

Fillips for the Philippines

ALTHOUGH the Philippines has long been the most active chess nation in Asia, it was only late last year that it rose to a position of real influence in the world scene. Eugene Torre, their finest player, qualified as one of the elite final eight world championship Candidates by his outstanding performance in the Toluca Interzonal. Shortly afterwards Florencio Campomanes won his determined bid for the Fide (International Chess Federation) presidency, sensationally uprooting this powerful post from its traditional European home.

That these two successes came so closely together is, perhaps, a fortuitous coincidence. But neither is a fluke. For years Campomanes, a former vice-president of Fide, has worked to publicise the Philippines presence. He organised TV shows, media coverage and tours, and provided the backing for Torre to become Asia's first Grandmaster. Campo's known friendship with the Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos also helped him to acquire the support for two spectacular organisational feats — the \$6 million bid for the aborted Fischer-Karpov match in 1975, and the successful hosting of the 1978 world championship between Karpov and Korchnoi.

There has also been a constant succession of international tournaments hosted by the Philippines which, despite Campo's newly acquired responsibility, will apparently continue. Just days after his election victory at the Lucerne Olympiad came the 10th Marlboro Classic in the Manila Hilton. Although the tournament proved a disappointment to the home contenders, it proved a great boost to the newly created Grandmaster, West German Eric Lobron.

The final scores were: 1-2, Lobron and Polugayevsky 7 points; 3, Torre 6; 4-5, Dolmatov and Sveshnikov (both USSR) 5½; 6, Rodriguez 4; 7, Mascarinas 3½; 8, Balinas 2½; 9-10, Maninang and De Guzman (all Philippines) 2. Torre's result was reasonable, but not of his Interzonal standard. Perhaps he was thinking ahead to the coming Candidates matches, where the drawing of lots gave him a first-round match against Hungarian Zoltan Ribli. In the same half of the draw Smyslov (USSR) plays Hubner (West Germany), and in the other half Kasparov (USSR) meets Belyavsky (USSR) and Korchnoi (Switzerland) plays Portisch (Hungary).

This week's game comes from the Marlboro Classic.

BENONI DEFENCE

L. POLUGAYEVSKY	E. LOBRON
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nf3	c5
4. d5	e×d5
5. c×d5	d6
6. Nc3	g6

7. Nd2	Nbd7
8. e4	Bg7
9. Be2	O-O
10. O-O	Re8
11. Qc2	Ne5
12. b3	a6
13. Bb2	

An interesting but probably inferior decision. White lets Black advance his queenside (instead of restraining it with 13. a4), thinking he can safely restrain the pawn majority.

13. ...	b5
14. a4	b4
15. Nd1	g5

A thematic Benoni thrust to prevent White molesting the knight on e5 by f4. Polugayevsky now continues with his long-term strategy of occupying the c4 square, while Lobron concentrates his forces in the centre and on the kingside.

16. Ne3	Ra7!
17. Rae1	Rae7
18. f3	Nh5
19. Ndc4	Ng6
20. B×g7	N×g7
21. Bd3	f6
22. a5	Nf4
23. Qd2	f5!

Black makes use of his doubled rooks to force this attacking break. On 24. e×f5 he replies 24 ... N×d3 25. Q×d3 N×f5.

24. Bb1	f×e4
25. B×e4	h5
26. Nb6	Bd7
27. Nec4?	Bf5!
28. g3	

Not 28. B×f5 Re2!

28. ...	Nh3 ch
29. Kg2	g4?

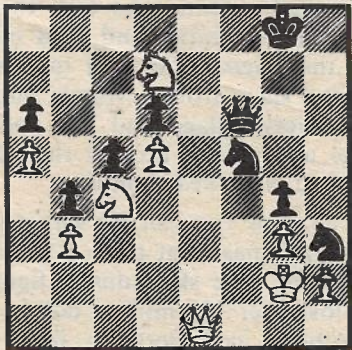
This is promising, but in the Californian Chessplayers News Grandmaster Larry Christiansen gave the variation 29. ... R×e4!! 30. f×e4 B×e4 ch 31. R×e4 R×e4 32. K×h3 Qe7 as winning. Black threatens ... g4 ch followed by ... Re2, and 33. Rf2 fails to 32. ... Re1 33. N×d6 Rg1! with ... g4 ch to come.

30. B×f5	N×f5
31. f×g4	h×g4
32. Qd1?	

32. Re6! R×e6 33. d×e6 Nd4 34. Qh6 R×e6 35. Qh5 was the best try at counterplay.

32. ...	R×e1
33. R×e1	R×e1
34. Q×e1	Qf6
35. Nd7??	

With 15 minutes left to Lobron's one, Polugayevsky blunders the game away. Instead 35. Qe2?? Nh4 ch! 36. g×h4 Nf4 ch is equally horrible, but the endgame 35. Qe6 ch (35. Qe8 ch Kh7 36. Qd7 ch Kg6) Q×e6 36. d×e6 Ng5 37. e7 Kf7 38. Nc8 could be tried. After 38. ... Ne4, however, Black's advantage persists.



35. ...	Nh4 chl
36. Resigns	

On 36. g×h4 Qf3 is, alas, mate.

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