

MURRAY CHANDLER

World shaken

THE PHONE CALL from English Grandmaster Ray Keene was unexpected. "It's on," he said, referring to the return USSR v The Rest of the World match that had seemed fated not to take place. "It starts in six days, here in London." That evening, while we were meeting with Fide (World Chess Federation) president Florencio Campomanes in a London hotel, a telex came from Moscow. The Soviets were asking for first-class airfares, a burden the already overspent Fide budget could not bear. "Don't worry, they'll come," said Campomanes knowingly. Meanwhile the rest of the Rest of the World team were no longer resting. Tickets were hurriedly bought, suitcases packed, and a week later, in the unlikely venue of the London docklands, the match was ready to begin.

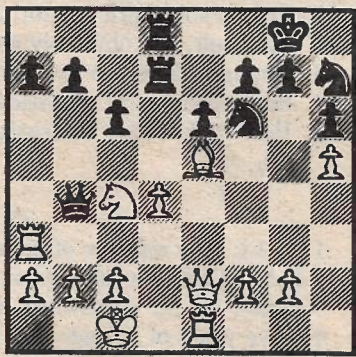
In spite of the previous false alarms, regarding the staging of the contest in Belgrade and later Rome, few grandmasters from either team were missing. The Soviet Union, led by world champion Anatoly Karpov and challenger Garry Kasparov, had an awe-inspiring sprinkling of former world titleholders and candidates down the list. For tactical reasons, the Rest of the World had super-solid Ulf Andersson on board one (to hold Karpov), Holland's Jan Timman on two, and ex-Soviet Viktor Korchnoi on three. The wild cards were the reserves who could be substituted on any board. Fortunately for myself and Bent Larsen, Timman avoided breaking his other leg. Only five players (Korchnoi, Polugayevsky, Smyslov, Tal and Larsen) remained from the original "Match of the Century" back in Belgrade 1970. There the USSR had won the 10-board, four-round contest 20½-19½, and on rating this match should have been even closer.

The first round (a 5-5 draw) typified the tone of the match this time: dour struggles, but with few decisive results. Perhaps more sparkling play would have resulted had the Soviets not scored a severe 6-4 victory the next day, with Alexander Belyavsky proving to be a dangerous hit-man. After that the mighty Soviet machine sat tight, and the only decisive result in round three was a Soviet win by Tal. With the USSR three points ahead, the outcome was now virtually certain, but a spirited comeback by the Rest of the World kept up the tension. The World's

final-round victory of 5½-4½ narrowed the winning margin, but not by enough.

It was a scrappy match and one which, considering the galaxy of stars present, did not really produce the outstanding chess it could have. The Soviet squad returned elated; perhaps the Rest of the World were just unlucky this time. Unfortunately it could well be another decade before a third challenge match is staged. Although such an event, by definition, is a great tribute to the strength of Soviet chess, the Soviet authorities are shy of the political significance of playing "against" the rest of the world. It was left to English juniors to remind the Soviet captain, Grandmaster Nikolai Krogius, that things may be different in a few years hence — they beat him with 10 wins and six draws in a 25-board simultaneous. Even Garry Kasparov did not have things all his own way in a first-ever satellite simul two days after the match. He beat all five Americans playing via satellite from New York, but scored only two wins and three draws against the English juniors.

This position arose in the game Belyavsky v Larsen, round four. As White, to move, Belyavsky now found a decisive combination that effectively sealed the match for the Soviet team. What did he play?



White to move

If you think you know the answer, you could win a copy of the 1984 USSR v The Rest of the World match bulletin, containing all 40 games, courtesy of New Zealand Chess Supplies. The first 10 correct solutions sent to Chess Competition, PO Box 42-090, Homedale, Wainuiomata will win copies, and the solution will be published in this column at a later date.

Board	USSR	LONDON 1984	Rest of the World
1	Karpov	1 ½ ½ ½ ½ : 0 ½ ½ ½ ½	Andersson
2	Kasparov	½ ½ ½ ½ 1 : ½ ½ ½ 0	Timman
3	Polugayevsky	½ 0 ½ - : ½ 1 ½ ½ ½	Korchnoi
	Tukmakov	- - - ½ :	
4	Smyslov	0 - - ½ : 1 0 ½ ½	Ljubojevic
	Tukmakov	- 1 ½ - :	
5	Vaganian	½ ½ ½ 0 : ½ ½ ½ 1	Ribli
6	Belyavsky	1 1 ½ 1 : 0 0 - -	Seirawan
		: - - ½ 0	Larsen
7	Tal	½ - 1 ½ : ½ ½ 0 -	Nunn
	Romanishin	- ½ - - : - - - ½	Chandler
8	Razuvaev	½ ½ ½ ½ ½ : ½ ½ ½ ½	Hübner
9	Yusupov	½ ½ ½ - : ½ ½ ½ 1	Miles
	Romanishin	- - - 0 :	
10	Sokolov	0 1 - 0 : 1 0 - 1	Torre
	Romanishin	- - ½ - : - - ½ -	Chandler
		21 : 19	