

TALABWO

Issue Five

Early June 1977

TALABWO (tah-LAHB-wo) is - well, you all know what it is, and since it ain't gonna be any longer, why bother with intros?

YES, FRIENDS, WE ARE GOING OUT OF BUSINESS: There will be one more issue of TALABWO after this, and it will be tiny; just a few final notes and fix-up material before I fold the magazine. All persons currently on the lists will get it. After that, you won't.

Obviously, therefore, all trades and subs are cancelled. I am refunding all subscription money in full, with no charge for the issues received. As to trades, I suggest you cancel them immediately, without regard for the sixth and last mini-issue to come. (Note that this is a mini-issue too.)

And why is this happening? Because, gentle readers, I have other things to do instead. If you hadn't heard already, I am the new editor of DIPLOMACY WORLD; Walt Buchanan has retired (he'll continue as Publisher).

Looked at strictly from the vantage point of variants, the dissolution of TALABWO may seem a bad thing. Maybe, but it isn't as bad as all that. In many ways it may prove a blessing. Look at it this way: TALABWO has never really caught fire. All issues have been rather disorganized; the ideas expressed were all worthy but never really settled into anything that could be made to work. The exception is the Variant Number system, and that is going to continue in other hands anyway. Two or three of the projects proposed will also go on, either under new management or in other guises. And let's face it; I'll actually be in a far better position, as an editor, to boost variants via DW than I am now in this rag. I assure you, variants will get a lot of attention in my new endeavour.

Now to business.

1. The World Variant Association is in an interesting position. Many, many people want to join, help out, participate...but nobody seems to want to take a leadership role. After all my pleading, there is still no offer of a Treasurer. Nobody has indicated the slightest interest in becoming Chairman. My impression is that many people will participate if somebody else runs the thing, but nobody will agree to run it themselves. Okay. WVA is dead again. If anyone out there wishes to revive it under their own leadership, fine; I'll join and support it. But unless and until somebody indicates otherwise, I think we can declare WVA defunct.

2. The Variant Numbers - I'm making yet more changes this issue. Next issue I'll fix up a few rough corners. After that, the new numbering system will go into the capable hands of Calvin White, 1 Turnberry Ave., Toronto, Ontario, CANADA. James Hymas will also be handling these things; I'll let Cal and James decide who does what, and who fills what position, and so forth.

3. The Game Openings listing that I have been trying to get started will be incorporated into DIPLOMACY WORLD. I'll print a listing of any game opening known; if you know of any, let me know. I'll include a short description of the game itself if I have the information. Beginning in 1978, I am going to try and move DW to a bi-monthly schedule, thus the

problem of information passing into obsolescence so quickly ought to be solved. I encourage anyone interested to keep me supplied with game opening data, and with any game descriptions of the open sections that they care to send. I'll print what I get.

4. The capsule game descriptions: Well, there is already an effort in this regard under way; Der Garvey of Ireland is well into his own compilation, having completed (at his last report) six or seven dozen. Those who wish to help, write to Der at: 22 McDonagh Road, Ballyphokane, Co. Wick, IRISH REPUBLIC.

I'm going to set aside at least one page, perhaps more, each issue of DM to the cause of publishing some of Der's data. (One page in DM is in the neighbourhood of 700 words) That ought to do it....

5. Variant handbook - still no report from the UK scheme. Presumably Hartley or Lew Pulsipher will provide data when they are available.

6. Playtesting - several people have expressed interest. If you want a game commented on, write to one of the names on the list below and see what they have to say. A couple of names on this list may playtest the thing with their local friends, if they can; discuss that one with them.

Ken St. Andre, 2232 E. Pinchot, Apt. 8, Phoenix, AZ 85016, USA.
Jim Peters, 5004 N. 68th Drive, Glendale, AZ 85303, USA.
Conrad von Metzke, P.O. Box 626, San Diego CA 92112, USA.
Ferkin Doyle, 259 Johnson St., Apt. V-1, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA.
Lewis Pulsipher, London House, Mecklenburgh Square, London WC1N 2AB, U.K.
Doug Hayward, Box 291, 43 King William St., Huntsville, Ontario,
CANADA POA 1K0.

THE NORTH AMERICAN VARIANT BANK IS DEAD, it seems. Dick Vedder and I have tried, and tried, and tried again to get some response from Dave Kadlecak; Dick, who put about 90% of the work into the Bank, wants it back, and Dave - who has been sitting on it for months and months without apparently doing anything serious with it - hasn't even the courtesy to reply. I got so sick of Kadlecak's refusal to reply that I long ago dropped him from my mailing lists.

Well, it's a damned shame that all that work must go to waste, but I think it's obvious that thanks to Dave, the NAVB is lost. So - Dick and I are going to spend a few days while he's in town shortly, creating a new one! Between the two of us, and Rod Walker's archives, and the huge pile of material that Walter Luc Haas has generously sent, and various smaller offers of help, we ought to be able to put together a good solid foundation for a new, active NAVB. Then Dick will open up shop, and at long last you'll be able to get what you want from someone who will print lists and reply to enquiries, and keep up on new variants being issued.

Until this is done, I respectfully request that all publishers cease and desist from plugging the Kadlecak bank. I might point out that, to one degree or another, virtually everyone in variant hobbying supports the action Dick and I are taking - and this list of supporters includes the Miller Number Custodian, Mr. Robert Sacks, so it isn't just another feud.

Besides, this is in no way directed personally against Dave. We want a functioning, up-to-date variant bank in North America. We couldn't care less who runs it, as long as they do it.