

4th Leg, Pinang

PIRC DEFENCE

R. KHAN (India) M. AARON (India)

- 1. e4 d6
- 2. d4 Nf6
- 3. Bd3

Typical Asian, out of the books! After 3.Nc3 g6 we would have the extensively analysed basic position of the Pirc defence.

- 3. ... e5

Now this is possible since White's bishop blocks the d-file, and therefore, also, an unfavourable exchange of Queens.

- 4. c3 Be7
- 5. Ne2 O-O
- 6. O-O c5
- 7. d5 Nh5?

But this move is premature and should be preceded by 7. ... Nbd7. If then White continued 8.f4 Aaron could play 8. ... exf4 9.Bxf4 Nh5! with a forthcoming blockade on e5 with his knight. As things stand Khan's kingside threats do not now allow the necessary tempi for this manoeuvre.

- 8. f4 Nx14
- 9. Nx14 ex14
- 10. Bx14 Bg5

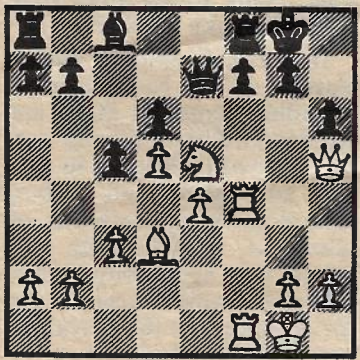
Very thematic — if Black doesn't get eaten alive.

- 11. Qh5 h6!
- 12. Nd2 Bx14
- 13. Rx14 Nd7

Heading for e5 but White gets there first.

- 14. Nc4 Qe7
- 15. Raf1 Ne5!
- 16. Nxex5

AARON



KHAN

- 16. ... dxe5

Before playing 15. ... Ne5 Aaron had realised he would be forced to recapture this way, since 16. ... Qxe5 allows an elementary but nevertheless nice Queen sacrifice with 17.Rxf7 Qxh5 18.Rxf8 ch Kh7 19.e5 dis. ch Bf5 20.R8xf5 with a decisive discovered check to follow.

- 17. R4f2 Bd7
- 18. Bc4! Rad8
- 19. d6 Qxd6
- 20. Bxf7 ch Kh8

20. ... Kh7 loses a delightful exchange to 21. Qg6ch! Qxg6 22. Bxg6ch Kg8 23.Bh7ch!

Black's kingside has been seriously weakened, and all that remains for Khan to do is find the correct method of attack. He can try 21.Rf6! but Black has the resource 21. ... Qd2, defending h6, and if further 22.Qxe5 gxf6 23.Rxf6 Black has an even more miraculous saving move in 23. ... Kh7! whereupon

White has nothing better than perpetual check with 24.Bg6 ch Kg8 25.Bf7 ch etc.

But the game continuation of 21.Rd1 is also not winning. White must throw more fuel into the fire with the powerful 21.g4! — for example 21. ... Qe7 22.Rf6! and wins.

- 21. Rd1?! Qe7
- 22. Rd5 Bb5!
- 23. Rxd8

23.Rxe5 gets crunched by 23. ... Qxe5 24.Qxe5 Rdl ch 25.Rf1 Rxf1 checkmate.

- 23. ... Qxd8
- 24. h4 Qe7

Anticipating Khan's next move ...

- 25. g4

... which meets ...

- 25. ... Be2!

... halting the pawns temporarily.

- 26. Bd5 Rx12

- 27. Kx12 Bb5

Exchanges have eased Aaron's defensive tasks, but White has a continuing initiative.

- 28. Ke3 Be8

- 29. Qf5 Bd7

Here Aaron proposed a

draw, overlooking the fact that White's Queen is not forced to go back to h5.

- 30. Qf3 b6

But not 30. ... Qxh4 31.Qf8 ch Kh7 32.Bg8 ch Kg6 33.Qf7 ch Kg5 34. Qe7 ch and wins the bishop with check.

- 31. g5 Kh7

Black is doing wonderfully — this time he sidesteps 31. ... hXg5 32.Qh5 mate.

- 32. Bf7 g6

Otherwise 33.g6 ch is too strong. Aaron saw the coming bishop ending but reasoned

that he could hold it by keeping White's king from penetrating to the Queenside.

- 33. Qf6 Qx16

- 34. gxf6 Bh3

- 35. Kf3

Or 35.Kd3 Bf1 ch keeps the king out, but anyway if he wanders too far over there a timely ... g5 on Black's part could be embarrassing.

- 35. ... Bf1

- 36. Kg3 Be2

And a draw was agreed.

MURRAY CHANDLER

Chess

Indian pirc trick

WITH THE THIRD leg of the circuit over we hit the road again, this time for the island of Pinang in Malaysia. I had already been there, having been a member of the 1974 New Zealand squad at the first Asian Teams' Tournament; but for fellow New Zealander Craig Laird the trishaws, beautiful beaches and almost festive atmosphere of the small capital, Georgetown, were novel sights.

For this, the fourth leg of

the 1st Asian Grandmasters Chess Circuit, two new arrivals flew in — Indians Manuel Aaron and Rafiq Khan. At 42 and an international master, Aaron is no stranger to international competition, but for Khan, who won the 1977 Championship of India, this was his first trip abroad. However, he started well, chalking up a fine victory against grandmaster Count Alberic O'Kelly de Galway in the first few rounds.