

**"Sucking Noises": Only a Humbug, Says Korchnoi. No Move Yet**

Karpov, the Soviet champion, today left the room and refused to come back until Korchnoi had stopped consuming a sweet. He could not concentrate, he said, for the swishing of the sweet round his mouth, not to mention the rustling of sweet papers. After 10 minutes the umpires consulted Korchnoi who said he had finished the sweet and offered them all jelly babies.

**Game Adjourned After "Lavatory" Row. First Move Still Awaited**

Karpov and Korchnoi joined forces today to object to the lavatories provided. There was nothing wrong with the hygienic arrangements, only the brown paint with which they were decorated. Both men claimed that they should have a white or black lavatory according to which colour they were playing, so that concentration was not broken during a visit. Two lavatories are now being repainted. Each player is allowed to bring his own lavatory paper, soap, towel, flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste and pictorial calendar.

**Microphone Installed**

**After "Humming" Row: First Move "Delayed"**

Karpov, the champion, has claimed that Korchnoi is deliberately trying to upset him by humming anti-Soviet and decadent bourgeois tunes, such as Beatles numbers and pre-revolutionary anthems. Korchnoi has counter-claimed that Karpov should not, in theory, be able to recognise them if indeed he were humming them, which he does not admit.

Sources close to Korchnoi admit that he was, in fact, trying to hum the Soviet anthem to oblige Karpov to stand up, but claimed that his lack of musical ear would not

allow him to. Korchnoi offered to undergo a "tuneful humming" test, but all humming has now been banned and mikes have been installed to keep a check.

**Interpreter Resigns After "Inaccuracy" Accusation. Move expected "Soon"**

As Korchnoi and Karpov refuse to speak directly to each other, an interpreter has been with them from the beginning. Both of them have the same native language, though, which means that when Karpov wishes to direct a message to Korchnoi he says it in Russian, the inter-

## Pawning the kings

**At important chess matches not all the strategies and innovations are confined to the board. And given the political ballyhoo surrounding the present world championship it's not surprising that pre-match tensions were running pretty high, as a recent issue of Punch magazine reported . . .**

**Karpov Storms Out After**

preter repeats it in Russian and Korchnoi repeats it again in Russian to signify understanding.

Yesterday, though, Korchnoi asked in English if Karpov could stop breathing so loudly. The interpreter, apparently, said in Russian that Karpov was being offered a cup of tea; Korchnoi protested strongly at the mistranslation, and upon examination it appeared that Russian was the only language the interpreter knew.

A fresh translator, fluent in six languages, has now been found to speak in Russian to both men.

**A Move Is Made!!**  
(writes our chess correspondent, Max Headroom)

Late last night the opening move was made in the Karpov-Korchnoi world chess title series! Korchnoi picked up a pawn in his hand and moved it to K4. As Karpov made no protest within five minutes, the move was allowed to stand. The authorities asked both men if they were happy with the move, and they agreed that they were. Expert analysis of the game shows that as Korchnoi has now made a move and Karpov none, Korchnoi is very slightly ahead, with his pawns opening up and his pieces about to be developed. Many experts think, however, that with the other man's first move still to come, this all but neutralises Korchnoi's advantage.

Korchnoi, remember, is wearing the red shorts and white shirt, with Karpov in the all-yellow strip.

**Korchnoi's First Move — An Analysis by LORD CHALFONT**

The free world can breathe a little easier now. Korchnoi has made the aggressive gesture we all hoped of him — a forward movement against the serried might of the Russian pawns. But there is every chance that we might once again fall into the trap of over-confidence that so besets the West these days. Does that row of eight mighty pawns arouse no fears of massive Soviet retaliation? When Karpov moves — as he surely must, when we least expect it — who can say how quickly his firepower will sweep aside the puny pieces at Korchnoi's command? If that day should come, remember that you read it here first (copyright, Times doomsday Publications).

**Karpov's Unexpected Move — Storm of world Protest**

President Carter has condemned Karpov's opening move — Kt-KB3 — as a

"violation of human rights". Not only does this move threaten Korchnoi's lone pawn, it gives no freedom of movement at all to Karpov's pawns who, in Carter's words, are "fully equal in dignity and personal freedom" to any other piece. Mrs Carter has sent a telegram of sympathy to Mrs Korchnoi, while Andrew Young has remarked, controversially, that anything the black pieces do is fine by him.

It is not known whether Korchnoi is married or not.

**Cuban Pawn Mystery: Third World silent**

I propose to bring to my readers today (writes BERNARD LEVIN) a matter which would be ludicrous if it were not so significant, namely unimpeachable evidence that three or more of the pawns being used by Mr Karpov in the world chess title series are hand-carved from wood freely donated by the freedom-loving peoples of Cuba. I need hardly attempt to describe the hysteria and international furore which

would attend the discovery that Mr Korchnoi was handling a rook or two lovingly fashioned from a cedar of Israel (for it must not be imagined that the cedar, that impartial tree, is limited entirely to the groves of Lebanon), but I will have more to say on this in my next article.

**Korchnoi, Karpov, Moscow, Manila and Carter Criticised by Solzhenitsyn.**

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Nobel prizewinner and no

mean chess player in his own right, today condemned the world chess series as a "meaningless charade in the context of the real struggle today: between the oppressed but resilient East and the free but soft West". He added that Korchnoi would do well to move P-Q3.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

The Chinese government said it would not recognise either man as world champion, a title rightly held by Hsieh Ton Ping, a foundry worker of Shanghai.