should be coming out with War in the East, an immense game on the Russian front in World War Two. The map is four times as large (44"X56") as a regular board and contains 2000 counters. It's a whopper and costs \$20.00.

* * *

73-9 (Somewhere in the South of Europe(I DUNNO))

Somewhere, the bright sun is shining on a golden people, but they cannot appreciate it, for they are beset by enemies, the worst of these being the logorhea of a certain insular nation of Blue Meanies. These people insist that the golden people are cowardly.

Since the golden people are under attack by every nation bordering this noble race with the exception of the other nation that is being attacked by everyone else, and holding them off, this is obviously false.

This being the case, it is amazing that the golden people have managed to hang onto their formidable generosity.

But they have managed to do so. Dispite the disrespectful attitude of the insular people, the golden people generously make the following offer: Since the blue, insular people have complained that they do not have enough supply centers, they offer them the golden people's. Come and take them if you want, but for God's sake, close your fucking dirty mouth!

EVAC PRINTOUT.....

EVAN JR AND BROTHER OF BABE HEUER, BASEBALL STAR, WAS SEEN EATING A DILLER PICKLE IN A DELICATESSEN. THIS DILLER PICKLE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING AT THE AFTERMATH OF THE EATING: " I AHVE NOT BEEN EATEN LIKE THAT SINCE 1945". A PERSONAL FROM EVAN JR TO CARLINA: NOT TONIGHT, I HAVE A HEADACHE.....

73-8 (I AM A SPY; YELLOW. THE AUTOPIOGRAPHY OF KIMBALL DREK)

Part I. BIRTH

My father, Elmer Drek, worked in the Sultan's stables. That's where he got the nickname "Horse" Drek. My mother, Hermine Schwartz, was an Armenian jew suffering from frequent bouts of insanity. It wasn't too uncommon to come one day from school, only to see her trying to get our dog, Moslem, to dance with her. I was born in 1881 in Moslemville. At first, my father wanted to name me Cow Drek, but at my mother's insistance they decided to name me Camel Drek. I later changed that to Kimball. I have to admit that both of my parents were responsible for my birth. At least I hope they were!

(NEXT WEEK Pt II. EDUCATION)

73-7 (THE SHOOTOUT. A LUKE LEPANTO WESTERN)

Luke, riding Old Pain, and his friend and confident, Manny Chevitz, the Jewish Mohican midget, were now deep into Turkish held South Russia. Luke was pondering, how he was going to kill the Grand Visier and Ham-bone Alli, when three Turkish soldiers marched up to him.

"Halt, Halt", they screamed out in Turkish.

"We no speako no anglo", Luke answered.

"They not speak English, Luke, they speak Turkish", Manny said to his friend.

"Oh Yeah, they those Islamies I've hoyd about, Them people who believe that Mohammed Alli is their god!" Luke said.

"Praise be to Allah, long live Mohammed!" the Turks screamed out in unison.

All of a sudden another Turkish soldier appeared on the horizon.

"Hello, I'm Colonel Abdul De Gaulle. As you can see I can speak English. I have heard of your reputation as a gunfighter. I consider myself pretty good with a gun. I would consider it an honor to have a shootout with you. How about it?"

"Well it seems to me that that's a good idea, patner! Let's get at it!" Luke said as he dismounted from his horse.

At the count of three they both reached for their holsters. Luke pulled out his pearl handle Colt 45, twirled it in his hand, threw it in the air, caught it in his left, twirled it again, and then passed to his right hand and pulled the trigger. The colonel was splattered all over the place. He hadn't even gotten his gun out of his holster. Luke was fast.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

73-5 (THE CASE OF THE BALD SABER TOOTH NEIGER. A PEGGY BACON MYSTERY)

Nigger Niger Neiger was worried. As expected the jury had been picked and the jury was an all rayrilla one. Still Peggy Bacon had found some witnesses who would swear that he wasn't even close to the scene of the crime. Still the prosecution had made a good case in the first day; They had proven beyond a doubt that Nigger Neiger was a Saber Tooth Neiger. That was enough in itself. By the second day they had proven that it was possible for the Saber Tooth Neiger to walk twenty miles in three minutes; Saber Tooth Neigers are so athletic. And that was why Nigger Niger Neiger was worried. Today was the day when Peggy Bacon would call his most important witness: Elmer Fudd. Elmer Fudd was a famous industrialist, a Rayrilla of course.

PEGGY: Is there any chance that you were near the scene of the crime at 2:00, when the crime occurred?

ELMER: No, there is not.

PEGGY: Then perhaps you could explain to us why sixteen people saw you there.

ELMER: No, I couldn't.

PEGGY: Then perhaps you could tell us why the Rayrilla hair found on the raped Neigerettes's body match yours?

ELMER: I don't know.

PEGGY: Isn't it a fact that you raped and killed the Neigerette?

ELMER: No, no, it's not true....(breaks down and starts to cry). Yes, yes, I did it. She was so cute....so pretty.....so neigerish.....

Nigger Niger Neiger was no longer worried and neither was Peggy Bacon. He was a great lawyer. The all-Rayrilla jury filed out into the jury room.

Five minutes later they came back in. Peggy Bacon and Nigger Neiger stood up.

"Have you reached a decision?" the judge asked.

"Yes, we have your honor. We find the defendant guilty on all charges." the head jurymen answered.

Peggy Bacon and Nigger Neiger fell back in their seat in total surprise. This meant a life sentence for Nigger Neiger and even worse: Peggy Bacon had lost a case!

EPILOGUE

Nigger Niger Neiger was sentenced to life imprisonment. Two weeks of his sentence had passed when they found him hanging in his cell, with his hands and legs tied up. An all-Rayrilla jury called it suicide. Peggy Bacon was murdered by a rightist Rayrilla. Elmer Fudd became Prime Minister of South Apricot.

Having essentially completed my work on The POUCH Awards (which will be announced in the Anniversary Issue), I have been thinking about the major awards of the hobby, now known as the Calhaver Awards. There is a major problem with how many perceive them. Essentially what they are, is an acknowledgement of what the majority of the hobby sees as the best zine, GM, player, and the like.

But most people perceive them as supposedly declaring what the best zine, or player really is. There are very few who do not disagree with the majority of those who vote for the Awards on at least one category, and so they declare the whole thing ludicrous or a waste.

This is too bad. Because the Awards are interesting, and they do have meaning. They are quite simply, a statement of what most people like. Not necessarily what's best. Most people do not like going to concerts, but that does not make them fools, or concerts wrong. It is useful to know what the majority feels. It is a compliment to those who win an award. But we should bear in mind that whatever is most popular is rarely what is in fact best.

So let's see the Awards for what they are: judgements of mass popularity. Let's keep them. Let's enjoy them.

It occurs to me that I may not be getting as much mail as in the past because my address has not been published lately. It is: c/o Miss Joan Bel Geddes, Room 423, 866 United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017. Write!

The POUCH
c/o Nicholas A. Ulanov
60 East 8th Street
New York, N.Y. 10003

address correction requested

