

# Richard Shorman

# Chess

## FISCHER MAKES HIS POINT

In the controversy over whether or not world chess champion **Robert Fischer** will defend his FIDE title in 1975, almost no one has presented Fischer's complete point of view. Reading the full text of his telegram to the delegates of this year's FIDE congress in Nice, France may help to shed more reasonable light on Fischer's proposals for match conditions.

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Greetings to all delegates on occasion of Fiftieth FIDE Congress!

I would like to address myself to some of the important matters that you will vote upon, and give you what I regard as the professional grandmaster's viewpoint. I hope you will give careful consideration to my opinions before you vote.

I oppose decreased frequency of World Student Team Championship as hurting chess.

I favor yearly FIDE Congress.

Selection-by-committee of some players in interzonal smacks of pure politics.

I support re-election of Dr. Euwe as President because of background as World Champion and unique understanding of needs of professional and amateur players alike, because of his role in promoting chess worldwide.

I oppose decreased frequency of Olympiad and Swiss System, which is imprecise and unscientific for Olympiad.

I oppose expulsion from FIDE of any country on political basis, on grounds that chess should be above politics.

Regarding World Championship, Cramer reflects my views. I would emphasize following points:

I oppose reducing cycle next World Championship from three years to two. For decades when title resided in Soviet Union, champion had to defend only once every three years. Now when Soviets have lost title there is proposal to increase mandatory frequency of matches, thus giving them more opportunity to regain title. I regard this as manipulation of rules to favor one country.

I have been interested in pre-1975 title or non-title match, not organized by FIDE directly, so as to avoid complex regulations and negotiations. However, I have not received a challenge from any player in the world, and my attempts to interest various backers regarding a return match with Spassky have failed because of adverse effects of negative statements in press by Soviet Chess Federation and former World Champion Spassky as to advisability, practicality, and availability of Mr. Spassky to face me before 1975.

During and after match, arbiters and appeal committee members must not engage in press activities, so as not to compromise their relations with the two players.

I oppose limitation of prize fund as limitation of rights of players and dignity of chess. Prize fund should be bid in gold because of worldwide inflation spiral.

I oppose splitting match site because it would double all problems. I oppose a possible fine for appealing arbiter's decision as petty and decreasing players' rights.

When challenger is unavailable, champion deserves to have up to one year at his discretion to prepare for substitute challenger.

World Championship is duel of individuals and not of federations, whose function should be to assist and not to dictate to players. The two players are far more capable of reaching agreement without political intervention. Player should inform FIDE in writing whenever he delegates rights to his federation.

I approve of clause for flexibility in changing rules by mutual agreement.

Now I speak of a very important matter. Official World Championship occurs only once in three years. Temporary form, or team preparation, or luck should not be permitted to determine result. World Champion should be world's best player, and long match is necessary to reach a just result with nearly absolute certainty. For this reason I propose that match be won by first player to win ten games, with no limit on total number played.

Provision for drawn match with score nine wins to nine with champion retaining title and prize fund split equally is consistent with long-standing tradition of small advantage for champion. Yet those who have long enjoyed this advantage now wish to abolish it. Propaganda emanating from a certain country has falsely implied that I am seeking unprecedented advantage. These critics say that it is unfair to require a two-point margin of ten wins to eight in order for challenger to win the match, yet only in this way can champion's advantage be fairly preserved when there is no limit on total games. And critics deliberately overlook that champion also needs two-point margin of ten wins to eight in order to win match.

Mr. Cramer can demonstrate the historical record, but, for example, Alekhine needed at least a margin of six to four to become World Champion, whereas Capablanca needed only five wins to retain his title, draws not counting.

Throughout my career I have always insisted on optimal conditions for my participation in chess competitions. I will not compromise on this principle for the 1975 World Championship match.

Best Wishes.

Bobby Fischer

World Chess Champion

(Quoted from **Chess Newsletter**, Sept. 15, 1974)

### **KARPOV NOW TWO UP ON KORCHNOI**

Posting his second very impressive win over **Viktor Korchnoi** in six tries, 23-year-old **Anatoly Karpov** now seems certain of ultimate victory in their final world championship candidates' match.

The first player to score five points, draws not counting, will become Robert Fischer's official challenger for the world title in 1975, or will be declared FIDE World Champion should Fischer elect not to play.

Here is the sixth match game (annotated version to follow), recorded in streamlined coordinate chess notation (files lettered "a" to "h", ranks numbered "1" to "8", always counting from White's lower left corner regardless of whose turn to move; pawn captures designated by file letters only).

**White: Anatoly Karpov. Black: Viktor Korchnoi. World Championship Candidates' Match, Moscow, 1974; Match Game No. 6. Petroff's Defense** 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Ne5 d6 4 Nf3 Ne4 5 d4 d5 6 Bd3 Be7 7 0-0 Nc6 8 Re1 Bg4 9 c3 f5 10 Qb3 0-0 11 Nbd2 Kh8 12 h3 Bh5 13 Qb7 Rf6 14 Qb3 Rg6 15 Be2 Bh4 16 Rf1 Bf3 17 Nf3 Bf2 18 Rf2 Nf2 19 Kf2 Qd6 20 Ng5 Rf8 21 Qa3 Qd8 22 Bf4 h6 23 Nf3 Re8 24 Bd3 Re4 25 g3 Rf6 26 Qc5 g5 27 Ng5 hg 28 Bg5 R4e6 29 Re1 Qg8 30 h4 Rg6 31 Re6 Re6, and **Black overstepped the time limit.**

### **FREMONT CHESS EXHIBITION**

International master **Jim Tarjan** will visit the Fremont Chess Club (40204 Paseo Padre Parkway) for a simultaneous exhibition Wed., Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m. Take this opportunity to issue your challenge to one of America's fastest rising young chess talents. Winners will receive a discount membership worth \$3.50 in the Correspondence Chess League of America. Board fee is \$3, registration at 7 p.m. Please bring board and men.