

Who plays who

THE DRAW for this year's three world championship interzonal qualifying tournaments was announced recently. The first will be Las Palmas, starting July 12, where the players are Timman, Larsen, Petrosian, Ribli, Browne, Smyslov, Psakhis, Pinter, Mestel, Suba, Karlsson, Tukmakov, Sunye and Bouaziz.

Mexico City, beginning July 29, contains Portisch, Spassky, Polugayevsky, Balashov, Nunn, Seirawan, Yusupov, Torre, Adorjan, Ivanov, Hulak, Rodriguez (Cuba), Kouatly and Rubinetti. The third of these 14-player elimination contests begins in Moscow on September 7, and features Kasparov, Belyavsky, Tal, Andersson, Christiansen, Sax, Gheorghiu, Geller, Quinteros, G. Garcia, Murey, van der Wiel, R. Rodriguez, and Velimirovic.

Already there has been considerable speculation as to which two players from each event will qualify for the candidates — the series of knockout matches to decide who challenges Russian world champion Anatoly Karpov two years hence. If forced to choose between playing the French Defence and making a prediction, I would have to pick Dutchman Jan Timman and the fast-improving young Russian Lev Psakhis from Las Palmas, and the Soviets Garri Kasparov and Alexander Belyavsky from Moscow.

Mexico, however, is much trickier and it is from here that a dark-horse candidate could well emerge. Of the older generation — who have hitherto dominated these competitions — both Hungarian Lajos Portisch and Russian ex-world champion Boris Spassky are in fluctuating form. Meanwhile, straining at the bit, are three brilliant and ambitious young grandmasters — Yasser Seirawan from the USA, John Nunn of England and Artur Yusupov from the USSR.

Fanatical fans of the legendary Latvian ex-world champion Mikhail Tal, who won the 1979 Riga Interzonal by a 2½ point margin, will be putting match to paper if I do not mention him soon. If on form, both Tal and the erratic Danish Grandmaster Bent Larsen are eminently capable of spredeagling their respective interzonals. I must confess my prediction is also tinged with some hope that, this time, the younger generation will burst through.

It may be a sign of the times that the rising group of youthful superstars, poised to eclipse the old masters, are all aggressive, lightning quick, well prepared — and care little for reputation. This goes particularly for the young Soviets, and of course 19-year-old Garri Kasparov — currently ranked fourth in the world — has already chopped out his niche in a big way. Kasparov, because of his high rating, was seeded direct into the interzonals, but most of the other Russians had to qualify from the

Erevan USSR zonal, from which this week's game is taken.

RUY LOPEZ

V. KUPREICHIK	G. KUZMIN
1. e4	e5
2. Nf3	Nc6
3. Bb5	a6
4. Ba4	Nf6
5. O-O	Be7
6. Re1	b5
7. Bb3	d6
8. a4!	

A Kupreichik speciality.

8. ...	Na5
9. a×b5!	N×b3
10. c×b3	Bb7
11. b×a6	B×a6
12. d4	Bb7
13. R×a8	Q×a8
14. Bg5	O-O
15. d×e5	d×e5
16. N×e5	Rd8
17. Qe2	h6

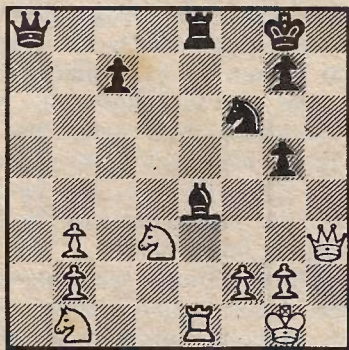
Perhaps Kuzmin had entered this line thinking he could regain his pawn here by 17... B×e4 as on 18. B×f6 B×f6 19. Q×e4? Black back-rank mates with 19... Q×e4 20. R×e4 Rd1 ch. But instead White has 18. Ng4! with strong threats — on 18... N×g4 comes 19. B×e7.

18. Qc4!	h×g5
19. Q×f7 ch	Kh7
20. Q×e7	B×e4
21. Qe6	Re8

If 21... B×g2 White continues 22. Qf5 ch Kg8 23. Q×g5.

22. Qh3 ch	Kg8
23. Nd3!	

A neat consolidating move. Instead 23. Nd7 allows Black to exploit the back-rank threats with 23... Bf5! 24. N×f6 ch g×f6 25. Qc3 (25. R×e8 ch? Q×e8 wins) R×e1 ch 26. Q×e1 Qa1 and White must force a draw by perpetual check beginning 27. Qe8 ch Kg7 28. Qe7 ch.



23. ...	Qd5
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The point is that 23... B×d3 24. R×e8 ch Q×e8 25. Q×d3 leaves White the defence 25... Qe1 ch 26. Qf1.

24. Nc3!	Q×b3
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This time 24... Q×d3 25. R×e4! Q×h3 26. R×e8 ch and 25... R×e4 26. Q×d3 Re1 ch 27. Qf1 both lead to winning knight-and-pawn endgames for White.

25. Nc5	Qb4
26. N(5)×e4	R×e4

Neither does 26... N×e4 27. Qd7! (threatening 28. Qd5 ch) save the day.

27. R×e4	N×e4
28. Qe6 ch	Resigns

The knight on e4 is lost.

MURRAY CHANDLER