

RETALIATION

October 5, 1979

#5

Meaningless Meanderings

Retaliation comes out once every four weeks, at the rate of \$3/10 issues, and the game fee is a very hard to beat \$0. Retreats and builds are handled between issues to speed up the game. Another set of ground rules will be released in the near future as I decide how I want this to work. They will be ready by next issue. Promise. Some ambiguities will be cleared up, if I can find any, and the format will be much improved.

Veteran readers, please note! Up to this point, your eyes have not started watering, and the headaches have not started (in some cases)... the space bar has been fixed! A nod goes to The Technician, thanks.

One thing, due to rampant inflation, the game fee is expected to triple by next issue. Get them while they're hot! Anyway, it's time to continue the never-ending struggle for peace, justice and the American Way. (That is how it goes, isn't it?)

BUDDY TRETICK, BERNIE OAKLYN, JAMES ALAN, BECKY COFMAN, AND ME

Ever since I've been in the postal Diplomacy hobby, about 14 months now, give or take a few hours, there has been a great debate raging on the subject of Buddy Tretick and his various aliases. Actually, there hasn't been much of a debate, just an endless string of accusations and "proof" about his lack of honesty. Among his impressive repertoire of shady strategies are: theft of game and sub fees, puppet players in his own zine, falsifying orders, gross mismanagement, and entering games under more than one name. The list is seemingly endless. And, although the evidence is mostly circumstantial at best, the mere volume is enough to convict the man. Too many people have had run ins with T*O*A*C (Tretick*Oaklyn*Alan*Cofman, in order of appearance) for it to be coincidence, or angry accusations.

The purpose of this article is not to bring out yet another heinous crime, but hopefully to slow the flow of the let's-put-T*O*A*C-thru-the-mill articles by all you other publishers who have gotten a bit carried away. Make no mistake, I do not intend to defend T*O*A*C, but rather the postal hobby as a whole. I do not plan to allow T*O*A*C in Retaliation under any circumstances, and I think any GM who does puts his own credibility and honesty into doubt. But is this something to be determined as a hobby-wide policy by a group of vocal anti-T*O*A*Cs? I say no. To attempt such folly will merely serve to offend many people, and enlarge a growing feud and name-calling contest. And will many new gamers be eager to share in a fascinating and enjoyable pasttime if each zine they receive contains a page long tirade against the same person? Not even any variety! Again, I say no. Is the hobby so burned out that the only thing left to talk about is what to do with T*O*A*C? I hope not, and I really don't think it is. When it is, and not before, that will be the day I trade in my typewriter for good.

I had hoped to avoid the topic (it never works, does it?), but I have recently been accused of being just another Pseudonym for T*O*A*C. The "conscientious protector of the public welfare" shall go, for now, unnamed. Witch hunter is an appropriate term, though. This accusation stemmed simply from the fact that I live in the same geographic region as T*O*A*C, and not from any action or misstep on my part. The government here may be corrupt, but that doesn't mean everybody is. Blanket accusations against all Marylanders are both offensive and uncalled for.

In conclusion, let me say one more thing to any publisher who may be offended by the appearance of cold reality: anything that ceases to progress forward invariably dies. The constant backtracking and treading of water in the T*O*A*C Affair (sounds like Mission: Impossible) has the potential of stifling postal Diplomacy as a viable hobby, and discouraging new blood (no pun intended, backstabbers) from joining up. I don't want to see this happen, and will do what I can to prevent this occurring. I just need a little cooperation from others who can read the handwriting on the wall.

ALSO- it is now possible that T*O*A*C is not limited only to the state of Maryland. "Unknown" supporters of T*O*A*C have sprung up in places like Chicago (I believe), among others. I will, however, not require a pedigree from each person signing up for a game, as this is against company policy. Toodles, and have a good nights sleep.

RANDOM NOTE

High c.

PRESS RELEASES (OR, HOW TO MAKE A GM'S LIFE EASIER)

ST. PETERSBURG (WORLDS)- The Czar hereby offers his formal and official apologies to all European Heads of State (including those about to roll), for the nearly illegible cyrillic script of some of his diplomatic correspondence. The Turkish Sultan, interestingly enough, was the only one not to complain about this affront, which has St. Petersburg speculating that, perhaps:

- a) The Sultan never received the Czar's epistles (considering the evidently poor mail service across the Black Sea, certainly not an impossibility);
- b) The Sultan never figured out whence this illegible document came;
- c) The Sultan, who in his one and only communication with St. Pete gave evidence that he does not know what he is talking about, simply did not know what he was reading, either;
- d) The Sultan is not on speaking terms with his third wife (The Czar's teenage sister) who does all the translating for him.

In any event, there still is hope on the diplomatic horizons, as also announced through WORLDS. thanks to the generous American Lend-Lease program, the foreign ministry now is in possession of a slightly over-used SCM portable with "Western" type and wrong voltage, Also, a semi-literate typist was hired, with reasonable knowledge of the English language (his Russian vocabulary consists of Lenin trotsky, dostoyevski turgenyev). This typist happens to be none other than the ill-famed "Rotterdam Rapist" who recently had to flee Holland because of unfair competition by hordes of invading Germans, and was granted political asylum in the Crimea. Here the Rapist lives happily on a steady diet of volunteer nymphets, imported especially for him from Rumania. His diet is so metered however, as to keep him peckering away at the old SCM as these needs require of him for the maintenance of good and friendly diplomatic relations with all countries willing to reciprocate. MEANWHILE, the Czar is very optimistic about the success of several unwritten and invisible alliances entered into by himself and a large number of foreign cryptographers. These alliances, WORLDS confirmed, should keep Mother Russia healthy and fertile for an infinite time (WORLDS without end, Amen).

VIENNA- Students are swarming here from all over Europe to join the resistance in what is being called the "Prague Spring." Turmoil within the Austrian Government is reflected by the inability to call up troops over winter.

PRESS, PART II

GREECE- Recovering from wounds in the battle of Athens, Admiral Jossef has appealed to monarchs around the world for support in restoring the Austrian Empire.

BUDAPEST- Exiled leaders of the Serbian Democratic Society (SDS) have been cautious in supporting the "Prague Spring" claiming that the inability to build units is actually a design of Admiral Jossef to draw Austria into war. Furthermore, rumor suggests that the Admiral's wounds may have been self-inflicted.

VARIOUS NONSENSE

Please refer to "The Game" with it's shorter, easier (anything to avoid keystrokes!) title: R1. Thanks.

It has been suggested that I write to the Boardman number custodian so that R1 can become an "official" game. My understanding at this time is that the BNC has folded, and has not answered his mail for some time now. Knowing the recent history of the office, I'm not surprised, and would not be surprised if the mess is not sorted out for several months. Any info on the subject would be welcomed by me. Am I correct in assuming that if the game is not given a BN, then it cannot be counted toward any rating systems? I don't really care either way, but it's up to the players to decide, really. After all, GM's don't get graded for how many games they win, or GM to conclusion.

My impression is that in a rated game, a player would have a tendency towards playing it safe and not trying anything new. Personally, I don't know what my rating is, and I think that all rating systems have an inherent flaw: players tend to lose sight of the fact that the game is for fun, not an all-out ego trip where the goal is to win at any cost. Not that the top players are all that way, I know they are not. Just that a poor, destitute soul who has never won and will never rise in the rating above the bottom 100 will be discouraged and probably quit after just a few tries. A batting average is okay as long as it is not emphasized at the expense of enjoyment, and any batting average in Diplomacy will have it's inaccuracies. There wouldn't be so many different ones if any one was perfect. Nuff said!

And our feature presentation this week:

<u>R1 Winter 01</u>	<u>SEVERE SNOWSTORM HITS AUSTRIA</u>
Austria- no build received	Italy- builds: A Ven, F Nap
England- builds: F Lon	Turkey- builds: F Smy
France- builds: A Mar, A Par	Russia- builds: F Sev
Germany- builds: A Kie	

This method of speeding up the game seems to have worked well enough, with the exception of a bungle by the USPS. Any comments, yea or nay?
****There is a change of address- Stephen Kiser can now be reached at AUM, Housing Office, Box 834, Montgomery, Al 36117.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"A fine retreat is as good as a gallant attack." BALTASAR GRACIAN.
(Funny, it doesn't work that way in Dippy....)

(3)

Probably because he said it in 1641!

R1 Spring '02

SEIGES BEGIN IN TURKEY, GERMANY

Austria (Lee): F Gre & A Ser S RUSSIAN F Rum-Bul; A Tri Holds
Italy (Martin): A Mun S FRENCH A Bur-Ruh; A Ven-Tyr; F Nap-Ion;
F Ion-Eme; A Tun Holds
Turkey (Kiser): A Bul S Bla-Rum; F Bla-Rum; F Smy-Eme; A Con-Ank
Russia (van Alkemade): F Gob-Swe; A Liv-Pru; F Rum-Bul; F Sev-Bla;
A Ukr-Rum
England (Mooney): F Nwy-Stp; A Edi-Nwy, F Nth C Edi-Nwy; F Lon Holds
France (Arnett): F Por-Spa (SC); A Spa-Mar; A Bur-Ruh; A Mar-Bur;
A Par-Pic
Germany (Sigwalt): A Ruh-Kie; A Kie-Ber; F Den-Bal; A Hol Holds

Underlined moves do not succeed. Turkey must retreat the A Bul to Con or disband the unit. To cut costs, all players will be informed only if he either decides to disband or does not send in the retreat order by Oct. 15. The order must still be submitted, Stephen.

Fall orders are due by Saturday, Nov. 3, 1:00 PM. The change is due to the possible delay of this issue, and the fact that Saturday deadlines to mail on Monday are easier than Friday deadlines to mail on Saturday.

Please note Stephen Kiser's change of address at the bottom of page 3.

QUICK COMMENTS

Germany and Turkey apparently are beset from all possible sides at this point, and Russia now has a northern front to worry about. The game is beginning to open up at this point as we have our first (and probably not last) major stab: England walking into Stp. By no means will this kill Mother Russia, but it could lead to a miscarriage (sorry). France is quietly extending his domain over the western part of the continent while England's fleet in London sits tight, it could turn out to be an E-F alliance against an I-A-R coalition. Then again, everybody could stab his neighbor and I'd look pretty foolish.

Knowing what only a GM knows in addition to having read most of the Italian correspondence, this one could be very wild and wooly before it's all over. Keep up the good work!

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FIRST CLASS