

Double default

THE SOVIET UNION's refusal to play the world championship Candidates semi-finals in sites chosen by Florencio Campomanes has plunged Fide, the International Chess Federation, into crisis. Traditionally the contestants themselves select a venue from the various options, although technically the Fide president has the final say. This time president Campomanes decided to use that say, and selected Pasadena in California as the site for the crucial Korchnoi (Switzerland)-Kasparov (USSR) clash, ahead of bids from Holland and Spain. The other semi-final, between Ribli (Hungary) and Smyslov (USSR), he awarded to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, the first time an Arab nation would have staged an event of this magnitude.

Campomanes may have expected some element of protest from the players, but not the vehement refusal to play in Pasadena received from the Soviet Chess Federation, who pointed out that Holland was preferred by Korchnoi as well. Financially the bids were very similar: 100,000 Swiss francs prizefund plus expenses for the players and their seconds, though Pasadena did offer an additional 40,000 Swiss francs for Cardec, the Fide Commission for Assistance to Chess Developing Countries. Campomanes flew to Moscow and spoke to the Russians, but refused to change his mind — whereupon the Soviet Federation threatened to withdraw its players from both matches. A meeting of the Fide executive council was held which endorsed the official line. No sooner had this occurred, however, than Abu Dhabi, for unexplained reasons, withdrew its original offer to stage the Smyslov-Ribli match.

On Saturday, August 16, Viktor Korchnoi, a Soviet defector, sat down at the chessboard in Pasadena and played his first move, 1.d4. He waited the stipulated hour before being declared "winner" of the entire match by default, due to Garri Kasparov's non-appearance. It appears Vassily Smyslov has now also been defaulted against Zoltan Ribli, but even the Hungarian Federation rejected this, accusing Fide of political manoeuvring.

It is clear that the next Fide Congress, starting shortly in Manila, may be a critical one for the continuing unity of the organisation. International competition without Soviet competitors would be as much a farce as the Candidates cycle without Kasparov or Smyslov. Or Karpov for that matter, as it is unlikely that the current world champion, naturally a loyal Soviet citizen, would meet a challenger if Fide insists the defaults stand. One unanswered question remains: why were the Soviets so frightened of Pasadena? Was it for security reasons as they hinted (Pasadena is apparently a closed city to Soviet diplomats) — or were they worried Kasparov might defect if ex-

posed to capitalism in its purest form? A more whimsical excuse is that Pasadena is now the home town of eccentric American ex-world champion Bobby Fischer. Indeed Bobby has recently written a quite astonishing booklet entitled "I Was Tortured in a Pasadena Jailhouse", in which he claims he was arrested, stripped naked and tortured by the local police. Perhaps the Soviets had their reasons after all . . .

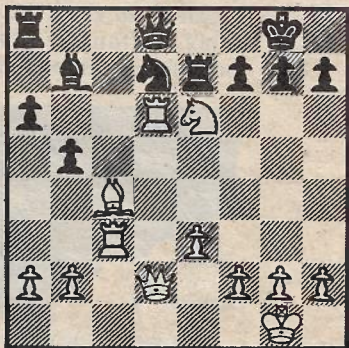
Campomanes, from the Philippines, became the first non-European Fide president when elected at the Olympiad in Switzerland last year, and has already proved himself a strong-willed leader. He publicly reprimanded the USSR Federation at one stage for refusing to meet Korchnoi in a tournament, and has switched the Fide offices from Amsterdam to the site of his election victory, Lucerne. Last April he astounded everyone by playing in the Norwegian Open, his first tournament in many years, and tied for second in a field of 101. This week, in lieu of any Candidates games, here is one of his efforts from there.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

F. CAMPOMANES	T. ERIKSEN
1. d4	d5
2. c4	e6
3. Nc3	Nf6
4. Bg5	Be7
5. e3	0-0
6. Nf3	Nbd7
7. Rc1	Re8?

Black should ease his slightly cramped position by exchanges with the normal 7...c6 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nd5 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.0-0 Nxc3 12.Rxc3 e5.

8. Bd3	dxc4
9. Bxc4	c5
10. 0-0	b6
11. Qe2	cxd4
12. Nxd4	Bb7
13. Rfd1	Nd5
14. Bxe7	Nxc3
15. Rxc3	Rxe7
16. Nb5	Bc6
17. Rd6	a6
18. Nd4	Bb7
19. Qd2	b5
20. Nxe6!	



A violent exploitation of White's d-file pressure. For his sacrificed piece Campo nets three pawns and a pair of devastating rooks on the seventh rank.

20. ...	fxe6
21. Bxe6 ch	Rxe6
22. Rxd7!	Qb6
23. Rcc7	Be4
24. Rxg7 ch	Kh8
25. Qc3	Rf6
26. Rgf7	Rd8
27. f3	

Parrying Black's only threat of the game, ...Rd1 and mates.

27. ...	Bg6
28. Rxf6	Resigns

MURRAY CHANDLER