

Another short issue, possibly the last for some time. I hope so! I'll do the game first, then go on to whatever other matters I have time for.

Game 1976Bhb, Spring 867: NORTHERN FRONT FLUCTUATES! MERCIANS MOVE TO WELSH MARCHES EVEN AS NORTHUMBRIA DRIVES TOWARDS MIDLANDS! WESSEX PRAYS TO WODEN FOR LUCK! DANES OCCUPY ANGLIA!
(Gesta Danorum)

Danes (Philip Chester): f NAN-SAN, s by f AnS; a Sut-MSx, s by f ESx.

East Angles (Robert Acheson): a SAN-ESx, s by A MSx.

Mercia (Doug Hayward): a Her-Cil, s by a MAN & a UpT; a SME-Wre; a Hwi-Gwe; a Cir-Som.

Norse (Joseph Vanden Borre): f Dum-SBS; f MeM-Gwy, s by f Iri.

Northumbria (Mike Dominsky): a Lot-Str; a NPe-Rhe, s by a Wid; a Mam-Pec; A Lin-Sar, s by a Hol.

Picts (Bob Bawtinheimer): f NPic-PiS; f FoF-Lot, s by a MGd & a Str; a Rhe s a Str.

Welsh (Dave Head): a Gwy h, s by a Pow; a Dyf h; a Bry h.

Wessex (Richard Fietz): a Sci-Som; a Win-Ham; a Cil-Win (annihilated).

The Great Army (fate): TA Som-Win.

Retreats: East Anglian a SAN to Her or disband; Northumbrian a Lot to Ber, NPe or disband; Pictish a Rhe to Cyl or disband. Fall orders may be made conditional on any or all of these retreats if desired. The deadline for Fall 867 orders is Monday, Sept. 20 at 10:30 AM MDT. Thank to standbys.

Press, starting with East Anglian propoganda orders:

Army Southern Angles builds canoes and gets the hell out of here.

Army Middle Saxons supports (Meanwhile saying, "Hey! I'm surrounded!")

S. Angles (BP): Et tu Brute?

M. Saxons: This was not the way that England was won! Where's Alfred when I need him?

Westmoringaland: Damn these heathens, they are tougher than they look, the swine! Don't they want to be civilized?

Bernicia: Hear ye! Hear ye! When asked at ye Presse Conference about the treacherous actions of ye Norse sea-bandits, His Most Christian Majestie, King Michael DeMinsk of Northumbria sayeth but: "Once a pagan, always a pagan!"

Wessex to Mercia: "Can't we talk this over? Please?"

Wessex to Norse: May I speak to you? I'll even try my French!

Bodes to verse Dept.:

The feeble state

The angry sea

With pleas, to help

Mercian-bound Wessex:

And swamps besieged with cries

No, the dull surf replies.

THISISALINEARSEPARATORANDIFINDITINCREDIBLETHATISHOULDHAVETOANNOUNCETHATFACTNOW!

My Thoughts on IDA/NA:

As many of you know by now, the IDA General Meeting at Origins voted to place before the membership a new constitution. Probably most of you who are at all concerned with the matter have seen it already, and have seen arguments pro and con. Because of the timing of things, I haven't been able to make any public statements about it until now. I hope that my opinions, even at this somewhat late stage, will be able to make some contribution to the total pool of understanding.

First, I have no objection to attempts to amend or replace altogether

the current constitution. It has imperfections, as I have been among those to point out. Secondly, the IDA General Meeting was a perfectly proper place to attempt to carry this out. If a quorum of IDA members had been present at the meeting, it would have been entirely legal for the new constitution to have been adopted then and there. Since a quorum were not present, the meeting's action of drawing up a proposed new constitution and presenting it to the membership for a mail vote was quite acceptable.

However, I have serious objections, both to the content of the proposed new constitution and the manner in which it has been put forward.

In my opinion, there is no question that the procedures followed in this referendum are not constitutional. For one thing, there has been no debate time allowed. The current constitution states, in its section on amendments, "All proposed amendments to the Constitution will be published in the newsletter, discussed in the following newsletter and voted on in the third consecutive newsletter." This only stands to reason - no one should be expected to vote on important matters without first having a chance to express his opinion and listen to others'. Yet that is exactly what members are being asked to do: to vote without a particle of discussion. Worse yet, the acceptance or rejection of the proposed constitution has been tied to the resignation of the Acting President. "Accept this outright, without discussion, or I resign." The procedures being followed here are not only contrary to the current constitution, but vastly unfair to the membership.

It is obvious to me that certain Council members knew in advance that this topic would be under discussion at the General Meeting. John Baker, for one, dropped a hint about it to me. Yet at least two Council members, Robert Correll and myself, were not informed of it. It is no coincidence that both Robert and I were known to advocate Canadian representation on any changed Council; we have stated so many times. The proposed Constitution makes no provision for Canadian representation. It is obvious that the drafters of the new constitution went out of their way to keep from informing those who they knew would not agree with them.

This is not illegal; it is underhanded, and typical of the proponents of this document: get your way by trickery and brute force rather than by open discussion.

So much for the methods used; now for the specific problems of content.

First of all, the proposal removes the "International" from IDA. It in effect cuts loose all the members of IDA/UK and IDA/CER. (I don't know for sure whether or not these members were consulted or not, or asked to vote; I suspect not; if not, we have a further unconstitutionality.) In particular, the members of the Overseas Region are cast adrift with nothing to belong to. This is a retrograde step.

As I mentioned above, Canada is ignored; the international boundary exists and has definite affects on the play of postal Diplomacy, but this fact was ignored by the constitutional architects in spite of repeated urgings by Robert Correll and myself. Members don't even get the chance to vote on it.

Secondly, the new Constitution concentrates too much power and responsibility in the hands of a few individuals. The proposal eliminates a large Council with judicial safeguards, with a small group and no effective safeguards. In effect, it replaces a democracy with an oligarchy.

As one who was privy to the efforts of some Council members to initiate a power struggle between the Council and the Judicial Committee, I recognize in this proposed new Constitution a power trip. The proposal eliminates the Judicial Committee, which has been the only body to attempt to curb a power grab on the part of Council. Under the new setup, Council members will be able to do practically as they please, using members' money to pay for it, with little or no outside controls over their actions. This is entirely contrary to the spirit in which IDA was founded.

So to restate my position: although I agree that the IDA Constitution should be amended or rewritten, I do not think the proposed constitution is the ideal one and I find very serious flaws in the manner in which its proponents are trying to put it into effect.

My Thoughts on CDPO:

In view of the events described above, Robert Correll and I came to the conclusion that the time is ripe to poll the Canadian members of IDA as to whether or not they would wish a separate Canadian Diplomacy organization, possibly affiliated with IDA or possibly not. It may be that the formation of such an organization would be conditional on the adoption of the proposed "IDA/NA" constitution, or perhaps the membership desires a separate organization under any circumstances. Or perhaps not. A questionnaire has been sent to all Canadian IDA members, to be returned to Robert Correll by the end of August. I won't reprint it here, since all IDA members already have their copy.

The organization would be called the Canadian Diplomacy Players' Association (CDPO - a counterpart of CDGO). In the meantime, Canadians who do not currently belong to IDA but would be interested in joining a Canadian organization might make their views known to either me or Robert (44 Rawlinson Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4P 2M9).

In addition, during a recent visit to Calgary by Robert, we went so far as to put together a proposed constitution for CDPO. This of course is only a proposal and is open to discussion; its adoption would in no way be tied to the formation of CDPO.

This constitution differs radically from both the old and proposed new ones. It is based on parliamentary traditions rather than American ones, so possibly will be more acceptable to Canadian tastes. There is no initial membership fee, and all Canadians who are active players, publishers or GMs are automatically members and eligible to vote, run for office, etc.

A seven-man Council is elected at large from the membership. This group then chooses a Chairman from within its own ranks. The Chairman then makes appointments to the portfolios of Publisher, Ombudsman, Secretary-Treasurer and International Liaison as well as assigning other duties.

The Chairman may dissolve the Council at any time and call for a General Election, which must in any event take place at least every two years. Resigning or inactive Council members are replaced by By-Elections.

Although the Chairman has the power of making appointments, calling elections, and controlling the agenda, he is responsible to the Council. He is obliged to put up for vote any motion calling for his resignation as Chairman, and to resign if Council requests it.

This system has the advantage of flexibility, which previous systems have not had. It provides the necessary checks and balances on the power and responsibility of its elected officers, but in an informal way rather than through formal judicial-type procedures.

Again, all Canadian IDA members have been sent a copy, so I won't go to the lengths of reprinting the document here. I have a few extra copies which non-members can have for an SSAE. Comments, to Robert or me, are solicited from interested onlookers.

I await with anticipation the results of the poll.

IDAEC Results for the Second Quarter of 1976: These recommendations are the result of voluntary evaluation of the publications concerned by the IDA Evaluation Commission. Questions on standards, etc., should go to the International Director, Roger Oliver, POB 452, Denville, NJ 07834. Programs are currently available for the Canadian Region (Doug Ronson, 864 Ingersill Ct., Mississauga, Ont. L5J 2S1), Northeastern U.S. (A Rowland, 52 8th Ave., Westwood, NJ 07675) and Mid- and Southeast U.S. (William Clum, Entwood, RR#1, Ames-

ville, OH 45711).

Acceptable Publications: Canada: FOL SI FIE, GASSED, JANUS, PAROXYSM, RUNE-
STONE; NE US: BLACK HOLE, THE DIPLOMATIC JOURNAL, THE EXPONENT, THE MORAVI-
AN GAZETTE, NARSIL, STAB, THE WARMONGER; USE US: AUSTERLITZ, BUSHWACKER,
QUENDI KHAZAD DUM.

Acceptable GMS: Canada: Robert Correll, Harry Drews, John Gross, Cal White,
David Truman, John Leeder, Brian Johnston, Randolph Smyth, Doug Ronson.
US: John Baker, Fred Brenner, Fred Davis, Don De Lorenz, Ernie Demanlis,
Bob Goldman, Ed Kollmer, Richard Kovalcik, Doug Reif, Roger Oliver, Charles
Spiegel, Michael Muchnik.

THIS TOO IS A LINEAR SEPARATOR NOTE IT'S SIMILARITY TO THE PREVIOUS ONE AT LEAST INFORMATIF NOT

The Second Seven-Nations Game, Winter 1900: BAGOSH, SHE FINALLY GOES!

Austria: Richard Kovalcik, Jr., Room 6316, 450 Memorial Dr., Cambridge, MA
02139, USA

England: Pete Birks, 39 Handforth Rd., London, SW9 OLL, U.K.

France: Ed Summers, Rua Marechal Andrea 20, Pituba, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

Germany: Duncan Morris, Computer Bureau, Box 8038, Causeway, Salisbury,
Rhodesia

Italy: Larry Dunning, 46 Holmesdale Rd., West Midland, 6056, Western
Australia

Russia: Laurence J.P. Gillespie, 23 Robert Allen Dr., Halifax, N.S.,
Canada B3M 3G9

Turkey: Paul Willey, c/o La Casa Inglesa, Marques de Sotelo 1, Valencia-2,
Spain

(until Aug. 31) 7 Shirley Hove, Hove, Sussex, U.K.

(temp. address after Sept. 1) 37 Meadow Way, Theale, Reading
RG7 4AU, U.K.

Six weeks for the first deadline will synchronize this game with 75HO and
75Rgr and immeasurably simplify things all round. Spring 1901 orders, then,
are due Monday, Sept. 27 at 10:30 AM Mountain Daylight Time. Nice to get
this game under way at last; thanks for waiting, those who waited. Have at
it!

CHIMO!

RUNESTONE,
John Leeder,
208 Haysboro Cr. SW,
Calgary, Alta.,
Canada T2V 3G3

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