

Russians out and in

AN INTERESTING follow-up to last week's column on Soviet players was the entry in the traditional ICL Hastings congress in England over the New Year. For the first time in nearly 30 years the USSR was not represented, the reason being, according to organiser W. Ritson-Morry, that the USSR had failed to accept its invitation within the deadline prescribed.

It appears the Soviet chess federation has a habit of not replying on time, and also rarely sending any grandmasters specifically asked for. This time Hastings requested any of six top players but were eventually offered "only" Sveshnikov and Mikhailchishin — numbers 10 and 34 respectively in the USSR. Not, apparently, this time worth the long drive to Heathrow Airport where the Russians always expect to be collected upon arrival.

The last-minute gaps were filled appropriately — though coincidentally, I am assured — by Soviet defector Lev Alburt and two emigres, Vladimir Liberzon and Anatoly Lein. Other participants in this category 10 tournament were grandmasters Andersson (Sweden), Torre (Philippines), Ftacnik (Czechoslovakia), Speelman (England), international masters myself, Sunye (Brazil), Peters (USA), Pinter (Hungary), Popovic (Yugoslavia), Bellin, Mestel, Littlewood (all England) and one untitled player, Brito of Brazil.

For a congress as steeped in history as Hastings, which (with a break for the war) has been running virtually every year since 1920, the temporary absence of the Soviet representatives is regrettable, and it is hoped that next year there will be no such hitches.

Nevertheless play remained as fighting as ever, as the following game from round two shows. Eugene Torre wins in classic positional style, combining infiltration through weak points in the opposing position with undisputed control of an open file.

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENCE

E. TORRE	J. PINTER
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nc3	Bb4
4. e3	c5
5. Ne2	cxd4
6. exd4	d5
7. a3	

7.c5!? is generally considered more testing, as Torre's interpolation allows the "Nimzowitsch" bishop to retreat inside the pawn chain.

7. ...	Be7
8. c5	b6
9. b4	0-0
10. Bf4!	

An unexplored continuation — usual is 10.g3 with approximately even chances for both sides. As players so often do when a surprise move is sprung, Pinter now immediately goes astray — the critical line must be 10...bxc5! and on 11.bxc5 Ba6! or 11.dxc5 Nc6 when White's lack of kingside development

may prove more significant than his queenside pawn mass.

10. ...	a5?
11. Na4	bxc5
12. bxc5	Nfd7
13. Nec3!	Nc6
14. Bb5	Bb7
15. 0-0	Bf6
16. Bd6!	

Torre has completed his kingside development and now embarks on a sophisticated indirect defence of his d-pawn.

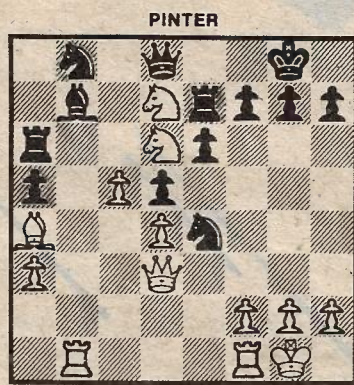
16. ...	Re8
17. Rb1	Ra7

On 17...Bxd4 18.Bxc6 or 17...Nxd4 18.Bxd7 Qxd7 19.Nb6 would both win material.

18. Nb6	Be7
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Or 18...Nxb6 19.Bxc6 Bxc6 20.Rxb6 Qd7 21.Qd3 followed by Rfbl when White's domination of the b-file and protected passed c-pawn give him a stranglehold on the game.

19. Bxe7	Rxe7
20. Ba4	Nf6
21. Nb5	Ra6
22. Nd6	Nb8
23. Qd3	Ne4
24. Nd7!	



The White cavalry comes swarming in. Pinter's only way to stave off material loss would now be with 24...Nxd7 25.Nxb7 Qa8 but then 26.f3 Nf6 27.c6 Nb8 (27...Nb6 28.Nc5) 28.Nc5 Raa7 29.Rb6 is positionally crushing, while on 24...Nxd6 25.Nxb8 Qxb8 instead, 26.Qxa6 wins instantly.

24. ...	Rxd6
25. Nxb8	Qxb8
26. cxd6	Qxd6
27. f3	Nf6
28. Qc3	Rc7

There was no way to hold the a-pawn — on 28...Qd8 comes 29.Rb5.

29. Qxa5	g6
30. Rfd1	Kg7
31. Qb4	Qf4
32. Qd2	Qd6
33. Rdcl	Rxc1 ch
34. Qxc1	Ba6
35. Bb5	

A clear rook for knight ahead. White's winning policy is simple — exchange pieces and then queen the a-pawn. Hungarian champion Pinter does not wait for the latter.

35. ...	Bxb5
36. Rxb5	e5
37. Qc5	Qe6
38. dxe5	Qxe5
39. Rb1	Qf4
40. Rd1	Qa4
41. Rd3	Resigns

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