

An emergent China in Auckland

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS, the Philippines, retained their number one spot in Asia at the Philips Asian teams tournament held in Auckland in November. Managed by FIDE Deputy President Florencio Campomanes and led by Grandmaster Eugene Torre, the Philippines came to Auckland to win and the spectators each day were treated to a smooth, professional performance.

China, in second place, was the unknown quantity. It was the first time they had ventured into a teams event and they obviously had read western chess literature. In particular, on the Chinese board, one competitor stood out as almost of Grandmaster strength and his hard-fought draw against Torre was interesting.

Philips Asian teams championships
Grafton Hall, Auckland 1977
English opening

Eugene Torre	Chi Ching Hsuan
1. c4	e5
2. Nc3	d6
3. d4!	

A forthright attempt to take control of d5. Torre, who has also experimented with this move against Sax, thinks White's idea effectively counters Black's play of a Dutch Defence-type setup with d6, e5, f5.

3. . . .	e×d4
4. Q×d4	Nc6
5. Qd2	g6
6. b3	Bh6

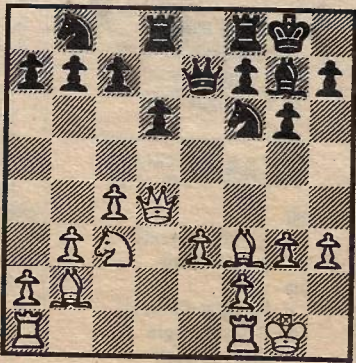
By placing his bishop on h6 Hsuan forces Torre to play e3. Otherwise White continues by fianchettoing his bishop by g3, Bg2.

7. e3	Nf6
8. Bb2	0-0
9. Nf3	Bg7
10. Be2	Bg4
11. h3	B×f3
12. B×f3	Qe7
13. 0-0	Rad8
14. g3	Nb8?!

14. . . . Ne5!? 15. Bg2 c6

15. Qd4!

HSUAN



TORRE

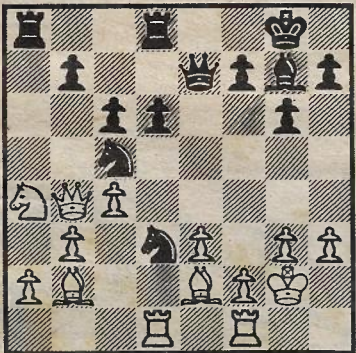
Winning a pawn. Obviously 15. B×b7 c6 traps the bishop but now Torre threatens 16. Nd5! as well as the mercenary 16. Q×a7.

15. . . .	c6
16. Q×a7	Nfd7!
17. Rad1!	

Too hungry would be 17. Q×b7. When 17. . . . Qf6! followed by 18. . . . Nc5 leaves the queen badly misplaced.

17. . . .	Ne5
18. Be2	Na6
19. Kg2	Nc5
20. Qa3	Ra8
21. Qb4	Rfd8
22. Na4	Ned3

HSUAN



TORRE

23. R×d3!	N×d3
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Or 23. . . . Qe4 ch 24. f3 N×d3 25. Qd2! followed by 26. B×d3.

24. B×d3	B×b2
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Strange that 24. . . . R×a4 25. b×a4! leaves the White queen protecting the bishop on b2.

25. N×b2	R×a2
26. Qc3	Qe5

With two pieces for a rook, White should win. But exchanging queens immediately is an error, for on 27. Q×e5 d×e5 both bishop and knight are attacked.

27. Nd1	Rda8
28. Q×e5	d×e5
29. c5	R(8)a5
30. Nc3	R(2)a3
31. Bc4	R×c5
32. Ne4	Rca5
33. Rcl	b5
34. Bf1	R×b3
35. R×c6	f5
36. Nc5?	

Throwing away the win. Correct is check first with 36. Rc8 ch! when 36. . . . Kf7 can be met by 37. Rc7 ch Kg8 38. Nf6 ch. Now Hsuan sets up a pin on Torre's knight.

36. . . .	Rc3!
37. Rc8 ch	Kf7
38. Rc7 ch	Kg8!

Draw agreed

As long as the Black king remains on g8, away from all checks, it is too dangerous to unpin the knight by Ne6 owing to Black's athletic "b" pawn; the bishop and knight combining badly in this situation.