

March 28, 1979

Mr. Frederic Olafsson
International Chess Grandmaster
Fide-President
Reykjavik, Iceland

Dear Grandmaster Olafsson,

As you probably know, Grandmaster Victor Korchnoi, with whom we are participating in the Louis Statham Master-Plus Tournament in Lone Pine, California, received an invitation for the international tournament of Banja Luka (Yugoslavia) and accepted the invitation to play. Six weeks before the start of the tournament he got a letter from the organizers cancelling his participation. The letter stated: "Many foreign chess players want to revoke their participation in the tournament because you are taking part in it." It is obvious that "many foreign players" refers to Soviet players -- Grandmaster Petrosian and Master Kasparov, as well as Grandmaster Smejkal (CSSR) and Grandmaster Sax (Hungary).

We appeal to you as Fide-President, as one of the leading Grandmasters and as one of our colleagues in chess to take serious and immediate action. We have confidence that you will do your utmost to avoid future boycotts in the international chess world.

It is not the first boycott in the chess world that is politically motivated. This time, moreover, it concerns the second best player in the world. This boycott clearly indicates that the Soviet Chess Federation wants to exclude a player who has proved recently in Baguio City to be of World Champion Karpov's level from tournament play.

We protest strongly against this deplorable method of boycotting because we see it as our duty to defend the principles of sportsmanship, and of our motto, "Gens una sumus." To keep silent means to be as guilty as those responsible for this boycott.

We trust that you will take the necessary steps to stop those who are trying to ruin international chess by actions like these.

Yours Sincerely,

The Players of Lone Pine

Larry Christiansen (Liberzon) Anatoly Kaim GM
Zaltsman (RESHEVSKY) Rj (Rigo)

Jan Torgny (Liberzon) GM
Zaltsman (RESHEVSKY) GM
Smejkal (DENKER) GM
Arthur Insperger GM
Will Roshard GM
Mikhail Zlotnikov (Zlotnikov) GM
Sax (PACHMAN) GM
Rj (Rigo)

Paul Winkler USA
Derek Simon USA
John Peters USA
Calvin Baker USA
Julio Krol USA
Perry Youngworth USA
Walter van der Vliet (Holland) GM
Paul Steen (Holland) GM
Ming Chen (CHANDLER, New Zealand) GM
Van Riemsdijk (Brazil) GM
H. Ree (Holland) GM
Hort (Algeria) GM
Steven Caldwell USA
Margie Peterson (Peterson) GM
Benko (Benko) GM
Kaplan (Kaplan) USA
Chesnokov (SOSONKO) GM

USA / Shamkorich GM
John Feher USA
Walter Ormanis USA
D. J. Starks U.S.A.
M. Weinstein USA
V. Melanich USA
Gasser Seier
Edward Formanik
Jay E. Whitehead
Gwinetros GM
Hort (Lighterik) GM
Hans Bokm (Holland) GM
Lawrence Day GMACA
Joe Bradford USA
Mark Dison
Cruntel yekuden
P. Sigurjonsson GM (Iceland)

A PROTEST SIGNED BY 49 INTERNATIONAL MASTERS AT THE LONE PINE TOURNAMENT WHICH SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. We are informed that V. Hort was ordered by the Czech Chess Federation not to play at Lone Pine but played—and tied for first place!