

Both sides win

FOLLOWING his "win by default" (since revoked) over Soviet Grandmaster Garri Kasparov in the Candidates semi-final, Soviet defector Viktor Korchnoi was persuaded to stay on in Pasadena, California, for the 1983 US Open Championships. Korchnoi tied for first equal with American Larry Christiansen in a record 844-player field, adding a useful \$3250 to the 25 per cent of his match prizefund that organisers paid out. Yet, as I write before the Fide (World Chess Federation) Congress in Manila, there is growing dissatisfaction among leading players over the defaults of the USSR contenders Vassily Smyslov and Kasparov from the world championship cycle.

In an interview given during the US Open, Korchnoi said he was "astounded" at Kasparov's non-appearance in Pasadena. "The action runs counter to the usual Soviet policy of using sports events as vehicles for enhancing the political status of the Soviet Union. By withdrawing from the world championship cycle, they cast a shadow over Karpov's title, damage the career of Kasparov, and risk their prestige in the chess world," he was quoted as saying. Korchnoi went on to give reasons why he thought the USSR Chess Federation rejected Pasadena as a site for the match, including the possibility of a later boycott of the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. However, his most remarkable allegation was that the Soviet authorities — perhaps with world champion Anatoly Karpov's connivance — had deliberately used the crisis to eliminate Kasparov from the Candidates series.

While it is quite true that Karpov, a loyal party member, is politically a more desirable champion to Moscow than Kasparov would be, I find this theory somewhat unlikely. There are chances of an East-West split in Fide and Karpov risks being stripped of his title — the champion has already stated he will not meet a challenger if the Soviet defaults stand. More likely, the Soviets simply objected to being told to play in Pasadena by Fide president Florencio Campomanes, when it had been given as last choice on their list. However Campomanes, also in Pasadena during the US Open, was unrepentant: "No member, however powerful, shall stand above Fide." One thing is clear, the big financial losers are the Pasadena match organisers who went steaming ahead even when problems loomed. Expensive multi-colour Kasparov-Korchnoi posters were printed for sale at \$25 each. "But I've sold six or seven here," said Don Richardson, one of the four sponsors, when I spoke to him in Chicago a few weeks after the fiasco. "This match could mean the break-up of Fide, so I guess people want them as collector's items."

Meanwhile Garri Kasparov has

confirmed his moral right to stay in the Candidates semi-finals with another brilliant super-tournament victory, this time two points ahead of Danish GM Bent Larsen in Niksic, Yugoslavia. All of the other participants signed a petition asking that he be reinstated in the world championship cycle, and it was rumoured that Korchnoi might be meeting the 20-year-old Grandmaster for talks in Yugoslavia after the tournament. The following game from Niksic shows the gap that is yawning between Garri and his contemporaries; Lubomir Ljubojevic of Yugoslavia is currently ranked number three in the world.

KING'S INDIAN ATTACK

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| L. LJUBOJEVIC | G. KASPAROV |
| 1. e4 | c5 |
| 2. Nf3 | e6 |
| 3. d3 | |

This (instead of the usual 3.d4) transposes the opening from the Sicilian Defence to the King's Indian Attack, where White anticipates a slow build-up culminating in a delayed kingside attack.

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| 3. ... | Nc6 |
| 4. g3 | d5 |
| 5. Nbd2 | g6 |
| 6. Bg2 | Bg7 |
| 7. 0-0 | Nge7 |
| 8. Re1 | b6 |
| 9. c3 | h6 |
| 10. h4 | a5! |
| 11. a4 | Ra7! |

A useful manoeuvre — the rook vacates the h1-a8 diagonal (where it could later come under attack from White's bishop) and makes ready to scuttle along the second rank into active duty.

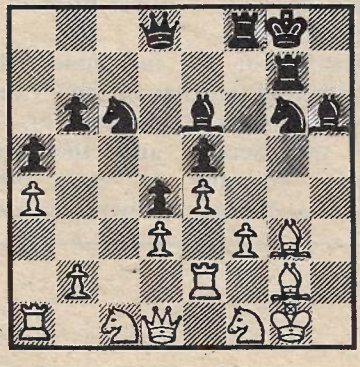
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| 12. Nb3 | d4 |
| 13. cxd4 | cxd4 |
| 14. Bd2 | e5 |
| 15. Nc1 | Be6 |
| 16. Re2 | 0-0 |
| 17. Be1 | |

Ljubojevic's pieces are uncomfortably tangled. With his next move Kasparov takes the initiative himself on the king's wing.

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| 17. ... | f5 |
| 18. Nd2 | f4 |
| 19. f3 | f×g3 |
| 20. B×g3 | g5 |
| 21. h×g5 | Ng6! |

Investing a pawn to speed up the attack, with the additional bonus that Black's queen's rook can shortly swing into play.

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| 22. g×h6 | B×h6 |
| 23. Nf1 | Rg7! |



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| 24. Bf2 | Be3 |
| 25. b3 | |

Waiting for the end, but 25.B×e3 d×e3 26.N×e3 Nd4 27.Rf2 Nh4 gives a massive attack, and 25.N×e3 d×e3 26.B×e3 Nh4 27.Rf2 Bh3 wins a piece.

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| 25. ... | Nf4 |
| 26. Resigns | |

MURRAY CHANDLER