

The REAL Reykjavik Story

As 'Ole Jude,' E Knows

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FISCHER - SPASSKY: WHAT REALLY HAPPENED! (with apologies ONLY to Boris Spassky, World Chess Champion)

As everyone knows, there was some small delay in getting the Fischer-Spassky world title match under way. This is roughly what happened:

Originally, the match had been set for "late spring". But four minutes after agreeing to this, Fischer asked for a postponement on some grounds which he would figure out later. Spassky agreed, but asked for an additional postponement in order to figure out what Fischer was talking about. They finally agreed to postpone both postponements after which the starting date was moved to early July.

Nothing of permanent significance occurred in match negotiations for two days other than the cancellation of the entire match in Yugoslavia and Iceland.

In new negotiations Fischer presented new demands concerning distribution of the prize fund. He did not like the arrangements and proposed the following alternatives:

(A) that Fischer be paid the entire purse before round one to save time;

(B) to divide the prize fund as follows: 1/8 to the winner, 1/8 to the loser and 6/8 to the highest scoring American in the match;

(C) to award 5/8 of the purse to the winner and 5/8 to the loser. Fischer later modified this due to some small mathematical difficulty;

(D) Fischer also insisted that Spassky not be allowed to protest getting rich.

Finally, a British banker agreed to add \$130,000 to the match prize fund, upon which Fischer announced that he would play "for the honor of the United States". The banker saved the match and his money, too, as he knew that the Bank of England would never agree to allow transmission of the funds without trade balance, an absolute requirement.

Things seemed to be going quite well until a Fischer complaint was telegraphed four hours before the opening ceremony was scheduled. Fischer was extremely concerned about the shape of the bargaining table--I mean the chess table. Fischer also protested second-row seating for his six-man attorney force and demanded that all persons entering the playing hall be searched for arms. Fischer also insisted that all ladies of sultry, luscious quality be moved to row 1244 and that the ladies be made to prove they were buying their own tickets, because "women are useless; men waste time and money on them."

The organizers had no problems with these demands, except the temporary one of the chessboard

shape. Fischer felt that the chess pieces and board should be symbolic as well as non-glare. Fischer objected, therefore, to the square board (being that He is no square). Fischer wanted a round chess table, but Spassky objected, saying that would signify equal status, which was not the case, since he (Spassky) was the current world champion. It was eventually decided to turn the table one-quarter around so that a point would face the mid-section of each player. (This star-shape was acceptable to both.) This solution may, however, occur

or Melvin and also that none be older than eighteen.

At last the time came to decide who would have the white pieces for the first game. There is no doubt that Spassky had at least partially recovered consciousness by round seven.

The chess world has never seen such a colorful person as Bobby Fischer. It will never again allow it.

FINAL NOTE: Fischer's chess set is waterproof, chipproof, glareproof, solid rock, thoroughly pounded and very nervous. A moment of silence please, consi-



THE CHALLENGER HAS MADE HIS MOVE.
WHAT WILL BE THE CHAMPION'S ANSWER?

der the problems those 32 chess figures have in hotel and motel rooms throughout the world. They must change hotel rooms six or eight times in the same hotel during the same match. Alas.

These negotiations tired both players and their legal representatives, so, naturally, one final postponement was arranged. A week later the match organizers in Iceland also were fatigued and had to request a postponement themselves, but progress was clear.

Approximately 2.5 minutes before play was to begin, Bobby Fischer came up with a new objection. The Russians were bringing too many Russian grandmasters to help analyze adjourned positions. Fischer also asked that he be given access to certain manuscripts during adjournments. He was willing to allow Spassky the same privilege, but only under certain conditions. Spassky could use books:

- (A) only on the first Tuesday of every month;
- (B) only between the hours of 3 a.m. and 5 a.m.;
- (C) only if Fischer were finished using the books;
- (D) only if such Tuesday shall fall on a weekend.

Fischer asked that Spassky be allowed the use of seconds only those Russian grandmasters whose first names were Eugene, Otto

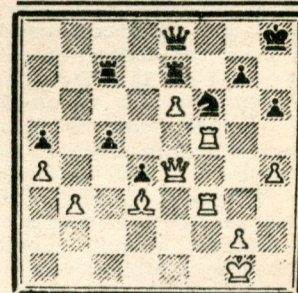
White: Robert Fischer. Black: Boris Spassky. World Championship, Match Game No. 6. Reykjavik, Iceland, July 23, 1972. - Queen's Gambit Declined 1 c4(A) e6(B) 2 Nf3 d5 3 d4(C) Nf6 4 Nc3 Be7(D) 5 Bg5 0-0 6 e3 h6 7 Bh4 b6(E) 8 cd Nd5(F) 9 Be7 Qe7 10 Nd5(G) ed 11 Rcl Be6(H) 12 Qa4 c5 13 Qa3 Rc8(I) 14 Bb5(J) a6(K) 15 dc bc(L) 16 0-0 Ra7(M) 17 Be2 (N) Nd7(O) 18 Nd4(P) Qf8(Q) 19 Ne6(R) fe 20 e4(T) d4(U) 21 f4(V) Qe7(W) 22 e5l(X) Rb8(Y) 23 Bc4(Z) Kh8(AA) 24 Qh3 Nf8 (BB) 25 b3 a5 26 f5(CC) ef 27 Rf5 Nh7(DD) 28 Rflf Qd8 (EE) 29 Qg3(FF) Re7(GG) 30 h4(HH) R8b7(II) 31 e6(JJ) Rbc7 32 Qe5 Qe8(KK) 33 a4l(LL) Qd8(MM) 34 Rlf2 Qe8 35 R2f3 Qd8 36 Bd3 Qe8(NN) 37 Qe4l Nf6 38 Rf6l gf 39 Rf6(OO) Kg8 40 Bc4 (PP) Kh8 41 Qf4 Black resigns (QQ).

(Notes by IGM Svetozar Gligoric in the Icelandic chess magazine "Skak")

(A) A surprise! Is it the postponement of the discussion about the Sicilian Defense from the 4th game or just the intention to make the opponent work more and be prepared for any move, and not only 1 e4? (B) A cautious reply. On some occasions the champion used to try 1...e5. (C) Is it the first Queen's Gambit with White in Fischer's career? One can not recall any other case of that kind! The match is full of unexpected choices. (D) In the match with Petrosian, Spassky liked the Tarrasch Defense with 4 ...c5. (E) The Tartakower line in the Orthodox Defense of the Queen's Gambit has been played by Black on many occasions.

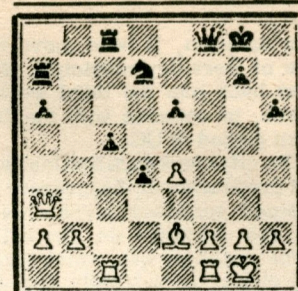
White could expect it, but who could expect Fischer to play against it? (F) The old 8...ed is playable but less popular. (G) Creating the "hanging pawns" in the center of Black. The alternative is 10 Rcl Bb7 11 Nd5, trying to avoid the more active position of the black Bishop on e6, but then Black may answer 11... Bd5 without pawn weaknesses in the center. (H) On b7 the Bishop would lock the "b" file to the black heavy pieces. Not yet 11...c5 12 dc and the "d" pawn is hanging. (I) All known from theory. Up to now White gained little from that position in tournament practice. (J) New? Prepared? It was played in Furman-Geller, USSR, 1970! The intention is to exchange the bishop for the black knight and thus expose the black hanging pawns to a more severe pressure of the white pieces. After 14 Be2 Nd7 Black defends easier. (K) Forcing the unpleasant bishop to declare--sooner or later--its intentions. (L) Not 15...Rc5 16 0-0! (M) (Time: 0:20--0:33) Puts the rook on a defended square (not 16...ab 17 Qa8). The alternative was 16 ...Qb7 17 Be2 Nd7, suggested by Geller. (N) Better than 17 Ba4,

and thus increasing the threats to Black's sensitive central pawns. (Q) Chasing the knight from its central position, for 18...Nf6 19 Nb3 would not be pleasant for Black, who has to take care not only of his "c" pawn but also



POSITION AFTER 37...Nf6

the "a" pawn as a consequence of White's improvement on the 14th move. (R) 19 Nb5 Ra8 meant nothing, while 19 Nb3 was the alternative, but a less enterprising one. (S) The number of weak pawns has been increased. (T) A very sharp move, aiming at the mass of black pawns. 20 Bg4 was less dangerous to the opponent. (U) Being in difficulties, Black chooses a sharp answer which weakens white squares. 20 ...Nf6 was another choice, but not quite attractive, either. (V) Controls the square e5 and threatens with more effect 22 Bc4. (W) A necessary precautionary measure. (X) Fixing the weakness on e6. 22 b4 e5 would give Black more counterplay. (Y) Meeting the threat 23 b4 and the best choice now, but everything is hanging by a thread in Black's position. (Z) Very strong, for White has nothing to fear from 23...Nb6 because of 24 Qb3! (AA) Removing the King from the attacked diagonal, but it is not encouraging for Black. (BB) Passive, but necessary. 24...Rb2 25 Be6 gives a strong attack to White. (CC) Now is the time to open the "f" file to have attacking possibilities and the dangerous passed "e" pawn for the endgame. (DD) Forced. And not 28 Rf7? now because of 28...Ng5! (EE) Black is almost helpless against the combined action of all the active white pieces. (FF) Preparing the mating threats as well. All of White's moves are simple and very strong. (GG) Trying to cover the second rank. (HH) Taking the g5 square away from the black knight. (II) Black does what he can. (JJ) Eyeing Black's "c" pawn as well. There are too many threats, including 32 Qe5. Black cannot try 31...d3 32 Rd5! either. (KK) 32...d3 33 R5f3 would mean a hopeless endgame. (LL) Is that a zugzwang? 33 ...Nf6 34 Rf6! gf 35 Rf6! gives an irresistible attack to White. (MM) There is nothign else to play: 33...Kg8 34 R7 loses at once. (NN) If 36...Rc6, then 37 Qe4! The time consumed now was White, 1:54 and Black, 2:20. (OO) The attack is irresistible. (PP) The threat is 41 Rf7. (QQ) One of several winning moves. If now 41...Kg8, then 42 Qg3ch!



POSITION AFTER 20...d4

for the bishop should not be removed too far from the King side, where Black may develop some pressure (the white Queen is on the other side). The "loss" of a tempo with the white bishop was intentional. Black had to put his "a" pawn on a more exposed square than the rook to a temporarily awkward position. Interesting! (O) Black has no better way to develop. On 17...a5 18 Rc3! Nd7 19 Rcl Re8 20 Bb5 White is superior (Furman-Geller, 1970). (P) Activating the pieces at the right moment, while the black Queen is not protected