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FROM: BILL JOHNSON
PUBLICITY/PROMOTION

June 21, 1972

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bobby Fischer, Boris Spassky
Match Is Recounted On KQED-TV

A play-by-play account of what is predicted to be the most exciting World Championship Chess Match -- the meeting between America's brash challenger Bobby Fischer and World Champion Boris Spassky of the U.S.S.R. -- will be presented on "The Fischer/Spassky Chess Championship: A Weekly Review" beginning Friday (June 30) 7:30 p.m. on KQED Channel 9.

Host of the program will be International Chess Master George Koltanowski, whose chess column appears daily in the San Francisco Chronicle and other newspapers throughout the United States. Each Friday evening at 7:30, until a decisive point in the 24-game match has been reached, Koltanowski will review that week's games, recreating the key game and commenting on the players' strategies and defences. He will also reveal some of the behind-the-scenes stories of events leading up to the final arrangements for the match, how the site was selected and the financial terms agreed upon.

Predictions of the outcome of the match have been varied. "Las Vegas is giving big odds on Fischer winning the match," Koltanowski said. "And if you ask the masters point blank, most give Fischer the nod. But if they are from behind the iron curtain, they shrug and answer: 'the devil knows. Anything can happen'.

"Only one person is sure of the outcome of the match -- Robert Fischer," Koltanowski added. "He is convinced that in 1972 he will be champion of the world. But for chess fans on

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the five continents it is not so clear and that is what makes this match so exciting."

Spassky leads Fischer in individual encounters 3-0 and two draws. "You can be sure this does not faze Fischer," Koltanowski said. "For years he has been proclaiming himself champion of the world."

Spassky, 35, and Fischer, 29, are both young in years, but rich in chess experience and successes. Spassky captured the World Youth Title in 1955, and Fischer was only 13 in 1956 when he won the Rosenwald III tournament, which included the U.S. Championship.

Koltanowski, who played in the Chess Olympics three times for his native Belgium and once for the U.S.A., has authored many books on chess, in English, French and Flemish. He was team captain of the U.S. team at the Olympics in Lugano, Switzerland in 1968 and co-captain of the U.S. team in Seigen, West Germany in 1970. He directed the USCF Open 16 times and served as International Judge (Fide) at Mallorca in 1963 and the Interzonal, Spain, 1969.

Koltanowski set the world record in blindfold simultaneous exhibition at Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1937, winning 24 and drawing 10 in 13½ hours play. At an exhibition in Los Angeles in 1955, he played 110 games simultaneously and won 89, lost 4 and drew 17 in 12 hours of play.

"The Fischer/Spassky Chess Championship: A Weekly Review" is produced for KQED by John Coney.