A DIALOGUE OF NATIONS

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Ed  This was a good idea, coming here. I can use the recreation. Let's play pool.
Ned  Iraq?
Ed  No, I'll rack 'em. I think I'll have some coffee, too.
Ned  Sweden?
Ed  No, I like it black, thanks.
Ned  Haiti?
Ed  It's all right, but I prefer coffee. Let's start playing.
Ned  Italy?
Ed  Sure, you can keep score. Gee, I haven't been feeling too well. I'm really sick.
Ned  Qatar?
Ed  No, it's just a sore throat. I guess I'll get over it. Say, did you see the new diner across the street?
Ned  Benin?
Ed  No, but I've been meaning to go.
Ned  Ghana?
Ed  Yeah, maybe I'll check it out after a couple of games.
Ned  Congo?
Ed  Sure, you can come, too. Pool first, though. I hope I can concentrate.
Ned  Tunisia?
Ed  Yeah, music does relax me; turn on the radio. I've been thinking too much about my business problems. Daniel turned out to be one crooked partner.
Ned  Sudan?
Ed  I may have to. I'll say one thing - his wife Olivia is some babe.
Ned  Bolivia?
Ed  I wouldn't mind that at all. Here, let me turn on the overhead light so I can see... Jeez, I got a shock!
Ned  Upper Volta?
Ed  No, it was pretty mild.
Ned  Spain?
Ed  Well, it does hurt a tad. I hope I can still play.
Ned  Kenya?
Ed  Yeah, I think I can. We have to pay in advance, though.
Ned  Germany?
Ed  Sure, I've got plenty of dough... Hmm, I'm not sure he gave me the right change.
Ned  Egypt?
Ed  Well, I'm not sure. Look at this ten dollar bill. That doesn't
It looks counterfeit to me.

Ed

Yeah, I'd say the cashier's a rotten SOB. I think he's gone, too. Must be his lunch hour.

Ned

Hmmm, you didn't leave me with much.

Ed

No, I didn't get a very good look at him. Let's forget about it for now. You break... Hmm.

Ned

I'm still sore from that soccer game yesterday. At least I scored a goal.

Ed

Yeah, but I lost him in the crowd after the game. I took Dora to that rock club where she hangs out. The band was terrible.

Ned

No, she's OK, ya know? The tallest woman I've ever dated, although I don't know her precise height.

Ed

Not that, either, but she's pretty slim. Anyway, I was glad to have her there. Of course, I wish Al hadn't shown up.

Ned

He was pitiful. I've heard better in the shower. Trini, for one, is a much better singer. His marriage seems to be working out well.

Ed

Yeah, I could hear him getting on me all afternoon.

Ned

No, but he does want children. His wife Brit looks terrific. I saw her when they got back from the Caribbean.

Ed

She got a lot of color, I'd say. She's one of the top veterinarians in this part of the state, ya know.

Ned

She could probably cure a heifer, but she mostly takes care of household pets. Say, let's get on with the game... Remember me to call my mother later. The reviews of her new book just came out.
Ned: Panama?
Ed: Yeah, they were merciless. Let's say it wasn't the warmest
critical reception.
Ned: Chile?
Ed: Frigid is more like it... Good shot. You win. Let's eat.
Ned: Hungary?
Ed: Starved. Let's go to the Irish place. At least it's clean. The
exterminator comes in every month.
Ned: France?
Ed: I guess so, but mostly for cockroaches.
Ned: Serbia?
Ed: Sure, they've got good fast service. But I'm in a rush.
Ned: Togo?
Ed: Yeah, let's do a takeout.
Ned: Kuwait?
Ed: No, I'm running late. Get a move on. There's a cashier with
firm upturned breasts and glistening thighs who's dying
to meet you.
Ned: Russia?
Ed: No, she'll let you take your time. Your eyes'll pop out. In-
terested?
Ned: Yemen!

A REVERSE ACRONYM DICTIONARY

In the February 1983 Word Ways, the Gale Research Company's
eighth edition (1983-84) of Acronyms, Initialisms, and Ab-
reviations Dictionary (AIAD) was briefly reviewed. It should
have been pointed out that the AIAD is part of a larger set:
a pair of supplementary volumes with new AIADs before the
next complete revision, and the 2-volume Reverse Acronyms,
Initialisms, and Abbreviations Dictionary (RAIAD) selling for
$120. As its name implies, this dictionary lists the word or
phrase to be acronymed first (in alphabetical order), followed
by its acronym. Presumably, these volumes are of most use
to the writer who wishes to look up the proper abbreviation
of some common word or phrase. Sometimes, there are many
alternatives to choose from:

HEREF, HERIFS, HEREFORDS (Herefordshire County, England)
C, CH, CHAIR, CHM, CHMN, CHRM, CHRMN (chairman)
C, CNTRL, CNTRL, CON, CONT, CONT, CON, CONTR, CONT, CTRL, CTL,
CTRL (control)

Logologists might like to determine what word has the most
acronymic alternatives, or try to write a story using acronyms
as "words".