

Soviets take Chicago

WHAT HAS Chicago got that Pasadena hasn't? Those of us who are more knowledgeable about American cities might answer "The Sears Tower", which at 110 storeys remains the world's tallest building. However, to that we can now add "A world chess championship event with Russians". Only weeks after the vehement Soviet veto of Pasadena as a Candidates, match site — leading to the temporary default of Garri Kasparov — a crack Soviet squad materialised in Chicago to win the 1983 World Under-26 Teams Championship.

Theoretically, of course, Kasparov was also eligible for this contest, but his omission was no surprise. Moscow certainly didn't leave anyone else out. The six-man team (four players and two reserves) comprised Yusupov, Psakhis, Dolmatov, Azmaiparashvili, Lputyan and Ehlvest. It sufficed for a victory with two rounds to spare; final leading scores were 1, USSR 34 points (out of 44); 2-3, West Germany and Iceland 28; 4, USA 26½. 30 teams competed.

I was impressed by the Icelandic performance, and also by that of the Chinese, who came fifth. The Chinese top board, Li Zunian, looked on target for the leading top-board score after outplaying Yusupov in round four. But that honour was ultimately claimed by West German Grandmaster Eric Lobron, flying in late from a GM tournament in Hanover won by Anatoly Karpov, the world champion. Lobron spurred his compatriots on to crushing 3½-½ victories over both China and England in the last two rounds. England, with a generation of grandmasters having just turned 26, never looked like repeating their historic success of Mexico 1978.

International political strife rarely affects chess competitions, and this championship was, fortunately, no exception. The venue was on campus at the University of Chicago, and organiser Eric Schiller catered ably for players in their spare time — by recommending bars and showing all-night video films. I'm informed two of the Russians even enjoyed a lam showing of *Dr Strangelove*. Whether they were as bemused over the prizes they received for top scores on boards two through five was difficult to tell. The award in each case consisted of a beautiful multi-colour poster... of the abortive Korchnoi-Kasparov match, each poster resplendent with Soviet defector Korchnoi's signature. J'adoube...

This week's game from Chicago features a brevity from one of the Soviet stars.

MODERN DEFENCE

S. LPUTYAN (USSR)	N. DAVIES (England)
1. d4	g6
2. c4	Bg7
3. Nc3	d6
4. e4	e5
5. Nf3	Nc6
6. dxe5	Nxe5

- 7. Be2 Ne7?
- 8. Nxe5! dxe5
- 9. Qxd8 ch Kxd8
- 10. Bg5

When queens are exchanged like this Black's king can sometimes be useful in the centre after ... c6 and ... Kc7. But here Davies's inferior seventh move has given him difficulties.

- 10. ... f6!

Nevertheless this only makes matters worse; 10. ... c6 11.0-0-0 ch Ke8 had to be played.

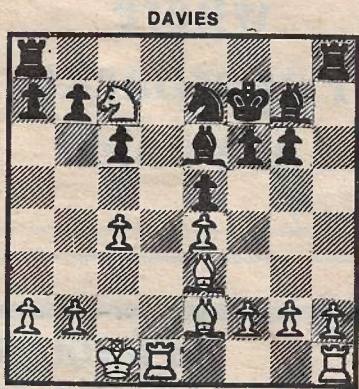
- 11. 0-0-0 ch Ke8

If 11. ... Bd7 then 12.Bg4 is very strong. Black is seriously lagging in development and it is interesting to watch Lputyan exploit this, leaving his bishop on g5 attacked while he penetrates with his knight.

- 12. Nb5 c6!
- 13. Nc7 ch Kf7
- 14. Be3

The black rook isn't running anywhere; if 14. ... Rb8 then 15.Bxa7.

- 14. ... Be6



What would you play here? Many players would find it difficult to resist 15.Nxa8 Rxa8 when White is simply an exchange ahead, even though its technical realisation to a win may not be that easy. With commendable self-control Lputyan rejects such capitalistic impulses.

- 15. Nxe6!

The bishop was a vital defender. Now Black's king will be threatened with devastation along the diagonals.

- 15. ... Kxe6
- 16. c5 Nc8

17.Bc4 ch was threatened. Here Lputyan could continue 17.Bc4 ch anyway, but after 17. ... Ke7 18.Rd2 Rd8 Black defends. His more accurate choice forces decisive penetration down the d-file.

- 17. Rd2! b5
- 18. Rhd1 Ne7
- 19. Rd7 Rhc8
- 20. R(1)d6 ch Kf7
- 21. Bg4 Ke8

Although Davies clings to material equality his situation is hopeless. White has infiltrated, and Black has no counter-play whatsoever.

- 22. Rb7 Rd8
- 23. Re6 Resigns

The pawns start to fall after 23. ... Rd7 24.Rxd7 Kxd7 25.Rxf6 dis ch Ke8 26.Rd6 (planning Bd7 ch) Rd8 27.Bg5.

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