

To Viktor the spoils

DEFEATED world championship challenger Viktor Korchnoi has been very much in the news lately. Since his historic Baguio encounter with Anatoly Karpov the temperamental Soviet defector has been issuing inflammatory statements directed not only at the organisers of the match and the Soviets but also at members of his own camp during the championships.

chief second, Raymond Keene, who was in charge of the delicate negotiations during the world championship. In an interview with the French weekly *L'Express* in Switzerland, Korchnoi accused Keene of writing a book on the games during the match in breach of contract — and suggested that someone might have spied on the telex transmissions and gained secret analysis.

The worst hit has been his

Korchnoi also says that his

hotel room was bugged and that there was a spyhole in the wall through which he could be watched — even though his delegation occupied the entire top floor of the hotel.

But Korchnoi's most serious allegation concerns the crucial last game, when the score stood at 5-5 and the next win was the decider. Asked by *L'Express* about his new move in the Pirc defence in that game, and why it was that Karpov replied so quickly, Korchnoi said: "I had prepared that move with my seconds for several days. There was a leak. Too much money was circulating. I know who had been bought

but I don't want to say." It is possible Keene is in the firing line because of Korchnoi's irritation when he found out after the match how his seconds had handled the disputes and negotiations with the match jury. At the time, Korchnoi's seconds — Keene, Stean, Panno and Murey — were torn between telling the challenger of unfavourable jury decisions — which would be sure to upset him — or trying to shield him so that he could concentrate on the chess.

But minutes after he had resigned the fateful 32nd game and could be told of the decisions taken on his behalf, Korchnoi broke into a

fury. This lead Keene later to decline a substantial fee that Korchnoi owed him for his services.

Korchnoi's allegations are probably sour grapes. Keene's telexes back to London during the match contained only what had already happened and nothing that could be of any use to the Soviets. And as far as the last game goes, Keene has an explanation for Korchnoi's falling into such a poor position from the opening. He told me:

"The variation Korchnoi played in the last game is his pet line. I didn't want him to play it because I think it is unsound, but he persisted — and Karpov's speedy refutation just proves how bad it is."

Notwithstanding possible lawsuits against FIDE and Keene (!) Korchnoi is continuing to play as brilliantly as ever, and is tremendously popular for exhibitions and lectures worldwide. In Israel recently he added more fuel to the rumours that Fischer might return to the chess world after six years of isolation to play a match with himself or Yugoslav Grandmaster Svetozar Gligoric.

Korchnoi also announced on radio that he was thinking of changing his nationality (again!) — this time to Israeli. One reason for this is thought to be that it would make it easier for his wife and son to leave the Soviet Union, where they are still being held, and it is rumoured that the Israeli government will put up the money for a match with Fischer if it should ever come about.

In the powerful Grandmaster tournament in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Korchnoi and talented young Yugoslav GM Lubomir Ljubojevic walked over the opposition, scoring 10 points each from a possible 13. The risky opening play in the following game is typical of Korchnoi's determination during the tournament to create risky and original situations as Black in order to play for a win.

FRENCH DEFENCE

FILGUTH (Brazil)	KORCHNOI (Switzerland ?!)
1. e4	e6
2. d4	d5
3. Nd2	Nf6
4. e5	Nfd7
5. Bd3	
An ambitious continuation is 5.f4!?	
5. ...	c5
6. c3	Nc6
7. Ne2	b6?!

Korchnoi chose this dubious move to throw his opponent out of the standard (but

reasonable for Black) lines after 7...cxd4 8.cxd4 Qb6 9.Nf3 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.0-0 Bd6.

- 8. 0-0 cxd4
- 9. cxd4 Nb4
- 10. Bb1 Ba6
- 11. Nf3 Rc8
- 12. Re1 Be7
- 13. a3 Nc6
- 14. b3

Now Black is confronted with a difficult problem — how to proceed? He has already relinquished Black's normal plan of the French defence, that of challenging the White centre. 14...0-0 could turn out to be tantamount to suicide, as White could begin a terrific assault through 15.Ng3 with the idea of Qd2, Qf4 and Qg4.

After more than an hour's thought Korchnoi found an imaginative alternative in order to seek refuge for his king.

- 14. ... Ndb8!

Preparing to scamper with Kd7, Kc7 and Kb7!

- 15. Bb2?

Straight away Black's remarkable concept reaps rewards. Instead of sentencing his bishop to inactivity White should have continued regardless on the kingside with 15.Nf4 or 15.Be3 followed by Nd2 and f4.

- 15. ... h5
- 16. h3

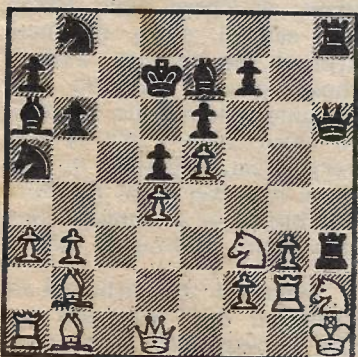
Grandmaster Robert Byrne in the *New York Times* criticised this as a damaging mistake. The point is that a later pawn advance of g5, g4 by Black will enable him to prise open the kingside.

- 16. ... Kd7
- 17. Ng3 Na5
- 18. Nd2 g6
- 19. Ngf1 g5
- 20. Ne3 g4!
- 21. h×g4 h×g4
- 22. N×g4 Qg8
- 23. Nh2 Qg7
- 24. Ndf3 Rcg8
- 25. g3 Rh3

The pawn sacrifice has allowed Black to muster his heavy pieces against White's king. He threatens 26...Q×g3 ch!

- 26. Kh1 Rgh8
- 27. Rg1 Qh6
- 28. Rg2

White's tedious defence appears to hold. Korchnoi calculates, however, that Filguth's resources are stretched to the limit.



- 28. ... Nxb3!!
- 29. Bd3

After 29.Q×d3 Byrne gives 29...Be2! 30.Kg1 Qh5! White can wriggle after 30...B×f3 31.Q×f3 R×h2 32.R×h2 Q×h2 ch. 33.Kf1 31.g4 Qh6 32.Qe3 B×f3 33.Q×h6

- Rh8×h6 34.Rg3 R×h2
- 35.R×f3 Rh1 ch 36.Kg2
- Rh6h2 ch 37.Kg3 Rh3 ch
- 38.Kf4 (or 38.Kg2 Rh1h2 ch
- 39.Kg1 R×f3 40.K×h2 R×f2
- ch winning a bishop) 38...Bg5
- ch 39.K×g5 R×f3 — picking
- up the exchange, with more to
- come.

The alternative of 29.Ra2 Bc4 leads to a positionally lost game for White, but now Black gains a decisive material advantage.

- 29. ... B×d3
- 30. Q×d3 N×a1
- 31. B×a1 Qc1 ch

- 32. Rg1 Q×a3
- 33. Bc3 Bb4
- 34. Qb5 ch Nc6
- 35. Resigns

On 35.Ral a6! 36.Q×b6 Q×c3 Black has a double threat in 37...Q×a1 ch and 37...Q×f3 ch.

Final standings of Sao Paulo: Korchnoi, Ljubojevic 10; Andersson, Gheorghui 8; Lein, Stean 7½; Byrne, Panno, Rocha, Segal 6½; Sunye 4½; Braga 3½; Filguth 3; Van Riemsdyk 2½.

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