

The Toluca two

A SURPRISE joint victory with top Hungarian Lajos Portisch in the Mexico Interzonal has made Filipino Grandmaster Eugene Torre Asia's first world championship candidate. The calm strategy paid off in the last round when both he and Portisch took quick draws, leaving Russian Boris Spassky needing to win to catch them. After missing at least one promising chance the former world champion eventually had to concede perpetual check to ambling Soviet defector Ivan Ivanov.

I was in Toluca, a town some 57 km from Mexico City, as the second of English Grandmaster John Nunn. The atmosphere at these all-important elimination events is friendly but cautious. Behind the exchanged jokes at the hotel restaurant is the grim knowledge that only the first two place-getters will qualify for the elite eight-man candidates matches, the winner of which will challenge Anatoly Karpov for his crown in 1984. For anyone missing out this time it is another five years before they could conceivably make such a challenge.

The young players in particular, such as Nunn, the Russian Artur Yusupov and the American Yasser Seirawan, were only too aware of this. Seirawan turned up several days early to acclimatise, complete with two seconds and former US Chess Federation president Ed Edmondson as manager. He fought valiantly, but three defeats were too many. Yusupov's chances died with an untimely loss to Adorjan in round 11, while Nunn was plagued by an excess of draws from good positions.

Portisch, at 45, was as impressive as ever in Toluca and now becomes a candidate for the sixth time. The only change noticeable from three years ago, when I watched him power his way to victory in the Rio Interzonal, was that he has traded in his fluorescent orange bathing cap for a plain white one for use in the hotel pool. Torre on the other hand is a total newcomer to this level, though at age 30 he was in fact playing in his fourth Interzonal. His qualification is a fantastic boost for the Philippines and the Asian Zone, of which New Zealand is a member. Many will remember Eugene from his visits to New Zealand in 1977 and 1978 to participate in international events in Auckland and Wellington.

Final results at Toluca were: 1-2, Portisch and Torre 8½; 3, Spassky 8; 4-7, Ivanov (Canada), Polugayevsky (USSR), Seirawan and Yusupov 7½; 8, Nunn 7; 9-10, Balashov (USSR) and Adorjan (Hungary) 6½; 11, Hulak (Yugoslavia) 5½; 12-13, A. Rodriguez (Cuba) and Rubinetti (Argentina) 4; 14, Kouatly (Lebanon) 2½.

CARO KANN DEFENCE

J. NUNN	Y. SEIRAWAN
1. e4	c6
2. d4	d5



Torre playing in Wellington in 1978: Asia's first candidate.

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| 3. e5 | Bf5 |
| 4. Nc3 | h5 |
| 5. Be2 | e6! |
| 6. Bxh5 | c5 |
| 7. Be2 | cxd4? |

A recent idea of Seirawan to counter 4...e6 5.g4! It involves a pawn sacrifice.

Correct is 7...Nc6! with equal chances.

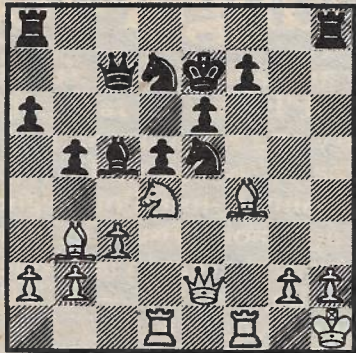
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| 8. Nb5! | Be4! |
| 9. f3 | Bg6 |
| 10. Nxd4 | Bc5 |
| 11. Bb5 ch | Kf8 |
| 12. Nge2 | a6 |
| 13. Ba4 | b5 |
| 14. Bb3 | Nd7 |
| 15. Be3 | Qc7 |
| 16. f4 | Ne7 |
| 17. 0-0 | Bh5 |
| 18. c3 | g5 |

Black must attempt to summon play for his pawn. On 18...Nxe5 19.fxe5 Qxe5 Nunn had analysed 20.Nxe6 ch! Kg8 (20...Qxe6 21.Bxc5 Bxe2 22.Qxd5) 21.Bxc5 Bxe2 22.Qd4! Qxh2 ch 23.Kf2 Nf5 24.Qxd5 and the attack is halted.

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| 19. Qe1 | Bxe2 |
| 20. Qxe2 | gxf4 |
| 21. Bxf4 | Nc6 |
| 22. Rad1 | Ke7 |
| 23. Kh1 | |

Good, but even stronger was the sacrifice 23.Bxd5! cxd5 24.e6 Nde5 25.exf7.

23. ... Ncxe5



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| 24. Nc6 chl | Qxc6 |
| 25. Bxe5 | Nxe5? |
| 26. Qxe5 | Qd6 |
| 27. Rxf7 chl | Resigns |

This loses immediately. He had to try 25...Rh7.

As 27...Kxf7 28.Rf1 ch Ke7 (28...Kg8 29.Qg5 ch) 29.Qg7 ch wins both Black rooks.

MURRAY CHANDLER