

THE ABYSSINIAN PRINCE #170

February 7, 1996

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The last issue was plagued by problems that are contributing to the delay in this issue. Most of the problems are in one way or another due to the weather. The weather has given me more to do around the house (shoveling snow, fighting squirrels in the attic, etc.), but more importantly it has definitely affected the mail. The cold weather has led to an epidemic of stamps falling off letters and requiring remailing. This cost me over ten dollars this time around! and I've complained to the postal service and caused Drew James' issue to be returned to me TWICE!! It also has affected the speed of delivery itself as the last issue took a long time to get to some of you. I appreciate your patience and forbearance in not blaming me for the problems (though I feel some responsibility...). I trust that things are improving with this issue.

In general, this issue is a bit sparse, but allow me to encourage people to write those end of the year music comments. The first installments are beginning to appear in the letter column below. Next issue, I should be a bit more back on track, especially with a new Mekons album to write about!!

The postal sub price is now \$1.00 per issue or 12 issues for \$10.00 in the US and Canada. You can double that for other foreign subbers (or \$2.00 per issue and \$20 per 12 issues sent airmail). Players in current games and standbys will continue to get the issues for free, but new game starts (except for Nuclear Yuppie Evil Empire Diplomacy) cost \$15.00 (\$10.00 for a life of the game subscription and \$5 for the NMR Insurance). See sign up information at the head of the Games Section below. Remember that music comments and reviews are scattered through the game press at times. The deadline will remain on Saturdays for the time being and I will shoot to get the szine out the door early in the following week. That also means that NMR insurance calls will be made on the weekends.

Generally, when it appears, Peter Sullivan's subszine *Octopus' Garden* will go between the letter section of the szine and the games section.

By electronic mail, through the Internet, subs are free and can be obtained automatically by sending the message: subscribe tap

to majordomo@nda.com and messages can be sent to the entire electronic mailing list by mailing them to tap@nda.com which will forward your message to all of the people currently on the list. The message: unsubscribe tap

sent to majordomo@nda.com gets you off the list. Please make careful note of that as well since you generally can get yourself off the list a lot easier than I can, and NOBODY likes to see unsubscribe messages sent to the entire list. A big, big thank you for David Kovar for setting this all up!! For now, though the ftp site has moved to Cal Tech, this will stay here. As I have said before, this whole "use the Internet for free" idea kind of bothers me, as does the alternative of trying to charge for it. I don't have any great ideas for solutions....

ANYWAY, now the issues of *The Abyssinian Prince* #131 to the present are available via anonymous FTP from [ftp.ugcs.caltech.edu](ftp://ftp.ugcs.caltech.edu) in the `pub/diplomacy/Zines/TAP` directory in compressed postscript format. The gracious assistance of Kevin Roust is most appreciated in keeping up this site. The files begin `ap131.ps.Z` and go sequentially from there. Since it's UNIX based, all of those upper and lower cases are important. If anyone wants help from me on doing this, they only have to ask and I can help you determine if you have access to FTP which stands for File Transfer Protocol. There is also a World Wide Web connection to this site, but it suffers from high traffic problems. Try:

<ftp://ftp.ugcs.caltech.edu/pub/diplomacy/WWW/>

although I gather that access is pretty much limited to local traffic. The direct ftp access works well most of the time, although it is plagued by access problems occasionally as well. Just try again later or Nathan Wagner is mirroring the caltech site, so try the site below if you can't get to caltech:

<ftp://ftp.msn.fullfeed.com/pub/users/nw/diplomacy>

or check out the connections in the Diplomatic Pouch with all of the information you would need to play Diplomacy on the Internet at:

<http://www.csn.net/~mhand/DipPouch>

THE SEARCH FOR KEVIN TIGHE

The winner will receive \$150 credit for Dip hobby activities that I will pay out as requested by the winner. Bid on PDORA items, subscribe toazines here or abroad, run your own contests, publish aazine, or whatever. Spend it all right away or use me as a bank to cover hobby activities for years. What must you do to win?? Get me a letter to the editor for *TAP* from Kevin Tighe by the deadline for issue #175. That is now the official cutoff for this contest. At that time, I might do another such search to replace this one. Suggestions are encouraged. The final judge as to the winner of the contest will be Kevin Tighe himself and I reserve the right to investigate the winning entry. If someone has found Kevin, they should ask him to send me a letter for print that includes a verification of who "found" him. If said person wishes me to send a packet of back issues to Kevin in order to give him something to comment on, that would be fine by me – no charge.

INTERNATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION EXCHANGE NEWS

One can send subscription money to me for anyazine from the UK (Iain Bowen, 231 Loxley Close, Church Hill, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 9JL, UK) or Australia (John Cain, PO Box 4317, Melbourne University 3052, AUSTRALIA) or Belgium and possibly other European countries (Jef Bryant, Rue Jean Pauly, 121, B-4430 ANS, BELGIUM) and the aforementioned person in parentheses will forward your subscription on to the editor in either pounds sterling or Australian dollars or continental European currencies respectively. Please include the full name and address of the foreign publisher with your order, if possible, as well as theazine title. Make your check in US dollars out to me personally. I will conduct business for Canadians as well, if I can, but prefer to deal in US dollars with them if possible, or Canadian dollars cash. To subscribe to Americanazines, the system works in reverse.

Kim Head's *Life's Rich Pageant* must wait for next issue yet again. I even NMRed in her latest issue since I've been so busy. I hope people are enjoying my fannish personality oriented Britazine reviews. I intend to keep doing them even though the response to them so far has been rather light. Brit pubbers are welcome to write rejoinders to my reviews.

DIPDOM NEWS SECTION (with letters)

Obscure and not-so-obscure ramblings on the state of the hobby and its publications, custodians, events, and individuals with no guarantee of relevance from the fertile keyboard of Jim-Bob, the E-Mail Dip world, and the rest of the postal hobby. My comments are in *italics* and *((double quotation marks))* like this. **Bold face** is used to set off each individual speaker. I should also make a note that I do edit for syntax and spelling on occasion.

Manus Hand (Mon, 22 Jan 1996 09:27:30 -0700)

The Final Report of World DipCon V (held at Paris last month) can be found in the Face-to-Face section of *The Diplomatic Pouch* (at <http://www.csn.net/~mhand/DipPouch>). All are encouraged to read this report. The newly crowned World Champion will be defending his crown at World DipCon VI will be held in Columbus, Ohio this coming July.

You know, reading this report makes me wonder if there shouldn't be an annual tournament to decide the PBEM World Champion (more extensive than the single game hall95, hall96, etc.) and whether the winner shouldn't be awarded some prize and Cup....

And then, have the top 2 players from each of the FTF, PBM, and PBEM hobbies all play me each year to decide the overall champ. :-)

Anyway, please check out the WDC V report, and I hope to see many of you at WDC VI this summer!

Manus, manus@evolving.com

((At this point, it doesn't look like that will include me, but we'll see. Here's Larry Peery's latest update on the event....))

Larry Peery (Sun, 28 Jan 1996 19:23:15 -0500)

Greetings! Enclosed is a copy of our second issue. Please reprint and distribute it freely. Today marks the beginning of a One Hundred Days period during which I hope to get most of work done in preparation for WDC VI. To achieve this I need all your help.

Regards. Larry Peery, WDCVI@aol.com

BID PACKAGE: US\$5 per hard copy.

CONTACTS: US\$2 per hard copy.

WDC V FINAL REPORT: US\$5 per hard copy.

WORLD DIPCON VI

ATTENDANCE – One of my major goals for WDC VI is to make it the first real “international” Diplomacy championship event. By that I mean an event in which no single national hobby dominates the event’s gaming or other activities. WDC VI has the ability to be such an event, if things go well. **ORIGINS** should bring people to DC and WDC from outside the usual Diplomacy crowd that attends DIPCON. However, we heard that about DC held in San Francisco in conjunction with PACIFICON, and it didn’t happen. I hope the people responsible for DC will put an effort into attracting non-Dippers, as well as diehard hobbyists, to the DC/WDC events. But that’s not my concern. My job is to promote international participation in WDC.

I am not so idealistic as to believe that hundreds of foreign Diplomacy fans are going to pour into Columbus, even with a world championship title at stake. My goal is more modest. I hope to see at least two representatives from each national hobby and sub-hobby. Hopefully one of them will be a world class player and one will be a hobby organizer or publisher who can take the story of WDC VI back home and spread the news of the event. What does this mean in real terms? If DC/WDC attracts 100 participants, about the same as Paris, that would mean about 28 of them should be foreign. I would like to see at least two foreigners at every game table during the tournament. That would be enough to give the event an international flavor. Is that possible? I think so.

Anyone who has the money can attend WDC on their own, of course, but for most hobbyists that is not possible. My hope is that these people will pool their resources and raise money to send at least one representative to the event. Major Diplomacy events, and national hobby organizations may be able to help. A group of two, four, or seven (or more) can bring individual costs down considerably. Shared travel and housing expenses can save money. I’ll have more information on that in future e-grams.

AND IF YOU CAN’T GO? – You can still participate in WDC VI. First, you can pre-register even if you don’t plan to attend. Doing so will get you all the pre-event publications and a copy of the event program and report, as well as access to any publications used in the Con’s WDC events. However, you won’t be able to vote in the meetings. You can contribute articles and other materials for those WDC events. And, if our plans go well, you’ll be able to participate in a special internet WDC activity.

FINANCES – I find it hard to believe that WDC has survived this long without a charter, organization, or reliable funding source. The only other example of such a thing that comes to mind is the early Christian church, and even it had the wealthy widows of Rome to keep it afloat. Still, one of the jobs that goes with being WDC host is that of passing the hat to collect donations to support the event’s costs. So, I’m passing the hat.

When I hosted DC in San Diego some years ago I figured it cost me about as much as I collected in fees and donations (excluding the prize pool which was worth several thousand dollars) from those attending. I wanted that event to be something special, and I was willing and able to make it so. But this year there will be no free tee shirts or banquet unless you want them and you are willing to pay for them. My financial commitments to WDC are already at the limit.

When I presented the American bid to host this event I made certain commitments to the Paris meeting because I believed they were both right and necessary. First, I committed us to sending the champion of our event to the next WDC event. Now you know why I am hoping for a Norwegian winner in Columbus, and a Oslo site in 1997! Secondly, I committed us to provide housing, etc. for the visit of last year’s winner to Columbus. The French manufacturer of Diplomacy is providing transportation to bring him here, as well as the collection of games he won as part of his prize. Can you imagine Avalon Hill doing that, even if they could? This expense has already been covered by donations, as long as I haven’t maxed out my credit cards before the Con. Thirdly, Francois Rivasseau and I have donated a rather grand perpetual trophy that will go to each year’s winner on a rotating basis. Hockey, a game not to be mentioned in the same breath as Diplomacy, has its Stanley Cup; and yachting has its America’s Cup; which the Kiwis stole from us, but that’s another story :-) A major symbol of the WDC championship is a key element of the legitimization of the event and hobby. So, these are where my resources are going.

Now, you see why I am passing the hat. My philosophy, unlike some in the American hobby, is that

WDC VI INTERNATIONAL E-GRAM #2
GREETINGS AND WELCOME!

To the second issue of WDC VI INTERNATIONAL E-GRAM, published 28 January, 1996, the official email newsletter for WORLD DIPCON VI, published by Larry Peery, Chairman of the 1996 WDC Administration Committee, and available on AOL at WDCVI, on the internet at WDCVI@aol.com, or on the Web through *THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH* at <http://www.csn.net/~mhand/DipPouch>. A hard copy is US\$1 by mail. Contributions to the newsletter are welcome and right to reprint is given freely. A copy of the reprint would be appreciated. My postal address is 6103 Malcolm Dr., San Diego, CA 92115, USA. My FAX number is 619-535-4360.

WDC V IS HISTORY

In spite of pre-event problems and the Revolution (for such it was) going on around them, nearly a hundred Diplomacy fans from all over Europe (and two Americans!) gathered in Paris for WDC V in early December last year. Complete results can be found on the Web in *THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH*, highlights in the next issue of *DIPLOMACY WORLD*, or a complete hard copy available from me for US\$5.

Again, congratulations to Francois Rivasseau for a job well done. Without his efforts there would not have been a WDC this year.

GOODBYE PARIS, HELLO COLUMBUS

I have been officially informed that our bid to host WDC VI in Columbus, Ohio, next 4-7 July was accepted by the Paris assembly. Now begins the work of putting together that event.

WDC VI ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

WDC VI will be held as part of ORIGINS/DIPCON. The DIPCON Administration Committee consists of Bruce Reiff, Chairman, and members Dan Mathias (scoring system designer) and Steve Cooley. They will be providing the individual, team, gunboat and variant Diplomacy gaming events for WDC. The WDC Administration Committee consists of myself, as Chairman, Bruce Reiff, and Bjorn von Knorring, of Sweden, as members. We will be responsible for the non-gaming aspects of WDC. In addition, the Paris meeting established a WDC Advisory Committee consisting of myself, as chair, Bruce Reiff, Tomas Larsson (Sweden), Samy Malki (France), Shaun Derrick (UK), and Brendan Whyte (NZ) to provide advice to future WDC hosts and help promote the event on an international level.

In addition I have established a WDC Hobby Contacts Network to promote WDC among the various national and sub-hobbies. I hope there will be at least two representatives from each hobby as part of this group. A complete list of its members is in CONTACTS, the WDC mailing list. Finally, this e-mail newsletter is being distributed directly by me and indirectly by others throughout the hobby.

WDC VI INTERNATIONAL E-GRAM

I am using this e-gram because it is the fastest and cheapest way to get information about WDC out to the foreign hobbies. Please feel free to reprint it or distribute it via your own email network. Better yet, send me a list of your email Diplomacy contacts and I'll add them to the mailing list. I hope to publish at least one issue of the E-gram each month prior to WDC.

PRE-REGISTRATION

It is fitting, and not very surprising, that our first foreign registrant for WDC VI is (drum roll please...) Bruno-Andre Giraudon, the current individual world Diplomacy champion! I urge the rest of you to pre-register as soon as possible. Remember the cut-off date is 1 June for pre-registration. Until then you pay US\$13. After that and at the door you will pay US\$38! Cash or international money orders please. Remember, also, that pre-reg is your best guarantee at a shot at inexpensive housing for the event. If you need a copy of the pre-reg form let me know.

BID PACKAGE AVAILABLE

A copy of the complete bid package, which includes all the information you'll need to get to Columbus and find your way around when you are there, as well as information on housing, local transportation, special services for foreigners, etc. is US\$5, to cover postage.

WDC VI ON THE NET AND WEB / PUBLICATIONS

Please note that WDC VI has its own internet address, WDCVI on AOL and WDCVI@aol.com on the internet. We also have a Web page with basic WDC information at <http://home.aol.com/WDCVI>

E-GRAM: US\$1 per hard copy, US\$6 for a hard copy subscription.

a world class event can't be done on the cheap, and I expect the American hobby, as well as those foreign hobbyists who can, to assist us. By the way, I don't plan to rely exclusively on donations to fund this year's event. I have some fund-raising ideas in mind as well.

CONTRA TEMPS – Many of the foreigners going to Paris last December were worried about how the French players would conduct themselves (as individuals or as a faction) during the tournament. This concern arose after events in Birmingham the year before. However, the French hobby came up with a very good solution, and things seem to have worked out for the best. This year the foreigners are worried about the “unknown” scoring system proposal for the tournament. Their fear is that an unknown scoring system will discriminate against them, or be so ridiculous as to make the championship meaningless. More than one foreigner has stated that they won't come to WDC unless they know the scoring system well in advance of the event.

I remember the controversy over the scoring system I used at DC in San Diego, even though I had stated what it would be and the philosophy behind it prior to the event. I swore after that that I would never get involved in a scoring system debate again! Naturally I was delighted that the DC people would be running the tournaments and providing the scoring system. That meant I didn't have to worry about it. So much for that. As I stated in the bid package, I have seen the scoring system to be used. I think it is adequate. Indeed, it is somewhat comparable to the system used in Paris. I have asked a respected American hobbyist with considerable world class tournament experience as both a tournament director and player to examine both systems and give me an opinion on them. I'll keep you informed on that. In the meantime, if you have concerns about the scoring system I suggest you direct them to Bruce Reiff or Dan Mathias.

MORE THAN JUST A GAME! – As I said above, I hope to make WDC VI the first real international Diplomacy event. My second goal is to make it more than just a gaming event. Most past WDCs have stressed the gaming aspect of the event with an individual championship, a team championship (team play is more popular in Europe than the States but we're working on that), a gunboat championship, a variant championship, etc. Second came personal interactions, tourist sight-seeing, etc.

My goal is to elevate the educational element of WDC to a status co-equal with the gaming element. I believe WDC can and should be a major element in improving individual Diplomacy skills in a non-confrontational manner, and in developing and promoting the hobby at the international and national levels. Sound good? But how?

At the moment I only have time and space to sketch out my idea. I hope for considerable feedback from all of you concerning my idea. Depending on that feedback and the assistance I get in preparing this program I will scale it up or down in size to fit the available time and interest shown.

I would like, as I have said before, to add a day or two to the DC events planned for Columbus. Most of the gaming events are planned for the 5th, 6th, and early on the 7th (Friday through Sunday) with a round of the individual tournament each day, and (I assume) the other gaming events in the evening. Nothing wrong with that. I hope most of the out-of-town visitors will be coming to Columbus on the 3rd, so they can attend that night's fireworks show. I would like to use part of the 3rd, the 4th, and what's left of the 7th after the gaming events (and perhaps the 8th as well since many foreigners won't be leaving before then) for some non-gaming activities in the areas of personal skills development, WDC improvement, and hobby development.

My past Con experiences and what I have been seeing in the WWPDC event (a 7 game postal tournament with teams from 7 different hobbies) is that there is a considerable difference in how the various national hobbies play the game. There's nothing wrong with that, but we need to be aware of it. In addition, I would like to see the WDC adopt a set of guidelines, or standards, to serve as a guide to any future WDC hosts. To that end I am asking the members of the Advisory Committee to conduct an evaluation of the first five WDC events. Finally, I believe there is a lot we can collectively do to develop (meaning improve and expand) the hobby at both the international and national levels. I'll have more on this in the White Paper.

LAST NOTES

I have to confess that I crashed the hard drive on my first attempt at this newsletter. I was almost done, too! :(Anyway, I didn't have any real notes or outline of what I was going to say, so I hope I've remembered everything that I wanted to cover. But not to worry, there'll be more along soon. One last item, and a rather important one at that. As you know this year's WDC event will be held in early July,

barely seven months after last December's WDC in Paris. Seven months is not enough time to prepare and host a world class Diplomacy event, especially given the limitations our hobby faces. It is the opinion of the last WDC host and the most probable hosts for the next WDC, as well as myself, that a WDC site should be selected two years in advance in order to give the future hosts adequate time to prepare for the event, and allow other events to schedule themselves so that they don't conflict with a WDC event. (Consider the EDC being held the week before WDC this year.)

Therefore, I am, by virtue of whatever authority I have, declaring that bids will be accepted in Columbus, Ohio in July, 1996, at the WDC Society Meeting, for both the 1997 and 1998 WDC events. Any site, other than North America, is eligible to bid for 1997. Any region, other than that of the 1997 selectee, is eligible to bid for 1998. Any individual or organization interested in submitting a bid for either 1997 or 1998 should contact me immediately for guidance as to what information will be required as part of the bid package.

As practiced in both Birmingham and Paris, the 10 votes maximum per national delegation will be used. This is to provide a more balanced voting, and prevent the host hobby from dominating the voting. However, in true Stalinist tradition, I am prepared to recognize the following as national delegations: USA, CSA, Texas, California, and Hawaii! Just kidding, folks! Wanted to see who's reading this.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS!

OK, now it's your turn. I'm looking for ideas and volunteers for WDC VI. A little cash would be nice as well.

((I do strongly believe in the promotion of this event. Thus, I will continue to print Larry's newsletter here. I think it would be a good idea as people decide to go for them to let Larry know so he can let us all know how the attendance list is shaping up. I'm going to have a difficult schedule, but I will make every effort to make it if I can. I especially like Larry's ideas for educational activities or personal/hobby growth interaction. I would encourage response (either here or to Larry) to some of the suggestions there. Lastly, when Larry asks for money a lot of us (me included) get nervous, yet I am sensitive to how much it costs to do these sorts of things, so I've published Larry's request as is. I think he goes awfully far with his hyperbole on how the hobby surviving without a treasury as an anarchy being a one in 2000 years event, but that's only my opinion. Oh yeah, Texas IS its own country and don't you forget it!!!))

MUSIC SECTION (WITH COMMENTS ON OTHER ARTS AND SOCIETY)

((Guess what?? It's time for end of the year music reviews again. I decided this year to keep my request really low key, knowing that those of you who know the score will write what you usually write anyway. What was your favorite record/recording/song/reissue of 1995? Why did you like it?? Tell us all about the kinds of music YOU like!! There, I can't be any more open-ended than that. And just because Marc is here with his list and you don't know any of the music on it [the Stereolab also makes my list, but that's about all I'm familiar with] shouldn't hinder you in any way from writing up your own list. In fact, I am left to assume that you all agree with Marc and these were your favorite recordings of the year as well! Then I'm just the out of touch one.))

Marc Gascoigne (Tue, 30 Jan 1996 17:19:29 -0500)

Hey Jim, Here we go then. Snip out and throw away as much as you need to retain your sanity or page-count. *((I've printed everything you sent....))*

Album of the year:

Massive Attack v The Mad Professor/*No Protection* [Wild Bunch/Circa] – The remixed version of last year's album *Protection*, and it seemed to sum up many of the tendencies working in what for want of a more appropriate term we'd still better call "dance music". More specifically, all the trip-hop stuff: deep dub reggae bass, distorted hip-hop beats, jazz inflections, techno arrangements, ambient sound-effects. You get everything from deeply soulful vocals to cavernous reverb workouts, often in the space of a single track. Adventurous but very listenable.

Some more goodies:

Faust/*Rien* [Table of the Elements] – Reformed legendary Krautrockers from the 70s, in the company of fashionable types like Jim O'Rourke. Carefully-constructed noise/rock that veers from rhythmic riffing to abstract road-drill stabs. Far better than that just made it sound. (Cool packaging too: plain silver booklet and disc; all the credits are spoken at the end of the cd.)

Labradford/*A Discrete Reference* [Flying Nun] – The new space-rock, grown out of Mid-West lo-fi grunge and now taking flight (see also Tortoise, Cul de Sac, Space Needle, Ui, Jessamine...). Twanging guitars over cavernous echoing bass, like the soundtrack to a PBS special on Russia; abandoned space program.

Nonplace Urban Field/*Nuf Said* [Incoming!] – Loping slo-mo spaghetti western techno dub with hints everyone from Can to Portishead.

Sketch/*Reasons to Sway* [Apollo] – More ambient dub techno, betraying its Norwegian source, with limpid keyboard drips set amidst marshy bird calls and spring mist atmosphere.

Softcore/*Softcore* [Fax] – Spacial and suiggly ((sic)) ambient/electronic music that gently insinuates the strangest noises into your consciousness.

Stereolab/*Refried Ectoplasm* [Duophonic] – ((I actually own this one too!!)) A collection of early singles crammed full of perfect dronepop. ((Yeah, yeah, yeah, love that dronepop!!)) Organ riffs, Krautrock “motorik” rhythms, cool as hell French female vocals: drop-dead great.

Tricky/*Maxinquaye* [4th & Broadway] – Shivering schizophrenic trip-hop, slowed down beats and slurred samples, underlaying whispered tales of desperate relationships. (And the best Public Enemy cover version ever.)

Ultrahigh/*The View of Ultrahigh* [Force Inc] – Enormously “fat” sounding German techno, all hippo-arsed squelching and soaring air-horn riffs. A real thumper.

The Young Gods/*Only Heaven* [Play It Again Sam] – Only a drummer, sampler and singer and they are still the best rock band I know. Here they’re very much back on form, and veer between crunching industrial slamming and bleeping space shuttle dubs.

Single of the year:

DJ Shadow/“What Does Your Soul Look Like?” [Mo’Wax] – A brilliant half-hour, stretched-out trip-hop symphony (oh yuck, Marc!). Distant radio interference, a loop from Metallica’s delicately-picked intro to “One”, hip-hop drums fading into a solitary jazz saxophone, some gentle voices, more radio interference... and that’s just part one of four. It’s a real ride. And it’s what the trendy types will all be raving about in ’96 when Shadow’s album finally appears.

More single goodies:

The Chemical Brothers/“Leave Home” [Virgin] – The fashionable end of dance this year, slow and bass-heavy with monster beats and sampled guitar.

Dreadzone/“Little Britain” [Virgin] – That off-kilter dance from Orff’s Carmina Burana sampled over light jungle beats and ragga toasting, a delightful summation of multi-cultural Britain (far more real than so-called Britpop anyway).

The Future Sound of London/“Far Out Sons of Lung & the Ramblings of a Madman” [Virgin] – Jazz-techno sound experiments; remarkably popular.

Mouse on Mars/“Bib” [Too Pure] – German jungle techno pop; great fun with noises.

Alanis Morissette/“You Gotta Know” [Maverick] – The album is way too Sheryl Crow-plays-Tori Amos for me but this single is really impressive. “I’m sorry to bug you in the middle of dinner” says so much to me.

Super Cat/“My Girl Josephine” [Columbia] – Cheap ragga pop; I just adore the trademark tatty drum sound and the joyous syncopation.

Tricky/“Black Steel” [4th & Broadway] – Rock music for beard-strokers and odd little black elf-girls.

Urusei Yatsura/“Siamese” [Che] – There’s a new UK lo-fi underground growing in the populist shadow of Britpop; these are my favourites, with a scratchy manifesto that’s charming in its naivety. (From Glasgow not Osaka, by the way; the name’s from a Japanese manga anime.)

The Young Gods/“Kissing the Sun” [PIAS—be] – My own soundtrack to the Bohemian Rhapsody sequence from “Wayne’s World”.

Pop magazine:

Ben is Dead [usa] – The most fun, especially the kiddie nostalgia summer special, but only narrowly beating the similarly obsessive but over-trendy Grand Royal.

Pop book:

Julian Cope/*Krautrock sampler* [Head Heritage/Kak] – A pretty complete guide to German spacerock 1968-76, and a really charming book too. My wants list doubled overnight, and the ones I did have got pulled out for further listening immediately. Like he’s sat next to you in the pub, filling your ear with enthusiasm.

Weird shit:

[Okay, Jim, I know you like to hear this sort of stuff. This year I've chanced upon three very good sources of diabolical/kitsch old records, and now every week I seem to add to the collection. It's kind of weird to be buying vinyl again, even with a 50p (70=A2) price limit... Among the year's worst/best were:]

Various Artists/*Believers: Choreographed Exercise to Contemporary Gospel Hits* [Word] – Magnificently dreadful Christian aerobics instruction record, with some poor woman bellowing “and up, and down, and up, now you are truly doing the work of the Lord” over bad Amy Grant songs. *((Hyork, hyork, hyork... this one really cracked me up!!))*

Tom Glazer & Dottie Evans/*Energy & Motion Songs* [Motivation] – Cheesy educational album full of songs about different types of energy; clunky lyrics and samba rhythms galore.

The Hiltonaires/*Beatles Hits in the Glenn Miller Sound* [Stereo Gold Award] & Count Basie & his Orchestra/*Basie's Beatles Bag* [Music for Pleasure] – Two nasty takes on classic Beatles tunes, usually playing the fast ones slow and the ballads too fast.

Various Artists/*How to Get the Most Out of Your Stereo* [Warner Bros] – Delightful 1959 collection of spacially-separated cocktail tunes and exotica (lush strings and jungle noises), with a dopey Spike Jones thing about beatniks stuck on the end, all wrapped up in a disgracefully sexist cover. *((Yup, I knew someone who had this record when I was in college. This really sounds great at three o'clock in the morning when you're trying to motivate someone to drive you to the diner...))*

Ray Martin & Orchestra/*The Sound of Sight* [Decca] – From 1963, a wonderful collection of pre-ambient musical soundtracks that are meant to tell a whole story. Includes a detective story, space mission, whaling fleet, Egyptian pyramid builders and more. Very ahead of its time; very kitsch.

Czerwono Czarni/untitled [Muza] – And from 1966, Poland's top beat combo, The Red & Blacks, with a selection of rickety beat boom tunes – including the (surely not, surely not!) track “Dad, Buy Me Some Jeans”!

As always, I'll stick a couple of tapes in the post with examples of all of the above and more (all part of the Frank's APA music circuit, so don't worry about excessive effort on my part). *((Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!))*

Thanks for the rave review of Ho-Bloody-Ho. I thought it was pretty good too, and the feedback has generally been very good. I'm especially glad you “appreciated” the jungle track. Surprised you hadn't heard Whigfield before; she's a tacky Scandinavian euro-popster who's just about transcended her first couple of irritating dance/pop hits. Also, the song itself was a #1 for Wham for ages in the early 80s... And yeah, next year I'm going to bust a gut ensure you get the tape in plenty of time to review it *before* January:-) *((That would be great!))*

Got to dash. I'm finishing rewriting my Net-for-Kids book for the US, and I'm just hanging around waiting for Penguin NY to email me back with the final set of corrections. I'll send this now and see if they've come through yet.

More swift missives later!

Marc Gascoigne, marco@overload.demon.co.uk

PS: “Velleity” – an urge that is too weak to inspire one to actually do anything about it.

((Thank you, Marc, and now we turn to another music oriented guy who has just started receiving the szine. I think he might be sticking around.... Michael Lowrey.))

Michael Lowrey (December 30, 1995)

Jim, First, let me thank you for trading TAP for ZR. *((Michael is the present editor of the Zine Register. Write to him at the address below for more information if you want to subscribe or for an editor's form if you publish a szine. He's working on his first issue right now!! I'm sure he also will accept unsolicited reviews of szines. Ask him first if you're unsure.))* On the ZR front, I have a beg. I'm not on-line and don't receive many (actually any) foreign zines. I'd greatly appreciate any comments/reviews you might happen to make. Thanks in advance. *((Of course, I'm sending him some of my Brit szine reviews that I did in the ISE section.))*

One thing I am up on (actually, I'd say more up on as you can't know everything, listen to everything, etc.) is music. This could have something to do with me being a volunteer overnight DJ at a public radio station. The show I do's format? Nominally alternative, but I can pretty much play whatever I want

to. Some CDs I became aware of this year that are interesting: Guided by Voices *Alien Lanes*, Elastica (self-titled), Southern Culture on the Skids *Dirt Track Date* (imagine if CCR had discovered the joys of fried chicken), ((*Isn't Southern Culture on the Skids the group that Jon Langford of the Mekons regularly raves about??*)) Wally Pleasant *Houses of the Holy Moly*, Eve's Plum *Cherry Alive*, Sonic Youth *Washing Machine*, PJ Harvey *To Bring You My Love*, and Tuscadero *The Pink Album*. Check 'em out, though Tuscadero and Wally Pleasant are hard to find (Tuscadero is on Teen Beat while Wally's CD is self-released - you'll probably have to write to him personally for a copy, or muck to Michigan to get it). ((*Mark Luedi, where are you... Mark runs a record shop in Michigan....*))

Now, the harder question: why these CDs? GBV and Elastica have that short-song, post-punk pop thing down to a "T". Make your musical point and move on, Sonic Youth is Sonic Youth, enough said. PJ Harvey is incredible, as she's completely changed what she's doing - and it's still great. Tuscadero is a witty, loud bunch out of Washington with good, catchy songs. Eve's Plum is similar (I like female vocalists). ((*I do too, but the proliferation of breathy, same-sounding songs is starting to get to me. Most of it bores me right now.*)) That leaves Wally Pleasant. He's just a cool neurotic singer-songwriter. Song titles include: "Post Graduate Overeducated Out of Work Blues," "Dysfunctionally Yours," "Denny's at 4 AM," and "Stupid Day Job." ((*I can see how lots of us would make clear connections with these songs...*))

Other things I dig: Veruca Salt, Minerva Strain, Drugstore, Jennifer Tryrin, Superchunk, Letters to Cleo, Sleeper, Dish, Echobelly, ZZ Brides, and That Dog.

Michael, 6503-D Fourwinds Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212

Harry Andruschak (24 January)

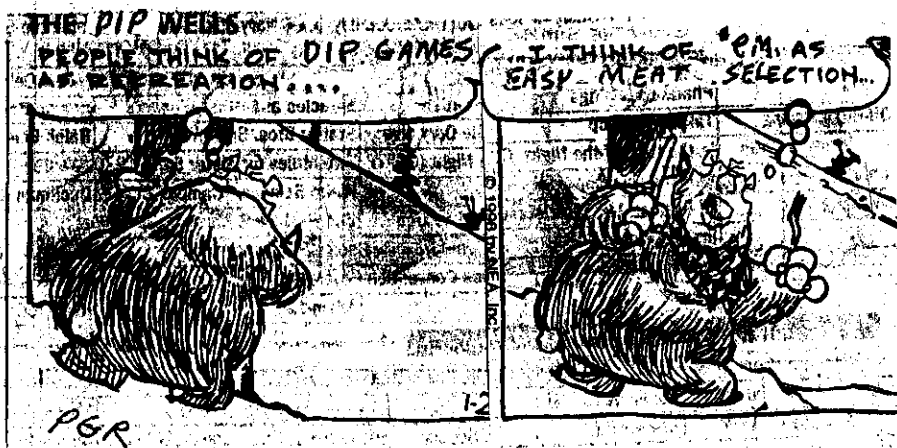
Dear Jim: TAP-169 arrived today, 24 January. So did my automobile registration notice that required me to obtain a smog certificate for my car. IS THIS A COSMIC SIGN OF THINGS TO COME? ((*Probably...*))

Yes, 7x7 NYEED is sequential. The players send in spring moves for Game A. Next turn they send in fall moves for game A and Spring moves for Game B. Third turn is fall moves for Game B and Spring moves for game C. And so it goes. A running total of SCs of each player is kept. After 7 games, player with highest total wins. It could make for some good diplomacy. I'd certainly like to have a whack at it. ((*Uh, huh, I like the idea. What does anyone else think? Should we make the Hillary Rodham Clinton into 7x7?? I'd do a random draw for the first game and then rotate it around the AEFGIRT powers in order.*))

Life at the Post Office continues to be hum-drum. I will be escaping on a 2 week vacation to Italy next month, one of those escorted tours that will include 2 days each in Venice and Naples, and 3 days in Rome. After all those Diplomacy games, it will be amusing to see the places as they actually are.

Harry Andruschak, PO Box 5309, Torrance, CA 90510-5309

((*My wife and I are thinking of making Italy the next place we visit as well, but it might not happen until next January. Thanks, Harry!*))



GAMES SECTION

"Enter our games, then; ease your heart of trouble." (Laodamas to Odysseus, in Homer's *Odyssey*, courtesy of the ever literate Mykey P. Barno)

If you want to submit orders, press, or letters by E-Mail, you can find me through the Internet system at "burgess@world.std.com". If anyone has an interest in having an E-Mail address listed so people can negotiate with you by computer, just let me know.

Standby lists: John Breakwell, Dick Martin, Brad Wilson, Jack McHugh, Glenn Petroski, Jack Garrett, Steve Emmert, Mark Kinney, Doug Kent, Paul Rauterberg, Phil Reynolds, Dave Partridge, Andy York, Michael Pustilnik, and John Schultz stand by for regular Diplomacy. Let me know if you want on or off the list. Standbys get the szine for free and receive my personal thanks. The standby list was hit really hard this time around. I'd really appreciate it if anyone wanted to be added to the list.

GAME OPENING INFORMATION

There will be no game openings here for the foreseeable future, except for Nuclear Yuppie Evil Empire games. The current game opening will be named after our very own embattled First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton. Personally, I really like her even though my interaction with her professionally during the health care reform project suggests to me why she gets herself in trouble. Anyway, it should be fun for press. John Schultz is the first to sign up. Andy York, PO Box 2307, Universal City, TX 78148-1307 is the editor and publisher of *Pontevedria*, the game openings listing, if you're really interested in game openings. Send Andy a SASE for the latest issue. Or, send him E-Mail at WANDREW@aol.com if you want to know more about what this is. *Pontevedria* also is regularly posted on rec.games.diplomacy for those with newsgroup access.

THE ZINE REGISTER INVITATIONAL: 1995 HQ, Regular Diplomacy

THE DUE DATE FOR WINTER 1901 IS FEBRUARY 24TH, 1996

THE DUE DATE FOR SPRING 1902 IS MARCH 16TH, 1996

Fall 1901

AUSTRIA (Tallman): f ADR-ven, a TRI S f adr-ven, a SER S TURKISH a bul-gre.
ENGLAND (Nash): f lon-NTH, f nth-NWY, a YOR-par (imp).
FRANCE (Rauterberg): f bre-ENG, a BUR-bel, a mar-SPA.
GERMANY (Kent): f HOL-bel, a MUN-bur, a kie-DEN.
ITALY (Billenness): f ion-TUN, a TYO S a ven, a VEN S a tyo.
RUSSIA (Williams): f gob-SWE, a ukr-RUM, a gal-BUD, f rum-BUL(EC).
TURKEY (Gaghan): a bul-GRE, f con-AEG, a arm-SEV.

Supply Center Chart

AUSTRIA (Tallman):	tri,vie,ser	(has 3, even)
ENGLAND (Nash):	edi,lvp,lon,nwy	(has 3, bld 1)
FRANCE (Rauterberg):	bre,par,mar,spa	(has 3, bld 1)
GERMANY (Kent):	mun,kie,ber,den,hol	(has 3, bld 2)
ITALY (Billenness):	rom,nap,ven,tun	(has 3, bld 1)
RUSSIA (Williams):	mos,war,stp,rum,swe,bul,bud	(has 4, bld 3)
TURKEY (Gaghan):	ank,con,smy,gre,sev	(has 3, bld 2)
Neutral:	bel,por	(Total=34)

Addresses of the Participants

AUSTRIA: Terry Tallman, PO Box 569, Manchester, WA 98353, (360) 871-2640 (\$10)
ENGLAND: Tom Nash, 202 Settlers Road, St. Simons Island, GA 31522, (912) 634-1753 (\$5)
FRANCE: Paul Rauterberg, 3116 W. American Dr., Greenfield, WI 53221, (414) 281-2339 (\$10)
GERMANY: Doug Kent, 10214 Black Hickory Rd., Dallas, TX 75243 (214) 234-8386 (\$5)
ITALY: Simon Billenness, 452 Park Drive, Apt. 7, Boston, MA 02215, (617) 423-6655 (\$5)
RUSSIA: Don Williams, 25252 Via Sistine, Valencia, CA 91355-3235, (805) 254-1380
RUSSIA EMERITUS: Ken Peel, 12041 Eaglewood Court, Silver Spring, MD 20902, (301) 949-4055 (\$5)

TURKEY: Pete Gaughan, 1236 Detroit Avenue #7, Concord, CA 94520-3651, (510) 825-2165 (\$5)
GM: Jim-Bob Burgess, 664 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908-4327, (401) 351-0287

Game Notes:

1) The game specific standby list for this game includes Keith Sherwood, Garret Schenck, Dick Martin, and Michael Lowrey in reverse alphabetical order. I have not yet decided how to choose a "second standby" and will still take input from any and all interested parties.

Press:

(CALAIS to DOVER): Hey, I didn't really PROMISE to keep out of La Manche.... I only proposed it! Your silence speaks louder than words, and I remain deaf to it.

(TOAD to BOOB): At this rate I will be well into retirement before this game is over.

(BOOB to TOAD): Quite probably so, but you may not have to play the game that long....

(TOAD to BOOB): As both an economist and a government employee what do you think of them dipping into the Thrift/Retirement Plan to keep the government running? Scares the stuff out of me!

(BOOB to TOAD): But it is infinitely preferable to the government defaulting on its bonds which would cause a worldwide financial panic. That would also destroy my retirement money. I'm still not thrilled with the inability of the Republicans (who claim to respect the Constitution) to follow the simple rules set out in the Constitution: If you get a 2/3 majority of both houses then you can do whatever the hell you want – the presumption is that the public which elected you to such supermajorities wants what you want – but if you only have a simple majority you have to negotiate with the President even if that means you don't get exactly what you want. Things seem to be sorting themselves out now. The Republicans now are more scared to death of a Forbes nomination, someone who owes them NOTHING, so I expect they will relatively neatly move to establishing status quos until after the election. This, by the way, is the scenario that plays straight into the hands of the third party organizers for the 2000 election and the Republicans want it to be the Democrats who are squeezed out, not them.

(AUSTRIA to ITALY): Ok, they tell me that you will mess this up. Don't let me down!

(BOOB to AUSTRIA): I think you needed the German to cut some support....

(AUSTRIA to MUMMY RUSSIA DEAREST): I hope you are satisfied. Peel may be a mummified chunk of ginkgo but SURELY he never intended to inflict YOU on us. I think he was reading your press the same way I did. You were lurking there in the wings waiting for ME to fall by the wayside. No correct thinker of ANY stripe would intentionally let the duck into the fox pen. But now that you ARE here everyone else is being a WHOLE heck of a lot more polite to me. They are even comparing me to Cathy Ozog (cute, perky, lovable) and you to Chris Carrier (road kill wannabe).

(AUSTRIA to TURKEY): And what, pray tell, was your part in this mess?

(BOOB to TOADFATHER): Did anyone notice that Russia was walking into four new centers?? If it hadn't been for Pete, the Duck would have been nearly halfway to victory in one year. Could the Duck have won by 1903 if that hadn't happened?? Possibly...

AUSTRIA to ENGLAND AND GERMANY): Thank ghod you two are doing what everyone expected, it may actually slow Paul down on his way to Russia. Although not all that much. The word is that if the Menendez brothers had two, slightly less bright, younger brothers it would be you two.

(AUSTRIA to FRANCE): We have them surrounded!

(THE DUNGEON): The barbarian had been carefully inspecting the tunnels they were passing through as they wound ever deeper beneath Castle Boobenstein. The hobbit priest/thief/sponge juggler kept up a lively patter pointing out edible fungi, drinkable slime and the occasional old issue of *Hustler*.

The zombie duck shuffled along behind, occasionally stopping to pick up a body part that had fallen off. Regretfully he was not showing a lot of discretion in terms of where he stuck things back on.

Suddenly the barbarian stopped to examine a section of wall. The hobbit came and peeked around his knee-cap. "What did you find? Can I look? Is it a door? Is it a trap? Did you finish your lunch?"

As the barbarian started to answer a section of the rocky wall swung out and a turbaned figure floated into the tunnel. Even in the poor light from the barbarians torch nothing could be seen of the eyes, deep set in shadow that was more than shadow. Rather than the head turning the entire body rotated, seeming to take in the barbarian, the hobbit and the duck.

A voice that seemed to come from miles away quietly rumbled forth although the mouth never seemed to move, "I know whom you seek, I know why you seek, I know what will help you on your quest, I know what all the hobbit has 'borrowed' from you. I know what the duck did with the sheep, inner tube, case of Spam, gallon of 30 weight and clarinet. Do you wish to accept my aid?"

The barbarian stared at the figure and responded "Turkish Afreet? How did you get out of the bottle?"

The figure seemed to relax a little, "A lush was hoping a bottle that old would hold an elixir to match. Instead he got three wishes and I my freedom. His name was Kevin Tighe and he wished for endless wealth, endless happiness and endless obscurity from any who might try to find him."

"Hmmmmm," muttered the barbarian, "and what did the duck do with the sheep, inner tube, case of Spam, gallon of 30 weight and clarinet?"

The tall figure gestured and a window appeared in mid air and after a moment it was as though looking through a window into a small, filthy hut. The barbarian, hobbit, and Afreet watched for several hours. After a bit things began to slow down and the barbarian turned back to the floating entity. "Interesting way to hit high 'C' but that is the most original use of an inner tube I can recall. The sheep of course will require intensive counseling and of course the 30 weight and the Spam will never be recycled after that. The clarinet, of course seems to be slightly improved but played in that manner you would never get my lips on it afterwards."

The hobbit was still watching the roiling figures and the spray of oil and Spam. "Oh, I don't know. You could play the blues that way MUCH more meaningfully."

Once again the barbarian stared where the eyes should have been, rather than the deep shadows. "So why are you here?"

"Ah," sighed the Afreet. "The fates have miscalculated, the ides of March are a season early, the ghods have broken wind, the bag lady has lost her lunch, and Lisa Marie was seen dating the Great Evil (that IS surprising, in as much as Mikey was so much more manly-what IS that girl looking for?). In short there is something not quite right in the Duchy of Denmark.

"It seems that one of your party was zombified in earlier press. In error, so it seems. He was destined to burn, fry, freeze, expectorate, hang, and so on for his assorted sins but not QUITE yet. So I have been contracted to rectify the problem. I must reanimate him and remove the life force from the correct body."

The barbarian considered a moment, "You mean the duck wasn't supposed to get turned into a mobile chunk of road kill?"

"No," sighed the Afreet, "and I am here to correct that omission, so if you will standby for a moment..."

With a roar the barbarian pulled a six foot length of razor sharp steel from over his shoulder and roared at the turbaned figure. "Standby?! We don't need no STEENKING STANDBYS!!!"

After rewrapping the end of his turban, blown back by the intensity of the barbarian's conked over to the hobbit and used the tip of his sword to flip the hobbit's ass closer to its blindly groping fingers. The hobbit stood up and replaced it. Nowhere near where it belonged of course.

"Oh Daf," the barbarian growled in no particular direction, "What have I gotten into? And where are you...?"

((I keep hearing Daf's heavy breathing, but she still says nothing...))

(TOAD to GAME): The presence of the duck probably makes the game irregular. Ghod knows his press has been making ME irregular... The Milk Toast Press: Those Who Dare, A Couple Who Don't, And One Who Shouldn't Even Think About It!!

(TOAD to BOOB): Ok, this had better work...

THE HERMIT: 1995 IH, Regular Diplomacy

THE DUE DATE FOR SPRING 1901 IS FEBRUARY 24TH, 1996

Still Winter 1900

AUSTRIA (Ellis): has f TRI, a BUD, a VIE.
ENGLAND (Pollard): has f LON, f EDI, a LVP.
FRANCE (Dwyer): has f BRE, a PAR, a MAR.
GERMANY (Emmert): has f KIE, a MUN, a BER.
ITALY (Kinney): has f NAP, a ROM, a VEN.
RUSSIA (Sherwood): has f STP(SC), a MOS, a WAR, f SEV.

TURKEY (Sasseville): has a CON, f ANK, a SMY.

Addresses of the Participants

AUSTRIA: Randy Ellis, 4310 Ludlow Street, Boulder, CO 80303, (303) 499-2543 (\$5)
ENGLAND: Kent Pollard, Box 491, Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, (\$5)
FRANCE: Luke Dwyer, 49 Middlesex Drive, Slingerlands, NY 12159, (518) 439-5796 (\$5)
GERMANY: Steve Emmert, 1752 Grey Friars Chase, Virginia Beach, VA 23456, (804) 471-1842
ITALY: Mark Kinney, 3613 Coronado Drive, Louisville, KY 40241, (502) 426-8165
RUSSIA: Keith Sherwood, 8873 Pipestone Way, San Diego, CA 92129, (619) 484-8367 (\$5)
TURKEY: Roland Sasseville, Jr., 38 Bucklin Street, Pawtucket, RI 02861, (401) 722-4029 (\$5)
GM: Jim-Bob Burgess, 664 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908-4327, (401) 351-0287

Game Notes:

1) I did grant the request to hold Spring until next time from one of the two new players. Especially with the mailing delays, this seemed only fair.

Press:

(SKYWALKER to BOOB): I love the comic you put in last issue about playing God, very funny, although I hope you won't need to use much lightning.

(BOOB to SKYWALKER): I hope not too. To give credit where credit is due, that cartoon (and the one in this issue) are both from Paul G. Rauterberg (thus the initials in the corner) and I thank him immensely for them!!

(RUSSIA-BOOB): Isn't there some hobby law that says if we don't get the game started in a particular time frame we have to give the Boardman Number back and reapply? Assigning players in W00 in Jan 96: shouldn't this game have a 96 Boardman Number?

(BOOB-RUSSIA): Oh, perhaps... we could ask Andy York, the BNC, but why bother? If this were June I might see your point, but I now am assured of starting the game with the next deadline.

(AMBASSADOR POLLARD to THE WORLD): "Is it possible that all of us have entered into a time displacement continuum? Or perhaps I've had too much of the famed Russian Vodka this winter. Does anyone have an aspirin?"

(ITALY to CONTINENT): Rest assured I shall be in touch with all of the heads of state forthwith (and if we're really lucky, before you read this; work is turning hellish on me, so it's not a good week). In the meantime, if it makes contact easier, you can lessen my letter-writing burden by e-mailing me at alberich@iglou.com.

(SKYWALKER to AUSTRIA): Your apology is accepted and I'm looking forward to some negotiations.

(ITALY to SKYWALKER): I am your father's brother's cousin's next door neighbor's former roommate.

(SKYWALKER to ITALY): So what does that make us?

(ITALY to SKYWALKER): Absolutely nothing, but I hope you're staying out of Piedmont anyway. I really hate surprise visits.

(RECEIVED YOUR LETTER): "No problem. Will move armies North A.S.A.P."

(ADMIRAL FEIN to OTHER ADMIRALS): As winter winds down I believe all of us are looking toward sailing again. I, for one, could use the sun of the Mid-Atlantic or the Portuguese coast.

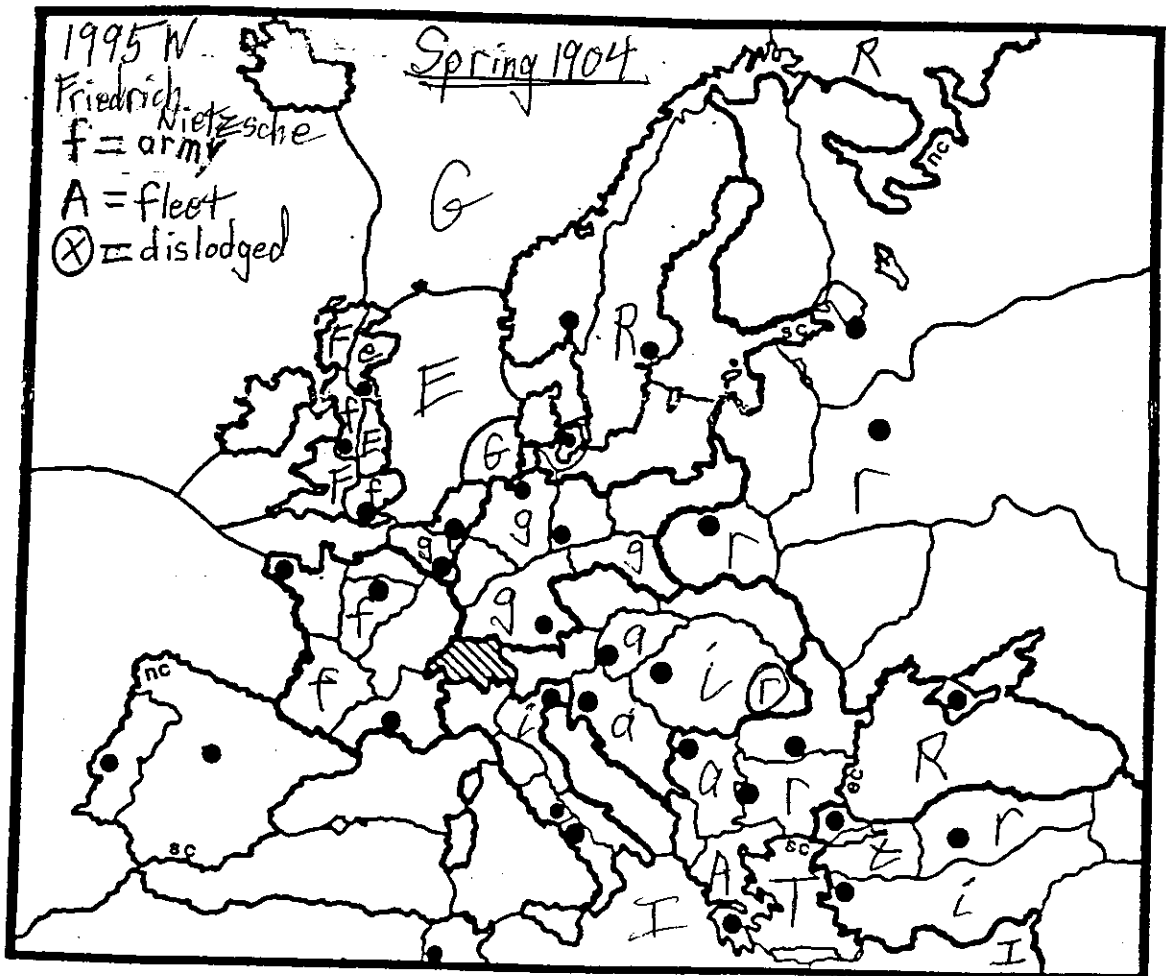
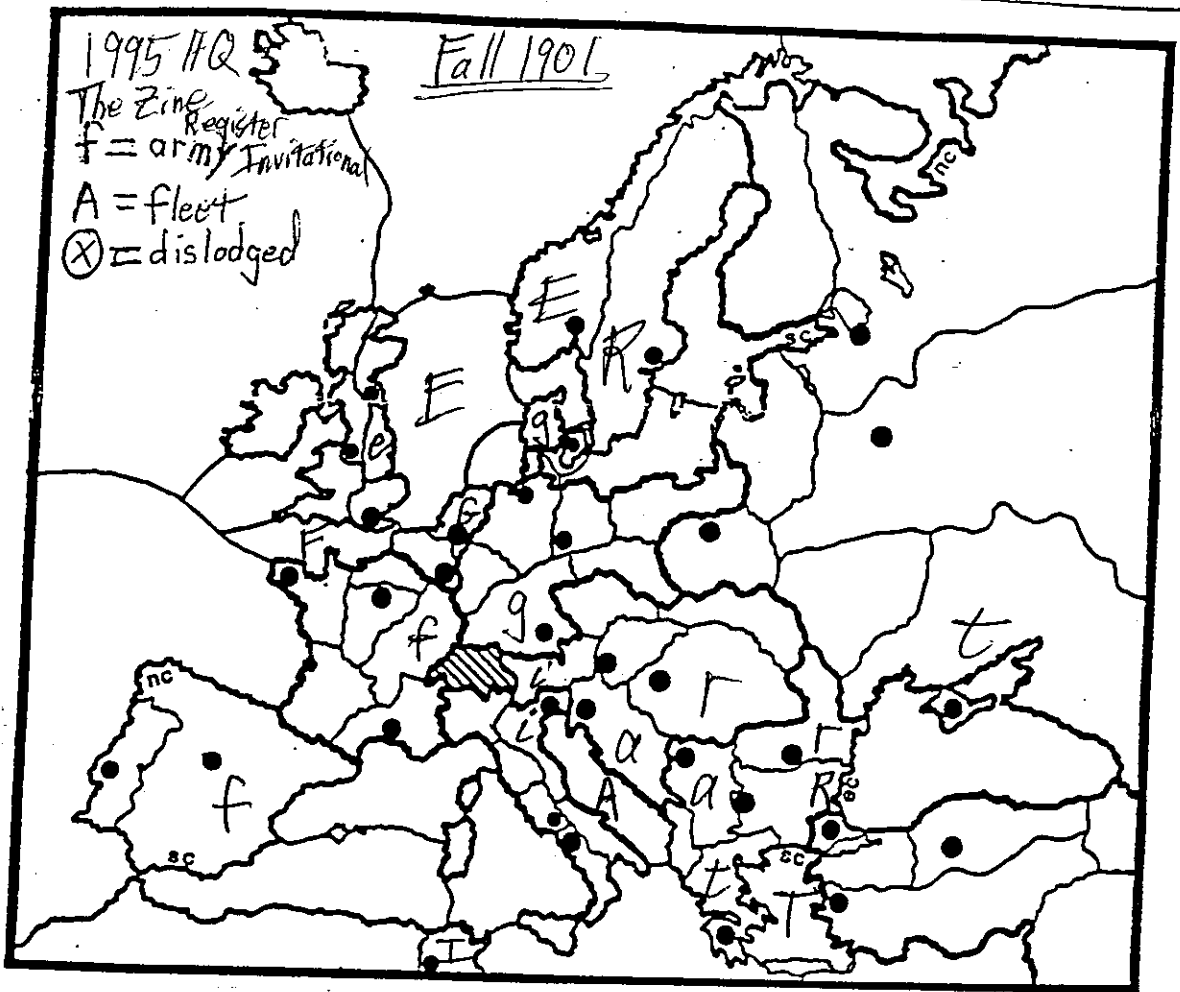
(ADMIRAL SIR KELLY LANGWORTHY to THE FRENCH FLEET): "I come to give you chase. Try as you might, even to the ends of the Seven Seas, I shall follow..."

(NIBELUNG to GM): Italy. Of all the countries in all the world, I got Italy. ::shrug:: Well, it beats, say, Albania, I suppose.

(AN IRISH FELLOW to AMBASSADOR POLLARD): "Why do they call us Britains? The English lords are behind this so called expedition. I'll bet three pounds the rest of Britain doesn't give a damn about your schemes..."

(PARANOID to GM): Whatsamatter, getting cold feet? You go to the trouble of creating a setup game full of non-existent players so you could eliminate me in 02, but now you're worried about your reputation so you swap in real players en masse? Is this the Hillary Rodham Clinton style of GMing?

(BOOB to PARANOID): Your anonymity precedes you... how about joining my Nuclear Yuppie opening, then you'll find out the true meaning of "setup"!!



(KENT to JIM): Well tanks Jim. I have a question. Are you the GM? ((Yes, it says so right up there in the participant list...)) Or the Boob? Or both? ((Yes, it says so right up there... um, it used to say it in the masthead for the first 99 issues of this rag, which was then called **The Boob Report**. **The Abyssinian Prince** in those early years was the sub-sub-zine where the music letters and discussions took place. I sometimes forget that all of you haven't been around for the entire... 13 years now?... journey.)) I'm confused. ((I hope you are less confused now.... do remember, though, that the games are **Black Press**, and anyone can write press from anywhere. They even can pretend to be me!)) Please let Winter be over! ((Amen!!))

(SKYWALKER to AMBASSADOR POLLARD): Ambassador Pollard, I too cannot remember this long and harsh of a winter, but I hope I can cheer you up, by telling you that we thank you for your offer of hope, and we will hopefully be able to help each other.

(BOOB to SKYWALKER): You do realize that the winter has been mild in the sense that no one can stab anyone until we actually begin pushing the blocks... enjoy the respite.

(SKYWALKER): I too vote against withdrawing any (well, almost any) of the pointless, useless, tasteless, and fire consuming writings by the almighty Boob.

ALBERT EINSTEIN: 1995 Trn39, Nuclear Yuppie Evil Empire Diplomacy

Addresses of the Participants

AUSTRIA: Harry Andruschak, PO Box 5309, Torrance, CA 90510-5309

ENGLAND: Doug Kent, 10214 Black Hickory Rd., Dallas, TX 75243 (214) 234-8386

FRANCE: Mark Lew, 5390 Broadway, #2, Oakland, CA 94618

GERMANY: Mike Barno, PO Box 509, Gardiner, MT 59030

ITALY: John Schultz, #19390, E-E14, Indiana State Prison, PO Box 41, Michigan City, IN 46361-0041

RUSSIA: Keith Sherwood, 8873 Pipestone Way, San Diego, CA 92129

TURKEY: Sandy Styles, 75-A Maple Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108-1008

GM: Jim-Bob Burgess, 664 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908-4327, (401) 351-0287

The Last of the Endgame Statements:

TURKEY (Sandy Styles): Tied for Win

Hello there! Happy New Year! Sorry I have not given you an endgame statement for the Nuclear Yuppie game. I've been lagging behind on everything lately. Oddly enough, it's not because of work; I've been out on disability since mid-December, and Lord knows I should have gotten tons of things done while I'm here at home. But as everyone has forgotten (especially Paul) is that I'm on disability for a reason—not to catch up on tons of house work and paperwork, but to rest. ((Well, I hope you're getting your rest now...)) Anyway...I just want to say thanks for letting me play in the Nuclear Yuppie game. It was a lot of fun! It was even more fun to end up in the winner's circle!! Let me know if there are any more Nuclear Yuppie games in the foreseeable future! ((That should about do it for this one, but there is a NEW one forming!! See the top of the games section for details...))

Ghods: 1994 KF, Internet Judge Diplomacy

AUSTRIA: Josh Smith; ENGLAND: Nick Fitzpatrick; FRANCE: Jim Burgess; GERMANY: John Sloan;

ITALY: Danny Loeb; RUSSIA: Rich Shipley; TURKEY: David Kovar.

GM: Mark Nelson, 1st Flr Frt Flat, 3 Kelso Road, Leeds, W. Riding LS2, UK; amt5man@amsta.leeds.ac.uk

Will the writeup for this game ever come?? Maybe it is time to start a betting pool...

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE: 1995 W, Regular Diplomacy

THE DUE DATE FOR SUMMER 1904 IS FEBRUARY 24TH, 1996

THE DUE DATE FOR FALL 1904 IS MARCH 16TH, 1996

Spring 1904

AUSTRIA (Johnson): a tyo-VIE, a SER S ITALIAN a vie-bud, f GRE h, a TRI S ITALIAN a vie-bud.

ENGLAND (Schultz): a cly-EDI, f nwy-NTH, f YOR S f nwy-nth.

FRANCE (Pustilnik): f nao-CLY, a pic-PAR, f iri-WAL, f eng-LON,
a LVP S f nao-cly, a GAS h.
GERMANY (Alme): a MUN h, f HEL-nth, a SIL-gal, a BEL h,
f nth-NWG, a KIE-den.
ITALY (Williams): a VEN h, f ION C a tun-smy, f EAS C a tun-smy, a tun-SMY, a vie-BUD.
RUSSIA (Rothenheber): f stp(nc)-BAR, a MOS-war, a ANK-con, a WAR-gal,
a rum-BUL, f SWE-den, a bud-tri (d r:rum,otb), f BLA S a rum-bul.
TURKEY (Partridge): f AEG S a con, a CON S AUSTRIAN f gre-bul (nso).

Addresses of the Participants

AUSTRIA: Jonas Johnson, 7700 East Speedway #717, Tucson, AZ 85710, (520) 886-7231 (\$4)
ENGLAND: John Schultz, #19390, E-E14, Indiana State Prison, PO Box 41, Michigan City, IN 46361-0041.
FRANCE: Michael Pustilnik, 3749 Castle Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20904, (301) 890-1538 (\$9)
GERMANY: Hank Alme, 5157 Norma Way #217, Livermore, CA 94550, (510) 606-7265 (\$4)
ITALY: Don Williams, 25252 Via Sistine, Valencia, CA 91355-3235, (805) 254-1380 (\$5)
RUSSIA: Ed Rothenheber, 11757 Lone Tree Court, Columbia, MD 21044, (410) 740-7269 (\$5)
TURKEY: David Partridge, 15 Elmer Drive, Nashua, NH 03062, (603) 882-3523 (\$4)
GM: Jim-Bob Burgess, 664 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908-4327, (401) 351-0287

Game Notes:

1) Everything is going smoothly here. For next time, I just need a retreat from Ed. Let's get right to the press.

Press:

(OFFICIAL FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE QUOTE OF THE SEASON): "For one thing is needful: that a human being attain his satisfaction with himself – whether it be by this or by that poetry and art; only then is a human being at all tolerable to behold. Whoever is dissatisfied with himself is always ready to revenge himself therefore; we others will be his victims, if only by always having to stand his ugly sight. For the sight of the ugly makes men bad and gloomy." From Aphorism 290 of *The Gay Science*.

(BOOB to F. N. WATCHERS): Check out the press in Suffren Succotash for some "relevant" commentary on this quote. And here's something from Harry...

(ANDRUSCHAK-GM): I have read Nietzsche, and always felt he had it totally wrong. As far as I can tell, he always seemed to feel, like the Christians, that life had MEANING. That evolution showed purpose and design, that the human race was somehow pre-ordained, as a stepping stone to better things. But he rejected the concept of a Christian God while still trying to give evolution some sort of direction. ((*Not really, at least as I read him. His was more of a "what if" and "love of fate" view of the question. He did believe in the will, but only as experienced by the individual, not in the human race as a whole. It was that will, expressed in the individual coming to terms with himself or herself, that could lead to growth of the individual. That was it though. Individuals who did not have the courage this required [and that was most everyone in his view] were pretty much irrelevant in Nietzsche's kinder and gentler moments, herds that got in the way of his vision more commonly, and worthy only of extermination in some of his more extreme pronouncements that I take metaphorically but people like Hitler took literally. Even though, by Nietzsche's standard, Adolf certainly did not measure up.*))

But the truth seems to be that life has no meaning other than to replicate selfish genes. Evolution shows no signs of design or purpose other than to replicate selfish genes. The human race does not seem to be pre-ordained nor does there seem to be any plans for more "advanced" forms of humanity. The more you know of real evolution, the less likely you are to pay much attention to Nietzsche's rantings. (In my abject humble opinion, of course.) ((*And you're certainly entitled to it. Nietzsche's theory of Eternal Recurrence clearly demonstrates that any such advancement of the human race made no sense in his philosophical system. Anything the herd tried to do was by definition wrong for his overman.*))

(ENGLAND-TURKEY): Yeah, I understand what you're saying but, thus far, he's treating me much better than he's treating you, eh? Doesn't it make you wonder why they call US the Wicked Witches?

(ENGLAND-FRANCE/GERMANY): You guys just aren't any fun to talk to anymore.

(JOHN BULL to TANYA TURK): Yes, it is...it's dialogue. But it looks like the only press will be Don's when we're gone. I commit to continued dialogue, even when I'm gone. What say you to this, TT? To the matter at hand, yes, I sorta, kinda understood what you were saying. My heart, mind and soul are as wide and deep as the Copper Canyon. Trouble is a vocabulary and other communication capabilities are more akin to a pothole. ((Around here, press is welcome ANY time, ESPECIALLY after your country has been eliminated.))

(ENGLAND-ITALY): Careful what you say! You're quickly becoming my ghod, with all due apologies to the other ghods cut there. Anyone who paraphrases Dylan Thomas in daily conversation must be possessed of the spirit. Now, if you start quoting Bob, ...you might cause me to shave my head and start selling literature in bus terminals. Well, the Harl's have the airports all tied up.

(BOOB to JOHN BOY): Now, when was the last time you were in an airport?? And when should I start hanging out in bus terminals looking for you?? Is it soon??

(JOHN BOY-BOOB): Well, it depends on how you look at it. In real people time it's probably not that close but time is a strange sort of animal in here. Looking ahead time is infinite. The present is a sort of limbo where time doesn't exist. However, looking back the speed of time breaks any notions Einstein might have had. So I'm planning in the present based on what I conceptualize about the future and know about the past. I've done two thirds of my bit. From this moment forward, anything can happen. I've got to be prepared for the moment when it comes. A strange mix of spontaneity and planning. Nevertheless, I won't be lost to the mosquitos. Believe me when I say, when the moment comes the whole world will know. I don't know much about computers, yet, but I think I can have a home base computer where people can contact me and I can contact the computer from wherever I am. I don't know how it works or what you call it, but if it exists that's how I'll stay in touch. I thought about cutting loose from the hobby a couple years ago but I've decided to stick around as long as the hobby is around, or I am. ((And I'm glad you have... I'm in it for the long haul too.))

NEKAYAH: 1993 ID, Regular Diplomacy

THE DUE DATE FOR WINTER 1908 IS FEBRUARY 24TH, 1996

THE DUE DATE FOR SPRING 1909 IS MARCH 16TH, 1996

Fall 1908

FRANCE (Reynolds): a BUR S a tyo-mun, f NTH S f nwg-nwy, f HEL S a kie-den, f nwg-NWY, f LVP h, a kie-DEN, a TYO-mun, f YOR-edi, a RUH S a mun-kie, a mun-KIE.

GERMANY (Kent): f BAL-swe.

ITALY (Lancaster): f ion-AEG, f tun-ION, f EAS S f ion-aeg, a VEN S a tri, a TRI S RUSSIAN a bud-ser.

RUSSIA (R. Ellis): f SEV-bla, a MOS-sev, a UKR S f rum, a BER-mun,

a VIE S ITALIAN a tri, a SWE S f den, f nwy-nth (d r:ska,bar,stp(nc),otb),

a SIL S a ber-mun, a EDI-lvp, f den h (d r:ska,otb), a bud-SER, f RUM S f sev-bla.

TURKEY (J. Ellis): a ARM-sev, f CON-bla, f aeg-SMY, a ser S a bul-rum (d r:alb,otb),

a BUL-rum, a alb-GRE.

Supply Center Chart

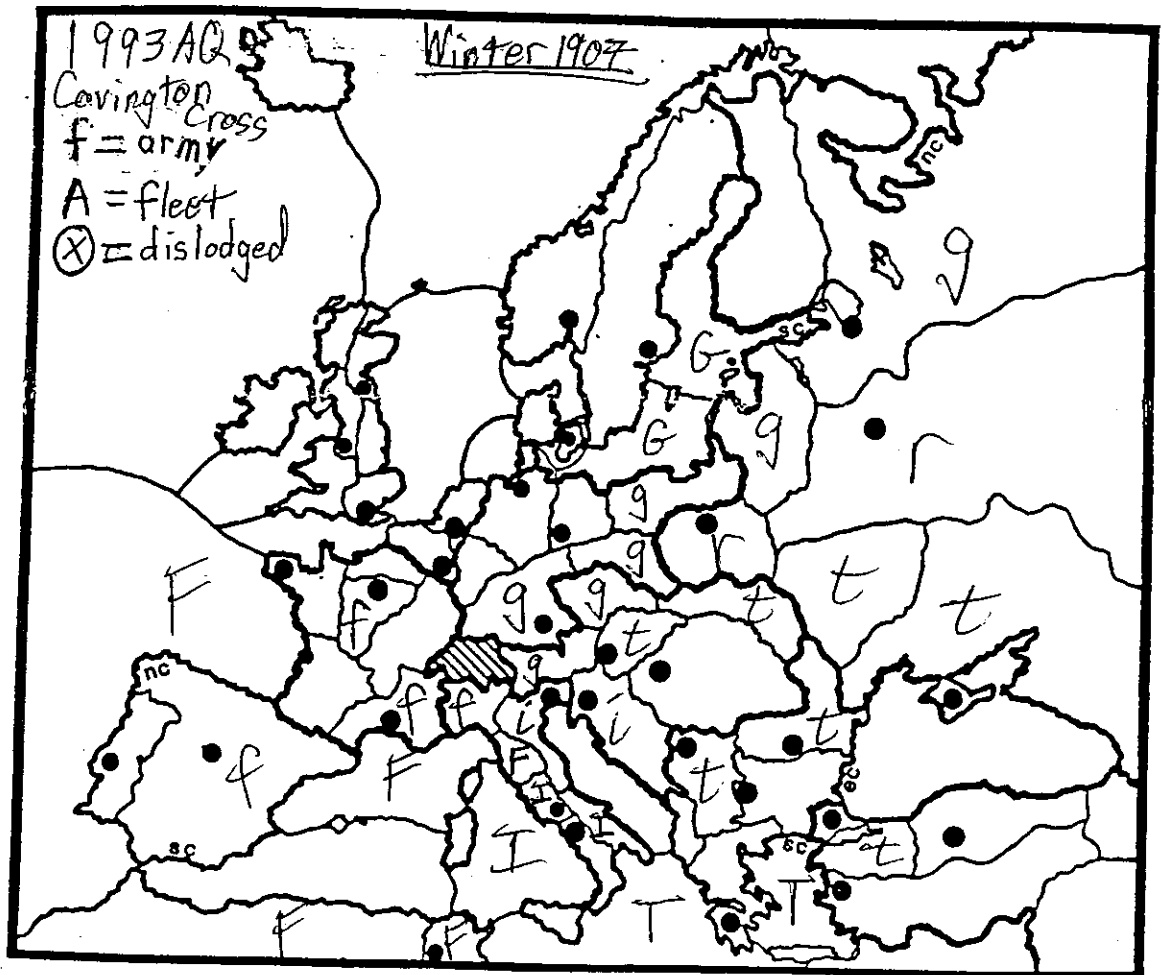
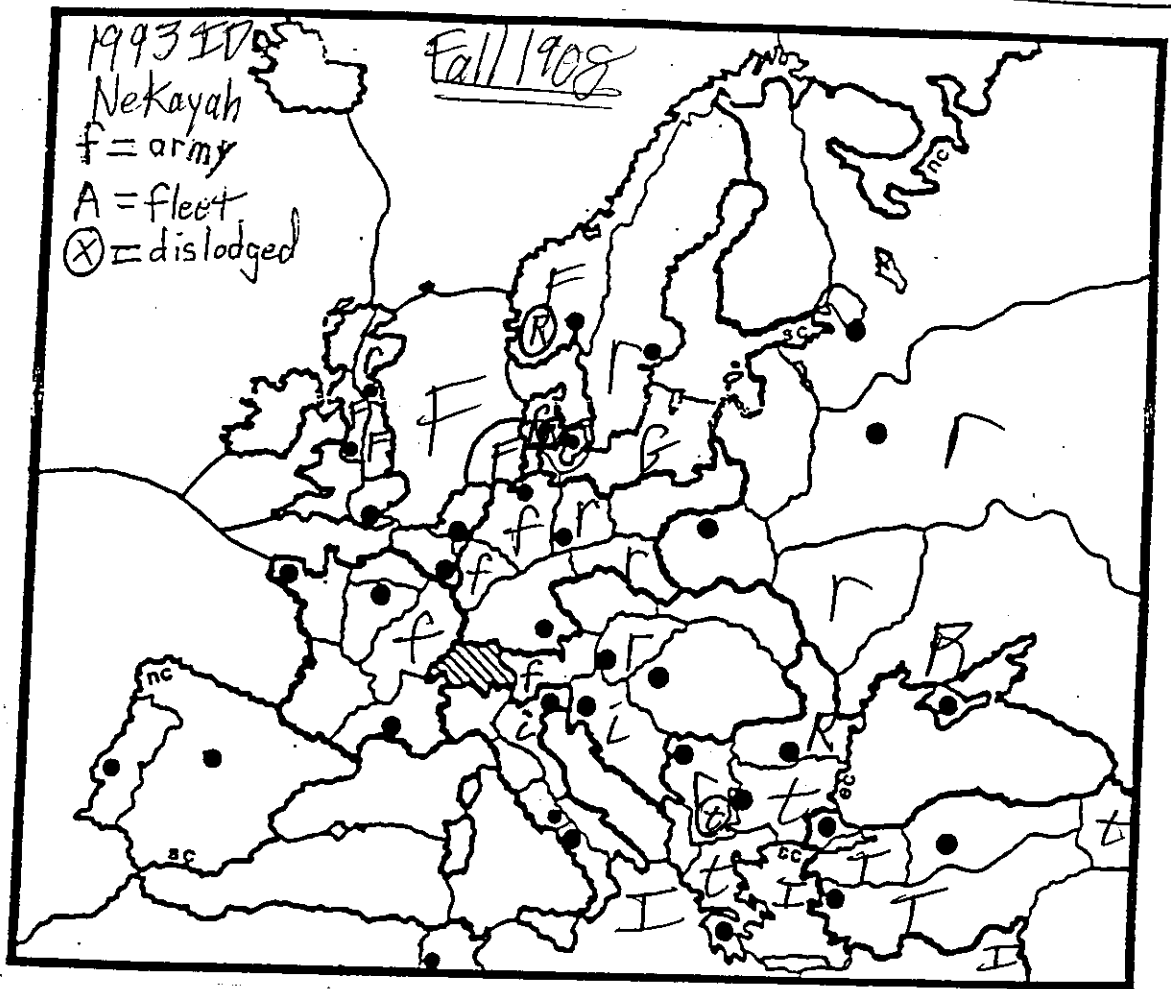
FRANCE (Reynolds):	bre,par,mar,bel,hol,spa,lvp, lon,por,mun,kie,den,nwy	(has 10, bld 3)
GERMANY (Kent):	none	(has 1, out)
ITALY (Lancaster):	rom,nap,ven,tun,tri	(has 5, even)
RUSSIA (R. Ellis):	mos,war,stp,sev,swe,rum,bud, edi,ber,ser,vie	(has 10 or 11 or 12, bld 1(2 r:otb) or even(1 r:otb) or rem 1)
TURKEY (J. Ellis):	ank,con,smy,bul,gre	(has 5 or 6, even(r:otb) or rem 1)
Neutral:	none	(Total=34)

Addresses of the Participants

AUSTRIA: Brad Wilson, PO Box 532, Paoli, PA 19301-0532, (610) 296-2253 (\$4)

ENGLAND: Rich Shipley, 7921 Liberty Circle, Pasadena, MD 21122, (410) 360-1005 (\$1)

FRANCE: Phil Reynolds, 2896 Oak Street, Sarasota, FL 34237, (813) 953-6952 (\$4)



GERMANY: Doug Kent, 10214 Black Hickory Rd., Dallas, TX 75243 (214) 234-8386
ITALY: Stuart Lancaster, 4127 SW Webster, Seattle, WA 98136, (206) 937-4542 (\$4)
RUSSIA: Randy Ellis, 4310 Ludlow Street, Boulder, CO 80303, (303) 499-2543 (\$5)
TURKEY: Jeff Ellis, 28808 North Prairie Lane, Apt. 101, Santa Clarita, CA 91351, (805) 251-1430 (\$3)
GM: Jim-Bob Burgess, 664 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908-4327, (401) 351-0287

Game Notes:

1) Nothing of note.... except that Randy's portion of the supply center chart has a lot of conditionals on it. I presume everyone can figure out the choices. If not, let me know.

Press:

(FRANCE to RUSSIA): Me "win this game in... Winter 1911"? Don't be so melodramatic, Randy. This game is far from over. We both know it.

(RUSSIA - FRANCE): I hope this costs you Den.

(BOOB to RUSSIA): If it weren't for the wild card German? Perhaps. With him? Not a chance.

(BOOB to GERMANY): I'll bet Randy's glad he doesn't have to worry about YOU any more.

COVINGTON CROSS: 1993 AQ, Regular Diplomacy

THE DUE DATE FOR SPRING 1908 IS FEBRUARY 24TH, 1996

Winter 1907

FRANCE (Rauterberg): R f tyh-GOL; bld a par; has a PAR, f TUS, a MAR, a PIE, a SPA, f GOL, f MID, f TUN, f NAF.

GERMANY (Zarr): has a PRU, a MUN, a SIL, a BOH, a TYO, a LVN, a STP, f GOB, f BAL.

ITALY (Garrett): has f APU, a VEN, a TRI, f TYH, f ROM.

RUSSIA (Brosius): has a WAR, a MOS.

TURKEY (Johnson): bld a con; has a CON, a SER, a SEV, a VIE, a RUM, a GAL, a UKR, f AEG, f ION.

Addresses of the Participants

FRANCE: Paul Rauterberg, 3116 W. American Drive, Greenfield, WI 53221, (414) 281-2339

GERMANY: Harold Zarr, 215 Glen Drive, Iowa Falls, IA 50126-1957, (515) 648-2821

ITALY: Jack Garrett, 481 W. Lincoln Drive, Greenville, OH 45331-2340

RUSSIA: Eric Brosius, 41 Hayward Street, Milford, MA 01757-3554, (508) 473-0252 (\$5)

TURKEY: Stan Johnson, 1254 East Broadway Road #56, Mesa, AZ 85204, (602) 668-1105

GM: Jim-Bob Burgess, 664 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908-4327, (401) 351-0287

Game Notes:

1) Recall that Stan Johnson had Issue #167 delayed. I did make an error in printing orders for Stan's fleets way back in Spring 1907. Instead of holding, they tried to move forward. Specifically, f con-AEG, f ION-tun. Luckily for me, the ultimate effect of my mistake was nil and the current position is correct. I thank Stan for his understanding!

2) Thanks to Paul Rauterberg for taking over the French position. Welcome!

3) Someone questioned how Italy supports five units instead of four. The Supply Center Chart last time WAS correct. In addition to his home centers, Italy owns both Greece (which he is not currently occupying, but no one else is either) and Trieste (which he is currently occupying). I'm not entirely sure what issue I did not address that motivated the question, but I hope I've answered it.

Press:

(BOOB): But, press? No, not this time either....

COLUMBUS CHILL: 1993 J, Regular Diplomacy

THE DUE DATE FOR SUMMER 1910 IS FEBRUARY 24TH, 1996

THE DUE DATE FOR FALL 1910 IS MARCH 16TH, 1996

Spring 1910

AUSTRIA (Davis): a BOH S a tyo-mun, a *TYO-mun*, a *MAR-gas*, a *PIE-mar*,
a vie-GAL, a *pru-ber* (d ann), f WES S TURKISH f mid-spa(nc).

FRANCE (Zarr): f BRE S f nao-mid, a LON h, a *POR-spa*, f *GAS S f nao-mid*,
f IRI S f nao-mid, f nao-MID, f ENG S f nat-mid.

GERMANY (Jones): a BER S a sil-pru, a LVN S a stp-mos, a MUN h, a BUR S a mun,
a sil-PRU, a RUH S a mun, a *STP-mos*, f BAL S a sil-pru, f GOB S a lvn.

TURKEY (Weiss): a TUN S f naf, a SEV S a mos, a UKR S a war, a *MOS S a war*, a *WAR S a pru-sil*
(nso), f TYH h, f *NAF-mid*, f GOL S f mid-spa(nc), f mid-SPA(NC), f AEG h, f ion-EAS.

Addresses of the Participants

AUSTRIA: Rick Davis, PO Box 1037, Healdsburg, CA 95448, (707) 433-6701 (sub to at least #172)

ENGLAND: Jack Garrett, 481 W. Lincoln Drive, Greenville, OH 45331-2340

FRANCE: Harold Zarr, 215 Glen Drive, Iowa Falls, IA 50126-1957, (515) 648-2821

GERMANY: Charles Jones, PO Box 691, O'Fallon, IL 62269-0691

RUSSIA: Eric Schlegel, 314 Fords Lane, Aberdeen, MD 21001, (410) 272-3314

TURKEY: Richard Weiss, 241 Condo Lane #523, Tamuning, Guam 96911, (671) 646-4166

GM: Jim-Bob Burgess, 664 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908-4327, (401) 351-0287

Game Notes:

1) The DIAS draw and the FAG draw are both rejected. The DIAS (draw includes all survivors) is repropsoed. Please vote on it with your Summer orders. If you don't vote, it still vetoes the proposal.

Press:

(GERMANY >>> JIM): What is a DIAS draw? ((*See above...*)) I just can't bring myself to vote for a fag. (get it?) There's only one Fag in this game. I'm glad that you have a scanner and don't have to type this manually. Will you scan in the clippings I'm enclosing from *Diplomacy World*? ((*Probably not, but if I did, I still reserve all of the rights of the editor, including both ridicule and censorship. That puts you in my power.... absolutely! Cheap insults will get you nowhere, but hey, but I'm willing to give you your shot. Richard and I are really busting our guts over at least some of this stuff...*))

(JIM >>> WORLD): I'd like to announce that two or our players have gained fame in the hobby. Charles Jones (Germany) submitted some of Richard Weiss's letters to *Diplomacy World* and they got published. *Diplomacy World* has a section where players from around the world submit letters they've received; called Letters From A Fool. I've printed the article below.

(LETTERS FROM A FOOL): (Taken in it's entirety from *Diplomacy World* magazine.)

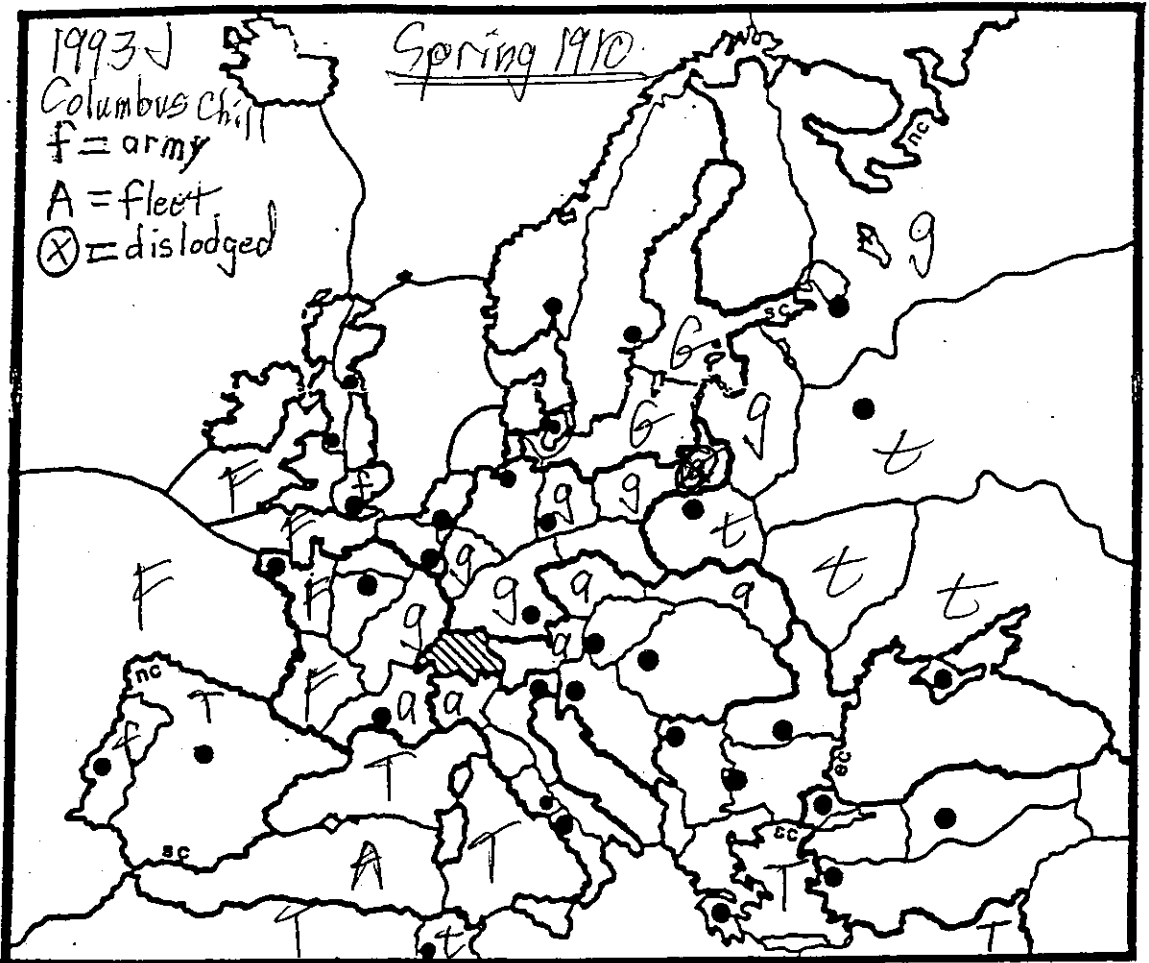
Charles Jones playing Germany in 93J COLUMBUS HILL submitted letters he's received from Richard Weiss who is currently playing Turkey. After our judges read Richard's letters we sure feel that Charles has gotten "Letters from a FOOL". Congratulations Charles you win this month's contest!

"I told AUS I would contact you & offer you one of the oldest lines in Dip - if you stab FRA, I will stab AUS. You must go 1st." "Ask any PBM Dip Player who's played 74 years. They will tell you my reputation (ruthless). The rules mandate one winner ... (ruthless) I hate people who play for 2-ways." "I'll stab AUS and win this game with or without you."

Our deepest condolences go out to Mr. Jones who has to play a game with such a dork. The thing we wonder about here at the office is; why anyone would ally with a player with such a view? Mr. Jones will receive the latest copy of *Diplomacy* as his contest gift. Remember we give a new game, each and every month, to the player who sends us a letter written by another player which is the poorest example of the Diplomat's art.

(GERMANY >>> AUSTRIA): There's still time to switch.

(GERMANY >>> TURKEY): I'm sure not bored! Sorry the game is getting dull for you. You did help me win a new copy of the game. Keep those letters coming. There is an annual contest in *Diplomacy World* for biggest fool of the year. I feel good about you winning this one too. I do enjoy reading your letters though! Time is on my side if you have played for 70+ years. You'll end up dying of old age before this



game is over. Of course you could always take Austria's centers and win sooner. After all it doesn't really matter who you kill first, if you win anyway? Of course you may not be the expert player you claim to be, and can't win. We'll see? I am an expert player and I'd take Austria's centers, so you must be a beginner in strategy not in years.

One thing is for sure, I will not help you win this game by stabbing France and taking Paris this turn, crazy promises or not!

(NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE): Dr. Richard Weiss continues to refuse to share his secrets with the medical community. His miraculous operation is still a one of a kind. As you are aware Dr. Richard Weiss attached male sexual organs to the top of his head. His body has accepted the transplant without the usual problems of rejection. Authorities in Guam have decided to let Dr. Weiss to continue his medical practice (probably because no-one wants to practice medicine in third world countries).

(TUR-JEROME P. KASSIRER, MD, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, *THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE*): First, thank you for the coverage on the ability to ensure transplanted organs are not rejected by the host body. Since there are quite a few bodies here on Guam that my organ wants to not be rejected by, I find this a double-benefit. However, usually I require a double host body. The truly miraculous part of my discovery is that I am not rejected by either body. Even the Miller Lite Girls at the Super Bowl party did not reject me. The crowd had more fun cheering me on than cheering on those Steelers. But, as I was saying, as I said to the Miller Girls, "I just had to slip that in."

I would like you to print a correction, however. The recipient of the operation was not my gay lover. True, my lover had a penis that I removed and it is now functional from the top of my head. Actually, the top of my head is now on top of my head which is on top of my head, well, if you were to walk by, you'd understand. However, my lover is not a male. No, she was a transsexual. Now she is back to being herself.

Thank you for the correction. Now, on to the more exciting news. No, the rumors are not true that I was the original donor organ of the organ. And, as to the old adage that "Grass does not grow on a busy street," yes, I now have two colors and consistencies of hair on my head. The pubies are not yet gray and are definitely curlier.

PS: getting head is quite a mind blower.

(GUAM DAILY GALLBLADDER GAZETTE): After careful review, and also considering the fact that few doctors are willing to live here in this third world toilet; Dr. Richard Weiss will be allowed to continue his medical practice. Dr. Weiss causes a sensation whenever he goes anywhere. Lucky Dr. Weiss has started wearing hats. Although his hats tend to move when where is no wind, which is unsettling considering the reason. This unsightly movement usually comes whenever Dr. Weiss is standing close to short fat men.

(PACIFIC DAILY NEWS): Today on Guam the medical exploits of Dr. R Weiss continue. In the Guam Memorial Hospital Emergency Room, while performing emergency resuscitation for a stabbing wound to a Mr. H. Zarr, of 1910 Frog Pond Lane, he came to the conclusion that by holding the scalpel with the penile urethra he could perform delicate intravascular surgery. Mr. Zarr's arteries have been effectively atherectomized. Wanting to continue his medical exploits, Dr. R Weiss performed open artery surgery on the next two emergency room visitors with angina. They are doing fine in intensive care. Dr. R Weiss was quoted as saying, "This new surgical style is quite exciting to me. This surgical technique has led to the climax of my career."

(BOOB REPORTS): And he didn't even have to crack open their chests, it gave a new meaning to breaking the hymen....

SUFFREN SUCCOTASH: 1993 AI, Regular Diplomacy

THE DUE DATE FOR SPRING 1903 IS FEBRUARY 24TH, 1996

Winter 1902

AUSTRIA (Pustilnik): bld a bud; has a BUD, a SER, a TRI, f GRE, a VIE.
ENGLAND (Hoffman): bld a edi; has a EDI, a NWY, f NWG, f NTH, f BEL.
FRANCE (James): has f GOL, a PIE, a SPA, a MAR, f WES.
GERMANY (Emmert): bld a ber; has a BER, f HOL, a DEN, f BAL, a TYO.
ITALY (Gorham): has a TUS, f TYH, a TUN, f ION.
RUSSIA (Schultz): bld a sev; has a SEV, f STP(NC), a FIN, f SWE, f BLA,
a BUL, a WAR.

TURKEY (Garrett): has f AEG, a CON, f EAS.

Addresses of the Participants

AUSTRIA: Michael Pustilnik, 3749 Castle Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20904, (301) 890-1538
ENGLAND: Karl Hoffman, 395 Imperial Way #220, Daly City, CA 94015 (415) 991-2394
FRANCE: Drew James, 8356 Radian Path, Baldwinsville, NY 13027
GERMANY: Steve Emmert, 1752 Grey Friars Chase, Virginia Beach, VA 23456, (804) 471-1842
ITALY: Dan Gorham, PO Box 279, Belmopan, Belize, CENTRAL AMERICA
RUSSIA: John Schultz, #19390, E-E14, Indiana State Prison, PO Box 41, Michigan City, IN 46361-0041
TURKEY: Jack Garrett, 481 W. Lincoln Drive, Greenville, OH 45331-2340
GM: Jim-Bob Burgess, 664 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908-4327, (401) 351-0287
GM EMERITUS: Garret Schenck, 293 Russell Street, Hadley, MA 01035

Game Notes:

1) The first press item was slightly misplaced and should have appeared last issue....

Press:

(TUR-GM): No problem with the retreat you made (Aeg-Smy). You mean there are actually "good" standby positions? Where?

(BOOB to JACK): Hey, I've given a few out in my time. If I recall correctly, I've even given out some that have ended in wins for the standby. Admittedly, most positions don't have a lot of play in them but I've taken tiny positions and tripled or quadrupled my center counts on numerous occasions. It can be done.

(VIRGINIA BEACH to VALENCIA): Hi, Don, how ya doin'? Hope things are peachy on the Pacific Rim. We'd just love to get more of your press around here. While you're at it, are there any other TAP games where you have not yet "visited"? Love and kisses, Stevie.

(VIRGINIA BEACH to BOARD): (I've tried cussing at Williams and calling him all kinds of names, but that won't keep him away. This is my latest effort. Perhaps by being sappy-sweet to him, I'll drive him away. Keep you fingers crossed.)

(BOOB RAISES HIS HEAD ABOVE THE PARAPETS): Ummm, Don??? Don??? It's deadline time.... nope, not a word. Mr. Emmert, you may just have done it!

(JACK-WILLIAMS): Book 'em, Don-O!

(JOHN BOY-BOOB): I just wanted to give you a little moral support regarding what you had to say about rag publications and refunds. I only did *MARTHA* for three or four years and I did it for nothing except voluntary stamp donations. For a while I kept track of who sent how many stamps so I could refund those who 'overpaid'. It turned out to be unworkable and my policy changed. I didn't announce it but no one ever complained about it and I felt only a slight twange about not keeping my word. I think everyone understood that it cost me more than I had to have done it. I don't begrudye any publisher who folds and doesn't refund. It's a pittance fer Chrissakes! And an enormous pain in the ass after the fun goes out of it. And it seems the players go out of their way to make it as big a pain in the ass as possible with poorly written orders, press you can't read, consistently last minute or missed deadlines, aversion to standby positions (particularly if they're bad ones) and more little quirky things only those who've published would understand. *((Still, none of that bothers me all that much. I still really enjoy it and just consider most of that part of the environment. Then again, I also suppose that's why I'm still publishing...))* I like Mark's policy although, the way HE states it, it reeks of an inherent 'screw-you' attitude I don't necessarily care for. Publishers simply shouldn't have a refund policy, then people wouldn't expect it. People shouldn't expect it, even if it's stated. Then, if the publisher wants to refund, what a nice surprise that would be. I never begrudged Garret his fold or anything which went along with it. Except, the scoundrel has never even dropped me note since. If it wasn't for Lisa I wouldn't even know what a beautiful baby they have. GARRET, YOU SCOUNDREL!

(STEVE to JIM-BOB): I tend to side with you in the What to Do About Folds issue. I have never published anything, and almost certainly never will, but I know that nobody is adequately compensated for cranking out a zine every month. And it's a small enough financial loss that I don't care about that aspect of it. The real problem with Garret's departure from the hobby is that now I'm the ugliest one left. As long

as he was around, I always had someone to point to and cry, "Ecce ugly homo." ((See Nietzsche's quote of the month in the Friedrich Nietzsche game, I selected it just for you....))

(EMMERT to WILLIAMS): As you will no doubt have failed to understand the above reference, I will assure you that it has nothing whatsoever to do with sexual preference. Go mind your own business. ((Note the book from which I drew said quote, that has nothing whatsoever to do with sexual preference either...))

(MOSCOW-PARIS): Actually, Austria heading west through his ally is not a bad idea to me. Could you swing it for me? Personally, I'd leave Turkey alone but it's gotta make better sense than your advice. If you've got some ideas, write me, not the world.

(ROME): The unprovoked attack against Italy by the French is a mystery. We have been good neighbors. Let the world know that it was France who opened this war. Italy will defend itself and die fighting.

(JACK-JOHN): I like to think that I'm performing a valuable service to the hobby; allowinhg unfortunate positions to die with dignity. Sort of the Diplomacy Hospice Director.

(VIRGINIA BEACH to PROVIDENCE): Actually, I don't watch many lawyer shows; I like to get away from trial work while at home. Right now, Caroline is much more interested in Barney than in Atticus Finch, anyway.

(PROVIDENCE to VIRGINIA BEACH): Quite understandable. I know just what you mean. I'd much rather think about baseball...

(VIRGINIA BEACH to BOARD): Pitchers and catchers report on February 14, the beginning of the end of winter. Spring begins on April 1; Rockies v. Phillies. ((Two interesting holidays for those milestones..))

(BERLIN to PARIS): Is that red or white wine? I need to know what kind of wurst to bring. Maybe we can just steal some of his Chianti.

(JOHN-KARL): I'd like to be in a game with you sometimes where I don't have to immediately think in terms of what I have to do with you later.

(BERLIN to VIENNA): Hey, you in on this Italian deal?

(JOHN-BOOB): Yeah, everybody from California hates that hot, sunny weather, HA! And, as for cross-gaming...I'm such a putz I haven't even figured out that people do it. Just ask anybody named Mike, in your rag, I've ever played with. They've all screwed me so many times they started a club.

(JOHN-DUCK): I LUV YOU, MAN! IS IT WRONG?

(BOOB to JOHN BOY): Well, his name's not Mike....

Personal Note to You: