

A fitting finale

by Murray Chandler

THE Fischer v Spassky world championship series was dubbed the "match of the century" but for sheer drama in a single game Anatoly Karpov and Garri Kasparov have swept the board. Their final, 24th clash in Moscow was a suitably climactic finale to their bitter struggle, begun 14 months previously. Karpov, trailing by a point, had to win this last game to save his title. For Kasparov a draw was enough to become the youngest champion yet. Going all out for the win, Karpov menacingly built up his forces around the opposition king. Perhaps sensing passive defence was becoming dangerous, Kasparov suddenly leapt out with the type of inspired pawn sacrifice that has become his trademark. In time-trouble, Karpov grabbed a second pawn, this one too hot. Kasparov won a knight and the capacity crowd of over 1000 began shouting after every move.

When Karpov finally offered his hand in resignation pandemonium broke out in the playing hall. Kasparov threw his hands over his head to chants of "Garri, Garri", which continued long after the new world champion had left the playing arena. The subsequent front page headlines around the globe showed the Soviet audience was not alone in its appreciation of a supreme sporting achievement.

Kasparov, 22, overcame enormous odds even to face Karpov in a fair fight over the chessboard. Apart from controversial decisions by the World Chess Federation, his own Soviet Federation approved a motion that would have banned him from international play for two years. Kasparov took the 1000-mile flight from his home town of Baku to answer the charges — accompanied by fellow Azerbaidjani and ex-KGB man Geida Aliev, now a full Politburo member and Deputy Prime Minister. The motion, punishing Kasparov for public complaints regarding the annulment of the first match with Karpov, was hastily dropped.

For the new champion the future beckons brightly. Even before this victory he could command \$US1000 just for brief interviews, and his earnings from book royalties and endorsements will probably make him a millionaire. The changing emphasis of power in the Kremlin will probably mean he will have freedom to travel abroad as he chooses — and perhaps even take his girlfriend, a glamorous Moscow actress several years his senior. The only shadow is the rematch with Karpov due to take place within six months, as stipulated by the World Chess Federation rules which have made Karpov the most insulated world champion in history. And 34-year-old Karpov cannot be written off. His near-comeback after dramatically winning game 22 of the match showed he is a great fighter. "Karpov views world champion as a natural prefix to his family name," Kasparov recently said. He's

going to want that prefix back.

The "game of the century":

SICILIAN DEFENCE

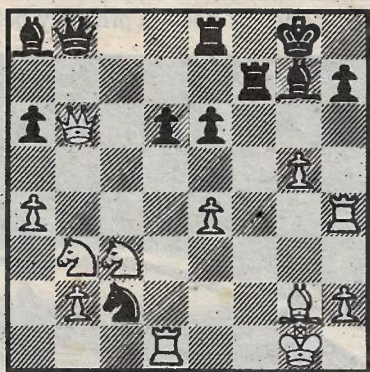
A KARPOV	G KASPAROV
1. e4	c5
2. Nf3	d6
3. d4	cxd4
4. Nxd4	Nf6
5. Nc3	a6
6. Be2	e6
7. 0-0	Be7
8. f4	0-0
9. Kh1	Qc7
10. a4	Nc6
11. Be3	Re8
12. Bf3	Rb8
13. Qd2	Bd7
14. Nb3	b6
15. g4	

Launching an attack like this was good psychology from Karpov under the circumstances. In such positions purely defensive measures from Black rarely succeed.

15. ...	Bc8
16. g5	Nd7
17. Qf2	Bf8
18. Bg2	Bb7
19. Rad1	g6
20. Bc1	Rbc8
21. Rd3	Nb4
22. Rh3	Bg7
23. Be3	Re7
24. Kg1	Rce8

This "mysterious rook move" is to discourage White from opening the e-file after Black's pawn break next move.

25. Rd1	f5!
26. gxf6	Nxf6
27. Rg3	Rf7!
28. Bxb6	Qb8
29. Be3	Nh5
30. Rg4	Nf6
31. Rh4	g5!
32. fxg5	Ng4
33. Qd2	Nxe3
34. Qxe3	Nxc2
35. Qb6	Ba8



Black has certainly counter-attacked with enormous vigour and his active pieces are raking the board. In desperation and time-trouble Karpov allows his queen and knight to be skewered in return for a few last attacking chances.

36. Rxd6?	Rb7
37. Qxa6	Rxb3
38. Rxe6	Rxb2
39. Qc4	Kh8

Not the blunder of the century 39. ... Ne3

40. Rxe8 mate.	Qa7 ch
41. e5	Bxg2 ch
42. Kh1	Nd4 dis ch
43. Resigns	