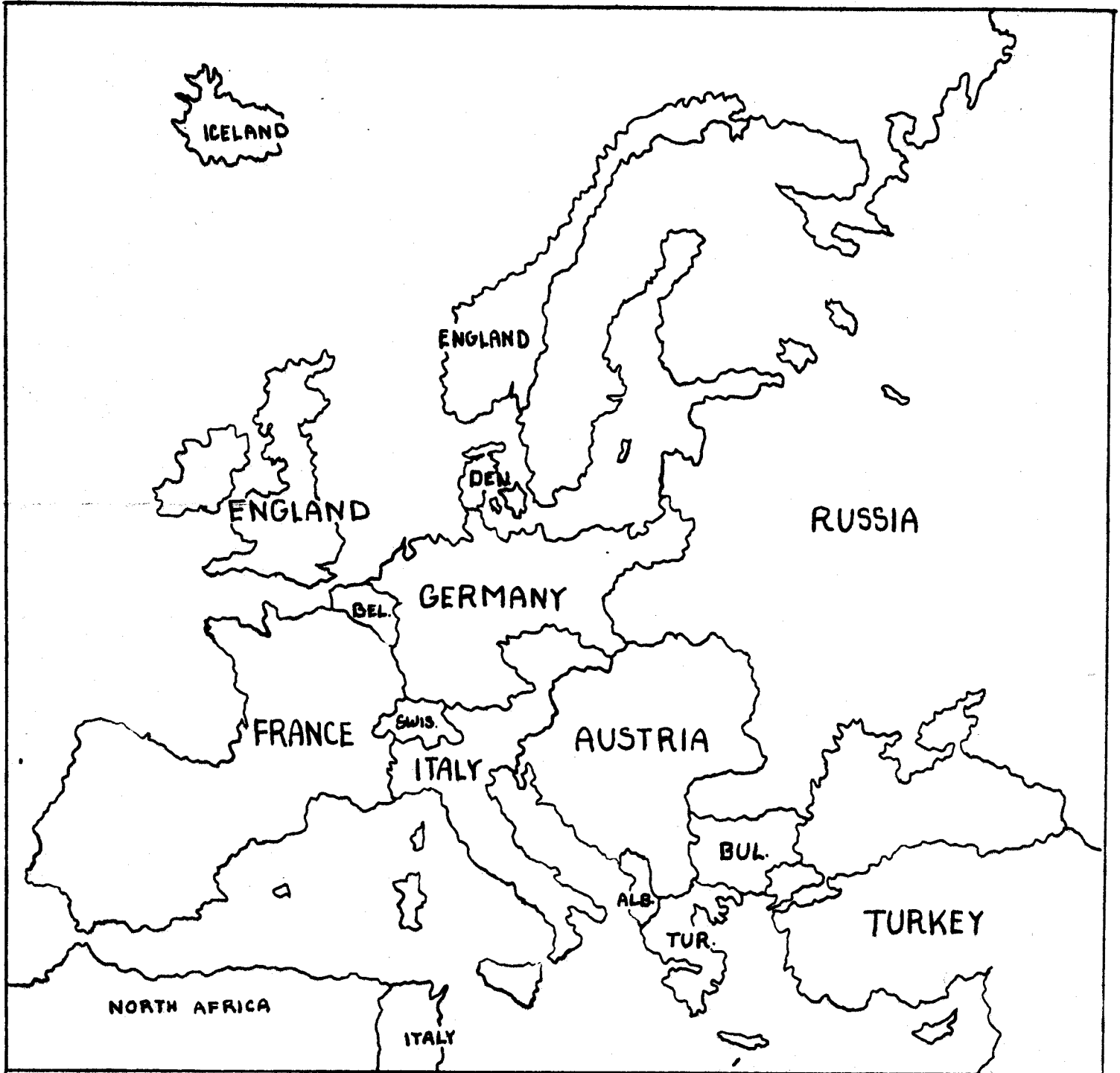


# REBUS SIC STANTIBUS

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 8

JULY 1976



**GRAND TOURNAMENT SITUATION**

REBUS SIC STANTIBUS

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The adjoining picture was taken from the picture collection of the New York Public Library.



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# THE MAN OF THE MONTH

A Founding Father for Diplomats, Aaron Burr.....by Drew McGee

In light of the American Bicentennial celebration, we have looked to the early decades of American history to find a man worthy of our monthly tribute. For July of 1976, we salute the third Vice President of the United States, Aaron Burr.

Unfortunately, we do not have the time or the space to fully recount the life of our first American master of intrigue. Here we will only present a rough outline of Burr's greatest gameplan.

In 1804, Burr's term as Vice President was coming to an end. Having stabbed President Jefferson more than once, even having tried to keep his fellow Democrat from being elected, he did not even try to retain his post. He ran for the governorship of New York, but owing to the efforts of Alexander Hamilton, who came out of political retirement to oppose Burr, he lost the election. Soon afterward, Burr and Hamilton fought their famous duel, ending in Hamilton's death. Burr was charged with murder and had to leave his home state of New York. His career appeared to be in ruins. But our Man of the Month had only begun his great campaign.

While escaping from New York, Burr began his plan. If the United States would not provide him with a position suitable for a man of his self-realized abilities, Burr would have to create a country of his own.

He was still Vice President, a post he would hold until his successor would take office in 1805. As such he could command the attention of many people. This final political asset would be used to the fullest.

He approached the British minister to Washington, Anthony Merry, and met with him in Philadelphia. Quite calmly, over dinner, Burr proposed outright treason. If the British government would provide him

with money, ships and munitions, he would split the United States in two, taking all of Louisiana, and perhaps Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio, into a new country, an empire to be ruled by Aaron I. The British had grown apprehensive about the growing United States. The dismembering of the new power would be quite useful to them. Merry passed on the plan to London.

Burr then travelled to Georgia to finish planning and avoid arrest. Then when congress went back into session, without fear of arrest as the presiding officer of the Senate, he returned to Washington.

There, with amazing but brilliant gall, Burr approached Jefferson for a much needed favor. The President had to make a number of appointments to the territorial government of Louisiana. For reasons of pity, we must presume, Jefferson appointed Burr's lifelong friend General Wilkinson as military governor of Upper Louisiana; John Prevost, Burr's stepson, as judge of the superior court of New Orleans; and Joseph Brown, Burr's daughter's brother-in-law, as Secretary of the territorial government. Jefferson had freely given Burr a power base in Louisiana.

Having secured a good post for Wilkinson, Burr told him of his plan for a new country. To Burr's relief, the general agreed to participate. To his surprise, Wilkinson informed Burr that he had for years been a secret agent in the employ of Spain. It was agreed that Spain would be approached if England did not come through.

Burr returned to Philadelphia for another secret meeting with Merry. London was interested and wanted to know more specifics. Burr asked for £100,000 and two heavily armed frigates. In return Burr promised not only to neutralize the United States but also to attack Mexico and halt Spanish growth in North America.

While this was going on, Wilkinson secured the cooperation of Spain.

Feeling that the interest of London

was enough to go on, Burr began to work. From Philadelphia, he journeyed to Pittsburg to begin his tour of the West to recruit rebels. In towns all along the western rivers, Burr stopped to mingle with the frontiersmen who were happy to get their first look at a prominent person, even a former vice-president. Burr knew that dueling was not considered immoral in the West, and that Hamilton was very much disliked in the region. To some, for killing Hamilton, he was a hero. He also knew that the people felt that Washington was not representing their interest. The people cheered Burr, hoping that he might be able to help them if he returned to power.

On Backus island, in the Ohio, Burr recruited Hermal Blennerhassett, an eccentric millionaire, to help raise money and purchase supplies.

In Cincinnati he met former New Jersey Senator Jonathan Dayton, there rebuilding his political future. Dayton agreed to join the plot, and was to become Burr's prime minister. He stayed in Ohio to build support and then moved to Washington.

Burr grew bold in Louisiana, in Natchez even addressing a crowd openly advocating that the West secede from the Union if it did not better represent them.

In New Orleans, he charmed the Spanish and French speaking communities, informing them that he had always spoken for their interests in Washington. Having no reason to know otherwise, and Burr being the highest Federal official they had ever seen, the people were at once swept into a Burr fan club. The local merchants were approached openly, though individually, about the plan. With New Orleans as a capital of a new great country, they would all profit. The merchants gave greatly to the coffers of the plot.

Thinking that he had enough support in the west to bring the people around to his ideas of empire if he had the warships to back him up, Burr returned to Washington to complete arrangements with Merry. Sad news awaited him there.

The British minister informed the New Jersey born emperor that London had

lost interest in the plan. Burr was shocked but did not panic. He knew that he was in trouble. Too many people knew of the plot for him to wait long, but without the ability to make a show of force his coup would certainly fail. Rumors were circulating. People wondered why Burr had traveled to New Orleans only to return to the Capital. But Burr was undaunted.

At Burr's request, Wilkinson, then at his post in St. Louis, arranged for a conference between the Spanish minister, the Marquis de Casa Yrujo, Burr and Dayton. Burr's story for Spanish consumption was even more grandiose. If the new empire were to be established, Burr would march on Washington and install himself as the ruler of all of the United States. As such he would be a firm ally of Madrid.

The Spanish minister bought it and wrote to Madrid for aid. The Marquis even made a loan to Burr so that he could live in style while Madrid responded. Six months later, Burr was again rejected.

Burr took all the pressure of waiting well, but Wilkinson did not. He began to worry about his own skin and to start to cover his tracks.

Without foreign aid, Burr again changed his plan. In 1806, Jefferson, reacting to rumors of Spanish invasion, sent Wilkinson and his army into the field. Burr decided that the regular army under Wilkinson and a private army under Burr would invade Mexico and seize it. This would allow for complete expansion of the West to the Pacific and for Burr to be a great and popular hero. With popular acclaim, Burr could announce that he had taken Mexico for his own state and had done it all against the wishes of Jefferson and the United States. To keep Mexico the westerners would have to join Burr's empire.

The private army was put together on Blennerhassett's island, drilling every day under Burr's direction. The recruited farmboys had no idea that they were not going off to Mexico for Burr's benefit and not that of the United States.

Wilkinson knew that the invasion of Mexico was not at all so easy. For him this

it. He had lost faith in the scheme. He decided to abandon Burr.

In order to avoid any suspicion of himself, Wilkinson wrote to Jefferson that he had heard of a plot for the West to secede. General Wilkinson gave his commander in chief only the broad outlines of the plot. If he had given more, the President would have wondered why his general had not acted sooner.

Jefferson immediately thought of Burr. He issued a blanket arrest order for federal troops to seize those "plotting against the United States."

Burr was captured after escaping a number of times. He was brought to Richmond for trial for treason.

It comes as a surprise to many that Burr was acquitted. It shouldn't. Burr was not only a politician, but also a very clever lawyer. Treason is defined in the Constitution of the United States (Art. II, section 3). It requires that two persons testify to one overt act of treason before one can be convicted of the crime.

With the exception of the diplomats and his fellow conspirators, no two persons every saw an overt act of treason.

Of course, Burr really now was ruined. The rest of his life was never as grand. He plotted, of course, but no one ever listened to him again.

Burr travelled to Europe, and then returned to New York after many years. In 1836, on Staten Island, one mile from the offices of this publication, our Man of the Month went off to meet the great Gamemaster in the sky. Burr lost his life's game, but, oh, he had played so greatly!

What lessons did Burr give us? Of course, that treason rarely pays, and that having a few principles makes one easier to get along with.

We can't urge our readers enough to read Burr's life story. We had to leave so much out (Burr's founding of Tammany Hall, his plot to deny Jefferson the Presidency, his maneuvering for high rank during the Revolutionary War, etc.). He was a real bastard, but you'll love him.

## GUEST FEATURE

Horticultural News.....by Albert Hofmann

Busted, Busted As everyone knows, Louise Lasser (Mary Hartman) was recently busted for possession of coke. After being tried she was sentenced to continue her therapy under her shrink. Just try to get off like that if you're busted and see what happens. Call yourself "the Defendant, the Defendant."

Carter Endorses Decriminalization When interviewed by A. Craig Copetas, News Editor of High Times magazine, Democratic presidential hopeful Jimmy Carter took an unusually rational position but, as usual

for him, seemed only to be suggesting moral leadership, and not a political stand, on the marijuana issue. Said Carter, "I favor the decriminalization of marijuana, but I'm not sure about the legitimacy of the federal government making this rule. Now in the field of alcohol, for instance, it's been a right reserved for the states and I don't think there are any uniform federal laws on the sale of alcohol except for the taxation of it. I think that decriminalization is a matter best left up to the states for the time being." (High Times, June, 1976)

No one bothered to ask for President Ford's opinion.

Try It Hot... Recent scientific research has shown that the best liquid for water pipes is hot water. Wine, so popularly used, is probably the worst.

The essential elements of cannabinoids (including THC) will vaporize in hot water and pass cleanly through it, but non-psychoactive elements, being tars, will be better suspended in a hot liquid than a cold one.

These essential elements (THC), tend to dissolve in alcohol, and are thus lost to the smoker.

You will also find that steam, if not too hot, will sooth the throat.

Especially Where It's Cold This year Alaska joined the list of enlightened states that have decriminalized grass.

## LETTERS

Dear McGee,

Back in April I signed up for your next Dip game. You said I'd probably get into a game starting in the May issue, and if not, then in June. When the May issue came it had a list of players, but no addresses or countries, so we've been waiting in suspense and disgust, for a whole month for the June issue.

Now, with it overdue a whole week, my patience is worn out. Some of you veterans of postal Dip just consider it a chore, drudgery maybe. But, to us novices, eager and anxious, awaiting every day's mail hoping that for mercy's sake that overdue Rebus would be in it, this is pain and distress!

Fortunately for me I'm in another game, in Graustark, and have been writing one or two long letters every day anyway. But probably some in your new game are really sick

from disappointment at your slackness, or whatever it is. There was no adequate reason for delay it a month after the roster was filled. Any who had not submitted a preference list didn't care enough to object much to assignment by draw-lot, and a whole month has been wasted, a whole month in the Dip career 7 (or 6 1/2, or whatever) precious players. We'd have all signed up in some established 'zine and been playing 5 or 6 weeks now, if we'd known of you're slackness.

Perhaps you're sick, or in jail, or in one of those spells of depression that beset Irish males. But snap out of it, get well, get out on bail, or something!

Curt Gibson

[We would like to point out at this time that Rebus is published on the fifteenth of each month. It was three days late in June.]

## FIRST REGULAR GAME

1976 BE

Spring 1902

Austria

A Vie (S) A Bud-Gal

AUSTRIA FIGHTS TURKEY, RUSSIA. GERMANY  
FIGHTS ENGLAND, FRANCE. ITALY IN KEY SPOT.

Dave Malmquist

A Bud-Gal

A Rum-Bul

A Ser (S) A Rum-Bul

England  
Don Rittel

A Alb-Gre  
F Lon-Nth  
A Yor-H  
F Nwy-Ska  
F Nth-Hel

France  
Bob Normand

A Spa-Gas  
F Por-Mid  
A Bur-Bel  
F Bre-Pic  
F Lon-Nth

Turkey  
Eck Nelson

F Con-Aeg  
A Ank-Con  
A Bul (S) RUSSIAN A  
Sev-Rum (Annihilated)

Germany  
Jim Diehl

F Ber-Bal  
A Mun-Ruh  
F Den-Hel  
A Bel (S) A Kie-Hol  
A Kie-Hol

Italy  
Jerry Rogowski

F Nap-Ion  
A Tyr-Mun  
A Pie-H  
F Tun-Tyr

Russia  
Bob Segeant

A War-Ukr  
F Swe-H'  
A Gal-Bud (retreat to  
War, Sil)  
A Sev-Rum  
F Bla (S) A Sev-Rum

## SECOND REGULAR GAME

There seems to be a great deal of confusion in the game surrounding Austria. After publication of the June issue, I received a letter from Jad Dittmar informing me that he was resigning from the game. Accordingly he has been replaced by Dave Staples. Mr. Dittmar is no longer in the game!

The address for Dave Staples is;

c/o Historical Interpretation Org.  
P.O. Box 651  
West Fargo, N.D. 58078

The deadline is on the last page.

## GRAND TOURNAMENT DIPLOMACY

1976 Dhd

Fall 1901

Vincent Tsao  
Phil McGee  
Ian Jeffery

A Ukr-Rum  
F Bot-Swe  
F Rum-N.M.R. (Hold) (dislodged  
retreat to Bla, Bul)

AUSTRIA STRUCK WITH PLAGUE, DUDS. EUROPEAN  
KINGS' CONTROL OVER COMMANDERS WEAKENING.  
MAYBE ITALY REALLYS IS AT WAR WITH RUSSIA.

note: The rules for GTD provide for the  
units of one country to be able to dis-  
lodge another unit of the same country.

Russia

Nina Pawlak A Sev (S) A Ukr-Rum

The retreat of the Russian fleet in Rum is up to its commander, Ian Jeffery. If he retreats the unit to Bul, Russia will get three builds instead of two.

France

Harley Jordan     A Bur-Bel  
 Dennis Klien     F Mid-Por  
 (no commander)   A Spa-N.M.R. (hold)

note: With his last moves, Bob Sergeant notified the Gamemaster of his resignation from the game. The GM notified the King of France, Harley Jordan. The King has chosen not to name a commander at this time. The unit will stand unordered until given a commander.

Italy

Bob Sacks        A Ven-H  
 John Machir     F Ion-Tun  
 Karl Schuetz    A Tyr-Boh

Germany

Jim Diehl        A Ruh-Hol  
 Lee Kendter     A Ber-Mun  
 Bill McDonough  F Kie-N.M.R. (hold)

note: players should study note below.

England

John Kador      F Eng-Bel  
 Don Rittel      F Nth-Nwy  
 Gary Carson     A Liv-N.M.R. (hold) (PLAY  
                   DEATH FOR CARSON!)

note: Under rule 24 of GTD, a player who misses three consecutive moves can be removed from the game by the Gamemaster. Gary Carson, having missed three straight moves, including the election, is hereby removed from the game.

John Kador, the King of England, has appointed Don Rittel as the new commander of the English Army Liverpool.

Every player should not that, as the English King was informed by the GM, Don's appointment takes effect immediately upon receipt and that Don could have ordered movement for the English Army this turn if he had submitted moves.

Turkey

Will McCullam   F Con-Aeg  
 Bob Normand     A Bul-Gre  
 Rick Solomon    A Arm-N.M.R. (hold)

Austria

Dennis Nagle    A Vie-N.M.R. (hold)  
 Chuck Doehrer   F Tri-H  
 Bruce Martin    A Ser-N.M.R. (hold)

[underlined orders fail]

Supply Center Chart

Russia:

Mos, Stp, War, Sev, Swe, Rum (6-build 2)

France:

Par, Bre, Mar, Spa, Por (5-build 2)

Italy:

Rm, Nap, Ven, Tun (4-build 1)

Germany:

Ber, Mun, Kie, Hol (4-build 1)

England:

Lon, Liv, Edi, Nwy (4-build 1)

Turkey:

Con, Ank, Smy, Gre (4-build 1)

Austria:

Vie, Bud, Tri, Ser (4-build 1)

[underlined are gained centers]

Commentary

The players are reminded that the commanders must retreat their own units and that only the kings can make build orders, and that they can not name themselves to the command of newly built units.

To a now very distressing subject, why have there been so many NMR's? Are you getting bored with the game already? It's just getting warmed up!

A number of players have told me that they, as commanders, don't feel they have much to do, that they are not often consulted by thier kings.

There is no reason why you should put up with that!! You don't have to listen to your King's directions if you don't want to. If the commanders want to participate in their country's foreign policy, all they have to do



is pick up a pen and write! Your kings have to convince you that a course of action is the right one before you have to follow it. You should be in communication with the kings and commanders of other countries, keeping your options open for defection, Grand Duchies, etc.

One king has complained about the fact that neutral moves are not used in this game when commanders dud. As far as the kings are concerned, the name of the game is leadership. It is your job to keep your players going, to get them moving, and to get them to get their orders in on time.

The first year is almost always a bit obvious. Now the fun should begin. The Battle lines are now drawn. We will now see if any countries will cement alliances by cross appointments of commanders of new units. When one country begins to feel the pressure, will the commanders defect? Will they defect to the enemy or to an ally? Are the commanders satisfied with the

divisions of the spoils? Most countries have only one build. Who will get it?

### Press

Paris, France: In order to discuss great matters of state, the Duc du Bust gathered his things together (and oh! what things) and rode off in his new de lux 1901 carriage with white sidewalls, power steering and breaks, and all the extras (and oh! what extras). In this grand fashion, the Duc arrived in Paris, smiling.

But when the royal palace was reached, all was in confusion. No one was even there to help the Duc from his carriage with the steamed up windows. "I'll have to mention this insubordination to the king," as he went off to find the king's chambers. Suddenly three burly men ran up, two grabbed the Duc and the third proceeded to tie the Duc's hands behind his back. "What the..." One of the men grunted, "Orders. The King [continued next month]"

## NOTA BENE

1. Deadlines. The deadline for all games is;

AUGUST 10, 1976.

2. Notice to Traders. Effective with the August issue, traders will receive Rebus in bundles of three by fourth class mail. You will not receive the August or September issues until October.

3. Translation of the Title. A number of people have asked for a translation of our title. Now that our readership has leveled off, we can print it now without having to repeat it. Our title comes from the ancient principle of international law, assumed to apply to every treaty, and is taken into it, Conventio omnis intelligitur rebus sic stantibus. In scholarly commentaries the phrase is usually shortened to its last three words.

In Moore's treatise on international law (5 Moore 319) the maxim is explained as a legal justification for abandonment of a treaty, "held to apply to all cases in which the reason for a treaty has failed or there has been a change of circumstances so as to make its performance impracticable except at an unreasonable sac-

rafice." That is to say, one party can escape from the provisions of a treaty if the circumstances underwhich it was established have changed.

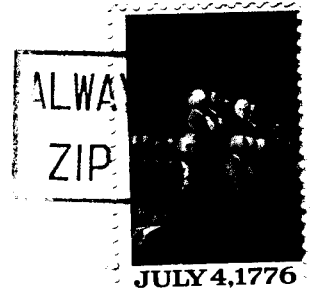
You can look at it, if you want, as a explanation as to why you are justified in going back on any agreement you have made when playing Diplomacy.

4. Phone in Orders. We are glad to accept orders by phone. But you must call only during reasonable hours. Not at 7:00 AM on Saturday morning!
5. Change of Address. Bob Sergeant's new address is;

3242 Lupine Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46224

REBUS SIC STANTIBUS  
The New England Society of Cynics  
65 Winter Avenue  
Staten Island, New York 10301

address correction requested  
return postage guaranteed



Mr. Rod Walker T  
1273 Crest Drive  
Enchinitas, CA 92024

Please see page 8