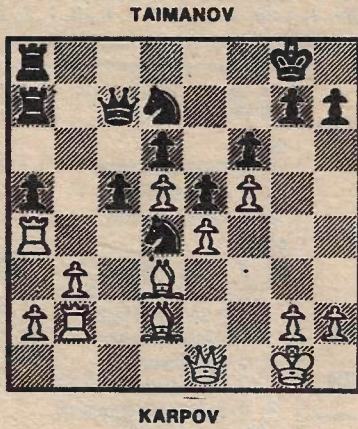


Karpov falters

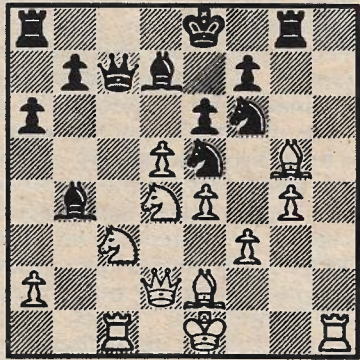
IN LENINGRAD the Russians have just finished an 18 player Grandmaster tournament held to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the revolution. First equal on 11½ were Tal and Romanishin, followed by Smyslov 10½, Karpov (!) 10 and Vaganian 10. Karpov's result was his first major setback since becoming world champion, but he recovered well after his shaky start, losing on time to Balashov in a winning position. He got

beaten 'properly' by Taimanov early in the event as well. This is the position after White's 25th move. A characteristic Karpov build up on Black's isolated pawn on a5 has been taking place, and White will obviously be winning if he can carry out the moves Kh1, Bc3, g4, Rg2. Taimanov must act quickly if he is to avoid being bottled so he begins a combination based around his one trump, his well placed knight on d4.



But not 14, . . . Bd7 15, b4 Nxb4 16, Nxb4 Qxb4 17, Rb1 followed by 18, Rxb7, penetrating to the seventh.

15. Rcl Bd7
16. b4 Qc7
17. Nd4 d5
18. cxd5 Bxb4
19. Bxg5



19. . . . NeXg4!
Gheorghiu correctly bypasses 19, . . . R×g5 20, Q×g5 B×c3 ch 21, Kf1 Ke7 22, Rh6 Ng6 23, R×g6 f×g6 24, e5 which is winning for White. Now he is threatening 20, . . . Qg3 ch and since 20, Bf4 is met by 20, . . . e5 Mariotti is forced to accept the knight.

20. f×g4 N×e4
21. N×e4 Q×c1 ch
It wouldn't do to play 21, . . . B×d2 ch 22, K×d2 Qa5 ch 23, Ke3 when White has an overwhelming position, well illustrated by the line 23, . . . R×g5 24, Rh8 ch Ke7 25, d6 mate!

22. Kf2 B×d2
23. R×c1 B×g5
24. Rc7 e×d5
25. Nd6 ch Kd8
26. R×b7 Bf4
27. N(4)f5 B×d6
28. N×d6 Rg6
29. N×f7 ch Kc8
30. Rb3

On 30, R×d7 the zwischenzug 30, . . . Rf6 ch refutes White's hopes of 30, . . . K×d7 31, Ne5 ch forking king and rook.

30. . . . B×g4
31. Ne5 Rf6 ch
32. Nf3 Kc7
33. Rc3 ch Kd6
34. Ra3 a5
35. Resigns

MURRAY CHANDLER

25. . . . Nb6!
26. R×a5
On 26, B×a5 N×a4 27, B×c7 N×b2 White has both of his bishops attacked.
26. . . . c4!
27. Bf1
Capturing the pawn loses, ie 27, B×c4 N×c4 28, R×a7 Q×a7 29, b×c4 Nf3 double ch. winning the queen, or 27, b×c4 R×a5 28, B×a5 Qc5 29, B×b6 Nf3 dble ch 30, Kf1 N×e1 31, B×c5 N×d3 and oops, guess whose just been forked.

27. . . . R×a5
28. B×a5 Qc5
29. B×b6
Now 29, . . . Nf3 dble ch does nothing and after 30, Kh1 Karpov's bishop on b6 prevents mate on g1 — quite deceptively though, maybe in a lightning game . . .

29. . . . Q×b6
30. Kh1 c×b3
31. a×b3 g6
The point! If that sounds a bit stupid then look closely at what Taimanov has done. He has, by means of a pawn sacrifice, emerged from a cramped position to now control the open 'a' file, the g1 — a7 diagonal and in addition he has maintained his powerful knight on d4. Now he plans to open the 'h' file as a road to the enemy king.

32. f×g6 h×g6
33. b4 Kg7
34. b5
Better was 34, Bd3!

34. . . . f5
35. e×f5 N×f5
Now Karpov has to watch carefully for any possibilities of Black slipping in a Ng3 ch and Rh8 mate. His best way to draw must be to block the g1 — a7 diagonal immediately with 36, Qf2. Then Taimanov can try 36, . . . Ne3 37, Rb1 Rf8 but 38, Qg1 seems to hold, or he can head for the ending,

eg 36, . . . Q×f2 37, R×f2 Ral 38, Kg1 Rb1 39, Re2 Nd4 (39, R×b5 R×e5) 40, Rd2 N×b5 41, Kf2 which should be drawn.

36. Rb3 Qd4
37. b6? Ral
38. Rb1
On 38, Qe2 Black replies 38, . . . Q×d5 39, Rb5 Nd4!
38. . . . Ng3 ch!
And oh dear, poor Karpov. Since Taimanov's rook had just come from a8 he must have forgotten about it nipping back after 38, . . . Ng3 ch! 39, h×g3 Ra8! when mate by 40, Rh8 is unavoidable.

39. Resigns
Instead of 37, b6 Karpov could have tried 37, Rb1 when an attempt to win his queen would only end in a draw by perpetual check, viz 37, . . . Ra3 38, b6 Ng3 ch 39, Q×g3 R×g3 40, h×g3 Qe4 41, Rb5 Qe1 42, Kg1 Qe3 ch 43, Kh2 Qh6 ch. Taimanov could preserve winning chances by 37, . . . Ne3.

Also from Leningrad 77. SICILIAN DEFENCE

S. Mariotti (Italy)	F. Gheorghiu (Rumania)
1. e4	c5
2. Nf3	e6
3. d4	c×d4
4. N×d4	a6
5. c4	Nf6
6. Nc3	d6
7. Be2	Be7
8. g4	h6
9. Be3	Nc6
10. Nc2	g5
11. h4	Rg8
On 11, . . . g×h4 White continues 12, Qd2 with possibilities of a later f4.	
12. h×g5	h×g5
13. Qd2	Qa5
14. f3	Ne5