

Olympic opulence

by Murray Chandler

THE 27TH Olympiad in Dubai over November and December was, in everyone's opinion, the most sumptuous yet held. Even Havana 1966, where lobster was compulsory for lunch and dinner, could not match the luxury hotels and superb playing conditions that several million dollars of United Arab Emirates money can buy. In spite of a minor boycott by Holland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway in protest at Israel's exclusion, a record 108 countries participated.

Including the 49 women's teams, that made around 1000 active participants and captains.

The favourites were, of course, the mighty Soviet team, boasting the current top four players in the world in Kasparov, Karpov, Sokolov and Yusupov. On paper it looked unbeatable. But 2-2 draws with Yugoslavia and England in rounds five and six showed that not all was well. The reserves, Vaganian and Tseshkovsky, were looking shaky, world champion Kasparov seemed pre-occupied with FIDE politics, and Karpov was off form. When England suddenly leapt into the lead with a 4-0 clean sweep over the powerful Icelandic team, the race for gold was on.

The English squad comprised grandmasters Miles, Nunn, Short, myself, Speelman and international master Flear. As we were beating even top East European competitors mostly 3-1 over the four-board matches, the Soviet delegation were clearly very worried.

What happened in the eighth round was scandalous. England (seeded second) faced Spain (seeded 13th), whose captain was Soviet grandmaster Tamas Georgadze. Shortly before play began we heard that the Soviets had helped the Spanish prepare by giving them their games files on us — unethical though not illegal. What was illegal, however, was the disturbance created during the match by Georgadze discussing the English games with Soviet players and trainers, right next to the English boards.

Events culminated in Georgadze saying a winning move within hearing distance of the Spaniard playing John Nunn on board two. This was officially testified to organisers by Hungarian Zoltan Ribli, a world class grandmaster with an impeccable reputation. Receiving advice during a game, whether asked for or not, is perhaps the most serious rules infringement possible and usually brings disqualification. An official English protest was submitted during play.

Meanwhile the Spanish were scoring an astonishing 3½-½ victory, the only English defeat of the Olympiad. At a later inquiry the English protest was upheld, but the punishment was a mere written "reprimand" for Georgadze.

The main benefit from the protest was that the organisers segregated the top matches with ropes, allowing some chess to be played again. By then, however, the US had surged into a lead which they maintained until round 13. Going into the final round the scores were US 36½

points, USSR 36 and England 35½, with Hungary out of the medal hopes on 32½.

Events could scarcely have been more dramatic. First to finish were England with another 4-0, this time against Brazil (who had taken 1½ points off the Americans the previous round), then the US suffered a collapse, only drawing 2-2 with Bulgaria. Everything hinged on by what margin the USSR would slaughter the Poles. A huge crowd gathered as world champion Garri Kasparov won a delicate knight and pawn endgame to clinch a Soviet clean sweep. The USSR had saved its gold medal, with England second and an unlucky US third.

A game from the USSR v England clash. Any similarities to our game from London 1986 are purely deliberate.

DUBAI 1986 FRENCH DEFENCE

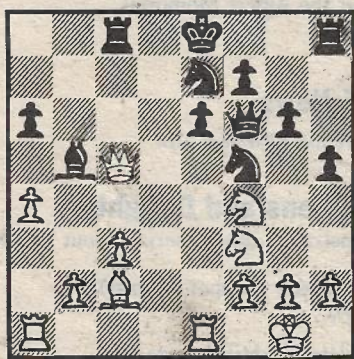
M CHANDLER	R VAGANIAN
1. e4	e6
2. d4	d5
3. Nc3	Bb4
4. e5	b6
5. a3	Bf8
6. Nf3	Qd7??

More consistent is 6... Ba6. Now White has a curious but strong way to avoid the bishop exchange. I first used this new concept in Auckland last May during my match with Australian Ian Rogers.

7. Bb5	c6
8. Ba4!	Ba6
9. Ne2	h5
10. 0-0	Nh6
11. Re1	g6
12. c3	Be7
13. Nf4	Nf5
14. Nh3	Bb5
15. Bc2	c5
16. Bg5	Nc6
16... Bxg5 was the lesser evil.	
17. Bf6!	Bxf6
18. exf6	Qd8
19. dxc5	bxc5
20. Nf4	Qxf6
21. Qxd5	Rc8

Rather than go simply a pawn down after 21... Nfe7 22. Qxc5 Qxf4 23. Qxb5 0-0, Vaganian hopes for the trap 22. Nxe6? Nfe7.

22. Qxc5	a6
23. a4	Nce7



24. Nd5! Resigns

If 24... Rxc5 25. Nxf6 ch Kd8 26. axb5; if 24... Nxd5 25. Qxc8 ch; if 24... exd5 25. Qxc8 mate. Finally 24... Qg7 allows 25. Nc7 ch Kd8 26. Nxe6 ch fxex6 27. Qb6 ch Rc7 28. axb5 and White is two pawns ahead with a winning attack.

Next column: New Zealand results from Dubai, plus the Women's Olympiad.

BRIAN EASTON Capital blues

In Motueka where I was born,
The shopping street's a mile long,
All the shops have a single floor,
Except the milkbar with the room above,
Wasted Friday nights and Saturdays
there,
Jukebox downstairs, cuddling up,
From one window you could just see the
mudflats.

I went to school in Nelson,
Looked down on the whole town,
There seemed to be some high buildings
there;
Post Office, Rural Bank, State Insurance,
Hospital,
Some even had a lift.
From them and from my school
You could still see the mudflats.

Now I work in Wellington,
State servant reorganising the country,
I'm ten stories up — have to use a lift,

My heart won't take the stairs.
When I look out the window all I see is
other buildings.
They tell me there's a harbour out there
somewhere,
But I ain't seen it,
I wonder if it's got mudflats.

The buildings tower all over you,
Owned by the country's great corporations,
Banks, finance companies, oil companies,
Fletchal, IBM,
Each with a board room on the top floor,
With a round table they tell me.
The buildings are almost as high as
their share prices.

David Lange is in the tiddly little
beehive,
If he thinks he can see above the corpora-
tion buildings,
He must have his head in the clouds.

IF YOU ARE fortunate enough to have a holiday this year, but not so rich as to be holidaying overseas (despite the favourable exchange rate), have a look at the economics of the countryside you passed through. Note the hierarchy from the small rural servicing towns through to the regional cities and thence to the main centres. It is not just size that distinguishes them; the sorts of buildings, the sorts of shops, the sorts of economic activity differ. I hazard that if you can see past the Christmas/holiday rush you will observe that the intensity of activity differs too.

The indicators are that much of regional New Zealand is undergoing a fundamental contraction. There are three main reasons. First, there has been a long-term drift to the big smoke. Second, overseas markets for our pastoral products are even further depressed. And third, what has been euphemistically called "regional policy", but is better described as "marginal seats retention policy", is being withdrawn. The policy instruments included industrial protec-

tion and subsidies, employment promotion schemes, and the regional activities of the state-owned enterprises.

The result is that registered unemployment (one of our few current regional measures) has risen sharply, particularly compared with the three main centres. As the accompanying graph shows, until the end of 1984 total unemployment in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch was at a level similar to the rest of New Zealand. The boom of 1985 really only benefited the main centres. By late 1986 registered unemployment was two-and-a-half times higher in the regions than in the cities.

What interests me is how long it took for this issue to come to the nation's attention. In the short-term we see ourselves through the eyes of Wellington and Auckland, and while they are prosperous the rest of us are deemed to be. That is why if you are holidaying away from home (which perhaps only those from the main centres can afford) keep an economic eye on what is really going on in the regions.

REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED
MAJOR URBAN AREAS AND THE REST OF NZ

