

Tricky openings in Baguio

PRE-MATCH political wrangling had already splashed the world championship match across headlines the world over before Soviet defector Viktor Korchnoi and world champion Anatoly Karpov sat down for their first game in Baguio City, Philippines.

In an explosive press conference in Manila two weeks earlier, Korchnoi had demanded the release of his wife and son who are being held against their will in the

Soviet Union. He then questioned the justification for the 14-man Soviet delegation accompanying Karpov, and insisted that several were members of the Russian KGB. He followed up by exclaiming that the leader of the Soviet camp, Viktor Baturinsky, should be "hung, drawn and quartered" for his part as prosecutor in the Stalin purges.

Baturinsky retaliated by refusing Korchnoi's demand that he be permitted to play

under a Swiss flag, claiming that Korchnoi would have to produce a passport from that country. In a rushed decision the FIDE jury resolved the issue in favour of the Russians, but afterwards Korchnoi claimed the Soviet delegation had "resorted to open, political blackmail" which put the organisers in an impossible situation.

At the opening ceremony, addressed by Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos, Korchnoi and the head of his



Korchnoi: demanded the release of his wife and son.



Karpov: arrived with a 14-man delegation.

delegation, Petra Leeuwerick, pointedly sat down during the what was meant to be the USSR national anthem but, in an ironic joke, the band accidentally struck up the "Internationale", the Soviet workers song!

After all of this Karpov and Korchnoi had to get down to the real business of chess playing. As he had already done off the board, Korchnoi again stole the first few days' limelight, and in the second game he used a variation he had worked out for the first 24 moves in his home analysis!

possible later complications.

- 15. . . . Bh5
- 16. cxd4 Bxf3
- 17. Qxf3 Nxd4
- 18. Qc3 Qd5!

The challenger spent a full 26 minutes on centralising his Queen, and for this reason most of us felt he had exhausted his home analysis. Little did we know! If instead Korchnoi tried 18. . . . Nxc2 19. Qxc2 Ne6 Karpov could seize the initiative with 20. Be3 followed by f5.

- 19. Be3 Nxc2
- 20. Qxc2 Nd3!

Distracting White from the above-mentioned plan.

- 21. Red1 Rfd8
- 22. Qxc7 Qxe5

After the exciting early pace things began slowing down with the coming Queen exchange. However Russian former world champion Mikhail Tal still continued to demonstrate good moves — but only for Karpov! — as he chatted with Western correspondents in the analysis room.

- 23. Qxe5 Nxe5
- 24. b3 f6
- 25. Bb6 Rxd1 ch

- 26. Rxd1 Rc8
- 27. Rd2

White is actually a little better in this position, because of the better co-operation between his bishop and rook, but a draw was inevitable.

- 27. . . . h5
- 28. Be3 Kf7
- 29. 14

Draw agreed

Most likely Korchnoi would have played the most clear cut drawing method, 29 . . . Rc3.

After this game came the famous yoghurt "complaint" when Petra Leeuwerick, head

of the Korchnoi delegation, sent a letter to chief arbiter Lothar Schmid. It was fairly obviously a humorous protest, but there was some ground for it seeing that Karpov did offer a draw on the 20th move, immediately after receiving it.

What I want to know is why the Korchnoi camp didn't reserve the knowledge for more vital future use — a carefully timed yoghurt sent to Karpov could save a most difficult situation!

MURRAY CHANDLER

World Championship Match

Baguio City, Philippines

RUY LOPEZ

A. KARPOV USSR V. KORCHNOI stateless

- 1. e4 e5

A surprise! Most commentators on the match, and Karpov himself must have been expecting Korchnoi's more solid French Defence which he used several times in their 1974 encounter. So, even at this stage Korchnoi was signalling his aggressive intentions.

- 2. Nf3 Nc6
- 3. Bb5 a6
- 4. Ba4 Nf6
- 5. 0-0 Nxe4

Korchnoi opts for the open Lopez which gives a freer game than Black's major alternative 5. . . . Be7.

- 6. d4 b5
- 7. Bb3 d5
- 8. dxe5 Be6
- 9. c3 Bc5
- 10. Nbd2 0-0
- 11. Bc2 Bf5!

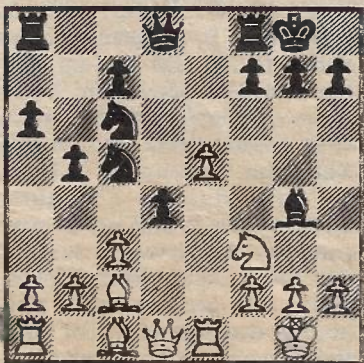
Up to here all well-known moves. Korchnoi's ninth steers the game into a controversial line of theory which has been in a considerable state of flux lately. The old move in the present position is 11. . . . f5.

- 12. Nb3 Bg4
- 13. Nxc5 Nxc5
- 14. Re1

Karpov at this stage was still following his game with Smyslov from Leningrad 1977, and he must have been expecting 14. . . . Re8 15. Bf4! when White is better. Instead he was greeted with Korchnoi's exciting new move.

- 14. . . . d4!

KORCHNOI



KARPOV

- 15. h3!

Korchnoi had used a mere 4 minutes by this stage, but after Karpov found this correct reply his clock showed exactly 50. 15. h3 makes a useful escape hole for White's king in