

MURRAY CHANDLER

# Ghost buster?

**W**ORLD CHAMPIONSHIP challenger Garri Kasparov, in a remarkable interview with the West German magazine *Der Spiegel*, has launched a stinging attack on Soviet chess officialdom. Over several pages Kasparov speaks angrily about the political manoeuvrings that led to the annulment of his clash with Anatoly Karpov earlier this year. He accuses the Soviet Federation of favouritism and of scheming with Fide (World Chess Federation) officials to call off the world title contest at Karpov's insistence. He also protests at the choice of venue for the rematch starting on September 2. In spite of generous bids from London and Marseilles, Fide president Florencio Campomanes has announced that Moscow — Karpov's home town — will host the contest again. Kasparov's request to compromise with Leningrad was evidently ignored.

Speaking one's mind is not a practice encouraged by the Orwellian USSR Chess Federation. In the past Soviet players have been censured even for mildly outspoken interviews abroad. When a journalist published comments made privately by Viktor Korchnoi in Holland in 1976, the Soviet grandmaster defected rather than return home and face the consequences. But Kasparov, only 22, is idolised by players and public alike and apparently is not without friends in high places. At one stage in the article he says: "Karpov's people in the chess federation still seem to hold all the trumps in their hand, but appearances are deceptive." He goes on to say that his main concern is to save the rematch. "After all, one can beat him even in Moscow. That is indeed difficult, but it can be done. The thing is to actually play against him. You can't win against a ghost."

Indeed little has been seen or heard of the ghost in question, 34-year-old Karpov, after the world champion abruptly withdrew from the super-tournament in Linares, Spain. Soviet ex-world title-holder Boris Spassky, now resident in France, believes that Karpov has been genuinely shocked by the way things have developed. "Karpov experienced irreparable bad luck — but it was all his own fault." Spassky implies that when the fatigued Karpov requested termination of the Moscow match (which he was leading 5-3) he had not expected Campomanes to order a rematch. It is rumoured that Karpov is nevertheless currently preparing in private with his usual team of advisers. Meanwhile Kasparov, in some very public training, has beaten Swedish ace Ulf Andersson 4-2 in a six-game match in Belgrade. Combined with his 4½-1½ victory over West German Robert Hubner shortly before that, Kasparov certainly seems to have benefited from six months of playing Karpov.

Here is game two from Hamburg in which Hubner begins subtly. But a faulty

28th move allows Kasparov to conjure up the decisive kingside assault.

## QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

G KASPAROV R HUBNER

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|---------|------|
| 1. d4   | Nf6  |
| 2. c4   | e6   |
| 3. Nf3  | d5   |
| 4. Nc3  | Be7  |
| 5. Bg5  | 0-0  |
| 6. Qc2  | Ne4  |
| 7. Bxe7 | Qxe7 |
| 8. e3   |      |

8. Nxe4 dxe4 9. Qxe4 Qb4 ch is a standard method whereby Black recovers his pawn.

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| 8. ...   | Nxc3 |
| 9. Qxc3  | b6   |
| 10. cxd5 | exd5 |
| 11. b4   | c6   |
| 12. Rc1  | Bb7  |
| 13. Bd3  | Nd7  |
| 14. Rb1  | Qd8  |

This move was unfairly criticised by some commentators, who recommended 14. ... a5 immediately. But they missed 15. bxa5 Rxa5 16. Rxb6! winning a pawn.

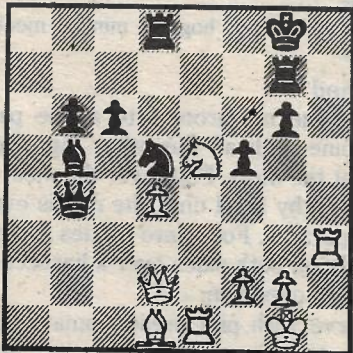
- |          |       |
|----------|-------|
| 15. 0-0  | a5    |
| 16. a3   | axb4  |
| 17. axb4 | g6    |
| 18. Nd2  | Qe7   |
| 19. e4   | dxe4  |
| 20. Bxe4 | Rac8  |
| 21. Rfe1 | Qd8   |
| 22. Nc4  | Nf6   |
| 23. Bf3  | Nd5   |
| 24. Qd2  | Ba6   |
| 25. Ne5  | Bb5   |
| 26. Rec1 | Qd6   |
| 27. h4   | Rfd8  |
| 28. h5   | Ne7?! |

Missing a finesse. Better was 28. ... Rc7.

29. Re1!

Exposing the knight retreat as a waste of time. If Black captures with 29. ... Qxd4 then 30. Qh6 (threatening Nxf7!) is strong.

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| 29. ...  | Rc7  |
| 30. Bg4  | Nd5  |
| 31. hxg6 | hxg6 |
| 32. Rb3  | f5   |
| 33. Bd1  | Rg7  |
| 34. Rh3  | Qxb4 |



35. Qh6!

A rook sacrifice to finish it off. The Black king is hopelessly exposed.

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|-------------|---------|
| 35. ...     | Qxe1 ch |
| 36. Kh2     | Kf8     |
| 37. Nxg6 ch | Kg8     |
| 38. Qh8 ch  | Kf7     |
| 39. Qxd8    | Resigns |

Not waiting for 39. ... Rxg6 (39. ... Kxg6 40. Bh5 ch Kh7 41. Bf7 mate) 40. Rh7 ch Ke6 (40. ... Rg7 41. Bh5 ch Ke6 42. Rh6 ch and mates) 41. Qd7 ch Kf6 42. Qf7 ch Kg5 43. Rh5 ch Kf4 44. Qxf5 checkmate. ■