

## Opening Shot

Two days before Hallowe'en and it's bitterly cold. As I was working on this it was snowing heavily, though the ground is still too warm for it to survive once it lands. Shan't be long before the real stuff comes. Meanwhile, waiting for the bus home at midnight is no fun, especially when there's freezing rain....

As many of you already know, Ann is pregnant again. She is due the end of May, which is just after Christopher's second birthday. She's finding she's much more tired and her stomach is more sensitive than when she was carrying Christopher, but, it won't be long until she gets into the second trimester and she should be glowing then. Needless-to-say, between work, Christopher, me, and the cat, she's been too worn out to produce her column this time, though she wanted me to say "Hi!" and thank everyone for all the kind words which I pass on to her. She promises something for next time.

In this issue, a long awaited for article on the history of the Canadian

### WHAT? NO BABY PICTURES AGAIN!

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### STANDBYS CALLED UPON:

Claude Gautron, 1981 KA	p. 7
Jan Jensen, 1982 IF	p. 12

postal Diplomacy hobby. It was written by Randolph Smyth in 1980 and was found and forwarded to me by Steve Hutton. So, thanks to both from everyone. Not much else in terms of content, except a pretty good letter section. My own column, to replace the travel series, is being worked on for next time. It will be called "RONdache," so you've got a few weeks to get out your dictionaries to look that one up. As usual, Ann came up with the name.

Two games are beginning this time 'round. Both North-5 and the International filled shortly after last issue was in the mail. Once again I find I have to hold off on game openings, as we're beginning to creep back up there again. I appreciate the fact that so many people want to play here, but, I have to hold the line at what I can handle. Meanwhile, I'm happy to have two international games going, as I enjoy hearing from Dippies overseas.

So, everything's just fine, here in the nation's capital. We spent some time at Ralph Morton's farm a month or so ago. He and his wife are well, delighting in raising cattle and clearing fields. Took some pictures which we still haven't gotten developed. Also got to play Machiavelli through contacts at work. An excellent game which isn't nearly as complicated as the rule book appears. Much like Diplomacy with a few added complications (like plagues, bribes, and famines.) The group I played with weren't Diplomacy players though and treated the game like any other exercise in tactics. Where's the real fun is you can't lie, eh?

Oh, got a three-way draw in the postal hobby, now making it 2 1/3 Calhamer Points by my reckoning. Respectable. Pleased, as it was a hopeless standby slot as Germany. I've yet to play France or England postally. I keep getting stuck with Eastern powers. Maybe some day. Meanwhile, hope you get as much satisfaction out of your games as I do out of mine. Enjoy your read.

**SNAFU!** is a zine devoted to the postal play of **DIPLOMACY** and its variants. The original board game, invented by Allan Calhamer, is produced in Canada by Waddington's House of Games in Bramalea, Ontario.

**SNAFU!** is published by Ronald J. Brown, 1200 Summerville Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1Z 8G4. Telephone: 613: 722-5059 (Before 10 pm Eastern Time.)

Subscriptions: 10 for \$8.00 in Canada or the USA, \$US10.00 overseas.

See the **Battlestations** section for any game openings.

HOUSE RULE CHANGES

Well, I tried. Results of the poll on Spring, 1901 NMRs are even more inconclusive than I predicted in the letter section.

- 1) For a "double 1901 deadline": 3 votes
- 2) For "Neutral Orders": 3 votes
- 3) Other: 3 votes

The "others" were for leaving things as they are (ie., treat a Spring, 1901 NMR the same as any other NMR.) I counted those who marked "other" and then gave different neutral orders as voting for neutral orders in general.

Two of those who voted for neutral orders gave different neutral orders than I had listed. That is another problem with such a solution, so I think it would be fair to throw that solution out. Not only is there not as much support as one would like, we could be arguing forever on what orders to use.

That leaves treating a Spring, 1901 NMR the same as any other NMR, or throwing a player out of the game before it begins if he can't get preliminary orders in by the preliminary deadline. On reflection, that is a rather radical approach and, I think, in a situation where I have to cast the deciding vote, it would be better to go with the more traditional methods.

So, until the subject comes up for debate again, Spring, 1901 NMRs will be treated like any other NMRs. Units will hold in place and a standby will be called for to submit the next season's orders. If the original player gets orders in by the next deadline he will retain the position, else the standby will be taking over.

There are problems whichever way one decides to go, but one has to decide...

As for the house rules in general, they have been entered on a disk, with a space left for Spring, 1901 NMRs. So, I'll have to get to Ann's office within the next week or so and delete that space, straighten up the layout, and prepare them for photocopying. They are virtually the same as the older set and include the revisions I sent out last spring, yet they will fit on one sheet, rather than the original five sheets. I will mail them as inserts with next issue.

One important change in wording is in the section on NMR Insurance. I have said something like, I will call if possible. Because of my changing shifts it is very awkward some deadlines to make the necessary phone calls. Ann has done it for me a few times now, but I do not like to depend on her to do my tasks. The point is: Do Not Depend On NMR Insurance. I will call if I can; if I can't, no one will be called. After all, it is a privilege, and not a matter of divine player rights. Avoid problems: mail early!

## Hobby News

It is with great pleasure that I turn over the Co-ordinatorship of the Canadian Diplomacy Organization to Steve Hutton, effective October 31st. Steve has been involved in the hobby for many years. How many, I am not sure, but he does have copies of zines going back much further than I do. Anyhow, about a year ago he began publishing No Fixed Address, beginning with several games from the defunct Passchendaele. For about five months this year he GMed all of Randolph Smyth's games while Randolph was taking courses away from home. He once printed 600 copies of his zine to distribute as samples. I think he got one new subscriber from that....

Whatever, Steve is young, enthusiastic, and smart as hell. To answer the question on why he moves every four months (and hence the name of his zine),

he is an engineering student at the University of Waterloo in their "co-op program." This means he follows courses for four months, and then works for four months, alternating between classroom and work (hopefully in the same, or related field) until he gets his degree. Sometimes all this movement slows the production of his zine, but his games have continued on schedule.

The current position of the CDO is better than it has been during my tenure in the chair. We now have six zines, a slight improvement. (There were five when I took the chair in January, 1982.) But three of those are new. There seems to be enough games available to satisfy the demands for new games, though we could still keep another zine or two going. One problem is that the former liaison with Waddington's fell down on the job and so we had no new members for a long time. That is slowly being corrected as Waddington's has been co-operating with me for about the past year, sending those inquiring about the game to me. The new bilingual flyer I prepared for them a year ago will be included in sets in their next production run--and that ought to help. We also had a lot of dropouts during all the folds in 1979-1980, then the Passchendaele fiasco of 1981-82. There isn't much one can do about that, but, judging by the zines we now have, the number of Canadian Diplomacy players should be growing steadily now.

The one person to whom I owe the biggest vote of thanks for his help while I was Co-ordinator is Andy Lischett. Andy is our Orphans Placement Officer and he had the unpleasant task of trying to rehouse an incredible number of games. But he always acted promptly once the decision was made and had games assigned to new GMs in very short order. Seems every time I told him this was the last batch to look after, we got another bunch of orphans.... I could not have functioned without Andy's willingness to help out.

We also should not overlook Bruce Linsey who has responded to requests for copies of the novice package, Supernova, promptly and courteously. This is a crucial service if we are to make newcomers feel welcomed to the hobby. Thanks, Bruce.

We have no provision in the CDO for finances. Membership is free and there are no fund-raising mechanisms. We got into this area when Clive Tonge sent me the balance of the funds he was holding in the account for Infidel after it had folded. He had \$170.00 at the time and I suggested he give Nick Russon something for his expenses in producing a novice package which we never really used. Nick took \$30.00 and the rest was up to me to figure out what to do with. I thought it should be distributed to CDO custodians to defray the costs they inevitably run up and the rest held to provide something to those in François Guerrier's prize game. (The players in this game had paid \$30. apiece to play in this game.) Some custodians did not respond to my enquiries and there seemed to be considerable resistance to the idea of compensating those burned by François. So, here is how I handled these funds. The balance will be sent to Steve as his headache.

Received from Clive Tonge: 140.00

Refunded to Infidel Subscribers:	2.00	
Miller Memorial Award Fund:	13.39	(\$10.00 USA)
Novice Package Contribution:	13.40	(\$10.00 USA)
Co-ordinator's Expenses:	<u>10.00</u>	
Total Expenses:	38.79	
Balance:	<u>101.21</u>	

There are many hobby projects deserving of financial support, but I wanted to be careful with these funds, as I never felt they were mine. Also, I did not want to send any cheques to the USA for the past several months because of the delays involved in finding out the amounts in Canadian funds after the cheques clear all the banks involved. I am sorry more of it didn't go to Infidel subscribers, but after months of pushing only one came forward with a request.

One big change coming up is a new, rewritten Constitution. This came out of discussions between Steve and myself for a need to bring the constitution into line with current reality. Also, I was somewhat distressed to discover there were no checks on the Co-ordinator's power. He could do whatever he could get away with. So, Steve wrote a new constitution and I added a few changes to that. It is now being offered to the membership for ratification. The last constitution was adopted by two votes for, none against. I hope we have a stronger response this time. It should be appearing in all Canadian zines within the next month or two, along with ballots.

So, best of luck to Steve. If you're all as helpful and co-operative with him as you were with me, he should have no problems.

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 Other hobby news: Larry Peery has just completed a very ambitious study of the structure of the North American hobby. The complete analysis takes 56 pages and is included as an insert in the October issue of Xenogogic (a mere 72 pages this time). It is available from Larry at Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102; \$12.00 a year. Be sure to ask for the October issue.

Briefly, Larry has identified eight people who act as "activity centres." (That is my choice of term; Larry calls it a Power Poll.) These eight are: Berch, Byrne, Caruso, Coughlan, Davis, Linsey, Peery, and Walker. Your ever-humble editor is described as being at the second level along with Smyth, Arnawoodian, and Kendter, Sr. Other Canadians receiving mention are: Carter, Hutton, and Cusack. Blair Cusack's inclusion is interesting, as he is virtually the only one mentioned who is not a publisher. Goes to show what a great player he is.

In other news, François Guerrier has resurfaced and has indicated some willingness to provide some sort of compensation for all the former subscribers to Passchendaele. He has attached a number of conditions and time limits, but, at least you now have an address to write him at to put forward your claim. He is at: 12 Corkstown Rd., Apt. 206, Nepean, Ontario, K2H 2B2. He is interested in beginning to publish Passchendaele again. I am not going to make any recommendations one way or the other.

Mike Mills is holding an auction to raise funds for hobby projects and custodians. The list of items up for grabs ranges from zine subscriptions to "issue No. 1" of various zines, photos of hobbyists to games. For a complete list, along with instructions, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mike Mills, 26 Laurel Road, Sloatsburg, NY 10974.

## Other Zines

Received a copy of a real little gem lately: The Diplomat, by David Kleiman, 3530 Hyannis Port Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46224. Diplomat reminds me of Cheesecake in that it is devoted to Diplomacy games. You won't find much else, but the games are very nicely laid out, accompanied by large maps, and apparently GMed with great care and devotion--and what else matters, eh?

We also have a couple of issues of Politesse, by Ed Wrobel, 3932 North Forestdale Ave., Dale City, VA 22193. This is a "service zine," reporting on Diplomacy events in the Virginia-Maryland region, one of Dippydom's hot spots of activity. No games, but players in that area should check it out for news of ftf games and other events in their area.

Zines from England continue to arrive. We have: Last Stand, by Peter Northcott, 16 Fawley Road, West Hampstead, London NW6 1SH. Carries Diplomacy, Bourse, and something called United League which looks like some kind of

football pool. (That's "soccer" in America.) Many letters and editorial. As with most British zines I've seen, the letter column is quite active with many participants arguing about Diplomacy.

Also, the "Solo Wargamers' Association" sent me a few issues of Lone Warrior, a large (40 pages) publication concerned with war gaming in general. Reviews of many war games, with articles on their adaptation for postal play. The serious war gamer should check this out by sending some International Reply Coupons to Jeff Bayton, 63 Beckingham Rd., Guildford, Surrey, England.

Must see: Diplomacy World, No. 35 (Fall, 1983). 52 pages of Diplomacy every three months. This particular issue contains an interview with Allan Calhmer (remember him, our creator?), and a massive hobby chronology by Fred Davis. (A "chronology" is like a history book, except all the unimportant words are omitted.) In addition, there are the regular features which make every issue a collector's item: articles on the play of the game, reviews of just about everything going on in the hobby, a demo game with commentary, etc. All for \$8.00 a year in the U.S., \$10. in Canada. Overseas: \$10.00 by surface, \$15.00 by air. Almost forgot: Rod Walker, 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024.

If you want the most comprehensive list of game openings in the hobby, send Rod (address above) a self-addressed, stamped envelope and ask for the most recent Pontevredia. Two to three dozen GMs with game openings listed in this continuously updated publication.

If you enjoy humour you should get No Fixed Address, No. 13. One of the funniest articles I've read in the hobby is a takeoff on "The Wizard of Oz" called "The Wizard of Dip." Pubbed by Steve Hutton, 2600 Don Mills Rd., Apt 707, Willowdale, Ontario M2J 3B4.

And, finally, gasp!, Bruce Linsey, not content with putting out one of the hobby's most entertaining zines, has set a new record. The Voice of Doom No. 85 is 170 pages long (and costs 50¢!). Virtually all of the articles are original, and many of them are extremely interesting. Reprints included are well-chosen, like a reproduction of the first issue of Graustark, the first postal Dip zine. A collector's item for sure. I can't believe he'd let this issue go for 50¢, but, then, that's Bruce for you. His address is: 24A Quarry Drive, Albany, NY 12205.

## 1982 I - Mensa 16

FRANCE THWARTS BOTH ITALY AND TURKEY BY TAKING MID-ATLANTIC! WHO WOULD HAVE BELIEVED TURKISH FLEETS IN THE IRISH AND RUSSIAN FLEETS IN ROME?

SPRING, 1907

ENG (Mike Mazzer): F Lon\* - ("Promised Land").

FRA (Robert Young): F Por\* S F Eng - MAO\*; A Pic\* S A Bel\* - Bur.

GER (Windy Windblad): A Gal - Bud\*.

ITA (Bob Olsen): F Lyo\* - Spa(sc); A Mar\* S A Bur\*; A Bur S A Ruh\*; A Ruh S FRA A Bel - Hol (NSO).

RUS (Dave Lincoln): F Sev\* - Rum; A Mos - Ukr\*; A War - Sil\*; A Vie - Tri\*; A Mun - Tyr\*; A Kie\* S A Ber - Mun\*; F Nth\* C A Nwy - Yor\*; F Edi\* S F Nth; F Nwg - NAO\*; F StP(nc) - Nwy\*; F Nap - Rom\*.

TUR (Paula Dodge): F WMed\* - ("Madrid"); F Smy - Aeg\*; F Tyr - Nap\*; F MAO - Iri\*; F Naf\* - MAO; A Lvp\* H; A Gre - Ser\*; A Bul\* - Rum.

Fall, 1907 due Friday, 2 December, 1983 (Next deadline: 20 January, 1984).

PRESS

Russia to England: ...psssst....Mike....Is this THE Bob Olson ((sic)) you've been telling me about?

Russia to Germany: Welcome to the warm and loving embrace of Mother Russia. You will be well taken care of and you are safe.

## Bourse (82 I)

THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL FOR ALL TO SEE. ROUBLE EDGES UP STILL HIGHER DESPITE JILT'S EFFORTS. DOES ANYONE WANT TO BUY SOME CHEAP POUNDS? WHAT IS CRAP PLANING TO DO WITH ALL THOSE DOLLARS? BUYING CONDOS DOESN'T WIN THE GAME. MINE HAS BEEN QUIET FOR QUITE SOME TIME AS WELL.

SPRING, 1907	US\$	£	Fr	DM	L	R	Tp
OIC (Briggs)	0.98	0	0	0	1962	500	3250
MI (Cusack)	1025.25	0	1350	0	1259	1724	1485
JILT (Gaughan)	7862.78	0	0	0	500	1100	0
BOT (Gautron)	32.00	0	300	0	600	2100	1300
VIC (Jensen)	191.62	100	0	1500	1500	2400	1200
OIL (Lowe)	24.17	0	0	0	0	5200	1910
MINNE (Phillips)	39.50	0	500	0	1800	1000	2800
YUK (Presber)	7.50	0	1500	0	0	2250	900
CRAP (Smith)	8355.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purchases		0	0	0	0	1710	0
Sales		500	1000	500	1400	500	1700
Net Change		-500	-1000	-500	-1400	+1210	-1700
Old CMP		.15	.48	.25	1.07	2.17	1.60
Change		-.05	-.10	-.05	-.14	+1.12	-.17
New CMP		.10	.38	.20	.93	2.29	1.43

Fall, 1907 due Tuesday, 29 November, 1983 (Next Deadline: 17 January, 84)

NOTES

The reason the Rouble did not rise because of the Russian gain of Munich is in Rule 7: "\$0.15 for three or more centers."

Please correct Pete Gaughan's address: 509 Sandpiper, No. 130, Arlington, TX 76013.

Claude Gautron has moved to: 150, rue Masson, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2H 0H2.

PRESS

JILT to OIL: I've been doing ongoing stats, so I already know WHEN I want to pump this cash back in. Because the victory criterion is units of currency of the winning power, and not net worth, there are still four companies (MI, JILT, VIC, and CRAP) with a realistic chance of stopping Lowes. Still, it'll be hard work.

JILT to Bourse: Sell Roubles!

JILT to 1982 I: Won't somebody stop Russia? I'm too poor to offer financial incentives, but you'd earn my eternal thanks!



Mark Leudi (photo by John Caruso)

## 1981 W - North 1

RUSSIA UNOPPOSED ON SCANDINAVIA'S BORDERS! ANOTHER ITALIAN FLEET DESTROYED IN BREST! (THIS IS GETTING TO BE A HABIT!) TURK STILL PUSHING AUSTRIA.

SPRING, 1911

AUS (Bob Olsen): A Bud H /d/ (R: Gal, Vie, OTB).

ENG (Errol Platt): A Bur - Pic\*; A Par\* S A Gas - Bre\*; F Iri\* S & F NAO\* S  
F Eng - MAO\*; F Nth - Eng\*; A Hol § (/d/, R: Bel, OTB) F Den - Kie\*.

ITA (Bill Young): F Por\* S F Bre - MAO /A/; F Spa(sc)\* S A Mar\*; F Rom - Tyr\*; F Tyr - WMed\*; F Nap\* - Ion; A Ven - Pie\*; A Apu - Ven\*; A Tyr - Tri\*.

RUS (Garvin Boyle): A StP - Fin\*; A Lvn - StP\*; A Ruh\* S A Kie - Hol\*;  
A Mun - Bur\*.

TUR (Steve Hutton): A Ser\* S A Rum - Bud\*; F Gre\* - Ion; F Smy - Aeg\*;  
A Arm - Sev\*; F Bla\* C A Ank - Rum\*; A Con - Bul\*.

Summer Retreats and Fall, 1911 due Friday, 2 December, 1983.  
(Next deadline: 20 January, 1984)

PRESS

Turkey to Austria: Bob, I'm hurt. Here I go and ruthlessly stab you in the back just to improve your chances of winning the toady poll, and you insult me in print. That's the last favour I do for you!

Rome: No way can we trust one so easily bored.

## 1981 KA - North 2

GERMAN INVASION OF FRANCE FALTERS. LOOKS LIKE AUSTRIA OUTFOXED TURKEY TO RETAIN MOSCOW. ENGLAND, ITALY ARE NO MORE.

SUMMER, 1908

AUS: A Mos R Ukr.

ENG: A StP R Fin.

GER: A Boh R OTB (by GM).

FALL, 1908

AUS (Nelson Millar): A Ukr\* S TUR A Mos - Sev; A Vie\* S A Tyr\* - Tri; A Boh\* - Mun.

ENG (Jan Jensen): A Fin\* - StP.

FRA (Jack Jung): A Rom\* S F Tyr - Nap\*; A Pie\* - Ven; A Mar - Pie (NSU);  
F Tun\* - Ion; F Lyo\* S F WMed - Tyr\*; F NAF - MAO\*; A Tus\* U.

GER (Blair Cusack): NMR! F Bre\*, A Bur\*, A War\*, A Lon\*, A StP\*, F Swe\*,  
A Pru\*, A Gal\*, A Mun\*.

TUR (Paul Rauterberg): A Mos - Sev\*; F Rum\* - Sev; A Ser\* S A Tri\*; A Tri §  
& F Adr\* S F Ven\*; F Aeg\* S F Nap - Ion /d/ (R: Apu, OTB); F Ion\* - Tyr.

SUPPLY CENTRES, 1908

AUS (5-2, disband 2 because of /A/): Vienna, Trieste, Serbia, Venice, Moscow.

ENG (1-0, OUT): St. Petersburg.

FRA (8-9, build 1): Brest, Paris, Marseille, Belgium, Spain, Portugal,  
London, Tunis, ROME, NAPLES.

GER (10-11, build 2, as short): home, Denmark, Holland, Liverpool, Edinburgh,  
Sweden, Norway, Warsaw, BREST.

ITA (1-0, OUT): Rome.

TUR (9-11, build 2): home, Bulgaria, Greece, Sevastopol, Rumania, Naples,  
Budapest, TRIESTE, SERBIA, VENICE.

Autumn Retreat, Winter, 1908 AND Spring, 1909 due Fri., 2 December, 1984.  
(Next deadline: 20 January, 1984)

## 1982 J - North 3

ENGLAND LANDS MORE TROOPS ON CONTINENT. GERMANY FIGHTS FOR HOMELAND WHILE TURKISH HORDES SWEEPING NORTH AND WEST.

SPRING, 1907

AUS (Nelson Millar): A Tyr\* - Vie; A Tri - Ven\*.  
 ENG (Doug Millstone): A Par\* § & F Eng\* C A Lon - Pic\*; F Den\* S A Nwy - Swe\*; F Nth\* S F Den; F Kie\* - Ber; F Hol - Hel\*; F Bar\* - StP(nc).  
 FRA (Darryl Phillips): A Gas\* - Par; A Bre\* H; A Mar - Bur\*; F Spa(sc) - MAO\*.  
 GER (Martin Taylor): A Mun\* S A Pru - Ber\*; A StP\* § A Swe - Nwy /d/ (R: Fin, OTB); F Bal\* - Swe; A Vie\* § TUR A Ser - Tri.  
 ITA (CD): A Tus\*.  
 TUR (Dennis Duncan): F Bla\* C A Ank - Sev\*; A Con - Bul\*; A Smy - Aeg\*; F Gre - Ion\*; A Ser - Tri\*; A Rum - Gal\*; A Bud\* S GER A Vie; A Mos\* S GER A StP; A Rom\* S TUR A Tus - Ven (NSO); F Nap\* U.

Summer Retreat and Fall, 1907 due Friday, 2 December, 1983.  
 (Next deadline: 20 January, 1984)

1982 J Continues, page 12

## 1983 Q - North 4

NEW KAISER STRUGGLES AGAINST BOTH ENGLISH AND ITALIAN INVASIONS. AUSTRIAN, TURKISH COOPERATIVE EFFORT TAKES RUSSIA'S SOUTHERN PORT. FRENCH TRAPPED IN PORTUGAL, LOSE LAST FLEET.

SUMMER, 1903

RUS: A Gal R Boh.

FALL, 1903

AUS (Bob Acheson): A Vie\* S & A Bud\* S A Ser - Tri\*; A Rum - Sev\*; F Gre\*- Ion; A Gal\* S A Vie.  
 ENG (Paul Watson): F Hel\* S & F Nth\* C A Yor - Hol\*; F Eng\* - Bel; F Bre\* H; A Den\* - Kie.  
 FRA (Jan Jensen): F Por H /A/; A Par\* H.  
 GER (Mark Keller): A Sil\* - Mun; A Bel\* § A Hol /d/ (R: Ruh, OTB); A Hol § F Bal\* - Kie; A Bur\* S A Bel.  
 ITA (Dennis Duncan): A Tyr - Mun\*; A Spa\* S F MAO - Por\*; F Ion\* H; A Ven\* H; A Mar\* H.  
 RUS (Steve Berrigan): F Bot - Swe\*; A Boh\* S ITA A Tyr - Mun; A Ukr - War\*; F Bla\* § A Sev /d/ (R: Mos, Ukr, OTB).  
 TUR (James Keeley): F Con\* - Bla; A Arm\* S AUS A Rum - Sev; A Ank\* S A Arm; A Bul - Rum\*.

SUPPLY CENTRES, 1903

AUS (6-6, even): home, Serbia, Greece, Rumania, SEVASTOPOL.  
 ENG (6-7, build 1): home, Norway, Denmark, Brest, HOLLAND.  
 FRA (2-1, even because of /A/): Paris, Portugal.  
 GER (5-3, disband 2): Berlin, Kiel, Munich, Holland, Belgium.  
 ITA (6-8, build 2): home, Tunis, Marseille, Spain, PORTUGAL, MUNICH.  
 RUS (5-4, disband 1): St. Pete's, Moscow, Warsaw, Sevastopol, Sweden.  
 TUR (4-5, build 1): home, Bulgaria, RUMANIA.

Autumn Retreat, Winter, 1903 AND Spring, 1904 due Fri., 2 December, 1983.  
 (Next deadline: 20 January, 1984)

NOTES

It will take two requests to play Spring separately.

PRESS

Germany to World: Greetings. Anybody need a German ally?

Italy: Printer's strike in Italy causes chaos. Duncanini's words of wisdom unavailable. Europe breathes a sigh of relief.



## 1983 HT - North 5

A NEW CAST PREPARES FOR A NEW BATTLE. SULTAN HAS ALREADY MOVED BEFORE WE'VE REALLY BEGUN! WHO WILL BE THE FIRST STABBED, THE FIRST TO STAB? WHO WILL BE KNOCKED OUT FIRST, WHO WILL TRIUMPH? THE PULSE RACES....

### WINTER, 1900

AUS: Jan Jensen, 115 Albro Lake Rd., No. 3, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B3A 3Y7  
 ENG: Dan Adam, 16 Ranchwood Cr., London, Ontario N6G 3A2  
 FRA: Gerry Paulson, Box 6, Amisk, Alberta TOB 0B0  
 GER: Dale Bakken, 1116 Ann St., No. 12, Madison, Wisconsin 53713  
 ITA: Rob Lowes, RR 9, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 6Y1  
 RUS: Rob Peart, 35 Ringway Cr., Rexdale, Ontario M9W 1X2  
 TUR: Claude Gautron, 150 rue Masson, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2H 0H2

Spring, 1901 due Friday, 2 December, 1983 (Fall due 20 January, 1984)

### NOTES

This list was mailed out to the players on October 11 to give them lots of time for pre-game negotiations. As the new house rules haven't been decided upon, the old ones apply for Spring, 1901.

I received three requests for starting positions after this was mailed out. Sorry to disappoint; maybe next time.

## International Game

BLOOD-CRAZED LUNATICS GRAB POWER IN SEVEN EUROPEAN NATIONS. RUMOURS OF WAR CONFLICT WITH RUMOURED PEACE ENVOYS MEETING SECRETLY IN VARIOUS CAPITALS.

### WINTER, 1900

AUS: Gerry Van Alkemade, P.O. Box 36, Psychico, Athens, Greece  
 ENG: Walter Compton, Apartado 70774, Caracas 1071A, Venezuela  
 FRA: Bucheron Frank, 23 l'Ormo au Muet, 45700 Montcresson, France  
 GER: Sellick Davies, Zadco, LM, P.O. Box 6808, Abu Dhabi, Union of Arab Emirates  
 ITA: Pierre Touchette, 1, rue Georges, Masson, Québec, Canada JOX 2H0  
 RUS: Bill Young, P.O. Box 15746, Pittsburg, PA 15244, U.S.A.  
 TUR: Paul Watson, RR 5, Stony Plain, Alberta, Canada TOE 2G0

Spring, 1901 (and Summer, 1901) due Friday, 20 January, 1984.

### NOTES

At long last, eh? Enjoy your game. Though it may appear that your first deadline is a long time away, please remember that international mail is dreadfully slow from late November until mid-January. I would strongly suggest you send preliminary orders on receipt of this, and then allow at least three weeks to delivery your final set. International mail seems to take about two weeks at other times of the year, though you can never count on it.

We will be using European rules for this game, which means that retreats and builds are combined with the previous season. That means that if there's a chance a unit may be dislodged, you should supply a list of preferred retreats for it, else I will do it for you using Just's Right Hand Rule. Retreats and builds may always be conditional on what happens in the previous season. Complete House Rules will be distributed with next issue.

A note on our two Canadian players: Québec and Alberta are just about as far apart as one can get, both geographically and politically. So much so, that they are virtually separate countries. I would have been reluctant to put two players living in the same province in this game, but I don't think we lose any international flavour with players living where Pierre and Paul do.

Countries were assigned by preference list where supplied; otherwise, by lot.

## 1983 Brn16 - Variant 2

## (Blowup)

BRITISH FLEET SINKS ON ENTERING MINED AREA AT SEA! TURK REVEALS WHICH COAST AT LAST, TAKES BULGARIA! RUSSIAN CITIES FALLING LIKE TEN PINS TO GERMAN, AUSTRIAN INVADERS. TWO ARMIES MASSACRED WITHOUT USE OF MINE FIELDS!

AUTUMN, 1903

FRA: F Bre R OTB.

WINTER, 1903

AUS: B A Bud.

ITA: even.

ENG: B A Lon.

RUS: B F Sev, A StP.

FRA: B F Mar.

TUR: even.

GER: B F Kie, A Ber.

SPRING, 1904

AUS (Bruce Poppe): A Rum\* S A Ukr - Sev\*; A Tri - Ser\*; A Bul - Con /A/;  
A Gal - Ukr\*; A Bud - Gal\*.

ENG (Steve Hutton): F Bre\* S & F Eng\* S F NAO - MAO /A!/; F Pic - Bel\*;  
A Lon - Wal\*.

FRA (Mark Keller): F Por\* S F Mar - Spa(sc)\*; A Par\* S A Spa - Gas\*.

GER (Keith Sesler): F Bal\* S F Kie - Den\*; A War\* S A Lvn - Mos\*; A Pru\* - Lvn; A Ber - Kie\*.

ITA (Dave Lincoln): F Gre\* MS F Ion\*; F Lyo\* S A Pie - Mar\*; F WMed\* - Spa(sc).

RUS (Nelson Millar): F Sev - Rum /d/ (R: Bla, Arm, OTB); A Mos ~~§~~ (/A/)  
A StP\* - Lvn; A Swe\* - Den; A Fin\* - StP.

TUR (Dave Carter): F Con\* S F Aeg - Bul (sc)\*; F EMed - Aeg\*.

Summer Retreat and Fall, 1904 due Friday, 2 December, 1983.

(Next deadline: 20 January, 1984)

NOTES

There was only one request for separated seasons (and two against, though they don't count).

PRESS

Italy to France and GM: That was "cavalry," not "calvary." But hell, we all have our crosses to bear. (I guess you got nailed on this thorny one.)

Germany to French Travel Board: Sorry, but I've already got reservations in Russia. I'm glad I didn't decide to visit France; it seems that everyone is going there this year.

Vienna: Loud screaming noises were heard in this capital city recently, late at night. It was not immediately known whether a domestic quarrel was in progress or whether Turks had just received their latest news from Ottawa.

France to Germany, Austria, Turkey, and Russia: Help, help, help...

Italy to France: Why didn't you ever write?

Italy to Turkey: Your attack on my fleet in the Ionian Sea was fruitless, and always will be. We intend to keep the door closed and locked. Sorry.

Budapest: National Public Radio confirms recent suspicions that men should not date women who have three names. Probably poets, they would immortalize your betrayals in verse, to be endlessly anthologized in popular coffee-table editions, to your eternal chagrin.

Italy to France: Hey...I'll take one of those travel brochures. Is Liverpool nice in the springtime?

Trieste: I write much better press now that one of my other games has ended and I can concentrate on this one.

## 1983 Ecb19 - Variant 3

## (Woolworth II-D)

FRANCO-SPANISH WAR CONTINUES, BUT HERE COMES THE ITALIANS! WHICH SIDE WILL THEY BE ON? SCANDINAVIA AND GERMANY CHASE EACH OTHER IN CIRCLES. TURK FOLLOWS BALKANS ON THE SEA, BUT RUSSIA AND AUSTRIA WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHICH WAY BALKANS WILL GO IN THE FALL. ENGLAND TRIES TO LAND MORE TROOPS...

AUTUMN, 1902

AUS: A Bud R Tri.

SPA: A Mar R Mad.

WINTER, 1902

AUS: D F Apu.

BAL: even.

ENG: B A Lon.

FRA: even.

GER: even.

ITA: B F Nap.

RUS: B A Mos.

SCA: D F Lap.

SPA: even.

TUR: B F Con.

SPRING, 1903

AUS (???): A Tyr\* S SPA A Swi; A Ven\* S A Tri\*.

BAL (???): A Bud\* - Gal; A Ser\* S & A Bul\* S TUR A Arm - Rum; F Ion - Adr\*.

ENG (Steve Hutton): F Nwg\* S F Nwy - Lap (NSU); F Ska - Swe\*; F Nth\* C  
A Lon\* - Nwy; A Nwy\* U.

FRA (Keith Sesler): A Bur\* S A Mar - Swi /d/ (R: Gas, Pie, Bas, OTB); F Bre\*  
- MAO.

GER (???): A Mun\* S A Kie - Ber\*; F Den - Bal\*.

ITA (???): F Tun - Alg\*; F Tyr - WMed\*; F Nap\* S AUS F Apu - Ion (NSU).

RUS (???): F Rum\* S & A Mos\* S F Sev\*; F Sev S & A Gal\* S & A Ukr\* S F Rum.

SCA (Dave Carter): F Ber S F Bal - Kie\*; A Ber U /d/ (R: Pru, Sil, OTB).

SPA (Bob Albrecht): F Lyo\* S & A Swi\* S A Mad - Mar\*; F MAO\* - Bre.

TUR (Nelson Millar): F Con\* S F Bla\*; F Bla C A Arm\* - Rum; F Cre - Ion\*.

Summer Retreats and Fall, 1903 due Friday, 2 December, 1983.

(Next deadline: 20 January, 1984)

NOTES

Yes, I missed two of Spain's retreat options last turn.

PRESS

France to Spain: Capitulate? Not while I've got you on the run.

Austria to Balkans: So you couldn't regain Rumania, eh? Well, you will see what sort of fiendish torture we have prepared for you. Your stay will not be a pleasant one.

England to France: Right. I'm (nudge, nudge) Germany and you're (wink, wink) Russia. What else do you think we can get Carter to believe?

Spain to France: It's time for the old squeeze play. Care to help out, Germany?

England to Scandinavia: When Maud'dib said the quote you refered to last issue, he'd had a little too much spice and was "seeing the future" as the Fremen so delicately put it. When he was more sober, he said: "There are three groups you should not trust: Harkonens, used ornithopter salesmen, and publishers who write articles about games they're in. All have motivation to lie."

Moscow to Austria and Italy: Hey guys, come on. We've got to co-ordinate our moves or else T/B is going to walk all over the East.

## 1982 IF - Millar 1

BYE BYE RUSSIA, BYE BYE ITALY. WHERE ARE YOU, FRANCE?

GM: Nelson Millar  
327 Wilfred Leblanc  
Maniwaki, Québec  
J9E 1X7

SUMMER, 1904

FRA: F WMed R OTB (by GM).

FALL, 1904

AUS (Rauterberg): F WMed\* H; A Rom\* H; A Gre\* H; F Ven - Apu\*; A Sil § (/d/  
R: Gal, OTB) & A Boh\* S A Tyr - Mun\*; A Tri - Tyr\*.

ENG (Touchette): F NAO - MAO\*; F Bar\* S & F Nwy\* S A Fin - StP\*; F Nth\* C  
A Edi - Den\*; F Hol\* S A Kie; A Kie\* S GER A Mun; F Bal\* S GER A Ber.

FRA (MacLellan): NMR! A Bur\*, F Por\*, A Spa\*, F Lyo\*.

GER (Sesler): A Ber\* S A Mun - Sil\*; A Mos\* - Sev.

ITA (CD): A Pie\*.

RUS (CD): A StP /d/ (R: OTB).

TUR (Ferguson): F Tyr - Nap\*; F Tun\* H; F Aeg - Ion\*; A Pru - War\*; A Sev\*  
- Mos; F Rum\* - Sev; F Bul (ec) - Bla\*.

SUPPLY CENTRES, 1904

AUS (8-8, even): home, Ser, Gre, Ven, ROME, MUNICH, Naples, Tunis.

ENG (9-10, build 1): home, Nwy, Bel, Hol, Swe, Den, Kie, ST. PETERSBURG.

FRA (5-5, build 1, as short): home, Portugal, Spain.

GER (3-2, disband 1): Berlin, Moscow, Munich.

ITA (1-0, OUT): Rome.

RUS (1-0, OUT): St. Petersburg.

TUR (7-9, build 2): home, Bul, Rum, Sev, War, TUNIS, NAPLES.

Winter, 1904 and Spring, 1905 due Monday, 28 November, 1983.

NOTES (by Ron)

Will Jan Jensen, 115 Albro Lake Rd., No. 3, Dartmouth, NS, B3A 3Y7 please submit standby orders for France. Thanks. I'll send the addresses.

From time to time, players in this game send their orders to me rather than to Nelson. I have always managed to forward them to him in time, but this time I guess Dan's orders didn't make it. Not only are you causing me great inconvenience (Dan isn't the only one), but you increase your chances for an NMR several times over. Nelson is your game master and he is the one who must receive your orders in time. It does you no good if I have them and he doesn't. I'm just the typist.

1981 KA CONTINUED

NOTES

No sign of Blair's orders this time. So, will Claude Gautron, 150, rue Masson, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2H OH2 please submit standby orders for Germany? Thanks, Claude. I'll send the addresses.

PRESS

Paul to Blair: We really are a heartless couple of bastards, aren't we? Oh well, at least we're having fun....

1982 J CONTINUED

PRESS

Turkey: Another Kaballa Falls in Europe! Holy Pilgrims Rush to Discover Its Resting Place.

A brilliant glow, seen in the north-west skies of Constantinople, was proclaimed by the Grand Mullah to be the fall of the second Kaballa, identical to the great Black Stone of Mecca. Its resting place will be the site of a northern Mecca. Devout Muslims of all nations are rushing to find this spot. But, as usual, rumors abound and each must be investigated.

## From The Diplomatic Pouch

### A HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN POSTAL DIPLOMACY HOBBY

by Randolph Smyth

(NOTE: This article originally appeared in The National, No. 13, April, 1980. It is reprinted here with permission of the author.)

(When I was first asked) to write an article on hobby history, it came as rather a shock to realize that I am one of the most ancient members of the Canadian postal Diplomacy hobby. There are a handful of guys (John Leeder, Blair Cusack, Ralph Morton, Harry Drews) that go back further...but not many.

Most of you know that the present game was first marketed in 1961 by Allan B. Calhamer in the U.S., after a few years of playtesting an earlier design in face-to-face games. The postal hobby got started with the launching of John Boardman's Graustark (still going strong) in 1963. I only entered the hobby ten years later, in 1973, at a time when postal Diplomacy was growing rapidly in Canada. John Leeder was living in Huntsville, Ontario, publishing both Arrakis and Runestone. Other publishers, long departed from the hobby, included Mark Weidmark, Jim Ronson, John Biehl, John Coleman, John Morgan, and John Holland. Conrad von Metzke, one of the pre-1965 U.S. players, was still publishing Saguenay in California, the first zine devoted to Canadian players and the promotion of the hobby here. It folded soon after, its purpose gone with a well-established hobby in its wake.

From what I remember of that period, it was quite similar to the present. Games openings were available but not plentiful, as the number of players tended to exceed the capacity of the available zines. However, several new zines had appeared recently and opened a good number of games, so most players were satisfied for the moment. Playing styles were generally conservative; NMRs and dropouts were few; the hobby had a solid foundation but wasn't very exciting. Today, though, three zine publishers have over five years' experience; in 1973, I don't think any Canadian could come close to such a claim. This probably didn't have much effect on the day-to-day activity of most players though.

Within two years this description had to be changed drastically. By the end of 1975 a host of new zines had appeared: my Fol Si Fie in July '74; Arrakis "under new management" of four Huntsville editors that November; Laurence Gillespie's Zeppelin and Dave Truman's Gassed in December; Paroxysm by the Toronto Triumvirate (Robert Correll, Doug Ronson, and Harry Drews) who merged their earlier independent zines in January '75; Dave Holmes' Lonar in March; Richard Greenwall's Cibou in August; Japus by John Gross and Cal White (later resurrected after a fold, with little change of format, as Electra Blue Glide in May '77); Don Wileman's Der Fliegende Hollander and George Parkanyi's Cum Grano Salis in 1977. Some of the original zines had died off in the meantime, but the quality and quantity of the new ones far outstripped them. Led by Paroxysm, they ushered in the Golden Age of Canadian Diplomacy.

Paroxysm was simply the best all-round Diplomacy zine I've ever encountered. Like most of its "competitors," it was reproduced by ditto, ran 12-14 pages, and had a good balance of well-GMed games with plenty of good press and other commentary. Having three editors helped maintain the variety and interest, but the quality of this and other contemporary zines was largely due to an influx of keen, literate subscribers who collectively took an active part in contributing top-quality material. There were feuds aplenty--but clashes were generally confined to factual differences of opinion with only the rare descent into personal attacks. Long letters on a variety of subjects were well-mixed with articles on the play of the game, most notably Harry Drews' "Strategic Diplomacy" series. Other zines weren't far behind; all were supported by the same crowd, composed largely of university students with literary interests.

It was also a time of hilarious fakes, other pranks, and a general feeling of exuberance. Though the hobby was booming, there were astonishingly few growing pains because the zines were keeping pace with the increase of players. Looking back, it seems to me that NMRs were more frequent as people came and went with less emphasis on "doing well," but the enthusiasm of the major hobby figures kept the games, as well as the zines, interesting for all. Meanwhile, the U.S. hobby waned as the I.D.A. went into fatal convulsions; zine folds and orphaned games were epidemic south of the border. It was during this period that the CDO was born (1976), originally with strong isolationist tendencies to protect the quality of the smaller Canadian hobby from the malaise afflicting the south.

Most good things come to an end, and within another two years (1977) the bloom was gone. Paroxysm and several other Canadian zines folded that year. Almost all did so "responsibly" with notification and subscription/gamefee refunds where appropriate, but those who were left behind still found themselves with a lot of orphans on their hands. No new zines seemed to be starting; players clamoured for more games even as the old zines continued to fail. By the end of 1978 Passchendaele had arrived, but several more zines had simultaneously folded or cut back, and we had a crisis: Doug Ronson, the CDO Co-ordinator and Orphan Placement Officer, dropped out of the hobby, and it was uncertain whether the remaining zines could even handle the increasing load of orphans, let alone continue to open more games of their own.

Well, all games were successfully re-housed, and in the meantime things have come full circle. 1979 was a bumper year for Canadian zines, with Bill Lafosse's Toronto Telegram, Pierre LaBrèche's Caméléon à Binoculaires, John Lipscomb's Assorted Garbage, and Nick Russon/Clive Tonge's Infidel. Meanwhile two U.S. publishers, John Kelley (Beholder) and Andy Lischett (Cheesecake), with strong links to the Canadian hobby, began publishing as well.

In the belief that this sort of thing runs in cycles, I'm looking forward to the early '80's as a possible Second Golden Age. However, the tradition of letter-writing (both Diplomacy negotiations and on other subjects), which really "makes" the best zines and games, seems to have faded. The hobby loyalists today seem to be "scientists" (wargamers) rather than "artists" (literate and effective negotiators). I believe the hobby, on this continent at least, may have become too technically competent at the expense of having fun with the game--the games are less interesting and often more "draw-ish." Feuds are fewer now, but seem to be far nastier tooth-and-nail affairs than in earlier days. But perhaps this pendulum will swing the other way again. I've seen a couple of hopeful signs.

I'm afraid this review has concentrated on the fortunes of the zines and publishers. Like it or not, that's what is remembered best in the hobby --particularly, Canada has produced no spectacular players or other non-publishing types who have demanded mention after their departure. As a publisher myself, I believe that zines are the hobby anyhow. I hope I've brought back some good memories to the old-timers while getting through to the newcomers that this hobby wasn't born yesterday!

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#### POST-1980

by Ronald Brown

I couldn't leave Randolph's article hanging in mid-1980 like that, especially as the post-1980 period developed in a much different direction than Randolph envisioned. Though I began my involvement in the postal hobby in mid-1979, it wasn't until the end of 1980, early 1981 that I became aware that there even was a Canadian hobby--and that wasn't until after I began publishing! By then, almost every zine Randolph mentioned had disappeared. There was Fol Si Fie, Runestone (and Batoche), and Passchendaele. Infidel's last issue was December, 1980 and all the rest were no more.

You can well-imagine how "orphan-heavy" the remaining zines were, including Cheesecake which, though American, carried almost exclusively Canadian orphaned games. Then in 1982 Passchendaele went under, followed shortly by John Leeder's fold of Runestone and Batoche. During most of 1983 Fol Si Fie wasn't published. The "burden" of keeping the Canadian hobby going fell to three new zines: SNAFU! (began July, 1980), Sleepless Knights (March, 1981), and No Fixed Address (August, 1982). These three zines provided a core of stability in the hobby during a period of great stress, carrying orphaned games to the breaking point. They were also different than their predecessors in another aspect: the means of reproduction had changed to xerography, enabling them to improve considerably the appearance and readability of zines, including publishing photographs. More attention was paid to spelling, layout, appearance, and the creation of "professional-looking" products. But the hobby was hurting badly, as many older players dropped out, fed up with the numerous folds that marked the Canadian hobby, and difficulty was experienced with bringing new players into the hobby.

That is now changing, slowly. New players are finding their way to the postal hobby as Waddington's has become more co-operative than it had been when its hobby "contacts" kept disappearing. In 1983 two new zines appeared: Bob Albrecht's Battle Stations and Claude Gautron's Quinipique. There are hints that Passchendaele may be resurrected. Regarding Randolph's comments in his last paragraph, Canadian hobbyists are getting recognition now. Blair Cusack and Randolph have established reputations in the U.S. hobby as among the best players today. Canadian publishers are becoming known in the U.S. for producing quality products and their reputation is spreading through Europe.

So, as we head towards the mid-1980's, it is not the best of times, nor the worst of times....

## Rules

### RULE VII, 2 and 3 a.

2. ATTACK. A move order, correctly given, will sometimes in these rules be called an attack upon the space to which the unit has been ordered to move.

3 a. KIEL AND CONSTANTINOPLE. By virtue of the waterways through these two provinces, fleets may enter along one coast, and, on another move, leave from the other coast. Armies may also pass into and out of these provinces, freely bridging these waterways. Note that this does not mean that pieces may jump over these spaces.

Okay, Rule VII, 2 is what we might call a "definition rule." It never causes any problems that I am aware of. Because the usual symbol for this order is "-" it doesn't really matter what it's called. In Machiavelli, which is closely related to Diplomacy, one speaks of "advance" or "attack" and so the symbol for the order is "A." Just thought you might be interested....

Rule 3 a., governing Kiel and Constantinople, causes problems for beginners only. I have seen people try to move fleets directly from the Baltic Sea to the Skagerrak, but they don't persist in arguing that that is how it should be. What looks odd to me is that armies can move directly from Denmark to Sweden. Looking at a map the sea space between Gibraltar and North Africa doesn't look any wider than the sea between Denmark and Sweden, but, as pointed out before, Diplomacy is an abstract game that does not conform to the "real" world.

## Letters

I hadn't realized just how deeply divided the hobby is over the question of how to deal with Spring, 1901 NMRs until I started pushing for people to respond to my proposed house rule revisions. As I am putting this together, a few days before the voting deadline, I can't make any prediction on how it will turn out. It looks like an even three-way split between leaving things as they are (no special treatment), using a "double deadline," and using neutral orders. I will have to make a decision soon, but, meanwhile, here are some of the comments I received on the subject.

Jim Keeley (Calgary, Alberta): "On this matter, I think the rules are clear and, in the spirit of the game, people must accept the consequences of not submitting orders on time."

John Caruso (Flushing, New York): "Do you intend to allow the original player to come back if he has his orders in by the "double" due date? If you do you defeat the "double" purpose. If you don't accept his moves, you are interfering, unless you word your HR as such that the player is out if not in by the preliminary turn. But think how that sounds--removal for one NMR and not an NMR at that--only a preliminary NMR. Not a very player-oriented rule for something the P.O. might have a hand in."

"Whatever you do, chose one or the other and stick to it consistently. My personal preference as a GM: No Double Debut, No Neutral Orders."

To answer your questions, John: No, the player would not be able to return if he missed the first deadline then made the second. That would, as you point out, defeat the purpose. Players are removed from games for two NMRs, so I can't see what's wrong with removing someone before the game begins if he demonstrates that he is incapable of getting a piece of paper to my address within a few weeks. True, the post office may have something to do with it, but that's a cross we all have to bear.

Randolph Smyth (Medicine Hat, Alberta): "No. 1 ((double deadline)) is the least of evils, though as you probably know I go ahead with the season, Spring NMRs notwithstanding. I don't think NMRs are significantly more damaging at that stage than in Fall '01 or later. I oppose 'neutral orders,' not because they aren't 'neutral' enough, but because it allows players to escape diplomatic responsibility for their units' actions with a deliberate NMR. 'Vanilla' moves also channel the game into standard lines. If a player can't get his orders in, let his position suffer correspondingly! Death to neutral orders!"

Kathy Byrne (Flushing, New York): "I know I'm not a player in your zine, but I do pick up quite a few standby positions as favors to my GMs and I'd like to state my position on your HR change. Do incoming players a favor: go with neutral Spring '01 orders you have listed. At least it gives the standby a fighting chance. And as a standby who finishes out the position no matter how hopeless, neutral moves help. The NMRing player really doesn't care, but the standby coming in will love ya!"

Mark Berch (Alexandria, Virginia): "If you want to fine-tune your S01 NMR procedure, you might do what I suggest for GMs who do not find 'neutral' orders acceptable. Require S01 orders by return mail, rather than by full deadline. They can always revise. This way you'll find out about a screwup much earlier."

Seems you just proposed my original suggestion. Requiring preliminary orders within, say, three weeks doesn't seem to be any different than requiring such orders by return mail. But, thanks for the support and glad you had time to write, what with Joshua and all. Feel free to tell us all about it. After all, as baby custodian, I have certain obligations to the hobby, eh?

Bob Albrecht (Calgary, Alberta): "I support the double Spring, 1901 deadline for several reasons. 1) It doesn't give any benefits to NMRing players. Under the rest of the neutral order type systems, a player can



deceive the GM and get away with it if he chooses. 2) Neutral orders are never really neutral. What appears to be fair to Germany can be hostile to England and vice versa. No one should have to 'pay the price' in a game of equals. 3) The double '01 deadline is more than fair to the player involved. He/she is given ample opportunity to correct their error and recover from it."

I'm not sure what you mean by your last point, as the NMRing player, in a preliminary Spring, 1901 setup, would be immediately replaced, else there's no point to the "double deadline." There is no second chance.

Hum, I was sure there were more, but they must be attached to order sheets. (People who write on the same page as their orders rarely get published, or even responded to, as game orders are filed separately from letters and I rarely have the time or inclination to go searching through game files for letters.) Well, as I said at the beginning, I have no idea how it will go. There are strong arguments on all sides. I don't think the ballots I've received will prove very conclusive, but we'll have to see....

-----

On the resurgence of the Dippy baby boom, Bruce Poppe (Arnold, Maryland) writes: "So the Postal Dip baby boom continues, hunh? Does this mean we'll have to look at more pictures? You could end up as bad as Sleepless Knights, but only at the other end of the spectrum! (Or has some of the novelty worn off?)"

And, from Dan Adam (London, Ontario): "Congratulations to you and Ann. I hope the child will be healthy and happy."

Thanks, Dan. Yeah, Bruce, more pictures. But, maybe I could adopt another of Sleepless Knights' features and print the offending photos upsidedown with a warning to the squeamish not to turn the page around? Novelty wear off? Never! Every day is a new adventure, especially when you're 18 months old.

Claude Gautron (Winnipeg, Manitoba): "Congratulations to Ann and yourself on the expectant child. You know she's a girl? Another feat for medical science, no doubt!"

Nothing scientific about it at all. We instinctively knew, from the day Christopher was conceived, that he was a boy. We feel that this one's a girl. But, even if we're wrong, we'll still be batting .500.

-----

On the U.S. hobby, Mark Luedi (Bloomington, Indiana) writes: "I have been closely following your discussions of the U.S. zines; it has provided much food for thought here also. Don't know that a whole lot of nutritional value was found by me, but I can agree with a lot of what you have to say. If you ever have need of another Canadian pubber, let me know; maybe I can tear myself away from here."

Thanks, Mark. The land of the free isn't very far from Indiana if you decide to take the plunge.

-----

On gun control, Bob Acheson (Lupin, North West Territories): "It's quite easy to get a gun here, ((??)) gun auctions are fairly common."

It's easy to get a gun here too, though I assume you mean shot gun, which is hardly in the same class as a hand gun. (How many thieves carry a 20 guage in their pocket?) Hand guns have only one purpose and anyone who thinks he can't feel safe unless he has one handy is in need of psychiatric help. In the June, 1975 issue of Bushwacker, Fred Davis wrote: "Statistics show that 85% of all murders in this country ((the U.S.A.)) are performed by members of the family or others living under the same roof. It's just too damn easy to go and get that gun out during a hot argument, or when that suspicious noise is heard in the dark. The other strong possibility is that

the 3-year old child will find the gun and point it at Mommy and pull the trigger. And don't give me that bull about 'keeping it locked up.' Kids know how to open locks."

The gun lobbies in the U.S. keep everyone confused by not distinguishing between hunting rifles, or shot guns, and hand guns. Most of those who would like to see hand guns out of private hands have nothing against rifles and shot guns. John Michalski pointed out once that men in Switzerland are required to keep a gun, but yet it has one of the lowest murder rates in the world. He failed to mention that they are required to keep militia-type weapons, not Saturday Night Specials.

Mark Leudi adds: "Certainly the hand guns are a factor in the prevalence of crime here in the U.S., but really, they are merely a physical tool/extension of the mentality that seems (often) to be pervasive in this society... Things are starting to (finally) change for the better, or so the appearances go, but there are a lot of other things about life in the 'Good ole U.S.A.' that need to be scrutinized."

On the Canadian attitude, Dennis Duncan (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan): "If I see my neighbour spying on me, I do not get out a gun and dispose him. Point A, I am confident and secure that he cannot harm me. Point B, I respond as the situation merits."

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I'm not sure if this was meant for publication or not, so I'll just leave the name off: "I must comment that it is not a deliberate policy of Korean Airlines to make beeline trips across the U.S.S.R. Their pilots are specifically warned to avoid Russian territory. Also, the records show the airliner's lights were on. The Russians claimed they were off!"

Right after the incident, the CBC interviewed several people who had flown from Alaska to South Korea on KAL and they all reported the same odd behaviour on the part of the flight crew. At a certain point in their flight very nervous flight attendants requested that all shades be drawn and kept closed. Some passengers did sneak a peak and noticed that the running lights were out. This was reported by former passengers on different flights over a period of years.

Dennis Duncan also argues this point: "The KAL shutdown. The tapes presented to the UN were obviously edited to pick out the 'juicy' parts... but it was distinct that the plane had its running lights on. As for the cabin lights, I believe that it is standard policy to either dim the lights or turn them off when passengers are sleeping. The science of radio intercepts these days would allow the Sovs to know, if they wanted to check, the passenger list and name of the pilot for that matter. Disturbing. The radar over those sensitive sites would hopefully be able to distinguish between two planes, one roughly 40% larger than the other. Otherwise, they might wind up intercepting a flock of seabirds. The Americans several years ago intercepted a flock of geese. Also, the RC-135 was on the ground four hours before the shooting occurred...."

Sometimes I wonder if "they" are feeding different news stories to different parts of the country? The Russian pilots consistently referred to the plane as an RC-135 or "spy plane." They were never closer than 30 KM, or above 2,000 metres below the KAL plane--and I heard that from American sources. How close the RC-135 was at that time seems to depend on whether a Republican or a Democrat is speaking. I think it is completely clear that the shooting down of that plane was a tragic and stupid mistake and I fail to see what is accomplished by attempts to portray the Russians as lunatics who go out searching for passenger planes to shoot down. They acted stupidly and incompetently and are fully deserving of the sanctions that have been imposed against them. But how come nobody screams bloody hell and imposes sanctions when civilians are made victims in other parts of the world--by either side? That's the point I was trying to make.

Dennis continues on a related subject: "Fanaticism is sweeping the world, or so it seems. There seems to be a profound inability to admit that there might be some error on your part, some right on their side. To do so, in my opinion stunts the mental flexibility we all need to survive and grow. I'm afraid I see the seeds of such in yourself, Ron. I agree that the events in B.C. and Québec are stupidity incarnate....But to assume that they are 'fascists' and their opponents 'humans' denies the fact that humanity and shades of government, like beauty and intelligence are distributed normally on both sides."

I admit my language was inflammatory; however, I feel justified by recent events. At least I don't throw people out of work and, at the same time, close the social service agencies they will need because of political theory! This whole "recession" business is a crock, invented by the right wing to justify mass firings and stripping of human rights. You don't need to belong to a nominally right wing party to deserve the label "fascist." I apply it equally to the socialist government in Québec and the Social Credit government of British Columbia. All you need to do to deserve that label is deny the two essentials of any definition of humanity: ie., the ability to reason and to act with compassion.

I am getting more impatient in my old age and less willing to tolerate stupidity. Maybe it's Reagan who's been getting under my skin. Ever since he was elected it seems all he has done is search for a war so he can play a John Wayne role--and to hell with the cost, either domestically or internationally. The problem is that petty fiefdoms everywhere are trying to copy his style. Governments are just too far removed from reality these days and don't seem to care if everything is going to hell around them. To call them "fascists" hardly does justice to the crimes we are letting them get away with.

## Battle Stations

### GAME OPENINGS

With two games filling between last issue and this, I think a pause is called for--at least until another game or two end. I did hear from a few people after I had mailed out the line-up for North-5 so I'll put them at the top of the list for the next game. Meanwhile, I can always use standbys.

### STANDBYS

Bob Acheson, Bob Albrecht\*, Dale Bakken, Steve Berrigan, Jim Briggs, Dave Carter, Chip Charnley, Blair Cusack, John Davies, Dennis Duncan, Gary Ferguson, Claude Gautron, Scott Hanson, Jan Jensen, Jack Jung, James Keeley, Mark Keller\*, Mike Mazzer, Bob Olsen, Gerry Paulson\*, Paul Rauterberg, Pierre Touchette, Windy Windblad, Roy Smith.

\* = standbys for variant games.

For International Games: Gerry Van Alkemade, Bill Young, Richard Devereux, Sellick Davis, Ake Jonsson, John Marsden.

Any errors or omissions in the above, please let me know.

### EXPIRING SUBSCRIPTIONS

With this issue (No. 37) the following subs expire: Steve Berrigan, Martin Taylor.

Next issue (No. 38-39): Garvin Boyle, Jack Jung, John Horn, Roland Bakker, Ralph Merton, Dave Weatherhead, Mark Berch, Andy Lischett.

At No. 40 (the first issue in 1984): Gary Ferguson, Errol Platt, Scott Hanson, Bruce Linsey, Bruce Poppe, Roy Smith, Windy Windblad, Rick Young, Gerry Van Alkemade, Ake Jonsson.

THE DIPPY BABY BOOM

Joshua Hershel Barch was born August 15, weighing in at 6 pounds, 15 ounces. Glad to learn I'm not the only doting father in the hobby, as Mark devoted an entire issue of Diplomacy Digest to this event. Glad to know that all are well and that we'll have another fine player in time for 1999A.

I have heard rumours that Mike Mazzer's wife did give birth, but have heard nothing from the horse's mouth on the subject. Fess up, Mike.

In case you missed it on page one, Ann and I decided to give the Dippy Baby Boom a much needed morale boost. If the intelligent people in this world (and Diplomacy players tend to belong to that category) don't start having more babies we'll be doing mankind a great disservice. Do your part! Besides, babies are fun!

## Parting Shot

Before I forget, next issue we have an article by Fred Davis on what they feed American children in history class. This will be complemented by an article on what Canadian children are raised on. Also, rules for the final revised version of Conquest of the New World, complete with map, will be included, along with House Rules, and the new CDO Constitution awaiting your approval. Ann will be sure to have something too.

By the way, there's a simple solution for these of you who take exception to "baby pictures" in a Diplomacy zine: send other pictures! Preferably of Diplomacy players or events. Black and white works best, but colour is fine if there isn't too much detail. Closeups are better than group shots.

Ann's column last month reminded me of this story I wanted to tell, just in case any of you are operating under the illusion that computers are smart. We have some games in the system at work and sometimes I pass the time on the midnight or evening shift trying to beat the computer. It now owes me over four million dollars in Blackjack winnings. How did I do it? Simple. I bet negative amounts and then go bust on purpose. I get messages saying, "You lose, you now have \$X." As long as it's adding my total, I don't care. When I mentioned this to some of the operators I work with either they didn't understand or were appalled that I would "cheat." Where's the "cheating"? I didn't write the rules; I'm just applying them to my advantage. The computer didn't write the rules either; it's just doing what it's been told to do. Some programmer didn't think of everything when he wrote the program--which is the same reason you get bills demanding payment of your outstanding balance of \$0.00, else the company will take you to court. If programmers are going to design our world, remember they don't know any more than you and are just as prone to stupidity and error. No sense blaming the machine. That makes as much sense as blaming the car when you drive it into a wall.

Brave new world, eh?

Speaking of which, the Canadian government is arguing in court that the constitution doesn't apply to its decisions! This concerns those seeking an injunction trying to stop the spread of nuclear terror into Canada via cruise missile testing. If the constitution doesn't apply to the government, what use is it?

1984, eh?

I'm getting grey around the temples. That's fine with me. At least I'm not going bald like my father and maybe some day I'll look like the wise old man of the world that I am!

See you soon.

Ron