

Pawns in the game

MOST OF the bizarre protests at the World Chess Championship match were eventually ignored, dismissed or solved, to some degree, by the match jury. But a lasting issue, a serious one I think, was Korchnoi's protest that a Soviet "parapsychologist", Dr Vladimir Zukhar, was disturbing him by sitting in the front rows of the playing hall.

Sure, the charges that Zukhar was beaming rays and hypnosis at the players may well have been unfounded,

and the Soviet delegation was probably justified in not budging on that issue. But the real point was clouded by the threats and scuffles between the rival delegations. Korchnoi's representative, Petra Leeuwerick, should not have poked and tickled Zukhar to undermine his concentration, but neither should the Russians have sent "joyboys", rumoured to be from the KGB, to pounce on her.

The issue at stake was a player's basic right to have a

distraction — real or not — removed. Korchnoi did not want Zukhar staring at him from the fourth row (the first three were reserved) as it upset him. He requested that Zukhar be moved to the seventh row.

The match jury had to rule on the issue and in my opinion they behaved irresponsibly. They came up with a new interpretation of FIDE rules and claimed that "mental disturbance" didn't count. Therefore it fell to Filipino organiser Florencio Campomanes to decide whether to shift Zukhar. Formerly arbiter Schmid would have decided if a player was being disturbed.

Then Campomanes, furious at some of the statements issued by the Korchnoi camp, refused point-blank to shift Zukhar anywhere, even though he was obviously disturbing Korchnoi (if only by staring at him).

In my opinion that was a mistaken action; but it was made after weeks of slanderous comments being directed at him by delegation head Leeuwerick.

It was just before the 17th game, when Zukhar was in the fourth row, that Korchnoi came on to the stage flailing his fist and instructing Zukhar to scram. In the "general interests of peace" the jury members present hastily decided to move the entire audience back to the seventh row but Campomanes made it clear afterwards that he would not shift them again.

I don't think the incident disturbed Korchnoi's play in that game, but the disastrous result certainly fanned the flames later.

WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Baguio City
Game 17

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENCE

KORCHNOI	KARPOV
1. c4	Nf6
2. Nc3	e6
3. d4	Bb4
4. e3	0-0
5. Bd3	c5
6. d5!	

This is one of "Yasha's moves", Korchnoi's pet emigre Russian who forms part of his delegation. Yasha Murey is a talented analyst but he does have some strange ideas. Korchnoi also used this variation in the seventh game of the match, which was eventually drawn after adjournment.

6. ...	b5
7. dxe6	fxe6
8. cxb5	a6

In the seventh game Karpov had also sacrificed a pawn in this manner but then he had played 8. ... Bb7 9. Nf3 d5

10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Ne2 Qe8 with good compensation. This time he just seemed to drift and wound up with no compensation at all.

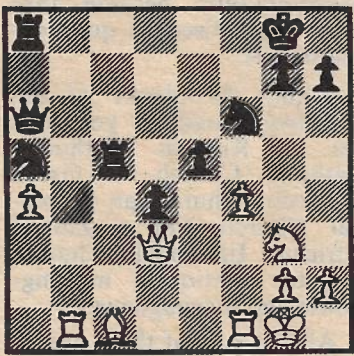
- 9. Nge2 d5
- 10. 0-0 e5
- 11. a3 axb5
- 12. Bxb5 Bxc3
- 13. bxc3!

An excellent recapture which makes Black's central pawn mass less operative.

- 13. ... Ba6
- 14. Rb1 Qd6
- 15. c4 d4
- 16. Ng3 Nc6
- 17. a4 Na5
- 18. Qd3 Qe6
- 19. exd4 cxd4
- 20. c5

It is obvious that Karpov has nothing for his pawn minus but a lost game.

- 20. ... Rfc8
- 21. f4! Rxc5
- 22. Bxa6 Qxa6



23. Qxa6?

From now on Korchnoi starts spending a long time deciding on bad moves. He should keep the queens on and drive Karpov's king out with 23.Rb8 ch! Kf7 (not 23. ... Rxb8 24.Qxa6) 24.Rb5 with a big plus, ie, 24. ... exf4 25.Bxf4 Kg8 26.Nf5. Despite returning the extra pawn in an endgame, Korchnoi still held the advantage, but time trouble was catching up.

- 23. ... Rxa6
- 24. Ba3 Rd5
- 25. Nf5 Kf7
- 26. fxe5 Rxe5
- 27. Rb5 Nc4!

So that if 28.Nd6 ch then 28. ... Rxd6! 29.Rxe5 Rd7! leaving White's rook and bishop forked!

- 28. Rb7 ch Ke6
- 29. Nxd4 ch Kd5
- 30. Nf3? Nxa3

Running seriously short of time Korchnoi cedes two pieces for a rook. Instead a convincing continuation is grandmaster Oscar Panno's move of 30.Nc2! so that if 30. ... Nxa3 31.Nb4 ch picks up a rook, and 30. ... Rxa4 meets the nasty 31.Bf8!

- 31. Nxe5 Kxe5
- 32. Re7 ch Kd4
- 33. Rxg7 Nc4
- 34. Rf4 ch Ne4

And now 35.Rxe4 ch Kxe4 36.Rxh7 draws, but with only minutes on his clock Korchnoi rushed on.

- 35. Rd7 ch Ke3
- 36. Rf3 ch Ke2
- 37. Rxh7 Ncd2
- 38. Ra3 Rc6
- 39. Ra1??

39.g4 still draws ... one minute to go ...

39. ... Nf3 ch!



40. Resigns.

Always play a check it might be mate, and this one certainly is after 40.Kh1 Nf2 checkmate or 40.gxf3 Rg6 ch 41.Kh1 Nf2 mate.

This stunning defeat in some ways crushed Korchnoi even more than his disastrous duel adjournment loss in games 13 and 14. Perhaps it was because even on the very last move he still had a draw in hand.

MURRAY CHANDLER

ALGEBRAIC NOTATION

The algebraic notation in this chess column is that used almost exclusively in Europe and in many other countries elsewhere. Each square has one designation only. The vertical files are labelled a to h from White's left. In horizontal rank the squares are labelled 1 to 8 from White's end. Normal symbols are used, except that pawns as such are not mentioned; just the arrival square is given for a non-capturing pawn move.

