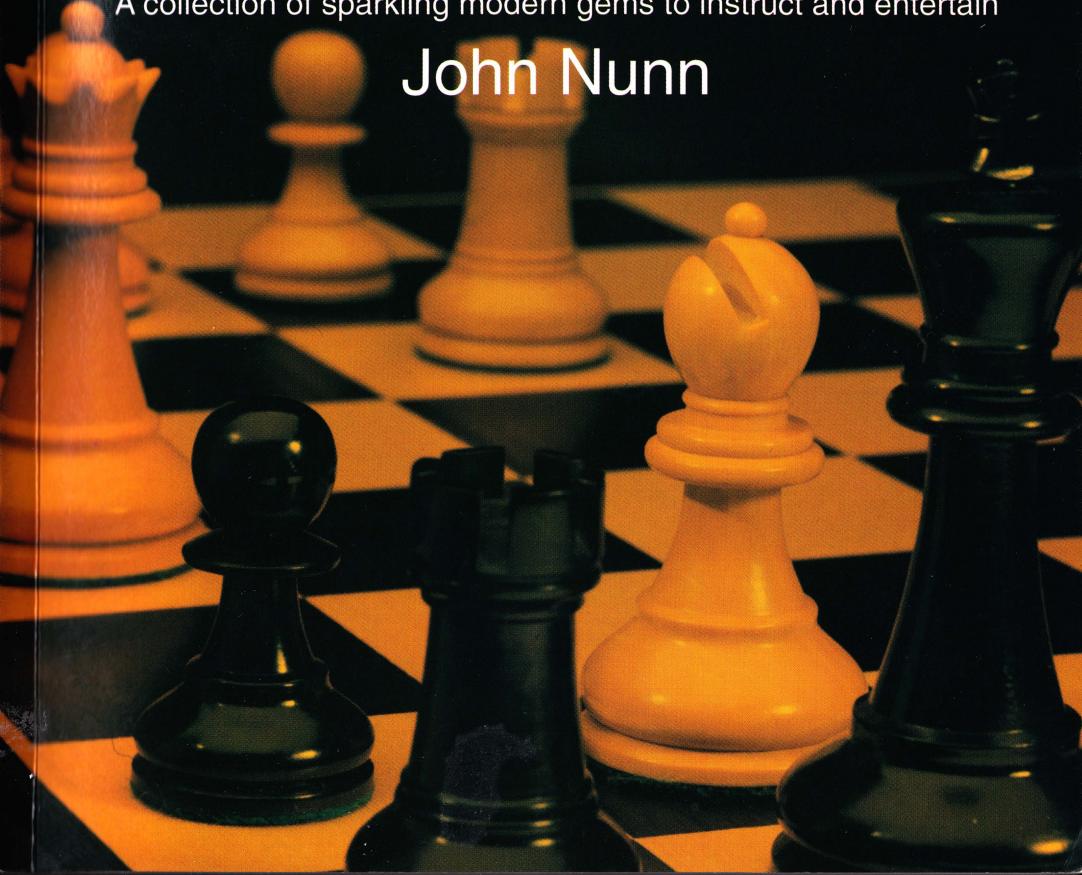


GAMBIT

101 Brilliant Chess Miniatures

A collection of sparkling modern gems to instruct and entertain

John Nunn



101 Brilliant Chess Miniatures

John Nunn

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Introduction

How does one profit from reading a book of miniature games? There are, I think, two main benefits. First of all the games in this book are uniformly entertaining. There is no question that it is more fun to play over a brilliant sacrificial 20-move win than an 80-move game decided by technical endgame play, no matter how skilful the latter might be. The second benefit is educational. Every player has suffered the humiliation of a rapid loss, followed by a quick departure before anyone can ask “Was it a quick draw, then?”. Is there a pattern to such defeats? Are they pure accidents, or can they be avoided? Instruction is usually more effective if it is also entertaining, and in this book I am aiming at a combination of the two.

First of all I would like to describe the process of writing the book, before moving on to tackle the questions posed above. Initially this book was not intended to focus on modern games, but after looking at a lot of famous miniature games, I couldn’t really see the point in annotating old chestnuts again. If you take a famous game such as Larsen-Spassky, USSR vs Rest of the World, Belgrade 1970, practically everything sensible one can say about this game has already been said in one place or another – my task would really be reduced to compiling a *précis* of existing annotations. Doubtless there will be a few readers who have not seen this game before, but I suspect most would just turn over the page to get on to the next game. Therefore I decided to change tack, and restrict my book to games played after 1970. Even within this range, I have concentrated especially on the past decade – almost exactly half the games are from the 1990s. Most of these games are too recent to have been repeatedly anthologized and suffered the ‘death of a thousand annotations’; I hope they will be unfamiliar to many readers.

The next problem was that there is no generally accepted definition of a miniature game. Different authors have taken different limits, with 25 moves being perhaps the most common, but with a significant minority opting for 30 moves. However, I soon decided on a 25-move limit, long enough for the games to have real substance, but short enough that they are something out of the ordinary. A harder decision was to exclude drawn games. Although there are a few exciting miniature draws, I felt that these did not really fit in with the theme of recognizing and exploiting errors in the opening and early middlegame.

Having settled on these basic criteria, I then listed all decisive games of 25 moves and under in my database. To my horror, there were over 65,000 such games. Clearly, it would be impossible to play over all these, so I opted to impose a further restriction: both players must have an Elo rating of at least 2500. The logic here is that I did not want to include games which consisted merely of a

pretty final combination, or where a strong player simply crushed a much weaker opponent – I wanted games which were real struggles and demonstrated how to refute typical errors. I did relent on this criterion with a handful of games which were favourites of mine – I hope readers will forgive this tiny inconsistency. This reduced the number to around 1,300 and I then played over all these to choose 120 for the book. The slight excess was because I anticipated that some games would fall by the wayside when subjected to detailed analysis, and so it proved.

My choice in this final, manual stage was based on various factors. First and foremost, the game had to be a high-quality, exciting struggle. Secondly, it should contain some instructive points. Finally, I made an effort to avoid repeating familiar themes. Of course one should have a ♖d5 piece sacrifice in the Sicilian somewhere in the book, but the frequent repetition of such standard themes would quickly become tedious. Therefore I included a considerable proportion of games containing novel or unfamiliar ideas.

Having chosen my games, the next step was the analysis thereof. Firstly I collected together existing analyses of the games. Everybody knows the phenomenon of ‘annotation by result’ – all the winner’s moves are praised, while the poor loser gets question marks scattered over his moves like confetti. I found this tendency to be especially pronounced with miniature games. This is perhaps not surprising, as one would assume that the loser must have made quite a few bad moves to lose so quickly, and there is no time left for any good ones! I confess to having made a slip along these lines myself (see my *Informator* annotations of Game 33 – I completely overlooked 18...♜xa3!). However, in reality a surprising number of the games turned out to remain in the balance until very near the end. Perhaps approaching time-trouble was the cause, or maybe it was just the pressure of having been under attack almost from move one, but in many games the defender unexpectedly collapses after having previously held his opponent at bay by accurate defence.

Readers may be aware that I have a fondness for detailed annotations. The ‘101’ format, however, which is designed for easy reading, limits the amount of space available for notes. Even when I tried to keep my notes short, they were still too long, so I had to prune my notes down to the essentials (sigh of relief from some readers...). The consequence is that while all the essentials are present, some supporting lines of analysis are ‘behind the scenes’, as it were. However, the pleasant advantage is that thanks to the plentiful diagrams the games and most of the analysis can be followed without a chess set. In view of the space shortage, I have also limited my opening notes to a bare mention of the main alternatives. If readers are interested, they can easily follow these hints up in the many specialized opening books available (or just look in *Nunn’s Chess Openings*).

Returning now to the lessons of the games themselves, are there typical errors which occur time and time again? The answer is undoubtedly yes. The statistics

for castling in these 101 games are quite revealing. The winner castled in 84 of the games (61 times kingside and 23 times queenside). Of these 84 games, the loser castled in just 27 games. Clearly, getting one's king stuck in the centre is a major factor in many quick losses. In some of these games the loser's failure to castle was involuntary; perhaps he was already under such a vicious attack that he had no time to castle, or he still had pieces on the back rank so that castling was physically impossible. In these cases the failure to castle is merely a symptom of the disease and not the primary cause; the real error occurred earlier. However, there are also some games in which the loser could perfectly well have castled, but chose not to (see Games 25, 45, 67, 87 and 97, for example). How is it that these grandmasters managed to make such an elementary mistake as getting their king trapped in the centre, when every beginner knows that it is advisable to castle early on? The answer to some extent lies in the ultra-pragmatic nature of top-level chess today. At one time, if a player was able to castle, he did so on the principle that it was usually a 'good thing'. These days, players are more questioning. They say "Is castling really the best move? Can I spend the tempo more profitably on some other operation?". When this attitude works, then the game is hailed as an example of 'knowing when to ignore the rules'. The problem is that when it doesn't work, the game ends up in this book! If you leave your king in the centre voluntarily, then you are walking a tight-rope without a safety-net. Under these circumstances, misjudging the risk factor or missing a tactical resource by the opponent can have dire consequences.

The lesson here is that you have to balance the possible benefits of leaving your king in the centre against the risk involved. If you think that the alternative operation you are conducting instead of castling is truly important, then it is worth considering the matter carefully. Of course, the risk is less if your king is ready to castle in one move than if you, for example, also need to develop a bishop before you can castle. However, even having castling 'on tap' may not be enough if your opponent keeps you off balance by dynamic play – see Game 101 for a good example of this.

Of course, this (and the other points made in this introduction) can be turned around. If your opponent has left his king in the centre, it is worth looking for a way to keep him busy so that he doesn't find the time to castle.

Another theme which occurs surprisingly often is Black coming to grief as a result of grabbing the b2-pawn with his queen – take a look at Games 11, 15, 29, 34 and 81. Once again, since this manoeuvre is well-known to be fraught with danger, how is it that so many grandmasters have lost as a result of precisely this operation? The wisdom, or otherwise, of taking the b-pawn naturally depends very much on the particular position. All the above cases fall into the marginal area between 'safe' and 'suicidal'. Once again, one must take care not to 'annotate by result'. Of course, Black lost the above-mentioned games, but that does not necessarily mean that his whole plan was misguided. In the early days of the Sicilian Poisoned Pawn, Black often suffered embarrassingly quick defeats.

Later on, when the correct defensive ideas were better understood, Black's results improved and it is now regarded as one of the most challenging responses to 6 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ in the Najdorf. However, that is not to say that there is no longer any danger for Black in the Poisoned Pawn – see Game 29, for example, where a new idea for White leads to a rapid victory.

Somewhat more controversial is the b-pawn grab in Game 11; Black's punishment here was so drastic that this line was put out of business. However, take a look at the possible improvements on moves 6 and 7. Had Black played one of these and won, the reputation of this particular b-pawn grab might now be very different.

Deciding whether to take a particular b-pawn (assuming that it is a 'marginal' case) depends very much on your attitude to chess in general. If it is a theoretical line (such as the Sicilian Poisoned Pawn or the French line of Game 81) then a prerequisite is thorough home preparation. If it is a new or little-known position, then by taking the b-pawn you may well increase your chances both of winning and of losing. However, if your style does not lend itself to careful defence then you should think twice. A final point is that you should not commit yourself to taking the b-pawn and then have second thoughts about it when the moment arrives. For example, if you have played ... $\mathbb{W}b6$ with the sole idea of preventing your opponent developing his c1-bishop, and then he moves it anyway, it is a bit late to start thinking about whether ... $\mathbb{W}xb2$ is a good idea.

White scores very well in this book (73 wins to 28 losses). However, it is certainly possible to lose a miniature game with White. Many of these losses are the result of another common error: playing as if you have the advantage when you have not. Players at higher levels are particularly prone to this error when they are White, because possession of the white pieces is regarded as a very valuable asset. It is seen as a failure if one emerges from the opening with 'only' an equal position. Examples of this phenomenon may be found, to a greater or lesser extent, in Games 12, 26, 38, 41, 67 and 86. As one plays over these games, a familiar pattern emerges. White makes an inaccuracy in the opening, which allows Black to equalize. However, White either does not appreciate the new situation or ignores it, and continues to play aggressively, often grabbing material. The result is a loss of the initiative and a savage attack by Black. It is quite easy to overestimate the advantage conferred by playing White; it is, after all, only one tempo and in unbalanced, dynamic positions other factors may be more important than a tempo (such as piece activity, king safety, etc.). Wishful thinking obviously also plays a part; the white player is unwilling to accept that he has done something wrong and lost his initial advantage, so his sense of danger is dulled.

A further common error is that of removing important defensive pieces from the vicinity of one's king, or at any rate from positions where they can help in the defence of the king. Examples may be found in Games 21 (19 $\mathbb{Q}c4?$), 45 (14 $\mathbb{Q}a4?$), 93 (21... $\mathbb{Q}ec6?$) and 99 (17... $\mathbb{Q}c4?$). It is interesting to note that all these are knight moves. Repositioning a knight tends to be a more committal decision

than repositioning a line-moving piece. If, for example, you move a queen from f6 to a6, it still controls some squares on the kingside, such as g6 and h6, but if a knight moves from e5 to c4, then it no longer has any influence at all on the kingside and can only regain it by retracing its steps. In some of the above cases, the loser was motivated by the desire to generate some counterplay (Game 99, for example), but this has to be carefully judged. There is little point in arranging your pieces for active play on the queenside if you are mated on the kingside before this counterplay gets off the ground. In such cases one has to be pragmatic; if the active option doesn't work, then one should just settle for quiet, passive defence in the hope that things will take a turn for the better later on.

Perhaps surprisingly, not all these games are tactical attacking smashes. It is possible to win positionally in 25 moves or less – see, for example, Games 27 and 30, both of which involve a not so gradual positional strangulation. Coincidentally, both these games were won by Kasparov, not a player one normally associates with python-like squeezes. In other games it is the defender who triumphs. In Game 31, Polugaevsky brilliantly refutes an opportunistic attack by Timman along the h-file, while in Game 76 careful defence is but the prelude to a shattering counterattack. Over-aggressive play by White is refuted in Game 55. Seirawan counters White's ambitious kingside pawn advance instructively and is careful never to allow his tactically-orientated opponent to stir things up. When the central counterattack crashes through, White's position collapses like a house of cards.

In short, then, there are indeed common errors which can lead to a quick loss, and these errors occur at all levels of play right up to grandmaster level. Knowing the danger signals should enable you both to avoid these errors yourself and to exploit them when your opponent slips up.

John Nunn

Chertsey, May 1999

Symbols

+	check
++	double check
#	checkmate
x	capture
!!	brilliant move
!	good move
!?	interesting move
?!	dubious move
?	bad move
??	blunder

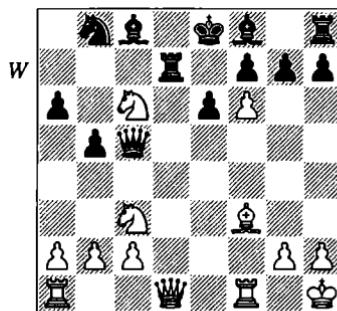
Ch	championship
corr.	correspondence game
1-0	the game ends in a win for White
½-½	the game ends in a draw
0-1	the game ends in a win for Black
(n)	nth match game
(3a)	see diagram 3a, etc.
ECC	European Clubs Cup

1 E. Pedersen – Gallmeyer

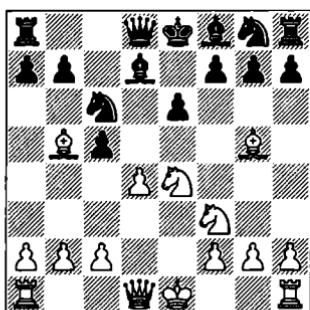
Denmark 1971

Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Variation

1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ a6 6 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ e6 7 f4 b5 8 e5 dx $\mathbb{e}5$ 9 fx $\mathbb{e}5$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ 10 exf6 $\mathbb{W}e5+$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{W}xg5$ 12 0-0 $\mathbb{W}e5$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}f3?$! 13 $\mathbb{Q}h1$ and especially 13 $\mathbb{Q}f3!$ are currently believed to be more dangerous for Black. 13... $\mathbb{K}a7$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}c6?$! $\mathbb{W}c5+?$ According to present-day theory, 14... $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xc6+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xd7+$ $\mathbb{W}xd7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ is fine for Black. 15 $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ (1a) Not 15... $\mathbb{Q}xc6?$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ (after 16... $\mathbb{W}d4$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}d6+!$ $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 18 fxg7 $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 19 gx $\mathbb{f}8\mathbb{W}$ + $\mathbb{W}xf8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xc6+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ Black will suffer due to his exposed king) 17 fxg7 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ f5 20 $\mathbb{Q}xf5+!$ ex $\mathbb{f}5$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}e1+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ (21... $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 22 $\mathbb{W}d5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 23 $\mathbb{W}d6+$ transposes, as 23... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ loses to 24 $\mathbb{Q}e8+)$ 22 $\mathbb{W}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 23 h4+! with a decisive attack. 16 $\mathbb{Q}xb8!$ This queen sacrifice, first played in the current game, is the only way for White to continue his attack. Contrary to R.Marić's analysis in *Informator 12*, it should lead to a draw against best defence. 16... $\mathbb{K}xd1$ 17 $\mathbb{K}axd1$ The threat of 18 $\mathbb{Q}c6+$ forces Black's reply. 17...gx $\mathbb{f}6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ (1b) 18... $\mathbb{W}c7?$ The fatal error. 18... $\mathbb{W}f5!$ is the best defence. After 19 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ (19 $\mathbb{Q}xf6+$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}c6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 21 $\mathbb{K}xf6$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ is equal) 19... $\mathbb{W}f4!$ White is forced into the drawish liquidation with 20 $\mathbb{Q}xf6+$, etc. 19 $\mathbb{Q}xf6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}h5!$ Threatening a beautiful mate in four by 21 $\mathbb{Q}c6+$ $\mathbb{W}xc6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}g8+$ $\mathbb{W}xg8$ (22... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$) 23 $\mathbb{K}xf7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}g7\#$. 20... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ (1c) 21 $\mathbb{Q}c6+!$ $\mathbb{W}xc6$ Or 21... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}d7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 23 $\mathbb{K}xf7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}e7\#$. 22 $\mathbb{Q}g8+!$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 22... $\mathbb{W}xg8$ 23 $\mathbb{K}xf7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}c7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 25 $\mathbb{K}d8+$ and mate next move. 23 $\mathbb{Q}xf7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 24 $\mathbb{K}d8+$ 1-0

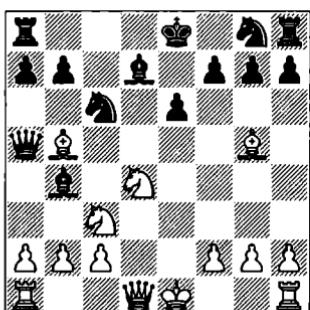


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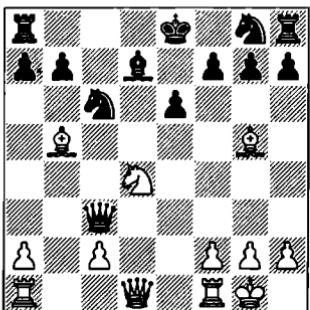
2a: After 7...Bg5!

W



2b: After 9...Qb4?!

W



2c: After 11...Qxc3?

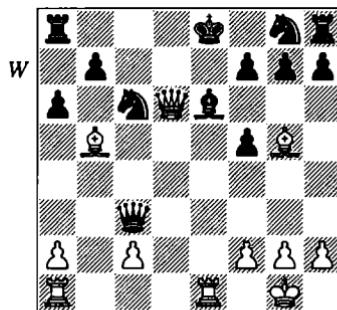
2

Tal – Uhlmann Moscow 1971

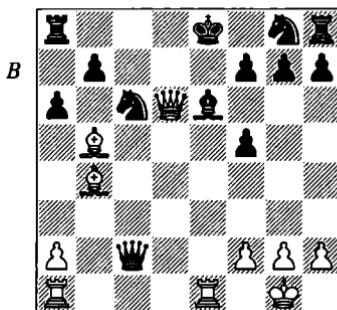
French Defence, Tarrasch Variation

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ c5 4 $\mathbb{Q}gf3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ It is hard to surprise Wolfgang Uhlmann in the French Defence, which he has played throughout his long career, but Tal apparently succeeded with this move since the East German grandmaster now thought for 20 minutes. In fact the move had been played before, but only very infrequently. 5...dxe4 These days 5...a6 is considered to be a simpler method of equalizing. 6 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}g5$! (2a) As usual, Tal plays for rapid piece development. 7... $\mathbb{Q}a5+$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ cxd4 A few years later, in Ničevski-Uhlmann, Skopje 1976, Uhlmann improved by 8...a6 9 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 10 d5 (10 dxc5 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ is equal) 10... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 11 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ gxf6 15 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$, and this time Uhlmann went on to win. 9 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ Tal relates that at first he was attracted by the piece sacrifice 9 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 11 gxf3, but 11... $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}a4+$ b5! 13 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{Q}e5+$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ seemed insufficient for White. In addition, Black could play safe with 11... $\mathbb{Q}b4$, quenching White's attacking ambitions. 9... $\mathbb{Q}b4$?! (2b) Black plays for the win of a pawn, but the resulting dark-squared weaknesses give White ample compensation. 9... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ is sounder; after 10 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ (10 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 12 0-0 0-0 is level) 10... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ (but not 10... $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$?? 12 $\mathbb{Q}xd7+$) 11 0-0-0 a double-edged position arises. 10 0-0! $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 11 bxc3 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$? (2c) Consistent, but far too risky (especially against Tal). The continuation 11...a6 12 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ was a much better chance. After 14 $\mathbb{Q}d6!$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ (but not 14... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}fd1!$ $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}d7+$

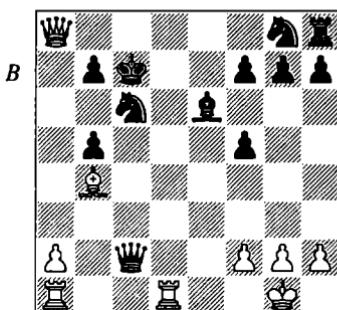
$\mathbb{Q}f8$ 17 $\mathbb{W}xb7$, when White wins a pawn and displaces Black's king) 15 f4 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ (15... $\mathbb{W}h4$ is also playable, e.g. 16 g3? $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 17 $\mathbb{W}c7$ $\mathbb{Q}xg3$) 16 $\mathbb{W}c7$ $\mathbb{W}f6$ 17 $\mathbb{W}xb7$ 0-0 18 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ White has an extra pawn, but in view of his doubled and isolated pawns, it is doubtful if he can make any use of it. 12 $\mathbb{Q}f5!!$ White must continue energetically; this beautiful sacrifice both gains time and opens the e-file. 12... $\mathbb{exf5}$ Forced, as 12... $\mathbb{W}c5$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ (14... $\mathbb{W}xb5$ 15 $\mathbb{W}xd7$ wins) 15 $\mathbb{W}xd7+$ $\mathbb{Q}ge7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $bxcc6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xc6$ gives White a clear extra pawn. 13 $\mathbb{M}e1+$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 14 $\mathbb{W}d6$ With two threats: one the simple 15 $\mathbb{M}ad1$ and the other to transfer the g5-bishop to b4 via d2. 14... $a6$ (2d) Or 14... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 15 $\mathbb{M}ad1$ (the threat is 16 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $gxf6$ 17 $\mathbb{M}xe6+$ $fxe6$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 19 $\mathbb{M}d7$ mating) 15... $a6$ 16 $\mathbb{M}xe6+$ $fxe6$ 17 $\mathbb{W}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 19 $\mathbb{W}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 1-0 Mulder van Leens Dijkstra-Balkowski, corr. 1985. It is amazing that this losing line should reappear in a postal game played 14 years later! 15 $\mathbb{Q}d2!$ Threat No. 2 is executed. Such attacks may look easy, but there are many false paths; here, for example, 15 $\mathbb{Q}a4?$ b5 16 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}c4$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{M}d8!$ 18 $\mathbb{W}c7$ $\mathbb{M}d7$ would lead to a draw by repetition. 15... $\mathbb{W}xc2$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}b4!$ (2e) Not 16 $\mathbb{M}ac1?$ $\mathbb{W}xc1$! 17 $\mathbb{M}xc1$ $axb5$ 18 $\mathbb{M}xc6$ $\mathbb{M}d8!$ and Black wins. 16... $axb5$ Black may as well take the piece as he cannot stop the check on f8. 17 $\mathbb{W}f8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 18 $\mathbb{M}ed1+!$ 18 $\mathbb{M}ad1+$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xa8$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xh8$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$ gives Black a little counterplay. 18... $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xa8$ (2f) 1-0 Slightly early, but after 19... $\mathbb{W}a4$ (19... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xh8$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ now wins easily; 19... $\mathbb{W}e4$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 21 $\mathbb{W}f8$ $\mathbb{W}h4$ (21... $\mathbb{W}g4$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}c5+$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 23 $\mathbb{W}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}b6$ mates) 22 $\mathbb{Q}c5+$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 23 $\mathbb{M}ab1$ b4 24 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ the attack is decisive.



2d: After 14...a6

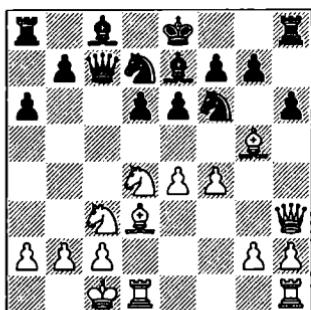


2e: After 16 Qb4!



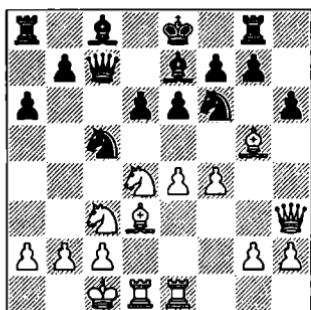
2f: After 19 Wxa8 1-0

B



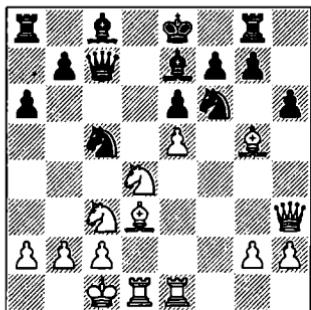
3a: After 11...h3

W



3b: After 12...g8

B



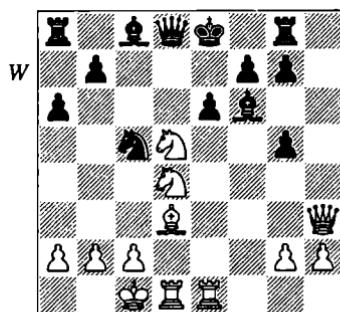
3c: After 14 fxe5

3

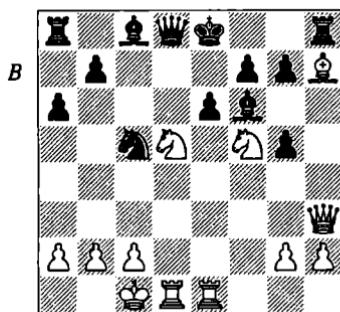
Planinc – Najdorf**Wijk aan Zee 1973***Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Variation*

1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ a6 6 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 7 f4 e6 8 $\mathbb{W}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 9 0-0-0 $\mathbb{W}c7$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ h6 The Browne System, currently considered Black's safest response to the 10 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ line. The main idea is that after 11 $\mathbb{Q}h4$ g5 12 fxg5 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 13 $\mathbb{W}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}fg4$ Black will regain the pawn and establish a knight on the powerful central square e5. The only real problem with this plan is that Black's king is condemned to stay in the centre for some time. However, the current view is that White has no way of exploiting this factor. 11 $\mathbb{W}h3$ (3a) This move attempts to cross Black's plan of forcing through ...g5, or at least to extract a concession if he goes ahead with it. 11... $\mathbb{Q}c5$?! In 1973, it was early days for this line and it was not yet established that 11... $\mathbb{Q}b6$ is the best move. The point of playing the knight to b6 is to increase Black's control of d5 so that a later ...e5 cannot be met by $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ followed by $\mathbb{Q}d5$. 12 $\mathbb{W}he1$ 12 f5 is another possibility, when Black's best may be the surprising 12... $\mathbb{Q}d5$!?. 12... $\mathbb{E}g8$ (3b) Black wants the g5-bishop to make up its mind; if it retreats to h4, then Black can continue with 13...g5. 12... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ is a more solid alternative. 13 e5!? White simply leaves his bishop on g5 and uses the tempo to crash through in the centre. However, this involves sacrificing a pawn and the outcome is not at all clear. 13...dxe5 13...hxg5 14 exf6 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ (not 14...gxf6? 15 $\mathbb{W}h7$ $\mathbb{E}f8$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ and White has a very strong attack) 15 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{W}d8$ 16 $\mathbb{W}h7$ is also unclear. 14 fxe5 (3c) 14...hxg5 Certainly not 14... $\mathbb{Q}d5$? 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ (15... $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ wins) 16 $\mathbb{W}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3+$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ followed by $\mathbb{Q}e4-d6$. 15 exf6 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$

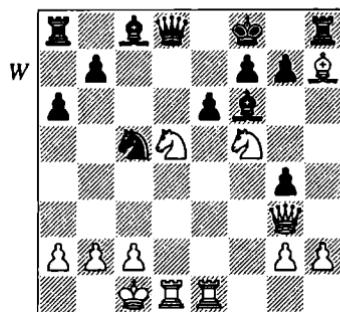
This game is normally portrayed as a complete whitewash, probably due to the notes in *Informator 15*, where 13 e5 was already given as 'winning'. However, this is far from the truth, as we shall see. 15...gxf6 is a reasonable alternative to the move played; for example, 16 ♖h7 ♗xd3+ 17 ♜xd3 ♕f8 18 ♗f5 ♖f4+ 19 ♜b1 ♖xf5 20 ♖xf5 exf5 21 ♗d5 ♜h8 with an unclear position. 16 ♗d5 ♖d8 (3d) 16...♗a5 is well met by 17 ♜c4! ♖xd4 18 b4 ♖d8 19 ♜xd4 ♕f8 20 bxc5 exd5 21 ♖a3 with a strong initiative. 17 ♖h7?! An imaginative idea, which in the game succeeds dramatically. However, it might have been stronger to continue 17 ♖h7! ♗xd3+ (17...♕f8 18 ♗xf6 ♖xf6 19 ♜f1 ♗xd3+ 20 ♖xd3 ♕f8 19 ♗xf6 ♖xf6 20 ♗f3 b5 21 ♗e5 with a clear advantage. 17...♜h8? After this Black is indeed in trouble. There often comes a point when the defender has to sacrifice material himself to prevent the attacker's initiative getting out of hand. Here Black should have played 17...♖xd5 18 ♜xg8 (or 18 ♗xe6 ♖xd1+! 19 ♜xd1 ♜xe6 20 ♜xe6+ ♗xe6 21 ♜xg8 0-0-0+ and the unusual fork wins for Black) 18...♖xa2 19 ♜xf7+ (otherwise White would even be worse) 19...♕xf7 20 ♖h5+ ♜g8 with a draw. 18 ♗f5 (3e) 18...g4 There is no longer any defence, although this does make life fairly easy for White. 18...♗a4 is the best try, but even then 19 ♗d6+! ♜f8 20 ♗xf6 ♖xf6 21 ♗c4 ♖f4+ (21...♖e7 22 ♜f1 e5 23 ♜xf7+! ♖xf7 24 ♖a3+ ♖e7 25 ♜d8+ ♜f7 26 ♗d6+ wins) 22 ♜d2! ♖xc4 23 ♖a3+ ♗c5 (23...♗e8 24 ♖d6 ♜d7 25 ♖xd7+ ♜f8 26 ♜f2 is decisive) 24 ♜d8+ ♜e7 25 ♜xh8 is very good for White. 19 ♖g3 Now Black faces the threat of 20 ♗c7+. 19...♗f8 (3f) 20 ♗xf6 1-0 Owing to 20...♖xf6 21 ♖d6+ ♗e8 22 ♗xg7+ mating.



3d: After 16...Wd8

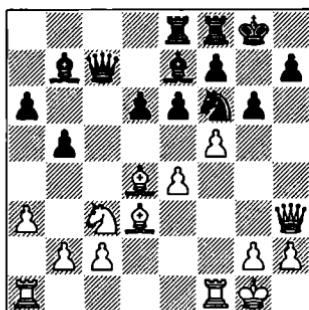


3e: After 18 ♗f5



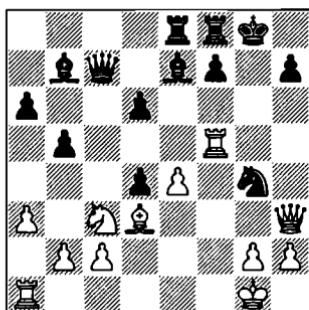
3f: After 19...Gf8

B



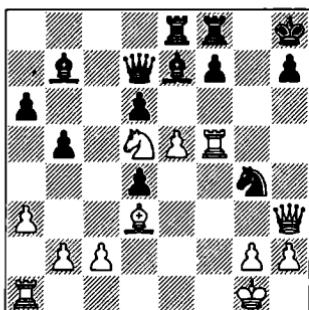
4a: After 16...Wh3

W



4b: After 19...exd4

W



4c: After 21...Kh8

4 Balashov – Andersson

Wijk aan Zee 1973

Sicilian Defence, Scheveningen Variation

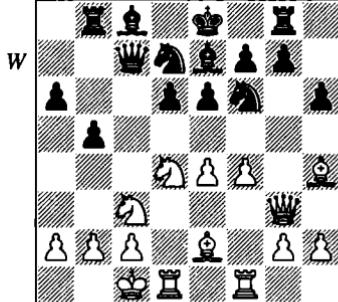
1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ e6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 4 d4 cxd4 5 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ a6 6 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ 7 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ d6 9 f4 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 10 $\mathbb{W}e1$ 0-0 11 $\mathbb{W}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ b5 13 a3 $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ These days 14 $\mathbb{Q}h1$ is overwhelmingly the most popular move, with 14 $\mathbb{R}ae1$ in second place. 14...g6 14...e5! 15 fxe5 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ followed by 16...dxe5 is the correct antidote to White's plan, and is the reason why 14 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ is almost never played today. 15 f5 $\mathbb{R}ae8$?! Not a very good move as it exposes Black to the possibility of $\mathbb{Q}e3-h6$, trapping the rook. 15... $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 16 $\mathbb{W}h3$ e5 17 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}f4$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ exf4 19 $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ is better, with good dark-squared play for the pawn. 16 $\mathbb{W}h3$ (4a) Attacking e6. 16...gxf5? This certainly meets the threat of 17 fxe6, but at what a cost! 16...e5 17 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ $\mathbb{R}fe8$ is better, although 19 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ gives White some advantage. 17 $\mathbb{W}h6$ Not 17 exf5 e5, when the diagonals leading to Black's king are blocked. 17...e5 17... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ loses to 18 $\mathbb{Q}f3$. 18 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ This must have been the defence Andersson was counting on. It seems that the result will be the exchange of the d4-bishop for the g4-knight, when Black's grip on the dark squares gives him good chances of holding on. 19 $\mathbb{W}h3$ exd4 (4b) 19... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 21 exd5 exd4 22 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ wins for White. 20 $\mathbb{Q}d5$! White does not take the g4-knight but simply presses home his attack. 20... $\mathbb{W}d7$ After 20... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 21 exd5 Black is powerless to defend h7. 21 e5! Again White refuses the knight and sets up the usual attack against h7. 21... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ (4c) 21... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}g5+$ wins the queen. 22 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ f5 23 e6 1-0 As 23... $\mathbb{W}xe6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xh7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}h8+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 26 $\mathbb{W}h#$ is mate.

6 Lombardy – Quinteros

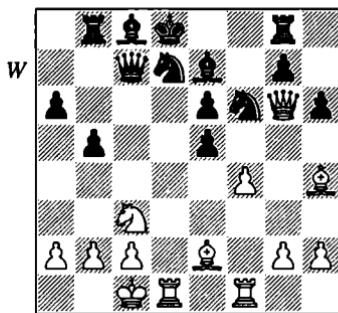
Manila 1973

Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Variation

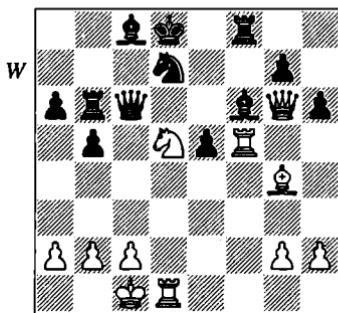
1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 ♜f6 5 ♜c3 a6 6 ♜g5 e6 7 f4 ♜e7 8 ♜f3 h6 9 ♜h4 ♜e7 10 0-0-0 ♜bd7 These days Black usually waits for ♜d3 before playing ...h6. 11 ♜e2! And this is why. Against ...h6, the 11-bishop is better placed on e2. 11...♜b8 Spending an extra tempo preparing ...b5 is unappealing, but after the immediate 11...b5 White can utilize the weakness of g6, e.g. 12 ♜xf6 ♜xf6 13 e5 ♜b7 14 ♜g3 dxe5 15 fxe5 ♜d7 16 ♜xe6 fxe6 17 ♜g6+ ♜d8 18 ♜xe6 ♜e8 19 ♜f5 with a massive attack. 12 ♜g3 ♜g8 All these rook moves are not a good sign. 13 ♜hf1 b5 (5a) 13...g5 is the alternative, but then 14 fxg5 ♜e5 15 ♜f3 favours White. 14 ♜xe6! Again exploiting the weakness created by ...h6. 14...fxe6 15 ♜g6+ ♜d8 15...♜f8 loses to 16 e5 dxe5 17 f5 ♜d8 18 ♜xf6 gxf6 19 ♜xh6+ ♜g7 20 fxe6. 16 e5 dxe5 (5b) 17 f5? White should have preferred 17 ♜xf6 ♜xf6 18 ♜f7 ♜h8 19 ♜e4 with a very strong attack. 17...exf5 17...♜c6 18 ♜f7 ♜f8 19 ♜xg7 b4 20 ♜f3 ♜b6 is also unclear. 18 ♜xf6 ♜xf6 19 ♜d5 ♜c6 20 ♜xf5 ♜f8? 20...♜e6! is a better defence, as after 21 ♜g4 Black can run White's queen out of squares by 21...♜e8 22 ♜h7 ♜h8. 21 ♜g4 ♜b6? (5c) Black collapses. 21...♜e6 (21...♜b7 is also better than the text) is still playable, although now White can continue 22 ♜f3 ♜f7 23 ♜d3 ♜b7 24 ♜a3 and his attack at least compensates for the piece. 22 ♜xf6! Crushing. 22...gx f6 Or 22...♜xf6 23 ♜xg7 ♜e6 24 ♜f7 and wins. 23 ♜g7 ♜b7 Black cooperates in making the game a miniature. 23...♜e8 loses to 24 ♜xb6 ♜xb6 25 ♜xd7+ ♜xd7 26 ♜xd7#. 24 ♜e7# (1-0)



5a: After 13...b5

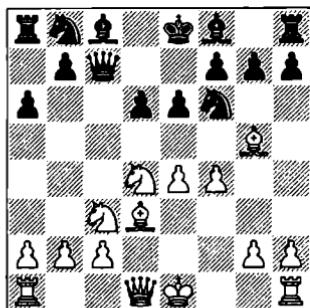


5b: After 16...dxe5



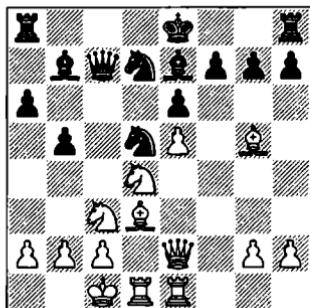
5c: After 21...♜b6?

B



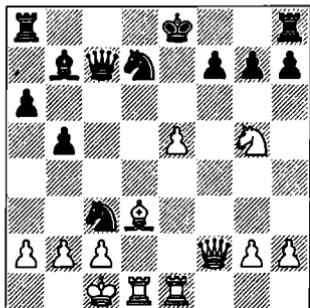
6a: After 8 ♜d3

W



6b: After 13... ♜d5

B



6c: After 16 ♜f2! (analysis)

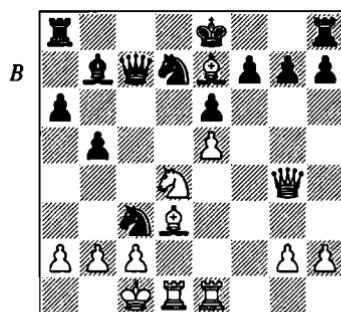
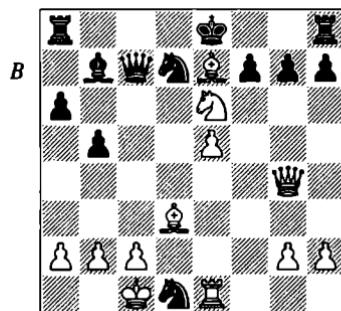
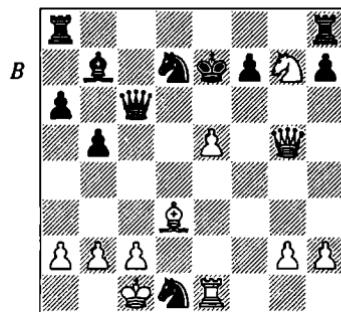
6 Spassky – Rashkovsky

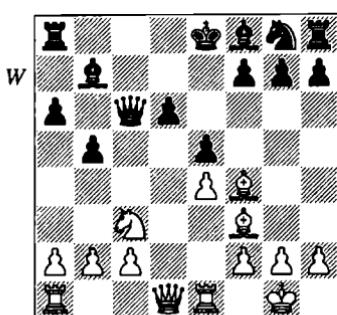
USSR Ch, Moscow 1973

Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Variation

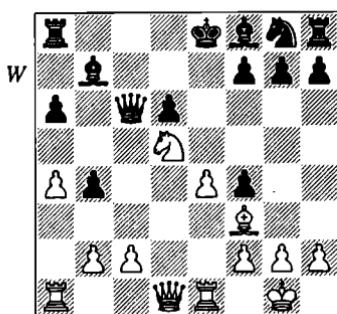
1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 ♜f6 5 ♜c3 a6 6 ♜g5 e6 7 f4 ♜c7 8 ♜d3 (6a) An interesting line against 7... ♜c7; for the moment White does not commit his queen. 8... ♜bd7 This may already be inaccurate, since it allows White to develop his queen to e2 and prepare for e5 more quickly than usual. After 8... ♜e7 White would be more or less forced to transpose into normal lines by 9 ♜f3 because 9 ♜e2?! h6 10 ♜h4? loses a pawn to 10... ♜xe4. 9 ♜e2 b5 10 0-0-0 ♜b7 11 ♜he1 In contrast to the line with the queen on f3, the e4-pawn is not pinned and therefore White is already threatening 12 e5. 11... ♜e7 12 e5 dxe5 13 fxe5 ♜d5 (6b) 14 ♜xe7 Perhaps slightly inaccurate, although it requires exceptionally deep analysis to show this. The alternative 14 ♜xe6! seems to give White the advantage in every line. Then 14...fxe6? is very bad due to 15 ♜h5+ ♜d8 (or 15...g6 16 ♜xg6+ hxg6 17 ♜xh8+ ♜f8 18 ♜xe7 ♜xe7 19 ♜e4 leading to a clear advantage for White) 16 ♜xd5 ♜xd5 17 ♜xe7+ ♜xe7 18 ♜h4+! (the key move; if Black's king moves to e8, the h-pawn is pinned and so ♜g6+ is possible) 18... ♜e8 (18...g5 19 ♜xg5+ ♜e8 20 ♜g7 ♜f8 21 ♜xh7 ♜a5 22 ♜e4! ♜xa2 23 ♜xd5 exd5 24 e6 ♜c5 25 e7 wins) 19 ♜g6+ hxg6 20 ♜xh8+ ♜f8 21 ♜f1 ♜c5 22 ♜g8 ♜e7 23 ♜f2 followed by 24 ♜df1 and wins. Thus Black has to try 14... ♜xg5+ 15 ♜xg5 ♜xc3, but then 16 ♜f2! (6c) (a very hard move to see in advance!) 16... ♜d5 (16... ♜xa2+ 17 ♜b1 ♜c5 18 e6 f6 19 ♜xh7 and 16... ♜c5 17 bxc3 ♜xd3+ 18 ♜xd3 0-0 19 ♜f5 g6 20 ♜h3 h5 21 ♜d7 are worse) 17 e6 ♜xa2+ 18 ♜b1 ♜f6 19 ♜xh7!, while very complex, is

probably better for White, e.g. 19... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 21 $exf7++$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ with a winning attack. 14... $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 14... $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ loses to 15 $\mathbb{W}g4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 17 $\mathbb{W}g5+$, but 14... $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$, which is usually given as winning for White, does not seem completely clear to me. One sample line is 15... $axb5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xcb5$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}4xf5$ $\mathbb{Q}xa2$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{W}b4$ 21 $c3$ $\mathbb{Q}a1+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd1+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ $\mathbb{W}c5$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}c1!$ and now White is certainly better, although in such a variation virtually anything is possible! 15 $\mathbb{W}g4$ (6d) 15 $bcx3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 16 $\mathbb{W}g4$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{W}xc3$ is unclear. 15... $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ The best chance, because 15... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xh8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}g7$ $\mathbb{Q}f2$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ certainly favours White. 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe6!$ (6e) Not 16 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5!$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}f2$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ (if 18 $\mathbb{W}xg7$, then 18... $\mathbb{Q}xd3+$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xh8+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xe5$ $\mathbb{W}xe5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ wins for Black) 18... $\mathbb{Q}xd3+$ (18... $fxe6$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xe6+$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xe7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ is also slightly better for Black) 19 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{W}xe5$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}c7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ and Black has an edge. 16... $\mathbb{W}c6?$ Black collapses under the sustained tactical barrage. He had to accept the knight, and after 16... $fxe6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ (17... $\mathbb{W}c6$ loses to 18 $\mathbb{W}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{W}d7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{W}xb7$ 21 $exf6$) 18 $\mathbb{W}xe6+$ (18 $\mathbb{W}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 19 $exf6$ 0-0-0 20 $fxg7$ $\mathbb{Q}hg8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ and White certainly has no advantage) 18... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ (19... $\mathbb{W}c6?$ 20 $\mathbb{W}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 21 $e6$ wins for White) 20 $\mathbb{W}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 21 $c6$ a tremendously unclear position arises; both 21... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ and 21... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ seem playable. 17 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 18 $\mathbb{W}g5+$ (6f) White now wins by force. 18... $f6$ 18... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ wins after 19... $\mathbb{W}g6$ 20 $\mathbb{W}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 21 $e6$ $fxe6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$, 19... $\mathbb{W}xg2$ 20 $\mathbb{W}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 21 $e6$ or 19... $\mathbb{Q}f2$ 20 $e6$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}b1$. 19 $exf6++$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 20 $f7+$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 21 $\mathbb{W}f4+$ 1-0

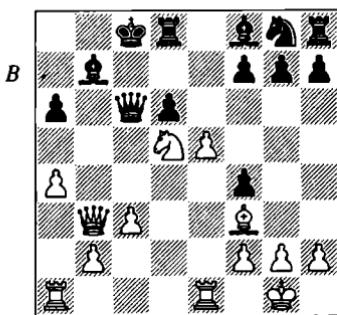
6d: After 15 $\mathbb{W}g4$ 6e: After 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$!6f: After 18 $\mathbb{W}g5+$



7a: After 11...e5



7b: After 13...exf4



7c: After 16...xb3

7 Velimirović – Vasiukov
USSR – Yugoslavia match,
Tbilisi 1973

Sicilian Defence, Taimanov Variation

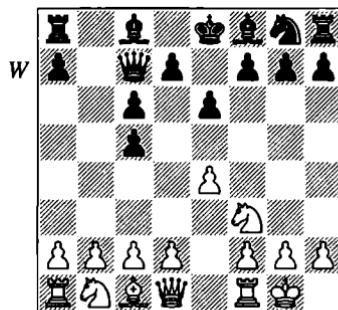
1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 3 d4 cxd4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ e6 5 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ a6 6 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ 0-0 b5 The most common line today is 7... $\mathbb{Q}f6$. 8 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{W}xc6$?! If Black does play 7...b5, then here he recaptures with the d-pawn. The problem with the text-move is that the queen is tactically vulnerable on c6, both to ideas on the long diagonal and to possible $\mathbb{Q}d5$ tricks. 9 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ d6 After 10... $\mathbb{M}c8$ both 11 $\mathbb{M}e1$ and 11 e5 $\mathbb{W}c7$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ are good for White. 11 $\mathbb{M}e1$ White is already threatening 12 a4 b4 13 $\mathbb{Q}d5$. 11...e5 (7a) 12 a4! It was this innovation which put the whole line out of business for Black. Hitherto, the less incisive 12 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ had given White little after 12... $\mathbb{Q}f6$. 12...b4 12...exf4 13 e5 d5 14 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 0-0-0 15 axb5 $\mathbb{W}xb5$ 16 c4 $\mathbb{W}e8$ 17 $\mathbb{W}b3$ gives White a crushing attack. 13 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ exf4 (7b) 14 c3! An amazingly calm move. 14 e5 appears more natural, but after 14...0-0-0 15 $\mathbb{Q}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ the position is far from clear, as Black's minor pieces could become very active. 14...b3? A hopeless attempt to keep the queenside files closed. 14...bxcc3 is the best chance, but even then 15 $\mathbb{M}c1$ $\mathbb{W}d7$ (15... $\mathbb{M}b8$ 16 e5 $\mathbb{W}d7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}b6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 18 exd6+ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xf3$ wins) 16 e5 dxe5 17 $\mathbb{M}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{M}d8$ 19 $\mathbb{M}xe5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ $\mathbb{W}xc6$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xd8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ 22 $\mathbb{M}xc6$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 23 $\mathbb{M}xa6$ gives White the advantage thanks to his active rooks and connected passed pawns. 15 e5! 0-0-0 Or 15... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xb3$ $\mathbb{M}b8$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}e7$! and Black's position collapses. 16 $\mathbb{W}xb3$ (7c) 16... $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}b4$ $\mathbb{W}d7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}d5+$ $\mathbb{Q}a8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}b6+$ $\mathbb{Q}a7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ $\mathbb{W}xd7$ 22 $\mathbb{M}ad1$ 1-0

8 Vasiukov – Velimirović

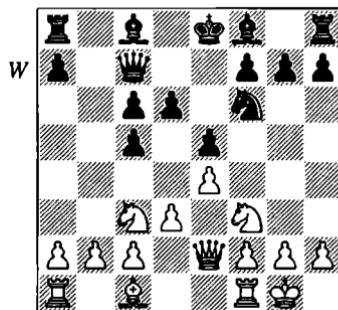
USSR – Yugoslavia match, Tbilisi 1973

Sicilian Defence, Rossolimo Variation

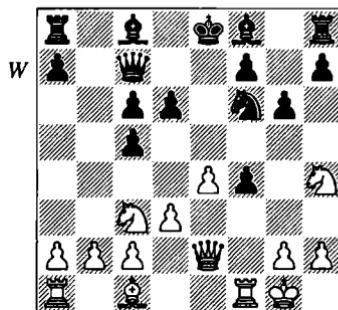
It only seems fair to give Vasiukov's revenge! 1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 ♜b5 e6 4 ♜xc6 This immediate exchange is not very popular today, with most players preferring 4 0-0. 4...bxc6 Certainly the right recapture. Taking with the d-pawn does not fit together with ...e6, which blocks in the c8-bishop. 5 0-0 ♜c7 (8a) Any move which fights for control of e5 cannot be bad, but it seems more flexible for Black to bring his kingside pieces out by 5...♜e7 6 b3 ♜g6 7 ♜b2 f6, followed by ...♜e7 and ...0-0, securing comfortable equality. 6 d3 d6 7 ♜c3 ♜f6 8 ♜e2 Threatening to play 9 e5; the resulting exchange of pawns would leave Black's c-pawns looking particularly weak. 8...e5 (8b) More or less forced to block White's threatened advance, but this additional pawn move leaves Black somewhat behind in development. The closed nature of the position means that this is not necessarily disastrous, but he certainly has to take care. 9 ♜h4 White seeks to exploit his lead in development by opening the position up with f4. 9...g6 9...♜e7 10 f4 exf4 11 ♜xf4 0-0 12 ♜h1 gives White an edge as he has the simple plan of ♜g3 followed by ♜f5, with pressure along the f-file and a more active bishop. 10 f4 exf4 (8c) 11 e5?! A very dynamic continuation, although perhaps not objectively best. The simple 11 ♜xf4 ♜h5 12 ♜g5 ♜g7 13 ♜f5 (13 g4? h6) 13...♜e5 14 ♜h6 f6 15 ♜e3 is better, with a rather unclear position in which both knights on the h-file are oddly placed. 11...dxe5?! Black misses the chance to exchange off his light-squared bishop, which is otherwise in serious danger of being blocked in by ...♜d7.



8a: After 5...♝c7

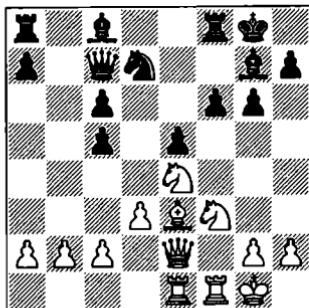


8b: After 8...e5



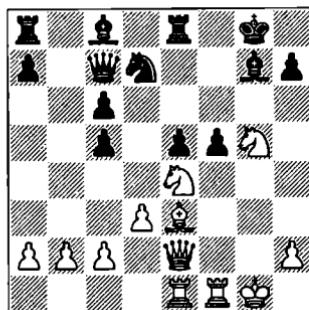
8c: After 10...exf4

B



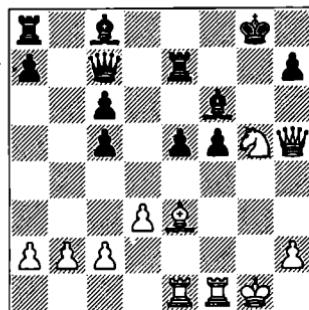
8d: After 16 ♜e3

B



8e: After 19 ♜fg5!

W



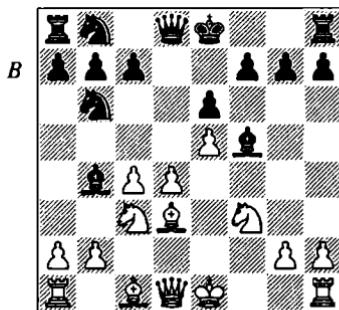
8f: After 21...♜e7

11...♝g4! would have exploited White's optimism; after 12 ♜f3 (12 ♜e1 dx5 13 ♜xf4 ♜d7 is fine for Black) 12...♝xf3 13 ♜xf3 (13 ♜xf3 dx5 14 g3 g5 is unconvincing) 13...dx5 14 ♜xf4 ♜d7 15 ♜e4 f5 I cannot see any good way for White to stop Black completing his development by ...♝g7 (or ...♝e7) followed by ...0-0. 12 ♜xf4 ♜d7 13 ♜ae1 White has sufficient play for the pawn but no more. 13...♝g7 14 ♜f3 f6 15 ♜e4 0-0 16 ♜e3 (8d) 16...♜e8 17 g4 Recapturing the c5-pawn is at best equal for White, so he decides to continue on the kingside. There is little risk in this approach, as the c5-pawn is doomed anyway. 17...f5 An ambitious and risky move, but not yet an error. 17...♝f8 is a safer option, heading for e6. Then 18 ♜fd2 f5 19 gx5 gx5 would be unclear. 18 gx5 gx5 19 ♜fg5! (8e) 19...♝f6? Only this move gives White the chance to press home his attack. 19...h6 is also bad after 20 ♜h5 ♜e7 21 ♜xf5! hxg5 (21...♝f8 22 ♜xf8+ ♜xf8 23 ♜f1+ ♜g8 24 ♜g6 hxg5 25 ♜f6+ ♜f8 26 ♜h7++ ♜g8 27 ♜f8#) 22 ♜g6 ♜d8 (22...♝h8 23 ♜xg5 ♜f8 24 ♜xf8+ ♜xf8 25 ♜f1 wins) 23 ♜xg5 ♜f8 24 ♜xf8+ ♜xf8 25 ♜f1+ mating. Black's correct defence is 19...♝f8! 20 ♜h5 ♜e7 21 ♜xc5! h6! (21...fxe4 loses to 22 ♜xe7 ♜xe7 23 ♜f7 ♜c5+ 24 ♜h1) 22 ♜g3 hxg5 (22...f4 23 ♜xe7 ♜e7 24 ♜f3 fxg3 25 hxg3 is also unclear) 23 ♜xe7 ♜e7 24 ♜xf5 ♜xf5 25 ♜xf5 ♜e6 with an unclear position. 20 ♜xf6+ ♜xf6 21 ♜h5 ♜e7 (8f) 22 ♜xh7! ♜g7+ 22...♜xh7 23 ♜e8+ ♜g7 24 ♜e2! ♜h4 (24...♜f7 25 ♜g2+ ♜g5 26 ♜xg5+ ♜f6 27 ♜xc6+ also wins) 25 ♜g2+ ♜g4 26 ♜xg4+ fxg4 27 ♜h6+! ♜xh6 28 ♜xf6+ mates. 23 ♜h1 ♜f7 24 ♜xf6+ ♜xf6 25 ♜g1 1-0 Since 25...♜e6 26 ♜xg7+ ♜xg7 27 c4! gives White a decisive attack.

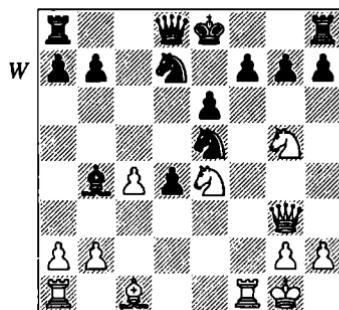
9 Ivkov – Timman Amsterdam (IBM) 1974

Alekhine Defence, Four Pawns Attack

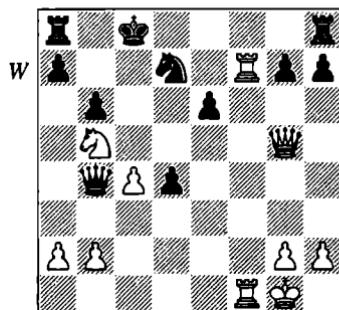
1 e4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 e5 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 3 d4 d6 4 c4 $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 5 f4 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 6 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ e6 7 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ dx e 5 8 fx e 5 $\mathbb{Q}b4$? In the early 1970s, ... $\mathbb{Q}b4$ was played in various positions of the Four Pawns Attack. This idea is viable when White's bishop is on e3, but here White can use the extra tempo to launch a vicious attack by sacrificing his d-pawn. 9 $\mathbb{Q}d3$! (9a) This plan had been played before, as we shall see, but the current game gave it such a high profile that ... $\mathbb{Q}b4$ disappeared virtually overnight against non- $\mathbb{Q}e3$ lines. 9... $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ 9...c5 10 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ ex f 5 11 d5 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 12 0-0 also gives White a very strong initiative. 10 $\mathbb{W}xd3$ c5 11 0-0 cxd4 12 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ White already has two very strong threats: 13 $\mathbb{Q}fg5$ and 13 c5 followed by 14 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$. 12... $\mathbb{Q}6d7$ Or 12... $\mathbb{Q}8d7$ (12...0-0 loses to 13 $\mathbb{Q}fg5$ $\mathbb{Q}8d7$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ g6 15 $\mathbb{W}h3$ h5 16 $\mathbb{Q}gxf7$) 13 a3 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ with a horrible position for Black, Vetemaa-Ma.Tseitlin, Pärnu 1973. 13 $\mathbb{Q}fg5$! White consistently sacrifices a second pawn to further his attack. 13... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 14 $\mathbb{W}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ (9b) Forced, as 14... $\mathbb{Q}bc6$ loses to 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ fx e 6 16 $\mathbb{W}xg7$. 15 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ Once the e5-knight gives way, White will crash through on f7. 15... $\mathbb{W}b6$ Black tries to defend tactically. 15... $\mathbb{W}a5$ 16 a3 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 17 b4 is also very bad, while 15...0-0 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ fails to 17 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}fxh7$. 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ f6 17 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 17 c5 is also decisive. 17...fx g 5 18 $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ $\mathbb{W}xb4$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ After 19... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}f7+$ White wins a whole rook. 20 $\mathbb{W}f7+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xg5+$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}b5+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}af1$ Now White threatens both 24 $\mathbb{W}xd7$ and 24 a3. 23... $b6$ (9c) 24 $\mathbb{W}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 25 $\mathbb{W}xg7+$ 1-0 It is mate or loss of the queen.



9a: After 9 $\mathbb{Q}d3$!

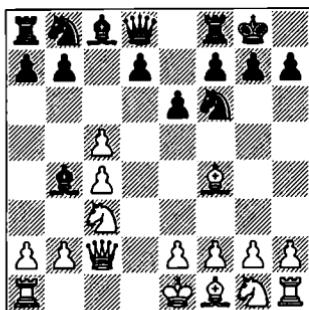


9b: After 14... $\mathbb{Q}bd7$



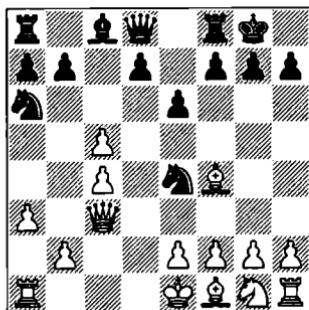
9c: After 23...b6

B



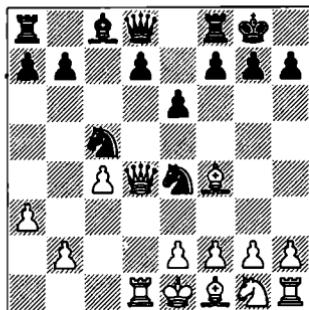
10a: After 6. ♘f4

W



10b: After 8... ♘e4

B



10c: After 10. ♜d1?!

10 Quinteros – Ribli Montilla 1974

Nimzo-Indian Defence, Classical Variation

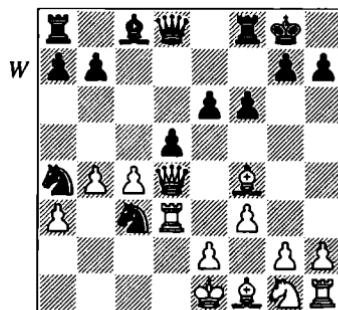
1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♜b4 4. ♜c2 The Classical Variation, by which White prepares 5. a3 ♜xc3+ 6. ♜xc3, thereby avoiding doubled c-pawns. The cost is a loss of time; White has to move his queen twice, and on c3 it is exposed to further attack by ... ♘e4. The theme of positional advantage versus lead in development is central to this game.

4...c5 5. dxc5 0-0 6. ♘f4 (10a) An unusual move which has now largely disappeared from practice. 6. a3 ♜xc5 7. ♘f3 ♘c6 is currently preferred, with a slight advantage for White. 6... ♘a6 Better than 6... ♜xc5 7. ♘f3 ♘c6, which is similar to the last note except that White has even managed to avoid playing a3. 7. a3 7. ♘d6 is tempting, but White cannot maintain his extra pawn after 7... ♜e8 8. a3 ♜a5 9. ♜c1 ♜xc3+ 10. ♜xc3 ♜xc3+ 11. ♜xc3 ♘e4. The continuation 12. ♜c2 ♜axc5 13. ♜xc5 ♜xc5 leads to an equal endgame.

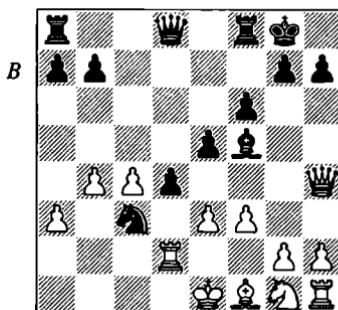
7... ♜xc3+ 8. ♜xc3 ♘e4 (10b) Black can also play the safer 8... ♜xc5 9. b4 ♘ce4, followed by ...d5, with comfortable equality. The text-move is more double-edged, but probably about equally strong.

9. ♜d4 ♜axc5 10. ♜d1?! (10c) This is too slow and allows Black to take the initiative in the centre. 10. b4 is the best move, when the critical line runs 10... ♜b3 11. ♜xe4 ♘xa1 12. ♘e5 (White must round up the knight quickly, or else Black may rescue it by ...a5-a4; if 12. ♜b1, then 12... ♜f6 and it is not clear how White will catch the knight) 12... a5 13. ♜xa1 (13. ♜b1 axb4 14. axb4 ♜b6 15. ♜xa1 ♜xa1 16. ♜xa1 ♜xb4+ 17. ♘d1 ♜b3+ 18. ♘d2 d5 gives Black enough for the piece) 13... axb4 14. ♜d4. In this key position either 14... f6 or 14... ♜g5 leads to an unclear situation.

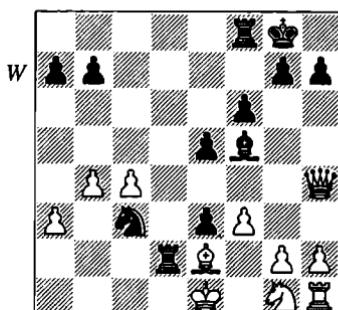
10...d5 The rest of the game centres around the black knights. If White can drive them back and complete his development, then the two bishops will give him a clear advantage. Black's aim is to strike before White's remaining pieces enter the game. This is another example of the quite common situation in which it is the owner of the two knights who has to open up the position. **11 b4?**! White ambitiously attempts to drive the knights away before completing his development, but the result is that they occupy even more advanced posts. **11 cxd5** (not **11 f3?** $\mathbb{Q}b3$ followed by **12...Wd5+** and Black wins) **11...exd5** **12 e3** (**12 Wxd5 Qe6** **13 Wxd8 Kfxd8** gives Black good play for the pawn) is the best chance. Without being too ambitious, White just prepares to develop his kingside. This would lead to approximate equality. **11...Qa4** **12 f3** Forcing the other black knight forwards! **12...Qec3** (**10d**) **12...Qf6?** **13 e4** would be excellent for White. **13 Kd3** **13 Mc1** **dxc4** **14 Wxc4 Qd7** followed by **...Mc8** only increases Black's lead in development. **13...f6** Black once again foils White's attempts to get rid of the intrusive knights; if now **14 Mc3**, then **14...e5** wins the exchange. **14 Qd2 e5** **15 Wh4 d4** Threatening **16...f5**. **16 e3** At last the e-pawn moves, but too late. **16...Qf5** **17 Qxc3** **17 exd4** loses material to **17...Qxd3** **18 Qxd3 e4**. **17...Qxc3** Not **17...Qxd3?** **18 Qxd3** and White has at least a draw. **18 Kd2** (**10e**) **18...dxe3!** **18...Qb1** is also very good, but is not as forcing as the text. **19 Mxd8 Maxd8** Black's queen sacrifice is decisive. **20 Qe2 Kd2** (**10f**) With the deadly threats of **21...Mfd8**, followed by **22...Ad1+**, and **21...Qd3**. **21 g4 Qd3** Now the e2-bishop falls. **22 Qf1 Qxe2** **23 Qxe2 Mxe2** **24 Qg1 Md8** **0-1** There is no answer to the threat of moving the bishop, followed by **...Md1#**.



10d: After 12...Qec3

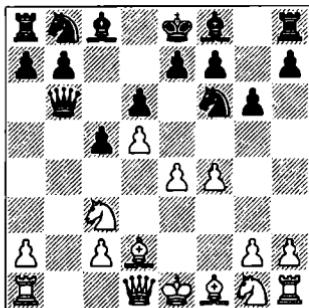


10e: After 18 Kd2



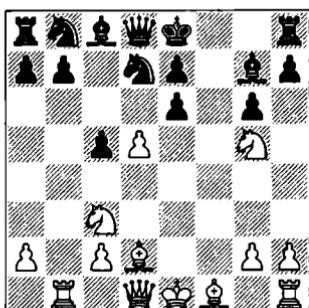
10f: After 20...Md2

W



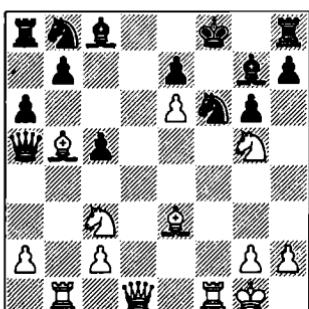
11a: After 7...g6?

B



11b: After 13...Bg5!

B



11c: After 17 0-0

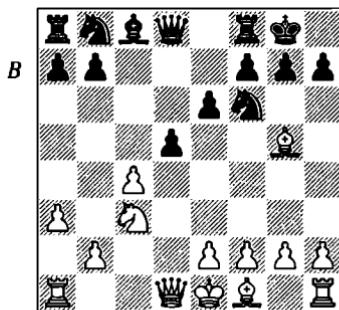
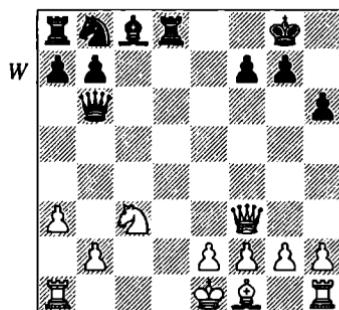
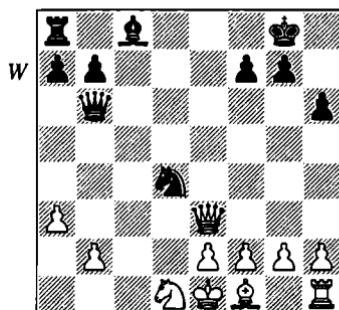
11 Vaganian – Kupreichik USSR Ch, Leningrad 1974

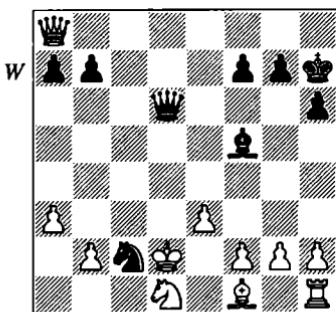
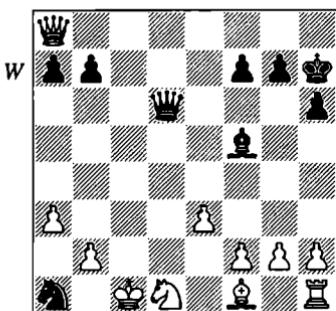
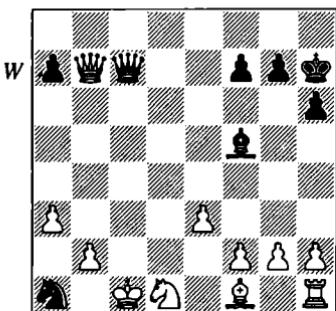
Trompowsky Attack

1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ c5 3 d5 A sharp alternative to the more positional 3 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$. 3... $\mathbb{Q}b6$ This must be the critical test of 3 d5 as White is forced to sacrifice his b-pawn. 4 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 6 e4 d6 An alternative idea is to block the centre by 6...e5, e.g. 7 f4 d6 8 fxe5 dx5 9 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ with unclear play. 7 f4 g6? (11a) It is a mistake to allow White to break through in the centre. Black should have put up a fight for the e5-square by 7... $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$. 8 e5 An early central advance can sometimes rebound on the attacker, but not here as White has a lead in development to back up his aggression. 8...dxe5 8... $\mathbb{Q}fd7$ 9 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 11 e6 fxe6 12 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ gives White a similarly vicious attack. 9 fxe5 $\mathbb{Q}fd7$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 12 e6! White strikes quickly before Black can castle. 12...fxe6 13 $\mathbb{Q}g5$? (11b) The advancing pawns have torn holes in Black's defences; now the heavier pieces move up to exploit the weaknesses. 13... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}b5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ A sad necessity, as interposing on d7 allows 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$. 15 dxe6 a6?! 15... $\mathbb{Q}d4$ would have been a better chance, but even so, the position after 16 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 17 0-0 is very unpleasant for Black. 16 $\mathbb{Q}e3$! $\mathbb{Q}a5$ Or 16... $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ b5 18 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 19 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}ce4$ with an enormous initiative. 17 0-0 (11c) White's attack is so strong that he can afford to offer the bishop. 17...h6 17...axb5 loses to 18 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$. 18 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ Exploiting Black's new weakness at g6. 18... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 1-0 It's quite nice to take three enemy pieces on consecutive moves without any reprisal.

12 Vaganian – Planinc Hastings 1974/5 English Opening

1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 c5 3 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ cxd4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ e6 5 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 6 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ An ambitious attempt to gain the two bishops without conceding doubled pawns, the defect being the time it costs. 6 g3 is considered better today. 6...0-0 7 a3 $\mathbb{Q}xc3+$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ d5 9 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ (12a) The only try for the advantage. After 9 e3 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ White's dark-squared bishop is blocked in and Black has no problems. 9...h6 10 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 11 cxd5 11 e3 is possible, with a likely transposition to the next note. 11...exd5 12 $\mathbb{W}xd5?$ Too greedy, as Black's lead in development provides excellent compensation for the pawn. 12 e3 is better. If 12... $\mathbb{H}d8$ then 13 $\mathbb{W}d4$ blocks the d-pawn, while after 12... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 13 $\mathbb{W}xd5$ $\mathbb{H}d8$ 14 $\mathbb{W}f3$ White's chances are much better than in the game, as Black's queen can no longer swing over to b6. 12... $\mathbb{H}d8$ 13 $\mathbb{W}f3$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ (12b) Gaining time by attacking the b2-pawn. 14 $\mathbb{H}d1$ 14 b4 is certainly no better. After 14... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 15 e3 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ a5 17 b5 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ Black has more than enough for the pawn (indeed, he will soon win one of White's queenside pawns). 14... $\mathbb{H}xd1+$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 16 $\mathbb{W}e3$ Trying to defend by tactical means, which is always dangerous when one is behind in development. However, even after the marginally better 16 e3 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{H}d8$ 18 0-0 $\mathbb{H}d2$ Black will soon regain the pawn with good play. 16... $\mathbb{Q}d4!$ (12c) 17 $\mathbb{W}e8+$ White frees his e-pawn with gain of tempo, but his queen proves tactically vulnerable on e8. 17... $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 18 e3 If 18 $\mathbb{W}xf7$, then 18... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 19 e3 $\mathbb{Q}c2+$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 21 $\mathbb{W}c4$ $\mathbb{H}d8+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}a1$ wins. 18... $\mathbb{Q}c2+$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}f5!$ This rook sacrifice gives Black the advantage in every variation. 20 $\mathbb{W}xa8$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xf7$

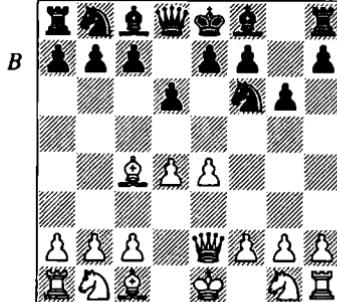
12a: After 9 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 12b: After 13... $\mathbb{W}b6$ 12c: After 16... $\mathbb{Q}d4!$

12d: After 20... $\mathbb{W}d6+$ 12e: After 21... $\mathbb{Q}a1$ 12f: After 22... $\mathbb{W}c7+! 0-1$

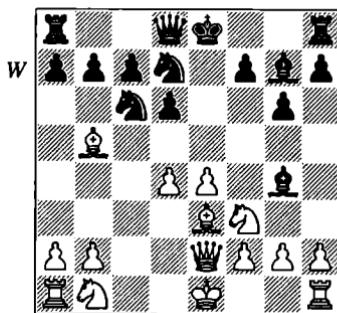
$\mathbb{Q}g6$ transposes into the previous note.
20... $\mathbb{W}d6+$ (12d) 21 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ First of all, 21 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ fails to 21... $\mathbb{W}d3+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{W}xd1+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}d4+!$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{W}b3+$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $g5+$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{W}e6\#$. 21 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ also loses, although the winning method is not at all simple. Here is a summary of the analysis: 21... $\mathbb{W}e5+!$ and now both 22 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}a1+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b4$ (23 $\mathbb{Q}a2$ $\mathbb{W}d5+$ transposes to the analysis of 22 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ below) 23... $b6$ 24 $\mathbb{W}c6$ $\mathbb{Q}d7!$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}d3+g6$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xg6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ and 22 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{W}c7+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}e6+$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ win for Black. Therefore, White has to try 22 $\mathbb{Q}d2$, but even here 22... $\mathbb{W}d5+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ (23 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{W}d3+$ wins as after 21 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ above) 23... $\mathbb{W}a5+$ 24 $b4$ (24 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}a1+$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}a2$ $\mathbb{W}d5+$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{W}xc4+$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}xa1$ $\mathbb{W}c1+$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}a2$ $\mathbb{Q}e6+$ 29 $b3$ $\mathbb{W}c2+$ 30 $\mathbb{Q}a1$ $\mathbb{W}xb3$ 31 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{W}xc3+$ 32 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}f5+$ 33 $\mathbb{Q}a2$ $\mathbb{W}c2+$ 34 $\mathbb{Q}a1$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ wins) 24... $\mathbb{W}xa3+$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}xb4+$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ (26 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}a3$ gives Black a winning attack, e.g. 27 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{W}xc3$ 28 $\mathbb{W}d8$ $\mathbb{Q}c4$ 29 $\mathbb{W}d4$ $\mathbb{W}c2+$ 30 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}b2$) 26... $\mathbb{Q}a1$ 27 $f3$ $\mathbb{Q}b3+$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}b2$ $\mathbb{Q}d2+$ 29 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ wins. **21... $\mathbb{Q}a1$ (12e) 22 $\mathbb{W}xb7?$** Up to here White has defended quite well, but now he loses in one (admittedly attractive) move. 22 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{W}c5$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{W}xc4$ 24 $\mathbb{W}d8$ is a much better defence which is conveniently ignored in almost every annotation of this game I have ever seen! Black should continue 24... $\mathbb{Q}b3+$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ $\mathbb{W}g4+$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ (26 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{W}xg2$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}h3$ 28 $\mathbb{W}d3+f5$ should be winning for Black as White is paralysed and can hardly meet the threat of ... $\mathbb{Q}a1-c2+$ forcing a decisive liquidation) 26... $\mathbb{W}e4!$ (taking the g-pawn only increases White's defensive chances) 27 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{W}b1+$ 28 $\mathbb{W}d1$ $\mathbb{W}xb2$ 29 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ (29 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{W}c3+$ 30 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{W}c4+$ 31 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}c2$ wins) 29... $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 30 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{W}xa3$ with a clear advantage as White will find it very hard to stop the connected passed pawns while his king is so exposed. **22... $\mathbb{W}c7+!$ (12f) 0-1**

13 Tal – F. Olafsson
Las Palmas 1975
Modern Defence

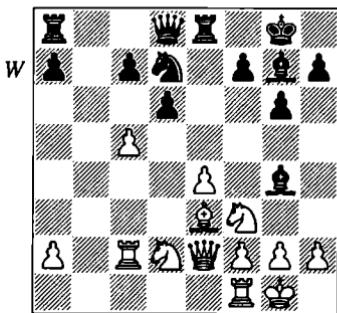
1 e4 d6 2 d4 g6 3 ♜c4 ♛f6 Because of the curious move-order, we have already reached an uncommon position – in a million-game database, I could only find 36 occurrences. The majority of these soon transposed into normal lines, for example after 4 ♜c3. 4 ♜e2??! (13a) This move seems inaccurate as it gives Black the opportunity to launch an early attack on d4 by missing outg7. 4... ♜c6! 5 ♜f3 ♜g4 Now White is forced to spend time defending d4. 6 c3 6 ♜b5 is no better; after 6... ♜d7 7 c3 e5 8 d5 ♜cb8 9 h3 ♜xf3 10 ♜xf3 ♜e7 11 g3 ♜g5 Black equalized in Tal-Matulović, Skopje Olympiad 1972. 6...e5 Black consistently pursues his attack on d4. 7 ♜b5 7 d5 ♜e7 8 ♜g5 ♜g7 9 ♜bd2 h6 10 ♜e3 c6 is equal. 7...exd4 8 cxd4 ♜d7 White has still not solved his problems with the d4-pawn. 9 ♜e3 ♜g7 (13b) Finally the pressure against d4 forces White to exchange on c6. The resulting position is very pleasant for Black. He has the two bishops, an open b-file for his queen's rook and the chance to open the diagonal for his dark-squared bishop by playing a later ...c5. White is not yet worse, but he certainly has to take care. 10 ♜xc6 bxc6 11 ♜bd2 0-0 12 ♜c1 Better than 12 0-0, when 12...♜b8 would be awkward as 13 b3 would run into 13...c5. Also, by attacking c6, White forces Black's hand. 12...c5 13 dxc5 ♜xb2 14 ♜c2 ♜g7 15 0-0 ♜e8 (13c) Black's position is very comfortable; he only has to play the most natural moves. 16 ♜d1 16 cxd6 cxd6 17 h3 ♜xf3 18 ♜xf3 is a safer route to equality; after 18...♜e5 19 ♜e2 d5 20 exd5 ♜xd5 21 ♜c4 a draw is not far away. 16...♜xc5 Now White has to part with his other bishop, but in



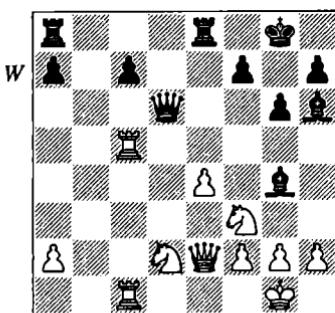
13a: After 4 ♜e2??!



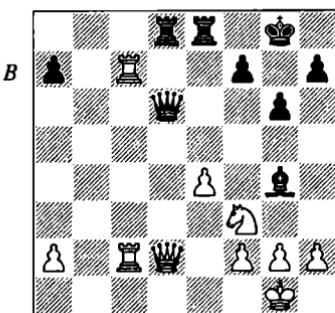
13b: After 9...♜g7



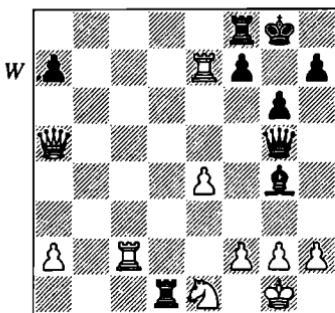
13c: After 15...♜e8



13d: After 19...Qh6



13e: After 22...Qxd2



13f: After 25...Qg5! 0-1

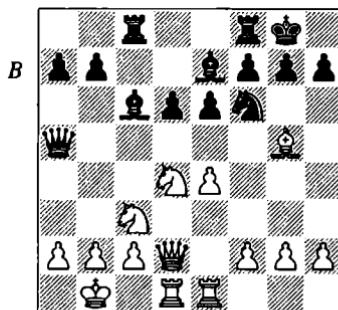
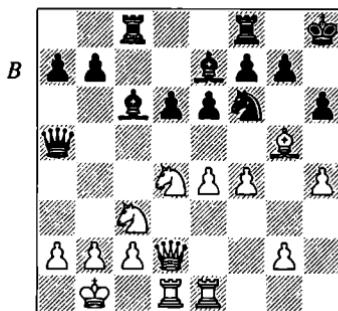
compensation he gains some time. 17 ♖xc5 dxcc5 18 ♕xc5? It is the knight rather than the rook which belongs on c5 and so White should have played 18 ♖b3 ♜e7 19 ♖xc5 maintaining the balance. After 19...♜ad8 20 ♜xd8 ♜xd8 21 h3 ♜xf3 22 ♜xf3 ♜d6 23 g3 the position is equal. 18...♜d6 19 ♖dc1 Admittedly, White now has pressure against c7, but winning this pawn means little if Black's bishops are allowed to develop their full power. 19...♝h6 (13d) 20 ♕xc7?? After 20 ♜c2 ♜xd2 21 ♜xd2 ♜xe4 22 ♜xc7 ♜xf3 23 gxf3 ♜d4 Black has a clear advantage, but anything is better than a forced loss. 20...♜ad8 Not 20...♜xf3? 21 ♜xf3 and the attack on f7 allows White to escape. 21 ♜c2 The stage is set for a spectacular combination based on White's weak back rank. The alternative 21 ♜7c2 ♜xf3 22 gxf3 ♜d3! 23 ♜f1 ♜xd2 24 ♜xd3 ♜xd3 25 ♜d1 ♜xf3 26 ♜xd2 ♜xe4 leaves Black with a clear extra pawn. 21...♜xd2 22 ♜xd2 (13e) 22...♝f4!! 23 ♜e7 A tricky Tal defence. 23 ♜e1 ♜xe4 and 23 ♜c1 ♜xf3 24 gxf3 ♜xf3 are dead lost. 23...♞f8! An equally tricky reply. Although Black no longer has the possibility of ...♜xe4, the loose rook on e7 is a tactical weakness. Both 23...♜xd2 24 ♜xe8+ ♛g7 25 ♜xd2 and 23...♜xd2 24 ♜xd2 would even have given White the advantage. 24 ♜a5 There is no reasonable square for the white queen; for example, 24 ♜e2 ♜xf3 25 ♜xf3 (25 gxf3 ♜g5+ picks up the rook) 25...♜d6 threatens both 26...♜d1+ and 26...♜xe7, or 24 ♜c1 ♜xf3 25 gxf3 ♜xf3 26 ♜d2 ♜f4 27 ♜c2 ♜g4+ and Black wins. 24...♞d1+ The immediate 24...♜g5 is equally good. 25 ♜e1 ♜g5! (13f) 0-1 The final exploitation of White's back rank also takes advantage of the undefended pieces on a5 and e7.

14 Tal – R. Byrne

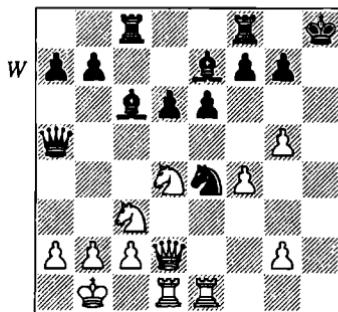
*Biel Interzonal 1976*Sicilian Defence, 4 $\mathbb{W}xd4$

1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 5 $\mathbb{A}b5$ White is prepared to surrender the two bishops to keep up the momentum of his development. However, this line is not regarded as very threatening for Black. 5... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 6 $\mathbb{A}xc6$ $\mathbb{A}xc6$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 8 $\mathbb{A}g5$ e6 9 0-0-0 $\mathbb{A}e7$ 10 $\mathbb{A}he1$ 0-0-0 11 $\mathbb{W}d2$ Preparing $\mathbb{Q}d4$ followed by f3 or f4. 11... $\mathbb{A}a5?$! Not the most accurate, as after $\mathbb{Q}b1$ the black queen will be exposed to $\mathbb{Q}d5$ tricks. 11... $\mathbb{W}c7$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{W}fd8$ is better, with equality. 12 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{W}uc8$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ (14a) Now 14 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ is a real threat, and meeting it costs Black a tempo. 13... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ If 13... $\mathbb{W}fd8$, then 14 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{W}xd2$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 16 $\mathbb{A}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 17 f4 with the awkward threat of 18 e5. 14 f4 Now White can choose whether to continue with e5 or f5, depending on Black's response. 14...h6?!

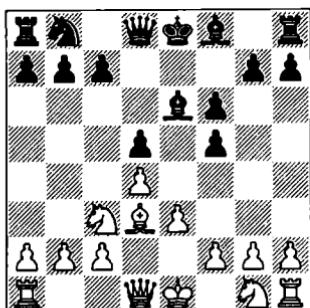
14... $\mathbb{W}fd8$ is best, securing the d6-pawn and preparing to answer 15 e5 by 15...dxe5 16 $\mathbb{A}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$. 15 h4! (14b) Naturally, Tal does not retreat the bishop but maintains it on g5. 15...hxg5? This move is crushingly refuted. 15... $\mathbb{W}fd8$ was still best. 16 hxg5 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ (14c) Black tries to exchange queens by returning the piece, but White is having none of it! 16... $\mathbb{Q}h7$ fails to 17 g4 $\mathbb{Q}g8$ (17... $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 18 $\mathbb{A}h1+$ wins) 18 $\mathbb{W}h2$ $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 19 $\mathbb{A}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 20 g5 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 21 fxg5 $\mathbb{W}xg5$ 22 $\mathbb{A}dg1$ and wins. 17 $\mathbb{W}d3!$ Black is defenceless. 17... $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ Or 17... $\mathbb{Q}xc3+$ 18 bxc3 $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 19 $\mathbb{A}h1$ f5 20 g6, winning. 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 18... $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ loses to 19 $\mathbb{A}h1$ + $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}f6$. 19 $\mathbb{W}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 20 g4 f5 21 $\mathbb{A}xe6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 21...fxg4 loses to 22 $\mathbb{A}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 23 $\mathbb{W}g6$ $\mathbb{A}fc8$ 24 $\mathbb{A}e8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ 25 $\mathbb{W}xe8+$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}e6$. 22 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 1-0 There are just too many threats: 23 $\mathbb{A}h1+$, 23 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ and 23 $\mathbb{W}h3+$, for example.

14a: After 13 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ 

14b: After 15 h4!

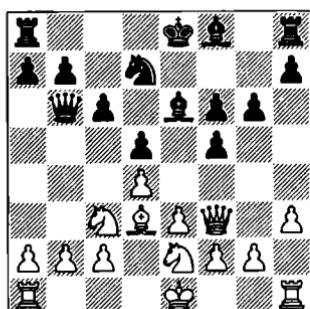
14c: After 16... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$

B



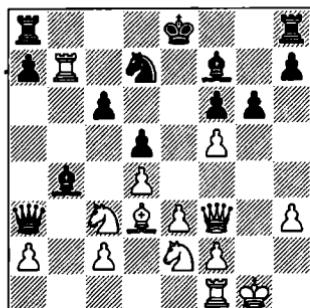
15a: After 6 ♜d3

W



15b: After 9...♜b6

B



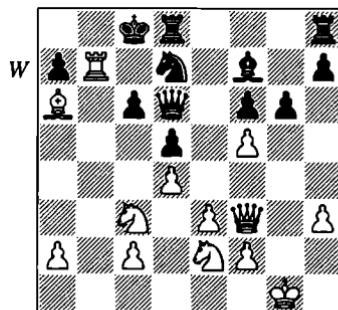
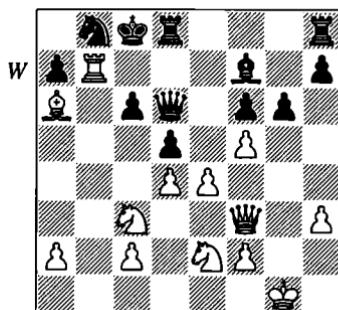
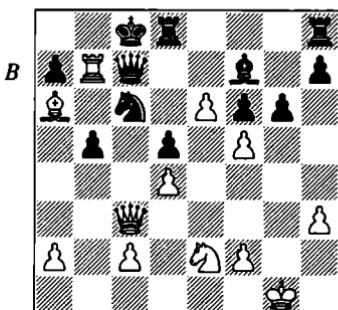
15c: After 14 0-0

15 Browne – R. Byrne USA Ch, Mentor 1977

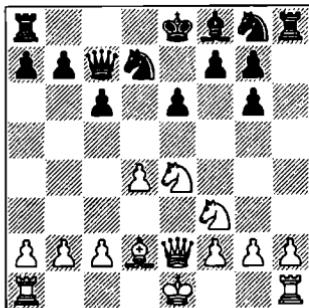
Dutch Defence, 2 ♜c3

1 d4 f5 2 ♜c3 ♜f6 3 ♜g5 d5 3...e6 is a solid alternative, avoiding the doubled pawns. After 4 e4 fxe4 5 ♜xe4 ♜e7 theory considers the position to be roughly equal. 4 ♜xf6 exf6 5 e3 ♜e6 6 ♜d3 (15a) 6...g6?? Black adopts an entirely passive stance, simply supporting his d5- and f5-pawns by ...c6 and ...g6. It is much more dynamic to defend the pawns by ...♜d7, using the extra time for piece development. Perhaps 6...♜c6 7 ♜f3 ♜d7 is most accurate, with a roughly level position. 7 ♜f3 c6 8 ♜ge2 ♜d7 9 h3 This exposes the dark side of Black's plan. Although his pawn structure appears solid, White can undermine it with h3 and g4; if Black then exchanges on g4, White's h1-rook will be very well placed to exploit the weakness of Black's h-pawn. 9...♜b6 (15b) After 9...h5 10 g4 hxg4 11 hxg4 fxg4 12 ♜xg6+ ♜e7 13 ♜g2 ♜h6 14 0-0-0 Black's king is a long-term target. 10 g4! An excellent and courageous move, especially as White had a perfectly safe alternative in 10 0-0-0. 10...♜xb2? Of course this is consistent with his previous move, but, just as in Game 11, taking the b2-pawn turns out badly for Black. He should have cut his losses with 10...fxg4 11 hxg4 ♜f7 (11...♜xb2 is bad because of 12 ♜b1 ♜a3 13 ♜xg6+) 12 0-0-0-0-0 13 ♜h3, but even here White can develop kingside pressure by doubling on the h-file. 11 ♜b1 ♜a3 12 gxf5 ♜f7 12...gxf5 13 ♜b3 ♜a5 14 ♜xb7 ♜b4 15 ♜d2 0-0-0 16 ♜xb4 ♜xb4 17 ♜a6+ ♜c7 18 ♜b1 is similar to the game. 13 ♜xb7 ♜b4 Black has to go in for this, otherwise he remains a pawn down. 14 0-0 (15c) 14 ♜d2 ♜b2 15 ♜c7! is also promising for White. 14...0-0-0 If 14...♜xc3, then 15 ♜b3

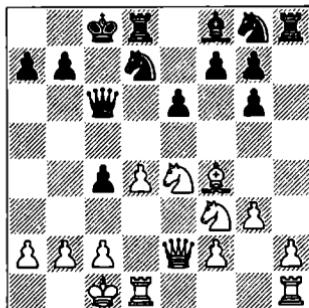
$\mathbb{W}xh2$ 16 $\mathfrak{Q}xc3$ $\mathbb{W}a5$ 17 $\mathbb{M}fb1$ is clearly better for White. After the text-move, the rook on h7 is trapped, and the knight on c3 is hanging. However, this is precisely the moment when White can launch a vicious attack by sacrificing the exchange. 15 $\mathbb{M}xb4!$ In *Informator 24*, Byrne and Mednis give the line 15 $\mathfrak{A}a6$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 16 $\mathbb{W}g3$ $\mathfrak{Q}e5$ as clearly better for Black, even though White can win straight away by 17 $\mathbb{M}xa7+$ $\mathfrak{Q}b8$ 18 $\mathbb{M}xf7$ (Black will be lucky to escape with the loss of 'only' a piece). Instead, Black should meet 15 $\mathfrak{A}a6$ by 15... $\mathfrak{Q}d6!$, after which the bishop and rook battery is surprisingly ineffective; indeed, White would be forced to give up the exchange by 16 $\mathbb{M}xa7+$ $\mathfrak{Q}b8$ 17 $\mathbb{M}xd7$ $\mathbb{M}xd7$ 18 $\mathbb{M}b1+$, with unclear play. 15... $\mathbb{W}xb4$ 16 $\mathfrak{A}a6+$ $\mathfrak{Q}c7$ 17 $\mathbb{M}b1$ $\mathbb{W}d6$ Black must prevent the deadly 18 $\mathbb{W}g3+$. 18 $\mathbb{M}b7+$ $\mathfrak{Q}c8$ (15d) At first sight Black is hopelessly lost, but it proves surprisingly tricky to finish him off. 19 $\mathbb{M}b3+$ 19 $\mathbb{M}b6+$ $\mathfrak{Q}c7$ 20 $\mathfrak{Q}b5+$ $cxb5$ 21 $\mathbb{M}xd6$ $\mathfrak{Q}xd6$ 22 $\mathfrak{Q}xb5$ certainly favours White, but he should be hoping for more from diagram 15d. To begin with, White repeats moves. 19... $\mathfrak{Q}c7$ 20 $\mathbb{M}b7+$ $\mathfrak{Q}c8$ 21 $e4$ The strongest continuation. White threatens not only 22 $exd5$, but also 22 $\mathfrak{Q}b5!$ $cxb5$ 23 $\mathbb{W}c3+$ $\mathfrak{Q}c5$ 24 $\mathbb{M}b6+$, etc. 21... $\mathfrak{Q}b8$ (15e) As good or bad as any other defence. 22 $\mathfrak{Q}b5!$ An elegant conclusion. 22... $cxb5$ 23 $\mathbb{W}c3+$ $\mathfrak{Q}c6$ Or 23... $\mathbb{W}c6$ 24 $\mathbb{M}xa7+$ mating. 24 $e5$ A killer move. Black's queen has no reasonable way to maintain its defence of the knight on c6. 24... $\mathbb{W}c7$ White also wins after 24... $fxe5$ 25 $dxe5$ $d4$ 26 $\mathfrak{Q}xd4$. 25 $e6$ (15f) 1-0 A cruel finish. White is attacking both bishop and queen and, now that d7 is covered, has the even more serious threat of 26 $\mathbb{M}b6+$. There is no defence.

15d: After 18... $\mathfrak{Q}c8$ 15e: After 21... $\mathfrak{Q}b8$ 15f: After 25 $e6$ 1-0

B

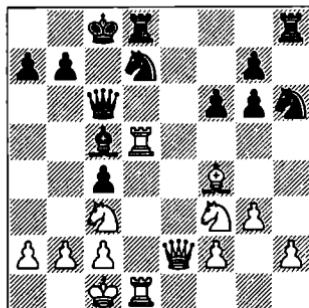
16a: After 11 $\mathbb{Q}e4$

W



16b: After 14...c4

W



16c: After 18...f6

16 Spassky – Larsen Bugojno 1978

Caro-Kann Defence, 4... $\mathbb{Q}f5$

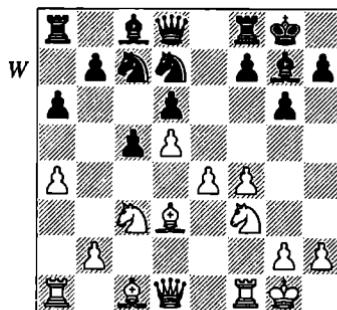
1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ dx e 4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 6 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ An unusual plan. White almost always plays h4, either here or on the previous move, in order to gain space on the kingside. 7... $\mathbb{Q}a5+?$! 7...e6 is safer; after 8 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}gf6$ 9 c4 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ (or 9... $\mathbb{Q}e7$) the position is equal. 8 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ Black's idea is that because White's queen is no longer guarding the d3-bishop, White is more or less forced to exchange bishops himself. Whilst this aim is desirable, it is not worth giving White the free tempo $\mathbb{Q}d2$. 9 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $hxg6$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ e6 10... $\mathbb{Q}gf6$ 11 0-0-0 is also awkward for Black, as 11...0-0-0 loses to 12 $\mathbb{Q}g5$. 11 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ (16a) 11...0-0-0 11... $\mathbb{Q}gf6$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}eg5$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ runs into 13 $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}g5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 16 0-0-0 with a very dangerous attack. 12 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ Preparing $\mathbb{Q}f4$. 12...c5? 12... $\mathbb{Q}df6$! 13 $\mathbb{Q}eg5$ (13 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}a5+$) 13... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ would have been much better; White retains slight pressure, but Black will be able to develop his remaining pieces by ... $\mathbb{Q}h6-f5$, with reasonable play. 13 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 13... $\mathbb{Q}a5+$ 14 c3 cx d 4 15 $\mathbb{Q}c4+$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 17 0-0 is also good for White. 14 0-0-0 c4 (16b) 15 $\mathbb{Q}c3!$ Black is powerless to prevent White's breakthrough by d5. 15... $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 15... $\mathbb{Q}gf6$ is still met by 16 $\mathbb{Q}g5$. 16 d5! exd5 17 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ Black's attempt to block the position has failed and White powers through in the centre. 17... $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 17... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xc4!$ wins as 19... $\mathbb{Q}e3+$ 20 fxe3 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xa7\#$ is mate. 18 $\mathbb{Q}hd1$ f6 (16c) 18... $\mathbb{Q}he8$ loses to 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd7$. 19 $\mathbb{Q}d6!$ A forceful conclusion. 19... $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 1-0 As 21... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ is decisive.

17 Gukko – Savon

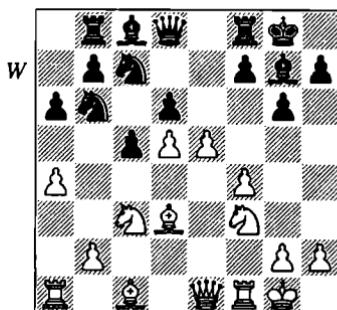
Lvov Zonal 1978

Modern Benoni, Taimanov Variation

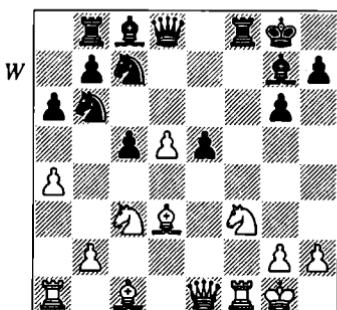
1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 e6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ c5 4 d5 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 e4 g6 7 f4 $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}b5+$ This is currently thought to be the sternest test of the Modern Benoni, although it is an option only available in move-orders without an early $\mathbb{Q}f3$. 8... $\mathbb{Q}fd7$ 9 a4 The most flexible line; White waits for ...a6 before deciding where to put the bishop. Depending on Black's exact moves, the destination could be f1, e2 or d3, or White might even exchange on d7. 9...0-0 9... $\mathbb{W}h4+$ 10 g3 $\mathbb{W}e7$ is another possibility, although this is currently in disfavour. 10 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 11 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 11... $\mathbb{Q}b4$ is tempting, but on b4 the knight often proves to be out on a limb. 12 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ a6 (17a) 13 $\mathbb{W}e1$ Even today it isn't clear which is the strongest move. 13 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ is well met by 13... $\mathbb{Q}f6!$, but 13 $\mathbb{Q}h1$ is also very logical. 13... $\mathbb{B}b8$ 14 e5!? White goes straight for Black's throat. Those of a calmer disposition might prefer 14 a5, which gives White a slight advantage. However, White cannot expect to continue positionally for long, as a breakthrough by e5 or f5 is an essential component of this system. 14... $\mathbb{Q}b6$ (17b) The only reasonable move; Black homes in on White's weak d5-pawn. 15 f5! White's last move has effectively committed him to play for the attack, regardless of any sacrifices involved. He cannot hope for an advantage after the timid 15 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ (15 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ is answered by 15... $\mathbb{Q}f5$) 15...f5 16 exf6 $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 17 a5 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ 18 $\mathbb{W}e2$ b5 19 axb6 $\mathbb{Q}xb6$. 15...dxe5 16 fxg6 fxg6! (17c) Not 16...hxg6? 17 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}bx5$ (17...f6 18 $\mathbb{Q}h7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}h4+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $\mathbb{F}f7$ 21 $\mathbb{W}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ is decisive) 18 $\mathbb{W}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}e3!$ (19 $\mathbb{W}xf6?$ $\mathbb{W}d4+$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ cxd4 kills the attack) 19... $\mathbb{Q}ce8$ (19... $\mathbb{W}xd3$ 20



17a: After 12...a6

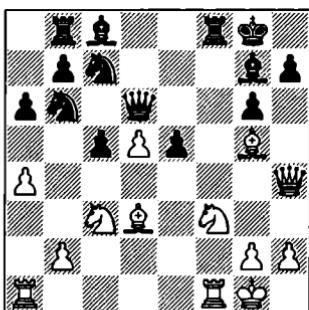


17b: After 14... $\mathbb{Q}b6$

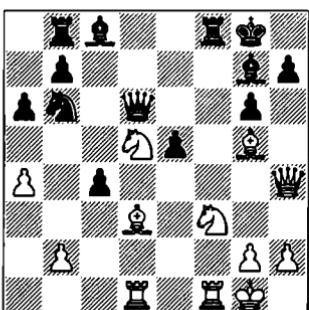


17c: After 16...fxg6!

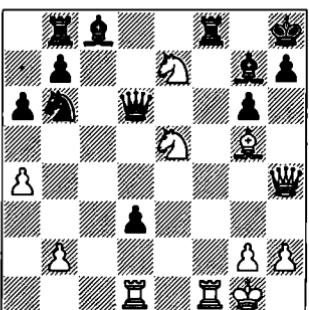
B

17d: After 18 $\mathbb{W}h4$

B

17e: After 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$

B

17f: After 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$!

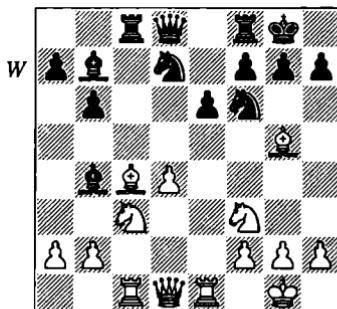
$\mathbb{E}xf6 \mathbb{W}xe3+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}h1 \mathbb{W}xg5$ 22 $\mathbb{W}xg5 \mathbb{Q}xf6$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xf6$ is very good for White) 20 $\mathbb{R}ad1$ with a crushing attack. 17 $\mathbb{Q}g5 \mathbb{W}d6$ There is no ideal square for the black queen. Here it is exposed to attack by $\mathbb{Q}e4$, while after 17... $\mathbb{W}d7$ the c8-bishop is blocked in, a factor White can exploit by 18 a5 $\mathbb{Q}bx5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}c4 \mathbb{W}c6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}e7!$ $\mathbb{R}f5$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xd5 \mathbb{Q}xd5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xd5+$ $\mathbb{W}xd5$ 23 $\mathbb{R}d1$ followed by a winning penetration to d8. 18 $\mathbb{W}h4$ (17d) 18... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ This move was criticized by Gulko in *Informator* 25, but it seems to me that the real error comes later. After 18... $\mathbb{Q}bx5$, Gulko gave 19 $\mathbb{R}ad1$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}c4 \mathbb{W}c6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ as unclear, but it seems to me that White is in very bad shape after 21... $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 22 $\mathbb{B}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 24 $\mathbb{W}xh6$ e4 25 $\mathbb{Q}e5 \mathbb{W}xa4$. Instead, White should reply 19 $\mathbb{Q}e4 \mathbb{W}c6$ 20 $\mathbb{R}ac1$ b6 21 $\mathbb{Q}h6$, with a strong attack in return for the two pawns. 19 $\mathbb{R}ad1$ c4! 19... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}e4 \mathbb{W}c6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ gives White enough for the pawns. 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ (17e) 20 $\mathbb{Q}e4 \mathbb{W}c5+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}h1$ has been recommended, but it seems worse than the text-move, e.g. 21... $\mathbb{Q}e6!$ (21... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ is also playable) 22 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ (22 $\mathbb{Q}e3?$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ h6 24 $\mathbb{Q}xe6 \mathbb{Q}xd1$ 25 $\mathbb{R}xd1 \mathbb{W}f2$ and Black wins) 22... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}e7 \mathbb{W}c6$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xf8 \mathbb{R}xf8$ with an advantage for Black. 20... $\mathbb{Q}xd3$? Only this move costs Black the game. The correct line is 20... $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ (not 20... $\mathbb{W}xd5?$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xg6!$ $\mathbb{W}c5+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{R}hg6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ followed by $\mathbb{Q}g5$ and White wins) 21 $\mathbb{Q}xc4 \mathbb{Q}e6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}h1$ (22 $\mathbb{W}e4 \mathbb{W}c5+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}h1 \mathbb{Q}f4$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ with an edge for Black) 22... $\mathbb{W}c6$ 23 $\mathbb{R}fe1$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ and, if anything, Black is slightly better. 21 $\mathbb{Q}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe5!$ (17f) This crushing blow lands on an apparently well-defended square. 22... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ After 22... $\mathbb{W}xe5$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xg6+$ Black loses his queen, but even the move played costs Black a piece. 23 $\mathbb{R}xf5 \mathbb{Q}xe5$ 24 $\mathbb{R}xe5 \mathbb{R}f7$ 1-0

18 Browne – Ljubojević

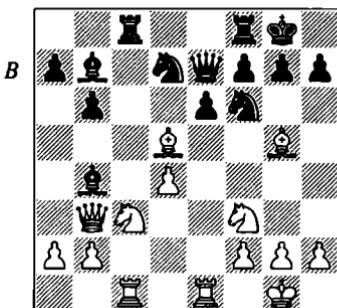
Tilburg 1978

Nimzo-Indian Defence,
Rubinstein Variation

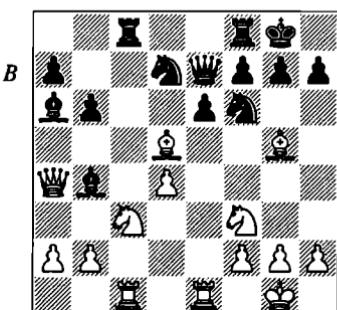
1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 e6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 4 e3 0-0 5 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{e}5$ 6 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ d5 7 0-0 cxd4 8 exd4 dxc4 9 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ b6 10 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 11 $\mathbb{H}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 12 $\mathbb{H}c1$ $\mathbb{H}c8$ (18a) 13 $\mathbb{W}b3$?! An innovation at the time of this game – formerly White had played 13 $\mathbb{Q}d3$. These days neither move is thought to give White any advantage; for example, 13 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{H}e8$ 14 $\mathbb{W}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 15 bxc3 $\mathbb{W}c7$ is approximately equal. 13... $\mathbb{W}e7$?! Browne's novelty reaps an instant reward, but it was not easy to find a good continuation at the board. 13... $\mathbb{W}c7$? loses to 14 $\mathbb{Q}b5$!, while 13... $\mathbb{Q}a5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 15 dxe5 $\mathbb{W}d4$, which was recommended by Ljubojević in *Informator 26*, is bad in view of 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$! $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xc8$, when White wins material. Black's two reasonable lines are the solid 13... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ and 13... $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 14 $\mathbb{H}xc3$ h6 15 $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $\mathbb{W}e8$, with equality. 14 $\mathbb{Q}d5$! (18b) 14 d5 is the more obvious method of trying to exploit the e-file pin, but it fails to 14... $\mathbb{W}c5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ $\mathbb{W}a5$ 16 dxe6 $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ and White cannot justify his sacrifice. 14... $\mathbb{Q}a6$?! Black cannot fully equalize, whatever he plays. After 14... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ Black has to give up his queen, while if 14... $\mathbb{H}b8$, then 15 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xc3$ $\mathbb{H}xb7$ 17 d5! $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 18 b4 and Black cannot avoid having his pawn structure damaged by dxe6. 14... $\mathbb{Q}xc3$?! is probably the best defence, but after 15 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ (not 15 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$? $\mathbb{Q}xe1$! 16 $\mathbb{H}xc8$ $\mathbb{Q}xf2+$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ winning a pawn) 15... $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ 16 $\mathbb{H}xc8$! (White must avoid 16 $\mathbb{Q}xc8$? $\mathbb{Q}xf2+$!, when 17 $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ loses a pawn to 17... $\mathbb{Q}e4+$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}xg5$, while 17 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$! 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ favours Black) 16...h6 17 $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $\mathbb{H}xc8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ $\mathbb{Q}a5$ Black does not



18a: After 12... $\mathbb{H}c8$

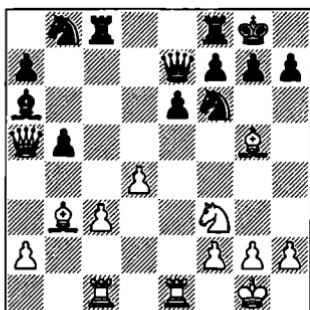


18b: After 14 $\mathbb{Q}d5$!



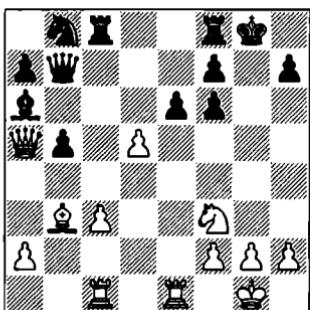
18c: After 15 $\mathbb{W}a4$

B



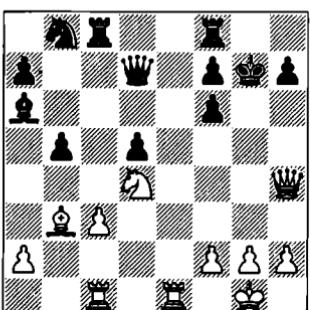
18d: After 18 Wa5

B



18e: After 20 d5!

B

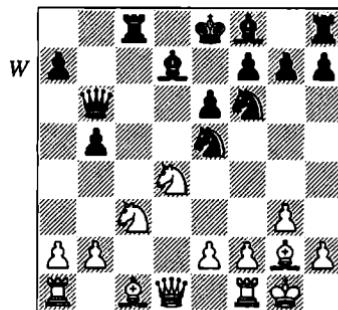
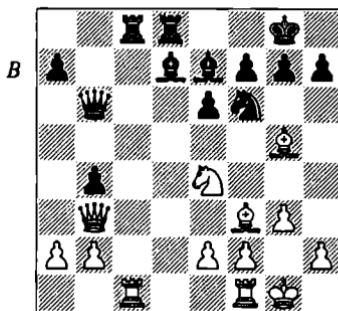
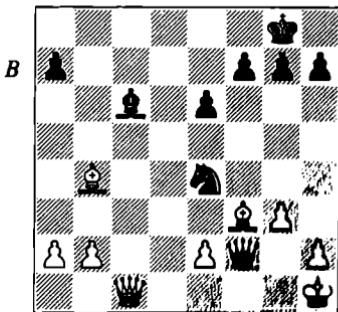


18f: After 23 Qd4 1-0

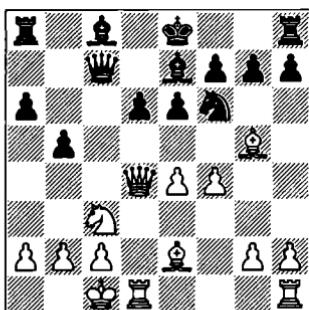
fully equalize as his bishop is badly placed on a5. 15 $\mathbb{W}a4$ (18c) 15... $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 15... $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $gxf6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{W}d6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ is good for White in view of Black's weakened kingside, while after 15... $\mathbb{Q}a5$ 16 a3 Black's bishops are very clumsily placed. 16 $bxc3$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ After 16... $\mathbb{Q}d3$, 17 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ followed by $\mathbb{Q}e5$ gives White the advantage, but not 17 $\mathbb{W}xa7?$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$, when White's queen is in trouble. 17 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ Threatening 18 d5. Black's problem is that preventing d5 generally involves allowing White to break up his kingside by $\mathbb{Q}xf6$. 17... $b5$ Or 17... $\mathbb{W}d7$ 18 $\mathbb{W}a3$ and Black can hardly avoid doubled f-pawns. 18 $\mathbb{W}a5$ (18d) 18... $\mathbb{W}b7??$ This leads to a rapid disaster, but even after 18... $\mathbb{W}c7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}a3$, followed by $\mathbb{Q}xf6$, Black is in a bad way. 19 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $gxf6$ 20 d5! (18e) The thematic central breakthrough comes even though Black's queen is no longer on the e-file. White's idea is two-fold: first of all he intends to weaken the f5-square and secondly he opens the fourth rank for a lightning queen switch to the kingside. 20... $exd5$ 20...e5 21 $\mathbb{W}b4$ leaves Black in deep trouble. 21 $\mathbb{W}b4$ Also here Black is helpless; his shattered kingside is totally devoid of defensive pieces, while White's queen, bishop and knight are all poised to attack. 21... $\mathbb{W}d7$ Or 21... $\mathbb{H}fe8$ 22 $\mathbb{W}g4+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}h5$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ $\mathbb{H}xe1+$ 25 $\mathbb{H}xe1$ $\mathbb{H}h8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ and White wins. 22 $\mathbb{W}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 22... $\mathbb{H}ce8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ f5 24 $\mathbb{W}g5+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 25 $\mathbb{H}xe8$ $\mathbb{H}xe8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ 27 $\mathbb{W}h5$ f6 28 $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ is decisive. 23 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ (18f) 1-0 At first sight an early resignation, but Black cannot meet the twin threats of 24 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ and 24 $\mathbb{H}e7$. For example, 23... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ or 23...h6 24 $\mathbb{H}e7$.

19 Hug – Korchnoi
Switzerland 1978
Catalan Opening

1 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ e6 2 g3 d5 3 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ c5 4 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 5 c4 dxc4 A rather unusual move. 6 $\mathbb{W}a4$ Black's move-order could have been better exploited by 6 $\mathbb{Q}a3$ followed by $\mathbb{Q}xc4$. 6... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 7 $\mathbb{W}xc4$ $\mathbb{H}c8$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ 8 d4 b5 9 $\mathbb{W}d3$ (9 $\mathbb{W}xb5$? $\mathbb{Q}b4$ wins material) 9...cx d4 10 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 11 $\mathbb{W}d1$ e5 12 a3 is unclear. 8... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 9 d4 Transposing into the normal Catalan. 9...b5 10 $\mathbb{W}d3$ cx d4 10...c4! 11 $\mathbb{W}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ is safer, with equality. 11 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 11... $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 12 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 13 $\mathbb{W}d3$ is also slightly better for White. 12 $\mathbb{W}d1$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ (19a) 13 $\mathbb{Q}g5$?! Too slow. A few years later, in Ribli-Unzicker, Lucerne Olympiad 1982, White gained a slight advantage by 13 a4! bxa4 14 $\mathbb{Q}xa4$ $\mathbb{W}b8$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}c3$. 13... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 14 $\mathbb{H}c1$ 0-0 Black has completed his development and the position is now equal. 15 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3+$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{H}fd8$ 17 $\mathbb{W}b3$?! 17 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 18 $\mathbb{W}e1$ is better, forcing exchanges. 17...b4 18 $\mathbb{Q}e4$? (19b) 18 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ may be slightly better for Black, but it is certainly preferable to the text-move. 18... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$! The start of a decisive combination. 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{H}xc1$ 20 $\mathbb{H}xc1$ $\mathbb{W}xf2+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}h1$ White is attacking rook and knight, but Black has a way out. 21... $\mathbb{H}c8$! 22 $\mathbb{W}d1$ 22 $\mathbb{W}d1$ loses to the attractive knight manoeuvre 22... $\mathbb{Q}d2$! 23 $\mathbb{W}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}f1$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}e3$, while 22 $\mathbb{H}xc8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}d1$ $\mathbb{W}xf3+!$ 24 exf3 $\mathbb{Q}f2+$ drops a piece. 22... $\mathbb{H}xc1$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xc1$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$! Setting up a threat which White fails to notice. 24 $\mathbb{Q}xb4$? (19c) Oddly enough, 24 $\mathbb{W}a1$ is the best defence, taking the queen well out of range of Black's knight, although even here 24...a5 should win. 24... $\mathbb{W}xe2$! 0-1 As 25 $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ $\mathbb{Q}xg3++$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe2+$ wins a piece.

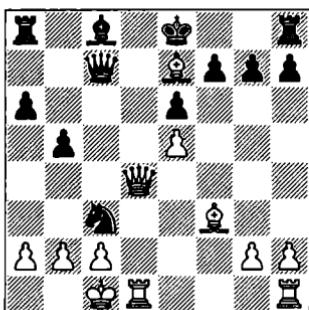
19a: After 12... $\mathbb{W}b6$ 19b: After 18 $\mathbb{Q}e4$?19c: After 24 $\mathbb{Q}xb4$?

W



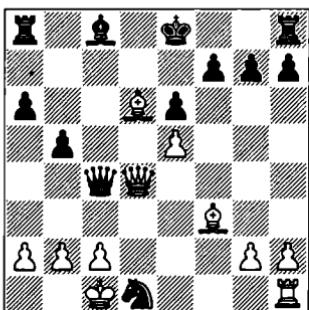
20a: After 11...b5

B



20b: After 15...f3!

W



20c: After 16...wc4

20

Tal – Larsen**Montreal 1979***Sicilian Defence, Richter-Rauzer Attack*

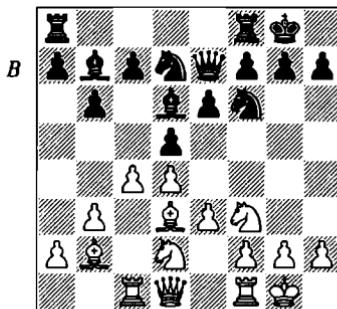
1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 3 d4 cxd4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ d6 6 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ e6 7 $\mathbb{W}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 8 0-0-0 a6 9 f4 $\mathbb{W}c7$ A rather unusual system which has never gained any real popularity. 10 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$?! When this system is used today, it is almost always with 10... $\mathbb{Q}d7$, although 11 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ is then slightly better for White. 11 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ Black's premature exchange has made it much easier for White to play e5. 11...b5 (20a) 11...0-0 12 e5 dxe5 13 $\mathbb{W}xe5$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ gives White a slight plus. 12 e5 dxe5 13 fxe5 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ At first sight White has no good follow-up, but his next move puts Black in trouble. 14... $\mathbb{Q}xe7$? fails to 15 $\mathbb{Q}xb5+$ axb5 16 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$. 15 $\mathbb{Q}f3$! (20b) 15... $\mathbb{Q}xd1$? This greedy response leads to catastrophe. 15... $\mathbb{Q}b7$? loses a piece to 16 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 17 bxc3!, and 15... $\mathbb{Q}xe7$? 16 bxc3 $\mathbb{Q}a7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}c6$! f6 18 exf6+ gxf6 19 $\mathbb{Q}hf1$ gives White a decisive attack. 15... $\mathbb{Q}e2$! is the only way to continue; after this Tal gave 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{W}xb7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}d6$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ (not 19... $\mathbb{W}xg2$? 20 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}hg1$ $\mathbb{W}e4$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}gf1$, winning) 20 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}hd1$ $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $\mathbb{Q}a8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b6$ as clearly better for White in his *Informator* 27 notes. This whole line occurred some 18 years later in McDonald-S.Pedersen, London 1997, when Black did eventually draw, but only after defending carefully until move 67. 16 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{W}c4$ (20c) 17 $\mathbb{W}b6$! Winning quickly as Black is facing too many threats: 18 $\mathbb{Q}xa8$, 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ and 18 $\mathbb{Q}c6+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 20 $\mathbb{W}b7+$ are just samples. 17... $\mathbb{Q}f2$ 17... $\mathbb{Q}e3$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xe3$ traps the rook. 18 $\mathbb{Q}c6+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 20 $\mathbb{W}b7+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xa8+$ $\mathbb{W}c8$ 22 $\mathbb{W}a7$ 1-0 As White is forking e7 and f2.

21 Spassky – Tal Montreal 1979

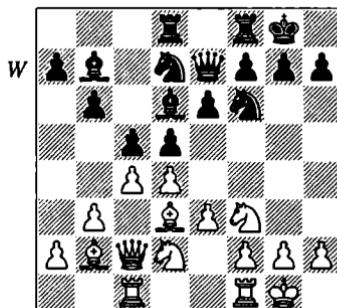
Queen's Indian Defence, Classical System

1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 e6 3 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ b6 4 e3 $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ d5 6 b3 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 7 0-0-0 8 $\mathbb{Q}b2$ $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 9 $\mathbb{Q}bd2$

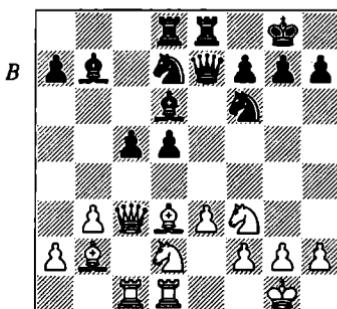
A harmless system for White. 9... $\mathbb{W}e7$ This position has turned up now and again for over 130 years; the first example I can find is Paulsen-Kolisch, match (23), London 1861. 10 $\mathbb{H}c1$ (21a) 10 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ is another possibility, but 10...c5 equalizes. 10... $\mathbb{H}ad8$ Tal suggested 10...c5 and 10... $\mathbb{Q}e4$ as possible alternatives, but the text-move was also played in the only other example of this position I could find: Colle-Yates, Karlsbad 1929. 11 $\mathbb{W}c2$ 11 $\mathbb{W}e2$ is well met by 11... $\mathbb{Q}e4$; for example, 12 cxd5 exd5 13 $\mathbb{Q}a6$ $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ 14 $\mathbb{W}xa6$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ c5 with equality. Therefore Spassky plays to prevent ... $\mathbb{Q}e4$. Colle preferred 11 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ and went on to win after some weak play by Black. 11...c5 (21b) 12 cxd5 White makes the double-edged decision to inflict 'hanging pawns' on Black. Whether these pawns are strong or weak depends largely on the relative piece activity of the two players. Here Black should have no cause for concern as none of White's minor pieces is actually attacking the pawns. 12 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ is a safer option, but White cannot really hope for an advantage. 12...exd5 13 dxc5 bxc5 14 $\mathbb{W}c3$ Another double-edged move. White wants to rule out ... $\mathbb{Q}e4$, but the queen is now exposed to the typical liberating thrust ...d4. 14... $\mathbb{H}fe8$ 15 $\mathbb{H}fd1$ (21c) 15 $\mathbb{H}fe1$ runs into tactical difficulties after 15...c4!; for example, 16 bxc4 $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 17 $\mathbb{W}c2$ dxc4 18 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 19 gxf3 $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ and Black wins. 15...d4?! Perhaps the dubious symbol is rather severe, as this sacrifice leads to a quick win. However, in the harsh light of home analysis, it is revealed as



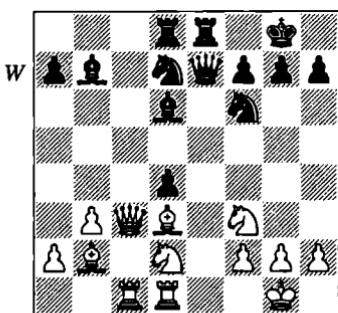
21a: After 10 $\mathbb{H}c1$



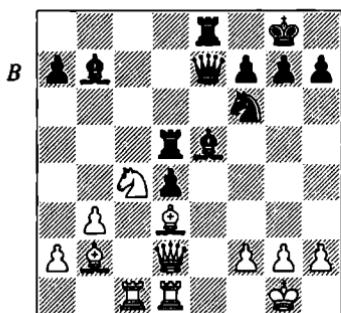
21b: After 11...c5



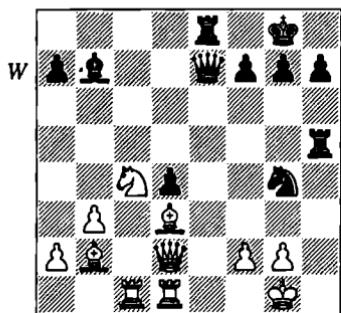
21c: After 15 $\mathbb{H}fd1$



21d: After 16...cxd4



21e: After 20...wd2



21f: After 22...dg4 0-1

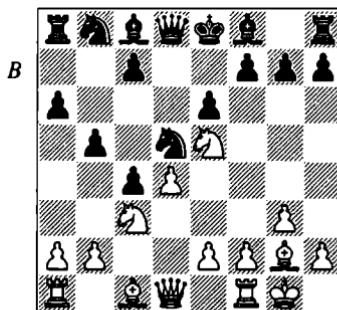
not fully correct. **16 exd4 cxd4 (21d)** **17 wa5?** Only this move gives Black the advantage. Having played so provocatively, White should have been consistent and taken the pawn, not by **17 wxd4 dc5 18 he1** **Qxd3!** **19 Axe7 Qxe7 20 Wc3 Ab4 21 Wc7** **Axd2 22 Qxd2 Qxb2 23 Wxb7 Hxd2** with a large advantage for Black, but by **17 Qxd4!**. Then Black has various continuations, but nothing very convincing; for example, **17...Axe2+ (17...We5 18 Qf3! Wh5 19 Ae4! defuses Black's attack) 18 Qxh2 Qg4+ 19 Ag1! (19 Ag3 We5+ 20 f4 We3+ 21 Qf2f3 Qxf3 22 Qxf3 Qdf6 23 Qxh7+ also favours White) 19...Wh4 20 Q2f3! (20 Q4f3? Wxf2+ 21 Ah1 Qde5! wins for Black) 20...Wxf2+ 21 Ah1 He5 22 Af5 Hc5 23 Axg4 Hxc3 24 Axg4 and White wins.** **17...Ae5** Now Black obtains a dangerous attack without any sacrifice. **18 Qxe5 18 He1** **Axf3 19 Qxf3 Qxf3+ 20 gxf3 Ab7** favours Black. **18...Ae5 19 Qc4?** Moving this knight further away from the kingside is asking for trouble, especially against Tal! There are many other false paths: **19 Ab3? We6 20 Af1 Ah4!**, with ...Ag4 to come, is very good for Black; **19 He1? Wd6 20 Af1 Ag4** gives Black a dangerous attack; and **19 Ab5 Hd5** is similar to the game. **19 Af1!** is relatively the best defence, although Black still has some advantage. **19...Hd5 20 Wd2 (21e)** There is no defence, e.g. **20 Ab3 Ah2+ 21 Ag2 Qg4+ 22 Ag3 Wf6 23 Wd2 Qxf2!** or **20 Wa7 Ah2+ 21 Axh2 Qg4+ 22 Ag3 Hh5**, winning in both cases. **20...Ah2+! 21 Axh2 Ah5+!** Even more convincing than **21...Qg4+**. **22 Ag1** Or **22 Ag3 Ae4+ 23 Axg4 Wh4+ 24 Af3 Wxe4+ 25 Ag3 Wh4#**. **22...Qg4 (21f) 0-1** There is no defence to the twin threats of **23...Wh4** and **23...Hh1+**.

22 Sosonko – Hübner

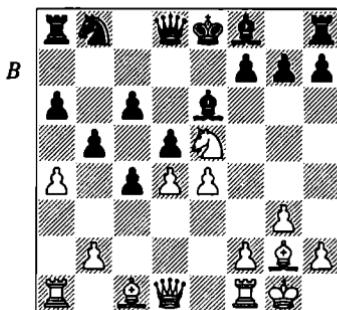
Tilburg 1979

Catalan Opening

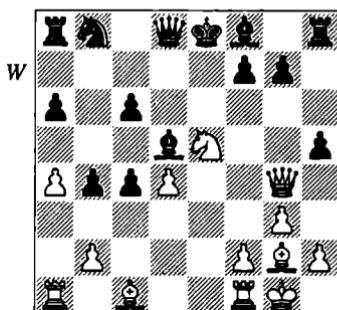
1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 e6 3 g3 d5 4 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ dx c 4 5 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ a 6 6 0-0 b5 This attempt to hold on to the pawn may look suicidal, but it is considered critical. 7 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 7...c6?! 8 b3 cx b 3 9 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}a5$ $\mathbb{Q}a$ 7 is an interesting alternative. 8 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ (22a) 8 a4 is the current preference. 8...c6? According to theory, Black should continue 8... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 9 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ exd5 (9... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$? 10 e4 $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 11 $\mathbb{W}h5$ g6 12 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ fx g 6 13 $\mathbb{W}e5$ wins for White) 10 e4 dxe4 11 $\mathbb{W}h5$ g6 (11... $\mathbb{W}e7$? 12 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{W}e6$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}a$ el is very dangerous for Black) 12 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ fx g 6 13 $\mathbb{W}e5$ + $\mathbb{W}e7$ 14 $\mathbb{W}xh8$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 15 h4 0-0-0 with enough compensation for his small sacrifice. However, White should investigate 16 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{W}f7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xh7$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xg7$ $\mathbb{W}xg7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ which, although condemned by theory, looks unclear to me. 9 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ exd5 9...cx d 5 is no better, e.g. 10 e4 dxe4 (10... $\mathbb{Q}a$ 7 11 exd5 exd5 12 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$! is very dangerous, while 10... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 11 $\mathbb{W}h5$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ 12 exd5 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ exd5 14 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ wins) 11 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}a$ 7 12 $\mathbb{Q}c6+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 13 d5 leads to a very strong attack. 10 e4 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 11 a4 (22b) 11...b4 11... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 12 ax b 5 cx b 5 13 exd5 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$! and 11...f6 12 exd5 cx d 5 13 $\mathbb{W}h5$ + g6 14 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ are both lost for Black. 12 exd5 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ After 12...cx d 5 White can choose between a clear positional plus after 13 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ and the more ambitious 13 f4 $\mathbb{Q}a$ 7 14 f5 $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 15 $\mathbb{W}f3$. 13 $\mathbb{W}g4!$ h5 (22c) 13... $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}e1$! $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 15 $\mathbb{W}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xg2$, 13... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 14 $\mathbb{W}h5$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$! $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ and 13... $\mathbb{Q}a$ 7 14 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ cx d 5 15 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ are also lost for Black. 14 $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ cx d 5 Or 14...hx g 4 15 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ + $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ +. 15 $\mathbb{W}f5$ $\mathbb{Q}a$ 7 16 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ g6 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 1-0



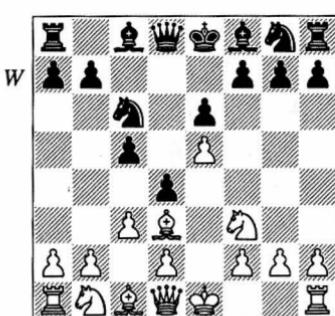
22a: After 8 $\mathbb{Q}c3$



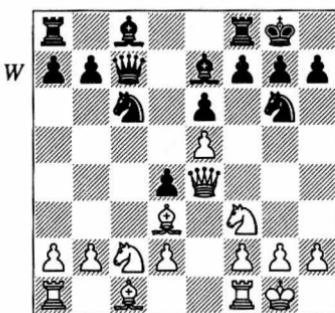
22b: After 11 a4



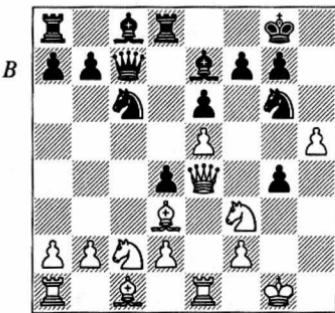
22c: After 13...h5



23a: After 5...Qc6



23b: After 11...Wc7



23c: After 15 h5

23 Sax – Ljubojević

London (Phillips & Drew) 1980

c3 Sicilian

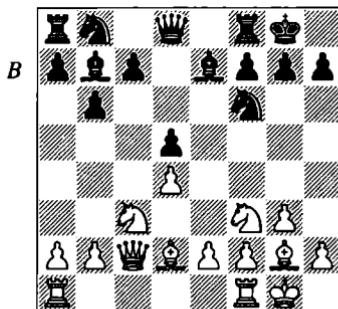
1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ e6 3 c3 d5 4 e5 d4 A more ambitious plan than 4... $\mathbb{Q}c6$, which transposes into the Advance French after 5 d4. 5 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ 5 cxd4 cxd4 6 $\mathbb{Q}b5+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ regains the pawn with at least equality for Black. 5... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ (23a) 6 $\mathbb{W}e2?$ The start of a bad plan. Natural development is best here; after 6 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}ge7$ 7 $\mathbb{M}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 8 g3 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 9 h4 White is slightly better. 6... $\mathbb{Q}ge7$ 7 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}g6$ Threatening 8... $\mathbb{Q}f4$. 8 $\mathbb{W}e4$ White intends to besiege the d4-pawn by $\mathbb{Q}a3-c2$, with the aim of forcing ...dxc3. Although this plan fails, the text-move does not deserve a question mark since White had already gone wrong at move 6. 8... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 8...dxc3 9 dxc3 $\mathbb{Q}gxe5$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}b5+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 12 $\mathbb{M}d1$ is dangerous for Black. 9 $\mathbb{Q}a3$ 0-0 10 cxd4 cxd4 11 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ (23b) 12 $\mathbb{M}e1$ The problem becomes clear. After 12 $\mathbb{Q}cxd4$ $\mathbb{Q}cxe5$ White has an isolated pawn and his queenside development is very difficult. 12... $\mathbb{M}d8$ Now the d4-pawn is secure as 13 $\mathbb{Q}cxd4$ loses a piece to 13... $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{W}d7$. Meanwhile, Black intends to attack the e5-pawn by 13... $\mathbb{M}d5$. 13 h4 Not 13 b3 $\mathbb{M}d5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}c4?$ $\mathbb{Q}cxe5!$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ exd5 16 $\mathbb{W}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3+$ 17 gxf3 $\mathbb{W}xc2$ 18 $\mathbb{M}xe7$ $\mathbb{W}d1+$ and Black wins. 13...h5! Renewing the threat of ... $\mathbb{M}d5$. 14 g4? White panics. 14 b3 $\mathbb{M}d5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}b2$ favours Black, but White should have tried it. 14...hxg4 15 h5 (23c) 15... $\mathbb{Q}cxe5!$ An attractive and devastating combination. 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ f5 17 $\mathbb{W}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}f4$ 18 $\mathbb{W}f1$ White's moves are forced. 18...b5 0-1 White is helpless against the threats along the long diagonal. A typical line is 19 $\mathbb{Q}a3$ a6 20 b3 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}g6$ $\mathbb{Q}h3+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}b7+$.

24 Korchnoi – Hübner

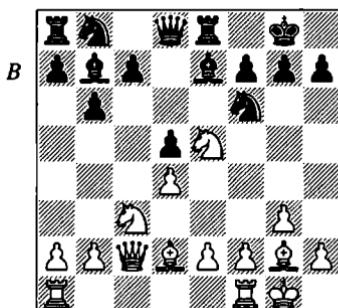
Johannesburg 1981

Queen's Indian Defence

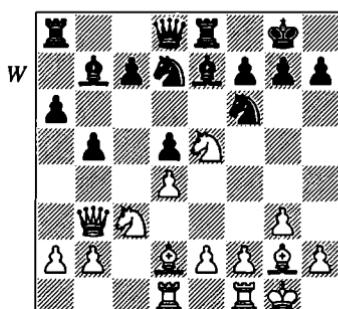
1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 e6 3 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ b6 4 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ A distinctly unusual line. 5... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 6 $\mathbb{W}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}h5$?! This loses time, and allows White to transpose into a relatively favourable variation of the Queen's Indian. 6...0-0 is better. 7 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ d5 8 cxd5 exd5 9 g3 0-0 10 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 11 0-0 (24a) By means of an unusual move-order, we have reached a position which more often arises after 4 g3 $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}b4+$ 6 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ 0-0 8 0-0 d5 9 cxd5 exd5 10 $\mathbb{W}c2$ (of course the move-numbers differ by one). This position is thought to give White a slight advantage. 11... $\mathbb{Q}e8$?! A rather artificial move. Of the various lines tried here, perhaps 11...c5 12 $\mathbb{E}ad1$ $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ offers the best chances of equality. 12 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ (24b) Coupled with $\mathbb{W}b3$, this sets up a latent threat against f7 which exploits the rook's absence from f8. 12...a6 Black wants to play ... $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ in a position where he can meet $\mathbb{W}a4$ by ...b5, hence this preparatory move. White is also better after 12... $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 13 $\mathbb{W}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 14 dxe5 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ dxe4 16 $\mathbb{E}fd1$, so 12... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ was the best chance, intending to meet 13 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ by 13... $\mathbb{Q}e7$. 13 $\mathbb{W}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 13...c5 14 dxc5 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ favours White. 14 $\mathbb{E}ad1$ b5 (24c) 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$?! A truly amazing combination. Objectively, it is not entirely correct, but it is certainly hard to find the correct reply from many plausible defences. Korchnoi recommended 15 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}d3$, which is good enough for an edge, but 15 $\mathbb{Q}f4$! is probably objectively strongest. One variation runs 15...c6 (15... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 16 e4 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 17 exd5 $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 18 d6! $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ wins) 16 e4 $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$! $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 18 exd5 $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 19 d6 $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ 20 dxe7 $\mathbb{E}xe7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ and White has won a pawn in



24a: After 11 0-0

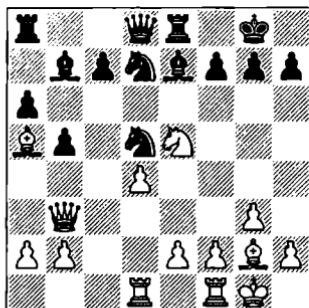


24b: After 12 Qe5



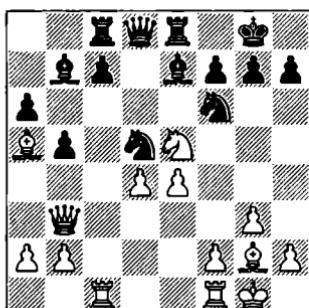
24c: After 14...b5

B



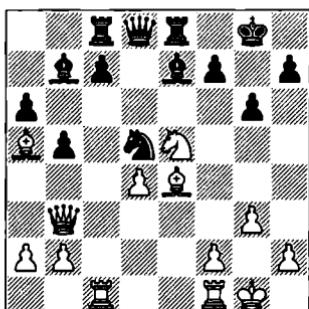
24d: After 16 ♘a5

B



24e: After 18 ♜c1!

W



24f: After 19...g6

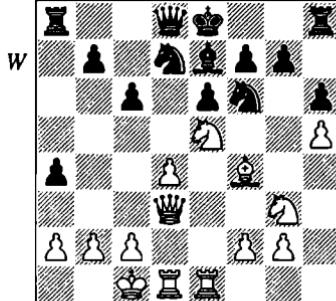
return for minimal compensation. 15...♘xd5 16 ♘a5 (24d) The point of White's play. By opening the d-file, White threatens to take the d5-knight. 16 ♘xd5 ♘xd5 17 ♘xd5 ♘xe5 18 ♘xd8 ♘xd8 19 dxе5 ♘xe5 is only equal. 16...♗7f6?! 16...♗d6? 17 ♘xd7 ♘xd7 18 ♘xd5 loses a pawn, and 16...♗7b6 17 ♘xb6 cxb6 18 e4 ♘f6 19 exd5 ♘d6 20 ♘c6 is better for White, so the best defence is 16...♗f6!. Then 17 f4 ♘7b6 18 ♘xb6 (18 e4 ♘xe5 19 dxе5 ♘c4 20 ♘c3 ♘xc3! favours Black) 18...cxb6 19 e4 ♘d6 (19...♘c7 is unclear after 20 ♘xf7 ♘d7 or 20 ♘xf7+ ♘h8 21 ♘h5 ♘g8) 20 exd5 ♘ad8 21 ♘c6 ♘xc6 22 dxc6 ♘xd4+ 23 ♘h1 should be a draw. 17 e4 White's threat is not so much to take the d5-knight immediately, but rather to step up the pressure by ♘c1 first. 17...♖c8 Black anticipates White's attempts to exert pressure along the c-file. 18 ♘c1! (24e) Now White threatens to take on d5, when Black will be weak at both c6 and c7. A further threat is simply to build up by ♘fd1 before regaining the piece. 18...♗xe4? Black panics and returns the extra piece unfavourably. 18...♗d6! was best; after 19 exd5 ♘xe5 20 dxе5 ♘xe5 21 ♘h3! ♘h5 22 ♘xc8 ♘xc8 23 f3 ♘xd5 24 ♘c2 c6 25 ♘ce1 Black obviously has some compensation, but it is not enough to compensate for his material disadvantage. 19 ♘xe4 Now Black is in real trouble as c6 and f7 are serious weaknesses. 19...g6 (24f) 19...♗d6 is no better, e.g. 20 ♘c5 ♘cd8 (or 20...c6 21 ♘f5 ♘a8 22 ♘d7) 21 ♘xc7! ♘xc7 22 ♘xf7+ ♘h8 23 ♘xb7 and wins. 20 ♘c6! A deadly move. One might have expected White to occupy the c6-weakness with his knight, but the rook is even more effective as the knight can stay on e5 to maintain the pressure against f7. 20...♗f6 The knight must move, but now f7 collapses. 21 ♘xf7 ♘xd4 22 ♘g5+ ♘h8 23 ♘c3 1-0 Total destruction.

25 Beliavsky – Larsen

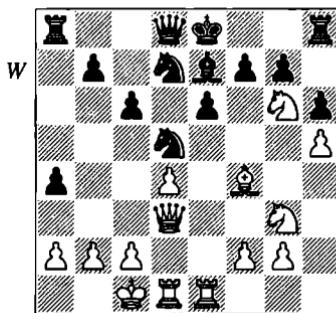
Tilburg 1981

Caro-Kann Defence, 4...Qf5

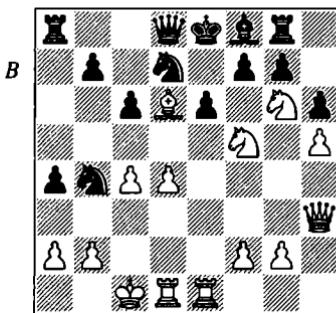
1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Qc3 dxe4 4 Qxe4 Qf5 5 Qg3 Qg6 6 h4 h6 7 Qf3 Qd7 8 h5 Qh7 9 Qd3 Qxd3 10 Wxd3 Qgf6 11 Qf4 e6 The usual line is 11...Wa5+ 12 Qd2 Wc7, followed by queenside castling. With 11...e6 Black is aiming to castle kingside. 12 0-0-0 Qe7 13 Qe5 a5 13...0-0 is more accurate, waiting to see White's response before committing himself. 14 Qhe1 a4? (25a) One liberty too many. 14...0-0 would still reach a playable position for Black. 15 Qg6! Now Black will definitely not be able to castle! 15...Qd5 (25b) 15...fxg6 is bad after 16 Wxg6+ Qf8 17 Qxe6 We8 18 Qf5! Qxh5 (18...Wxg6 19 hxg6 Qd8 20 Qd6+ Qg8 21 Qd1 mates) 19 Wxe8+ Qxe8 20 Qxe7 Qxe7 21 Qd6 Qf7 22 Qxe7 We8 23 Qf5 We2 24 Qf1 followed by 25 Qd1 and White consolidates his extra pawn. 15...a3 is a tricky move. Then White should not be seduced by 16 Qxh8? axb2+ 17 Qb1 Qa3 18 Qxf7 Wa8! 19 Wg6 Qf8 20 Qd6++ Qd7, when Black has dangerous counterplay. Instead 16 b3! is correct, with very similar play to the game. 16 Qf5! Another forceful blow. 16...Qf8 A very bad sign, but 16...exf5 17 Qxe7 Qxe7 18 Qd6 Qe5 19 dxe5 0-0 20 e6 is hopeless for Black. 17 Qd6 Now that the bishop is not hanging on f4, White genuinely threatens to take the h8-rook. 17...Qg8 Forced, but it gives White another tempo for his attack. 18 c4 Dislodging Black's only well-placed piece. 18...Qb4 19 Wh3 (25c) Taking aim at e6. 19...fxg6 There is nothing better. 20 Qxe6+ Qf7 21 hxg6+ Qxe6 22 Qe1+ Qe5 23 Qxe5 1-0 In view of 23...Qd3+ 24 Qb1! Qxe5 25 Qxe5+ Qd7 26 Qxg7+ winning the queen.



25a: After 14...a4?

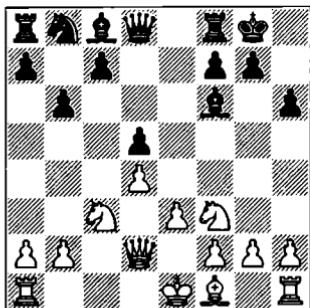


25b: After 15...Qd5

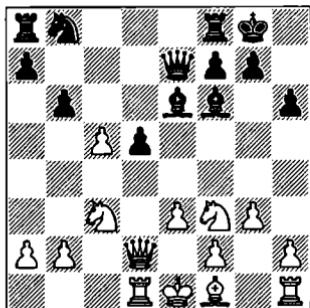


25c: After 19 Wh3

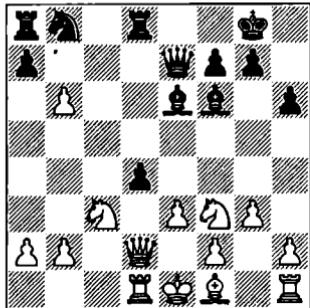
B

26a: After 10 $\mathbb{W}d2$

B

26b: After 13 $dxc5?$!

W



26c: After 14...d4!

26 Psakhis – Geller

Erevan Zonal 1982

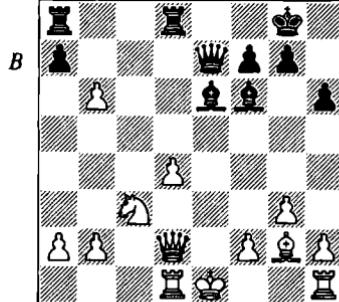
*Queen's Gambit Declined,
Tartakower Defence*

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 4 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ h6 6 $\mathbb{Q}h4$ 0-0 7 e3 b6 8 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ Slightly unusual; the most common lines are 8 cxd5, 8 $\mathbb{E}c1$, 8 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ and 8 $\mathbb{Q}d3$, but there are a number of sidelines for White, including the text-move. 8... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 9 cxd5 exd5 10 $\mathbb{W}d2$

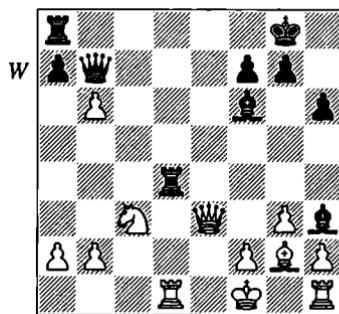
(26a) White intends to exert pressure on d5, so as to prevent the freeing thrust ...c5. 10... $\mathbb{Q}e6$! 10... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ can be met by either 11 b4 c5 12 bxc5 bxc5 13 dxc5 $\mathbb{W}a5$ 14 $\mathbb{E}c1$ or simply 11 $\mathbb{Q}d1$, effectively restraining ...c5. 11 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ 12 g3 This is the critical move because after 12 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 13 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 14 $\mathbb{W}c2$ c5 Black frees himself and equalizes. 12...c5! 12... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}fd8$ is also possible, although it is less dynamic than the text-move. 13 dxc5?!

(26b) Again the critical move, because if Black is allowed to play ...c5 without a fight, White's plan of $\mathbb{W}d2$ and $\mathbb{Q}d1$ looks rather pointless. However, it turns out that the tactics are on Black's side, so White might have been better off heading for equality with 13 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 14 0-0 cxd4 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 16 exd4 $\mathbb{W}d7$. 13... $\mathbb{Q}d8$! This is the point of Black's play. Black secures the d5-pawn, and now threatens 14...bxc5 with a good game as he still has his dangerous dark-squared bishop. 14 cxb6 Consistent, but White is really playing with fire. 14...d4! (26c) 15 $\mathbb{Q}g2$?! There are several other dubious lines, e.g. 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$?! $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ 17 $\mathbb{W}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ 19 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}h3$ 20 $\mathbb{E}fe1$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ with advantage to Black in view of the weak light squares around White's king, 15 $\mathbb{Q}e2$?! $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ axb6 17 a3 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ with a very strong initiative for Black, or 15 $\mathbb{Q}e4$? $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xf6+$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 17

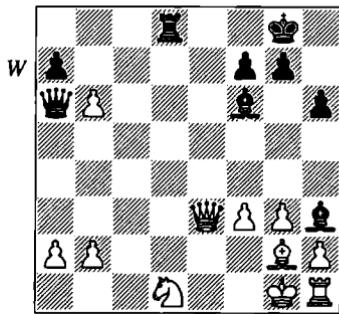
$\mathbb{W}xd4 \mathbb{W}xf3 18 b7 \mathbb{H}d7! 19 \mathbb{B}b5$ (19 $bxa8\mathbb{W}$ $\mathbb{B}xa8$ and 19 $\mathbb{W}a4 \mathbb{B}xb7$ also win for Black) 19... $\mathbb{W}xh1+ 20 \mathbb{G}d2 \mathbb{W}xd1+ 21 \mathbb{Q}xd1 \mathbb{B}f3+$ and Black wins. The best defence is probably 15 $\mathbb{B}e2$, when 15... $\mathbb{Q}c6 16 \mathbb{Q}xd4 \mathbb{B}xd4 17 exd4 \mathbb{Q}xd4 18 0-0 \mathbb{B}c4!$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xd4 \mathbb{H}xd4 20 \mathbb{H}xd4 \mathbb{B}xe2 21 \mathbb{H}e1 axb6$ is slightly better for Black, but should be a draw. 15... $\mathbb{Q}c6 16 \mathbb{Q}xd4 16 \mathbb{B}e4 dxe3 17 \mathbb{W}xe3 \mathbb{H}xd1+ 18 \mathbb{B}xd1 axb6$ is clearly very good for Black, while 16 $exd4 \mathbb{B}b3+ 17 \mathbb{B}e5 \mathbb{B}xd1 18 \mathbb{Q}d5 \mathbb{H}xd5 19 \mathbb{B}xd5 \mathbb{B}xe5 20 \mathbb{Q}xd1 \mathbb{H}d8 21 dxe5 axb6$ is winning. 16... $\mathbb{Q}xd4 17 exd4$ (26d) 17 $\mathbb{B}xa8 \mathbb{B}xa8 18 exd4 \mathbb{Q}d5+ 19 \mathbb{W}e2 \mathbb{B}xh1 20 \mathbb{W}xe7 \mathbb{B}xe7 21 bxa7 \mathbb{B}xa7$ favours Black. The three pawns do not provide enough compensation for the piece when Black has two bishops against a knight. 17... $\mathbb{B}h3+ 18 \mathbb{B}f1 18 \mathbb{B}e4 \mathbb{B}xd4 19 \mathbb{W}e2 \mathbb{B}xc3+ 20 bxc3 \mathbb{B}e8 21 f3 axb6$ is bad for White. 18... $\mathbb{H}xd4 19 \mathbb{W}e3 19 \mathbb{W}xd4 \mathbb{B}xd4 20 \mathbb{H}xd4 \mathbb{W}f6 21 \mathbb{H}f4$ (21 $\mathbb{H}d3 \mathbb{W}f5 22 \mathbb{B}e3 axb6 23 \mathbb{B}xh3 \mathbb{W}xh3+$ is similar) 21... $\mathbb{W}c6 22 \mathbb{H}g1 \mathbb{B}xg2+ 23 \mathbb{B}xg2 axb6$ leads to an inferior (for White) version of the ending which could have arisen after 15 $\mathbb{B}e2$. 19... $\mathbb{B}b7$ (26e) 20 f3? Only this move leads to defeat. 20 $\mathbb{H}g1!$ $\mathbb{H}xd1+ 21 \mathbb{Q}xd1$ is correct, when Black cannot achieve more than a modest advantage; for example, 21... $\mathbb{B}xg2+ 22 \mathbb{B}xg2 \mathbb{W}a6+ 23 \mathbb{W}e2 \mathbb{W}xa2 24 \mathbb{H}g1 axb6 25 \mathbb{B}g2 \mathbb{H}d8 26 \mathbb{H}e1$ or 21... $\mathbb{H}d8 22 \mathbb{W}e2$ (but not 22 $\mathbb{Q}c3?$ $\mathbb{B}xg2+ 23 \mathbb{B}xg2 \mathbb{B}xc3 24 bxc3 \mathbb{W}a6+! 25 \mathbb{B}e1 \mathbb{W}xa2$ and Black wins) 22... $\mathbb{B}xg2+ 23 \mathbb{B}xg2 \mathbb{W}xb6 24 \mathbb{H}g1$ (or 24 f3 $\mathbb{W}c6 25 \mathbb{Q}c3 \mathbb{B}xc3 26 bxc3 \mathbb{W}xc3 27 \mathbb{H}f2) 24... \mathbb{W}a5 25 \mathbb{B}g2 \mathbb{W}xa2 26 \mathbb{H}e1.$ 20... $\mathbb{H}xd1+ 21 \mathbb{Q}xd1 \mathbb{W}a6+ 22 \mathbb{B}g1 22 \mathbb{B}f2 \mathbb{H}d8 23 b7 \mathbb{W}xb7$ also wins. 22... $\mathbb{H}d8$ (26f) 23 $\mathbb{B}f2 \mathbb{B}d4 24 \mathbb{W}e1 \mathbb{B}xf2+! 0-1$ Because 25 $\mathbb{B}xf2$ (25 $\mathbb{W}xf2 \mathbb{H}d1+)$ 25... $\mathbb{W}xb6+ 26 \mathbb{B}f1$ (26 $\mathbb{W}e3 \mathbb{H}d2+)$ 26... $\mathbb{B}c8!$ wins.



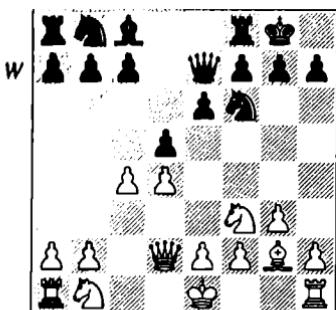
26d: After 17 exd4



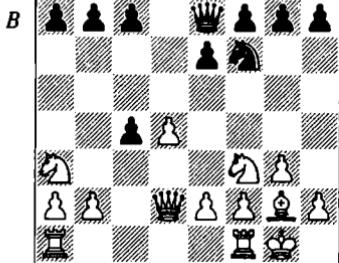
26e: After 19...Bb7



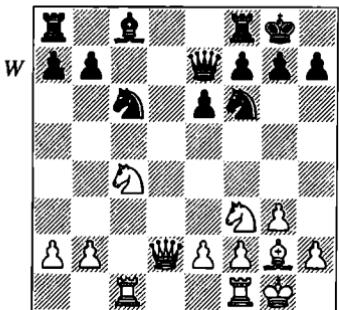
26f: After 22...Hd8



27a: After 7...d5



27b: After 9 Da3



27c: After 12...We7

27 Kasparov – T. Petrosian

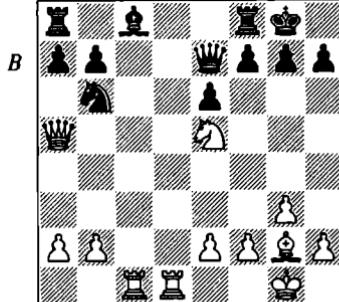
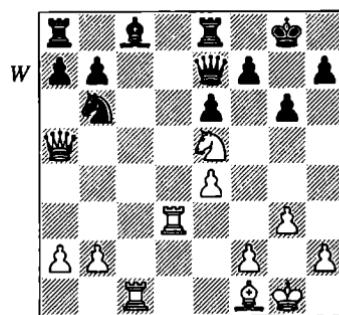
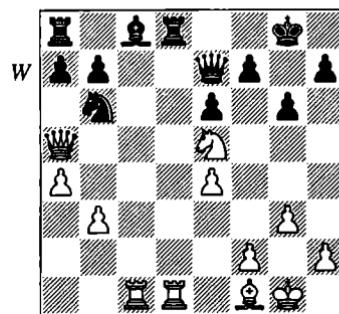
Bugojno 1982

Bogo-Indian Defence

1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 e6 3 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}b4+$ 4 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ 5 g3 $\mathbb{Q}xd2+$ 6 $\mathbb{W}xd2$ 0-0 7 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ d5 (27a)

These days this variation of the Bogo-Indian is played almost exclusively with the idea of ...d6 and ...e5. It is logical for Black to put his pawns on dark squares, given that he has exchanged off his dark-squared bishop. 8 0-0 $dxc4$ Black is aiming to liquidate all the central pawns, but the danger is that White's g2-bishop will exert nagging long-term pressure against Black's queenside. The alternative plan is to support the d5-point by, for example, 8... $\mathbb{H}d8$ 9 $\mathbb{H}c1$ c6. Although Black's position is solid, White has a small but long-term advantage due to his more active bishop. 9 $\mathbb{Q}a3$ (27b) 9...c5? But this is definitely wrong. As explained above, the whole plan of liquidating the centre has its dangers for Black; to make matters worse, Black executes this plan in a way which costs valuable time. 9... $\mathbb{H}d8$ is better; for example, 10 $\mathbb{W}c2$ (or 10 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ c5 11 $\mathbb{H}fd1$ $\mathbb{Q}a6$ with just an edge for White) 10...c5 11 $dxc5$ $\mathbb{W}xc5$ 12 $\mathbb{H}fd1$ offers White no more than a slight advantage. 10 $dxc5!$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ allows Black to transpose into the previous note by 10... $\mathbb{H}d8$. 10... $\mathbb{W}xc5$ After 10... $\mathbb{H}d8$ White can keep the advantage by either 11 $\mathbb{W}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 12 $\mathbb{W}d4$ or 11 $\mathbb{W}b4$ $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 12 $\mathbb{W}xc4$ $\mathbb{W}xc5$ 13 $\mathbb{W}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}e5$. 11 $\mathbb{H}ac1$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ Sooner or later Black will have to move his queen again; this loss of time explains why his 9th move was a mistake. 12... $\mathbb{W}e7$ (27c) 12... $\mathbb{H}d8$ 13 $\mathbb{W}f4$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ (if 13... $\mathbb{Q}d5?$ then 14 $\mathbb{W}xf7+!$) 14 $\mathbb{Q}fe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ gives White the same type of pressure as in the game. 13 $\mathbb{Q}fe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ It is not at all clear how Black can develop

his queenside pieces. 14... $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 15 $\mathbb{E}fd1$ Stepping up the pressure. 15... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{E}d8$ lets Black off the hook. 15... $\mathbb{Q}b6$ Black hopes to play ...f6 and ...e5, so as to develop the c8-bishop, but this plan doesn't even get off the ground. 16 $\mathbb{W}a5!$ (27d) Despite White's pressure, accuracy is necessary to prevent Black freeing himself. This move stops 16...f6 on account of 17 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 18 $\mathbb{E}xc4$ followed by penetration on c7. 16...g6 The immediate 16... $\mathbb{E}d8$ fails because of Black's weak back rank: 17 $\mathbb{Q}c4!$ $\mathbb{E}xd1+$ (17... $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{E}xd5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}b6$ wins) 18 $\mathbb{E}xd1$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}c7$ is decisive. The move played prepares ... $\mathbb{E}d8$. 17 $\mathbb{E}d3!$ Again preventing 17... $\mathbb{E}d8$, this time owing to 18 $\mathbb{W}c5!$ (there is now no capture on d1 with check) 18... $\mathbb{W}xc5$ 19 $\mathbb{E}xd8+$ $\mathbb{W}f8$ 20 $\mathbb{E}xf8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 21 $\mathbb{E}c7$ and White wins. 17... $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 18 e4 Blocking the fianchettoed bishop, but only for a moment. Of course, White has no interest in winning a pawn on d5, as Black would gain some freedom – White's position is so strong that he can play for more. 18... $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 18... $\mathbb{W}b4?$ loses to 19 $\mathbb{E}xd5$. 19 $\mathbb{Q}f1!$ $\mathbb{E}e8$ (27e) Black was intending 19...f6, but now this move fails to 20 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ (20... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ $\mathbb{A}xb6$ 22 $\mathbb{W}xb6$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 23 a3 gives White a pawn more with a good position) 21 $\mathbb{E}xc4$ b6 22 $\mathbb{W}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 23 $\mathbb{E}c7$ since the d3-rook is defended. White's prophylactic play reminds one of ...Petrosian! 20 $\mathbb{E}dd1!$ Another useful move, activating the f1-bishop. Black is now totally paralysed. 20... $\mathbb{E}f8$ 20... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ loses after 21 $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 22 $\mathbb{E}c7$. 21 a3! $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 22 b3 White slowly but surely prepares a4-a5. 22... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 23 a4 $\mathbb{E}d8$ (27f) Or 23... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 24 $\mathbb{W}d2$, followed by a5. 24 $\mathbb{W}c5!$ 1-0 After 24... $\mathbb{W}xc5$ (if 24... $\mathbb{W}e8$, then 25 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ wins) 25 $\mathbb{E}xd8+$ $\mathbb{W}f8$ 26 $\mathbb{E}xf8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 27 $\mathbb{E}c7$ it is only a question of how many pawns Black is going to lose.

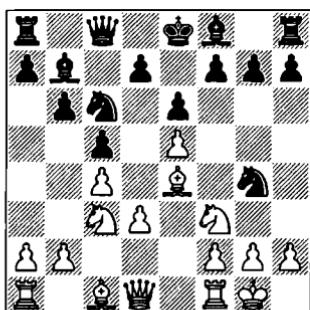
27d: After 16 $\mathbb{W}a5!$ 27e: After 19... $\mathbb{E}e8$ 27f: After 23... $\mathbb{E}d8$

28 Tal – Van der Wiel

Moscow Interzonal 1982

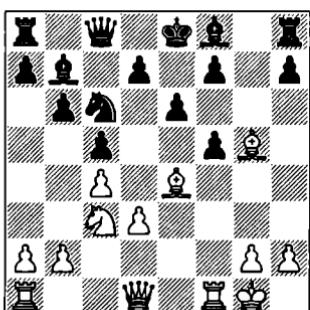
English Opening

B



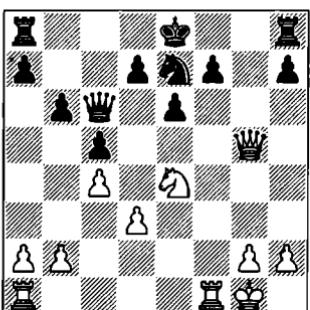
28a: After 9 d3

W



28b: After 13...gxf5

W



28c: After 18...wc6

1 c4 ♜f6 **2 ♜c3** e6 **3 ♜f3** b6 **4 e4** ♜b7 **5 ♜d3** White intends to form a powerful centre by ♜c2 and d4, so Black must react quickly. **5...c5** **6 0-0** ♜c6 **7 e5** ♜g4 **8 ♜e4** ♜e8?! Current theory prefers **8...f5** **9 exf6** ♜xf6 **10 ♜xc6** ♜xc6 **11 d4** ♜xf3 **12 ♜xf3** cxd4 **13 ♜b5** with a roughly equal position. **9 d3** (28a) **9...♜gxe5** It is risky to accept. **9...f5** **10 exf6** ♜xf6 **11 ♜f4** ♜e7 **12 ♜b5** 0-0 **13 ♜d6** ♜d8?! is safer, with at worst a slight disadvantage. **10 ♜xe5** ♜xe5 **11 f4** Black's king is still far from safety. **11...♜c6**?! **11...♜xe4** **12 ♜xe4** ♜c6 **13 f5** ♜e7 is better; White has a dangerous attack, but nothing clear-cut. **12 f5** g6?! **12...♜e7**?! is similarly dubious, e.g. **13 ♜g4** ♜f6 **14 ♜b5** 0-0 **15 fxe6** fxe6 **16 ♜h3** g6 (**16...h6** **17 ♜xh6**) **17 ♜h6** ♜g7 **18 ♜xg7** ♜xg7 **19 ♜d6** ♜c7 **20 ♜f7** ♜xf7 **21 ♜xf7+** ♜xf7 **22 ♜xh7+** and wins. **12...♜d4** is the best chance, but even then **13 ♜h5** ♜xe4 **14 ♜xe4** exf5 **15 ♜g5** h6 **16 ♜ael** ♜e6 **17 ♜h4** gives White a very strong attack. **13 ♜g5** gxf5 (28b) **14 ♜xf5!** ♜e7? The only chance was **14...exf5**, but after **15 ♜e2+** ♜e7 **16 ♜ael** ♜g8 **17 ♜xe7** ♜xg2+ **18 ♜xg2** ♜xg2 **19 ♜h4+** ♜e4 **20 ♜xe4** fxe4 **21 ♜xe4+** ♜e7 **22 ♜xe7+** ♜d8 **23 ♜fxf7** ♜c7 **24 ♜g3+** ♜c6 **25 ♜xh7** ♜d8 **26 ♜hg7** Black is tied up and can hardly oppose the advance of White's h-pawn. **15 ♜h5** Decisive. **15...♜xg5** **15...exf5** **16 ♜ael** ♜d8 **17 ♜d5** wins. **16 ♜xg5** ♜e7 **16...exf5** **17 ♜ael+** ♜f8 **18 ♜h6+** ♜g8 **19 ♜d5** and **16...♜c7** **17 ♜b5** ♜b8 **18 ♜xh7** a6 **19 ♜xf7!** are hopeless. **17 ♜e4** Threatening **18 ♜b5**. **17...♜xe4** **18 ♜xe4** ♜c6 (28c) **19 ♜xf7!** An attractive finish. **19...♜xf7** **20 ♜f6+** ♜g8 **21 ♜xe7** ♜f8 **22 ♜f1!** 1-0

29 Van der Wiel – Ftačník

Århus 1983

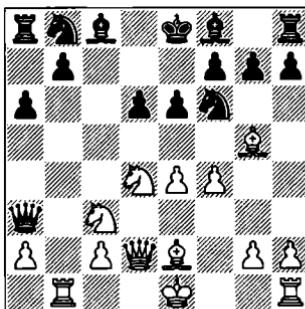
Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Poisoned Pawn

1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 ♜f6 5 ♜c3 a6 6 ♜g5 e6 7 f4 ♜b6 8 ♜d2 ♜xb2 9 ♜b1 ♜a3 10 ♜e2 (29a) This line against the Poisoned Pawn suddenly materialized in the early 1980s. After initial successes, antidotes were found and it is now rarely seen.

10... ♜e7 11 0-0 ♜c6? Black has a number of playable lines, including 11...h6, 11...♜c5, 11...♝bd7 and 11...♜a5, but this isn't one of them. 12 ♜xe6 bxc6 13 e5! dxе5 14 fxе5 ♜c5+ 15 ♜h1 ♜xe5 16 ♜f4 (29b) 16...♝e4 There is nothing better, e.g. 16...♜a5 17 ♜f3 ♜d7 (17...0-0 18 ♜d5) 18 ♜b7 ♜d8 and now White can choose between 19 ♜a4, 19 ♜e4 and 19 ♜d1, all of them very unpleasant. 17 ♜xe4 ♜xe4 18 ♜f3 ♜c4 18...♜a4 19 ♜c3 ♜d7 20 ♜xg7 ♜f8 21 ♜h5 and f7 will collapse. 19 ♜d6! (29c) 19...f5?! Losing by force, as does 19...f6 20 ♜h5+ g6 (20...♜f8 21 ♜xf6+ mates) 21 ♜xe7 ♜xe7 22 ♜h6. 19...♜a7 is the best chance, although after 20 ♜xe7 ♜xe7 21 ♜d6 f6 (21...f5 22 ♜xc6+ ♜f7 23 ♜xf5+ exf5 24 ♜d5+ ♜xd5 25 ♜xd5+ ♜e6 may be Black's best chance, although this should be a win)

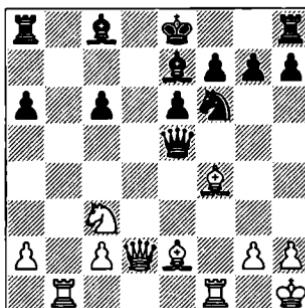
22 ♜h5+ g6 23 ♜xf6! ♜d5 (23...gxh5 24 ♜h8 mates, while 23...♜f7 24 ♜xf7 ♜xf7 25 ♜c7+ ♜f6 26 ♜e1! gives White a winning attack) 24 ♜b8 ♜d7 (or 24...♜d8 25 ♜f3 ♜c7 26 ♜b2! ♜g8 27 ♜e5 with crushing pressure) 25 ♜f3 ♜f7 26 ♜xf7 ♜xf7 27 ♜f4+ ♜g8 28 ♜d1 ♜e7 29 ♜e5 White has a paralysing bind. 20 ♜fd1 ♜a7 20...♜xd6 21 ♜xd6 ♜f7 22 ♜c7+ ♜f6 23 ♜b6! ♜c5 24 ♜xc6 ♜a7 25 ♜d6 followed by 26 ♜c7 wins. 21 ♜b4 ♜xa2 22 ♜xe7 ♜xe7 23 ♜d4 1-0 The fork of a7 and g7 wins a rook.

B



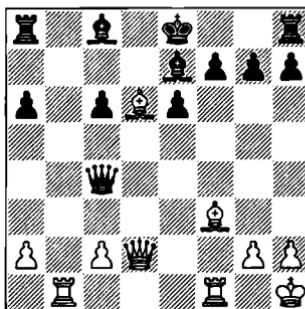
29a: After 10 ♜e2

B

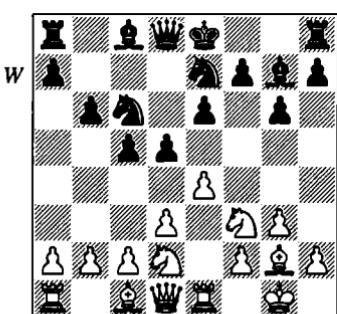


29b: After 16 ♜f4

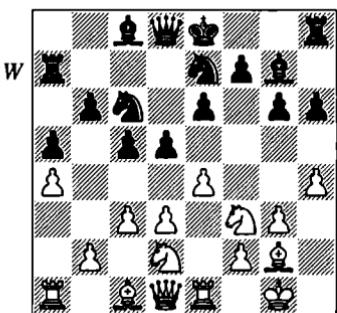
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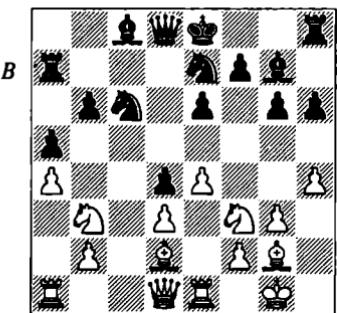
29c: After 19 ♜d6!



30a: After 8...b6!?



30b: After 11...Ra7



30c: After 14...Rd2?

30 Ljubojević – Kasparov

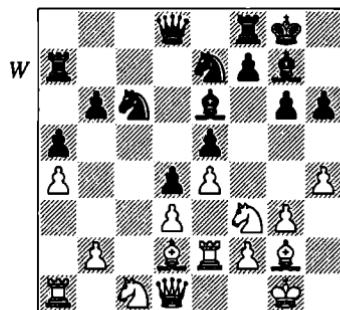
*Nikšić 1983**King's Indian Attack*

1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ e6 3 d3 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 4 g3 d5 5 $\mathbb{Q}bd2$ g6 6 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 7 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}ge7$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ b6!? (30a)

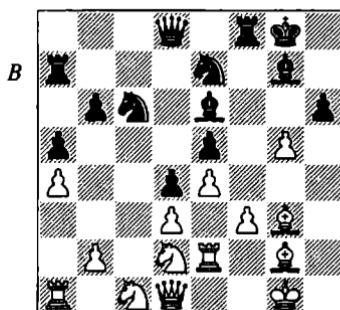
An instructive move. If Black plays 8...0-0, then White replies 9 e5 with an automatic kingside attack by $\mathbb{Q}f1$, h4 and $\mathbb{Q}h2-g4$. Black delays castling in order not to present White with such an obvious target. Only after Black has developed counterplay in the queenside or centre will he consider castling. Of course, one must always take care when leaving one's king in the centre. Here, however, the risk is small. Black is ready to castle if things should start looking dangerous; for example, if White opens the e-file by exd5, thereby giving up the option of e5, Black will probably castle very quickly. 9 h4 9 c3 a5 10 a4 $\mathbb{Q}a6$ is similar to the game. 9...h6 Now h5 can be answered by ...g5. 10 c3 If White plays 10 e5, then Black changes plan and aims for queenside castling. After 10... $\mathbb{W}c7$ 11 $\mathbb{W}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ 0-0-0, for example, White's set-up, which would be very effective against kingside castling, looks somewhat out of place. 10...a5 White's last move weakened d3, so Black both gains queenside space and prepares for ... $\mathbb{Q}a6$. It would be a mistake to play 10... $\mathbb{Q}a6$ as 11 exd5 exd5 12 $\mathbb{W}a4$ would be very unpleasant. 11 a4 11 e5 $\mathbb{W}c7$ is a little awkward for White as 12 d4 cxd4 13 cxd4 would be well met by 13... $\mathbb{Q}b4$. 11... $\mathbb{Q}a7$ (30b) Black consistently aims to play as many useful moves as possible before castling; now he intends ... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ and ... $\mathbb{Q}a6$. 12 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ An inaccuracy. White should have tried either 12 exd5 exd5 13 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ 0-0 14 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ or 12 e5 $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ with a roughly equal position in either case. 12...d4! Black immediately exploits White's

omission of exd5. If the e-pawns had been exchanged, White would be able to develop his bishop at f4, whereas now this would be pointless as Black can just reply ...e5. 13 cxd4 13 e5 dxc3 14 bxc3 $\mathbb{H}d7$ 15 d4 cxd4 16 cxd4 0-0 is fine for Black. 13...cxd4 14 $\mathbb{Q}d2?$ (30c) A serious positional error. It was essential to play 14 e5 to gain some space, when 14... $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 15 $\mathbb{M}e4$ $\mathbb{H}d7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ is unclear. 14...e5! Now White is in trouble. Black has more space and can develop his remaining pieces easily. White, on the other hand, is completely tangled up: where can his minor pieces move to? 15 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 16 $\mathbb{M}e2$

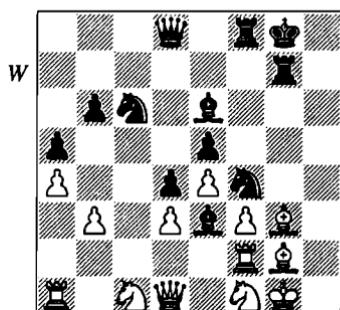
White tries to solve the puzzle of rearranging his pieces, but his contortions contrast sharply with Black's comfortable development. 16...0-0 (30d) Black finally castles. Needless to say, White no longer has any attacking chances on the kingside; indeed, thanks to the weakening move h4, it is White's kingside which is in danger. 17 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ f5 18 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ 18 exf5 gxf5 doesn't help. 18...f4 Black's space advantage increases. Now he threatens 19...fxg3 followed by 20... $\mathbb{Q}g4$. 19 f3 Or 19 gxf4 exf4 20 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ followed by ... $\mathbb{Q}7c6$ and Black will end up with a knight on e5. 19...fxg3 20 $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ g5 The direct attack starts. 21 hxg5 (30e) 21... $\mathbb{Q}g6!$ Black would much prefer to take on g5 with his queen. 22 gxh6 $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ The pawn is irrelevant as White's kingside is on the point of collapse. Eleven moves ago, when Kasparov played ... $\mathbb{M}a7$, he could hardly have imagined that this rook would now be joining in a kingside mating attack! 23 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{M}g7$ 24 $\mathbb{M}f2$ $\mathbb{Q}e3$ 25 b3 25 $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ dxe3 26 $\mathbb{M}f1$ (26 $\mathbb{M}e2$ $\mathbb{W}g5$ 27 $\mathbb{M}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}d4$ wins) 26... $\mathbb{W}g5$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}f4$ finishes White off. 25... $\mathbb{Q}f4$ (30f) 0-1 26 $\mathbb{M}a2$ $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{W}h4$ is catastrophic.

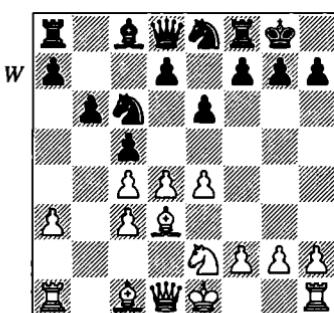


30d: After 16...0-0

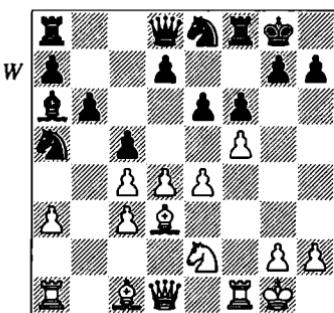


30e: After 21 hxg5

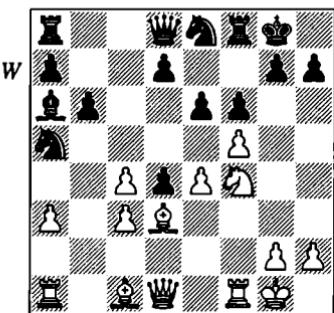
30f: After 25... $\mathbb{Q}f4$ 0-1



31a: After 9...Qe8



31b: After 12...f6



31c: After 13...cxd4!

31 Timman – Polugaevsky Tilburg 1983

Nimzo-Indian Defence, Sämisch Variation

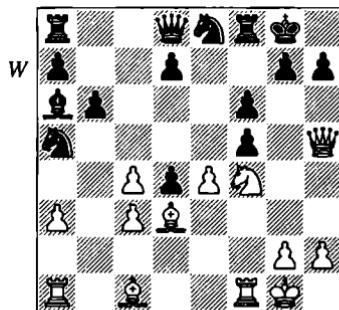
1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 e6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 4 e3 c5 5 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ 0-0 6 a3 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ + 7 bxc3 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ b6 9 e4

A typical Sämisch Nimzo-Indian position; Black aims to win the c4-pawn with ... $\mathbb{Q}a6$ and ... $\mathbb{Q}a5$, while White plays for a kingside attack. Here Black must prevent a deadly pin by 10 $\mathbb{Q}g5$, but 9...h6 must be avoided as it seriously weakens Black's kingside. 9... $\mathbb{Q}e8$

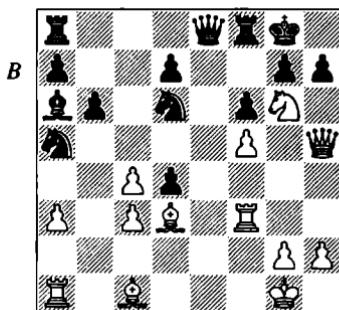
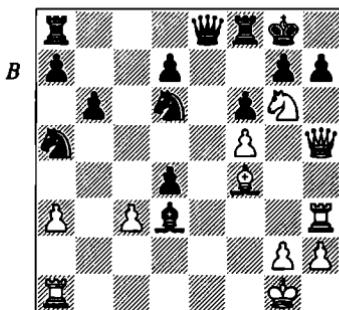
(31a) The correct solution, side-stepping the pin without creating a weakness. 10 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 11 f4 At first sight White's attack, based on f5-f6, looks very dangerous, but with accurate play Black can defend. 11... $\mathbb{Q}a5$ 11...f5 is the alternative, stopping White's f-pawn one move earlier than in the game. Theory regards the resulting position as unclear. 12 f5 f6 (31b) Black must prevent f6 by White; for example, 12... $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 13 f6 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ gives White an extremely dangerous attack. 13 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ cxd4 14 $\mathbb{Q}h3$ exf5 15 exf5 led to a win for White in Cvitan-H.Grünberg, Polanica Zdroj 1985, but at this stage the position is just unclear. 13...cxd4! (31c)

The most accurate, 13...exf5 14 exf5 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ is inferior because of 15 $\mathbb{Q}xc4+$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 16 dxc5 threatening 17 $\mathbb{Q}d5+$. 14 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 14 fxe6 dxc3 15 e5 looks dangerous, but after 15...fxe5 16 $\mathbb{Q}xh7+$ (16 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ dxe6 18 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ also defends) 16... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}g6$ Black has a neat defence in 18... $\mathbb{Q}xf1+$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ c2! 24 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ c1 $\mathbb{Q}+$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$. This line shows that Black's pawn captures are not only motivated by the desire for material gain – sometimes they provide a mechanism for counterplay. After 14 cxd4 Black can safely take the c-pawn: 14...exf5 15 exf5

$\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xc4+$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 17 $\mathbb{W}h5$ $\mathbb{Q}ed6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}g6$ $\mathbb{W}e8$ and Black had a clear advantage in Ker-Hellers, Gausdal 1986. 14... $exf5$ (31d) 15 $exf5?$ White plays for mate, but this is too ambitious. He should have continued 15 $\mathbb{W}xf5$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ (15... $dxc3$ 16 $e5$ $g6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ and White wins after 17... $\mathbb{H}f7$ 18 $exf6$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 19 $\mathbb{W}d5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ or 17... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}e7+$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xh7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 20 $exf6$) 16 $\mathbb{W}d5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 17 $cxd4$ $\mathbb{E}c8$, when White's active pieces give him fair compensation for the coming loss of the c4-pawn. 15... $\mathbb{Q}d6!$ Cool defence, clearing e8 for the black queen. Occupying this square will not only force White to spend a tempo avoiding the queen exchange, but the action of Black's queen along the e-file will provide counterplay. 16 $\mathbb{H}f3$ $\mathbb{W}e8$ The immediate 16... $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ allows 17 $\mathbb{H}h3$ $h6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}g6$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ 19 $\mathbb{H}xd3$, when a sacrifice on h6 is threatened, e.g. 19... $\mathbb{H}e8?$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ $gxh6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}g3!$ $\mathbb{H}e3$ 22 $\mathbb{W}xh6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}e7++$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 24 $\mathbb{W}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ with a decisive attack. 17 $\mathbb{Q}g6$ (31e) After 17 $\mathbb{W}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 18 $\mathbb{H}h3$ $h6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}g6$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ the situation is entirely different, as the f5-pawn is *en prise*. 17... $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ The cavalry arrives just in time; Black is threatening 18... $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ 19 $\mathbb{H}xd3$ $\mathbb{W}e1\#$, so White has to interrupt his attack. 18 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xc4+$ $\mathbb{Q}axc4$ 19 $cxd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xf5$ $hxg6$ leaves White with little to show for the two pawns. 18... $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ Now the bishop bears down on the g6-square, and the attack collapses. 19 $\mathbb{H}h3$ (31f) The last desperate chance, as 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $hxg6$ and 19 $\mathbb{H}xd3$ $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ are easily winning for Black. 19... $\mathbb{Q}xf5!$ Not 19... $h6$ 20 $\mathbb{H}xd3$ and White is suddenly better. 20 $\mathbb{W}xh7+$ White finally breaks through to h7, but the cost has been too high. 20... $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 21 $\mathbb{H}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}e5+$ 22 $\mathbb{H}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ 23 $\mathbb{H}xe8$ $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ gives Black far too much for the queen. 22... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 0-1 White will be at least a piece and two pawns down.

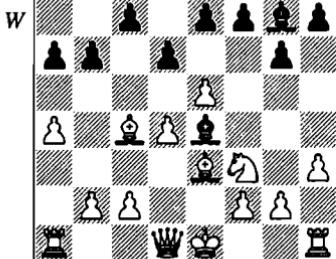


31d: After 14...exf5

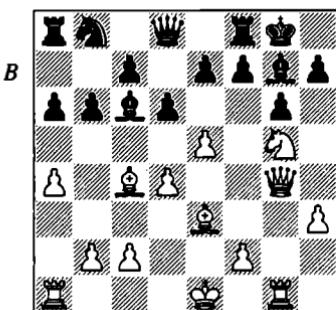
31e: After 17 $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 31f: After 19 $\mathbb{H}h3$

32 Spassky – Seirawan Zurich 1984

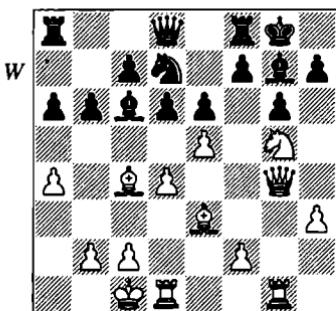
Pirc Defence



32a: After 10...Qxe4



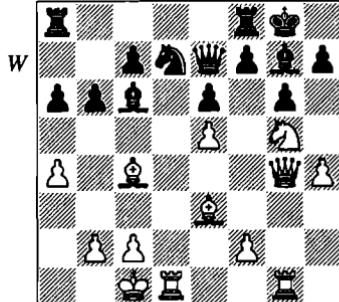
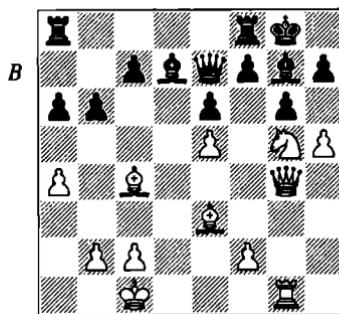
32b: After 13...Bg4



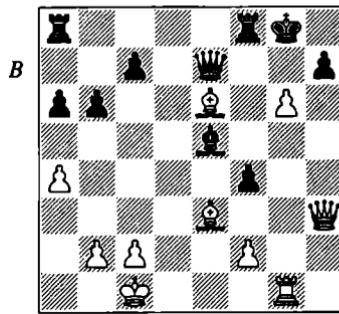
32c: After 14...Qd7

1 e4 d6 2 d4 Qf6 3 Qc3 g6 4 Qf3 Qg7 5 h3 0-0 6 Qe3 This system became popular in the 1980s but is less often seen these days. White delays the development of his f1-bishop until he has a better idea where it will be well placed. 6...a6 7 a4 b6 8 Qc4 Qb7?? It is risky to allow White to advance in the centre. 8...e6 is currently regarded as giving Black excellent equalizing chances. 9 e5 Qe4 9...dxe5 10 dx5 Qxd1+ 11 Qxd1 is simply bad for Black as 11...Qxf3 loses material after 12 exf6, while 9...Qe8 10 e6 f5 11 d5 c6 12 h4 gives White a very dangerous attack. 10 Qxe4 Qxe4 (32a) 11 Qg5! At the cost of the g-pawn, White opens a file towards Black's king and gains a number of tempi for his attack. 11...Qxg2?? 11...d5? 12 Qb3 Qxg2 13 Qg1 Qe4 14 Qxe4 dxe4 15 Qg4 regains the pawn with tremendous pressure on the light squares. 11...Qb7 12 Qg4 e6 offers better defensive chances, but this is still a pretty grim prospect for Black. 12 Qg1 Qc6 13 Qg4 (32b) White threatens 14 e6 f5 15 Wh4 h6 16 Qf7 with a decisive attack, so Black is obliged to make another non-developing move to prevent the advance of White's e-pawn. 13...e6 13...dxe5 14 Wh4 h6 runs into the combination 15 Qxf7! Qxf7 16 Qxg6 Qd5 17 dxe5 Qxc4 18 Qxc4 c6 (Black must try to free his f7-rook; this threatens 19...Qd5) 19 Qd1 Qc7 20 Qe6 with total paralysis. 14 0-0-0 White completes his development. The threat is 15 h4 and if Black replies 15...h5, weakening g6, then White has only to retreat his queen to be threatening a deadly piece sacrifice on e6. 14...Qd7 (32c) 15 h4 15 Qxf7 Qxf7 16 Qxe6 Qf8 17 Qxf7+ Qxf7 18 Qxf7+ Qxf7

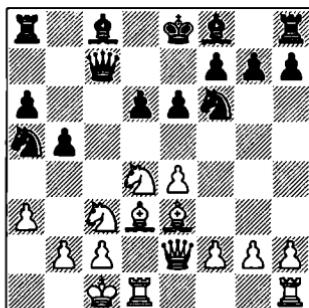
19 d5 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 20 dxc6 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ would be extremely difficult to win, so White goes for more. 15...dxe5 15...h5 16 $\mathbb{W}g3$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ (trying to support e6) 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ fxe6 18 $\mathbb{W}xg6$ wins for White. 16 dxe5 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ looks promising, but is not so clear after 16...fxe6 17 $\mathbb{W}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xc6$ exd4 19 $\mathbb{R}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 20 $\mathbb{R}xd4$ $\mathbb{W}f6!$. 16... $\mathbb{W}e7$ (32d) 17 $\mathbb{R}xd7?$ An imaginative sacrifice to gain a tempo for h5. This move can hardly be criticized, because it gives White the advantage. However, it is worth mentioning that the simpler 17 f4 would have given White a very strong attack without any additional material investment. 17... $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 17... $\mathbb{W}xd7$ 18 h5 is no better, e.g. 18... $\mathbb{R}fe8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xh7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 20 hxg6+ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 21 gxf7+ $\mathbb{W}xf7$ 22 $\mathbb{R}h6$ $\mathbb{E}e7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{W}xg7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 25 $\mathbb{W}h4+$ $\mathbb{W}h7$ 26 $\mathbb{W}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ and wins. 18 h5 (32e) 18...f5?! This allows White a rather easy win. Black's other defences require accurate play by White. First of all, after 18...h6 19 hxg6! hxg5 20 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{W}c5$ (20... $\mathbb{W}e8$ 21 gxf7+ $\mathbb{W}xf7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ $\mathbb{W}f8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}g6$ followed by 24 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ wins) 21 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ $\mathbb{W}xf2$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{W}xg1+$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xg1$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}d3!$ Black still has serious problems with his exposed king. Secondly, 18... $\mathbb{R}fd8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ loses to 20 hxg6 f5 21 $\mathbb{W}xf5$ $\mathbb{Q}xb2+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ $\mathbb{W}b4+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{W}xb3+$ 24 cxb3 exf5 25 $\mathbb{Q}h6!$ and White gains too much material. Finally, 18... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ $\mathbb{W}b4$ (19... $\mathbb{R}fd8$ transposes to the previous line) 20 $\mathbb{Q}d4!$ $\mathbb{W}xc4$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{W}xg4$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ (22... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xg4+$ wins) 23 $\mathbb{Q}xd7+$ f6 24 $\mathbb{R}xg4$ fxe5 25 $\mathbb{R}xg6+$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xf8+$ $\mathbb{R}xf8$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ gives White a very promising rook ending. 19 $\mathbb{W}h3$ f4 19...h6 loses to 20 hxg6 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}f7.$ 20 hxg6 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}f7$ also wins. 21... $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ (32f) 22... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 22... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 23 $\mathbb{R}h1$ wins. 23 $\mathbb{R}xh7+$ 1-0 It is mate in a few moves.

32d: After 16... $\mathbb{W}e7$ 

32e: After 18 h5

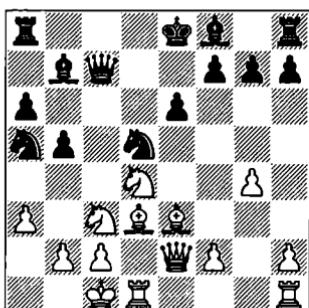
32f: After 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$

B



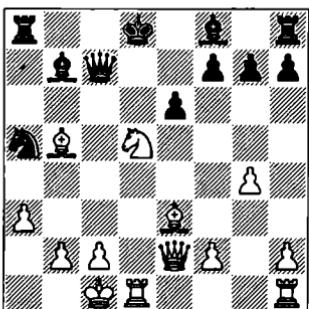
33a: After 11 a3

W



33b: After 13...Qxd5

B



33c: After 16 Qxd5

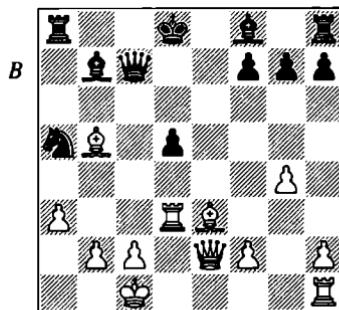
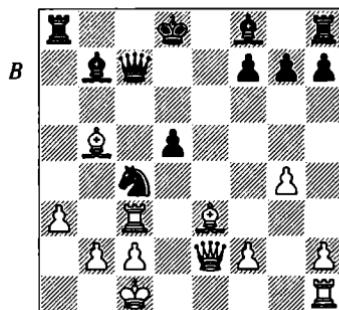
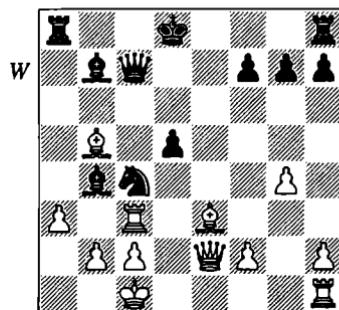
33 Nunn – Sosonko

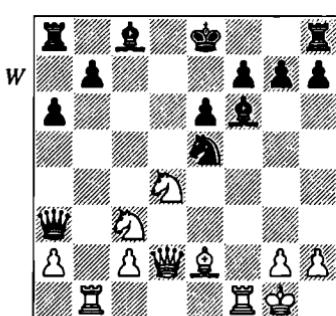
Thessaloniki Olympiad 1984

Sicilian Defence, Velimirović Attack

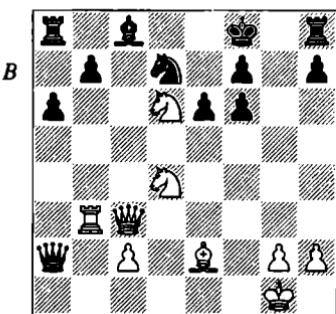
1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 3 d4 cxd4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ d6 6 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ e6 7 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ a6 8 $\mathbb{W}e2$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ 9 0-0-0 $\mathbb{Q}a5$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ b5 11 a3 (33a) 11... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 11... $\mathbb{B}b8$ is the main alternative, but Black is still not threatening ...b4 because this would leave the a6-pawn hanging. 12 g4 d5 The critical move, as once the f6-knight is pushed away by g5, Black will find it much harder to generate counterplay. 13 exd5 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ (33b) Everything looks fine for Black, since the open diagonal from b7 to h1 works against White in exposing the h1-rook to attack. 14 $\mathbb{Q}dxb5!$ Were it not for this tactical point, White's whole plan would indeed be misconceived. 14...axb5 There is not much to choose between this and 14... $\mathbb{W}b8$. After the queen move, 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}xh1$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xh1$ gives White fair compensation for his small sacrifice. Objectively the position should probably be assessed as 'unclear', but in practice it is much easier to play the white side. 14... $\mathbb{W}e5?$ is bad in view of 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}b6!$ $\mathbb{W}f4+$ (16... $\mathbb{W}xe2$ loses to 17 $\mathbb{Q}c7+$) 17 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xa5$ $\mathbb{Q}xh1$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xh1$ axb5 20 $\mathbb{Q}xb5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}b4+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ with a decisive attack. 15 $\mathbb{Q}xb5+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ Forced, as 15... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ exd5 17 $\mathbb{Q}b6+$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xa5$ $\mathbb{W}xe2$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xc6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}he1$ and 15... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ exd5 17 $\mathbb{Q}c5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xc6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}he1$ win for White. 16 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ (33c) 16...exd5 Best. After 16... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xd5+!$ exd5 18 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ White has a clear advantage, e.g. 18... $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}a6+$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xb7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}b5+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b6$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ (23... $\mathbb{W}d7$ 24 $\mathbb{W}c4+$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}c7+$ $\mathbb{Q}a7$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ wins because Black cannot recapture the bishop) 24 $\mathbb{Q}a6+$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 25 $\mathbb{W}xb7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xb7$

26 $\mathbb{H}xd6$ and, with three connected passed pawns for the exchange, White has a winning position; 18... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 19 $\mathbb{H}xd5+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 20 $\mathbb{W}f3$ (threatening 21 $\mathbb{H}d7$) 20... $\mathbb{B}b8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}a6+$ wins; 18... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}g5+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 20 $\mathbb{W}e8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 21 $\mathbb{H}xd5$ wins; 18... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 19 $\mathbb{W}c4!$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 20 $\mathbb{H}xd5+$ is decisive; and finally 18... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 19 $\mathbb{H}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ (relatively best; 19... $\mathbb{Q}c8$ transposes to the first line) 20 $\mathbb{Q}a6$ $\mathbb{H}xa6$ (20... $\mathbb{B}b8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{H}xb7$ 22 $\mathbb{W}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ $\mathbb{H}b6$ 24 $\mathbb{W}f5+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ $\mathbb{W}xb6$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ wins) 21 $\mathbb{W}xa6$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 22 $\mathbb{W}e2$ gives White three pawns and a continuing attack for the piece. 17 $\mathbb{H}d3!$ (33d) The rook switch to c3 cuts off the black king's escape route via c8 and b8. 17... $\mathbb{Q}c4!$ Again Black finds the best defence. 17... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 18 $\mathbb{H}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}c4$ 19 $\mathbb{H}d1$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ $\mathbb{D}xc4$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xc4$, 17... $\mathbb{W}d6$ 18 $\mathbb{H}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 19 $\mathbb{H}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}b6+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 21 $\mathbb{W}f3$ and 17... $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 18 $\mathbb{H}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3+$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xe3$ $\mathbb{W}d6$ 20 $\mathbb{H}4$ are all lost for Black. 18 $\mathbb{H}c3$ (33e) The alternatives 18 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ $\mathbb{W}xc4$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}b6+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 20 $\mathbb{W}f3$ $\mathbb{H}c8$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xf7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ and 18 $\mathbb{H}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xe3$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ are unclear. 18... $\mathbb{Q}b4?$ (33f) Only this move costs Black the game. 18... $\mathbb{Q}xa3!$ is the correct defence, whereupon 19 $\mathbb{B}xa3$ (19 $\mathbb{Q}xc4?$ loses to 19... $\mathbb{Q}b4!)$ 19... $\mathbb{H}xa3$ 20 $\mathbb{H}xa3$ (20 $\mathbb{H}xc4$ $\mathbb{D}xc4$ 21 $\mathbb{H}d1+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 22 $\mathbb{H}d7$ $\mathbb{H}a1+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b2$ $\mathbb{H}a2+!$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{H}a1+$ is perpetual check) 20... $\mathbb{Q}xa3$ 21 $\mathbb{H}e1$ (the threat is 22 $\mathbb{Q}g5+$ followed by 23 $\mathbb{W}e8+)$ 21... $\mathbb{Q}c8$ (21... $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ 22 $\mathbb{W}xb5$ $\mathbb{W}c6$ is also only very slightly better for White) 22 $\mathbb{W}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xb5$ $\mathbb{W}c4$ 24 $\mathbb{W}xc4+$ $\mathbb{D}xc4$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ leads to an insignificant endgame edge for White. 19 $\mathbb{H}xc4!$ This further sacrifice proves decisive. 19... $\mathbb{D}xc4$ 20 $\mathbb{H}d1+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 21 $\mathbb{H}d4$ The most convincing win; Black must return a piece, but then material is equal while White's attack persists. 21... $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 22 $\mathbb{H}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 23 $\mathbb{H}d4$ 1-0 Further material loss is inevitable.

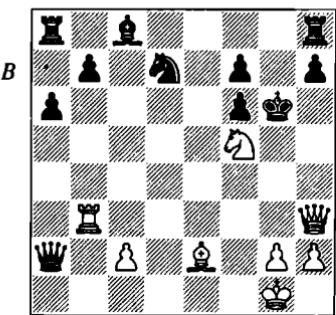
33d: After 17 $\mathbb{H}d3!$ 33e: After 18 $\mathbb{H}c3$ 33f: After 18... $\mathbb{Q}b4?$



34a: After 14...Qxf6



34b: After 19 Wc3



34c: After 22 Wh3! 1-0

34 Timman – Ljubojević Linares 1985

Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Poisoned Pawn

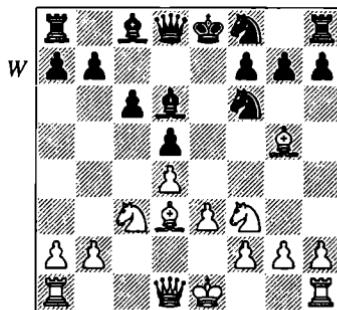
1 e4 c5 2 Qf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Qxd4 Qf6 5 Qc3 a6 6 Qg5 e6 7 f4 Wb6 8 Wd2 Wxb2 9 Bb1 Wa3 10 Qe2 Qe7 11 0-0 Qbd7 We have the same line of the Poisoned Pawn as in Game 29. As was mentioned there, 11...h6, 11...Wc5 and 11...Wa5 are also playable. The move played appears most natural, but allows a surprising breakthrough in the centre.

12 e5 dxe5 13 fxe5 Qxe5 14 Qxf6 Qxf6
(34a) Currently theory gives 14...gxf6 15 Qe4 f5 16 Bb3 Wa4 as best, with an unclear position. However, Ljubojević can hardly be criticized for the natural text-move. 15 Bxf6 gxf6 16 Qe4 Qd7? But this is definitely wrong. 16...We7 17 Wf4 Qd8 18 Qxf6 Qd7 19 Qxd7 Qxd7 20 Bxb7 is the best continuation, when White is slightly better. 17 Bb3 Wxa2 After 17...Wa4, 18 Wc3 (threatening 19 Ma3) 18...e5 19 Qf5 gives White an enormous attack, e.g. 19...Wc6 20 Wb4 Qc5 21 Qg7+ Qf8 22 Qxc5 Qxg7 23 Qe6+ fxe6 24 Bg3+ Qf7 25 Wh5#. It is now too late for 17...We7 in view of 18 Qc6! bxc6 19 Qd6+ Qd8 20 Wa5+ Qb6 21 Wxb6+ Qd7 22 Qe4! Bb8 23 Bd3+ Qe8 24 Wxc6+ Qd7 25 Bxd7 and wins. 18 Qd6+ Qf8 18...Qe7 fails to 19 Wb4 Wa1+ 20 Qf2. 19 Wc3 (34b) 19...Qg7?? Loses straight away. Black should have tried giving up a piece to safeguard his king, by 19...Bg8 20 Qxc8 Qg7 (20...Qe5 21 Bxb7 is very good for White). Then 21 Qd6 Qe5 22 Qf3 gives White a dangerous attack, but Black would still be fighting. 20 Q4f5+ exf5 20...Qf8 loses to 21 Wc7. 21 Qxf5+ Qg6 21...Qf8 22 Wb4+ mates. 22 Wh3!
(34c) 1-0 Black cannot meet the threats of 23 Bg3#, 23 Wg4# and 23 Wh5#.

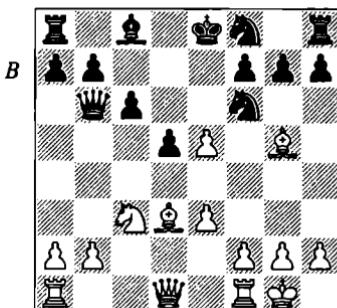
35 Yusupov – Nogueiras Montpellier Candidates 1985

*Queen's Gambit Declined,
Exchange Variation*

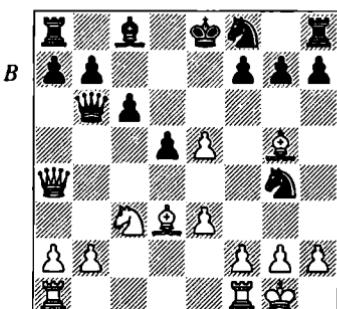
1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ c6 4 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 6 $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 6 exd5 exd5 7 e3 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ Black intends the ambitious plan of ... $\mathbb{Q}f8-g6$, followed by ...h6, forcing the exchange of White's dark-squared bishop. The defect is that his king has to stay in the centre for a long time. 8 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ (35a) 9 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ The sharpest reply; White intends f4, cementing his knight on e5. 9... $\mathbb{W}b6$ A rather greedy move aiming at the b2-pawn (we have already seen a number of fatal b2-pawn grabs in this book!). 9... $\mathbb{W}e7$ is a playable alternative, when 10 f4 h6 11 $\mathbb{Q}h4$ g5 12 fxg5 hxg5 13 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 15 dxе5 $\mathbb{W}xe5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ is unclear, but an attacking player would favour White as Black's king is trapped in the centre for the time being. 10 0-0 White does not want to spend a tempo covering his b-pawn. 10... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 10... $\mathbb{W}xb2$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ is very dangerous; for example, 11... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 12 f4 0-0 13 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ gx $f6$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xg4$ with a very strong attack, Timman-Ljubojević, KRO match (5), Hilversum 1987. Black therefore decides to eliminate the dangerous knight, but this has the effect of weakening his dark squares. Black is not yet seriously worse, but the fact that his king is still in the centre means that even a slight misstep could prove fatal. 11 dxе5 (35b) 11... $\mathbb{Q}g4?$ This move is a mistake because of White's strong reply. 11... $\mathbb{Q}6d7$ is correct, when 12 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ (12 $\mathbb{W}a4$ is dubious due to 12... $\mathbb{Q}e6$) 12... $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}xa4$ 14 $\mathbb{W}xa4$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ was unclear in Gulko-Smagin, Moscow 1984. 12 $\mathbb{W}a4!$ (35c) This exposes the weakness of Black's previous move: 12... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ loses to 13 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$, while 12... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ is impossible as the



35a: After 8... $\mathbb{Q}f8$

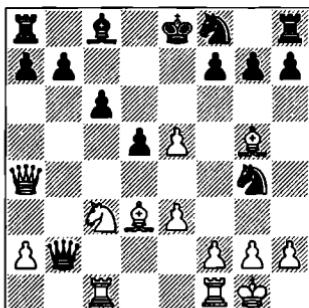


35b: After 11 dxе5

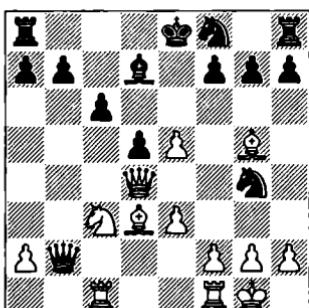


35c: After 12 $\mathbb{W}a4!$

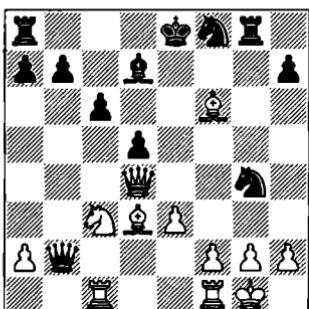
B

35d: After 13 $\mathbb{Q}ac1$

B

35e: After 14 $\mathbb{Q}d4!$

W

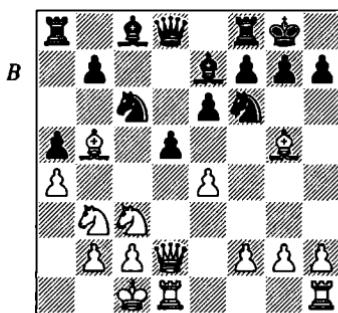
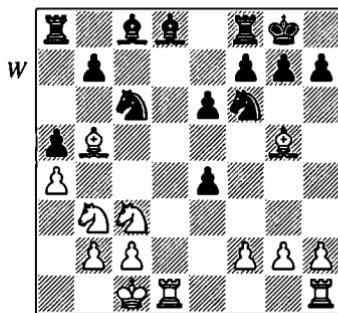
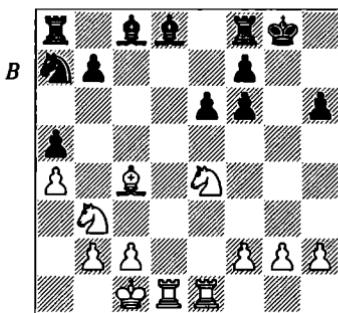
35f: After 16... $\mathbb{Q}g8$

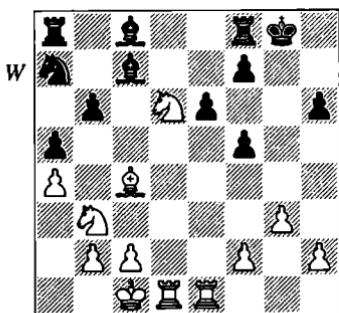
g4-knight hangs. 12... $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ After 12... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ White can gain a large advantage by either 13 e6 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ or 13 $\mathbb{Q}a3$ f6 14 exf6 gxf6 15 $\mathbb{Q}f4$. Since the alternatives are impossible, the text-move is practically Black's only constructive possibility. However, the dangers are obvious. 13 $\mathbb{Q}ac1$ (35d) Not, of course, 13 $\mathbb{Q}xd5?$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ and the threat of mate at h2 turns the tables. 13 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ is also inferior because 13...cb5 14 $\mathbb{Q}xb5+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}ab1$ $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ $\mathbb{Q}d7!$ is unclear. 13... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 13... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ loses to 14 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$, while 13...a5 14 $\mathbb{Q}b5!$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ h5 18 $\mathbb{Q}b6$ won for White in Hjartarson-Ljubojević, Tilburg 1989 – another zero for Ljubo in this line. 14 $\mathbb{Q}d4!$ (35e) Sometimes it is the relatively quiet-looking moves which turn out to be the most deadly. By lining up the two queens on the same diagonal, White sets up the threat of 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ (15 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ and 15 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ are also threatened). In addition, Black has to worry about the possibility of 15 e6 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$, trapping the rook. 14...f6 There is no defence, e.g. 14... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 15 e6 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ hxg6 17 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ and White wins, or 14... $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 15 h3 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ (15... $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ fails to 16 $\mathbb{Q}c5$) 16 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ (the position of Black's knights is comical, at least for everybody except Nogueiras) 17 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ (17... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 18 e6 fxе6 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ is decisive) 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ cxд5 19 $\mathbb{Q}b1$, followed by 20 $\mathbb{Q}b5+$. 15 exf6 gxf6 16 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ (35f) Or 16... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$. 17 $\mathbb{Q}b5!$ The discovered attack motif arises in any case. Now Black loses his queen. 17... $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ 17... $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}d6\#$ is an attractive mate. 18 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}b2$ cxб5 20 $\mathbb{Q}h4$ 1-0

36 Tal – Korchnoi

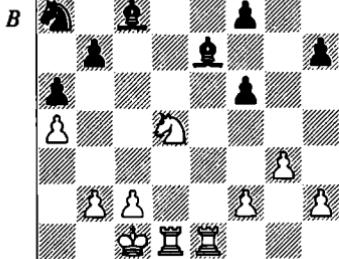
*Montpellier Candidates 1985**Sicilian Defence, Richter-Rauzer Attack*

1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 6 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ e6 7 $\mathbb{W}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 8 0-0-0 0-0 9 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ a5 10 a4 d5 11 $\mathbb{Q}b5!$ (36a) This move, originally an idea of Vitolinš, came to prominence as a result of the current game. Today it is regarded as White's best move and is the reason why the variation with 9...a5 10 a4 d5 is now rarely seen. 11... $dxe4$ 11... $\mathbb{Q}b4$ may be Black's best chance, although White can retain an edge with either 12 e5 $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 14 f4 or simply 12 $\mathbb{H}he1$. 11... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $dxe4$ 13 $\mathbb{W}xd8$ $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ f5 16 $\mathbb{H}d6$ gave White some advantage in the earlier game Tal-Sisniega, Taxco Interzonal 1985. Korchnoi attempts to improve on this, but his move also fails to solve Black's main problem – his inability to develop the light-squared bishop. 12 $\mathbb{W}xd8$ $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ (36b) After 12... $\mathbb{W}xd8$ Tal gave 13 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{H}xd1+$ 15 $\mathbb{H}xd1$, but this does not appear especially clear after 15... $\mathbb{Q}xf2$. Therefore 13 $\mathbb{H}xd8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ 14 $\mathbb{H}d1$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ bxc6 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ is better, with an advantage for White. 13 $\mathbb{H}he1$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ also gives White an edge. 13... $\mathbb{Q}a7$ Other moves also fail to equalize. After 13... $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ gxf6 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ f5 16 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}d7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ White retains an advantage whichever way Black recaptures, 13...h6 14 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ gives White a useful extra tempo over the previous note and, finally, 13... $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ is clearly better for White. 14 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ h6 14... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ also favours White. 15 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ gxf6 Or 15... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}bc5$ and Black's development is still difficult; for example, 17...b6 18 $\mathbb{Q}d7$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 19

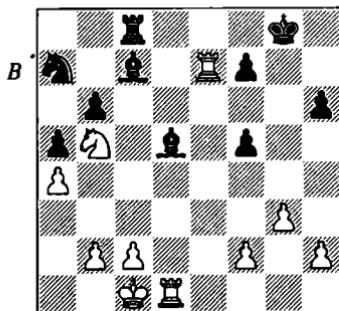
36a: After 11 $\mathbb{Q}b5!$ 36b: After 12... $\mathbb{W}xd8$ 36c: After 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$



36d: After 18...b6?



36e: After 22 ♜d4



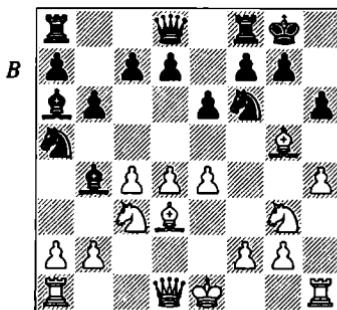
36f: After 24 ♜b5 1-0

\blacksquare xd7 with advantage to White. 16 $\squarexe4$ (36c) 16...f5 17 $\squared6$ $\squarec7$ Black intends 18... $\blacksquared8$, forcing the knight either to retreat or to be exchanged off for the troublesome bishop. 18 g3 The immediate 18 $\squarec5$ b6 19 $\squarexc8$ $\blacksquaref4+$! (not 19... $\blacksquareaxc8$ 20 $\squarexe6$) 20 $\squareb1$ $\blacksquareaxc8$ 21 $\squarexe6$ $\blacksquarexc4$ 22 $\squarexf8$ $\blacksquarexf8$ 23 $\blacksquared7$ $\squarec6$ is unclear. White therefore cuts out the check on f4 which proved so useful to Black in this line. 18...b6? (36d) This runs into a surprising combination. 18... $\blacksquared8$ is the best defence; however, even in this case 19 $\squareb5!$ (19 $\squarexf5$ $\blacksquarexd1+$ 20 $\squarexd1$ exf5 21 $\blacksquaree7$ $\blacksquareb6$ 22 $\blacksquarexf7$ $\blacksquareh8$ is unclear) 19... $\squarexb5$ 20 $\squarexb5$ gives White the advantage; for example, 20... $\blacksquarexd1+$ 21 $\blacksquarexd1$ e5 22 $\squarec5$ with continuing pressure. 19 $\squarexf5!$ This unexpected move exchanges two minor pieces for a rook and a pawn. However, in the resulting position White's rooks will be extremely active. 19...exf5 20 $\blacksquared5$ $\blacksquaree6$ The only move, as 20... $\blacksquareb8$ loses to 21 $\blacksquaree7$. 21 $\blacksquarexa8$ $\blacksquarexa8$ 21... $\blacksquarexb3$ is no better; for example, 22 $\blacksquared7!$ $\blacksquarexa4$ 23 $\blacksquarexc7$ $\blacksquarexa8$ 24 $\blacksquaree7$ $\squarec6$ 25 $\blacksquarexf7$ and Black will lose more pawns. 22 $\squared4$ (36e) Black's poorly coordinated minor pieces are in no position to resist White's pressure along the central files. The knight on a7 is particularly ineffective. 22... $\blacksquared5$?! Loses more material, but there is no saving the game; for example, 22... $\blacksquaree8$ 23 $\squarexe6$ fxe6 24 $\blacksquared7$ $\blacksquareb8$ 25 $\blacksquareb7$ $\squarec6$ 26 $\blacksquarexb6$ $\squared4$ 27 c3 $\blacksquarea7$ 28 $\blacksquarea6$ and again Black's pawns are falling. 23 $\blacksquaree7$ $\blacksquarec8$ Both 23... $\blacksquared8$ 24 $\blacksquarexf5!$ $\blacksquaree6$ 25 $\blacksquaree8+$ $\blacksquareh7$ 26 $\blacksquaree3$ $\squarec6$ 27 $\blacksquared6$ and 23... $\blacksquared6$ 24 $\blacksquared7$ win for White. 24 $\squareb5$ (36f) 1-0 As 24... $\blacksquarexb5$ 25 $\blacksquarexd5$ $\squared6$ (or 25... $\blacksquarea7$ 26 $\blacksquaredd7$) 26 $\blacksquarexc7$ $\blacksquarexc7$ 27 $\blacksquarexd6$ leads to an easily won rook ending.

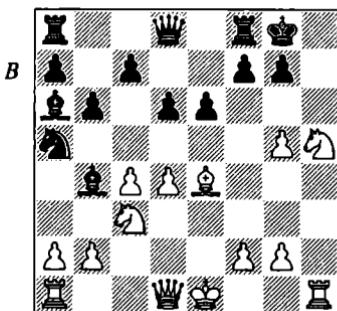
37 Knaak – Adorjan Szirák 1985

Nimzo-Indian Defence,
Rubinstein Variation

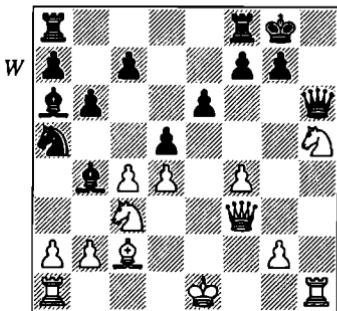
1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 e6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 4 e3 b6 5 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 6 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ 0-0 7 e4 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}a5?$ An error which is severely punished by White. Black heads off to win the c4-pawn, but he leaves White with a free hand in the centre. 8...e5 is better, preventing the further advance of White's e-pawn. 9 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ Setting up a very awkward pin. 9...h6 10 $\mathbb{h}4!$ (37a) 10...d6 Accepting is no better, e.g. 10...hxg5 11 hxg5 g6 (11... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 12 $\mathbb{W}h5$ f5 13 g6 mates) 12 gxf6 $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 13 e5 $\mathbb{W}g7$ (13... $\mathbb{W}f4$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ wins outright) 14 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 15 $\mathbb{W}f3$ 15 16 exf6 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xf6+$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 18 $\mathbb{W}h3$ $\mathbb{W}f7$ 19 0-0-0 with a very strong attack for no material sacrifice. 11 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ Forcing Black's hand. 11...hxg5 12 hgx5 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 12... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ (12... $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 13 e5 $\mathbb{W}xg5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xh7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 15 f4! $\mathbb{W}h6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ gxf6 17 $\mathbb{W}d3+$ wins) 13 $\mathbb{W}g4$ f5 (forced) 14 exf5 exf5 15 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{W}xf5$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xf5$ gives White a large advantage, e.g. 16... $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{W}c8$ 18 $\mathbb{W}h8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xh8$ 19 $\mathbb{W}f8+$ and 20 0-0-0, winning. 13 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ (37b) Threatening 14 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ followed by 15 $\mathbb{W}h5$. 13... $\mathbb{W}xg5$ The rook on a8 is the least of Black's worries. If 13... $\mathbb{Q}e8$, then 14 $\mathbb{Q}xg7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 15 $\mathbb{W}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 16 $\mathbb{W}h5$ mates. 14 $\mathbb{W}h6$ 15 $\mathbb{W}f3$ White could have won more quickly by 15 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}g6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 18 $\mathbb{W}h8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xh8$ 19 $\mathbb{W}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 20 $\mathbb{W}h7\#$. 15...d5 16 $\mathbb{Q}h7+$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ would still have been effective. 16... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 16... $\mathbb{W}xh7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ gxf6 18 $\mathbb{W}xh7$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 20 $\mathbb{W}g4+$ and 21 $\mathbb{Q}f2$, mating. 17 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ (37c) 17... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 18 0-0-0 $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xh6$ gxh6 21 cxd5 is also hopeless. 18 $\mathbb{Q}f6+!$ Finally White sees it! 18... $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}g6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 21 $\mathbb{W}h8+!$ 1-0



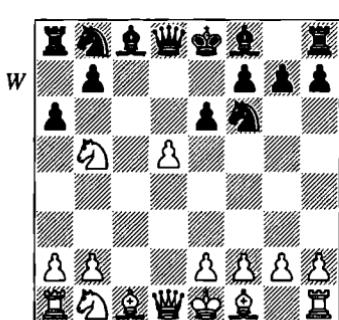
37a: After 10 h4!



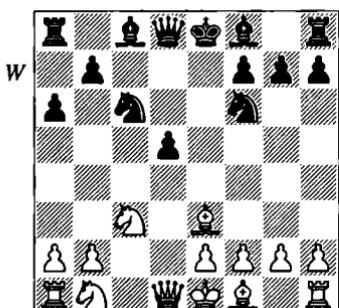
37b: After 13 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$



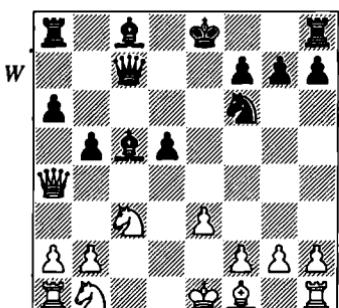
37c: After 17... $\mathbb{Q}g8$



38a: After 6...a6



38b: After 8...Qc6



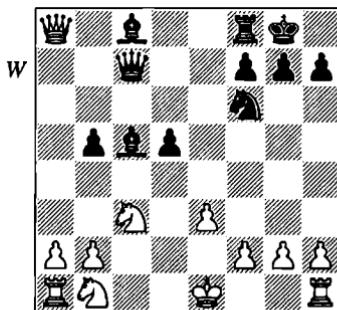
38c: After 12...b5!

38 Korchnoi – Greenfeld Biel 1986

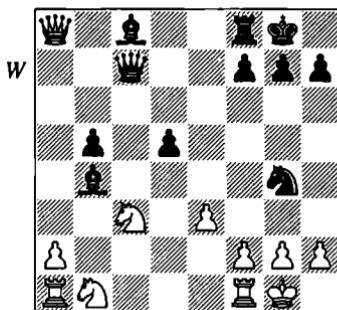
English Opening

1 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 c5 3 d4 cxd4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ e6 5 $\mathbb{Q}b5$? A very unusual move. It is wrong to move the d4-knight again without any particular reason. While grandmasters know all sorts of exceptions to the standard principles of chess, this move is not one of them, and not even Korchnoi can offend against basic opening principles without being punished at least occasionally. 5 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ and 5 g3 are the most common moves. 5...d5 5... $\mathbb{Q}b4+$ 6 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2+7\mathbb{W}xd2$ d5 8 cxd5 a6 is a safe equalizing line. 6 cxd5 6 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}b4+7\mathbb{Q}1c3$ 0-0 8 $\mathbb{Q}c7$ $\mathbb{Q}h5$ is fine for Black as the knight will never emerge from a8. 6...a6 (38a) After 6... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 7 e4 White is slightly better, but 6...exd5 7 $\mathbb{Q}1c3$ a6 8 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 9 e3 0-0 10 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ bxc6 12 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ led to equality in Smyslov-Furman, USSR Ch 1961. 7 $\mathbb{Q}5c3$?! 7 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ would be an admission that the knight's foray to b5 was a mistake. Then, as in Smyslov-Furman above, Black would gain easy equality. However, this might have been better than the game continuation. 7...exd5 8 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ After 8 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ d4 9 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{W}e5$ Black is clearly better. 8... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ (38b) Now White suffers from his lack of control of d4 and is forced into artificial measures to prevent the advance of Black's d-pawn. 9 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 10 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ Black consistently continues the fight for control of d4; now he prepares ... $\mathbb{Q}c5$. 11 e3 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}a4+$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 13 $\mathbb{W}xd5$ gives Black a very strong initiative for the pawn after 13...0-0 or 13... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 14 $\mathbb{W}e4$ $\mathbb{W}b6$. 12... $\mathbb{Q}b5$! (38c) Black must be prepared to sacrifice to keep the initiative. After 12... $\mathbb{Q}d7$?! 13 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ White would manage to castle and thereby maintain the balance. 13

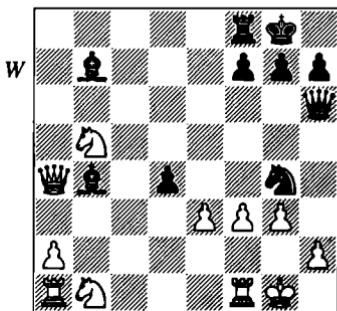
$\mathbb{Q}xb5+$ Taking an exchange but falling further behind in development. 13 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ is the other main possibility, but after 13... $\mathbb{W}e5!$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}c7++$ (both 14 $\mathbb{Q}5c3+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 15 $\mathbb{W}a5$ d4 and 14 $\mathbb{Q}d6++$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xc8+$ $\mathbb{Q}hxc8$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}xb2$ 17 $\mathbb{B}b1$ $\mathbb{W}c3$ 18 $\mathbb{B}b7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ are clearly better for Black) 14... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ (or 15 $\mathbb{W}a5$ $\mathbb{W}d6$ and Black wins) 15... $\mathbb{W}xb2$ Black has the advantage, e.g. 16 $\mathbb{Q}c7$ $\mathbb{Q}b4+$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ a5 18 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{W}xa1$ 19 $\mathbb{W}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ and Black holds the initiative. 13... $\mathbb{axb5}$ 14 $\mathbb{W}xa8$ 0-0 (38d) 15 b4 Ingenious, but ultimately unsuccessful. 15 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 17 $\mathbb{W}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ wins the knight on b5, while at the same time trapping White's king in the centre. Another possibility is 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xd5$, but then Black wins by 16... $\mathbb{Q}b4+$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ (or 17 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$) 17... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 18 $\mathbb{W}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}c4+$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ f5. Finally, 15 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 16 g3 $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{W}c6$ 18 $\mathbb{W}a4$ d4 19 f3 dxе3 gives Black a winning attack. The text-move is an attempt to deflect Black's bishop from the a7-g1 diagonal before entering this last line. 15... $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ 16 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ (38e) White's bare kingside, poor development and misplaced queen give Black too strong an attack. Note that 16... $\mathbb{Q}xc3?$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ $\mathbb{W}xc3$ loses to 18 $\mathbb{Q}ac1$. 17 g3 Or 17 f4 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{W}a5$ and Black wins. 17... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ 18 $\mathbb{W}a7$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{W}c6$ wins as in the analysis of 15 0-0 given above. 18... $\mathbb{W}c6$ 19 $\mathbb{W}a4$ d4 20 f3 White's moves are all forced. 20... $\mathbb{W}h6!$ (38f) Even with the bishop on b4 rather than c5, Black has a winning attack. 21 $\mathbb{W}c2$ There is no way out, since 21 fxg4 $\mathbb{W}xe3+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{W}e4$ forces mate. 21...d3 22 $\mathbb{W}g2$ Or 22 $\mathbb{W}b2$ d2. 22... $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ 0-1 It is not often that such a skilled defender as Korchnoi loses so quickly.



38d: After 14...0-0

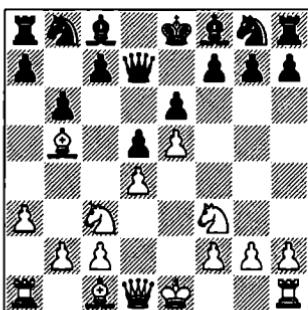


38e: After 16...Qg4



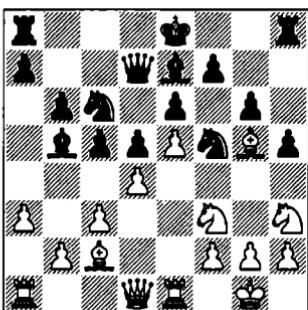
38f: After 20...Wh6!

B



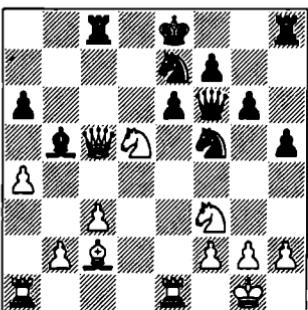
39a: After 7...Bb5!?

W



39b: After 16...Qc6

B



39c: After 24...Qd5! 1-0

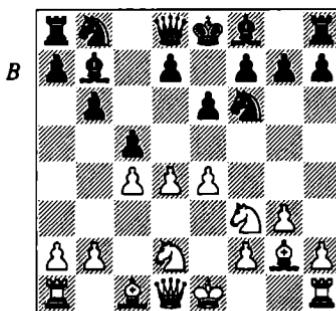
39 Chandler – Vaganian Dubai Olympiad 1986

French Defence, Winawer Variation

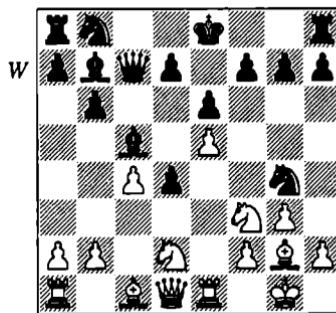
1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 4 e5 b6 5 a3 $\mathbb{Q}f8$ Black intends to keep his 'good' dark-squared bishop and exchange off his 'bad' light-squared bishop by ... $\mathbb{Q}a6$. 6 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{W}d7$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}b5!$? (39a) The manoeuvre $\mathbb{Q}b5-a4$ appeared in the early 1980s and immediately caused problems for Black. White's idea is simply to avoid the exchange of his light-squared bishop. 7...c6 8 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 9 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ Not only enabling castling, but also preparing to reactivate the a4-bishop by c3 and $\mathbb{Q}c2$. 9...h5? Black wants to secure his knight on f5, but ...h5 permanently weakens the kingside dark squares. 9... $\mathbb{Q}b5$ is probably the best try; if then 10 $\mathbb{Q}b3$, Black can start immediate counterplay by 10...c5. 10 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 11 $\mathbb{M}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 11... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 12 c3 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ favours White. Far from exchanging his 'bad' bishop, Black faces the exchange of his 'good' bishop. 12 c3 g6 13 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}h3$ Preparing $\mathbb{Q}g5$. 14... $\mathbb{Q}b5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ c5 16 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ (39b) 17 $\mathbb{Q}f6!$ Even better than exchanging bishops. 17... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ After 17... $\mathbb{M}g8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}fg5$ White is already threatening 19 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$. 18 $\mathbb{exf6}$ $\mathbb{W}d8$ 18... $\mathbb{cxdd}4$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{gxf5}$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ leaves Black's position riddled with dark-squared weaknesses. 19 $\mathbb{dxc5}$ $\mathbb{bxc5}$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ Attacking d5. 20... $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xd5!$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{W}d8$ lets Black off lightly. 21... $\mathbb{M}c8?$ Loses forthwith. 21... $\mathbb{Q}fe7$ was the only chance, but even then 22 $\mathbb{W}xc5$ $\mathbb{W}xf4$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xb5$ $\mathbb{M}b8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}a4$ $\mathbb{W}xa4$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xa4$ wins a pawn as 25... $\mathbb{M}xb2$ loses to 26 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ $\mathbb{M}b6$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}ab1$. 22 $\mathbb{W}xc5$ a6 22... $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}fe7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}e5!$ wins more material. 23 a4 $\mathbb{Q}ce7$ Black attempts to rescue the trapped bishop tactically. 24 $\mathbb{Q}d5!$ (39c) This attractive blow wins a piece. 1-0

40 Adorjan – Kudrin
New York Open 1987
Queen's Indian Defence

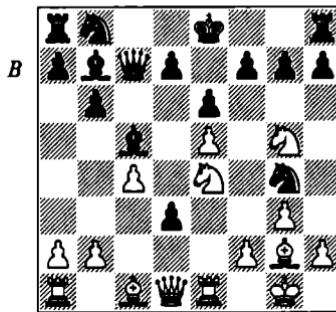
1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ e6 3 c4 b6 4 g3 $\mathbb{A}a6$ 5
 $\mathbb{Q}bd2$ $\mathbb{A}b7$ 6 $\mathbb{A}g2$ c5 7 e4 (40a) 7...cxtd4
 The greedy 7... $\mathbb{Q}xe4?$ is not a good idea: 8
 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ d5 (8... $\mathbb{Q}c3$ 9 $\mathbb{W}h5$ g6 10 $\mathbb{W}h3$, 8... $\mathbb{Q}d6$
 9 $\mathbb{A}xb7$ $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ 10 $\mathbb{W}f3$ and 8...f5 9 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ fol-
 lowed by 10 $\mathbb{W}h5+$ are all winning for White)
 9 cxd5 exd5 (9... $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ loses to 10 $\mathbb{Q}xf7!)$
 10 $\mathbb{W}a4+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ dxe4 12 $\mathbb{A}h3$ $\mathbb{A}c8$
 13 $\mathbb{W}c6$ $\mathbb{B}b8$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ and wins. 8 e5 $\mathbb{Q}g4?!$
 8... $\mathbb{Q}e4$ is the contemporary preference, with
 roughly equal chances. 9 0-0 $\mathbb{W}c7$ Other moves have been tried, with equal lack of
 success. 10 $\mathbb{A}e1$ $\mathbb{A}c5?$ (40b) Trying to keep
 the extra pawn is too greedy. Black's best
 chance is 10...h5 11 h3 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xg2$
 13 $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$, when White may be able to
 maintain an edge, but not more. 11 $\mathbb{Q}e4!$
 Black's development does not look too bad,
 but he suffers from the badly placed knight
 on g4, and the fact that the e5-pawn drives a
 wedge into his position. Note that 11 h3? is
 bad due to 11... $\mathbb{Q}e3!$. 11...d3 The alterna-
 tives are no better, e.g. 11... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ 0-0
 13 h3 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 14 $\mathbb{A}xh6$ gxh6 15 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 16
 $\mathbb{W}d3$ $\mathbb{B}h8$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 18 $\mathbb{W}d2$ with a large
 advantage for White, or 11... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$
 f5 13 exf6 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{W}c8$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$
 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ (16... $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 17 $\mathbb{W}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 18
 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ dxe6 19 $\mathbb{W}f3$ wins) 17 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ dxc6
 18 b4! $\mathbb{A}xb4$ (18... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 20
 $\mathbb{W}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 21 $\mathbb{B}d1$ is very good for White) 19
 $\mathbb{W}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}c3$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xc6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 21 $\mathbb{B}d1$ $\mathbb{B}d8$ 22
 $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ $\mathbb{B}xd1+$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xd1$ $\mathbb{W}xa8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}d3$ and
 White wins a pawn for nothing. 12 $\mathbb{Q}fg5?!$
 (40c) A brave move, but it is not altogether
 necessary to give up the important e-pawn.
 12 $\mathbb{W}xd3$ would have given White some ad-
 vantage at no risk; for example, 12... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 13



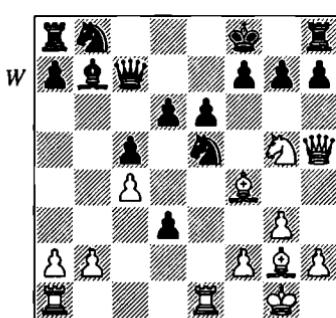
40a: After 7 e4



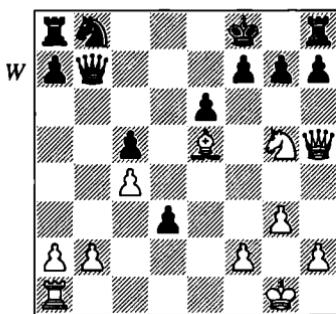
40b: After 10...Ac5?



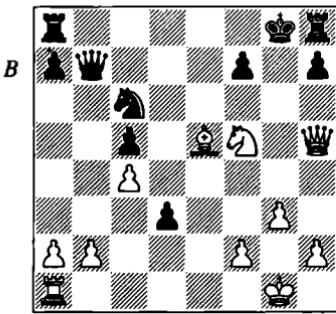
40c: After 12 Qfg5!



40d: After 15...bxc5



40e: After 18...Wxb7



40f: After 21 Qf5!

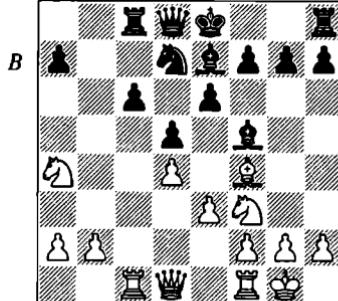
$\mathbb{Q}xe5 \mathbb{W}xe5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}f4$, 12...0-0 13 $\mathbb{Q}xc5 \mathbb{W}xc5$ 14 $\mathbb{R}e2 \mathbb{Q}c6$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ g6 16 $\mathbb{Q}e4!$ $\mathbb{W}xe5$ 17 h3, or 12... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 13 $\mathbb{W}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xf2+$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}f1 \mathbb{Q}xe1$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe1$, and White is better in every case. 12... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ Threatening 14 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$. 13...d6 13...f6 loses to 14 $\mathbb{W}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xf6!$ gxf6 16 $\mathbb{R}xe5!$ fxе5 17 $\mathbb{W}f7+$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe5+$, while 13... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 14 $\mathbb{W}h5$ g6 15 $\mathbb{W}h6$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 17 $\mathbb{W}h4$ gives White an enormous attack. 14 $\mathbb{W}h5$ The storm clouds are gathering. The immediate threat is to the e6-pawn. 14... $\mathbb{Q}f8?$ A major concession. 14...d2? is also bad after 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe6!$ $\mathbb{dxe1W}+$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe1 \mathbb{W}e7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}bxc5 \mathbb{Q}xe4$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe4 \mathbb{Q}bc6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd6+$ $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ and wins. Black's best defence is 14...g6 15 $\mathbb{W}h6 \mathbb{Q}bd7!$ (not 15... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4 \mathbb{Q}bc6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 18 $\mathbb{W}h4 \mathbb{W}c8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe5 \mathbb{dxe5}$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}g4+$, when White wins after 20... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 21 $\mathbb{W}f6 \mathbb{Q}g8$ 22 $\mathbb{W}f3$ or 20... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xc6 \mathbb{W}xc6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe5 \mathbb{W}b7$ 23 $\mathbb{W}f4) 16 \mathbb{W}g7$ 0-0-0, with very unclear play. 15 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ bxc5 (40d) The stage is set for the final onslaught. 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe5!$ The start of a combination shattering Black's position. 16... $\mathbb{dxe5}$ 16... $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ loses to 17 $\mathbb{R}xc5!$. 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe5 \mathbb{W}d7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xb7 \mathbb{W}xb7$ (40e) 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+!$ Another forceful blow. Black cannot play 19...fxe6 due to 20 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$, so his king has to move again. 19... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ fxe6 21 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ also wins. 20... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ Black's queenside development comes too late to help save his king. 20... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ also loses to 21 $\mathbb{Q}f5$. 21 $\mathbb{Q}f5!$ (40f) White's final sacrifice. 21... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ Or 21...f6 22 $\mathbb{Q}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ (22... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 23 $\mathbb{W}g5+$) 23 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 24 $\mathbb{W}g4+$ $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f4\#$. 22 $\mathbb{W}g5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 23 $\mathbb{W}f6$ 1-0 Since 23... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}g7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ picks up the black queen.

41 Seirawan – Beliavsky

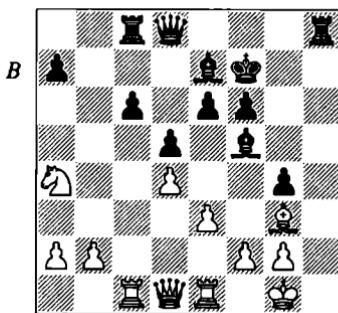
Brussels (World Cup) 1988

Slav Defence, Exchange Variation

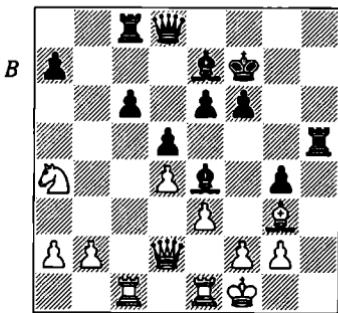
1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 4 cxd5 cxd5 5 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 6 e3 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ e6 8 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 9 0-0 9 $\mathbb{W}a4$ is another major line. 9... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ White exchanges on c6 before Black can play ... $\mathbb{B}c8$, when he would be able to take back with a piece. 10...bxc6 11 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 11...g5?! 12 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ h5 13 h3 g4 14 hxg4 hxg4 is premature as 15 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ followed by e4 opens the centre before Black's h-file attack has really got going. 12 $\mathbb{Q}a4?$ (41a) Playing the knight to the far edge of the board allows Black to start a kingside attack. The alternative 12 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ f6 14 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ c5 is equal. 12...g5! Unexpected and very strong. This attack is fully justified as Black's king is safe, his central pawn structure is solid and White cannot quickly open the position by playing e4. 13 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ h5 14 h3 g4 15 hxg4 hxg4 16 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ There is no ideal square for this knight. 16 $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{Q}f6!$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 18 dx5 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ favours Black as 19 $\mathbb{Q}xg4?$ loses to 19... $\mathbb{W}g5$, while 16 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}b4!$ opens the way for ... $\mathbb{W}g5-h5$. 16... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 17 dx5 c5 gives Black a positional advantage thanks to his active bishops. 17...f6 18 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ Creating a path for the queen to reach the h-file. 19 $\mathbb{Q}e1?$ (41b) 19 f3 gxf3 20 $\mathbb{W}xf3$ is better, although Black is on top after 20... $\mathbb{W}g8$. 19... $\mathbb{Q}h5!$ Black prepares to double on the h-file, while retaining the option of ... $\mathbb{W}a5$. 20 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{W}a5!$ cuts off the king's escape route as 21 $\mathbb{Q}e2?$ leads to mate after 21... $\mathbb{W}b5+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}d3\#$. 20... $\mathbb{Q}e4!$ If Black can conquer the e2-square, White's king will be cornered. 21 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ (41c) 21 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{W}h8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}f3$ leads to a quick mate. 21... $\mathbb{Q}f3!$ 0-1 It is mate in a few moves.



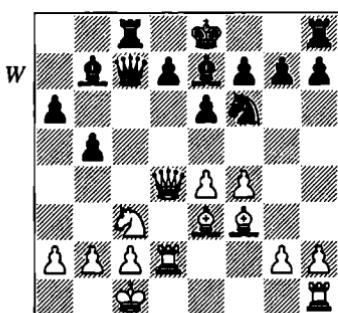
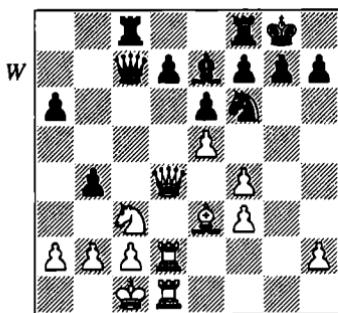
41a: After 12 $\mathbb{Q}a4?$



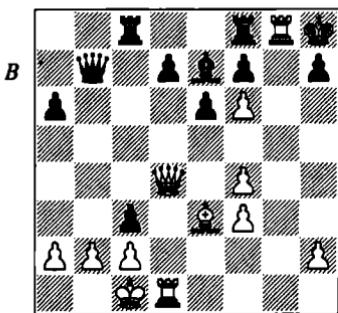
41b: After 19 $\mathbb{Q}e1?$



41c: After 21 $\mathbb{Q}f1$

42a: After 12... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 

42b: After 15...b4?



42c: After 19...g8+! 1-0

42 Ehilvest – Andersson

Belfort (World Cup) 1988

Sicilian Defence, Taimanov Variation

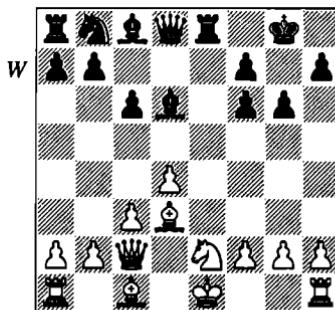
1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ a6 6 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ 7 f4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 8 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ b5 9 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 10 0-0-0 A double-edged line in which White aims for rapid development at the cost of putting his king in the c-file firing-line. 10... $\mathbb{K}c8$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ Necessary to meet the threat of ...b4, but this move appears slightly artificial. 11... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ (42a) 12... $\mathbb{W}a5$ 13 $\mathbb{W}a7$!? is complex, while 12... $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 13 $\mathbb{W}xc5$ $\mathbb{W}xc5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{K}xc5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ gives White an edge. 13 $\mathbb{Q}hd1$!? Despite its success in this game, the text-move is today regarded as inaccurate. The main line runs 13 g4 d5 (13... $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 14 $\mathbb{W}xc5$ $\mathbb{W}xc5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{K}xc5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}hd1$ is unclear) 14 exd5 b4 15 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$, which led to a draw in the game Nijboer-J.Polgar, Wijk aan Zee 1998. 13...0-0 14 e5 $\mathbb{Q}xf3$? This natural move is an error. Instead, Black should play the immediate 14...b4! 15 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ (15 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{W}xb7$ is slightly better for Black, while 15 exf6 bxc3 16 $\mathbb{W}xc3$ $\mathbb{W}xc3$ 17 fxe7 $\mathbb{W}xe3$ 18 exf8 $\mathbb{W}+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 0-1 was Hector-P.Cramling, Valby 1991) 15... $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 16 gxf3 (16 exf6 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ wins for Black) 16... $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}b6$ $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xb6$ $\mathbb{W}c4$ with an unclear position. 15 gxf3 b4? (42b) The preliminary exchange on f3 has serious consequences for Black owing to the open g-file. 15... $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xd7$ favours White, so Black should have tried 15... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 17 $\mathbb{W}xc7$ $\mathbb{Q}xc7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 19 $\mathbb{K}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ with just an edge for White. 16 exf6 bxc3 17 $\mathbb{Q}g2$! The point. 17... $\mathbb{W}b7$ 17...cxb2+ 18 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 20 $\mathbb{W}d3$ mates. 18 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}g8+$! (42c) 1-0 As 19... $\mathbb{Q}xg8$ (19... $\mathbb{Q}xg8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}g1+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 21 fxe7+ wins) 20 fxe7+ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{W}xb2+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ $\mathbb{W}b1+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ mates.

**43 Kudrin – King
London (NatWest
Young Masters) 1988
Caro-Kann Defence**

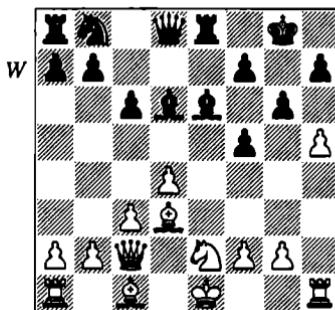
1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♜c3 dxe4 4 ♜xe4 ♜f6 5 ♜xf6+ exf6 At first sight, this line appears anti-positional, as White's queenside majority can create a passed pawn, while Black's crippled kingside majority cannot. In the Exchange Variation of the Spanish, where a similar transformation of the pawn structure occurs, Black has the two bishops as compensation, which is not the case here. However, it is not easy for White to exploit his better pawn-structure since the endgame is still a long way off, and Viktor Korchnoi has achieved some success on the black side. 6 c3 ♜d6 7 ♜d3 0-0 8 ♜c2 ♜e8+ 9 ♜e2 g6?!

(43a) Slightly inaccurate, since this gives White a target for his kingside attack. Both 9...h6 and 9...g8 are more solid than the text. 10 h4 ♜e6 11 h5 White already threatens to take twice on g6. 11...f5 (43b) 12 hxg6 The preliminary exchange is important. 12 ♜h6? is a serious mistake because after 12...g5 there is no good defence to the threat of 13...♜f6. Julian Hodgson won two games during 1988 thanks to this mistake. Abramović-Hodgson, London 1988 continued 13 ♜d2 f4 14 g3 ♜g4 15 gxf4 ♜xf4 16 ♜xf4 gxf4 17 ♜g1 ♜h4 18 0-0-0 ♜h8, while Pereira-Hodgson, Almada 1988 went 13 ♜xf5 ♜f6 14 ♜xh7+ ♜h8 15 ♜g6 ♜c4 16 ♜d3 ♜xd3 17 ♜xd3 ♜xh6, with a winning position for Black in both cases. 12...fxg6

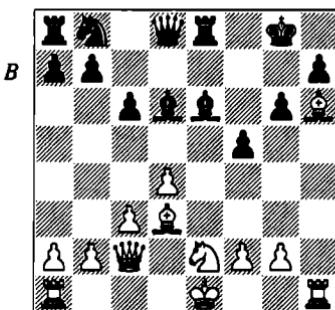
13 ♜h6 (43c) Developing the bishop to an active square and preparing to castle queenside. 13... ♜d7 13...♜f6 is also possible, defending g6 so that g4 can be met by ...fxg4. 14 g4?! White strikes before Black can reinforce his kingside with 14...♜f6. 14...♜d5



43a: After 9...g6?!

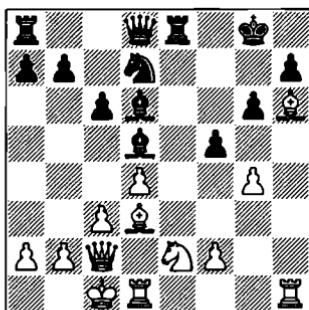


43b: After 11...f5



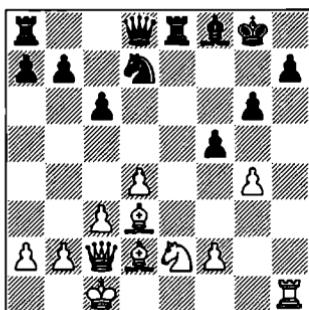
43c: After 13...d7

B



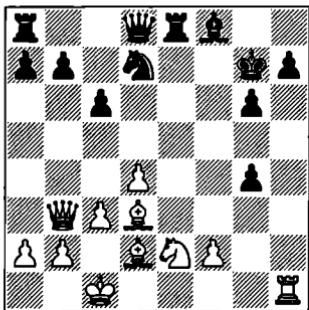
43d: After 15 0-0-0!

B



43e: After 17 ♖d2

W



43f: After 18...♗g7

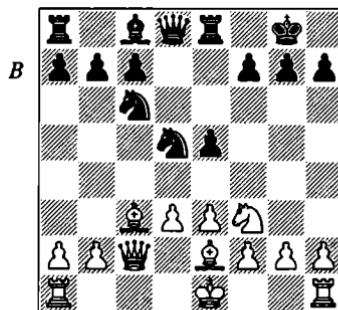
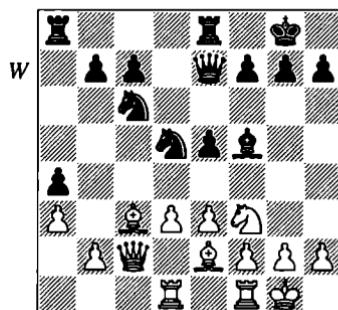
At first sight this disrupts White's attack, as the rook has no safe square on the h-file. However, White's attack is now so dangerous that he can afford to invest some material. 15 0-0-0! (43d) 15...♗xh1? This move lands Black in serious trouble. His light-squared bishop, which covers the weak diagonal from b3 to g8, is far more important than White's rook on d1. 15...♗f8 16 ♖d2 fxe4 is the correct defence, preserving the light-squared bishop while leaving open the option of taking on h1 later. White still has attacking chances, but there is nothing clear-cut. 16 ♗xh1 The light-squared weaknesses give White's attack more to bite on. 16...♗f8 16...♘f6 17 gxf5 gxf5 18 ♖xf5 ♖f8 gives White several ways to maintain the advantage, e.g. 19 ♖xf8 ♖xf8 20 ♖h5 with a continuing attack. Of course, 16...fxg4 fails to 17 ♖xg6. 17 ♖d2 (43e) Not 17 gxf5?? ♖xh6+ 18 ♖xh6 ♘g5+. After the text-move, the main threat is 18 gxf5, but White might also simply strengthen his attack by 18 ♖f4. 17...fxg4? Loses straight away. 17...♗b6 is only slightly better, as 18 ♖f4 (18 gxf5 ♖d5! is less clear) 18...♗d5 (not 18...fxg4 19 ♖xg6 hxg6 20 ♖xg6+ ♖g7 21 ♖h5 ♘e7 22 ♖h6 ♘f7 23 ♘xg4 and White wins) 19 gxf5 ♖xf4 20 ♖xf4 ♖d5 21 f3 gives White a distinct advantage. Therefore 17...♗f6 was the best chance, but 18 ♖c4+ ♖d5 19 gxf5 remains distinctly unpleasant for Black. 18 ♘b3+ ♗g7 (43f) 19 ♖xh7+! White finishes the game off with an attractive rook sacrifice. 19...♗xh7 20 ♘f7+ ♖h8 White also wins after 20...♗g7 21 ♘xg6+ ♖g8 22 ♖c4+. 21 ♖f4 1-0 Black has no reasonable way to defend g6.

44 Ehлvest – Kasparov

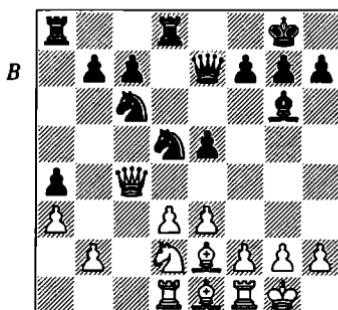
Reykjavik (World Cup) 1988

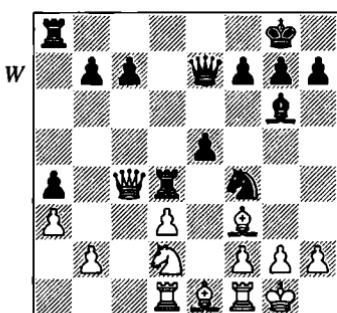
English Opening

1 e4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ e5 3 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 4 e3 $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 5 $\mathbb{W}c2$ 0-0 6 d3 6 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ is a more critical continuation. 6... $\mathbb{E}e8$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ d5 9 cxd5 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ (44a) A type of reversed Sicilian Scheveningen has been reached, although with one pair of minor pieces removed. As so often happens with reversed openings, White has no problems gaining equality, but playing for an advantage proves more difficult. 10... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 10... $\mathbb{W}d6$ is also adequate for equality. 11 $\mathbb{E}d1$ White takes time out to counter the possibility of ... $\mathbb{Q}db4$. After 11 e4 $\mathbb{Q}f4$!? (11... $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 12 bxc3 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 13 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}a5$ is roughly level, Taimanov-Kuzmin, USSR Ch, Leningrad 1974) 12 exf5 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ exd4 14 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ (14 0-0 $\mathbb{E}xe2$ 15 $\mathbb{W}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ favours Black) 14... $\mathbb{W}d5$ 15 0-0-0 $\mathbb{W}xa2$ the position is unclear. 11 0-0 is playable and probably safest, because 11... $\mathbb{Q}db4$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ 13 $\mathbb{W}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ 14 $\mathbb{E}fd1$ e4 15 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ is just dead equal. 11...a5 12 0-0 $\mathbb{W}e7$ 13 a3 13 e4 leads to nothing after 13... $\mathbb{Q}db4$! 14 $\mathbb{W}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$. 13...a4 (44b) 14 $\mathbb{Q}e1$?! White would like to improve the position of his pieces by $\mathbb{Q}d2-e4$, but it is not so easy to achieve this; for example, 14 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ (14... $\mathbb{Q}d4$ is less effective as 15 exd4 exd4 16 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ dxс3 17 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ cxd2 18 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ is fine for White) 15 $\mathbb{W}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}d4$ and Black is slightly better. However, nothing good can come from the text-move. Although White preserves his two bishops, he delays his development by several moves. 14 $\mathbb{E}fe1$ is best; White improves the position of his rooks and waits to see Black's plan before committing himself. 14... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ Black easily sidesteps the threat of 15 e4. 15 $\mathbb{W}c4$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ is still bad, this time because of 15... $\mathbb{Q}f4$.

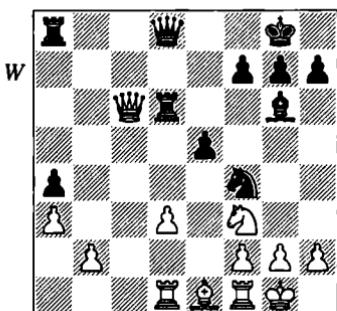
44a: After 10 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ 

44b: After 13...a4

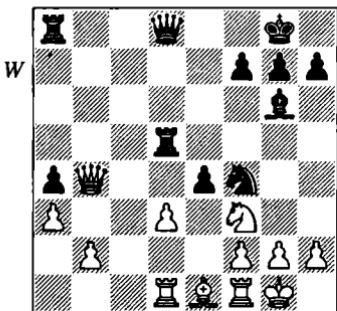
44c: After 16 $\mathbb{Q}d2$?



44d: After 18...Qxd4



44e: After 22...Qd6



44f: After 24...e4

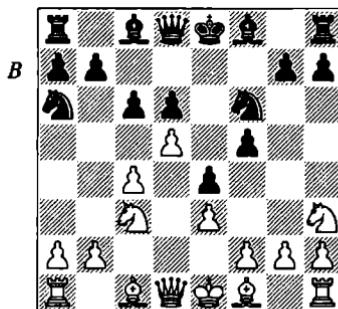
15...Qed8 16 Qd2? (44c) White thinks the time is ripe to reposition his knight, but he runs into a tactical storm. 16 d4 Qb6 (or 16...e4 17 Qd2 Qg5 straight away) 17 Qc3 e4 18 Qd2 Qg5 19 Qc4 Qd5 20 Qc1 Qe8 would have restricted Black to an edge. 16...Qd4! A typical Kasparov move. 17 exd4 White must accept as 17 Qf3 Qb6 18 Qc3 Qb5 followed by ...Qxd3 wins for Black. 17...Qf4 18 Qf3 Qxd4 (44d) 19 Qb5 After this White's queen is trapped, but even 19 Wa2 (19 Qc3 Qxd3 20 g3 Qe2+ 21 Qxe2 Qxe2 is also very good for Black) 19...Qxd3 20 Qxb7 Qad8 is very bad for White, e.g. 21 Qa1 (in order to recapture on f1 with the knight; 21 Qf3 Qxf1 22 Qxf1 e4 23 Qe2 Qg5 wins for Black) 21...Qd7 (threatening 22...c6) 22 Qf3 Qb5! 23 Qxd4 exd4 24 Qd2 Qxf1 25 Qxf1 Qe2+ 26 Qh1 Qg3+ 27 hxg3 Qxf1+ 28 Qh2 Qxf2 and the black d-pawn will be decisive. 19...c6 20 Qxc6 Or 20 Qb6 Qa6 and there is no escape. 20...bxc6 21 Qxc6 Qd8 The imminent loss of the d3-pawn is the least of White's worries. The congested mass of white pieces means that he will be hard-pressed to avoid the immediate loss of the exchange after ...Qxd3. 22 Qf3 Qd6 (44e) White's difficulties with his queen are not over and now Black gains time by chasing it around. 23 Qb5 23 Qb7 loses to 23...Qb6. 23...Qd5 23...Qxd3 24 Qxe5 is less clear. 24 Qb4 Or 24 Qb7 Qxd3 25 Qc3 Qxf1 26 Qxe5 Qe2+ (but not 26...Qxd1?? 27 Qxf7+ Qh8 28 Qg6+ and White mates) 27 Qh1 Qxc3 28 Qxf7+ Qh8, winning for Black. 24...e4 (44f) Even stronger than 24...Qxd3. 25 Qc3 25 Qd2 loses after 25...Qh4! 26 g3 (26 Qxe4 Qe2+ 27 Qh1 Qxh2+! 28 Qxh2 Qh5#) 26...Qh3 27 gxf4 Qh5 forcing mate. If 25 Qd2, then 25...Qxd3 finishes White off. 25...Qe2+ 0-1

45 Knaak – Speelman

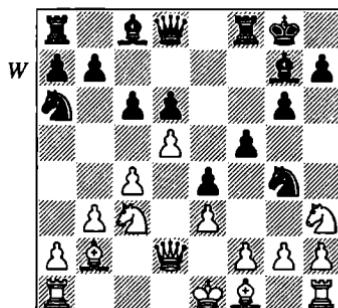
Thessaloniki Olympiad 1988

Queen's Pawn

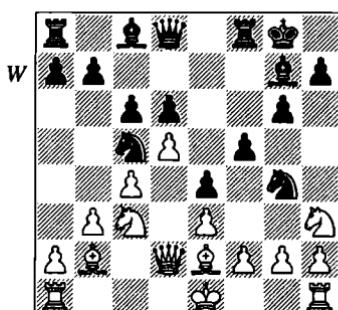
1 d4 d6 2 c4 e5 3 ♜f3 e4 4 ♜g5 f5 5 ♜c3 c6 6 ♜h3 ♜a6 7 e3 ♜f6 8 d5 (45a) Perhaps a slightly inaccurate move. White should prefer 8 ♜f4, and only play d5 when Black is committed to ... ♜c7 (ruling out ... ♜c5) or ... ♜e7 (excluding the possibility of ... g6 and ... ♜g7). 8 ♜e2 is another popular move, again waiting for Black to declare his intentions. 8...g6 Black immediately takes the opportunity to develop his bishop on the long diagonal, which White has opened by advancing his d-pawn. 9 b3 ♜g7 10 ♜b2 0-0 Now that White has played d5, Black is happy to leave his knight on a6 since it has a possible future at c5. 11 ♜d2 Another slight slip. Individually, these small errors are not especially noteworthy, but taken together their effect is significant. White should prefer 11 ♜e2, preventing Black's next move in the game. At first sight this seems bad because of 11...♜a5 (11...cxd5 12 ♜xd5 gives White an edge) 12 ♜d2 cxd5, but this may be met by 13 ♜xe4!. 11...♜g4! (45b) A good move. Black gives White cause to worry over the eventual destination of his king. If he plays 0-0, Black has an automatic attack by ... ♜h4 and ... ♜e5, while 0-0-0 is not very tempting as White's king can also become exposed on the queenside, e.g. 12 0-0-0 ♜c5 13 ♜b1 (or 13 dxc6 bxc6 14 ♜xd6 ♜d3+ 15 ♜xd3 exd3 16 ♜xd3 ♜e7 and Black is a little better) 13...♜b6 14 dxc6 bxc6 15 ♜xd6 ♜b8 lining up for a sacrifice on b3. Therefore White leaves his king in the centre. 12 ♜e2 ♜c5 (45c) 13 ♜d1?! Stepping up the pressure against the d6-pawn, but it turns out that White has no time to take this pawn. 13 0-0-0?! is also dubious after 13...♜e5



45a: After 8 d5

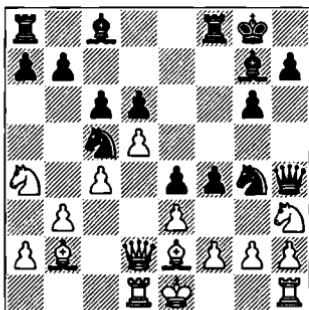


45b: After 11...♜g4!



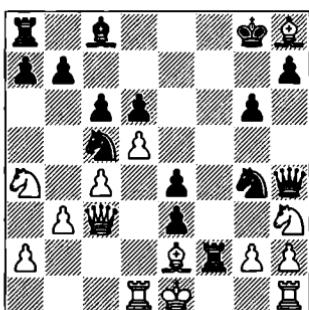
45c: After 13...♜c5

W



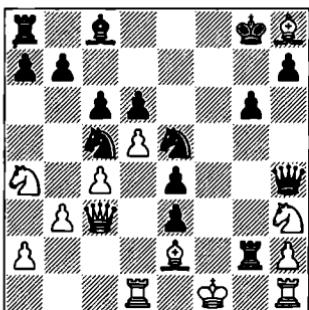
45d: After 14...f4!

B



45e: After 17 ♜h8

W



45f: After 18...♜e5! 0-1

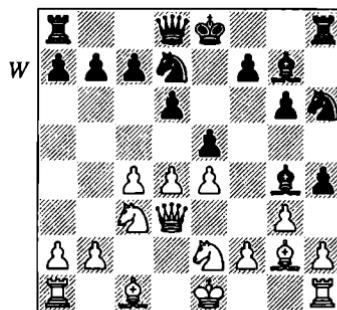
aiming at d3, while 13 b4 $\mathbb{Q}d3+$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ $\mathbb{exd}3$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ f4!? 16 $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ g5 17 $\mathbb{Q}h3$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ gives Black good compensation for the two pawns. In fact, this was the right moment for 13 0-0! since 13... $\mathbb{Q}h4$ can be countered by 14 $\mathbb{dx}c6$ $\mathbb{bc}c6$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd6$. Instead 13... $\mathbb{Q}e5$!? leads to an unclear position. White's failure to castle here costs him dearly. 13... $\mathbb{Q}h4$! 14 $\mathbb{Q}a4?$ Alarmed by the increasing pressure, White heads for liquidation, but this decentralizing move gives Black the chance to launch a decisive attack. White should have tried either 14 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ $\mathbb{fxg}4$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ g5 17 g3 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}fe2$ $\mathbb{Q}d3$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}al$ or 14 $\mathbb{dx}c6$ $\mathbb{bc}c6$ 15 b4 (15 $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3$! 16 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xg2+$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{B}b8$ is very good for Black) 15... $\mathbb{Q}d3+$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ $\mathbb{exd}3$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ (not 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ and wins) 18... $\mathbb{Q}xc4$. In both cases Black has a slight advantage, but White would still be in the game. 14...f4! (45d) With a winning attack. 15 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ Forced, since 15 $\mathbb{exf}4$ e3, 15 0-0 f3 and 15 $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ $\mathbb{Q}d3+$ are all hopeless for White. 15... $\mathbb{fxe}3$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ There is no defence. It makes little difference whether the queen moves to b2, c3 or d4. 16... $\mathbb{R}xf2$ After this Black has many threats, the most deadly being 17... $\mathbb{Q}xg2+$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ and now either 18... $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ or 18... $\mathbb{Q}xh2+$. 17 $\mathbb{Q}h8$ (45e) White has the pleasure of threatening mate in one himself, but it is too easy for Black to block the long diagonal. However, other moves are no better, e.g. 17 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xg2+$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ $\mathbb{Q}xg4+$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}f3+$ mating, or the neat line 17 g3 $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ (18 $\mathbb{Q}h8$ $\mathbb{Q}xe2+$) 18... $\mathbb{Q}xh2!$. 17... $\mathbb{Q}xg2+$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$! (45f) 0-1 This move, combining defence and attack, leaves White helpless, e.g. 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ $\mathbb{Q}f8+$, etc.

46 I. Sokolov – Tseshkovsky

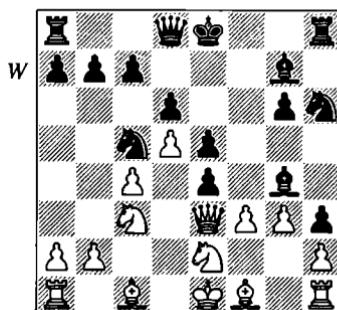
Wijk aan Zee 1989

English Opening

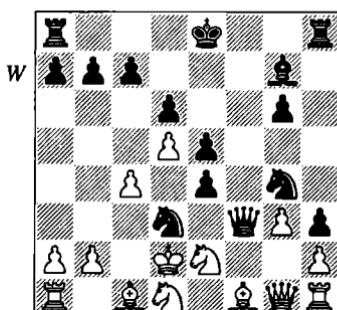
1 c4 e5 2 g3 d6 3 ♜g2 g6 4 e3 ♜g7 5 ♜e2 h5!? With the knight committed to e2, it is not so easy to deal with the advancing h-pawn. 6 d4 h4 7 ♜bc3 ♜h6 Aiming to exert pressure on d4 by ... ♜c6 and possibly ... ♜f5. 8 e4?! Ambitiously trying to sideline the knight on h6, but d4 is weakened. 8... ♜g4 Already threatening to take on d4. 9 ♜d3 Unpinning the knight and preparing to drive Black back by f3. The immediate 9 f3? is met by 9...h3. 9... ♜d7! (46a) Again preventing 10 f3, this time due to 10...exd4 11 ♜xd4 h3 12 ♜f1 ♜xd4 13 ♜xd4 ♜e5. 10 d5 Now White need not worry about the pressure against d4, but Black gains more time. 10... ♜c5 11 ♜e3 h3 12 ♜f1 f5 13 f3 The critical moment. 13...fxe4! (46b) A correct sacrifice, which White should not have accepted. 14 fxg4? Now Black's initiative proves too strong. 14 fxe4? is also bad, e.g. 14...0-0 15 ♜g1 ♜f6! 16 ♜e2 (16 ♜xh3 ♜d3+! 17 ♜xd3 ♜f2#) 16... ♜xe2 17 ♜xe2 ♜d3+ 18 ♜xd3 ♜f2+ 19 ♜d1 ♜g2 and wins. 14 ♜xe4! is correct, when 14...0-0 15 ♜xc5 and 14... ♜xf3 15 ♜xf3 ♜f8 16 ♜f4 exf4 17 ♜xc5 dxc5 18 ♜e4+ favour White. 14... ♜f5 15 ♜a3 ♜xe4 16 fxg4 ♜e7 is best, with an unclear position. 14... ♜xg4 15 ♜g1 15 ♜g5 loses to 15... ♜d3+ 16 ♜d1 ♜df2+ 17 ♜c2 ♜xg5 18 ♜xg5 ♜xh1. 15... ♜f6 There is no defence. 16 ♜d1 16 ♜b5 ♜d3+ 17 ♜d2 ♜e7 18 ♜c3 ♜df2 seals White's kingside in completely. 16... ♜d3+ 17 ♜d2 ♜f3 (46c) Threatening 18... ♜h6+ 19 ♜c2 ♜h4+ followed by mate. 18 a3 This does not meet the threat, but after 18 ♜ec3 ♜gf2 Black picks up a whole rook. 18... ♜h6+ 19 ♜e2 ♜b4+ 0-1 As 20 axb4 ♜d3# is mate.



46a: After 9... ♜d7!



46b: After 13...fxe4!



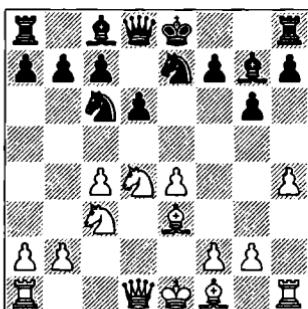
46c: After 17... ♜f3

47 Kasparov – Speelman

Barcelona (World Cup) 1989

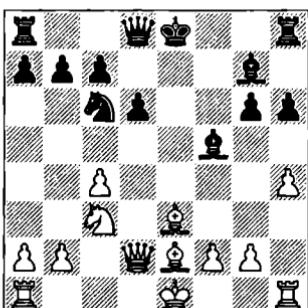
Modern Defence

B



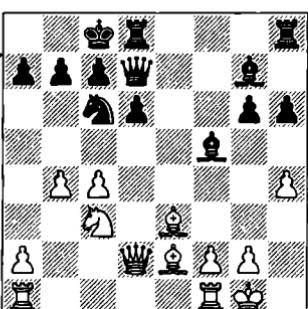
47a: After 8 h4!?

B



47b: After 12 ♖d2

B

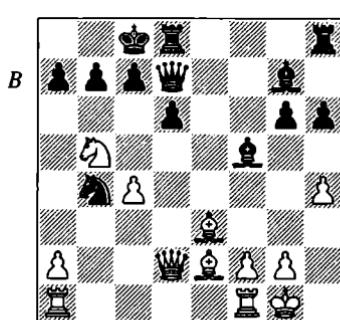
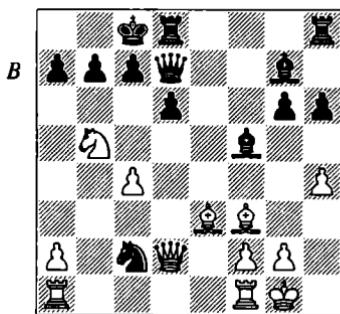
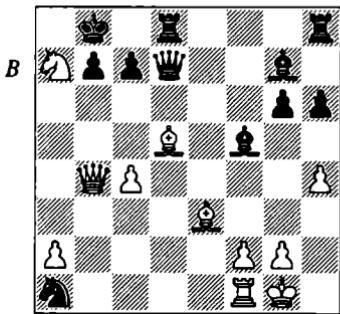


47c: After 14 b4!

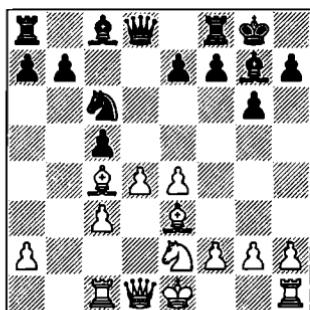
1 d4 d6 2 e4 g6 3 c4 e5 4 ♜f3 exd4 5 ♜xd4 ♜g7 6 ♜c3 ♜c6 7 ♜e3 ♜ge7 8 h4!? (47a)

The most direct plan. White aims to exploit the absence of a black knight from f6. 8...**h6** Aiming to meet h5 by ...g5. 8...f5!? and 8...h5 are playable alternatives, although White has good chances to retain a slight advantage after any move. 9 ♜e2 An awkward reply for Black. The weakening of the kingside created by ...h6 rules out ...0-0, but it is not easy for Black to organize ...0-0-0 because his queen is in the way. 9...**f5** The correct choice, because Black must develop his pieces. 10 exf5 ♜xf5 11 ♜xf5 ♜xf5 12 ♜d2 (47b) 12...**♖d7**? 12...**♔f6**!? offered better chances, keeping an eye on the h4-pawn and exerting pressure along the long diagonal. 13 0-0 0-0-0 A critical moment. White must act quickly, or he will come to regret playing h4. In the game Black never gets a chance to exploit the slight weakening of White's kingside because he is too busy on the other side of the board. 14 **b4!** (47c) The most vigorous. The slower 14 ♜ac1 ♜b8 15 b4 ♜xb4 16 ♜f3 ♜a6 17 ♜b5 ♜c5 18 ♜xa7! ♜a4! (18...**♔xa7**? 19 ♜xc5+ dxc5 20 ♜a5+ ♜b8 21 ♜xb7 c6 22 ♜a6 ♜a8 23 ♜b1 ♜xb1 24 ♜xb1 wins for White) 19 ♜b5 g5 proved less effective in Epishin-Hedke, Groningen 1996. 14...**♜xb4** 14...**♝b8** is no better, e.g. 15 b5 ♜e5 16 ♜d5 g5 (16...**♝g4** 17 ♜xg4 ♜xg4 18 ♜ab1, intending 19 ♜b3, also gives White a very dangerous attack) 17 a4 ♜g4 18 ♜xg4 ♜xg4 19 ♜xa7+ ♜xa7 20 b6+ cxb6 21 a5 b5 (21...**♝xa1** 22 axb6+ ♜b8 23 ♜xa1 threatens 24 ♜a8+ and if 23...**♝f7**, then 24 ♜a5 ♜c8 25 ♜b5! ♜b8 26 ♜c7 ♜xc7 27 ♜a8+ ♜xa8 28 bxc7 and mate next

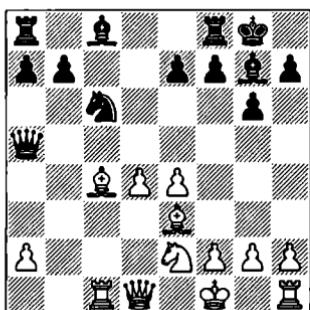
move) 22 $\mathbb{W}e3+$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 23 a6 $\mathbb{W}c6$ (23... $bxa6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ wins) 24 a7+ $\mathbb{Q}a8$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}a5!$ with a decisive attack for White, Schön-Danner, Budapest 1989. 15 $\mathbb{Q}b5!$ (47d) 15... $\mathbb{Q}c2$ Or 15... $\mathbb{Q}xa1$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xb4$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ c5 18 $\mathbb{Q}xa7+$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 19 $\mathbb{W}a3$ (threatening 20 $\mathbb{Q}b5$) 19... $\mathbb{W}c7$ 20 g4 (in order to gain b1 for the rook) 20... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ (not 20... $\mathbb{Q}c2$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}hf8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ trapping the bishop) 21 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}df8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{W}xb7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xb7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ and White is better. 16 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ (47e) 16... $\mathbb{Q}d5$ There is no defence; for example, 16... $\mathbb{Q}xa1$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xa7+$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}b1!$ c5 19 $\mathbb{Q}c6+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 20 $\mathbb{W}a5$ $\mathbb{Q}b4$ (or 20... $\mathbb{W}xc6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $bxc6$ 22 $\mathbb{W}a7$ and wins) 21 $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ $cxb4$ 22 $\mathbb{W}a8+$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b6!+$ $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ 24 $\mathbb{W}a5\#$ and 16... $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ 17 $\mathbb{W}xe3$ $\mathbb{Q}xa1$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xa7$ $\mathbb{W}g7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xb7+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}e1!$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ are both winning. If 16...c5, then 17 $\mathbb{Q}ad1$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xa7+$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ results in material equality and a continuing strong attack for White. Perhaps the main line is 16... $\mathbb{Q}xa1$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xa7+$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 18 $\mathbb{W}a5$ and now, although there are many variations, one can see immediately that White's threats are extremely strong. A sample line runs 18... $\mathbb{Q}de8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ $\mathbb{W}d8$ 20 $\mathbb{W}a7+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xb7+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xc7$ $\mathbb{W}c8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}c6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}e1+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}xc6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 29 $\mathbb{W}d5$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 30 h5 and Black is in big trouble. 17 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xa1$ Both 17...c6 18 $\mathbb{Q}xa7+$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}f4+$ and 17... $\mathbb{Q}xa1$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xa7+$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ b6 20 $\mathbb{W}a5$ are winning for White. 18 $\mathbb{Q}xa7+$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 19 $\mathbb{W}b4!$ (47f) 19... $\mathbb{W}xd5$ This only prolongs the game slightly. 19...c5 20 $\mathbb{Q}f4!+$ $\mathbb{Q}a8$ 21 $\mathbb{W}a5$ also wins, while 19...c6 20 $\mathbb{Q}f4+$ $\mathbb{Q}a8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ forces mate. 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}c2$ 21 $\mathbb{W}a5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ In addition to his material advantage, White retains a strong attack. 22... $\mathbb{Q}he8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ $\mathbb{W}xd5$ 24 $\mathbb{W}xc7+$ $\mathbb{Q}a8$ 25 $\mathbb{W}a5+$ 1-0

47d: After 15 $\mathbb{Q}b5!$ 47e: After 16 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ 47f: After 19 $\mathbb{W}b4!$

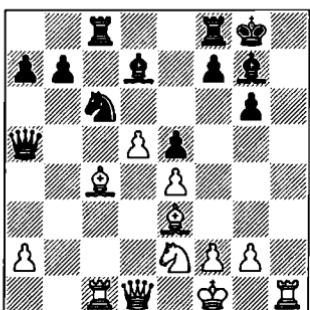
B

48a: After 10 $\mathbb{H}c1!$?

B

48b: After 12 $\mathbb{K}f1$!

B

48c: After 16 $d5$!

48 Polugaevsky – Kudrin

New York Open 1989

Grünfeld Defence, Exchange Variation

1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 g6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ d5 4 cxd5 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 5 e4 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 6 bxc3 $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ c5 8 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 9 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ 0-0 10 $\mathbb{H}c1!$? (48a) An interesting idea pioneered by Polugaevsky. For decades White had automatically castled here, but 'Polu' realized that there are some merits to moving the rook first. 10...cxd4 One important point is that if Black continues as if White had castled, by 10... $\mathbb{Q}g4$?! 11 f3 $\mathbb{Q}a5$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ cxd4 13 cxd4 $\mathbb{Q}e6$, then 14 d5! no longer involves an exchange sacrifice. 11 cxd4 $\mathbb{W}a5+$ The most natural attempt to exploit the fact that White has not castled. 12 $\mathbb{Q}f1!$ (48b) The key point of White's idea. It does not matter that White blocks in his h1-rook, as his plan is to start a kingside attack by h4-h5, and this will activate the rook *in situ*. 12... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 12... $\mathbb{W}a3$?! is currently considered a critical move. The point is that after 13 h4 $\mathbb{Q}g4$! White can no longer play f3. Therefore, White may have nothing better than 13 $\mathbb{W}b3$, but the exchange of queens removes a lot of the sting from White's plan. 13 h4 $\mathbb{H}ac8$?! 13...e5?! 14 d5 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ exd4 16 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 17 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ won for White in Polugaevsky-Korchnoi, Haninge 1989. However, 13... $\mathbb{H}fc8$?! is probably better than the text; White's attack involves h5 and hxg6, followed by transferring the queen to the h-file. Giving the king a free square on f8 means that this will not threaten mate. 14 h5 e5 14...e6 15 hxg6 hxg6 16 e5 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 17 $\mathbb{W}d3$ $\mathbb{H}fe8$?! 18 $\mathbb{Q}d2$! $\mathbb{W}a4$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}b3$! $\mathbb{H}xc1+$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ $\mathbb{W}b4$ 21 $\mathbb{W}h3$ proved very unpleasant for Black in H.Grünberg-Gauglitz, East German Ch (Zittau) 1989. 15 hxg6 hxg6 16 d5! (48c) 16 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ had been played in an earlier game Guseinov-Khuzman, Baku 1988.

Typically for Polugaevsky, he is ready with a deep improvement. 16... $\mathbb{Q}d4$ 16... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ also favours White. 17 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ (48d) 17... $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ The critical position arises after 17... $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}b5$ (or 18... $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ and now 19... $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ transposes to the game, while after 19... $\mathbb{Q}b5$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ we transpose to the main line of this note) 19 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}c1!!$ (48e). Black has a wide range of options, but none is satisfactory:

1) 22... f_6 23 $\mathbb{Q}h3!!$ $\mathbb{Q}a6$ (23... $\mathbb{Q}xa2$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xb7!$ $\mathbb{Q}a1+$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{Q}e5+$ 28 g_3 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ 29 $\mathbb{Q}c8+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 30 $\mathbb{Q}d7+$ mates) 24 $\mathbb{Q}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 26 $d_6!$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ (26... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ b_6 28 $e_5!$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 29 $\mathbb{Q}xg6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 30 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ wins) 27 $\mathbb{Q}c7$ $\mathbb{Q}a1+$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{Q}e5+$ 29 g_3 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 30 $\mathbb{Q}h7$ and wins.

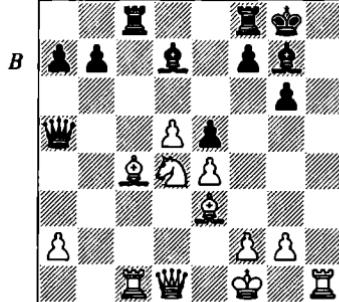
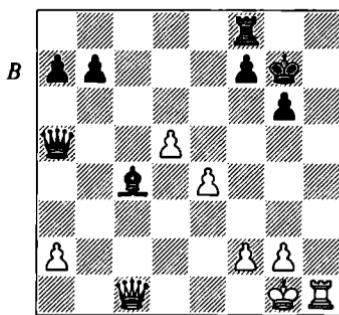
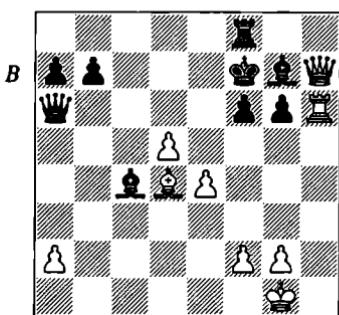
2) 22... $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}f4+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}e5+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}h7$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}e6+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 29 $\mathbb{Q}b8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 30 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ winning the a7-pawn, after which White has three pawns and a strong attack for the piece.

3) 22... $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b2+!$ f_6 24 $\mathbb{Q}xb7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xf7+$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ and the central passed pawns are too strong.

4) 22... $\mathbb{Q}a4$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}h4!$ f_6 24 $\mathbb{Q}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ with a decisive attack.

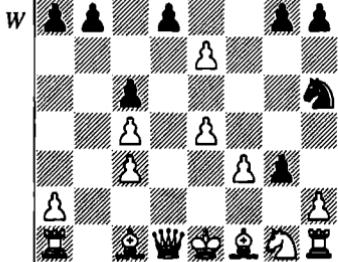
5) 22... $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 23 a_3 leads into one of the above lines (with an insignificant difference in the position of White's a-pawn).

18 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ $\mathbb{Q}a6?$ Loses at once. 18... $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}b5$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ transposes into the above analysis. 19 $\mathbb{Q}d3!$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}b5$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}h3!$ White's thematic switch to the h-file. 21... $\mathbb{Q}xc4+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ f_6 23 $\mathbb{Q}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}h6!$ (48f) 1-0 There are too many threats, e.g. 24... g_5 25 $\mathbb{Q}g6$ or 24... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xg6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xh8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xh8$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}c5+$ mating.

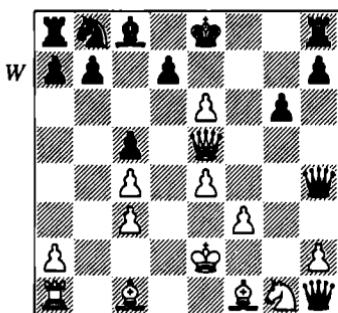
48d: After 17 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 48e: After 22 $\mathbb{Q}c1!!$ (analysis)48f: After 24 $\mathbb{Q}h6!$ 1-0

49 Ivanchuk – Csom Erevan 1989

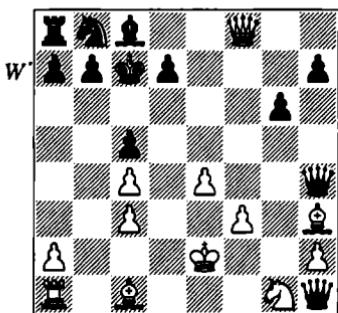
Nimzo-Indian Defence, 4 f3



49a: After 9...fxg3?



49b: After 13...gxh1?

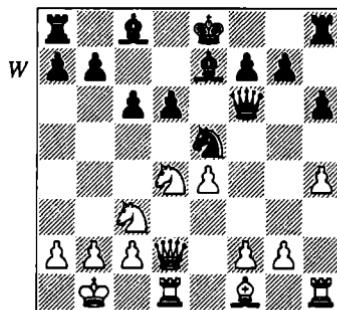


49c: After 17...fc7?

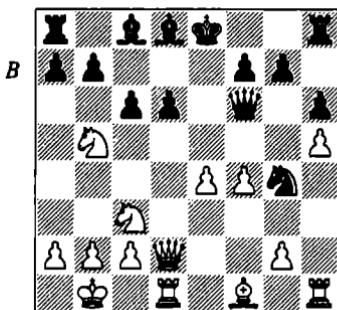
1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ **2 c4** $e6$ **3** $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{B}b4$ **4 f3** $c5$ **5 d5** $\mathbb{Q}xc3+$ If Black is going to play ... $\mathbb{Q}h5$, he should do so straight away. **6 bxc3** $\mathbb{Q}h5$ An attempt to exploit the weakening created by f3. **7 g3** Cutting out the check on h4. **7...f5 8 e4 f4 9 dxе6** The sharpest line. **9** $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ and **9** $\mathbb{Q}e2$ are also playable. **9...fxg3?** (49a) A tempting but incorrect move. **9...wf6 10** $\mathbb{Q}e2$ **fxg3 11** $\mathbb{Q}g2$ is better, although theory gives White the edge here too. It may well be that Black cannot justify his attempt to seize the initiative at such an early stage. **10** $\mathbb{W}d5!$ **g2** **10...Qf6** **11** $\mathbb{W}xc5$ **g2 12** $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ **dxe6** **13** $\mathbb{Q}e2$ favours White, while **10...wh4 11** $\mathbb{Q}g5$ **g2+** **12** $\mathbb{Q}xh4$ **gxh1w** loses to **13** $\mathbb{W}xh5+$ **g6 14** $\mathbb{W}e5$. **11** $\mathbb{W}xh5+!$ **11** $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ **wh4+** **12** $\mathbb{Q}f1$ also favours White, but the text-move is even stronger. **11...g6 12** $\mathbb{W}e5$ $\mathbb{W}h4+$ **13** $\mathbb{Q}e2$ **gxh1w** (49b) **14** $\mathbb{W}xh8+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ **15** $\mathbb{W}g7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ Or **15...Qd6 16** $\mathbb{W}f8+$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ (**16...Qxe6 17** $\mathbb{Q}h3+$ $\mathbb{W}xh3$ **18** $\mathbb{W}g8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ **19** $\mathbb{Q}f4+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ **20** $\mathbb{Q}g5+$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ **21** $\mathbb{Q}d1+$ mates) **17** $\mathbb{W}xc8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ **18** $\mathbb{W}f8+$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ **19** $\mathbb{Q}f4$ and wins. **16** $\mathbb{Q}h3+$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ **16...Wxh3** **17** $\mathbb{W}g8+$ transposes to the previous note. **17** $\mathbb{W}f8+$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ (49c) **17...Qc6** **18** $\mathbb{W}xc8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ **19** $\mathbb{W}f8+$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ **20** $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ **21** $\mathbb{Q}b1+$ $\mathbb{Q}a6$ **22** $\mathbb{W}c8$ mates. **18** $\mathbb{Q}f4+$ Black is forced to surrender a queen to avoid being mated. **18...Wxf4 18...Qb6** **19** $\mathbb{Q}b1+$ $\mathbb{Q}a6$ **20** $\mathbb{W}xc8$ transposes into the note to Black's 17th. **19** $\mathbb{W}xf4+$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ Material equality has been restored, but Black is dead lost. **20** $\mathbb{Q}d1$ First White goes for the king... **20...Qc6 21** $\mathbb{W}xd6+$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ **22** $\mathbb{W}g3$...and now returns for the queen. There is no way to meet the threats of **23** $\mathbb{Q}g2$ and **23** $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ $\mathbb{W}xc8$ **24** $\mathbb{Q}h3$ **h4** **25** $\mathbb{W}f2$ **1-0**

50 Hodgson – Zsu. Polgar
European Team Ch, Haifa 1989
Trompowsky Attack

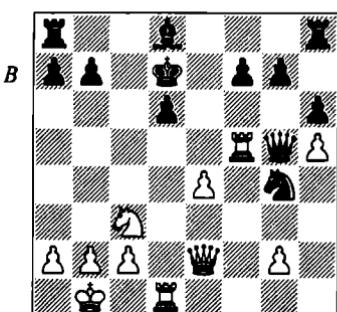
d4 ♜f6 2 ♜g5 Although this opening is named after Trompowsky, Hodgson has done more than anyone else in modern times to advance the theory of 2 ♜g5. 2...e6 3 e4 h6 4 ♜xf6 ♜xf6 Black has gained the two bishops, but at the cost of considerable time. 5 ♜f3 d6 6 ♜c3 c6 6...d7 7 ♜d2 a6 is a solid line for Black, intending ...♜e7, ...g6 and ...♜g7. 7 ♜d2 e5 8 0-0-0 ♜e7 8...d7?!! 9 dx5 dx5? is a classic opening blunder which has caught several victims: 10 ♜b5! gives White a decisive attack. 9 ♜b1 Preventing Black forcing the queens off by ...♜g5. 9...d7?!! 9...0-0 is more flexible. 10 h4 exd4 Now 10...0-0 11 ♜e2 is awkward for Black; the c8-bishop is blocked in and White has an automatic attack by g4, etc. 11 ♜xd4 ♜e5 (50a) 11...♜c5 12 f4 ♜g4 13 ♜e2 ♜xe2 14 ♜dxe2 favours White, but is better for Black than the game. 12 f4! ♜g4 Now 13 ♜db5 0-0 14 ♜xd6 ♜xd6 15 ♜xd6 ♜f2 is unclear, so further preparation is necessary. 13 h5 This threatens 14 g3 followed by 15 e5 dx5 16 ♜e4. 13...♞d8 Allowing the sacrifice on b5, but there was nothing better. 14 ♜db5! (50b) 14...cxb5 15 ♜xb5+ ♜d7?!! Now White wins without difficulty. 15...♞f8 is better, even though 16 e5 ♜e6 (16...♞f5 17 ♜xd6+ ♜e7 18 ♜d8+ ♜xd8 19 ♜xd8+ ♜e7 20 ♜xh8 is very good for White) 17 ♜he1! d5 18 ♜xd5 gives White two pawns and a very strong attack for the piece. 16 ♜xd7+ ♜xd7 17 ♜e2 The utility of White's h5 becomes obvious. 17...♜xf4 The only way to save the knight. 18 ♜hf1 ♜g5 18...♜g3 19 ♜b5+ ♜c8 20 ♜xf7 mates. 19 ♜f5 (50c) 19...♜h4 20 ♜b5+ ♜c8 21 ♜xf7 ♜e7 22 ♜d5 1-0



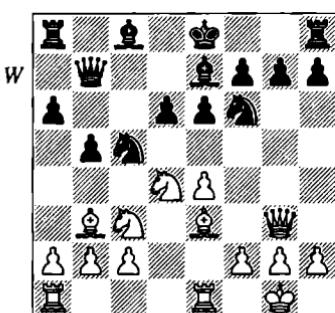
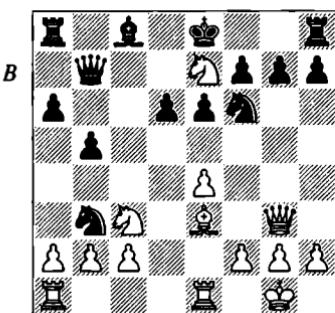
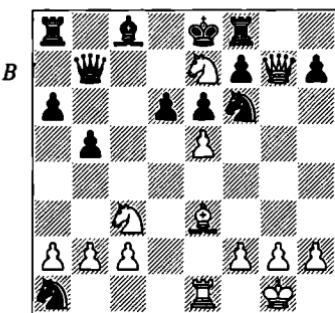
50a: After 11... $\text{e}5$



50b: After 14 ♘db5!



50c: After 19 $\mathbb{H}f5$

51a: After 12... $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 51b: After 14... $\mathbb{Q}xe7$!?

51c: After 16...e5!

51 Ki. Georgiev – Zaichik Palma de Mallorca (GMA) 1989

Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Variation

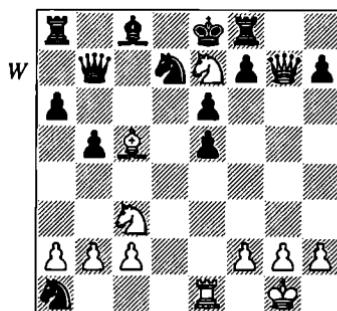
1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ a6 6 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ e6 7 0-0 b5 8 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 9 $\mathbb{W}f3$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}g5$! is now theoretically 'hot'. 10... $\mathbb{W}b7$ 11 $\mathbb{W}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 11...0-0, 11...b4 and 11... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ are alternatives. The move played is more risky as it invites a possible sacrifice on f5. 12 $\mathbb{Q}fe1$ The immediate 12 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ is also possible. 12... $\mathbb{Q}c5$ (51a) 13 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ $\mathbb{Q}xb3$! The best defence. 13...exf5 14 $\mathbb{W}xg7$ $\mathbb{H}f8$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ dxc5 16 exf5 leads to a decisive attack for White. 14 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$!? (51b) 14 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ (15 axb3? h6 leaves the knight trapped and vulnerable to capture by ... $\mathbb{H}h7$) 15... $\mathbb{Q}xa1$ 16 e5! is also very unclear. 14... $\mathbb{Q}xa1$ Not 14... $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 15 axb3 $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}g5$! with advantage to White. 15 $\mathbb{W}xg7$ $\mathbb{H}f8$ Black could also try 15... $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xf6$ (16 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 17 $\mathbb{W}xh8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$! 19 $\mathbb{W}g7$ $\mathbb{H}f8$ is level) 16... $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ (not 16... $\mathbb{H}f8$? 17 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ exd5 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd6+$ $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xd6$ f6 22 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ $\mathbb{H}g8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}c6+$ and wins) 17 $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ $\mathbb{H}xc8$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xh8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xh7$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 20 h4, with a very unclear position. 16 e5! (51c) This unexpected move causes Black most problems. 16...dxe5? Other lines are:

- 1) 16...b4? 17 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ bxc3 18 $\mathbb{W}xf8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ cxb2 20 exf6 b1 \mathbb{W} 21 $\mathbb{W}xd6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ 22 $\mathbb{W}f8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xf7+$ wins as the black king will be forced onto the b-file.
- 2) 16... $\mathbb{Q}d7$? 17 $\mathbb{Q}g5$! d5 (or else $\mathbb{Q}e4$) 18 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ exf5 19 e6 with a winning attack.
- 3) 16... $\mathbb{Q}h5$? 17 $\mathbb{W}xh7$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd6+$ $\mathbb{W}xd6$ (19... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xc2$ favours White) 20 exd6 $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xh5$ $\mathbb{H}g8$ 22 $\mathbb{W}h7$ $\mathbb{H}g4$ 23 d7+ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 24 $\mathbb{W}xf7+$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ (or 24... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f4+$ e5 26 $\mathbb{W}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 27 $\mathbb{W}xe5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ and Black is in trouble)

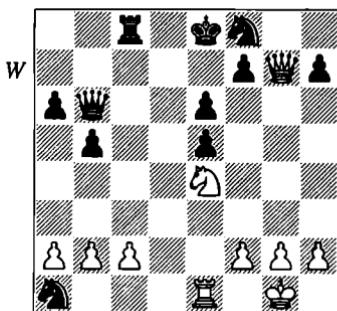
25 ♕f1 winning the knight, when White is better.

4) 16... ♖xc2! 17 ♘h6 (17 exf6 ♖xe1 18 ♘h6 ♜xg2+ 19 ♜xg2 ♖xg2 wins for Black)
 17... ♖d7 (or 17... ♖xe1 18 ♜xf8+ ♖d7 19 ♖ed5! ♖xd5 20 ♜xd6+ ♖e8 forcing a draw)
 18 ♘d1! ♖xe7 19 ♘xd6 ♖e8 20 ♘xd7 ♖xd7
 21 ♜xf8 ♜xg2+ 22 ♖xg2 ♘b7+ 23 ♖g3
 ♜xf8 24 ♘xf8 leads to a draw.

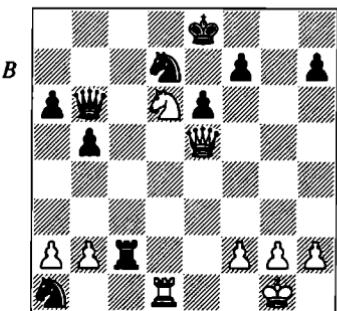
17 ♘c5 ♖d7 (51d) White is better after
 17... ♜c7 18 ♖ed5 ♜xc5 19 ♖xf6+ ♖e7 (or
 19... ♖d8 20 ♖ce4 ♜e7 21 ♜xa1) 20 ♖xh7
 ♘d8 21 ♖e4. 18 ♖xc8 This is sufficient to
 win, but a more forcing line would have been
 18 ♖f5!! exf5 (18... ♖xc5 19 ♖d6+ ♖e7 20
 ♖xb7 ♘xb7 21 ♜xe5 ♖d7 22 ♜g5+ f6 23
 ♜h4 ♖xc2 24 ♜xh7+ also wins) 19 ♜xe5+!
 ♖d8 (19... ♖xe5 20 ♜xf8+ ♖d7 21 ♜e7+
 ♖c6 22 ♜d6#) 20 ♖d5 ♜xd5 21 ♜xd5 ♜e8
 22 ♜c3! and Black is helpless. 18... ♖xc8
 18... ♜xc8 19 ♖e4 ♜c6 20 ♖f6+ ♖d8 21
 ♘xf8 wins. 19 ♘xf8 Not 19 ♖e4? ♜xe4 20
 ♜xe4 ♜xc5, when Black turns the tables.
 19... ♜xf8 20 ♖e4 ♜b6 (51e) 21 ♜xe5?
 Only this move endangers the win. 21 ♖f6+
 ♖e7 22 ♜g5! is stronger, when Black is de-
 fenceless. 21... ♜xc2 Best, as 21... ♜xc2? 22
 ♖f6+ ♖d8 23 ♜d1+ and 21... ♜c6 22 c3
 ♜c2 23 ♖f6+ ♖d8 24 ♜d1+ ♖c8 25 ♜e4
 win for White. 22 ♜d1 ♖d7?! Black could
 have forced a clear-cut draw by 22... ♖g6!
 23 ♜g5 (23 ♖f6+? ♖f8 24 ♜xh7+ ♖g8 25
 ♖f6+ ♖g7 26 ♜h5++ ♖h6 wins for Black;
 23 ♜g7 ♜c7 24 ♖f6+ ♖e7 25 ♜g8+ is also
 a draw) 23... h6 24 ♜xh6 ♜e2 25 ♖f6+, etc.
 23 ♖d6+ (51f) 23... ♖d8? Losing at once.
 23... ♖e7 would still probably have held the
 draw, e.g. 24 ♜g5+ ♖f8! 25 ♜f4 ♖e5! 26
 ♜h6+ or 24 ♖f5+ ♖e8 25 ♜h8+ ♖f8 26
 ♜c3 ♜c5 27 ♜xa1 ♜c1+ 28 ♜xc1 ♜xc1+
 29 ♖f1. 24 ♜h8+ 1-0 White forces mate in
 a few moves. An exciting if not flawless
 game.



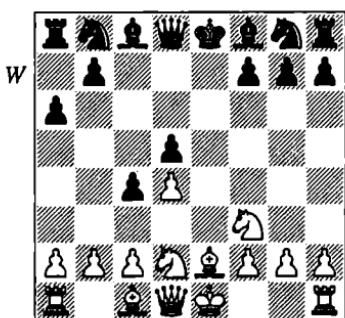
51d: After 17... ♖d7



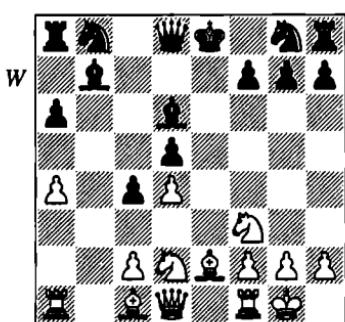
51e: After 20... ♜b6



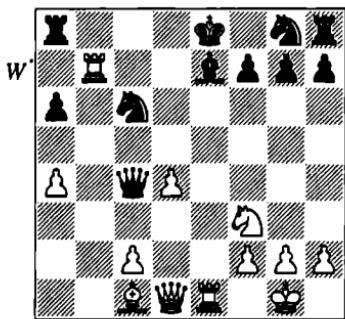
51f: After 23 ♖d6+



52a: After 6...c4



52b: After 10...bxc4



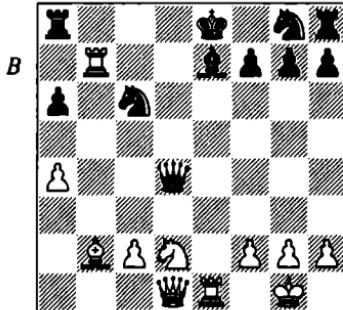
52c: After 15...Qc6

52 Geller – Dreev New York Open 1990

French Defence, Tarrasch Variation

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ a6 4 $\mathbb{Q}gf3$ c5 5 exd5 exd5 6 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ c4 (52a) An ambitious move. If Black manages to maintain the pawn at c4, White's minor pieces, especially his light-squared bishop, will be severely restricted in their mobility. Everything now depends on whether White can blow up Black's queen-side pawn chain. 7 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 8 b3 b5 9 a4 $\mathbb{Q}b7$ The alternative is 9...c3, when again White must sacrifice a piece, by 10 axb5 cxd2 11 $\mathbb{Q}xd2$. Although White's practical results have been good in this position, the theoretical status is less clear. After 11... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ (11... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 12 bxa6 $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ 14 $\mathbb{W}e2+$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ 15 $\mathbb{W}xa6$! $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ favoured White in Geller-Kekki, ECC Matynkylä 1986) 12 c4 dxc4! (12...0-0 13 c5 $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 14 b6 $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ 15 cxb6 $\mathbb{W}xb6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}a5$ is good for White) 13 bxc4 0-0 the position was unclear in Kr.Georgiev-Nikolić, Burgas 1993. 10 bxc4 bxc4 (52b) 11 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$! Once again, a piece sacrifice is necessary to break up the pawns. 11...dxc4 12 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ Black will find it hard to castle, and in the centre his king comes under a prolonged assault. 12... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 12... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}xd6+$ $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}a3$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 16 d5 0-0-0 gives White a tremendous initiative, e.g. 17 c4 (17 dxc6!? is also promising) 17... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 18 $\mathbb{W}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}cd4$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 20 $\mathbb{W}d3$ and wins. Thus Black is forced into the retrograde text-move. 13 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ Black dreams of castling queenside. 13... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ gives White strong long-term pressure, e.g. 14... $\mathbb{W}c7$ 15 d5 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 16 d6 $\mathbb{W}c8$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}fe5$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}exb7$ and Black is in serious trouble. 14 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ Threatening 15 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$. 14... $\mathbb{W}xc4$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ (52c) 16 $\mathbb{Q}d2$! It would be a

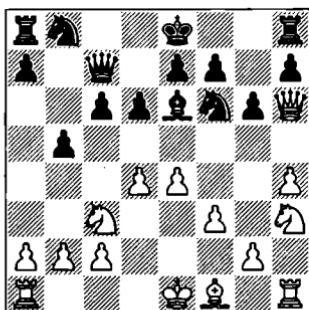
mistake to try to regain the material by 16 ♜a3?! 0-0-0 17 ♜xe7 ♜gxe7 18 ♜bx e7 ♜xe7 19 ♜xe7 as after 19...♜he8 White's initiative would have totally disappeared and Black would be slightly better. 16...♝xd4 Or 16...♝xa4 (16...♝d5 17 c4 only makes matters worse) 17 d5 ♜a5 18 ♜c7 ♜f4 (18...♝d8 19 d6! ♜xd6 20 ♜e4 wins) 19 ♜c3 ♜f8 20 ♜c4 ♜xc4 (20...♜f6 21 ♜e5) 21 ♜xc4 ♜xc4 22 ♜g4 ♜d6 23 c4 ♜f6 24 ♜d4 with a large advantage for White. 17 ♜b2 (52d) 17...♝xa4?! Grabbing this pawn is suicide. 17...♝f4 is a tougher defence, but White still has an excellent position after 18 ♜f3 (not 18 ♜xg7? 0-0-0!) 18...♜d8 (or 18...♝f8 19 ♜d7) 19 ♜e2 ♜f8 20 ♜xa6 ♜c8 (20...♜b4 21 ♜b6 ♜d5 22 ♜a5 ♜d6 23 ♜d1 and 20...♜b8 21 ♜b5 win for White) 21 ♜d7 ♜b8 22 ♜e5. 18 ♜e4?! (52e) This finesse is a slight inaccuracy offering Black a small chance of survival. 18 ♜xg7 0-0-0 19 ♜b3 regaining the sacrificed material is simple and good; for example, 19...♜f6 20 ♜xh8 ♜xh8 21 c4 ♜a5 (21...♜xd2 22 ♜b8+) 22 ♜f3 ♜c7 23 ♜e4 with overwhelming threats. 18...♝a2?! Black lets the chance slip by. 18...♝a5 is correct; after 19 ♜xg7 (19 ♜c4 ♜d8 20 ♜g4 h5 21 ♜e2 ♜d5 is winning for Black) 19...0-0-0 20 ♜b1 ♜xd2 (20...♜xd2 21 ♜f3 ♜a2 22 ♜a1 ♜xc2 23 ♜xh8 favours White) 21 ♜g4+ ♜c7 22 ♜xh8 ♜xc2 23 ♜e1 White would, it is true, retain good chances because of Black's exposed king, but there would still be some fight left. 19 ♜xg7 0-0-0 20 ♜b3 (52f) With the queen shut out on a2, Black has no chances at all. 20...♜f6 Or 20...♜f6 21 ♜c4! ♜xd2 22 ♜xc6+ ♜d7 23 ♜xd2+ ♜xc6 24 ♜c3+ and wins. 21 ♜g4+ ♜c7 22 ♜f4+ ♜c8 22...♜d6 loses to 23 ♜d3. 23 ♜xf6 ♜xf6 24 ♜xf6 ♜xc2 25 ♜f5+ 1-0



53 Adams – Wolff
London (Watson, Farley & Williams) 1990

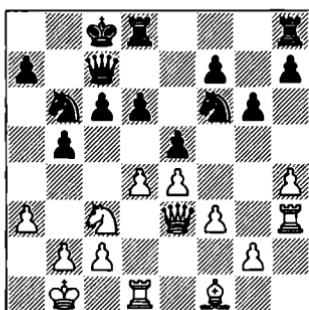
Pirc Defence

B



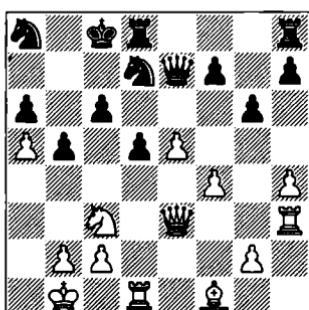
53a: After 10 $\mathbb{Q}h3$

B



53b: After 15 $a3$

W



53c: After 20... $\mathbb{Q}a8$

1 e4 d6 2 d4 g6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 4 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ c6 5 $\mathbb{W}d2$ b5 6 h4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 7 f3 $\mathbb{W}c7$ 7...h5 has been the most popular choice, achieving reasonable results for Black. 8 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ Exploiting the omission of ...h5. 8... $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 9 $\mathbb{W}xh6$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ After 9... $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}h3$, 11 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ followed by 12 $\mathbb{W}g7$ is a threat. Therefore Black first develops his bishop, so as to be able to take on h3. 10 $\mathbb{Q}h3$ (53a) 10... $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ The drawback is that this capture now costs Black a tempo. 11 $\mathbb{W}xh3$ $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 12 0-0-0 $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ 0-0-0 14 $\mathbb{W}e3$ White's queen has done its duty in preventing ...0-0 and can return to the centre. 14...e5 If Black does not take action, then White will play g4 and h5. 15 a3 (53b) 15...d5? It is risky for Black to open the game while positionally inferior, especially as his king is insecure. 15... $\mathbb{W}e8$ would have restricted White to an edge. 16 $dxe5$ 16 $\mathbb{W}g5$ exd4 17 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ is also promising. 16... $\mathbb{W}xe5$ 17 f4 $\mathbb{W}e7$ 17... $\mathbb{W}c7$ 18 e5 $\mathbb{Q}fd7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ cxb5 20 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{Q}c4$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xa7$ gives White three pawns and an initiative for the piece. 18 e5 $\mathbb{Q}fd7$ 18... $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 19 $\mathbb{W}f3$ h5 20 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ followed by $\mathbb{Q}d4$ is also good for White. 19 a4! a6? An error allowing White's attack to break through. 19...b4 is best, although even here 20 a5 bxc3 21 axb6 axb6 22 $\mathbb{W}xc3$ $\mathbb{W}c5$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 24 b4 $\mathbb{W}e7$ 25 b5 favours White. Note that 19...bxa4? fails to 20 $\mathbb{Q}xa4$ $\mathbb{Q}xa4$ (or 20... $\mathbb{W}b4$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}d4$) 21 $\mathbb{W}xa7$ $\mathbb{Q}ac5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}b3$!. 20 a5 Winning for White. 20... $\mathbb{Q}a8$ (53c) 20... $\mathbb{Q}c4$ loses to 21 $\mathbb{W}a7$. 21 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$! An attractive final combination. 21... $\mathbb{W}xd5$ 22 $\mathbb{W}a7$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 24 g3! 1-0 Black cannot meet the threat of 25 $\mathbb{Q}h3+$.

54 Khalifman – Nikolić Moscow (GMA) 1990

French Defence, Winawer Variation

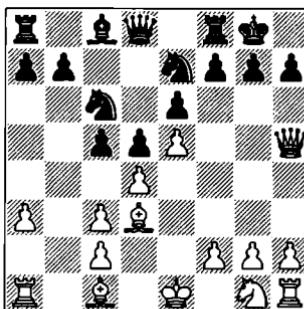
1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♜c3 ♜b4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 ♜xc3+ 6 bxc3 ♜e7 7 ♜g4 0-0 8 ♜d3 ♜bc6?? 8...f5 is the main line. 8...♜bc6 is now considered inferior on account of the continuation played in this game. 9 ♜h5 (54a) 9...♜f5?! 9...♜g6 is a better chance, although also insufficient for equality, e.g. 10 ♜f3 ♜c7 11 ♜e3 c4 12 ♜xg6 fxg6 13 ♜g4 and White is slightly better. 9...h6? is a blunder which has claimed a number of victims: 10 ♜xh6! gxh6 11 ♜xh6 ♜f5 12 ♜xf5 exf5 13 0-0-0! gives White a decisive attack. 10 ♜f3 f6 11 g4! (54b) This direct approach gives White a very strong attack. His queen and minor pieces are already in good attacking positions; opening the g-file allows the rook to join in. 11...c4 11...fxe5?! is bad after 12 gxf5 e4 13 ♜g5 h6 14 ♜xe4! dxe4 15 ♜g1!, while 11...g6 12 ♜h3 ♜g7 13 ♜h6! is also unpleasant for Black. 12 gxf5 This innovation, instead of the previously played 12 exf6 and 12 ♜e2, effectively put the whole line out of business for Black. 12...cx d3 13 ♜g1 (54c) 13...exf5 This is the critical position. Firstly, let's dispose of Black's inferior defences:

1) 13...♜e8 fails to 14 ♜xe8 ♜xe8 15 exf6 exf5+ 16 ♜e5! ♜xe5 17 ♜xg7+ with a large advantage to White.

2) 13...dxc2 14 ♜h6 ♜f7 15 ♜d2 ♜d7 led to catastrophe after 16 ♜xg7! ♜xg7 17 ♜h6 ♜f8 18 ♜xg7+ ♜xg7 19 ♜g1 ♜xg1 20 ♜xg1 fxe5 21 f6 1-0 in M.Palac-V.Kovačević, Vinkovci 1995.

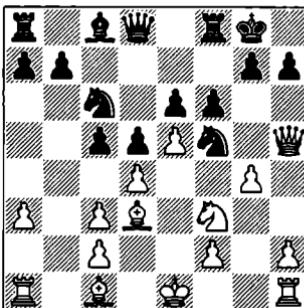
3) 13...♜a5 14 ♜xg7+! ♜xg7 15 ♜h6+ ♜h8 16 ♜xf8 ♜xc3+ 17 ♜f1 ♜xa1+ 18 ♜g2 and Black cannot meet the threat of 19 ♜f7.

B



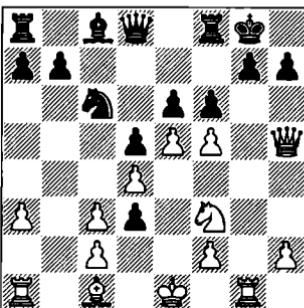
54a: After 9 ♜h5

B



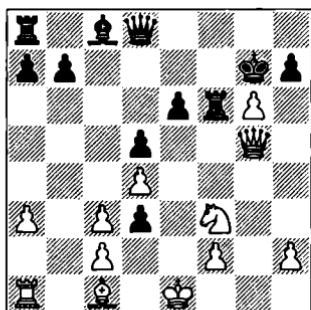
54b: After 11 g4!

B



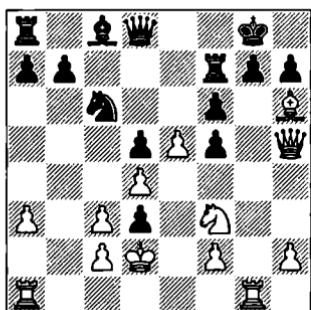
54c: After 13 ♜g1

B



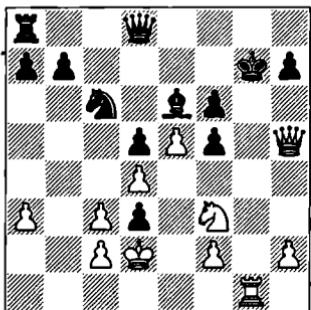
54d: After 17 fxg6 (analysis)

B



54e: After 15 ♕d2!

B



54f: After 18 ♜g1+ 1-0

4) This leaves 13... $\mathbb{Q}e7$, undoubtedly the most resilient of Black's defences. Although perhaps not a forced loss, there is nothing attractive about this line for Black. White continues 14 exf6 $\mathbb{K}xf6$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+!!$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 16 $\mathbb{W}g5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ (16... $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}e5+$ wins) 17 $\mathbb{W}fxg6$ (54d) 17... $\mathbb{W}hxg6$ (or 17... $\mathbb{Q}e7?$ 18 $\mathbb{W}h6+$ and now both 18... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{K}xg6$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xg6$ and 18... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{K}xg6$ 20 $\mathbb{W}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ win for White) 18 $\mathbb{Q}f4!$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ (the alternatives 18... $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}e5$, 18... $\mathbb{W}f8$ 19 $\mathbb{W}h6+$ and 18... $\mathbb{W}a5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ $\mathbb{W}xc3+$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{W}xa1+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ are all lost for Black) 19 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ $\mathbb{K}xc2$ (19... $\mathbb{K}c8$ 20 $\mathbb{K}xd3$ $\mathbb{K}xc3$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ and White wins after 21... $\mathbb{K}b3$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}g4$) 20 $\mathbb{h}4!$ with the branch:

4a) 20... $\mathbb{W}e7$ 21 $\mathbb{h}5$ $\mathbb{W}f8$ (21... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}h2$ is similar) 22 $\mathbb{Q}h2$ wins.

4b) 20... $\mathbb{Q}a4$ 21 $\mathbb{h}5$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}e5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xg6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}e5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 26 $f4$ $\mathbb{K}c8$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ leading to a winning ending.

4c) 20... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}h2!$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 22 $\mathbb{W}h6!$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ (22... $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 23 $\mathbb{W}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}h8+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ and 22... $\mathbb{Q}b5$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ $\mathbb{K}f5$ 24 $\mathbb{W}g7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ $\mathbb{W}d6$ 27 $\mathbb{W}g8+$ are also hopeless for Black) 23 $\mathbb{Q}xf6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 24 $\mathbb{W}f8+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}g4+$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 26 $\mathbb{W}xf7+!$ $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ (forcing mate) 1-0 Kruppa-Komarov, Kherson 1991.

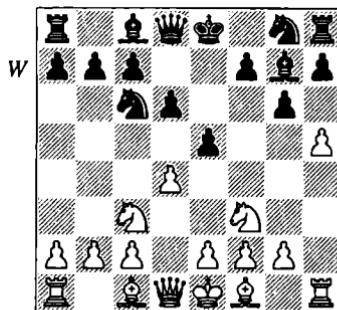
14 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ $\mathbb{K}f7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}d2!$ (54e) Clearing the first rank for White's last piece to join the attack. 15... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xg7!$ We have already seen this sacrifice in line '2' above; here, in a slightly different setting, it also proves decisive. 16... $\mathbb{K}xg7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}g1+$ (54f) 1-0 There is no defence, e.g. 18... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ (or 18... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xh7$ $\mathbb{K}c8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}g7$) 19 $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ (19... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}g6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}f4+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 22 $\mathbb{W}h6$ wins Black's queen at the very least) 20 $\mathbb{Q}g6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}f4+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ and wins.

55 Arencibia – Seirawan

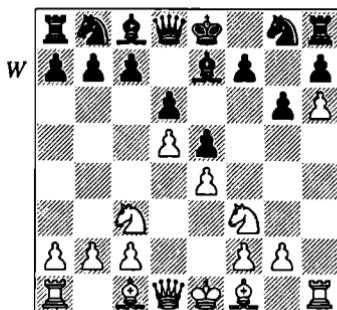
Manila Interzonal 1990

Modern Defence

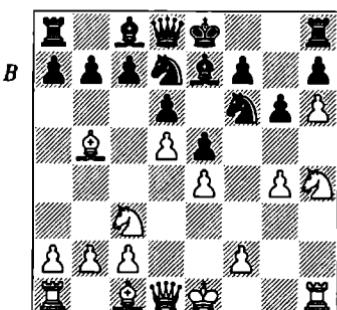
1 d4 d6 2 ♜c3 g6 3 h4?! Amazingly, in a million-game database I could only find one other example of this position. 3...♜g7 3...♝f6 4 e4 transposes into a line of the Pirc. 4 h5 ♜c6 5 ♜f3 e5! (55a) Seirawan reacts thematically to White's flank advance by counterattacking in the centre. Thanks to the time White has spent pushing his h-pawn, Black is not behind in development. 6 h6 ♜f6 7 d5 White closes the centre and drives the knight back to base. 7...♝b8 8 e4 ♜e7 (55b) Black intends to develop by ...♝f6 and ...0-0. Eventually, he might aim for counterplay by ...f5, but he will have to take care in view of the proximity of White's h-pawn to his king. 9 ♜b5+ 9 ♜e2 ♜f6 10 ♜d2 followed by ♜c4 is approximately equal. 9...♜d7 Not 9...c6? 10 dxc6 bxc6 11 ♜c4 with a slight plus for White. 10 g4? So far White has played ambitiously but has not taken too many risks. However, with this further pawn advance (aimed at preventing Black's kingside development) he goes too far. 10 ♜e3 ♜gf6 11 ♜d2 is safer, with equality. 10...♝gf6 Before g5 seals Black in. 11 ♜h4 (55c) 11 g5 ♜h5 favours Black as f4 is a tempting square for the knight, while 11 ♜g1 0-0 followed by ...♜c5 will attack e4 and g4. 11...a6 Black is careful not to allow White to mix things up. 11...0-0 12 ♜f5!? gxf5 13 exf5 may not be objectively sound but it would certainly be troublesome in practice. 12 ♜d3 ♜e5 Attacking g4. As 13 f3 and 13 ♜g1 both run into 13...♜xg4, White is forced to push. 13 g5 ♜h5 14 ♜g1 Far from giving attacking chances, White's early kingside advance has left him scrambling to hold on to his protruding pawns.



55a: After 5...e5!

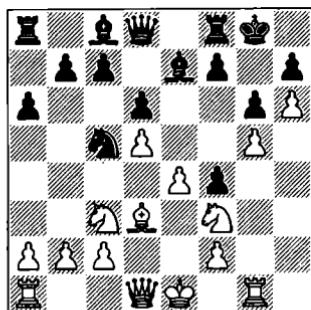


55b: After 8...♜e7



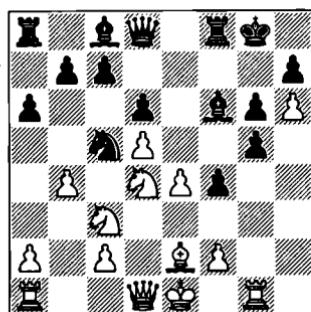
55c: After 11 ♜h4

W



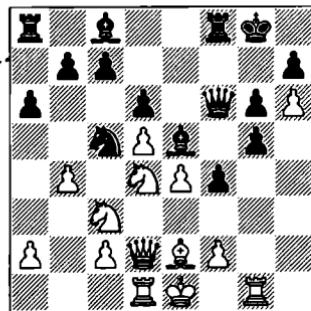
55d: After 16...0-0

W



55e: After 19...Qf6!

W

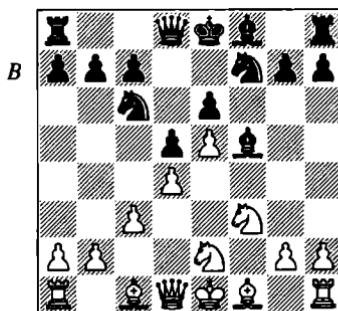
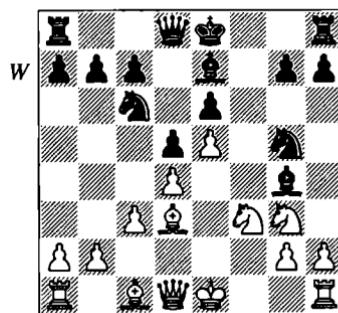
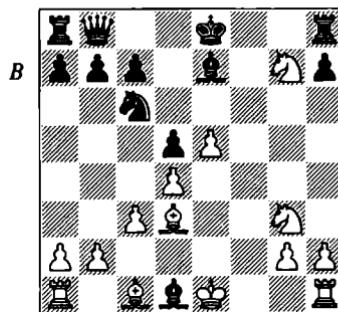


55f: After 21...Wf6

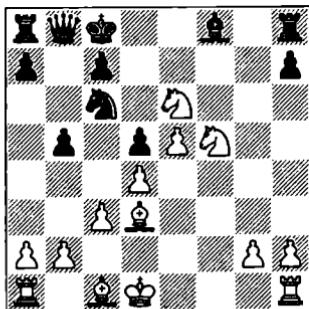
14... $\mathbb{Q}f4$! 15 $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ 0-0 followed by ...f6 is no better. 15...exf4 16 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ 0-0 (55d) Black has a clear advantage. Thanks to all his pawn moves, White is well behind in development. In contrast, Black is safely castled and is ready to break open the position by ...f6, both activating his dark-squared bishop and opening lines towards the white king. 17 $\mathbb{Q}e2$? White seeks a tactical solution to his positional problems, even though this is almost always a bad idea. 17 $\mathbb{W}d2$ f6 18 gxf6 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 19 0-0-0 favours Black due to his extremely powerful dark-squared bishop, but at least it would still be a fight. 17...f6 18 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ After 18 $\mathbb{W}d4$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 19 0-0-0 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ White is forced to take on f6, when Black has an even larger advantage than in the note to White's 17th move. 18...fxg5 19 b4 This is White's idea: he hopes to win material, because 19... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ allows 20 $\mathbb{Q}e6$. 19... $\mathbb{Q}f6$! (55e) The long dark diagonal, on which three white pieces are conveniently lined up, proves the Achilles' Heel. 20 $\mathbb{W}d2$ 20 bxc5 dxc5 regains the piece with an overwhelming position. 20... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ Clearing f6 for the queen. 21 $\mathbb{W}d1$ 21 bxc5 $\mathbb{W}f6$! 22 0-0-0 dxc5 wins, while 21 0-0-0 f3 followed by ... $\mathbb{Q}f4$ is catastrophic. Thus the king must stay in the centre. 21... $\mathbb{W}f6$ (55f) White's position is hopeless. His plan to gain material has backfired and he is a pawn down with his king trapped in the centre. 22 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 22 bxc5 dxc5 wins for Black. 22... $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}ce2$ f3 0-1 Since 25 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}f4$ 26 $\mathbb{W}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ $\mathbb{W}f4$ leads to further material loss. This game provides a textbook example of the refutation of a premature attack.

56 Smagin – Šahović
Biel Open 1990
Nimzowitsch Defence

1 e4 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 2 d4 d5 3 e5 The position resembles a 3 e5 Caro-Kann in that Black can develop his light-squared bishop outside his central pawn-chain. 3... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 4 c3 e6 5 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ An unusual move. 5 $\mathbb{Q}e2$, 5 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ and 5 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ are more common alternatives. 5... $f6$ 5... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ followed by ...0-0-0 is another possible plan. 6 f4 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}df3$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 9 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ (56a) White's idea is to hunt down the f5-bishop by $\mathbb{Q}g3$ and (after ... $\mathbb{Q}g6$) h4. However, this plan requires several time-consuming knight moves. 9... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$? 10... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 11 h4 0-0 is more logical, playing for a lead in development. After 12 h5 $\mathbb{Q}e4$, for example, White cannot play 13 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ as 13...dxe4 followed by 14... $\mathbb{Q}h4+$ wins for Black. 11 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}g5$ (56b) The point of Black's previous move was to exert pressure against the pinned knight, but it runs into an unexpected tactical riposte. 12 $\mathbb{Q}xg5!$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 13 0-0 followed by $\mathbb{W}c2$ would also be favourable for White since Black's bishops are awkwardly placed. However, the sacrificial text-move is more forceful. 12... $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{W}b8$ 13... $\mathbb{W}d7$ is refuted by 14 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$ followed by 15 $\mathbb{Q}f5$, trapping Black's queen. After 13... $\mathbb{W}c8$, White continues 14 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 16 0-0+ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}3f5$ $\mathbb{W}b8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 19 h3 (to play $\mathbb{Q}h5$) 19... $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ with a decisive attack. 14 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$ (56c) 14... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 14... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ is met by 15 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 16 0-0+ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 17 h3 and now both 17... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xf8+$ $\mathbb{W}xf8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ and 17... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 18 e6 $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ $\mathbb{W}xe8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ are clearly better for White. After 14... $\mathbb{Q}f7$ White has at least two routes to the advantage. He can continue simply by 15 $\mathbb{Q}7f5$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}h6+$

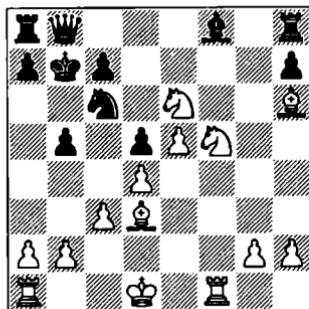
56a: After 9 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ 56b: After 11... $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 56c: After 14 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$

W



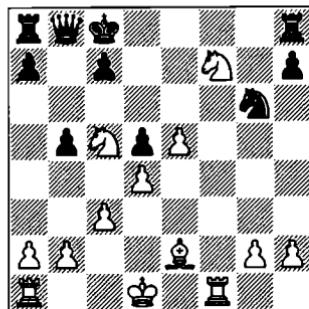
56d: After 17...Qf8

B



56e: After 19...Qh6!

B



56f: After 23...Qf7 1-0

when, as in the game, White restores a rough material balance and preserves a strong attack. However, 15 $\mathbb{Q}h6$! is also very good. After 15... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ (15... $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 16 0-0+ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ transposes to the analysis of 14... $\mathbb{Q}f8$) 16 0-0+ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}7f5$! $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}f4$! $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ (19... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}g4+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ wins; 19... $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}e6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 23 h4#) White wins neatly by 20 $\mathbb{Q}e4!!$ $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xd5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xh5$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}f3+$ $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 25 g3 and mate next move. 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ Black has a miserable position. His slight material advantage in no way compensates for the fact that his three most powerful pieces are virtually impotent, and his king is permanently exposed. 15...b5 An attempt to extract Black's queen from its hiding place on b8. 16 $\mathbb{Q}e6+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ (56d) The bishop returns to base, but there was no satisfactory move. 17... $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}e3!$ wins the d5-pawn, while 17... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ strongly favours White. 18 $\mathbb{Q}f1!$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 18... $\mathbb{Q}b6$ loses after 19 $\mathbb{Q}e3$. The move played aims to release the queen along the first rank, but the escape route is closed before Black can make use of it. 19 $\mathbb{Q}h6!$ (56e) Another powerful blow, aiming to gain the c5-square for a white knight. 19... $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ Or 19... $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}e3!$ (20 $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ also wins) 20... $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xd5+$ $\mathbb{Q}a5$ (or 21... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}c5+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}f7$ winning) 22 b4+ $\mathbb{Q}a4$ 23 a3! $\mathbb{Q}b3$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}c5+$ $\mathbb{Q}b2$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f2+!$ $\mathbb{Q}xa1$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ #. 20 $\mathbb{Q}c5+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ The light-squared bishop reaches the h3-c8 diagonal after all, with devastating effect. 22... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}f7$ (56f) 1-0 There is no defence to the twin threats of 24 $\mathbb{Q}xh8$ and 24 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ #.

57 Timman – Korchnoi

Tilburg 1991

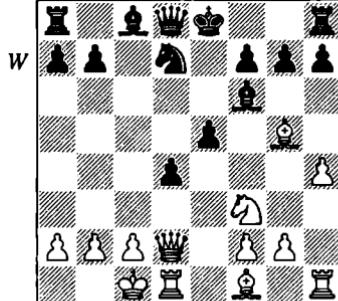
French Defence, 3...dxe4

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ dxe4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}gf6$ 6 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}xf6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 8 h4

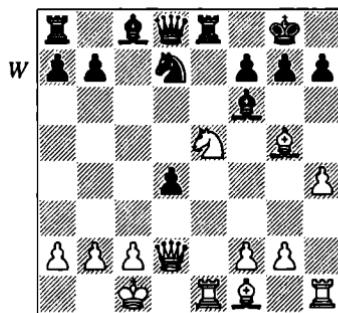
This line offers White chances of a slight advantage. 8...c5 The solid but boring 8...0-0 9 $\mathbb{W}d2$ e5 gives Black better chances of equality. 9 $\mathbb{W}d2$ cxd4 White can retain a faint edge after other moves too, e.g. 9...0-0 10 0-0-0 cxd4 11 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ or 9...h6 10 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 11 0-0-0. 10 0-0-0 e5 (57a) This move looks greedy, but it is not a mistake. Korchnoi wants to make White work a bit to regain the pawn. 10...0-0 11 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ transposes into the previous note.

11 $\mathbb{H}e1$ 0-0 11... $\mathbb{W}b6$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 13 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ 0-0 14 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ gives White a useful extra tempo over the following note. 12 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{H}e8$? (57b) A tactical error. Black could have justified his strategy by 12... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 13 $\mathbb{H}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 15 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ $\mathbb{H}fd8$! 16 $\mathbb{W}e3$ $\mathbb{H}ac8$, with enough play for the sacrificed pawn.

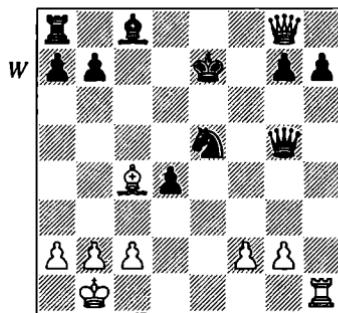
13 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$! A devastating blow. 13... $\mathbb{H}xe1+$ Forced, because 13... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}c4+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ (14... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 15 h5+ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 16 $\mathbb{W}f4\#$) 15 $\mathbb{H}xe8+$ $\mathbb{W}xe8$ 16 $\mathbb{H}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ (or else 17 $\mathbb{W}b4+$) 17 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ gxf6 18 $\mathbb{W}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}g7+$ wins for White. 14 $\mathbb{W}xe1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}c4+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 16 $\mathbb{W}e6$ $\mathbb{Q}xg5+$ 16... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 17 $\mathbb{W}g8+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 18 $\mathbb{W}g7+$ wins. 17 hxg5 $\mathbb{W}xg5+$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ Or 18... $\mathbb{W}f6$ 19 $\mathbb{W}g8+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 20 $\mathbb{H}e1+$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 21 $\mathbb{W}d5!$ and wins. 19 $\mathbb{W}g8+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ (57c) 20 $\mathbb{H}e1!$ Threatening 21 $\mathbb{W}d5$. 20... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ Black is forced to jettison material, as 20...h6 21 $\mathbb{W}d5$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 22 $\mathbb{W}d6+$ leads to mate. 21 $\mathbb{W}xa8$ $\mathbb{W}d2$ 22 $\mathbb{H}xe5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 23 a3 Simplest. White emerges a piece up. 23... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 24 $\mathbb{W}b8+$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ Both 24... $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 25 $\mathbb{W}xb7+$ and 24... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 25 $\mathbb{W}d8+$ drop a piece. 25 $\mathbb{W}f8+$ 1-0 As 25... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 26 $\mathbb{W}f7+$ again wins the bishop.



57a: After 10...e5

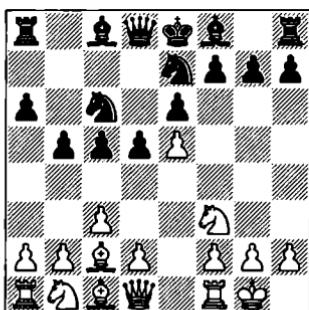


57b: After 12...He8?



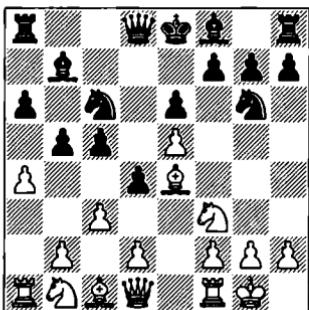
57c: After 19...Qe7

B



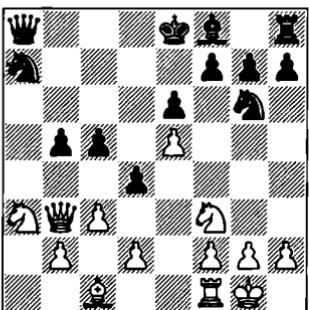
58a: After 8 e5

W



58b: After 10...Bg6

B



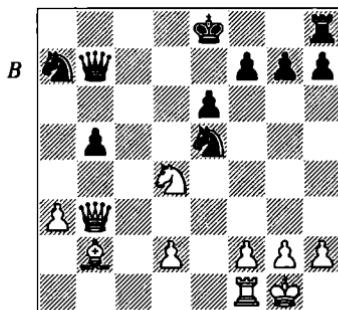
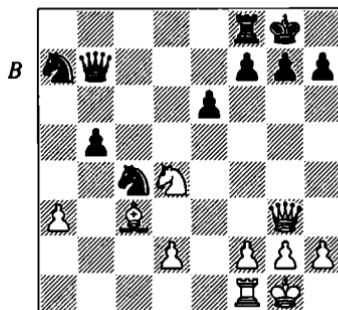
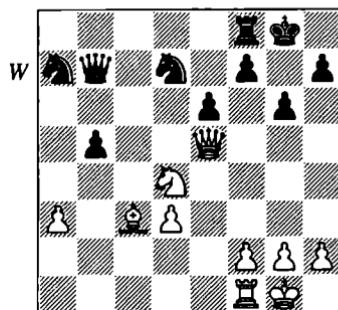
58c: After 15...Bb3

58 Sveshnikov – Scherbakov USSR Ch, Moscow 1991

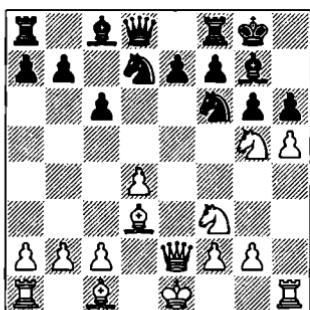
Sicilian Defence, Rossolimo Variation

1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 3 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ e6 4 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}ge7$ 5 c3 a6 5...d5 6 exd5 $\mathbb{W}xd5$ is thought to give Black excellent prospects of equality. 6 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ b5 7 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ d5?! With the bishop on c2, this move is no longer good. 7... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ is a better chance. 8 e5 (58a) White threatens 9 d4, reaching a favourable type of French position in which d4 is absolutely secure and White's light-squared bishop is actively posted on the b1-h7 diagonal. 8...d4 Black tries to prevent White's d4, but now the e4-square is available for White's bishop. 9 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 10 a4 White has several routes to a slight advantage; for example, 10 d3 $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 11 $\mathbb{E}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 12 cxd4 cxd4 13 $\mathbb{Q}bd2$ 0-0 14 $\mathbb{Q}b3$, Torre-Fedorowicz, San Francisco 1991 or 10 cxd4 cxd4 11 d3 $\mathbb{W}b6$ 12 $\mathbb{E}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 13 a3 h6 14 h4 g6 15 $\mathbb{Q}f4$, Morozevich-J.Polgar, Amsterdam 1995. 10... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ (58b) The e5-pawn exerts a cramping influence on Black's position, so Black starts to besiege it. However, thanks to White's pressure along the diagonal from e4 to a8, actually capturing it will be far from easy. 11 axb5 axb5 12 $\mathbb{W}xa8$ $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ 12... $\mathbb{W}xa8$ 13 $\mathbb{W}e2!$ (13 $\mathbb{Q}a3$ $\mathbb{Q}cxe5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3+$ 15 gxf3 $\mathbb{W}a5$ is less clear) 13...b4 14 $\mathbb{W}b5$ is awkward for Black. 13 $\mathbb{Q}a3$ White strikes at the weak b5-pawn. 13... $\mathbb{Q}a7$ Abandoning any immediate attempt to take the e5-pawn, but there was little choice; for example, 13... $\mathbb{Q}cxe5$ (13... $\mathbb{W}a5$ 14 $\mathbb{W}e2$ does not solve Black's problems) 14 $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ $\mathbb{W}xa8$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 16 cxd4 cxd4 17 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ with advantage to White; the d4-pawn is weak and Black is still two moves from castling. 14 $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ $\mathbb{W}xa8$ 15 $\mathbb{W}b3$ (58c) 15... $\mathbb{W}b7$ Black's best defence. 15...dxc3 16 dxc3 only makes it easier for White to

develop his bishop, while 15...c4 16 $\mathbb{Q}xc4!$? $bxc4$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}a4+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ (17... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ $\mathbb{Q}ec6$ 20 d3 also gives White a slight advantage) 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}f4$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ wins the c4-pawn, after which, with material equality and a permanently exposed black king, White can count on some advantage. **16 cxd4 cxd4 17 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$** Opening the position is logical, as White is ahead in development. 17 d3 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 18 h4 is less effective because 18...h6 prevents the advance h5-h6. 17... $\mathbb{Q}xa3$ 17...b4 18 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ favours White. **18 bxa3** 18 $\mathbb{Q}xa3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ b4 is weaker as White has problems developing his bishop. **18... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 18...0-0** 19 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ keeps the extra pawn. **19 $\mathbb{Q}b2$ (58d)** Aiming for threats on the long diagonal. 19 a4 is a tempting line which fails, since after 19...0-0 20 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ White cannot retain the extra pawn. **19... $\mathbb{Q}c4$ 19...0-0** 20 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{Q}f3+$ 21 gxf3 fxe6 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ wins for White. **20 $\mathbb{Q}g3$** Sveshnikov thinks that White is already winning, but this is not correct, as we shall see. White has an advantage, but Black can still hope to defend. **20...0-0** 20... $\mathbb{Q}xb2?$ loses at once to 21 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$. **21 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ (58e)** 21 $\mathbb{Q}f5?$ f6 22 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ lets Black off the hook. **21...g6?** Only this move loses. 21...e5 is also bad due to 22 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ f6 23 $\mathbb{Q}b4$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ (White also wins after 23... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 24 d3 or 23... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}e7$) 24 d3 $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ and White wins. 21... $\mathbb{Q}b8!$ is the only chance; after 22 $\mathbb{Q}g5!$ h6 (22...f6 23 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ e5 24 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ g6 25 d3 also gives White the edge) 23 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ White's active bishop gives him some advantage, but Black is still in the game. **22 d3 $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 22... $\mathbb{Q}xa3$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}d6!$** traps the knight. **23 $\mathbb{Q}e5!$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ (58f)** 23...f6 24 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ followed by $\mathbb{Q}e6+$ is also decisive. **24 $\mathbb{Q}g7+!!$** 1-0 A beautiful finish. White forces mate after 24... $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f5++$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}h6#$.

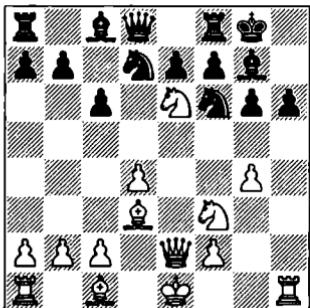
58d: After 19 $\mathbb{Q}b2$ 58e: After 21 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ 58f: After 23... $\mathbb{Q}d7$

B



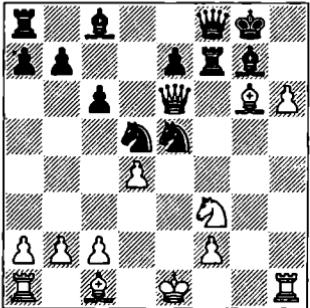
59a: After 10 h5!

B



59b: After 12 ♜e6!

W



59c: After 16... ♜e5

59 Watson – Meduna

Prague 1992

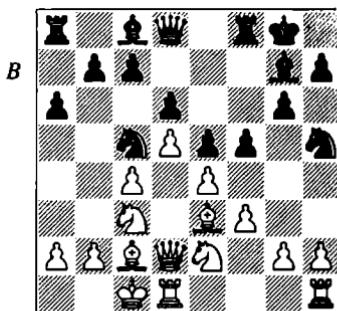
Caro-Kann Defence, 4... ♜d7

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♜d2 dxe4 4 ♜xe4 ♜d7 5 ♜g5 ♜gf6 6 ♜d3 g6? 6...e6 is overwhelmingly the most popular move today. 7 ♜f1f3 ♜g7 8 ♜e2! A good reply, avoiding castling in order to retain the option of h4-h5. 8...0-0 8...h6 9 ♜e6! fxe6 10 ♜xg6+ ♜f8 11 0-0 gives White strong long-term pressure for his sacrifice. 9 h4 The only way to cause real problems for Black. 9...h6 10 h5! (59a) Consistent play. 10...♜xh5? The only real test of White's idea is to take the piece. After 10...hxg5! (10...gxh5 11 ♜h3 followed by ♜f4 is unpleasant for Black) 11 h6! ♜h8 12 ♜xg5 ♜b6! (12...♜a5+ 13 ♜d2 ♜d5 14 h7+ ♜g7 15 ♜c4 ♜xg2 16 0-0-0 gives White a crushing attack, while 12...♜h7 13 ♜xg6! ♜xg5 14 h7+ ♜g7 15 ♜xg5 fxg6 16 ♜e6! ♜a5+ 17 ♜d2 ♜f6 18 ♜xe7+ ♜f7 19 ♜xf7+ ♜xf7 20 ♜xa5 leads to a favourable ending) 13 h7+ ♜g7 14 ♜d2! ♜d5! (14...♜g4 15 f3 favours White) 15 ♜e4 ♜xe4 16 ♜h6+ ♜f6 17 ♜xf8 ♜f5 18 ♜h6 ♜xd4 the situation is very unclear. 11 ♜g4! Black is already in serious trouble. 11...♜hf6 Or 11...hxg5 12 gxh5 g4 13 ♜g5 ♜f6 14 h6 ♜h8 15 h7+ ♜g7 16 ♜e3 with a decisive attack. 12 ♜e6! (59b) 12...fxe6 12...♜a5+ 13 ♜d2 ♜b6 14 ♜xg7 and 12...♜b6 13 ♜xg7 win for White. 13 ♜xe6+ ♜f7 13...♜h7 14 ♜xh6 ♜xh6 15 g5 wins, for example 15...♜b6 16 ♜xh6+ ♜g7 17 ♜xg6+ ♜h8 18 ♜h6+ ♜g7 19 ♜h7+! ♜xh7 20 ♜g6+ ♜h8 21 ♜xh7#. 14 ♜xg6 ♜f8 15 g5 ♜d5 Or 15...♜b6 16 ♜xf7+ ♜xf7 17 ♜xf7+ ♜xf7 18 gxf6. 16 gxh6 ♜e5 (59c) 17 ♜h7+! 1-0 In view of 17...♜xh7 (17...♜h8 18 hxg7+ ♜xg7 19 ♜e4+! ♜g8 20 ♜xe5 winning) 18 hxg7+ ♜xg7 19 ♜h6+ ♜g8 20 ♜h8#.

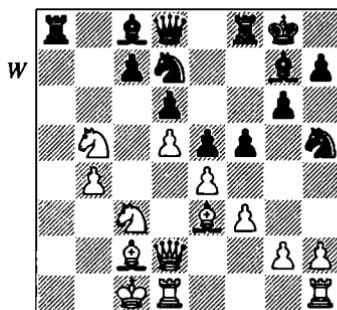
60 Timman – Kasparov Linares 1992

King's Indian Defence, Sämisch Variation

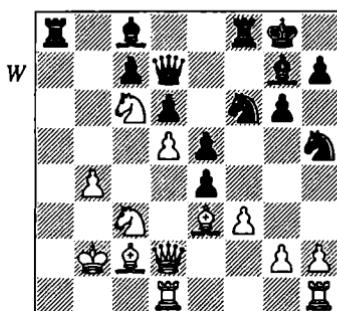
1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 g6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 4 e4 d6 5 f3 0-0 6 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ e5 7 d5 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 8 $\mathbb{W}d2$ f5 9 0-0-0 $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ Kasparov rather oddly marks this as a novelty in *Informator*, even though it had been played as long ago as Kotov-Szabo, Zurich Candidates 1953. 11 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ a6 12 $\mathbb{Q}ge2$ (60a) 12 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ and 12 b4 are alternatives, but the move played appears most natural. 12...b5?! Black must play actively, or there is no point to his moves ...a6 and ... $\mathbb{Q}c5$. 13 b4 $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 14 cxb5 White decides to exchange pawns on the queenside. 14 exf5?! gxf5 15 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ and 14 c5 a5 are alternatives, with unclear play in both cases. 14...axb5 15 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}b2$? $\mathbb{Q}b6$ favours Black. 15... $\mathbb{A}xa2$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}ec3$ $\mathbb{H}a8$ (60b) The exposure of White's king may appear hazardous, but the open a-file may well help him if he has time for $\mathbb{Q}b2$ and $\mathbb{H}a1$. White's greater firepower on the queenside means that there is no immediate danger for White's king, always provided that the long dark-square diagonal remains closed. 17 $\mathbb{Q}b2$ Since White does not follow this up with $\mathbb{H}a1$, there is surely an argument for playing 17 $\mathbb{Q}a7$ first. 17... $\mathbb{Q}df6$ Clearing d7 for the bishop. 17... $\mathbb{H}b8$?! 18 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}a7$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ + 20 $\mathbb{Q}a3$ favours White. 18 $\mathbb{Q}a7$ Now 18 $\mathbb{H}a1$?! could be met by 18... $\mathbb{H}b8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$, so White aims to occupy c6 instead. 18...fxe4 19 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ $\mathbb{W}d7$ (60c) 20 g4!? White initiates a forcing sequence which leads to tremendous complications. 20 fxe4 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ is fine for Black, but 20 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ is playable, again with a murky position. 20... $\mathbb{Q}f4$ 21 g5 $\mathbb{Q}d6xd5$! (60d) Black is forced to go in for this, since 21... $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 22 fxe4 would leave Black's kingside play stymied, and White



60a: After 12 $\mathbb{Q}ge2$

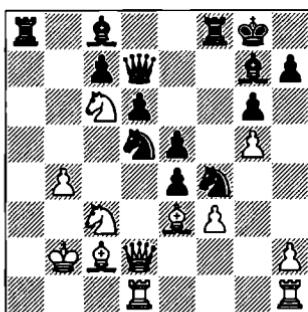


60b: After 16... $\mathbb{H}a8$

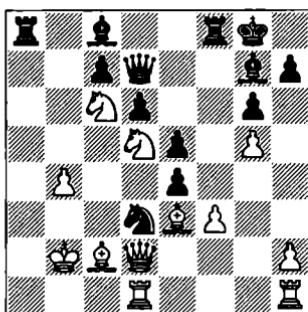


60c: After 19... $\mathbb{W}d7$

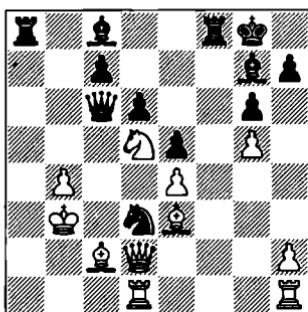
W

60d: After 21... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$!

W

60e: After 22... $\mathbb{Q}d3+$!

B



60f: After 24 fxe4 (analysis)

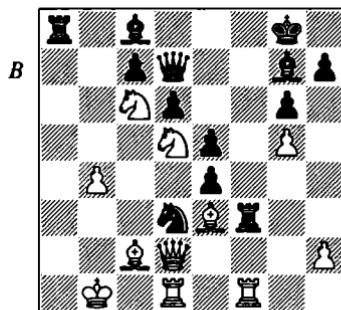
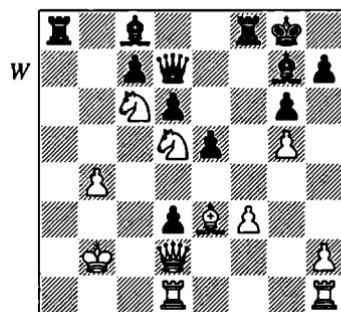
would then be able to continue at his leisure on the queenside. 22... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 22... $\mathbb{Q}b3$ is met by 22... $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 23... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ keeping the pawn. 22... $\mathbb{Q}d3+!$ (60e) Definitely best. 22... $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 23... $\mathbb{Q}xf4!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf4+$ 24... $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 25... $\mathbb{Q}b3+$ $d5$ 26... $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 27... $\mathbb{Q}d4+$ and 22... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 23... $\mathbb{Q}ce7+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 24... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $c6$ 25... $\mathbb{Q}b6$ win for White, while 22... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 23... $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ $\mathbb{Q}xf4+$ 24... $\mathbb{Q}d4$ is clearly in White's favour. 23... $\mathbb{Q}xd3?$ Timman goes wrong and allows the long diagonal to be opened – the one thing which he should avoid at all costs.

Both Timman and Kasparov reject 23... $\mathbb{Q}b3$ in their notes because of 23... $\mathbb{Q}xc6$, citing 24... $\mathbb{Q}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 25... $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{Q}e6+$ 26... $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}a3+$ 27... $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}xb3+$ 28... $\mathbb{Q}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}b2+$ with a massive advantage for Black after 29... $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ 30... $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3$. However, 24... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ (60f) is much stronger, when it is not clear if Black can achieve more than perpetual check by, for example, 24... $\mathbb{Q}a4+$ 25... $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6+$, etc. If 24... $\mathbb{Q}c5+$, then 25... $\mathbb{Q}b3$ 26... $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}a4+$ 27... $\mathbb{Q}b4$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 28... $\mathbb{Q}d5+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 29... $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}f3$ 30... $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3+$ 31... $\mathbb{Q}d2$ with an unclear position.

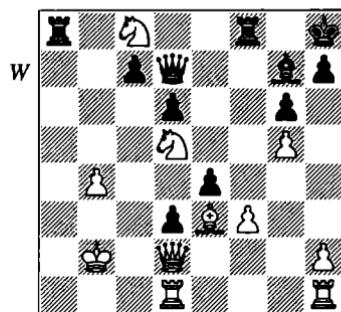
The most critical line is 23... $\mathbb{Q}b1$. Timman believes it to be better for White, while Kasparov thinks it unclear. Both pieces of analysis are very lengthy and I will not reproduce them in full here because my own analysis deviates at a very early stage. The critical position arises after 23... $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 24... $\mathbb{Q}hf1$ (60g) (but not 24... $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 25... $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 26... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ 27... $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ and Black wins). Timman's main line continues 24... $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ (this is also the only move considered by Kasparov) 25... $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ (25... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 26... $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 27... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 28... $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 29... $\mathbb{Q}a5$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 29... $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ 30... $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ and Black doesn't have enough for the piece) 26... $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 27... $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 28... $\mathbb{Q}c1$ and now he thinks White is better after 28... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 29... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 30...

$\blacksquare c7$ because the b-pawn is very dangerous. However, 28... $\blacksquare a4$ seems safe enough for Black, e.g. 29 $\blacksquare c4$ $\blacksquare a1+$ 30 $\blacksquare c2$ $\blacksquare a4+$ 31 $\blacksquare b3$ $\blacksquare a6$ 32 $\blacksquare xc7$ $\blacksquare xb3+$ 33 $\blacksquare xb3$ $\blacksquare a4+$ 34 $\blacksquare c3$ $\blacksquare a3+$ 35 $\blacksquare c2$ $\blacksquare a4+$ drawing by perpetual check. However, all this may not be relevant because Black need not exchange rooks on f1, which only gives White counterplay down the f-file. Instead 24... $\blacksquare h8!$ looks safer. Then many lines end in perpetual check, for example 25 $\blacksquare c3$ (25 $\blacksquare xf3$ $\blacksquare xc6$ and 25 $\blacksquare ce7$ $\blacksquare xf1$ 26 $\blacksquare xf1$ $\blacksquare b7$ favour Black, while 25 $\blacksquare xd3$ $\blacksquare xc6$ 26 $\blacksquare xe4$ $\blacksquare xf1$ 27 $\blacksquare xf1$ $\blacksquare c4$ is lost for White) 25... $\blacksquare b7$ 26 $\blacksquare xf3$ (26 $b5$ $\blacksquare xc6$ 27 $\blacksquare xc6$ $\blacksquare xc6$ 28 $\blacksquare b8+$ 29 $\blacksquare a1$ $\blacksquare a8+$ is a draw) 26... $\blacksquare xf3$ 27 $b5$ $e4$ 28 $\blacksquare d4$ $\blacksquare xc6$ 29 $\blacksquare bxc6$ (both 29 $\blacksquare f6$ $\blacksquare f5$ 30 $\blacksquare xc6$ $\blacksquare b8$ 31 $\blacksquare xd3$ $\blacksquare exd3$ 32 $\blacksquare a2$ f2 and 29 $\blacksquare xg7+$ $\blacksquare xg7$ 30 $\blacksquare xg7+$ $\blacksquare xg7$ 31 $\blacksquare bxc6$ $\blacksquare b8+$ 32 $\blacksquare a1$ $\blacksquare c5$ favour Black) 29... $\blacksquare b8+$ 30 $\blacksquare a1$ $\blacksquare a8+$ and again the result is perpetual check.

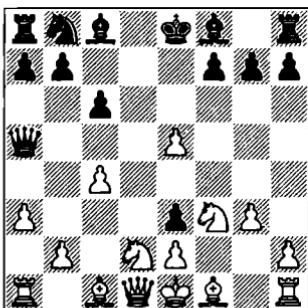
23...exd3 (60h) Now White is in trouble. He cannot necessarily block the long diagonal by $\blacksquare f6+$ since Black can reply ... $\blacksquare xf6$. **24 $\blacksquare ce7?$** Total collapse. White should try either 24 $\blacksquare b3$ or 24 $\blacksquare c3$, but in either case 24... $\blacksquare b7$ gives Black a strong attack. Other moves are worse; for example, 24 $\blacksquare a1$ $\blacksquare b7$ 25 $b5$ $\blacksquare xc6$ 26 $\blacksquare bxc6$ $e4+$ or 24 $\blacksquare c1$ $\blacksquare b7$ 25 $b5$ $\blacksquare xc6$ 26 $\blacksquare xc6$ $e4+$ 27 $\blacksquare f6+$ $\blacksquare xf6$ 28 $\blacksquare gxf6$ $\blacksquare xf6+$ 29 $\blacksquare b3$ $\blacksquare e6+$ 30 $\blacksquare c4$ c6! 31 $b6$ d5 and Black is winning in both cases. **24... $\blacksquare h8$** With a winning position for Black. **25 $\blacksquare xc8$** 25 $\blacksquare c3$ $\blacksquare b7$ is hopeless. **25...e4+ (60i) 0-1** This thematic King's Indian move, activating the g7-bishop, ends the game. 26 $\blacksquare f6$ $\blacksquare xf6$ 27 $\blacksquare gxf6$ $\blacksquare xf6+$ 28 $\blacksquare b3$ $\blacksquare e6#$ is mate, while 26 $\blacksquare c3$ $\blacksquare a4$ is hopeless.

60g: After 24 $\blacksquare hf1$ (analysis)

60h: After 23...exd3

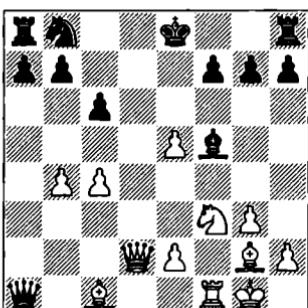


60i: After 25...e4+ 0-1



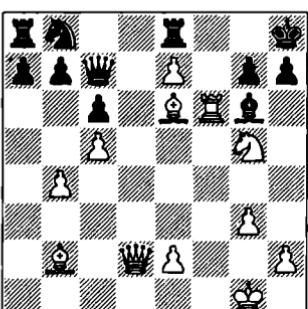
R

61a: After 10 a3!



R

61b: After 15 ♜xd2



R

61c: After 23 $\mathbb{H}xf6$

61 Beliavsky – Gelfand Linares 1992

Queen's Gambit, Slav Defence

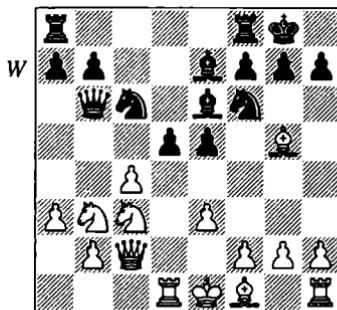
1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♜c3 e5 4 dx e5 d4 5 ♜e4
 ♜a5+ 6 ♜d2 ♜h6 After White's success in this game, most players switched to 6... ♜d7.
 7 ♜f3 ♜f5 8 g3 ♜e3 9 fxe3 dx e3 10 a3!
 (61a) This novelty practically put 6... ♜h6 out of business. 10 ♜g2 exd2+ 11 ♜xd2 ♜b4 had been played previously, with an equal position. 10... ♜f5?! Black seeks to develop his pieces actively, but this undefended bishop gives White a free tempo later on. Black should try either 10... ♜e6?! or 10... ♜a6 11 ♜g2 ♜e6 (but not 11... ♜e7 12 b4! ♜xb4?, when 13 ♜f1! unexpectedly wins a piece). 11 ♜g2 ♜c5? Consistent, but one risk too many. 11... ♜d7 12 ♜d4! exd2+ 13 ♜xd2 ♜xe5 14 ♜c3 gives White an initiative, but this would be much better than the game. 12 b4! 12 ♜h4 ♜e6 13 b4 ♜xb4 14 axb4 ♜xa1 15 ♜e4 is also good for White, but the text-move is more forceful.
 12... ♜xb4 Black is obliged to accept the sacrifice. 13 axb4 ♜xa1 14 0-0 exd2 15 ♜xd2 (61b) 15... 0-0 16 ♜b2 White can look forward to two free tempi, one from Black's queen and one from the loose bishop on f5.
 16... ♜a6 16... ♜a4 17 ♜d4 followed by ♜al wins. 17 ♜g5 ♜g6 17... ♜e6 18 ♜d3 g6 19 ♜xe6! fxe6 20 ♜xf8+ ♜xf8 21 ♜d8+ ♜f7 22 ♜f6+ wins easily. 18 e6 White's attack is overwhelming. 18... f6 Or 18... ♜xc4 19 exf7+ ♜xf7 20 ♜f4 ♜b5 21 ♜xf7 ♜xf7 22 ♜d8+ ♜f8 23 ♜e7 and wins. 19 e7 ♜e8 20 ♜h3! ♜b6+ 20... f x g5 21 ♜e6+ ♜h8 22 ♜f8+ mates. 21 c5 ♜c7 22 ♜e6+ ♜h8 23 ♜xf6 (61c) 23... ♜d7 23... ♜xe7 24 ♜xg6 hxg6 25 ♜d4 mates quickly. 24 ♜xg6! 1-0 24... h x g6 25 ♜d4 ♜f6 26 ♜xf6! ♜xe7 27 ♜xg6 is an attractive finish.

62 Seirawan – Short

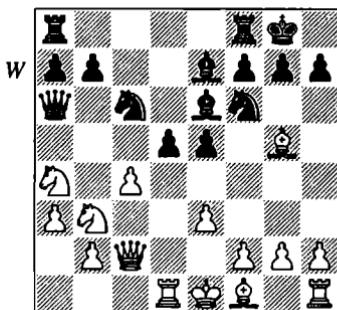
Amsterdam (VSB) 1992

Queen's Gambit Declined, 5 ♜f4

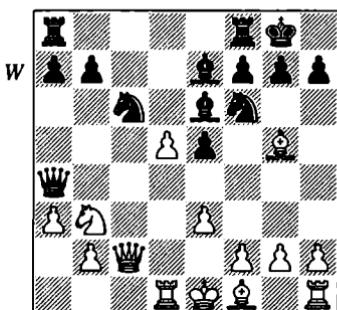
1 d4 ♜f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♜f3 d5 4 ♜c3 ♜e7 5 ♜f4 0-0 6 e3 c5 7 dxe5 ♜xc5 8 ♜c2 ♜c6 9 a3 ♜a5 10 ♜d1 ♜e7 11 ♜d2 e5 12 ♜b3 ♜b6 13 ♜g5 ♜e6?! (62a) This was a new move at the time. Although it led to a brilliant win for Black on its first outing, later analysis showed it to be inferior to the alternatives and it has not been seen since. 13...d4 is playable, but perhaps the safest line for Black is 13...♜g4 14 f3 ♜e6. In this refinement of Short's idea, Black induces a weakness before playing the bishop to e6. 14 ♜a4 White can also secure a slight advantage by 14 ♜xf6 (14 cxd5?! ♜xd5 15 ♜xd5 ♜xd5 16 ♜xd5 ♜xg5 is only equal) 14...dxc4 and now either 15 ♜d2 ♜xf6 16 ♜xc4 or 15 ♜xe7 cxb3 16 ♜e4 ♜xe7 17 ♜xe5. The text-move is equally effective. 14...♜a6 (62b) Black could have kept his disadvantage to a minimum by 14...♜c7, e.g. 15 ♜xf6 dxc4 16 ♜xc4 ♜xc4 17 ♜xc4 ♜xf6 18 ♜c3, when the coming occupation of d5 gives White an edge but no more. 15 cxd5? White starts a tactical sequence, but there is a flaw. 15 ♜xf6? is also bad due to 15...♜xa4 16 ♜xe7 (16 cxd5 transposes to the game) 16...♜xe7, with advantage to Black. 15 ♜ac5! ♜xc5 16 cxd5! is best, when Black cannot equalize: 16...♜a4 (or 16...♜b4+ 17 ♜d2 ♜xd2+ 18 ♜xd2 ♜a5 19 dxe6 ♜ad8 20 ♜xf6 gxsf6 21 exf7+ ♜g7 22 ♜c4 and Black cannot prevent White freeing himself with ♜e2) 17 dxe6 ♜b4+ 18 axb4 ♜xb4 19 exf7+ ♜h8 (19...♜xf7 20 ♜c4 b5 21 ♜xb5 ♜xb3 22 ♜c4 ♜c2+ 23 ♜e2 ♜xb5 24 ♜xb5 gives White every chance to win the ending) 20 ♜f5 ♜xb3 21 ♜xf6 and now 21...♜xf7 22 ♜xg7+ ♜xg7



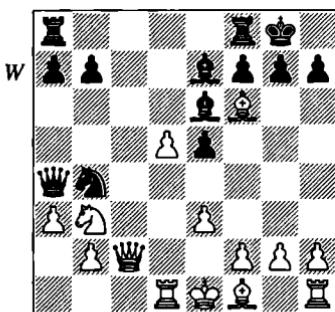
62a: After 13...♝e6?!



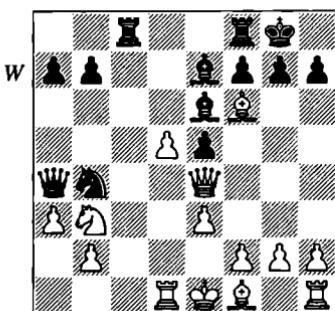
62b: After 14...♜a6



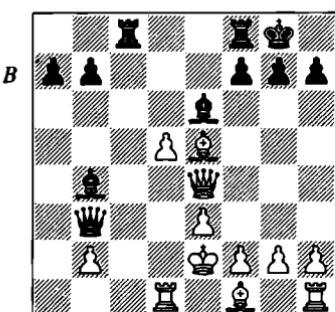
62c: After 15...♜xa4



62d: After 16...Qb4!!



62e: After 17...Qac8!



62f: After 20.Qxe5

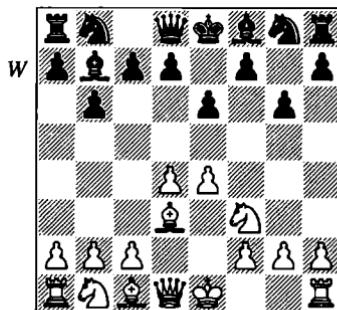
23 $\mathbb{W}e4$ and 21... $\mathbb{H}xf7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$ $\mathbb{H}xg7$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}c2+$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{H}c8$ 25 f4 both favour White. 15... $\mathbb{W}xa4$ (62c) 16 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ Black is much better after 16 dx6 $\mathbb{Q}b4!$ 17 exf7+ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 18 axb4 $\mathbb{Q}xb4+$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{H}ac8$ 20 $\mathbb{W}f5$ (20 $\mathbb{W}d3$ e4 21 $\mathbb{W}d4$ $\mathbb{W}b5+$ wins) 20...e4 21 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{H}c5$ 22 $\mathbb{W}xf6$ $\mathbb{W}b5+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2+$ 24 $\mathbb{H}xd2$ $\mathbb{H}c1+$ 25 $\mathbb{H}d1$ $\mathbb{W}a5+$ 26 $\mathbb{W}c3$ $\mathbb{H}xc3$ 27 $\mathbb{B}xc3$ $\mathbb{W}xg5$. 16... $\mathbb{Q}b4!!$ (62d) Throwing a spanner in the works of White's combination. Not 16... $\mathbb{Q}xd5?$ 17 $\mathbb{H}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ g6 19 0-0, when White has a definite advantage on account of Black's vulnerable light squares. 17 $\mathbb{W}e4$ Running into a second surprise, but there was nothing better. 17 axb4 $\mathbb{Q}xb4+$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{H}ac8$ 19 $\mathbb{W}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}d7!$ 20 $\mathbb{H}a1$ (20 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 21 e4 gxf6 regains the piece with a massive positional advantage) 20...e4! 21 $\mathbb{W}xe4$ $\mathbb{W}xb3$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{H}fe8$ gives Black a decisive attack. 17... $\mathbb{H}ac8!$ (62e) 18 axb4?! Hopeless, but other moves would also not have saved the game in the long run. The lines 18 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3+$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xd3$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 20 dx6 $\mathbb{H}fd8$, 18 f3 gxf6 19 dx6 $\mathbb{W}xb3$ 20 exf7+ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ and 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{Q}c2+$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xc2$ $\mathbb{H}xc2$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}a1$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{W}xc2$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b4$ $\mathbb{W}b1$ all lose fairly simply. 18 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{Q}c2+$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xc2$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ is more complex, but the result is the same after 20 $\mathbb{W}d3$ (or 20 $\mathbb{W}e2$ $\mathbb{H}xc4$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 22 f3 $\mathbb{H}c2$ 23 fxe4 $\mathbb{H}xb2$ 24 0-0 $\mathbb{W}xa3$) 20...e4 21 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ (21 $\mathbb{W}e2$ $\mathbb{H}xc4$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{H}c2$ 23 dx6 $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ 24 exf7+ $\mathbb{H}xf7$ 25 0-0 $\mathbb{H}d7$ also wins) 21...exd3 22 $\mathbb{Q}xa4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 23 $\mathbb{H}xd3$ $\mathbb{Q}c4$. 18... $\mathbb{Q}xb4+$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{W}xb3$ White cannot take the piece, because after 20 dx6 fxe6! the bishop cannot move owing to 21... $\mathbb{H}c2+$. Thus he is left with a shattered position and his king hopelessly exposed. 20 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ (62f) 20... $\mathbb{H}c4!$ 21 $\mathbb{H}d4$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ loses to 21... $\mathbb{H}c2+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$. 21... $\mathbb{H}xd4$ 22 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 0-1 White cannot avoid loss of the queen.

63 Geller – Chiburdanidze

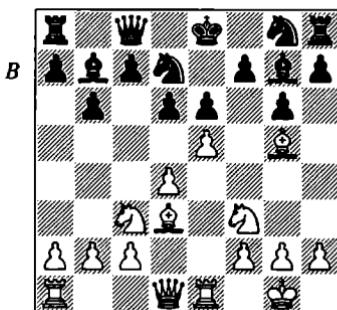
Aruba 1992

Owen's Defence

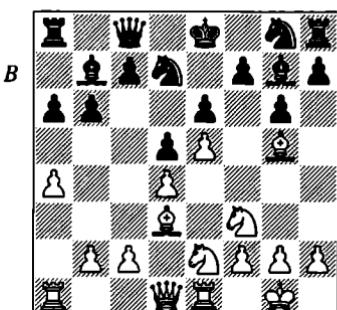
1 e4 b6 Chiburdanidze decides to steer the game into non-theoretical channels. There is clearly a gamble involved in this approach, which does not pay off here. **2 d4 ♜b7 3 ♜d3 e6 4 ♜f3 g6!?** (63a) **4...♜f6** is the most common move, but even this can hardly be recommended for Black. The text-move is still more dubious, as it weakens the king-side dark squares. **5 ♜g5!** The best move, as each reply has its defects. **5...♝c8** Losing time, but there was no really natural response; for example, **5...f6** (not **5...♝e7? 6 ♜f6**) **6 ♜e3 ♜g7 7 ♜d2** and the g7-bishop is blocked in, or **5...♝e7 6 ♜e3** and the bishop is misplaced on e7. **6 ♜c3 ♜g7 7 0-0 d6 8 ♜e1** White wastes no time on unnecessary pawn moves but simply develops all his pieces to the centre. **8...♜d7 9 e5!** (63b) Clearing e4 for White's pieces. A knight arriving there would target the weak d6- and f6-squares. **9...d5** Black decides to prevent White moving to e4, but now she has an inferior type of French Defence in which the kingside fianchetto is totally out of place. Other moves are also unsatisfactory because **9...dxe5 10 ♜xe5 ♜xe5 11 dxe5** renders Black's kingside development almost impossible, while **9...♝xf3? 10 ♜xf3 dxe5 11 ♜a6! ♜b8 12 ♜b7** costs material. **10 a4** White gains space on the queenside. **10...a6 10...♜a6** can be met by **11 ♜b5**. **11 ♜e2** (63c) White has several ways to obtain a clear advantage. The straightforward **11 a5** is good, but Geller prefers to switch his knight to the kingside, at the same time preparing to meet ...c5 by c3. **11...♝e7 12 ♜f4 12 ♜xe7? ♜xe7** would only make life easier for Black, since the dark-squared pressure



63a: After 4...g6!?

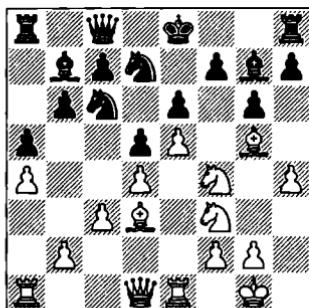


63b: After 9 e5!



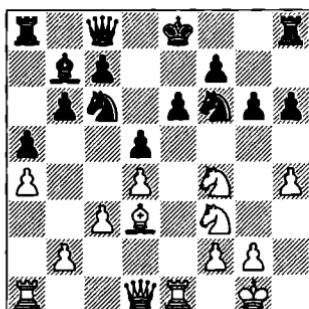
63c: After 11 ♜e2

B



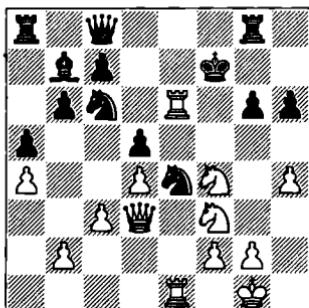
63d: After 14 h4!

W



63e: After 16...Qxf6

W



63f: After 20...Qe4?

would have disappeared. 12...Qc6 12...h6 13 Qxe7 Qxe7 14 Qxg6!? fxg6 15 Qxg6+ Qf7 16 Qxh8+ Qxh8 17 Qh4, followed by Ma3, is very good for White. The theme of a sacrifice on g6 after that square has been weakened by ...h6 also arises in the game. 13 c3 a5 Black takes steps to prevent White's threatened 'big clamp' with b4, after which Black would be suffocating. 14 h4! (63d) 14...h6 Waiting would just allow White to improve his position with h5, etc., so it is understandable that Black tries to force White's hand. However, the attack proves to be too strong. 15 Qf6 Qxf6 15...0-0 16 h5 Qxf6 17 exf6 g5 18 Qxg5 Qxf6 19 Qd2 is not pretty for Black – 19...hxg5 loses to 20 Qxd5 while otherwise Black has too many holes on the kingside. If 15...Qxf6 16 exf6 Qxf6, then White breaks through by 17 Qxg6! fxg6 18 Qxe6+ Qf7 (18...Qe7 19 Qd3 Qg8 20 Mae1 wins) 19 Qd3 Qe7 (if 19...Qg8, then 20 h5 is decisive) 20 Mae1 Qg8 21 Qe5+ Qxe5 22 Q1xe5 and Black collapses. 16 exf6 Qxf6 (63e) 16...0-0 17 h5 transposes to the previous note. 17 Qxg6! The thematic blow. 17...fxg6 18 Qxe6+ Qf7 19 Qd3 Qg8 19...Qe4 20 c4 and 19...Qg8 20 h5 g5 21 Qf5 are lost for Black. 20 Mae1 20 Qxc6 Qxc6 21 Qe5+ is also very strong. 20...Qe4? (63f) This allows an instant win, but even 20...Qg7 21 Qxc6 Qxc6 22 Qe5+ Qg8 23 Qxc6 Qd7 24 Qe7+ Qxe7 25 Qxg6+ Qg7 26 Qxf6 should win in the long run as White obtains a third pawn for the exchange. 21 Q1xe4! dxе4 22 Qc4 1-0 There is no defence, e.g. 22...Qg7 (or 22...Qa6 23 Qd5) 23 Qxg6+ Qh8 24 Qxh6+ Qg7 25 Qg6+ Qh8 26 Qg5 Qf8 27 Qf7+ Qh7 28 Qe6 mating.

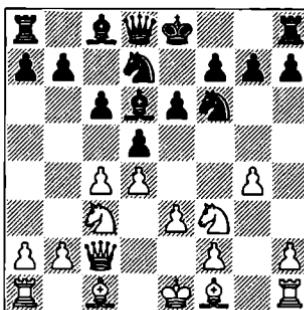
64 Krasenkov – Sveshnikov

Moscow 1992

Queen's Gambit, Semi-Slav Defence

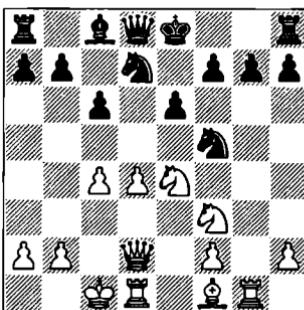
1 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ d5 2 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 3 c4 e6 4 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ c6 5 e3 $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 6 $\mathbb{W}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 7 g4 (64a) This outrageous-looking move has become quite popular in the 1990s. It is a typical example of the unfettered approach to the openings adopted by today's grandmasters – no matter what the appearance of a move, so long as it brings results they are prepared to try it. In my database White has scored an excellent 61% with 7 g4, so its popularity is understandable. 7... $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ In my view, Black does better to decline the sacrifice. One logical continuation is 7...dxc4 8 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ b6, seeking to take advantage of the weak diagonal from b7 to h1. 8 $\mathbb{M}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ One of several possibilities. 9 e4 The preparatory 9 $\mathbb{Q}d2!$? has also achieved practical success. 9...dxe4 10 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}b4+$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2+$ 12 $\mathbb{W}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 13 0-0-0 (64b) In return for the pawn White has a lead in development and pressure down the g-file. Objectively speaking White may not have an advantage, but Black's position is the more awkward to handle in practice. 13... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ The most direct. 14 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ has also been tried, but this appears less effective. 14...0-0 Black should avoid 14... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ (and certainly not 14... $\mathbb{Q}xd4?$ 15 $\mathbb{M}xg7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 16 $\mathbb{W}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ winning for White) 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{W}f6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{W}xf5$ (16...exf5 17 $\mathbb{W}e3+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 18 $\mathbb{M}ge1$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 19 d5 cxd5 20 cxd5 $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 21 $\mathbb{W}c5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 22 $\mathbb{W}e7$ also favours White) 17 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 0-0 18 $\mathbb{M}g5$ $\mathbb{W}f6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ 20 $\mathbb{M}xg7+$ and White wins. 15 $\mathbb{M}g2$ (64c) The plan of doubling rooks on the g-file is the most natural method of continuing the attack. 15... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{W}f6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ $\mathbb{M}d8?$ Up to here Black has defended calmly and accurately,

B



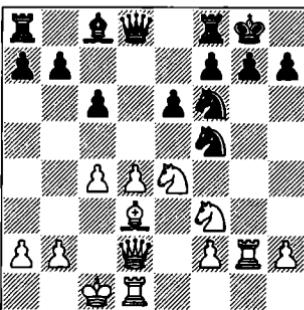
64a: After 7 g4

B



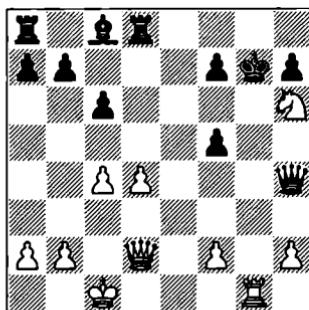
64b: After 13 0-0-0

B

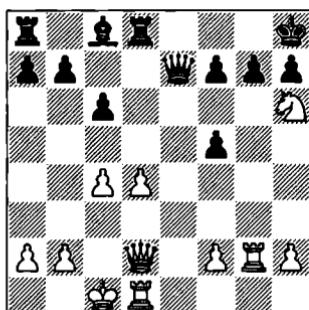


64c: After 15 Mg2

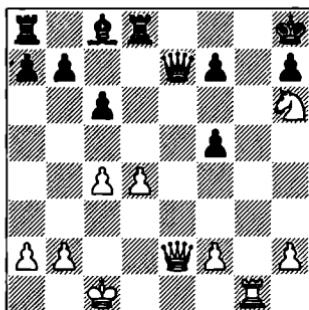
B

64d: After 22 $\mathbb{Q}g1+$ (analysis)

W

64e: After 20... $\mathbb{Q}h8$

B

64f: After 23 $\mathbb{Q}e2!$ 1-0

but now he starts to falter. 17... $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ is a better defence, aiming for counterplay against d4. 18 $\mathbb{Q}g4!$ $\mathbb{Q}e7?$ This allows White a forced win, although by now Black is already in difficulties. 18... $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ is also dubious owing to 19 $\mathbb{Q}h6+!$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ (19... $\mathbb{Q}f8?$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}b4+$ wins at once, while 19... $\mathbb{Q}xh6? 20 \mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$) is catastrophic as the rook penetrates to d8) 20 $\mathbb{Q}xf7+ \mathbb{Q}g8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 22 f3 $\mathbb{Q}xc4+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ and White maintains a strong initiative. Black's best try is 18... $\mathbb{Q}h4$, when White must continue accurately to prove an advantage: 19 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}h6+ \mathbb{Q}f8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xg7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}g1+$ (64d) 22... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ (22... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ wins after 23... $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}g8+$ or 23... $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}g5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xd8$) 23 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ and now:

1) 23... $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}g8+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}g5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ $\mathbb{Q}e1+$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}xf2+$ (27... $\mathbb{Q}e2+$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}f3+$ 29 $\mathbb{Q}e3+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3+$ 30 $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ gives White a winning ending) 28 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}f3+$ 29 $\mathbb{Q}a4!$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ (29... $\mathbb{Q}b5+$ 30 $\mathbb{Q}a5$) 30 $\mathbb{Q}g8!$ c5+ 31 $\mathbb{Q}a5$ b6+ 32 $\mathbb{Q}a6$ forcing mate.

2) 23... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}g8+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xf5+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xh4$ $\mathbb{Q}xg8$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ with advantage to White, although Black can still fight.

19 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}h6+ \mathbb{Q}h8$ (64e) If 20... $\mathbb{Q}f8$, then 21 $\mathbb{Q}xg7!$ leads to the same conclusion. 21 $\mathbb{Q}xg7!$ The start of an attractive finishing combination. 21... $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ Or 21... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}dg1$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ (22... $\mathbb{Q}h4$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ f6 24 $\mathbb{Q}e7!$ wins for White) 23 d5 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xf7+$ forcing mate. 22 $\mathbb{Q}g1+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}e2!$ (64f) 1-0 White must have been very happy to finish with this queen sacrifice. After 23... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ (23... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xf7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}e5+$ mates) 24 $\mathbb{Q}xf7+$ Black loses his queen (for a start).

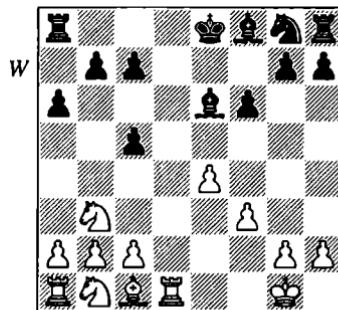
65 Fischer – Spassky

Match (9), Sveti Stefan 1992

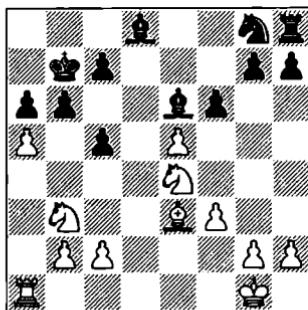
Ruy Lopez, Exchange Variation

1 e4 e5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 3 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ a6 4 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ The modern popularity of the Exchange Variation stems from three games Fischer played in the Havana Olympiad 1966. It has a small but loyal following amongst grandmasters. 4...dxc6 5 0-0 f6 6 d4 exd4 7 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ c5 8 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ 9 $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 10 f3 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ (65a) Black chooses a line which is regarded as one of his most solid defences. The preliminary ... $\mathbb{Q}g4$ induces White to weaken the a7-g1 diagonal, thereby giving Black the possibility of developing his bishop at c5 with gain of tempo. 11 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ c4! 12 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ 0-0-0 13 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ is one line in which Black makes use of the weakening move f3. 11... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ b6 13 a4 0-0-0?! Although this has been played quite frequently, it seems far more risky than the two alternatives. These are the slightly passive 13...a5 and the solid 13... $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 14 a5 c4 15 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ b5. 14 a5 $\mathbb{Q}b7$ (65b) 15 e5! The most combative move. 15 axb6 cxb6 16 e5 is another variant of the e5 idea, which is also important for the game as there are transpositional possibilities. After 16... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ (65c) (or 18 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}xb3$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 20 cxb3 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 22 exf6 and White's chances of exploiting the extra pawn are minimal in view of his weak queenside pawns and Black's active king) Black can try:

- 1) 18... $\mathbb{Q}xb3$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}f8$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 21 exf6 is very good for White.
- 2) 18... $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ (20... $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 21 e6!) 21 e6! $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}f8$ wins a pawn.
- 3) 18...fxe5! 19 $\mathbb{Q}f8$ (after 19 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}xb3$! 21 cxb3 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$

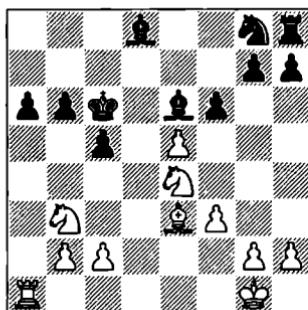


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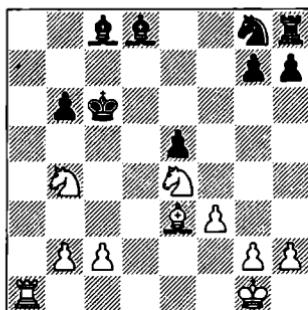
65d: After 17 ♖e4

W



65e: After 18...cxb6

B



65f: After 21 ♖b4+ 1-0

23 ♖g3 ♜xe1+ 24 ♖xe1 ♖f5 we again have the situation where White's chances of exploiting the extra pawn are not all that great in view of his weakened queenside pawns and Black's active pieces) 19...♖f6 20 ♖e4 ♖xb3 21 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 22 ♖xg7 ♖g8 23 ♖xf6 ♖d5 and again White will have trouble making use of the extra pawn, e.g. 24 ♖f2 e4 25 ♖d1 ♖c6 26 f4 e3+ 27 ♖xe3 ♖xg2.

15...♕e7 15...fxe5 is bad; for example, 16 axb6 cxb6 17 ♖e4 ♖xb3 (17...♕e7 18 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 19 ♖bxc5+ wins) 18 ♖xd6+ ♖c6 19 cxb3 ♖xd6 20 ♖xd6+ ♖xd6 21 ♖xa6 ♖f6 22 ♖xb6+ ♖d5 23 ♖b7 and White is clearly better. 15...♖xb3 is also inadequate after 16 exd6 ♖xc2 17 ♖dc1 ♕g6 18 dxc7. **16 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 17 ♖e4** (65d) Intending 18 ♖bxc5+. 17...♖c6? Spassky makes a serious mistake and loses quickly. The alternatives are:

1) 17...♖xb3 18 cxb3 ♖e7 19 axb6 cxb6 20 exf6 (20 ♖d6+ ♖c6 transposes into the 18 ♖e4 bracket in the note to White's 15th move) 20...gxf6 21 ♖d1 (both 21 ♖d6+ ♖c6 22 ♖f7 ♖f8 23 ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 24 ♖xa6 ♖d3 and 21 ♖xf6 ♖f5 22 ♖d5 ♖xe3 23 ♖xe3 ♖f6 are fine for Black) 21...♖f5 22 ♖f2 with just an edge for White.

2) 17...♕e7! 18 axb6 (18 ♖xc5 ♖xb3 19 ♖xe7 ♖xe7 20 cxb3 fxe5 21 axb6 ♖xb6 with equality) 18...♖xb3 19 cxb3 cxb6 20 ♖d1 (20 ♖d6+ ♖xd6 21 exd6 ♖h6 22 ♖xh6 gxh6 should be a draw) 20...fxe5 (20...♖c6 is also playable) 21 ♖d7+ ♖c8 22 ♖a7 ♖b8 23 ♖d7 ♖c8 is level.

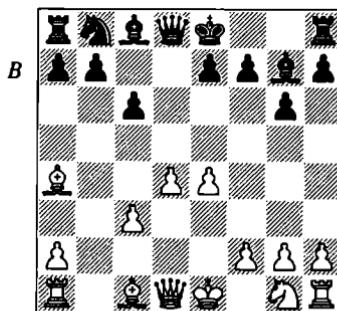
18 axb6 cxb6 (65e) If 18...♖xb3, then 19 b7 ♖xb7 20 ♖xc5+ ♖b8 21 cxb3 fxe5 22 ♖xa6+ wins. 19 ♖bxc5 Crushing. 19...♖c8 Or 19...bxc5 20 ♖xa6+ ♖d5 21 ♖xc5 ♖f7 22 ♖d6+. 20 ♖xa6 fxe5 21 ♖b4+ (65f) 1-0 The end might be 21...♖b5 (21...♖c7 22 ♖a7+ ♖b7 23 ♖xb7+ ♖xb7 24 ♖d6+ wins) 22 ♖d6+! ♖xb4 23 ♖a3 and 24 c3#.

66 G. Georgadze – Adorjan

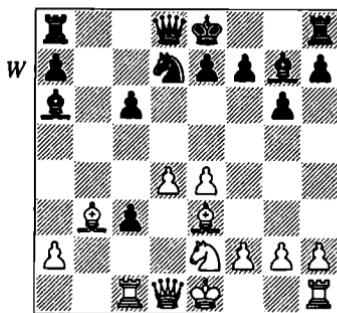
European Team Ch, Debrecen 1992

Grünfeld Defence, Exchange Variation

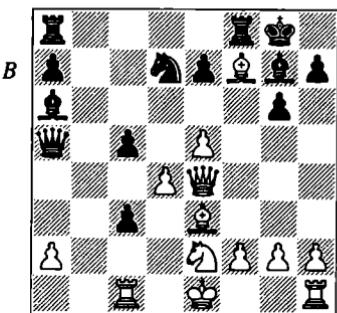
1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 g6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ d5 4 cxd5 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 5 e4 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 6 bxc3 $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}b5+$ At the time this game was played, the slightly odd-looking text-move was giving Grünfeld players headaches. 7...c6 8 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ (66a) 8...b5 These days 8...0-0 is considered sounder, but the text-move is a typically dynamic idea from Mr ‘Black is OK’. 9 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ b4 It is of course thematic for Black to undermine the long dark diagonal in the Grünfeld, but it is very unusual for this to be achieved by ...b5-b4 rather than the traditional ...c5. 10 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ 10 $\mathbb{W}f3$ 0-0 11 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ is now believed to favour White, but the move played is also not bad. 10...bxc3 11 $\mathbb{K}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ 12 $\mathbb{K}xc3$ c5 is indeed OK for Black. 12... $\mathbb{Q}a6$ (66b) Black must put up a fight over the c3-pawn, because if White is allowed to take it without any concession, then the isolated c6-pawn will be exposed to attack along the c-file. 13 e5 13 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ c5 is awkward as White cannot castle, while 13 $\mathbb{K}xc3$ c5 affords Black equality. 13... $\mathbb{W}a5$ 13...e6 is sometimes played to prevent the possibility of the next note, but this probably fails to equalize. 14 $\mathbb{W}c2?$ This turns out to be too slow. White must continue aggressively with 14 e6! fxe6 15 0-0, when 15... $\mathbb{K}d8$ looks best, to meet 16 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ by 16... $\mathbb{Q}c5$, with a totally unclear position. 14...c5 Completing the undermining of White’s centre. 15 $\mathbb{W}e4$ 0-0 16 $\mathbb{Q}xf7+$ (66c) White was obviously pinning his hopes on this move, but it fails to have much impact. 16 e6? is bad in view of 16...cxd4! 17 exf7+ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ c2+ 19 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ (19 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{W}xc3+$ mates) 19... $\mathbb{W}d2$, when Black wins. 16... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 16... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ is also promising; for example, 17



66a: After 8 $\mathbb{Q}a4$

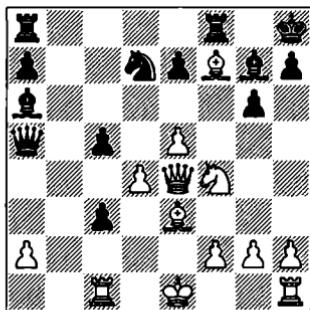


66b: After 12... $\mathbb{Q}a6$

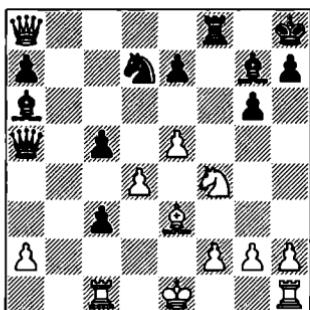


66c: After 16 $\mathbb{Q}xf7+$

B

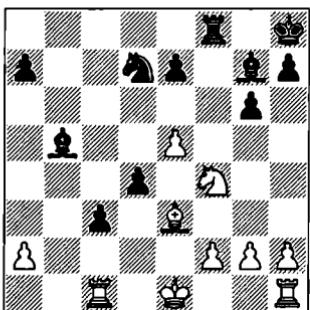
66d: After 17 $\mathbb{Q}f4$

W



66e: After 18...xf8

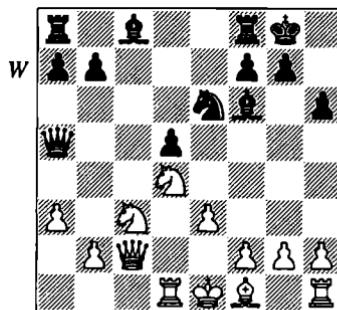
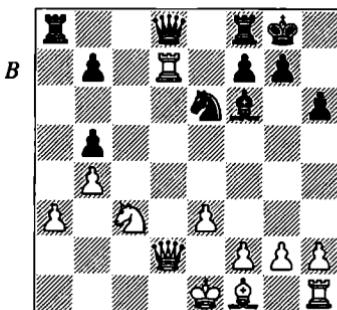
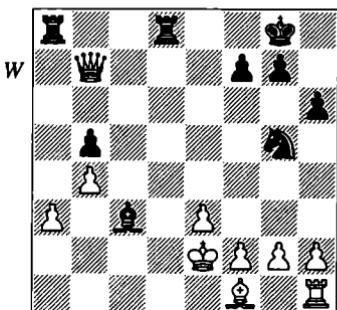
W

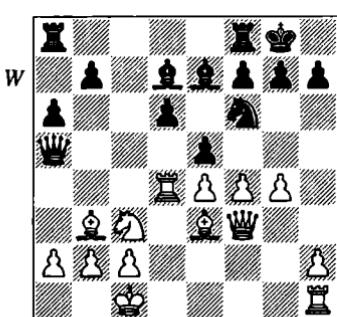
66f: After 21... $\mathbb{Q}xb5$

$\mathbb{W}d5+$ (17 e6+ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 18 exd7 $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ cxd4 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{W}xa2+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}ad8!$ wins) 17...e6 18 $\mathbb{W}xd7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ and it is hard to see how White will ever be able to castle. 17 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ (66d) Playing for $\mathbb{Q}xg6+$. White's attack may appear dangerous, but Black can defuse it by giving up a modest amount of material, whereupon White's own king will be subject to a deadly counter-attack. 17 f4 $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ cxd4 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{W}b5+$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}ad8$ is also bad for White, e.g. 21 $\mathbb{Q}b3?$ $\mathbb{Q}c5.$ 17... $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ Stronger than 17...g5, when 18 $\mathbb{Q}b3$, intending 19 $\mathbb{Q}c2$, gives White dangerous kingside counter-play. 18 $\mathbb{W}xa8+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ (66e) 19 $\mathbb{W}d5$ Other queen moves are no better: 19 $\mathbb{W}xa7$ cxd4 20 $\mathbb{W}xd7$ (20 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$) 20...c2+! 21 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}xe5+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ dxe3, 19 $\mathbb{W}c6$ cxd4 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xc3$ $\mathbb{W}b5$ and 19 $\mathbb{W}e4$ cxd4 20 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ all win for Black. 19... $\mathbb{W}b5$ Threatening 20... $\mathbb{Q}xf4.$ 20 $\mathbb{W}b3$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ cxd4 21 $\mathbb{W}xb5$ $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ dxe3 23 $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ wins as in the game. 20...cxd4! The attack persists even without queens on the board. 21 $\mathbb{W}xb5$ $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ (66f) 22 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ Or 22 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}e4+$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}h6+$ and Black wins. 22...dxe3 23 $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 0-1 The resignation looks a little early, but the attack is indeed decisive; for example, 24 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ (24 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}f3+$ 25 gxf3 $\mathbb{Q}xc3+$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ e2+ wins, or 24 fxe3 $\mathbb{Q}d3+$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8)$ 24... $\mathbb{Q}d3+$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ (25 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ fails after 25... $\mathbb{Q}xc1++$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ $\mathbb{Q}xa2)$ 25... $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ 26 fxe3 (or 26 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ exf2) 26... $\mathbb{Q}xa2$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}a4+$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}b3$ and White is finished.

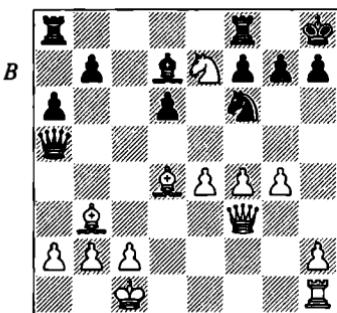
67 Piket – Sturua
European Team Ch,
Debrecen 1992
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 4 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5
 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ h6 6 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 7 e3 0-0 8 $\mathbb{W}c2$ 8 $\mathbb{H}c1$
is more common. 8... $\mathbb{Q}a6$ An ambitious move. 8...c5 is enough for safe equality. 9
 $\mathbb{E}d1$ c5 A correct temporary pawn sacrifice.
10 $dxc5$ 10 cxd5 $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 11 $\mathbb{W}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 12
 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ exd5 is level. 10... $\mathbb{W}a5$ 11 cxd5 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$
12 $\mathbb{Q}d4$!? Returning the material in the
hope of playing against an isolated d-pawn.
12...exd5 13 a3 13 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3+$ 14 $\mathbb{W}xd3$
 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 15 0-0 $\mathbb{H}fd8$ is equal. 13... $\mathbb{Q}e6$! (67a)
Fighting for control of the blockading
square equalizes immediately. 14 $\mathbb{Q}b5$? Too
risky with his king in the centre. 14 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ or
14 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ would have been safe enough.
14...a6! Once again Black offers a pawn. 15
b4 $\mathbb{W}d8$ 16 $\mathbb{H}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$! Now White pays a
heavy price for his poor kingside develop-
ment. 17 $\mathbb{W}d2$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 18 $\mathbb{H}d1$ $\mathbb{Q}d4$! 19
exd4 $\mathbb{W}xd6$ gives Black a winning attack.
17...axb5 18 $\mathbb{H}xd7$ (67b) Or 18 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}d4$!
19 exd4 (19 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 20 $\mathbb{H}xd7$ $\mathbb{W}f6$ 21
 $\mathbb{B}xc5$ $\mathbb{H}xa3$ wins) 19... $\mathbb{H}xa3$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{H}a1+$
21 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ $\mathbb{W}h4$ 22 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 23 $\mathbb{H}e5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 24
g3 $\mathbb{Q}g5$! and Black wins. 18... $\mathbb{W}xd7$! This
spectacular sacrifice is the logical culmina-
tion of Black's play. 19 $\mathbb{W}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3+$ 20
 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ With only his queen in play, it is no sur-
prise that White cannot defend. 20... $\mathbb{H}fd8$ 21
 $\mathbb{W}xb7$ Or 21 $\mathbb{W}xb5$ $\mathbb{Q}g5$! 22 e4 $\mathbb{H}xa3$ 23 f3
 $\mathbb{H}d2+$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$!, followed by 25... $\mathbb{Q}xb4+$,
and wins. 21... $\mathbb{Q}g5$! (67c) 22 e4 A desper-
ate attempt to give the king some air. 22... $\mathbb{H}xa3$
23 $\mathbb{W}xb5$ $\mathbb{H}a2+$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}d2+$ 0-1 25 $\mathbb{Q}e2$
 $\mathbb{Q}f4+ 26 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{H}a1+$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{H}d2\#$ is mate.$

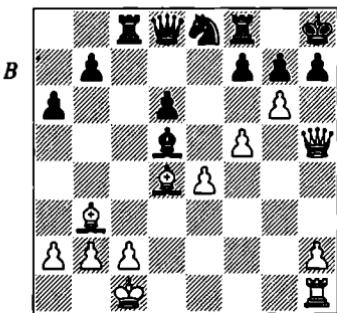
67a: After 13... $\mathbb{Q}e6$!67b: After 18 $\mathbb{W}xd7$ 67c: After 21... $\mathbb{Q}g5$!



68a: After 13...e5?!



68b: After 16 ♜xd4



68c: After 21 g6!

68 Yakovich – Balashov St Petersburg Zonal 1993

Sicilian Defence, Sozin Attack

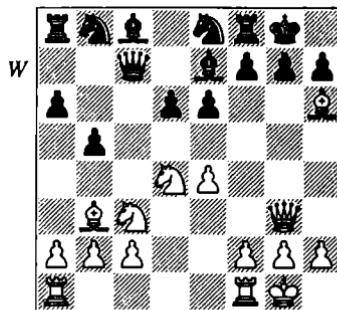
1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 e6 5 ♜c3 d6 6 ♜e3 ♜f6 7 ♜c4 ♜e7 8 ♜b3 a6 9 f4 0-0 10 ♜f3 ♜a5? An unusual and inferior move, which is drastically punished by White. The usual lines are 10...♜xd4 11 ♜xd4 b5 and 10...♜c7. 11 0-0-0 ♜xd4 12 ♜xd4 ♜d7 The problem with 10...♜a5 is that Black cannot now play 12...b5 because of 13 e5. Thus Black has to be content with the far slower text-move. 13 g4 White is quick to exploit Black's lagging development by launching an immediate kingside attack. 13...e5?? (68a) 13...♜c6 14 g5 ♜d7 is a better chance, but still far from attractive after 15 h4. 14 ♜d5!! A surprising and very strong sacrifice. 14...exd4 14...♜xd5 15 ♜xd5 ♜c7 16 f5 gives White an automatic kingside attack. 14...♜xg4 15 ♜g2 exd4 loses to 16 ♜xe7+ ♜h8 17 ♜xd4 ♜d8 18 ♜d5 ♜xd5 (or 18...♜g8 19 ♜g1) 19 ♜xd5. 15 ♜xe7+ ♜h8 16 ♜xd4 (68b) The threat is simply 17 g5 ♜g8 (17...♜e8 18 ♜h5) 18 ♜d5, with a huge attack for minimal material sacrifice. 16...♜d8 16...♜xg4 17 ♜g2 transposes into the analysis of 14...♜xg4 above. 17 g5! ♜e8 Forced, as 17...♜xe7 loses to 18 gxf6 gxf6 19 ♜c3. 18 ♜d5 At the cost of a very small sacrifice, White has gained an irresistible attack. 18...♜e6 Countering the effect of one white bishop, but the other is not so easy to neutralize. 19 ♜h5 ♜c8 19...♜g8 loses to 20 ♜f6+ gxf6 21 gxf6 ♜h8 22 ♜h6 ♜g8 23 ♜xe6 fxe6 24 f7+ ♜g7 25 ♜g1 e5 26 fxe5. 20 f5 ♜xd5 21 g6! (68c) 1-0 White wins after 21...♜xc2+ (or 21...fxg6 22 fxg6 ♜f6 23 ♜xf6) 22 ♜d1! ♜c1+ (22...fxg6 23 fxg6 is the same) 23 ♜xc1 ♜c7+ 24 ♜d2.

69 Kasparov – Gelfand

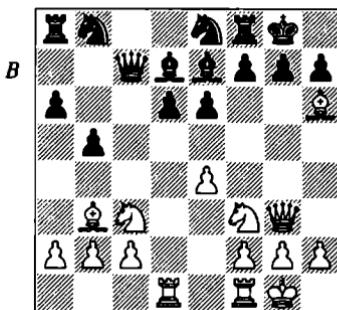
Linares 1993

Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Variation

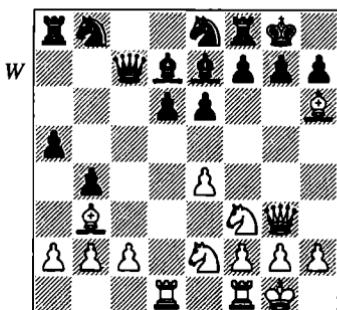
1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ a6 6 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ e6 7 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ b5 8 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 9 $\mathbb{W}f3$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ 10 $\mathbb{W}g3$ 0-0 11 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ (69a) A topical variation. At first sight White appears to be having things all his own way, with five pieces already in play and his rooks about to arrive on the central files. However, Black's position is fairly solid and given time he will catch up with White in development, when Black's extra central pawn may be an important factor. 12 $\mathbb{K}ad1$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}f3$!? (69b) Other moves are possible, but Kasparov's continuation is regarded as the main line today. 13...b4 A somewhat risky move driving the knight towards the kingside, where there is already a dangerous accumulation of white pieces. 13...a5 and 13... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ are sounder alternatives – indeed, Gelfand used the latter move to draw with Kasparov in a later game at the Moscow Olympiad 1994. 14 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ a5 (69c) This is the point of Black's previous move – he just wants to trap the b3-bishop. Although this plan is certainly playable, Black is teetering on a knife-edge, never a comfortable position to be in, especially against Kasparov. 15 $\mathbb{Q}f4!$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 15...a4?? 16 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xf6+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 19 $\mathbb{W}h4$ mates. 16 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 16... $\mathbb{Q}xg5$? 17 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ a4 is worse after 18 $\mathbb{W}h4$ and now both 18...h6 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ fxe6 20 $\mathbb{Q}gxe6$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{W}f7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{W}xf8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}d8$ and 18... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}fxe6$ fxe6 21 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{W}f7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{W}xf8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}f4$ $\mathbb{K}a6$ 24 $\mathbb{K}d4$ are distinctly better for White. 16...f6?? is totally wrong and loses to 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ fxe6 18 $\mathbb{Q}g6+$ hgx6 19 $\mathbb{W}h3\#$. 17 $\mathbb{W}h4!$ (69d) 17... $\mathbb{Q}b5$? This decisively weakens e6. Black had at least one and possibly



69a: After 11... $\mathbb{Q}e8$

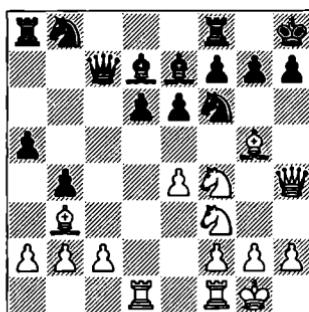


69b: After 13 $\mathbb{Q}f3$!?



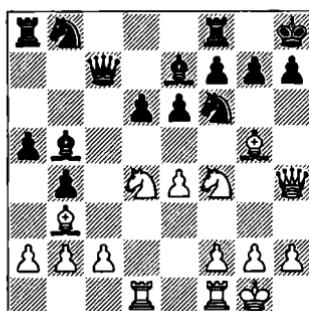
69c: After 14...a5

B



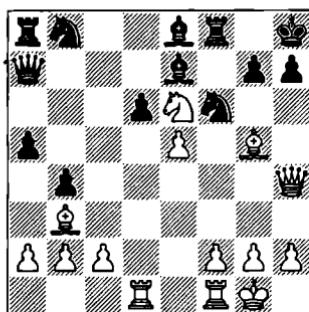
69d: After 17 ♜h4!

B



69e: After 18 ♜d4!

B



69f: After 21 e5!

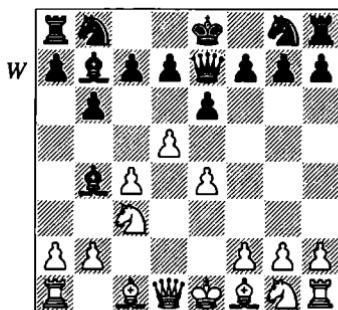
two playable alternatives. 17...a4 is critical and, although it is risky, I do not see a win for White after 18 ♜h5 axb3 (not 18...♜a5? 19 e5 dxe5 20 ♜xf6 gxsf6 21 ♜xf6+ ♜xf6 22 ♜xf6+ ♜g8 23 ♜g5 axb3 24 ♜d3 and wins) 19 ♜xf6 ♜xf6 (19...h6? 20 ♜xh6 ♜xf6 21 ♜g5+ ♜g8 22 ♜xf6 gxsf6 23 ♜g5! fxg5 24 ♜xg5+ ♜h8 25 ♜d3 forces mate) 20 ♜xf6 (threatening 21 ♜g5) 20...gxsf6 (not 20...♜a5? 21 ♜g5 ♜xg5 22 ♜xg5 ♜g8 23 ♜d3 and White has a winning attack) 21 ♜xf6+ ♜g8 22 ♜g5 ♜b5! (Black must cover d3; 22...♜c8 23 ♜d3 ♜d8 24 ♜xh7 wins) 23 ♜h6 ♜e8! (23...f6 24 ♜xf8+! ♜xf8 25 ♜xe6+) 24 ♜xh7+ ♜f8. Now White can force a draw by 25 e5 d5 26 ♜d4 ♜c6 27 ♜f4 ♜xe5 28 ♜xf7 ♜xf7 29 ♜h6+ ♜e7 30 ♜xf7+ ♜xf7 31 ♜h7+ ♜f6 32 ♜xc7 ♜xf1 33 ♜f4+, but I cannot see anything better. A more practical move is 17...♜c6!, when it is hard to prove any advantage for White; for example, 18 c3 bxc3 19 bxc3 h6 or 18 ♜h5 ♜xh5 19 ♜xe7 ♜xe7 20 ♜xe7 ♜ac8, intending ...a4 or ...♜b5, with an unclear position in both cases. 18 ♜d4! (69e) Now a decisive breakthrough is unavoidable. 18...♜e8 A desperate attempt to hold Black's position together. 18...♜xf1 loses to 19 ♜dxe6 fxe6 20 ♜xe6! (threatening mate in one) 20...h6 (20...g6 21 ♜xg6+ ♜g7 22 ♜h6#) 21 ♜xh6 gxh6 22 ♜xh6+ ♜h7 23 ♜g6#. 19 ♜dxe6! fxe6 20 ♜xe6 ♜a7 Or 20...♜b6 21 ♜xf8 ♜xf8 22 ♜xf6 gxsf6 23 ♜xf6+ ♜g7 24 ♜e6 mating. 21 e5! (69f) It's tough keeping Kasparov out in positions like this! 21...dxe5 22 ♜xf8 ♜xf8 23 ♜xf6 gxsf6 24 ♜d8 The point of the preliminary 21 e5. 24...♜d7 White also wins after 24...♜e7 25 ♜g4! ♜g6 (or 25...♜g7 26 ♜e6 ♜xe6 27 ♜xe6) 26 ♜c4 ♜g7 27 ♜d5. 25 ♜g4 1-0 As 25...♜g7 26 ♜e6 mates.

70 Zsu. Polgar – Speelman

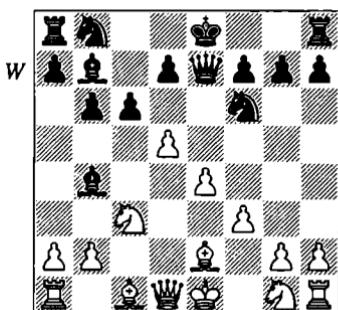
Dutch Team Ch 1993

English Defence

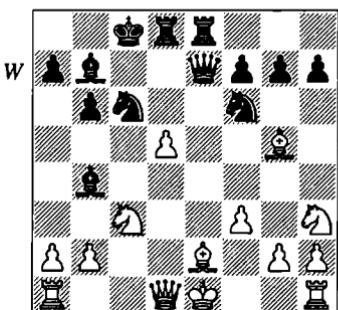
1 d4 e6 2 c4 ♜b4+ 3 ♜c3 b6 4 e4 ♜b7 This slightly off-beat line is a favourite of Jon Speelman. 5 d5?! Unusual. 5 ♜c2 and especially 5 f3 are the main lines. The text-move aims to block out the b7-bishop, but it costs time and weakens the dark squares. 5...♛e7 (70a) In my database this position has scored 79% for Black and, while such statistics can be deceptive, this time I think they are spot on – White should avoid this line. 6 ♜e2?! 6 ♜e2 exd5 7 exd5 ♜f6 leaves White in a tangle along the e-file. 6 ♜e3!? may be relatively best, but here ‘best’ means equalizing for White. 6...♜f6 7 f3 Meeting the threat to e4, but it gives up another development tempo and further exposes the dark squares. If 7 ♜g5 h6 8 ♜h4, then 8...g5 (or 8...exd5 9 exd5 0-0 10 ♜f3 ♜e8 11 ♜f1 ♜a6) 9 ♜g3 ♜xe4 10 ♜d4 ♜f6 11 0-0-0 ♜c5 12 ♜d2 ♜a6 is fine for Black. 7 ♜d4 exd5 8 exd5 ♜e4 was quite safe for Black in Tartakower-Réti, Gothenburg 1920(!) – indeed, Black went on to win. 8...c6!? would be a more dynamic alternative for those without Réti’s endgame technique. 7...exd5 8 cxd5 White wants to keep the e-file closed, but Black has other ideas. 8...c6 (70b) The rest of the game sees Black systematically opening line after line to exploit White’s poor development and exposed king. 9 dxc6 White had little choice, but it is evident that the plan of blocking out the b7-bishop has been a total failure. 9...♜xc6 10 ♜h3 d5! The e-file didn’t stay shut for long! 11 exd5 0-0-0 12 ♜g5 12 0-0 ♜xc3 13 bxc3 (13 dxc6 ♜xd1 14 cxb7+ ♜xb7 15 ♜xd1 ♜d4+ favours Black) 13...♜xd5 (13...♜xd5 is also good) 14 ♜c2 (14 ♜e1 ♜e5 is very bad for



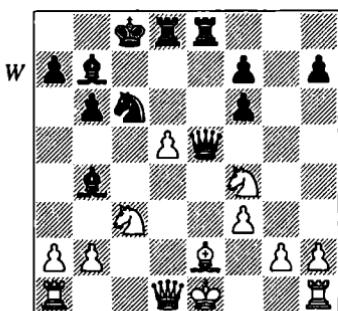
70a: After 5...♛e7



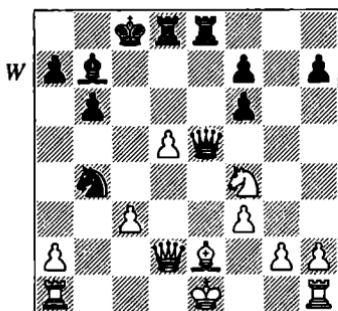
70b: After 8...c6



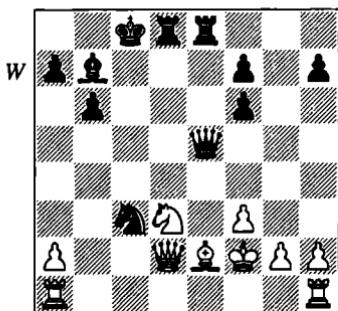
70c: After 12...♜he8



70d: After 14...We5



70e: After 16...Qb4



70f: After 18...Qxc3 0-1

White) 14...Wc5+ 15 Wh1 Qd4 16 Wb2 Qxe2 17 Wxe2 He8 gives Black a large lead in development. 12...He8 (70c) Black completes his development. 13 Qxf6 13 Qf4 We5 14 Qxf6 gxf6! 15 g3 Qd4 is also very bad for White. 13...gxf6! 13...Wxf6 14 0-0 Qxc3 15 bxc3 Wxc3 16 Qf2 lets White off lightly. 14 Qf4 14 Qf1 Qxc3 15 bxc3 Hxd5 16 Wxd5 (16 Wc2 We3 is also dreadful) 16...Wxe2+ 17 Qg1 Qe5 18 Wd4 Qxf3+ 19 gxf3 Hg8+ mates. 14...We5 (70d) 15 Wd2 Or 15 Wc1 Hxd5! 16 0-0 Hc5 17 Qd3 Wd4+ 18 Qf2 Wxe2 19 Qxe2 Hxc1 20 Qxd4 Hxa1 21 Hxa1 Qxd4 and again Black has a large advantage. After the text-move, accuracy is required, because Black must take into account the possibility of 0-0-0 as well as 0-0. 15...Qxc3! Not 15...Qd4? 16 0-0-0! and White escapes. 16 bxc3 Qb4 (70e) The critical moment. Black threatens to regain the pawn with crushing pressure along the central files. 17 Qf2? Loses straight away, but there was no real defence:

1) 17 0-0-0 Qxd5 18 Qxd5 Hxd5 19 Qd3 Hed8 20 f4 (or 20 He1 Hxd3) 20...Wd6 21 Qc2 (21 Qf5+ Qc7 22 Wc2 Wxf4+) 21...Qc6 and 22...Qa4+ wins for Black.

2) 17 Hd1 Qxd5 18 Qd3 Wf5 followed by 19...Qe3.

3) 17 Hc1 Qxd5 18 Qd3 We7 19 Qf2 (19 c4 Qf4!) 19...Qf4! 20 He1 Wc5+! 21 Qxc5 Hxd2 22 Qe4 Hxe2+ 23 Hx e2 Qxe2 24 Qd6+ Qd7 25 Hd1 Qxc3 26 Hd2 He2+ 27 Hxe2 Qxe2 and wins.

4) 17 Qf1 Qxd5 18 Qxd5 Hxd5 19 We3 Wc2 20 Hd1 Hxd1+ 21 Wxd1 Hd8 22 We1 Hd2 and again Black wins.

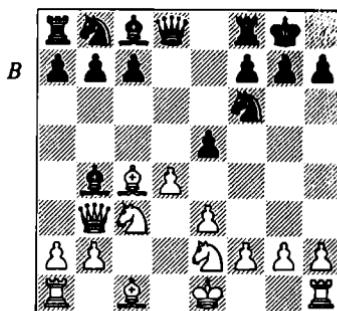
17...Qxd5 Heavy material loss cannot be averted. 18 Qd3 Qxc3 (70f) 0-1 In view of 19 Qf1 Wd4+ 20 Qg3 Hg8+ 21 Qh3 Qxf3! 22 gxf3 Hd5 or 19 He1 Wd4+ 20 Qf1 Hxe2 21 Hxe2 Qxe2.

71 Suba – Sax

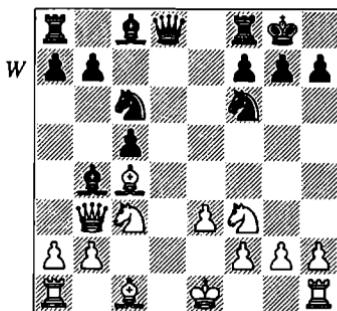
Budapest Zonal 1993

Nimzo-Indian Defence,
Rubinstein Variation

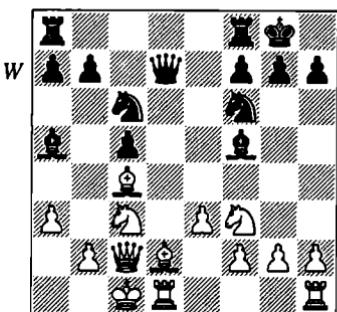
1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 e6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{B}b4$ 4 e3 0-0 5 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ d5 6 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ A popular system for White. 6...dxc4 7 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ e5 This is a relatively uncommon response. Black usually plays ...c5, either here or without exchanging on c4. 8 $\mathbb{W}b3$?! (71a) The normal moves here are 8 a3 and 8 0-0, but not 8 dxe5?! $\mathbb{W}xd1+$ 9 $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ regaining the pawn and displacing White's king. The text-move appears tempting, attacking the bishop and exerting pressure along the newly opened diagonal from b3 to f7, but the queen turns out to be misplaced and soon has to move again. 8...exd4 8... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ is also playable. 9 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ Black also equalizes after the other captures, e.g. 9 exd4 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ or 9 $\mathbb{W}xb4$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 10 $\mathbb{W}c5$ dxc3 11 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 12 $\mathbb{W}h5$ $\mathbb{Q}de5$. 9...c5 10 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ After 10 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ both 11 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 12 $\mathbb{W}a4$ a6 and 11 $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ $\mathbb{Q}a5$! favour Black. 10... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ (71b) White must lose a tempo to meet the threat of 11... $\mathbb{Q}a5$. 11 $\mathbb{W}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}d7$ White's position is already slightly uncomfortable. He cannot castle kingside, because ... $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ would expose his king too much, but castling queenside in the face of Black's pawn majority also poses some risk. 13 a3 $\mathbb{Q}a5$ 14 0-0-0 14 0-0? $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 15 gxf3 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{W}h3$, for example, clearly favours Black. 14... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ (71c) Now that White has castled queenside, the bishop serves little purpose on g4, so Black repositions it with gain of time. 15 $\mathbb{W}b3$? Leaving Black's bishop undisputed master of the diagonal from f5 to b1 poses a permanent danger to White's king. It would have been better to play 15 e4, which should hold the balance, e.g. 15... $\mathbb{Q}d4$!? (15... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 16



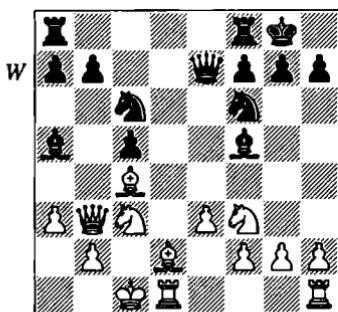
71a: After 8 $\mathbb{W}b3$!?



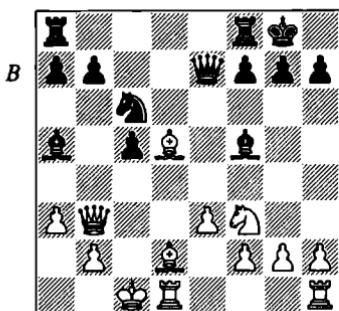
71b: After 10... $\mathbb{Q}c6$



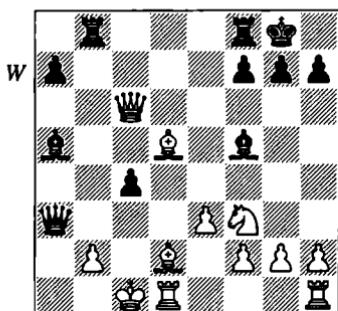
71c: After 14... $\mathbb{Q}f5$



71d: After 15... ♜e7



71e: After 17 ♜xd5



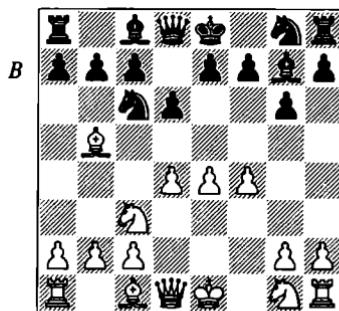
71f: After 20... ♜xa3

W **g5 ♜g4 17 ♜xf6 ♜f4+ 18 ♜b1 ♜xf6 19 ♜d5** is unclear) 16 ♜xd4 and now Black should probably prefer safe equality by 16... ♜xd4 17 ♜xf7+ ♜xf7 18 exf5 ♜xf2 to the double-edged 16... cxd4 17 exf5 ♜ac8 18 ♜d5 (18 ♜b5? dxc3! 19 ♜xd7 cxd2+ and 18 ♜b3? dxc3 19 ♜xc3 ♜xf5 are very good for Black, while 18 ♜b5 ♜xc4 19 ♜xc4 ♜c8 20 b3 and 18 b3 dxc3 19 ♜xc3 ♜e7 are unclear) 18... ♜xd5 19 ♜xa5 ♜xc4 20 ♜xc4 ♜c8 21 ♜xd4, when White may be slightly better. 15... ♜e7 (71d) 16 ♜d5?! Black is slightly better after both 16 ♜he1 ♜e4 17 ♜d5 ♜d6 and 16 ♜h4 ♜g4 17 f3 ♜xc3 18 ♜xc3 (or 18 ♜xc3 ♜xe3+ 19 ♜b1 ♜e6) 18... ♜e4! 19 fxe4 ♜xh4 20 ♜df1 ♜e7. However, the text-move is even worse for White. 16... ♜xd5 17 ♜xd5 (71e) 17... c4! If the c-file were to be opened, then the white king's situation would be really serious. 18 ♜a4 Allowing Black a forced win, but the alternatives were dismal: 18 ♜xc4 and 18 ♜xc4 both lose to 18... ♜ac8, while 18 ♜a2 ♜xd2+ 19 ♜xd2 (19 ♜xd2 ♜a5 20 ♜d4 ♜c5! 21 ♜xf5 ♜b3+ wins) 19... ♜e5 gives Black a large advantage. 18... b5! Black is also happy to have an open b-file! It is White's misfortune that Black is able to advance his queen-side majority with gain of time. 19 ♜xb5 ♜ab8 20 ♜xc6 20 ♜a4 loses to 20... ♜f6 21 ♜d4 ♜xd4 22 exd4 ♜xd2+ 23 ♜xd2 c3, while 20 ♜xc4 ♜xa3! 21 ♜a2 gives Black a choice of attractive wins: either 21... ♜xb2! 22 ♜xb2 ♜b8 or 21... ♜d4! 22 ♜xd4 ♜fc8+. 20... ♜xa3 (71f) 0-1 It is mate in a few moves, for example 21 bxa3 ♜b1# or 21 ♜c3 ♜xc3.

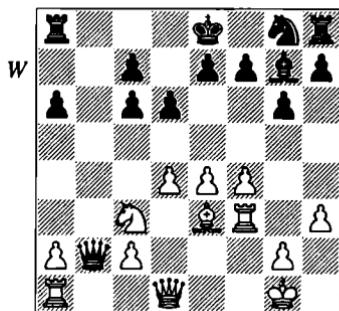
72 Lobron – Azmaiparashvili Groningen PCA Qualifier 1993

Modern Defence

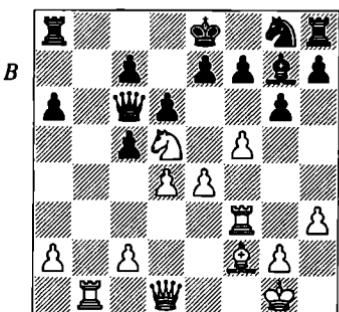
1 d4 d6 2 e4 g6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 4 f4 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ Quite a popular line for Black; he avoids 4... $\mathbb{Q}f6$, which would transpose to the Pirc, and steers the game into independent channels. 5 $\mathbb{Q}b5!?$ (72a) An interesting alternative to the standard 5 $\mathbb{Q}e3$. White solves the problem of the attack on d4, albeit at the cost of surrendering the two bishops. 5...a6 With 5... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ Black can avoid the doubling of his c-pawns, but at the cost of losing time. 6 $\mathbb{Q}xc6+$ $\mathbb{B}xc6$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ Black is willing to surrender the two bishops in order to exert pressure against d4. White also has an edge after other moves, e.g. 7... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 8 0-0 or 7...f5 8 e5 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 9 $\mathbb{W}e2$. 8 0-0 $\mathbb{W}b8$ 8... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 9 h3 $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 10 $\mathbb{W}xf3$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}e3!$ The critical move, offering the b-pawn. 11 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ c5 is equal. 11... $\mathbb{W}xb2$ (72b) If White is allowed to complete his development then he will have the advantage thanks to his pawn centre, so this is the consistent move. 11... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}f2$ 0-0 13 $\mathbb{W}d2$ gives White an edge, e.g. 13... $\mathbb{W}xb2$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{W}a3$ 15 e5 $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{W}xa2$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe7+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}b7$. 12 $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{W}b7$ Not 12... $\mathbb{Q}f6?$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{W}a3$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{W}a5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ and wins, while 12... $\mathbb{W}b4$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{W}c4$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}b7$ gives White a strong initiative. 13 f5! c5?! Freeing the d5-square for the knight makes White's attack even stronger. 13... $\mathbb{Q}f6!?$ is also dubious after 14 e5 $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 15 f6! $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ (16... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 18 $\mathbb{W}e2+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}af1$ wins) 17 $\mathbb{W}e2+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ with terrible pressure along the f-file. However, 13... $\mathbb{Q}h6$ is better. After 14 g4 the knight is out of play, but 14...f6 15 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ offers Black some defensive chances. 14 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{W}c6$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ (72c)



72a: After 5 $\mathbb{Q}b5!?$

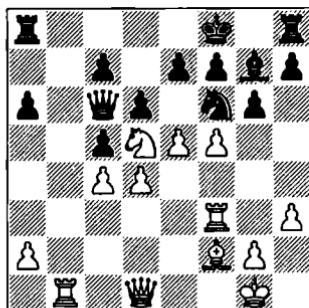


72b: After 11... $\mathbb{W}xb2$



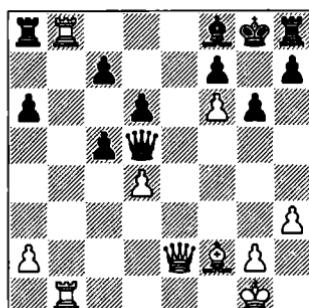
72c: After 15 $\mathbb{Q}d5$

B



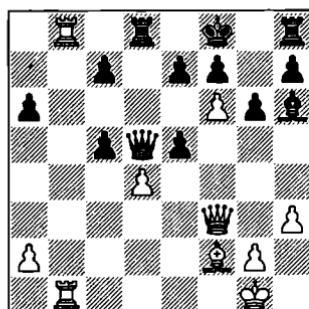
72d: After 17 e5!

B



72e: After 23 We2 (analysis)

B

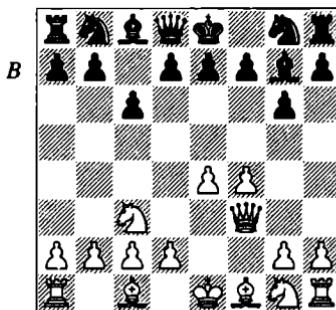
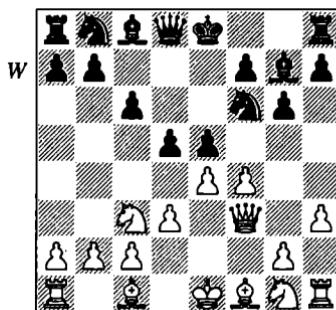


72f: After 22 Wf3! 1-0

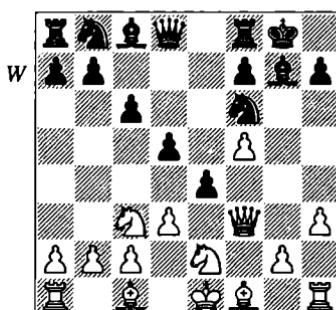
15... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ After 15...gxf5 (15...e6 16 fxe6 fxe6 17 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{W}xe4$ 18 d5 wins) 16 $\mathbb{R}xf5!$ e6 17 $\mathbb{R}xf7!!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 18 $\mathbb{W}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 19 $\mathbb{R}f1$ White has a very promising attack. The main line runs 19...exd5 20 $\mathbb{Q}h4+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 21 $\mathbb{R}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 22 $\mathbb{W}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ (22... $\mathbb{Q}g8?$ 23 $\mathbb{R}xf6$ $\mathbb{W}e8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}g5+$ $\mathbb{W}g6$ 25 $\mathbb{R}xg6+$ $\mathbb{W}hg6$ 26 $\mathbb{W}xg6+$ wins) 23 $\mathbb{W}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 24 $\mathbb{W}g7+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 25 $\mathbb{W}xh8+$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 26 $\mathbb{R}b1+$ $\mathbb{Q}a7$ 27 $\mathbb{W}xh7$ and White is much better. 16 c4! $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 16... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ (16... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 18 d5 traps the queen) 17 exd5 $\mathbb{W}d7$ 18 dxc5 dxc5 19 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 0-0 20 $\mathbb{W}e2$ also favours White. 17 e5! (72d) This second pawn sacrifice aims to trap Black's king on the back rank. 17... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 18 cxd5 $\mathbb{W}xd5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 19... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 21 $\mathbb{R}fb3$ transposes to the following note. 20 $\mathbb{R}fb3$ $\mathbb{Q}d8?$ Losing immediately, but with such a bad king position it is hard to see Black surviving. The key line is 20... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ (20... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 21 $\mathbb{R}b8$ $\mathbb{W}c6$ 22 $\mathbb{W}f3$ d5 23 $\mathbb{R}xe8+$ $\mathbb{W}xe8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xe7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 25 $\mathbb{W}xd5$ wins) 21 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ (21... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 22 $\mathbb{R}b8$ $\mathbb{W}e6$ 23 $\mathbb{W}g4$ $\mathbb{W}g8$ 24 $\mathbb{R}xe8+$ $\mathbb{W}xe8$ 25 $\mathbb{W}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}d2$ 26 $\mathbb{R}b2$ $\mathbb{Q}c1$ 27 $\mathbb{R}c2$ traps the bishop) 22 $\mathbb{R}b8+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}e2$ (72e) 23... $\mathbb{R}xb8$ (23...h6 24 $\mathbb{W}e7$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 25 $\mathbb{R}xa8!$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 26 $\mathbb{R}xh8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xh8$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{W}a8$ 28 dxc5 $\mathbb{W}e8$ 29 cxd6 cxd6 and White should win in the long run, e.g. by 30 $\mathbb{R}b7$, followed by playing the bishop to d6 and the rook to b8) 24 $\mathbb{R}xb8$ $\mathbb{W}e6$ 25 $\mathbb{W}f3$ d5 (not 25...h6? losing at once to 26 $\mathbb{W}a8$) 26 dxc5 h5 (26... $\mathbb{W}e5$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{W}d4+$ 28 $\mathbb{W}f2$ $\mathbb{W}d1+$ 29 $\mathbb{Q}h2$ and now either 29...h5 30 $\mathbb{Q}xc7$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 31 $\mathbb{R}b7$, taking aim at f7, or 29... $\mathbb{W}h5$ 30 $\mathbb{R}xf8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 31 $\mathbb{W}b2$ mating) 27 $\mathbb{R}d8$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ (27...c6? 28 $\mathbb{W}f4$ wins) 28 $\mathbb{W}xd5!$ $\mathbb{W}xd5$ 29 $\mathbb{R}xd5$ g5 30 $\mathbb{R}d7$ $\mathbb{W}g6$ 31 $\mathbb{R}xc7$ with a winning endgame for White. 21 $\mathbb{R}b8$ dxe5 22 $\mathbb{W}f3!$ (72f) 1-0 This finishes the game, e.g. 22...e4 23 $\mathbb{W}xe4$ or 22... $\mathbb{W}d7$ 23 $\mathbb{W}a8$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 24 $\mathbb{R}xd8+$ $\mathbb{W}xd8$ 25 $\mathbb{R}b8$.

73 An. Sokolov – Shirov French Team Ch 1994 Modern Defence

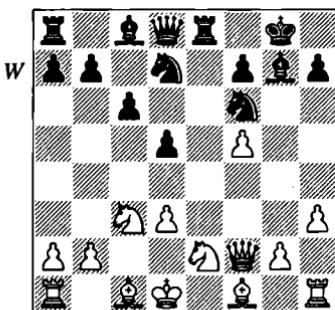
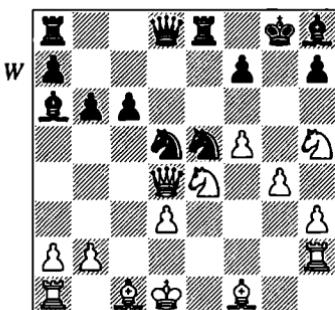
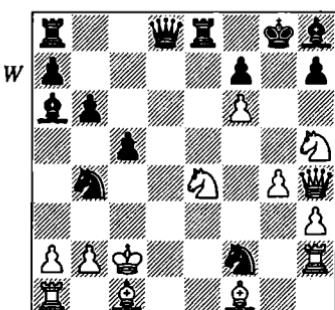
1 e4 g6 2 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 3 f4 A very unusual move. Black can, of course, transpose to the Sicilian with 3...c5, but Shirov pursues an independent course. 3...c6 4 $\mathbb{W}f3?$! (73a) This is inaccurate; the aim is to prevent ...d5, but it turns out that Black can play it in any case. In return for the pawn, Black obtains a dangerous lead in development. 4 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ d5 5 exd5 b5 6 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ b4 7 $\mathbb{Q}ce2$ cxd5 is also good for Black, but 4 g3 d5 5 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ would have been a better chance. 4...d5! Equalizing immediately. 5 d3 5 exd5 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 6 dxc6 (6 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ 0-0 7 $\mathbb{Q}ge2$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 8 $\mathbb{W}g3$ b5 9 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ b4 is awkward for White) 6... $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ gives Black excellent play for the pawn. 5... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 6 h3 This non-developing move is perhaps a little slow. 6 e5 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 7 h3 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 8 g4 f6, with an unclear position, would have been more active. 6...e5! (73b) Black opens the position to exploit his lead in development. 7 f5 A double-edged move, which allows Black to take command of the centre. 7 fxe5 is safer, and after 7...dxe4 (7... $\mathbb{Q}fd7$ 8 d4 c5 9 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ is less clear, since 9...cxd4 10 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}c6?$ fails to 11 e6) 8 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ (8 dxe4 $\mathbb{Q}fd7$ slightly favours Black) 8... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 9 $\mathbb{W}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 10 $\mathbb{W}e2$ $\mathbb{W}a5+$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}xe5$ an equal endgame arises. 7...gxsf5 8 exf5 0-0 If White had time, the advance of his g-pawn would give him a crushing attack, but his own king is exposed. 9 $\mathbb{Q}ge2?$ Too casual. Having committed himself to the kingside attack, White should have pushed ahead without delay. 9 g4 e4 10 $\mathbb{W}g2$ is unclear after 10... $\mathbb{W}e8$ 11 d4 c5 12 g5 $\mathbb{Q}fd7$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ or 10...exd3 11 $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ $\mathbb{W}e8+$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}ge2$ d4 13 $\mathbb{Q}d1$. 9...e4! (73c) Seizing the initiative. 10 $\mathbb{W}f2$ 10 dxe4 dxe4 11 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$

73a: After 4 $\mathbb{W}f3?$!

73b: After 6...e5!



73c: After 9...e4!

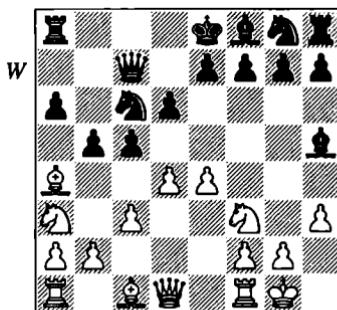
73d: After 12... $\mathbb{Q}bd7?$ 73e: After 18... $\mathbb{Q}h8!$ 73f: After 22... $\mathbb{Q}b4+$ 0-1

12 $\mathbb{W}xe4$ $\mathbb{M}e8$ 13 $\mathbb{W}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ is very good for Black. 10... $\text{exd}3$ 11 $\text{cx}d3$ $\mathbb{E}e8$ Threatening 12... $d4$. 12 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ White is in trouble whatever he plays. There is now no time for 12 $g4$, e.g. 12... $d4$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 14 $g5$ $\mathbb{W}a5+$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}b4$ winning for Black. Also after 12 $d4$ $c5!$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\text{cxd}4$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 15 0-0-0 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{W}xe4$ White's position is crumbling. Finally, 12 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ wins a pawn while retaining the initiative. 12... $\mathbb{Q}bd7?$ (73d) This lets White back in the game. Shirov points out that 12... $c5!$ is stronger; for example, 13 $\mathbb{W}xc5$ (or else 13... $d4$) 13... $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ (14 $\mathbb{Q}g5?$ $\mathbb{Q}fd7!$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ wins material) 14... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ with a large advantage for Black. 13 $g4$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ Now White has managed to glue his position back together, and threatens to resume his kingside pawn advance. 14... $d4$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}ce4$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 16 $\mathbb{M}h2?$ Too slow. 16 $\mathbb{Q}h5!$ was the only chance. After 16... $\mathbb{Q}c4!$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ (17 dx c4? $\mathbb{Q}e3+$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}xe4$ is good for Black) 17... $\mathbb{Q}ce3+$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{W}a5$ the position is roughly balanced. 16... $b6$ Preparing to take aim at the weak d3-pawn. 17 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ loses to 18... $f6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3$, while 18 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ $c5$ leads to disaster along the d-file. 18... $\mathbb{Q}h8!$ (73e) Quite suddenly White is lost. 19 $f6$ Or 19 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}f3!$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ winning material. 19... $c5$ 20 $\mathbb{W}f2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ 21 $\mathbb{W}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}f2+$ 21... $\mathbb{W}xe4$ also wins. 22 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ Allows mate, but it no longer matters as 22 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ (22 $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{Q}e3++$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}c2#$) 22... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}c2+$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}xal$ picks up a rook. 22... $\mathbb{Q}b4+$ (73f) 0-1 Mate is forced in a few moves; one line runs 23 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{W}d1+$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}a3$ $\mathbb{Q}c2+$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $c4+$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4+$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ $\mathbb{W}d3#$.

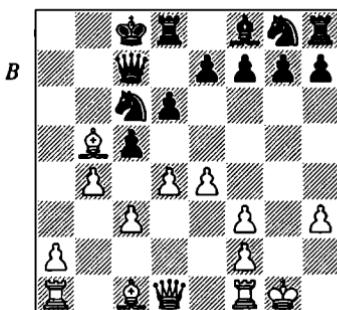
74 Adams – Tiviakov
PCA Candidates (2),
New York 1994

Sicilian Defence, Moscow Variation

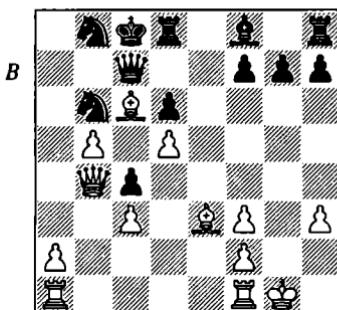
1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 d6 3 ♜b5+ ♜c6 4 0-0 ♜g4?!
 4...♜d7 is the most common alternative. 5 h3 ♜h5 6 c3 ♜b6 7 ♜a3 a6 8 ♜a4 8 ♜e2 is also promising. 8...♝c7 9 d4 b5?! (74a) Consistent, but the sacrifice that this invites turns out to be good for White. 10 ♜xb5! axb5 11 ♜xb5 0-0-0 11...♝b6 12 a4 does not help as Black is forced to castle in any case. 12 b4! A powerful novelty. 12 ♜a4 ♜b8 13 dxc5 ♜xf3 14 gxf3 dxc5 led to a draw in Iskov-Larsen, Copenhagen 1979. Adams's move is stronger since it opens more lines on the queenside. 12...♜xf3 13 gxf3! (74b) The queen is heading for a4. 13...♝b8 Not 13...cxb4? 14 cxb4 ♜xb4 15 ♜a4 ♜c3 16 ♜a8+ ♜c7 17 ♜a7+ ♜c8 18 ♜d2 and wins. 14 ♜a4 White delays exchanging pawns on c5, in order to cut out the defensive resource ...♜d6. 14...c4 A desperate attempt to keep the queenside files closed. 14...e6 loses to 15 bxc5 dxc5 16 ♜b1 ♜d6 (or else 17 ♜a6+ wins) 17 ♜f4. 15 d5! ♜f6 Or 15...e5 16 ♜c6 ♜xc6 (16...♜e7 17 b5) 17 dxc6 ♜e7 18 b5 with a winning attack. 16 ♜e3 ♜fd7 16...e6 17 ♜c6 is similar. 17 ♜c6 e6 18 b5 The noose tightens. 18...exd5 19 exd5 ♜b6 19...♜c5 20 ♜a8 h5 21 ♜fb1 ♜b6 22 a4 and 19...♜xc6 20 bxc6 ♜b8 21 ♜ab1 are hopeless. 20 ♜b4 (74c) With the simple threat of a4-a5. 20...♜e7 20...♜xc6 21 bxc6 ♜xd5 loses to 22 ♜a4. 21 a4 ♜f6 22 a5 ♜xc6 23 bxc6 ♜xd5 24 ♜b5 ♜de8 24...♜xc3 25 ♜a6+ ♜b8 26 ♜ab1+ mates. 25 ♜b6 1-0 As 25...♜xb6 (25...♜e7 26 ♜a6+ ♜b8 27 ♜c7+! mates in a few moves) 26 axb6 ♜b8 27 ♜a6+ is decisive.



74a: After 9...b5?!



74b: After 13 gxf3!

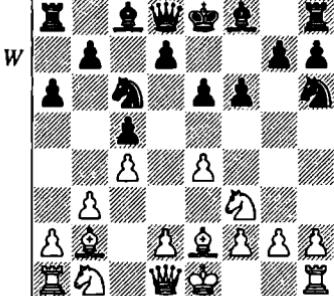


74c: After 20 ♜b4

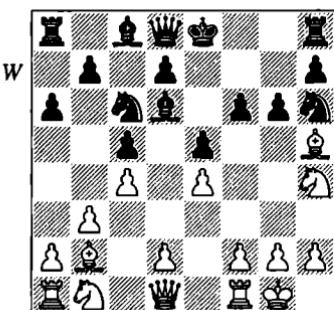
75 Akopian – Khenkin

Tilburg 1994

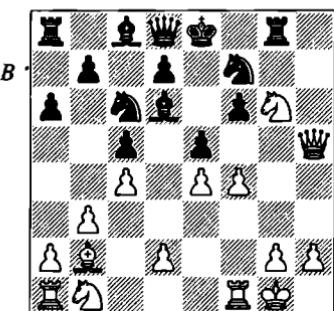
Sicilian Defence



75a: After 6...Qh6



75b: After 9...g6



75c: After 13 f4!

1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 e6 3 b3 Black should not underestimate this unusual line, since it contains a certain amount of venom. 3...a6 4 ♜b2 ♜c6 5 c4 g3 and 5 d4 are other possibilities. 5...f6 After this game, 5...d6 is a more solid option. 6 ♜e2 6 d4 cxd4 7 ♜xd4 ♜b4+ 8 ♜d2 ♜ge7 is equal. 6...Qh6 (75a) 7 0-0 Now that White has castled, 8 d4 is a threat, reaching a favourable type of Hedgehog position in which Black's pieces are on very odd squares. 7...e5 Hence this move, despite the loss of time involved. 8 ♜h4 White seeks to exploit Black's languid development by playing for a quick attack. 8...Qd6 Aimed against f4, but blocking in Black's queenside. 9 ♜h5+ 9 ♜f5!? ♜xf5 10 exf5 0-0 11 ♜c3 gives White a safe edge in view of Black's vulnerable central light squares. The text-move is more ambitious, but also more risky. 9...g6 (75b) 9...Qf7 10 ♜c3 0-0 11 ♜d5, with ideas of ♜f5, ♜g4 and f4 to come, gives White a clear advantage. 10 ♜xg6+!? The point of the check on h5. White obtains two pawns and an enduring attack for the piece. 10...hxg6 11 ♜xg6 ♜g8 11...Qf7 12 ♜h5 ♜g7 13 ♜xh8 ♜xh8 14 ♜c3, followed by ♜d5 and f4, is also unpleasant for Black. 12 ♜h5 ♜f7 13 f4! (75c) Preventing the defence ...Qe7, which meets other attacking ideas, e.g. 13 ♜h7? ♜e7 14 ♜xe7 ♜h8 15 ♜g7 ♜xe7 or 13 ♜c3?! ♜e7! 14 ♜xe7 ♜xe7 15 f4 d6 and Black has some advantage in either case. 13...exf4 Best, as 13...Qe7 14 ♜xe5! ♜xe5 15 fxe5 ♜h8 16 ♜f3 ♜c7 17 ♜f4 clearly favours White, while 13...Qg7 14 ♜c3 followed by ♜d5 is awkward for Black. 14

$\mathbb{Q}c3$ (75d) 14... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ At first sight this is a complete answer to White's attack, since it nullifies the dangerous b2-bishop. Black's problems are not solved by the alternatives 14... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ followed by 17 $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ and 14... $\mathbb{Q}ce5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ (not 15 $\mathbb{Q}d5?$ $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xg2+$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$) 15... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ (15... $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}h7$) 16 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}cd5$, when Black remains under pressure.

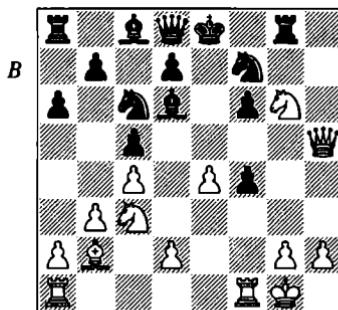
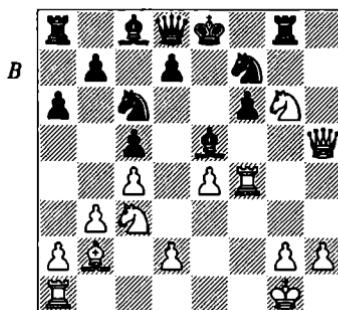
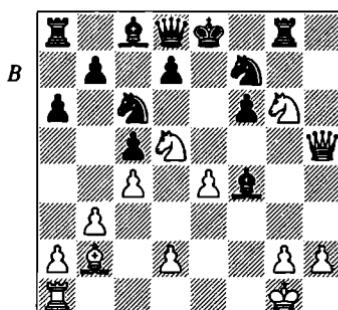
15 $\mathbb{Q}xf4!!$ (75e) A brilliant answer, reviving White's threats. White must conquer the key square f6, regardless of material loss.

15... $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ Or 15... $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ (15... $d6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}af1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{Q}ce5$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}dx4$ transposes to the game) 16 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ (16... $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ wins for White after 17... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xf6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}g7!$ or 17... $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}g8+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xf6)$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}g7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ (17... $f5$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $d6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}af1$ favours White) 18 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ (18... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 21 $exd5$ wins) 19 $exd5$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ (19... $d6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ and 19... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 20 $d6!$ $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ are lost for Black) 20 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ and now:

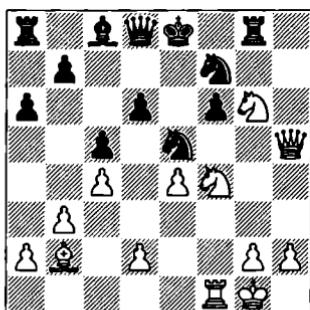
1) 20... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ (21... $d6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ and 21... $\mathbb{Q}d4+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ win) 22 $\mathbb{Q}g6$ $d6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $dxe5$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xe5+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ wins as Black is paralysed.

2) 20... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}e1+$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}g6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ $\mathbb{Q}xh2+$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xh2$ $d6$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ and after the capture on e5 White will have three pawns and a strong attack for the piece.

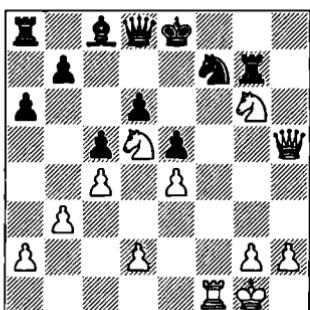
16 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ (75f) 16... $\mathbb{Q}ce5!$ The best chance. 16... $\mathbb{Q}g5$ just loses after 17 $h4!$ $d6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}hg5$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}h7$, while after 16... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}ce5$ (17... $fxe5$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}h7$ $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ wins) 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ (19... $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xf7+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}f8+$ mates, while if 19... $\mathbb{Q}xg2+$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{Q}g5+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{Q}xg5$, then 22 $\mathbb{Q}c7+$ gains material) 20 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xe5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ (21... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}h#$) 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}h8+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ White has the advantage. It will cost Black

75d: After 14 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ 75e: After 15 $\mathbb{Q}xf4!!$ 75f: After 16 $\mathbb{Q}d5$

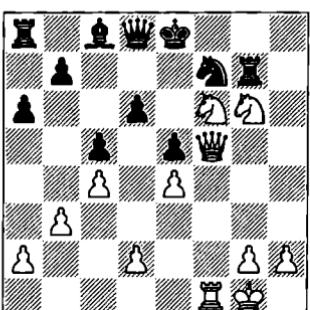
B

75g: After 18 $\mathbb{H}f1$

B

75h: After 20 $\mathbb{Q}d5$

B

75i: After 22 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ 1-0

another pawn to liberate his queenside, and the armada of white pawns will be hard to resist. 17 $\mathbb{Q}dx\mathbf{f}4$ Threatening 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $fxe5$ 19 $\mathbb{W}h7$. The alternatives 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe5?!$ $fxe5$ 18 $\mathbb{W}h7$ $\mathbb{L}xg6$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xg6$ $\mathbb{W}g5$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}c7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xg5+$ $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b6$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ and 17 $\mathbb{Q}gx\mathbf{f}4?!$ $\mathbb{H}h8!$ 18 $\mathbb{W}f5$ $d6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xf6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ offer White a draw at best. 17... $\mathbb{d}6$ 17... $\mathbb{E}g7?$ 18 $\mathbb{H}f1$ $d6$ transposes to the game, while 17... $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $\mathbb{E}g7$ 19 $\mathbb{H}f1$ gives White a distinct advantage. 18 $\mathbb{H}f1$ (75g) 18... $\mathbb{E}g7?$ After a long period in which both sides have played skilfully, the unrelenting pressure starts to affect Black. 18... $\mathbb{H}xg6!$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ was a better chance, with a very unclear position. White has two pawns for the piece, but he has not yet conquered the f6-square, so Black can hope to defend. On the other hand, 18... $\mathbb{Q}d7?$ loses to 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $dxe5$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}d5$. 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $fxe5$ White wins after 19... $dxe5?$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $f5$ 21 $exf5$. 20 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ (75h) 20... $\mathbb{Q}d7?$ Black collapses totally. 20... $\mathbb{W}g5!$ was the only hope. Then White can maintain the advantage, but accurate play is necessary: 21 $\mathbb{W}xg5$ $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 22 $\mathbb{H}f8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b6+$ and now:

1) 23... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ (24... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 25 $\mathbb{H}f6$) 25 $\mathbb{H}g8!$ $\mathbb{Q}h3+$ (25... $\mathbb{H}xg8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}e7\#$; 25... $\mathbb{H}f7$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xe5+$ $dxe5$ 27 $\mathbb{H}xg5$ should win as Black is a long way from rounding up the knight) 26 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{H}f7+$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}f4$ (27... $\mathbb{Q}f2$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}xe5+$ $dxe5$ 29 $\mathbb{H}g6+$ wins) 28 $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ $\mathbb{H}xf4$ 29 $d3$ and the two connected passed pawns should decide, despite the oddly-placed knight on a8.

2) 23... $\mathbb{Q}e6!$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}h4!$ (not an easy move to find; 24 $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ $\mathbb{H}xg6$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ $\mathbb{Q}f3+$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ is unclear) 24... $\mathbb{H}b8$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ $\mathbb{H}g6$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}e8+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $\mathbb{Q}f3+$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{Q}xh2$ 29 $\mathbb{Q}dxc8$ with a clear advantage for White.

21 $\mathbb{W}f5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 21... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}ge7+$ wins the queen. 22 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ (75i) 1-0

76 Spangenberg – Ftačník

Moscow Olympiad 1994

Sicilian Defence, Grand Prix Attack

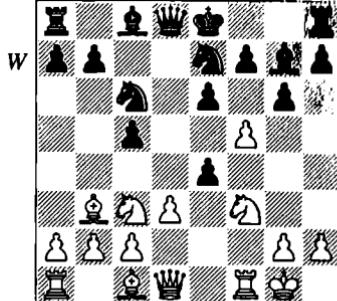
1 e4 c5 2 ♜c3 d6 3 f4 g6 4 ♜f3 ♜g7 5 ♜c4 e6 6 0-0 ♜e7 7 d3 ♜bc6 8 f5 8 ♜e1 is a more popular choice, one example being the well-known game Anand-Gelfand, Wijk aan Zee 1996. 8...d5 9 ♜b3 dxе4 (76a) 9...gxе5 10 exd5 exd5 is also very unclear.

10 fxg6? This extremely dangerous piece sacrifice was an innovation. Many players would have collapsed quickly when confronted by such a surprise, but Ftačník reacts calmly. White has various alternatives. 10 fxе6? exf3 11 exf7+ ♜f8 12 ♜xf3 ♜d4 is clearly better for Black, while 10 dxе4?! ♜xd1 11 ♜xd1 gxе5 gives Black an edge. 10 f6?! is interesting; after either 10...exf3 11 fxg7 ♜d4+ 12 ♜f2 ♜xg7 13 ♜xf3 or 10...♜xf6 11 ♜xe4 ♜g7 12 ♜g5 White obtains considerable dark-squared pressure in return for the pawn. 10...exf3 Black must accept the piece as 10...hxg6 11 ♜xe4 b6 12 ♜g5 and 10...fxg6 11 ♜xe4 give White an excellent position without any material loss.

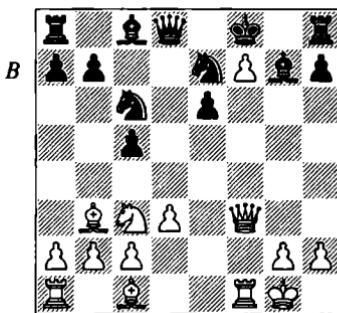
11 gxе7+ 11 ♜xf3? f5 defends. 11...♜f8 Not 11...♜xf7? 12 ♜xf3+ and White wins.

12 ♜xf3 (76b) White has two pawns and a dangerous attack for the piece. This provides sufficient compensation but not more.

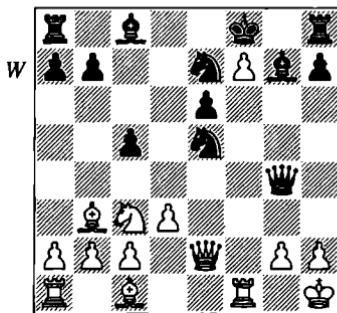
12...♜d4+ Black intends to reinforce his defence by swinging his queen to the king-side. 12...♜d4 13 ♜h5 ♜ef5 14 ♜e4 looks dangerous for Black, but 12...♜f5?! is a possible alternative. 13 ♜h1 After 13 ♜e3 ♜xc3+! 14 ♜xe3 ♜d4 15 ♜ae1 ♜xe3+ (15...♜g7 16 ♜b5! ♜xe3+ 17 ♜xe3 is a little better for White) 16 ♜xe3 ♜d4 17 ♜e4 the position is unclear. 13...♜e5 14 ♜e2 14 ♜h5 (14 ♜g3?! ♜f5) 14...♜g4 15 ♜xg4 hxg4 16 ♜e4 b6 is slightly better for Black.



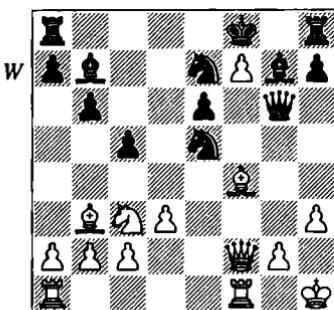
76a: After 9...dxе4



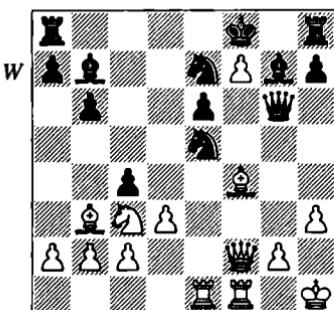
76b: After 12 ♜xf3



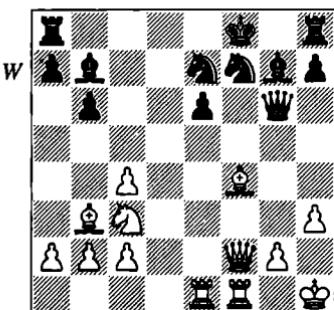
76c: After 14...♜g4



76d: After 17...Bb7



76e: After 18...c4?!

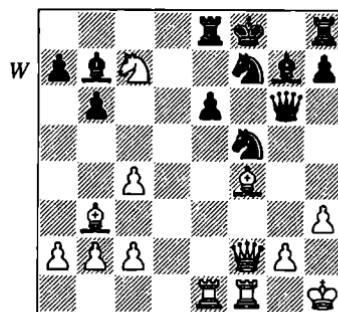
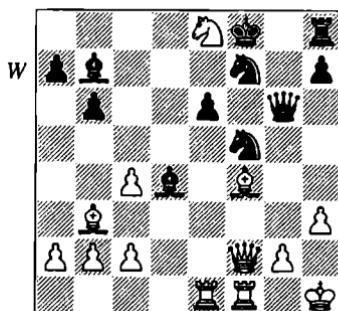
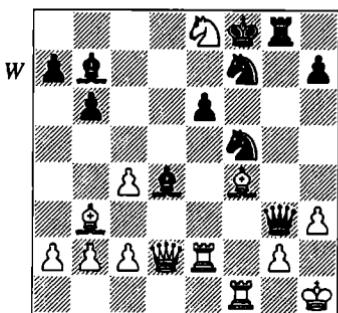


76f: After 19...Qxf7

14...Bg4 (76c) 14...Qf5?! (not 14...Qxf7? 15 Qxe6 and wins) 15 Qb5! Wh4 16 Qf4 is dangerous for Black. 15 Qf2 15 Wxg4 Qxg4 16 Qe4 b6 transposes into the note to White's 14th move. 15...b6 Not 15...Qf5? 16 Wxc5+ Qxf7 17 d4 and wins. The text-move not only saves the c5-pawn, but also offers the prospect of eventual counterplay along the long diagonal. 16 h3! 16 Qf4? Qb7 (now h3 is no longer possible) 17 Rae1 Qf3! 18 gxf3 Wxf4 19 Qxe6 Qd8 is good for Black. 16...Bg6 17 Qf4 Qb7 (76d) The best move. This bishop belongs on the long diagonal to provide counterplay against the white king. After 17...Q7c6 (17...Qxf7? loses to 18 Wf3!) 18 Rae1 Qd7 (18...Qxf7 19 Wf3 Qd7 20 Qxe6! Qxe6 21 Wxc6 wins) 19 Qxe5 Qxe5 20 Qf4 Wf5 21 Wh4 Wg6 22 d4 Qxf7 23 Qe4 White has some advantage. 18 Rae1 White's pressure threatens to become overwhelming, hence Black's next move. 18...c4?! (76e) Offering a pawn in order to neutralize White's dangerous light-squared bishop, at least temporarily. After 18...Q7c6 (not 18...Qxf7? 19 Qxe6, winning) 19 Qe4 White has a slight advantage, but this might have been better than the text. 19 dxc4? Up to here White has conducted his attack accurately, but now, confronted by a bewildering array of captures, he starts to falter. 19 Qxc4?! Qxc4 20 dxc4 Qxf7 is also bad for White – although this looks dangerous for Black, in reality the discovered checks are ineffective. 19 Qxe5?! is also wrong as 19...cxb3 20 Rg5 Wf6! offers Black good defensive chances. The correct line is 19 Qxe5! Qxe5 (19...cxb3 20 Qxg7+ Wxg7 21 axb3 Qf5 22 Rh2 is better for White) 20 Rxe5 cxb3 21 axb3 Qf5 22 Rh2 h5 23 Qb5! (threatening 24 Qc7) 23...Wxf7 (23...h4 24 Qc7 is again good for White) 24 Qd4 Qc8 25 Wf3 Kb8 26 Wc6, giving White an extremely dangerous attack, e.g.

26... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 28 $\mathbb{M}xe6$ $\mathbb{M}bf8$ 29 $\mathbb{M}e5$ $\mathbb{W}g6$ 30 $\mathbb{M}e4$ or 26... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 28 $\mathbb{M}xe6$ – White wins in both cases. 19... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ (76f) Black must have breathed a sigh of relief as this pawn vanished from the board. 20 $\mathbb{Q}b5?!$ This wins material, but hands the initiative over to Black. White should have tried 20 c5!?, $\mathbb{Q}d4!$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}g5?!$ with a totally unclear position. 20... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}c7$ $\mathbb{M}e8!$ (76g) This sacrifice is the start of a beautiful counterattack. 21...e5 is less accurate as 22 $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{M}c8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ is unclear. 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ There is nothing better than to accept, as 22 c3 $\mathbb{M}e7$ and 22 c5 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ 23 $\mathbb{W}d2$ $\mathbb{M}g8$ 24 $\mathbb{M}e2$ e5 clearly favour Black. 22... $\mathbb{Q}d4!$ (76h) 23 $\mathbb{W}d2?$ The natural move, but it runs into a stunning refutation. 23 $\mathbb{M}e2$ was a better chance, but even here Black retains an edge by 23... $\mathbb{M}g8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}c7$ (24 $\mathbb{M}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ is a bit better for Black) 24...e5! (24... $\mathbb{Q}xg2+?$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}h2$ e5 26 c5 $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ 27 $\mathbb{W}xf1$ favours White) 25 c5 $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}e6+$ $\mathbb{W}xe6$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{Q}g3+$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ 29 $\mathbb{M}xe2$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$. 23... $\mathbb{M}g8$ 24 $\mathbb{M}e2$ $\mathbb{W}g3!!$ (76i) A stunning blow which leaves White helpless. 24... $\mathbb{Q}g3+$ would be less accurate due to 25 $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ $\mathbb{W}xg3$ 26 $\mathbb{M}xf7+!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}d6+!$ $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 28 c3 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ (28... $\mathbb{Q}f3$ 29 $\mathbb{M}f2!)$ 29 $\mathbb{W}xd6$ $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 30 c5, when White is out of trouble. 0-1 White is quite defenceless, e.g.:

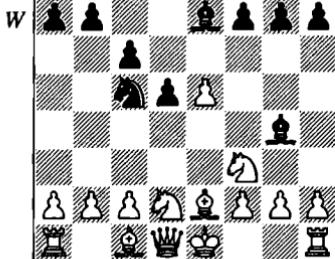
- 1) 25 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ $\mathbb{W}xh3+$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{Q}xg2+$.
- 2) 25 $\mathbb{Q}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}a4+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$.
- 3) 25 $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ $\mathbb{Q}xg3+$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{Q}xf1+$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ 28 $\mathbb{M}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}e3$ 29 $\mathbb{M}e2$ $\mathbb{M}g3$.
- 4) 25 $\mathbb{W}b4+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ 26 $\mathbb{M}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ $\mathbb{Q}xg3+$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{Q}xf1+$ 29 $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}xg2#$.

76g: After 21... $\mathbb{M}e8!$ 76h: After 22... $\mathbb{Q}d4!$ 76i: After 24... $\mathbb{W}g3!!$ 0-1

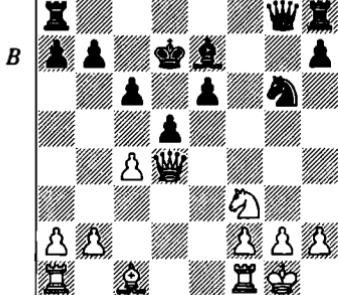
77 Smirin – Alterman

Haifa 1995

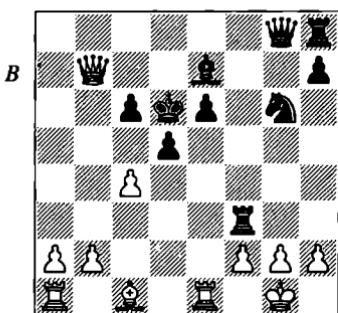
Petroff Defence



77a: After 8...g4?!



77b: After 17...d4

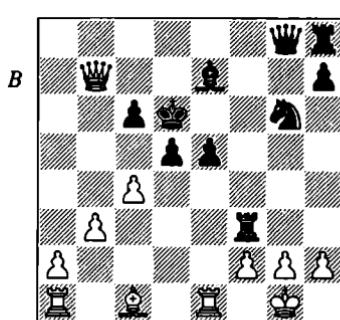


77c: After 20...e1!

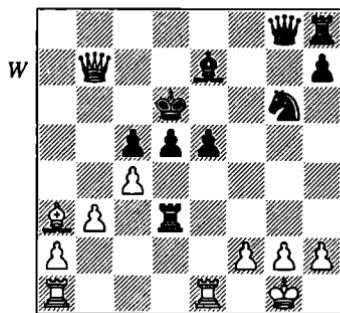
1 e4 e5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 3 d4 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 4 dx5 This unusual alternative to 4 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ is normally thought to be harmless. 4...d5 5 $\mathbb{Q}bd2$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 5... $\mathbb{Q}c5$ is generally reckoned to be a safe equalizer. 6 $\mathbb{Q}b5+$ An interesting idea, although objectively speaking White should probably play 6 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ dx5 7 $\mathbb{W}xd8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ with an edge. 6...c6 7 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}g4?$! (77a) A slightly unwise move. Black should have played either 8...0-0 9 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ or 8... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ followed by ...c5 and ... $\mathbb{Q}c6$, with excellent equalizing chances in either case. 9 $\mathbb{Q}d4!$ $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ 10 $\mathbb{W}xe2$ White has gained time, and freed his f-pawn for a possible kingside attack. 10... $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 11 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 11...0-0 12 f4 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}4b3$, followed by f5, favours White. 12 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ fxe6 13 $\mathbb{W}g4$ White forces the pace before Black has time to castle. 13... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 14 $\mathbb{W}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}d7?$! 15... $\mathbb{W}d6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{W}d7$ 18 $\mathbb{W}h6$ is slightly better for White as Black's king is pinned down in the centre. 16 c4 If Black is given time, he will develop an attack along the open kingside files, so White must act quickly. 16... $\mathbb{W}g8$ 16... $\mathbb{W}f8$ 17 $\mathbb{W}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}e1!$ is also slightly better for White since 18... $\mathbb{Q}b4?$ fails to the attractive line 19 $\mathbb{W}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xb7+$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 21 c5+ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}e3+$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}c5+$! $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}c1+$ followed by mate. 17 $\mathbb{W}d4$ (77b) 17 $\mathbb{W}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 19 cxd5 exd5 20 $\mathbb{Q}ae1$ is also favourable for White. 17... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 17... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ is a better chance, although White retains the advantage by 18 cxd5 exd5 19 $\mathbb{Q}h6$. 18 $\mathbb{W}xa7!$ White takes up the challenge. 18... $\mathbb{W}xf3$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xb7+$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 19... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ loses to 20 $\mathbb{W}b8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xg8$ $\mathbb{Q}xg8$ 22 gxf3. 20 $\mathbb{Q}e1!$ (77c) Cutting off the king's

escape route. 20...e5 Freeing e6 for the king. After 20... $\blacksquare d3$ 21 c5+ $\blacksquare xc5$ 22 $\blacksquare d2!$ or 20... $\blacksquare h4$ 21 c5+ $\blacksquare xc5$ 22 $\blacksquare e3+$ $\blacksquare xe3$ 23 $\blacksquare ac1+$ $\blacksquare d6$ 24 $\blacksquare xc6+$ White wins easily. 21 b3! (77d) Another accurate attacking move. 21 c5+? $\blacksquare e6$ 22 $\blacksquare xc6+$ $\blacksquare f5$ 23 $\blacksquare d7+$ $\blacksquare f6$ is unclear. 21... $\blacksquare d3$ The best defence; for example, 21... $\blacksquare e6$ 22 $\blacksquare xc6+$ $\blacksquare f5$ 23 cxd5 $\blacksquare d3$ (23... $\blacksquare h4$ 24 $\blacksquare xe5+$! $\blacksquare xe5$ 25 $\blacksquare b2+$ wins) 24 d6! $\blacksquare xd6$ 25 $\blacksquare e4+$ $\blacksquare f6$ 26 f4! $\blacksquare d5$ 27 $\blacksquare xe5+$ $\blacksquare xe5$ 28 $\blacksquare f4+$ $\blacksquare e6$ 29 $\blacksquare xe5+$ $\blacksquare xe5$ 30 $\blacksquare xe5+$ $\blacksquare xe5$ 31 $\blacksquare b2+$ and White wins, or 21... $\blacksquare f4$ 22 $\blacksquare a3+$ c5 23 $\blacksquare xc5+$ $\blacksquare xc5$ 24 $\blacksquare c7+$ $\blacksquare b4$ 25 a3+ $\blacksquare xb3$ 26 $\blacksquare b6+$ with a quick mate. 22 $\blacksquare a3+$ c5?!

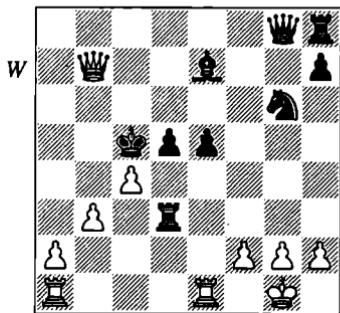
(77e) Now White wins by force. 22... $\blacksquare e6$ is a better defence, after which White has to play extremely accurately: 23 cxd5+! $\blacksquare xd5$ (23...cxd5? 24 $\blacksquare a6+$) 24 $\blacksquare xc6+$ $\blacksquare d6$ (24... $\blacksquare f5$ 25 $\blacksquare xe7$ $\blacksquare xe7$ 26 $\blacksquare c3$ with three pawns and a continuing attack for the piece) 25 $\blacksquare ad1$ $\blacksquare f4!$ (25... $\blacksquare a8$ 26 $\blacksquare xd5+$ $\blacksquare xd5$ 27 $\blacksquare xd5$ $\blacksquare xa3$ 28 $\blacksquare a5$ wins) 26 g3 $\blacksquare e2+$ 27 $\blacksquare h1!!$ (the key move) 27... $\blacksquare d4$ 28 $\blacksquare xe5+$ $\blacksquare xe5$ 29 $\blacksquare xd6+$ $\blacksquare f5$ 30 g4+! (the point of 27 $\blacksquare h1!!$ is that Black cannot take this pawn) 30... $\blacksquare f6$ 31 $\blacksquare xd4$ $\blacksquare xd4$ 32 $\blacksquare c5+$ with an easy win, e.g. 32... $\blacksquare e5$ 33 $\blacksquare c7+$ $\blacksquare e4$ 34 $\blacksquare e7+$ $\blacksquare d3$ 35 $\blacksquare e3+$. 23 $\blacksquare xc5+$! The start of a spectacular finish. 23... $\blacksquare xc5$ (77f) 24 $\blacksquare ac1!$ There are other wins, e.g., 24 $\blacksquare b5+$ $\blacksquare d4$ 25 cxd5 $\blacksquare xd5$ 26 $\blacksquare xd3+!$, but this is one of the most convincing. 24... $\blacksquare dxc4$ Everything loses: 24... $\blacksquare d6$ 25 c5+ $\blacksquare e6$ 26 $\blacksquare a6+$ $\blacksquare f7$ 27 $\blacksquare xd3$, 24... $\blacksquare g5$ 25 cxd5+! $\blacksquare xc1$ 26 $\blacksquare xc1+$, 24...d4 25 $\blacksquare c7+$ $\blacksquare b4$ 26 $\blacksquare b6+$ $\blacksquare a3$ 27 $\blacksquare a5+$ $\blacksquare b2$ 28 $\blacksquare b1+$ $\blacksquare c2$ 29 $\blacksquare ec1\#$ or 24... $\blacksquare d4$ 25 cxd5 $\blacksquare xd5$ 26 $\blacksquare a7+$ $\blacksquare c5$ 27 $\blacksquare a4+$ mating. 25 $\blacksquare xc4+$ 1-0 As 25... $\blacksquare xc4$ 26 $\blacksquare c7+$ wins the queen and the rook.



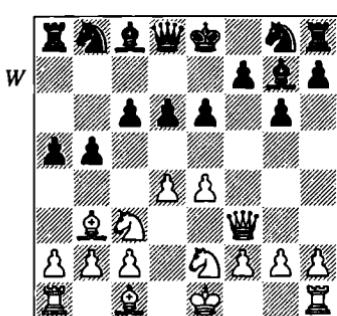
77d: After 21 b3!



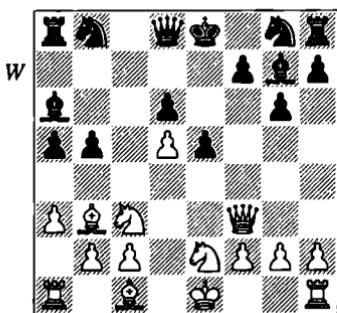
77e: After 22...c5?!



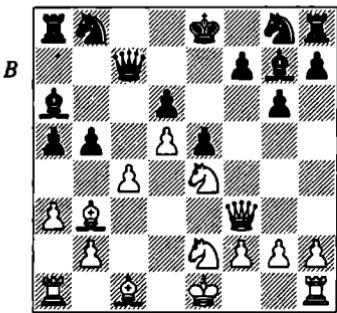
77f: After 23...xc5+



78a: After 7...a5



78b: After 10...e5



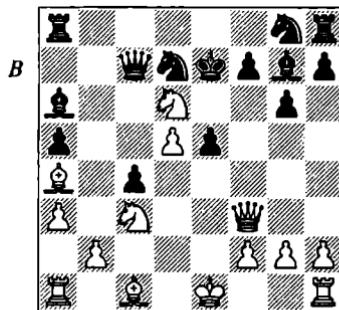
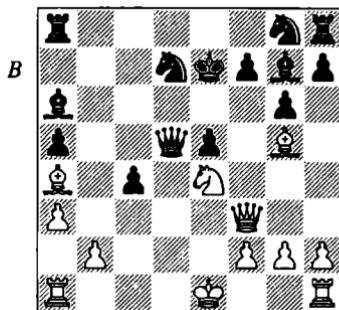
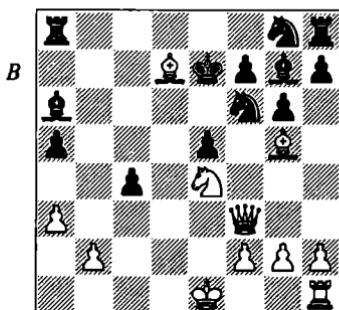
78c: After 12 c4!

**78 J. Polgar – Shirov
Amsterdam (Donner
Memorial) 1995
Modern Defence**

1 e4 g6 2 d4 $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ c6 4 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ d6 5 $\mathbb{W}f3$
 This primitive-looking continuation is actually quite dangerous for Black. 5...e6 6 $\mathbb{Q}ge2$ b5 7 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ a5 (78a) The critical line, in which Black attempts to inconvenience the light-squared bishop. The danger is that Black delays his development and if White can open the position, then Black may easily find himself in trouble. 8 a3 $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 9 d5!? Typically, Judit plays for a direct attack to exploit Black's lagging development. 9 0-0 is a reasonable alternative which has been used in some more recent games. 9...cx d5 9...exd5 10 exd5 c5 has received little attention, but it appears playable for Black. 10 exd5 e5 (78b) The position betrays a familiar story – Black has been willing to fall behind in development in order to gain strategic assets (here the better pawn structure). If he can complete his development then he will probably gain the advantage, but first he must survive the next few moves. 11 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{W}c7$? Not 11...f5? 12 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ heading for e6, nor 11... $\mathbb{Q}f6$? 12 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ winning material, but the move played is also poor since it does nothing to ensure the development of Black's kingside. The correct line is 11...h6 preparing ... $\mathbb{Q}f6$. After 12 g4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}2g3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 0-0 15 $\mathbb{W}h3$ f5!? a very unclear position arises. 12 c4! (78c) White wastes no time with her attack. 12...bxc4 12... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}2c3$ bxc4 14 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ transposes to the game, while 12... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 13 c5 and 12...a4 13 cxb5 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}2c3$! $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ favour White. 13 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 13... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}2c3$ is similar to the game. 14 $\mathbb{Q}2c3$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$? A serious error, overlooking the tactical refutation. 14... $\mathbb{Q}e7$

is also bad due to 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd7+$ $\mathbb{W}xd7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 18 $\mathbb{W}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ winning for White, while 14... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ $\mathbb{B}b8$ 16 a4, creating an outpost at b5, gives White some advantage. 14...h6!? was the best chance. After 15 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ f5 17 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ White has some advantage, but Black is not without counterplay.

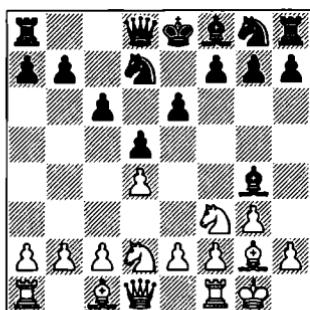
15 $\mathbb{Q}xd6!$ (78d) An unexpected tactical blow. 15... $\mathbb{W}xd6$ Forced, since the alternatives 15... $\mathbb{Q}xd6?$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}e4+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ (16... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 17 d6+) 17 $\mathbb{W}xf7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}c2+$ $\mathbb{Q}d4$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}e3\#$ and 15...f5 16 $\mathbb{Q}xf5+$ $gxf5$ 17 d6+ $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xa8$ $\mathbb{Q}gf6$ 19 $\mathbb{W}a7$ are even less appealing. 16 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{W}xd5$ White wins after 16... $\mathbb{W}b8$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ f5 18 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ and 16... $\mathbb{W}b6$ 17 d6+ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}g5$, attacking a8 and f7. 17 $\mathbb{Q}g5+$ (78e) 17... $\mathbb{Q}df6$ The only move, as 17...f6 loses to 18 $\mathbb{H}d1$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ (18... $\mathbb{W}xd1+$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xd1$) 19 $\mathbb{H}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 20 $\mathbb{W}d1!$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ when, in addition to his material disadvantage, Black's king is fatally exposed. 18 $\mathbb{H}d1$ $\mathbb{W}b7$ 18... $\mathbb{W}e6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ $\mathbb{W}c8$ 20 $\mathbb{W}d5$ gives White a winning attack. 19 $\mathbb{H}d7+$ $\mathbb{W}xd7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ (78f) 20...h6? Black collapses. The only chance to fight on lay in 20... $\mathbb{Q}b7$. Then 21 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ (21...h6 22 $\mathbb{W}e3!$ $hxg5$ 23 $\mathbb{W}c5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 24 $\mathbb{W}b6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ leads to a quick mate) 22 $\mathbb{Q}c2$ gives White a large advantage, due not so much to his small material plus but rather to the very awkward position of Black's king. In fact 21 a4! may be even stronger, as 21...h6 loses to 22 $\mathbb{Q}b5!$ $hxg5$ 23 $\mathbb{W}a3+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}c5$ $\mathbb{Q}a7$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}d7!$ forcing mate. 21 $\mathbb{W}d1!$ 1-0 Black cannot defend d6, and so loses after 21... $hxg5$ 22 $\mathbb{W}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b5+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}c6+$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ (24... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 25 $\mathbb{W}b6+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}d6\#$) 25 $\mathbb{W}b6+$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ (25... $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}d6\#$) 26 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{Q}a7$ 27 $\mathbb{W}d8+$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 28 $\mathbb{W}xc8\#$.

78d: After 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd6!$ 78e: After 17 $\mathbb{Q}g5+$ 78f: After 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd7$

79 Kramnik – Beliavsky Belgrade 1995

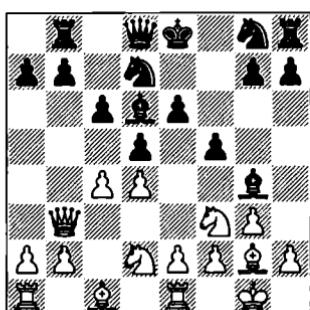
Réti Opening

B



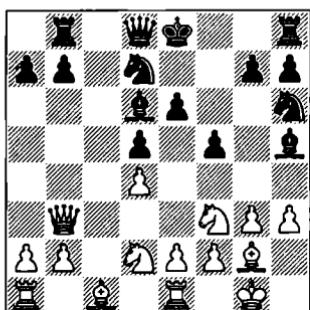
79a: After 6 ♜bd2

B



79b: After 9 ♜e1

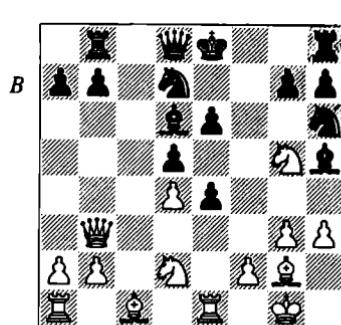
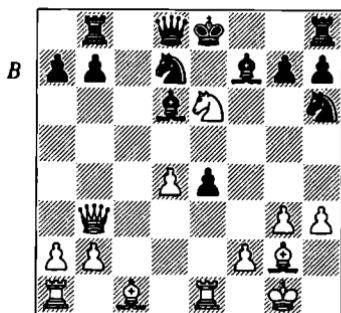
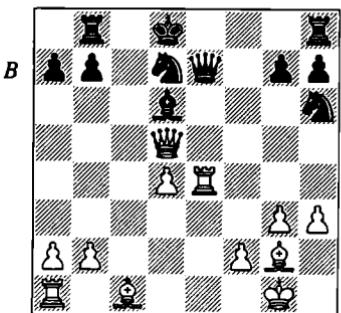
W

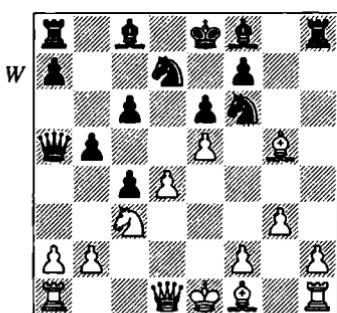
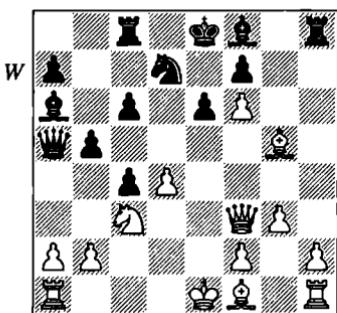


79c: After 11...♜h5

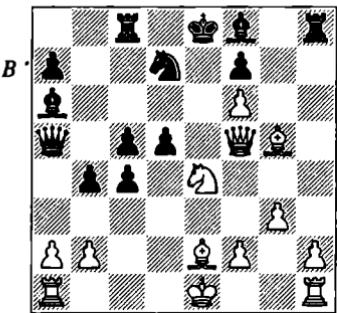
1 ♜f3 d5 2 g3 c6 3 ♜g2 ♜g4 4 0-0 ♜d7 5 d4 An interesting system in which White departs from pure King's Indian Attack strategy (which would involve d3 and e4) and tries to turn the game into a kind of reversed Torre Attack. 5...e6 6 ♜bd2 (79a) 6...f5 An ambitious attempt to exploit the fact that Black has not yet played ...♜gf6 to clamp down on White's e4. After 6...♜gf6 we would indeed have a reversed Torre. 7 c4 ♜d6 8 ♜b3 ♜b8 8...♜b6? 9 ♜e3! wins a pawn. 9 ♜e1 (79b) Black has gone to great lengths to prevent White's e4, but this plan has cost him time, created weaknesses and left his king in the centre. If White were now to play slowly, Black would catch up in development and castle with a fine position. However, Kramnik has no intention of playing slowly! 9 cxd5 exd5 10 ♜d3?! is another interesting attempt to disrupt Black's development. 9...♜h6 9...♜e7 is the alternative, when White can play for the advantage with either 10 h3 ♜h5 11 cxd5 cxd5 12 g4! or 10 ♜e5! ♜xe5 (10...♜h5 may be better) 11 dxe5 ♜xe5 12 cxd5 exd5 13 e4! fxe4 14 ♜xe4 dxe4 15 ♜xe4 ♜f6 16 ♜g5, when Black has a difficult position, Tkachev-Tregubov, Wijk aan Zee 1995. Note that 9...♜gf6 10 ♜g5 ♜e7 11 f3 ♜h5 12 e4 is clearly unfavourable for Black. 10 cxd5 cxd5 10...exd5 11 e4 certainly favours White. 11 h3! An innovation. 11 ♜e5 ♜xe5 12 dxe5 ♜c7 led to nothing in Hug-Speelman, Altensteig 1994. 11...♜h5 (79c) 12 e4!! If you spend a lot of time trying to stop your opponent doing something, and then he manages to do it anyway, then you are almost always in trouble. The text-move is the

first in a series of hammer-blows shattering Black's position. 12...fxe4 12...dxe4 13 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}dxe4$ fxe4 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ transposes to the game, while 12... $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ fxe4 14 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ dxe4 15 $\mathbb{W}xe6+$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ (15... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ exf3 17 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ wins) 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 17 $\mathbb{W}d5$ is clearly better for White. 13 $\mathbb{Q}g5!$ (79d) 13 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ dxe4 14 $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ gxh6 15 $\mathbb{W}xe6+$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ is less convincing. 13... $\mathbb{Q}f7$ Other moves are even worse; for example, 13... $\mathbb{W}xg5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ (15... $\mathbb{W}f8$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xd5!$) 16 $\mathbb{Q}xd6+$ $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ or 13... $\mathbb{W}e7$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xe6!$ $\mathbb{W}xe6$ (14... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ dxe4 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ and 14... $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ dxe4 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ are also lost) 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}e1$, and Black's position is hopeless in both cases. 14 $\mathbb{Q}dxe4!$ $\mathbb{dxe4}$ 14... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ is winning. 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ (79e) 15... $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ There are several other moves, but none offers a way out for Black: 15... $\mathbb{W}e7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ (or 17... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 18 $\mathbb{W}a4$) 18 $\mathbb{Q}xh6!$ $\mathbb{Q}xb3$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}f5+$, 15... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}f4$, 15... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}ae1$ or 15... $\mathbb{W}f6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}f4$. 16 $\mathbb{W}xe6+$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ 16... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 19 $\mathbb{W}b3$ gives White a decisive attack. 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ After 17... $\mathbb{W}xe6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xe7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ White has three pawns and a large positional advantage for the exchange. 18 $\mathbb{W}d5$ (79f) 1-0 Black's resignation comes slightly early, although he is in fact lost: 18... $\mathbb{W}f8$ (18... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xd6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}f4+$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xb8$ $\mathbb{Q}xb8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ wins) 19 $\mathbb{Q}g5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xf6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}ae1$ leaves Black helpless, e.g. 21... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ (21... $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ is extremely strong) 22 $\mathbb{W}b5+$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 23 $\mathbb{W}a5+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 24 $\mathbb{W}a4+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 25 $\mathbb{W}xa7$ and Black's position is now visibly lost.

79d: After 13 $\mathbb{Q}g5!$ 79e: After 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 79f: After 18 $\mathbb{W}d5$ 1-0

80a: After 11... $\mathbb{Q}a5$ 

80b: After 13...Hc8?!



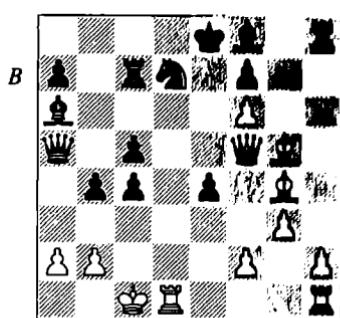
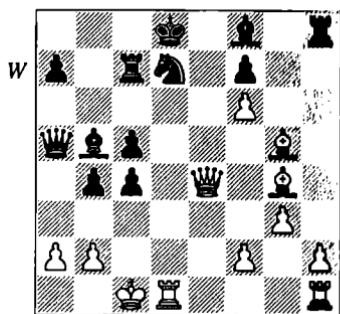
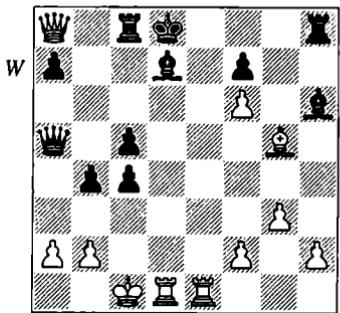
80c: After 17...Wf5!

80 Kramnik – Ehlvest

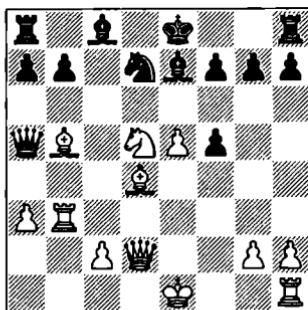
*Riga (Tal Memorial) 1995**Queen's Gambit, Semi-Slav Defence*

1 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $d5$ 2 $d4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 3 $c4$ $c6$ 4 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $e6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $dxc4$ 6 $e4$ $b5$ 7 $e5$ $h6$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $g5$ 9 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $hxg5$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ This is the notorious Botvinnik System, one of the sharpest and most complex lines in modern-day opening praxis. Only the very bravest venture down these paths, especially when confronting a noted expert such as Kramnik. 11 $g3$ 11 $exf6$ is the most common move. Playing $g3$ first is an attempted finesse of move-order; White hopes to restrict Black's options, but there are both pros and cons to this sequence. 11... $\mathbb{Q}a5$ (80a) 11... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ is more to the point if Black hopes to transpose into the main line, while 11... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ is an attempt to exploit White's unusual move-order. 12 $exf6$ $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ The traditional theoretical view is that 13 $a3$ is best, stifling Black's queenside play. However, apparently Kramnik, for one, does not agree! 13... $\mathbb{H}c8$?! (80b) An attempt to steer the game into uncharted territory. 13... $b4$ is the main theoretical line, with unclear play (not an uncommon evaluation in the Botvinnik System). 14 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $b4$ 14... $c5$ 15 $d5$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 16 $0-0$ $b4$ 17 $\mathbb{W}e3$! is very good for White. 15 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $c5$ 16 $d5$! Kramnik's improvement on 16 $dxc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 18 $0-0$ $\mathbb{Q}d4$, which led to a draw in I.Sokolov-Kamsky, Belgrade 1991. 16... $exd5$ 17 $\mathbb{W}f5$! (80c) 17 $0-0$!? was also successful in Oskulski-Tombette, corr. 1995, but Kramnik's move appears more forcing. 17... $dxe4$ 17... $d4$? 18 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ followed by $0-0$ and $\mathbb{Q}fe1$ gives White an enormous attack, while after 17... $c3$ White can gain a clear advantage by either 18 $\mathbb{W}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ (18... $cx b2$ 19 $\mathbb{H}d1$ $b3+$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ wins) 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ $cx b2$ 20 $\mathbb{H}ae1$ or 18

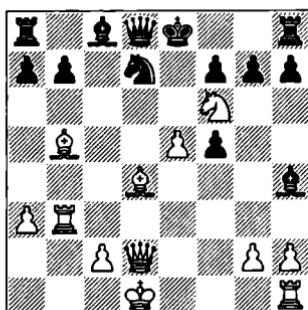
$\mathbb{Q}g4$ $\mathbb{W}b5$ (18... $\mathbb{Q}b5$ 19 $\mathbb{W}xd5$ $cxb2$ 20 $\mathbb{H}d1$ is also very good for White) 19 $\mathbb{W}xd5$ $cxb2$ (19... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ wins) 20 $\mathbb{H}d1$. 18 0-0-0 In return for the piece White has an extremely dangerous attack. 18... $\mathbb{M}c7$ 18... $\mathbb{W}c7$ loses to 19 $\mathbb{W}xe4+$ $\mathbb{W}e5$ (or 19... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 20 $\mathbb{H}he1$ and now both 20... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 21 $\mathbb{W}e3$ and 20... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 21 $f4$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 22 $fxe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 23 $\mathbb{W}g4!$ win for White) 20 $\mathbb{W}xe5+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 21 $\mathbb{H}he1$ $\mathbb{H}d8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ $\mathbb{H}xd1+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ $\mathbb{H}xh2$ 24 $\mathbb{H}xe5+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 25 $\mathbb{H}d5+$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 26 $\mathbb{H}d7+$. 19 $\mathbb{Q}g4!$ (80d) Increasing the pressure against d7 is even stronger than 19 $\mathbb{W}xe4+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$. 19... $\mathbb{Q}b5$ There is no defence; for example, 19... $\mathbb{W}xa2$ 20 $\mathbb{H}xd7$ $\mathbb{W}a1+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}xb2+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{W}c3+$ (22... $\mathbb{W}d4+$ 23 $\mathbb{H}xd4$ $cx d4+$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $c3+$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ and Black is too slow with his pawns) 23 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 24 $\mathbb{H}hd1$ and wins. 20 $\mathbb{W}xe4+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ (80e) 21 $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ The alternative 21... $\mathbb{H}xd7$ fails to 22 $\mathbb{Q}f4!$ $\mathbb{W}a6$ (White also wins after 22... $\mathbb{H}d3$ 23 $\mathbb{W}a8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 24 $\mathbb{H}he1$) 23 $\mathbb{W}a8+$ $\mathbb{W}c8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}xa7$ $\mathbb{H}xd1+$ 25 $\mathbb{H}xd1+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 26 $\mathbb{W}b6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}c7!$ and there is no answer to the threat of 28 $\mathbb{H}e1+$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 29 $\mathbb{W}c6+$ $\mathbb{W}d7$ 30 $\mathbb{W}a8+$. 22 $\mathbb{H}he1$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 22... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ (22... $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}a8\#$) 23 $\mathbb{H}xd6$ $\mathbb{W}xa2$ 24 $\mathbb{W}a8+$ $\mathbb{H}c8$ 25 $\mathbb{H}xd7+$ mates. 23 $\mathbb{W}a8+$ $\mathbb{H}c8$ (80f) 24 $\mathbb{H}xd7+!$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 25 $\mathbb{W}d5+$ 1-0 As mate follows after 25... $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 26 $\mathbb{H}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 27 $\mathbb{W}b7\#$. This game is a good example of modern 'power chess'. Kramnik introduced a well-prepared innovation and followed up with dynamic and incisive play. Although Ehlvest is a strong grandmaster, he lost this game without really having a chance.

80d: After 19 $\mathbb{Q}g4$!80e: After 20... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 80f: After 23... $\mathbb{M}c8$

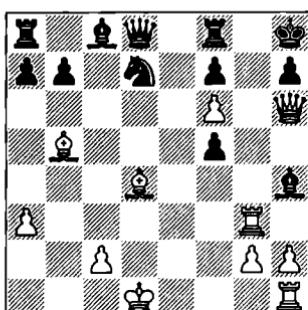
B



B



B

81c: After 21 $\mathbb{W}h6$

81 de Firmian – Hübner

Polanica Zdroj 1995

French Defence, Classical Variation

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 4 e5 $\mathbb{Q}fd7$ 5 f4 c5 6 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ cxd4 8 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 9 $\mathbb{W}d2$ $\mathbb{W}xb2$ This line is similar to the Poisoned Pawn: Black grabs a pawn and some dark squares, but faces an enduring attack.

10 $\mathbb{R}b1$ $\mathbb{W}a3$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}b4$ Now White must choose between two lines.

13 $\mathbb{R}b3$ 13 0-0 is the current preference. 13... $\mathbb{W}a5$ 14 a3 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ Not 14... $\mathbb{Q}xa3?$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{W}xd2+$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ exd5 17 $\mathbb{R}xa3$, when White has strong pressure for the pawn. 15 f5!? 15 $\mathbb{W}e3$ 0-0 16 0-0 is slower, but also quite dangerous. 15...exf5 16 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ (81a) 16... $\mathbb{Q}h4+!?$ 16... $\mathbb{W}xd2+$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ transposes into the note to Black's 17th move. 17 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ 17 g3 $\mathbb{W}xd2+$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ is fine for Black as $\mathbb{R}g3$ is no longer possible. 17... $\mathbb{W}d8?$ Loses by force. 17... $\mathbb{W}xd2+$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}d8!$ 19 $\mathbb{R}g3$ a6 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 21 $\mathbb{R}xg7$ offers White only a faint edge. In attempting to avoid this, Hübner makes a fatal error.

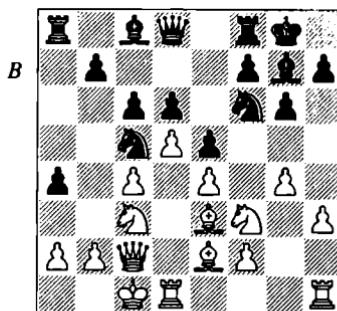
18 $\mathbb{Q}f6+!$ (81b) This sacrifice wins by force. White even had a second extremely strong continuation in 18 $\mathbb{Q}c5$. 18... $\mathbb{gxf6}$ Or 18... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 19 exf6 0-0 (19... $\mathbb{gxf6}$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}e1+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 21 $\mathbb{W}h6+$ wins) 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ $\mathbb{W}xd7$ 21 $\mathbb{R}g3$ $\mathbb{R}d8$ (21...g6 22 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ f4 23 $\mathbb{W}xf4$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}h6$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 25 $\mathbb{R}h3$ is also decisive) 22 $\mathbb{R}xg7+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 23 $\mathbb{R}e1$ with a winning attack. 19 exf6 0-0 Now White has a forced mate in six, but there was nothing better, e.g. 19... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}e1+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xh8$, 19...h6 20 $\mathbb{W}b4$ f4 21 g3 or 19...a6 20 $\mathbb{Q}e1+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xe1+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 22 $\mathbb{W}b4+$, 20 $\mathbb{R}g3+!$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 21 $\mathbb{W}h6$ (81c) 21... $\mathbb{R}g8$ Or 21... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 22 $\mathbb{W}g7+!$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 23 $\mathbb{R}xg7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$. 22 $\mathbb{R}g7$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 1-0 In view of 23 $\mathbb{R}xg8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xg8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}g7\#$.

82 Yurtaev – Shulman

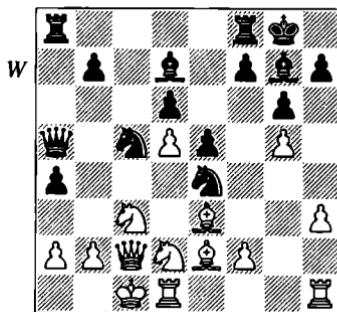
Vladivostok 1995

King's Indian Defence

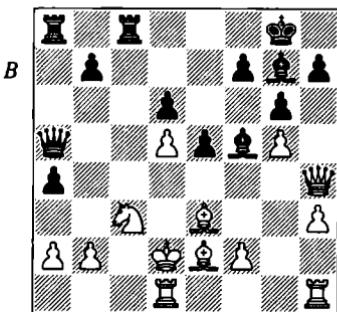
1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 g6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 4 e4 d6 5 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ 0-0 6 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ e5 7 d5 a5 8 h3 $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 9 g4!? An unusual and ambitious move instead of the standard 9 $\mathbb{Q}e3$. 9... $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 10 $\mathbb{W}c2$ c6 11 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ a4!? An innovation. Previously, 11...cx d5 had been played. 12 0-0-0 (82a) 12 dx c5 bxc6 13 0-0-0 $\mathbb{W}c7$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ dxc5 15 g5 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xa4$ wins a pawn, but after 16... $\mathbb{Q}f4$ Black has good compensation. 12...cx d5 13 cx d5 13... $\mathbb{W}a5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ White must act quickly, or else ...b5-b4 will be very strong. 15 g5? 15 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ is better. After 15... $\mathbb{W}c7$ 16 g5 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xh5$ gxh5 the position is double-edged. 15... $\mathbb{Q}fxe4!$ (82b) A well-calculated sacrifice. The opening of the diagonals leading to White's king turns out to give Black a near-decisive attack. 16 $\mathbb{Q}dxe4$ Of course, anything is better than a forced loss, but the alternatives are also fairly bad for White. 16 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xa5$ $\mathbb{Q}xa2+$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}xa5$ gives excellent compensation for the queen, while 16 $\mathbb{Q}cxe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{W}d8!$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 19 $\mathbb{W}h4$ b5 20 $\mathbb{Q}b6$ $\mathbb{Q}c8+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ (21 $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ $\mathbb{W}c7+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ favours Black) 21... $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ (22 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ $\mathbb{W}xb6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ $\mathbb{W}a5+$ is also good for Black) 22... $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ gives Black excellent compensation. 16... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 17 $\mathbb{W}xe4$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}fc8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ a3 wins for Black. 17... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 18 $\mathbb{W}h4$ Or 18 $\mathbb{W}c4$ $\mathbb{Q}fc8$ 19 $\mathbb{W}b5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3+!$ mating. 18... $\mathbb{Q}fc8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ (82c) 19 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ a3 20 b4 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ mates. 19... $\mathbb{Q}xc3!$ Crushing. 20 bxc3 $\mathbb{W}xd5+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{W}xa2$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ $\mathbb{W}a1+$ wins. 21... $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ 22 $\mathbb{W}b4$ Or 22 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{W}xa2$. 22... $\mathbb{Q}f1+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{W}xh1$ 24 $\mathbb{W}xd6$ $\mathbb{W}xh3$ 0-1



82a: After 12 0-0-0



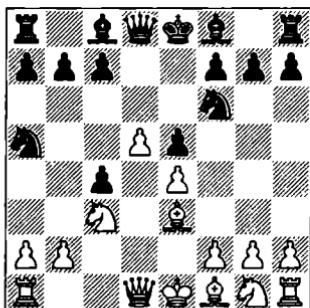
82b: After 15... $\mathbb{Q}fxe4!$



82c: After 19 $\mathbb{Q}d2$

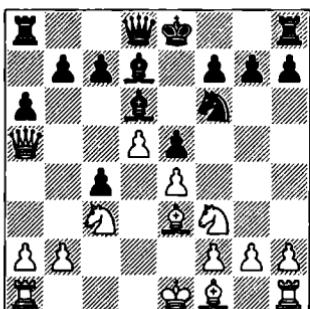
**83 Illescas – Sadler
Linares Zonal 1995
Queen's Gambit Accepted**

W



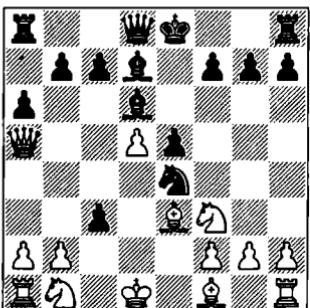
83a: After 6...Qa5!

W



83b: After 9...a6

W



83c: After 11...c3! 0-1

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e4 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 4 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ 5 f3 is an alternative. 5...e5 6 d5 $\mathbb{Q}a5!$ (83a) The critical line, making White fight to regain the c4-pawn. 7 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$! An innovation; hitherto, 7...a6 and 7... $\mathbb{Q}g4$ had been played. 8 $\mathbb{Q}a4+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$! The remarkable point of Black's previous move, offering a piece as early as move eight. 9 $\mathbb{Q}xa5$ a6 (83b) Black threatens to win the queen by 10...b6. In order to extract her majesty, White must make a major concession. 10 $\mathbb{Q}b1$?? Shocked by the sacrifice, White immediately goes wrong. After 10 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ (10... $\mathbb{Q}b8$!) 11 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ b6 12 $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ cxb6 13 $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ is unclear) 11 a3 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ b5 both 13 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ bxa4 14 $\mathbb{Q}xa4$ 0-0 and 13 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ e4 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 16 0-0 0-0 17 $\mathbb{Q}fe1$ f5 are equal. 10 b4! is the critical continuation. Then 10...b6 11 $\mathbb{Q}a3$ a5 12 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ axb4 13 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$! (13...b5 is also possible, but I doubt if Black has enough compensation after 14 $\mathbb{Q}g3$) 14 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ f5 15 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ (15 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ h6 17 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ e4 19 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ 0-0 is unclear) 15... $\mathbb{Q}c3$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ leads to a position in which it is not easy for White to complete his development. 10... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ Covering the queen's retreat. 11 $\mathbb{Q}d1$? This further error cuts the game short, but even 11 b4 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}bd2$ b6 13 $\mathbb{Q}a3$ $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ b5 gives Black three pawns and strong pressure for the piece. 11...c3! (83c) The queen is not to be allowed back. 0-1 12 b4 is the only possible chance, but even this fails to 12...b6 13 $\mathbb{Q}a3$ a5 14 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ (14 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}a4+$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ axb4 is just as bad) 14...axb4 15 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$, when White is dead lost.

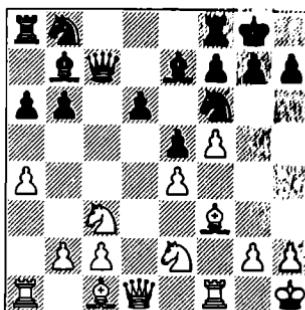
84 Timoshenko – Yudasin

St Petersburg 1996

Sicilian Defence, Scheveningen Variation

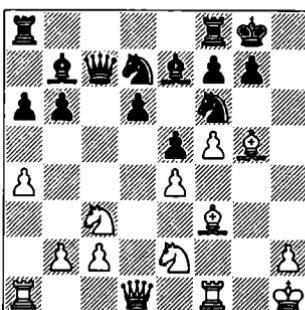
1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 ♜f6 5 ♜c3 a6 6 ♜e2 e6 7 0-0 ♜e7 8 f4 0-0 9 ♜h1 ♜c7 10 a4 b6 11 ♜f3 ♜b7 12 f5 An unusual alternative to the main lines of 12 ♜e1 and 12 e5. 12...e5 13 ♜de2 (84a) 13 ♜b3 has also been played, but without much success. The text-move appears more logical in that it is not obvious what the knight is doing on b3, while on e2 it has a future on the kingside. 13...♜bd7 14 g4 h6?! This passive move gives White the chance to open lines on the kingside. 14...d5! is logical and thematic. After 15 exd5 e4 16 ♜g2 (16 ♜xe4 ♜xd5 17 ♜g2 ♜ad8 also gives Black active play for the pawn) 16...♜xg4 17 ♜g3 ♜df6 18 ♜cxe4 ♜xe4 19 ♜xe4 ♜f6 Black has enough compensation for the pawn. 14...♜c5 15 ♜g3 h6 was played in Mercuri-T.Petrosian, Leipzig Olympiad 1960(!). Then 16 g5 (instead of 16 ♜e3 as played by Mercuri) would be similar to the game. 15 g5 The conditions are particularly favourable for this advance. The bishop comes to g5 without a preliminary stop on e3, and the move ♜h1 makes it easy for White to occupy the g-file. 15 h4? ♜h7 16 ♜e1 ♜d8 is completely wrong as White must either sacrifice a pawn or see his kingside pawns totally blockaded. 15...hxg5 16 ♜xg5 (84b) 16...♜fe8 16...♜fc8 17 ♜g1 ♜f8 18 ♜e1 ♜e8 19 ♜h4 ♜f8 20 ♜h8 favoured White in Glek-Rodriguez Lopez, Budapest 1998. 17 ♜g3 ♜ad8? Black realizes that he must generate counterplay quickly, or else White's kingside attack will become overwhelming. However, his plan of aiming for ...d5 is simply too slow. 17...b5?! is a quicker method of creating play; after 18 ♜d2 (or 18 axb5

B



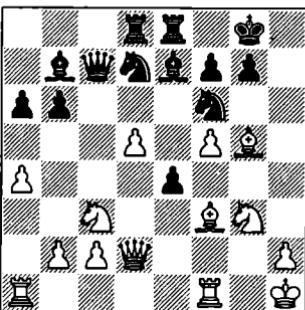
84a: After 13 ♜de2

B



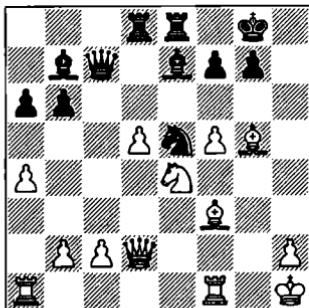
84b: After 16 ♜xg5

W



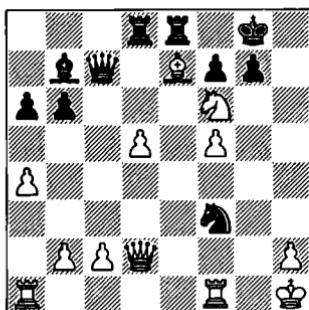
84c: After 19...e4

W



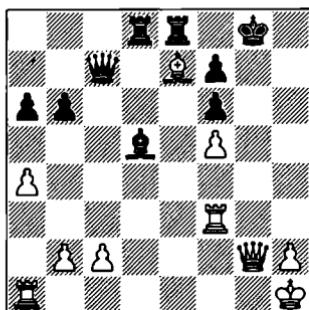
84d: After 21...Qe5

B



84e: After 23...Qf6+!

B



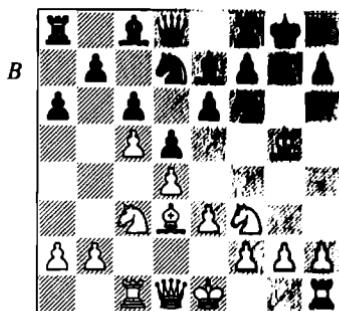
84f: After 25...Qg2+ 1-0

axb5 19 $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}a1$ and Black has good play for the pawn) 18...b4 19 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 20 exd5 $\mathbb{Q}ac8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{Q}c4$! Black has sufficient counterplay to hold the balance. 18 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ d5 19 exd5 e4 (84c) A typical method of generating counterplay in the Sicilian, but it fails in this position because White's pieces are no less active than Black's. 19... $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}g2$! is good for White since 20... $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 21 bxc3 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ loses to 22 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ f6 24 $\mathbb{Q}g1$!. 20 $\mathbb{Q}gxe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 20... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ is refuted by 21 $\mathbb{Q}ae1$! $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ (White also wins after 21... $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xf7+$! $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ or 21... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}g3$) 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ and White remains two pawns up. 21 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$! 23 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ g6 24 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ is also promising. 21... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ (84d) Black attempts to solve his problems tactically, but runs foul of a mating attack. However, even after 21... $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ (22 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$? $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}ae1$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ is less clear) 22...f6 (22... $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ 23 f6 and 22... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ g6 24 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ win for White) 23 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}ad1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ White has both an extra pawn and an attack. 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 22... $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 23 f6 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ (23... $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$) 24 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ and 22... $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 23 f6! $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ g6 25 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 26 c4 are hopeless for Black. 23 $\mathbb{Q}f6$! (84e) A killer blow. 23... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 23... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ forces mate. 24 $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ Or 24... $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}h6$. 25 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ + (84f) 1-0 An attractive finish. The queen unpins the rook to deliver mate next move.

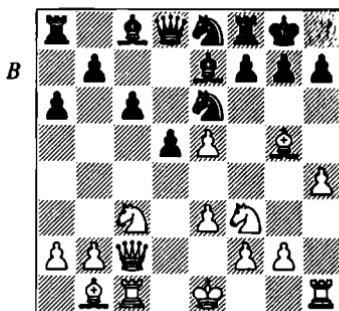
85 Romanishin – Ehilst Biel 1996

*Queen's Gambit Declined,
Orthodox Defence*

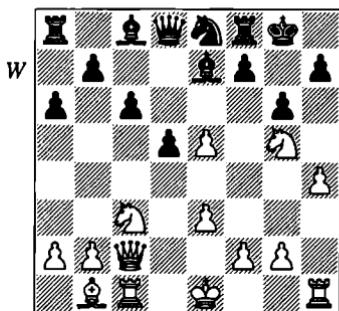
1 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ d5 2 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 3 c4 e6 4 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 0-0 6 e3 $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ c6 8 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ a6 9 c5 (85a) This position more often arises from the move-order 7...a6 8 c5 c6 9 $\mathbb{Q}d3$. 9...e5 10 dxе5 $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 11 h4 The alternatives are 11 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ and 11 $\mathbb{Q}xe7$. 11... $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 12...f6 13 $\mathbb{W}c2$ g6 14 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 15 h5 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 16 $\mathbb{W}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}xb1$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xb1$ gives White a slight advantage, while 12...f5? loses to 13 $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ cxd5 14 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$. 13 $\mathbb{W}c2$!? (85b) 13 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ g6 gave White no advantage in Korchnoi-Agdestein, Tilburg 1989. 13... $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ This is certainly risky, as it gives White the possibility of breaking open Black's kingside with a sacrifice. Although this sacrifice is not clearly correct, it is of a type which often succeeds in practice. 13...g6 (13...f5? loses to 14 exf6 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$) 14 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ (14... $\mathbb{Q}g6$??! 15 h5 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 16 e4 dxе4 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{W}a5+$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}d5$ 19 hxg6 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ was slightly better for White in Izeta-Sulskis, Erevan Olympiad 1996) is a relatively safer defence for Black. Then 15 h5 $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 16 hxg6 fxg6 17 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ $\mathbb{W}a5$ was unclear in Lipinsky-Kharitonov, Berlin 1997. Even though Kharitonov eventually won this game, I would be very nervous playing this line with Black – White gets a strong attack without any sacrifice and Black's counterplay is rather slow to materialize. 14 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ g6 (85c) 15 $\mathbb{Q}xh7$! At the very least, this poses many practical problems for Black. 15... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 15... $\mathbb{Q}f5$? is worse because 16 e4 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 18 h5 dxе4 19 hxg6++ gives White an enormous attack, for example 19... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xe4$ $\mathbb{W}d5$ (20...f5 21 $\mathbb{W}e3$! wins) 21 $\mathbb{W}f5$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 22 0-0, with the deadly



85a: After 9 c5

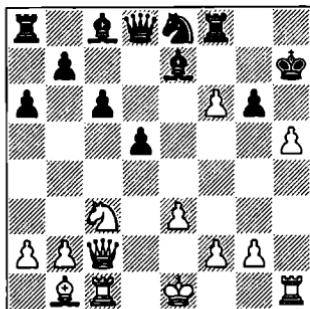


85b: After 13 Wc2!?



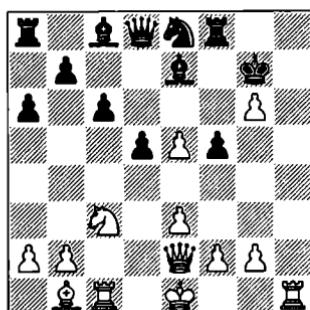
85c: After 14...g6

B



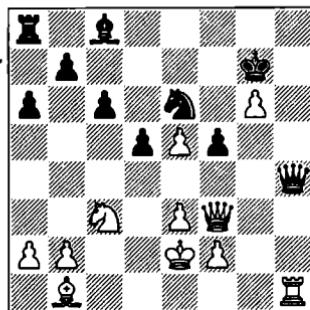
85d: After 17 exf6 (analysis)

B



85e: After 18 We2!

B



85f: After 24 Bh1 1-0

threat of 23 g7, or 19... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 20 $\mathbb{H}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xe4$ $\mathbb{W}d5$ (21... $\mathbb{W}a5+$ 22 $\mathbb{R}c3$ wins) 22 $\mathbb{W}f5$ $\mathbb{R}d8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}f1!$ and Black cannot meet the many threats (e.g. 24 $\mathbb{W}h5$). 16 $\mathbb{h}5$ $\mathbb{Q}g7?$ After this the attack breaks through quickly. However, it was not easy to choose the right defence from the various options. 16... $\mathbb{Q}g8?$ is also inferior because 17 $hxg6$ $f5$ 18 $\mathbb{W}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 19 $\mathbb{W}f3$ $f4$ (to prevent 20 $\mathbb{W}h3$) 20 $exf4$ gives White three pawns for the piece and there is still the threat of transferring the queen to the h-file by $\mathbb{W}g3-h2$.

The best defence is 16... $f5!$. Then 17 $exf6$ (85d) (17 $hxg6++$ $\mathbb{Q}xg6!$ is less dangerous for Black) 17... $\mathbb{Q}xf6!$ (but not 17... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xg6+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 19 $g4$ and now both 19... $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ 20 $\mathbb{R}g1$ $\mathbb{W}d7$ 21 $\mathbb{W}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 22 $f3$ and 19... $d4$ 20 $\mathbb{R}d1$ are good for White) 18 $hxg6++$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ results in a position where White only needs to bring his queen to the h-file to finish the game. However, this is far from easy as Black's pieces cover the direct routes, so he has chances to defend.

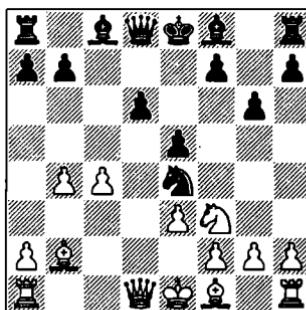
17 $hxg6$ White has (at least!) two deadly threats: 18 $gxf7$ and 18 $\mathbb{H}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 19 $g7$. 17... $f5$ 18 $\mathbb{W}e2!$ (85e) Threatening both 19 $\mathbb{W}h5$ and 19 $\mathbb{H}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 20 $\mathbb{W}h5$. There is no reasonable defence. 18... $\mathbb{Q}h4$ 19 $g3$ $\mathbb{H}h8$ 20 $gxh4$ $\mathbb{H}xh4$ 21 $\mathbb{W}f3$ Black's king is too exposed for him to survive long. 21... $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 21... $\mathbb{H}xh1$ + 22 $\mathbb{W}xh1$ $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 23 $\mathbb{R}d2$ is crushing. 22 $\mathbb{W}e2$ The arrival of the other rook seals Black's fate. 22... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ Or 22... $d4$ 23 $\mathbb{H}xh4$ $\mathbb{W}xh4$ 24 $\mathbb{H}h1$ $\mathbb{W}g4$ 25 $\mathbb{W}xg4$ $fxg4$ 26 $\mathbb{H}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ and wins. 23 $\mathbb{H}xh4$ $\mathbb{W}xh4$ 24 $\mathbb{H}h1$ (85f) 1-0 As 24... $\mathbb{W}g4$ 25 $\mathbb{H}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ (25... $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 26 $\mathbb{W}xg4+$) 26 $\mathbb{W}xg4$ $fxg4$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ followed by $\mathbb{Q}b6$ ends any resistance.

86

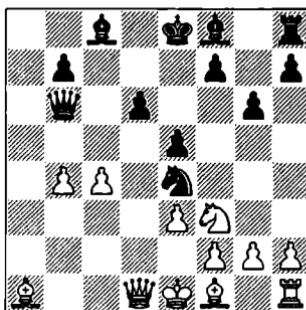
Miles – Atalik
Beijing 1996
Queen's Pawn

1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 e6 3 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ c5 4 e3 g6 5 dx c 5 5
 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ is more common. 5... $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 6 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$
6... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 7 $\mathbb{W}d6$ $\mathbb{W}a5$ (7... $\mathbb{Q}f8?$ 8 $\mathbb{W}e5!$) 8
 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}xc5$ 9 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ gives White just an edge.
7 $\mathbb{W}d4!?$ d6 8 b4 e5 9 $\mathbb{W}d1$ 9 $\mathbb{Q}xe5??$ loses
to 9... $\mathbb{Q}e6$. 9... $\mathbb{Q}ce4$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}b2$
(86a) Given time, White will gain the ad-
vantage due to Black's vulnerable d-pawn,
so Black must act quickly. 11... a5 12 a3?!
Now Black equalizes. 12 $\mathbb{W}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ (not
12... $\mathbb{W}b6?$ 13 a3 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 14 c5! dx c 5 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$,
which is very good for White) 13 $\mathbb{H}d1$ $\mathbb{W}c7$
14 b5! $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xd3$ would
have given White a slight positional advan-
tage. 12... axb4 13 axb4 $\mathbb{L}xa1$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xa1!?$
White should have played 14 $\mathbb{W}xa1$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 15
 $\mathbb{W}a4+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 16 $\mathbb{W}a8+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 17 $\mathbb{W}a3$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 18
c5?!, maintaining the balance. 14... $\mathbb{W}b6!$
(86b) Suddenly Black takes over the initia-
tive. 15 $\mathbb{W}a4+?$ The start of a misguided ma-
noeuvre which displaces Black's king but
leaves White dangerously behind in devel-
opment. 15 $\mathbb{W}b1$ is better. 15... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 16
 $\mathbb{W}a8+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ Black's king is relatively safe on
e7. 17 $\mathbb{W}a3$ After 17 $\mathbb{W}a5$ $\mathbb{W}xa5$ 18 bx a 5
 $\mathbb{Q}g7$ White's queenside pawns are in trou-
ble. 17... $\mathbb{Q}h6!$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}e2!?$ Allows a forced
win, but the alternatives were uninviting: 18
 $\mathbb{Q}d3?$ $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{W}xe3+$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}a8$ 21
 $\mathbb{W}xa8$ $\mathbb{W}xd3+$ wins easily, or 18 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2!$
19 $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}e6!$ with a clear plus for Black.
18... $\mathbb{Q}a8!$ 19 $\mathbb{W}b2$ (86c) 19 $\mathbb{W}xa8$ $\mathbb{W}xb4+$ 20
 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{W}b1+$ mates. 19... $\mathbb{Q}xe3!$ 20 fx e 3 $\mathbb{W}xe3$
21 c5 There is no defence: 21 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ (21 $\mathbb{Q}f1$
 $\mathbb{W}a7$ is a neat win) 21... $\mathbb{W}f2+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ $\mathbb{Q}a4+$
23 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{W}e3+$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}d2+$ wins White's
queen. 21... $\mathbb{Q}b5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{W}f2+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}d1$
 $\mathbb{Q}a4+$ 0-1 Mate follows shortly.

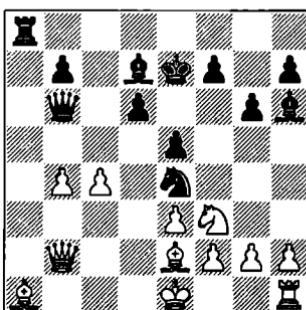
B

86a: After 11 $\mathbb{Q}b2$

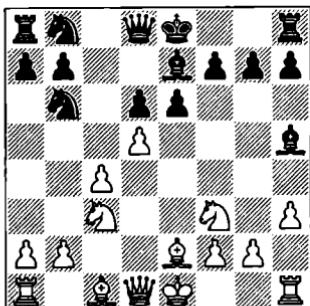
W

86b: After 14... $\mathbb{W}b6!$

B

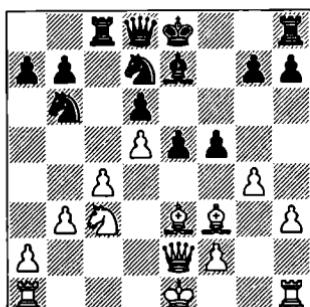
86c: After 19 $\mathbb{W}b2$

B



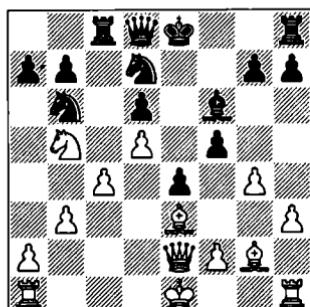
87a: After 10 d5!?

B



87b: After 15 g4!

B



87c: After 17 Qb5!!

87 Bologan – Tischbierek

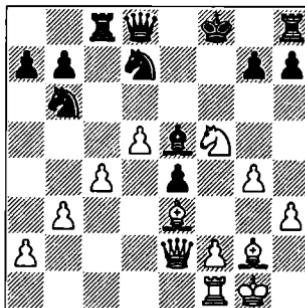
Vienna Open 1996

Alekhine Defence

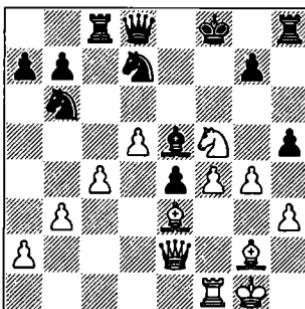
1 e4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 e5 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 3 d4 d6 4 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ e6 6 h3 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 7 c4 $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 8 exd6 An interesting alternative to the usual 8 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 9 0-0. 8...cxsd6 9 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 10 d5!? (87a) White takes direct action before Black can castle. 10 0-0-0 would transpose to normal lines. 10...e5 11 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ 11 g4!? $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 12 h4 h6 13 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ also led to success for White in Bologan-Agdestein, Erevan Olympiad 1996 (played after the current game). 11... $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 11... $\mathbb{Q}8d7$ 12 g4 $\mathbb{Q}g6$ is also playable. After 13 h4 h5 14 g5 a6 15 b3 $\mathbb{W}c7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ 0-0 17 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ g6 the position was unclear in Vescovi-Leitão, Brazilian Ch, Itabirito 1998. 12 $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{Q}8d7$ 13 $\mathbb{W}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 14 b3 f5? A serious error. Of course, ...f5 is Black's main plan, but it is risky to play it before castling. 14...0-0 15 g4 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ would have been roughly equal. 15 g4! (87b) White exposes the flaw in Black's last move. 15...e4 Or 15...f4 (15...g6? loses to 16 gxf5 gxf5 17 $\mathbb{Q}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}h6+$, while 15...0-0 16 gxf5 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}g4$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ prevents ... $\mathbb{Q}g5$ and gives White the advantage) 16 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 19 b4 $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}c1$ and Black's light squares are permanently weak. 16 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ Black cannot prevent the collapse of his central pawn chain, so he aims to exploit the tactical weakness of the long dark diagonal. 17 $\mathbb{Q}b5!!$ (87c) White's response is to sacrifice a whole rook. 17 $\mathbb{Q}c1?$ is bad in view of the reply 17... $\mathbb{Q}xc3+$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$. 17... $\mathbb{Q}xa1$ 17... $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ leaves Black with no compensation for his disintegrating centre. 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 18... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xf5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 20 0-0 is even worse than the game, e.g. 20... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 21 g5 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}d4$

$\mathbb{Q}c5$ 23 b4 $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 24 bxc5 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 25 $\mathbb{W}g4$ with a crushing attack. 19 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ After 19... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 20 g5! $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ (or 20... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ g6 22 f4!, again with a very strong attack) 21 $\mathbb{W}h5$ g6 22 $\mathbb{W}xg5$ $\mathbb{W}xg5$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{B}b8$ 24 f3 exf3 25 $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ White has more than enough for the exchange, e.g. 25... $\mathbb{Q}c8$ (25... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3+$ 27 $\mathbb{H}xf3$ $\mathbb{H}g8$ 28 $\mathbb{M}e3$ and Black is helpless) 26 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ g5 27 $\mathbb{M}e1!$ $\mathbb{Q}cb6$ 28 $\mathbb{M}e3$ with c5 to come. 20 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ (87d) Demolishing Black's centre is more important than taking the exchange. In return for the rook White has only two pawns, but Black's defensive task is very difficult. His king is permanently exposed, the extra rook on h8 is playing no part in the game and White's pieces are extremely active. 20...h5? Trying to bring the rook into the game, but there is no time for this. However, after 20...g6 (20... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 21 f4 exf3 22 $\mathbb{W}xf3$ h6 23 d6 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 25 $\mathbb{W}xb7$ wins) 21 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ (21... $\mathbb{W}f6$ 22 f3?! $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 23 fxe4 $\mathbb{W}e7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{W}d7$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ removes the blockade of e5, when the central pawns can be set in motion) 22 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ (22... $\mathbb{H}g8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xe4$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ 24 $\mathbb{W}f4+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 25 d6 $\mathbb{H}f8$ 26 $\mathbb{W}g3$ $\mathbb{W}e2$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ wins) 23 $\mathbb{W}e3!$ (guaranteeing that f3 will open the f-file) 23... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 24 f3 $\mathbb{H}f8$ 25 fxe4 $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 26 e5 the position speaks for itself. 21 f4! (87e) 21...exf3 There is nothing better, e.g. 21... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 22 g5 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ (22...g6 23 $\mathbb{Q}d6$) 23 d6 or 21... $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{H}g8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}b2$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 24 g5 $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 25 $\mathbb{W}a3+$. 22 $\mathbb{W}xf3$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 22... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 23 g5 and 22... $\mathbb{W}f6$ 23 g5 $\mathbb{W}f7$ 24 $\mathbb{W}e2$ are winning. 23 d6 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ Or 23... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ (23...hxg4 24 $\mathbb{W}xg4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 26 $\mathbb{W}g6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ wins) 24 g5 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{W}xg5$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 27 $\mathbb{W}e4+$ g6 28 $\mathbb{H}f7+$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 29 h4 $\mathbb{W}c5+$ 30 $\mathbb{Q}h1$ leading to a quick mate. 24 g5 (87f) 1-0 As 24... $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ (25... $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 26 g6#; 25... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}g6+)$ 26 $\mathbb{W}d5+$ finishes Black off.

B

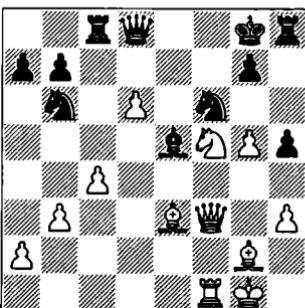
87d: After 20 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$

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87e: After 21 f4!

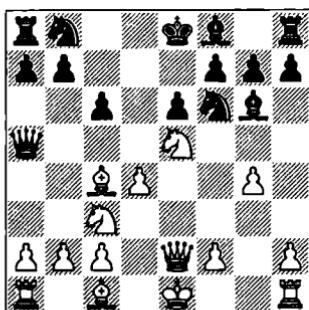
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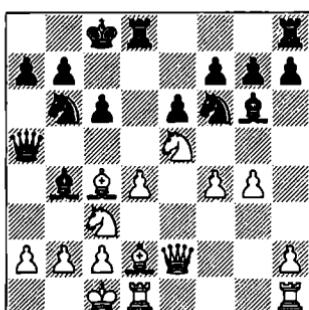
87f: After 24 g5 1-0

88 Smirin – Ricardi
Erevan Olympiad 1996
Scandinavian Defence

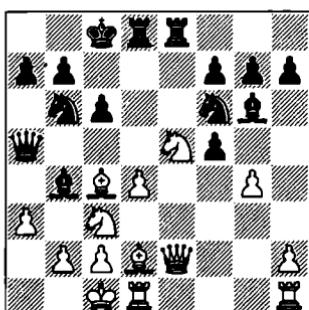
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88a: After 9 $\mathbb{W}e2$

W

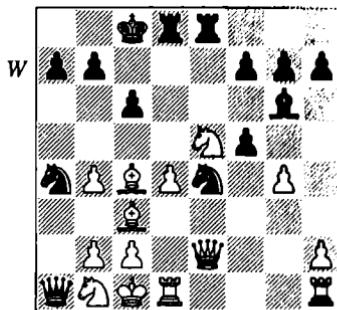
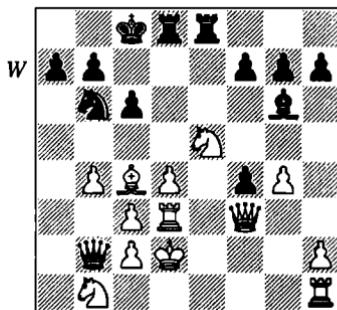
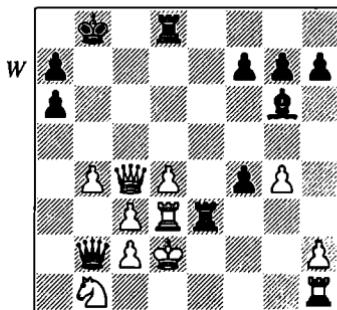
88b: After 12... $\mathbb{Q}b6!?$

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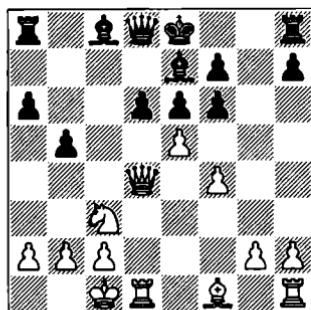
88c: After 14... $\mathbb{M}he8!$

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 $\mathbb{W}xd5$ 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{W}a5$ 4 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 5...c6 is the more common move-order, but 5... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ has little independent significance as play almost always transposes back to normal lines. This game, however, is an exception. 6 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 6 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ c6 7 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ reaches another main line of the Scandinavian. 6...c6 7 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ e6 8 g4 $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 9 $\mathbb{W}e2$ (88a) Slightly unusual; 9 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ and 9 h4 are played more often. It seems to me that White is unlikely to gain an advantage after the text-move. 9... $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 10... $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ 11 $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ 0-0 12 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ favours White. 11 f4 An aggressive attempt to inconvenience the g6-bishop, but this plan is double-edged. If it doesn't work, then the advance of the f-pawn will merely weaken White's position. 11 0-0-0 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 12 dx5 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ is safer, but the resulting exchanges are likely to lead to dull equality. White was hoping for more, but ends up with less. 11...0-0-0 12 0-0-0 12 f5 exf5 13 gxf5 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}hf8$ is very good for Black, while even 12 0-0 $\mathbb{W}b6$ gives Black an edge. 12... $\mathbb{Q}b6!?$ (88b) Ambitious play by Black, especially as he could have equalized easily by 12... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 13 fxe5 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2+$ 15 $\mathbb{W}xd2$ $\mathbb{W}xd2+$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ cxd5. 13 f5?! 13 $\mathbb{Q}b3?$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 14 a3 $\mathbb{Q}xd2!$ 15 $\mathbb{W}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$ is also bad, so the best chance was 13 a3. After 13... $\mathbb{Q}xa3$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}a2!$ (not 14 $\mathbb{Q}d5?$ $\mathbb{Q}xb2+$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4+$ and Black wins) 14... $\mathbb{W}a4$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{W}xd4!$ 16 c3 the position is very unclear. 13...exf5 14 a3? 14 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ fxg4 16 a3 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ $\mathbb{W}g5+$ restricts Black to a slight plus. 14... $\mathbb{M}he8!$ (88c) A correct piece sacrifice. 14... $\mathbb{Q}xa3$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}a2$ is unclear, but 14... $\mathbb{Q}xd4!$ is also

very strong, e.g. 15 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ (15 axb4 $\mathbb{W}a1+$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}b1 \mathbb{Q}e4$ wins) 15... $\mathbb{B}xd2$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xd2$ (White loses after both 16 $\mathbb{Q}e6+$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xc6+$ $\mathbb{B}xc6$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 19 $\mathbb{W}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 20 $\mathbb{B}xc3$ $\mathbb{W}xc3$ and 16 $\mathbb{B}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}e6+$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$) 16... $\mathbb{W}xe5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xf5+$ $\mathbb{W}xf5$ 19 $\mathbb{g}xf5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2+$ 20 $\mathbb{B}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ and Black should win the ending. 15 axb4 Acceptance is forced, since 15 $\mathbb{g}xf5$ $\mathbb{Q}h5$ and 15 $\mathbb{W}f1$ $\mathbb{B}xd4$ are hopeless. 15... $\mathbb{W}a1+$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}a4$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ The only way to defend b2. 17... $\mathbb{Q}e4$ (88d) All Black's pieces are in excellent attacking positions, and White is under tremendous pressure both on the queenside and down the central files. 18 $\mathbb{H}d3$ There is no real defence, e.g. 18 $\mathbb{W}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}exc3$ 19 $\mathbb{B}xc3$ f6 and 18 $\mathbb{W}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}exc3$ 19 $\mathbb{B}xc3$ f4 20 $\mathbb{W}xf4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ both win for Black. 18...f4 18... $\mathbb{Q}exc3$ 19 $\mathbb{B}xc3$ f6 is also effective. 19 $\mathbb{W}f3$ Removing the queen from the gaze of the e8-rook. 19 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}exc3$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}e7+$ $\mathbb{B}xe7$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xe7$ $\mathbb{B}xb1+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}xh1$ 23 $\mathbb{B}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}b2$ is catastrophic. 19... $\mathbb{Q}exc3$ 20 $\mathbb{B}xc3$ $\mathbb{W}b2+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}b6!$ (88e) White's curious pawn structure has left c4 vulnerable. 22 $\mathbb{Q}a6$ The alternatives 22 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $\mathbb{B}xe5!$ 23 $\mathbb{d}xe5$ $\mathbb{B}xd3+$, 22 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{B}xe5$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xf4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ 24 $\mathbb{W}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ and 22 $\mathbb{H}e1$ $\mathbb{B}xe5!$ are all winning for Black. 22... $\mathbb{B}xa6$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xc6+$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}c4$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ is refuted by 24... $\mathbb{B}c8!$ 25 $\mathbb{W}d6+$ (25 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ $\mathbb{B}xe5!)$ 25... $\mathbb{Q}a8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ $\mathbb{B}xe5$ 27 $\mathbb{d}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}c4+$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 29 $\mathbb{B}xd6$ $\mathbb{W}xc2+$. 24... $\mathbb{Q}xc4+$ 25 $\mathbb{W}xc4$ $\mathbb{H}e3!$ (88f) 0-1 A surprising and neat finish. The pins from b2 to d2 and g6 to c2 mean that the d3-rook is oddly trapped. Of course 26 $\mathbb{B}xe3$ $\mathbb{W}xc2+$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{fxe}3$ is not worth continuing.

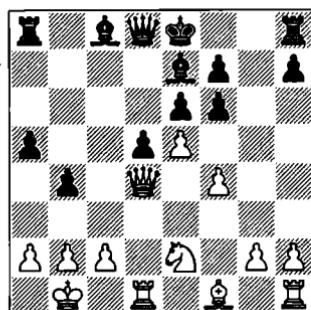
88d: After 17... $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 88e: After 21... $\mathbb{Q}b6!$ 88f: After 25... $\mathbb{W}e3!$ 0-1

B



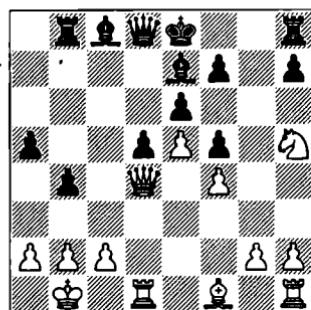
89a: After 12 e5!

W



89b: After 14...a5

W



89c: After 16...b8

89 Kasparov – Hraček Erevan Olympiad 1996

Sicilian Defence, Richter-Rauzer Attack

1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5

$\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 6 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ e6 7 $\mathbb{W}d2$ a6 8 0-0-0 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$

This alternative to the usual 8...h6 and 8... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ has recently become quite popular.

9 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 10 f4 b5 11 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ gxf6 12 e5!

(89a) Before this game, White had tried a whole range of other possibilities, but thanks to Kasparov's spectacular success here, 12 e5 instantly became the main line. 12...d5

Forced, as the two captures on e5 are bad: 12...dxe5 13 $\mathbb{W}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 15

$\mathbb{Q}xb5+$ axb5 16 $\mathbb{M}d1+$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ favours White, while 12...fxe5 13 fxe5 dxe5

14 $\mathbb{W}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}g5+$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{W}f6$ 16 $\mathbb{W}e4$ followed by $\mathbb{W}c6+$ even wins for White. 13

$\mathbb{Q}b1$ b4? A definite error – Black drives the white knight over to the kingside, where it proves even more dangerous. In later games

Black tried either 13... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ or 13... $\mathbb{M}g8$ – for more details consult your database! 14 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ Grabbing a pawn by 14 exf6?! $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 15

$\mathbb{W}xb4$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ only activates Black's pieces. 14...a5 (89b) Black cannot castle in view of his shattered kingside, so he hopes to create counterplay with his king in the centre. It is important for White's plan that 14... $\mathbb{M}b8$ 15

f5 $\mathbb{W}b6$ does not force the exchange of queens; White can continue 16 $\mathbb{W}g4$ fxe5 17

$\mathbb{W}g7$ $\mathbb{M}f8$ 18 $\mathbb{W}xe5$ $\mathbb{W}d6$ 19 $\mathbb{W}g7$ with an advantage. 15 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ Heading for h5. 15...f5

15... $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ f5 17 $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ $\mathbb{M}xa6$ 18 h3

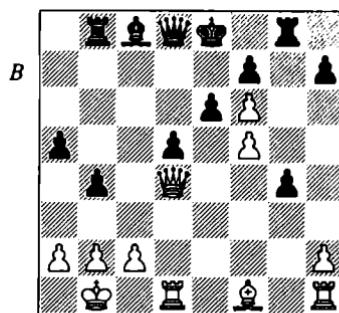
followed by g4 favours White, while 15...h5 16 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ h4 17 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ does nothing to help Black's position. 16 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ $\mathbb{M}b8$ (89c) After

16... $\mathbb{M}g8$ 17 h3 a4 18 g4 fxg4 19 hxg4 $\mathbb{M}xg4$ 20

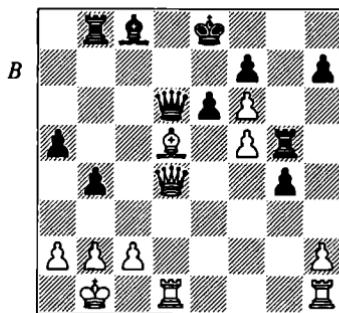
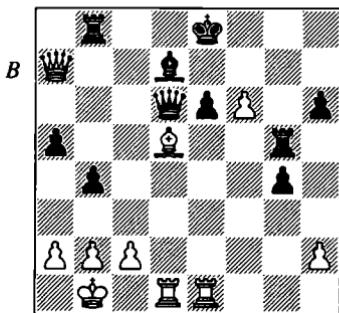
$\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{M}g8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 22 exf6 White has a very strong attack for the sacrificed pawn. 17 g4! This is the start of an impressive

17 g4! This is the start of an impressive

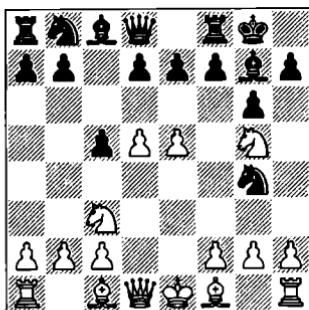
sacrificial breakthrough. 17...fxg4 18 f5 $\mathbb{E}g8$ 18...exf5 fails to 19 e6 $\mathbb{E}g8$ (19...f6 20 $\mathbb{W}f4$ $\mathbb{B}b6?$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}g7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 22 $\mathbb{W}h6$ wins) 20 exf7+ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ (21... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ is decisive) 22 $\mathbb{B}hf1$ $\mathbb{E}g5$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ (23... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 24 $\mathbb{W}f4$ is very pleasant for White) 24 $\mathbb{W}d3$ $\mathbb{W}d7$ 25 h4 gxh3 26 $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ $\mathbb{E}f8$ 27 $\mathbb{E}xf5$ $\mathbb{E}fxf5$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{E}xf5$ 29 $\mathbb{E}f1$ and the pin proves fatal. 19 $\mathbb{Q}f6+!$ 19 f6 $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}g7+$ $\mathbb{E}xg7$ 21 fxg7 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ is less clear. 19... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 20 exf6 (89d) 20... $\mathbb{W}d6$ 20...exf5 21 $\mathbb{W}e5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 22 $\mathbb{E}xd5!$ $\mathbb{W}xd5$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xb8+$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}b5+$ wins Black's queen. 21 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ 21 fxe6 fxe6 22 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ is also very promising. 21... $\mathbb{E}g5?$ Black collapses and allows White to break through in the centre. The lines 21...exf5 22 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 23 $\mathbb{W}a7$, 21...e5 22 $\mathbb{E}he1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 23 $\mathbb{E}xe5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ and 21... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 22 $\mathbb{W}e3$ a4 23 $\mathbb{W}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}xh7$ $\mathbb{E}f8$ 25 $\mathbb{E}he1$ also offer Black no defensive chances. The only way to continue the fight was by 21... $\mathbb{B}b7!$, although White retains a clear advantage after 22 $\mathbb{W}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}h6$. 22 $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ (89e) The capture of Black's bastion in the centre opens more lines for White's pieces to penetrate towards the enemy king. 22... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ The alternatives are equally bad, e.g. 22... $\mathbb{W}xd5$ 23 $\mathbb{W}f4$ $\mathbb{W}xf5$ 24 $\mathbb{W}xb8$, 22... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{W}xd4$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}c6+$ or 22... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}e3$. 23 $\mathbb{E}he1$ The last piece joins the attack. 23... $\mathbb{h}6$ With such an array of force in the centre, it is not surprising that Black cannot defend. The variations run 23... $\mathbb{E}xf5$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{W}xd4$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xf5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 26 $\mathbb{E}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 27 $\mathbb{E}e5$, 23...b3 24 axb3 $\mathbb{B}b4$ 25 $\mathbb{W}a7$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 26 fxe6 $\mathbb{W}xa7$ 27 exd7++ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 28 $\mathbb{W}e8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 29 $\mathbb{E}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 30 $\mathbb{Q}c4+$ and 23... $\mathbb{E}c8$ 24 fxe6 fxe6 25 $\mathbb{W}e4$, with a win for White in all cases. 24 fxe6 fxe6 25 $\mathbb{W}a7$ (89f) 1-0 The threat of 26 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ is unanswerable.



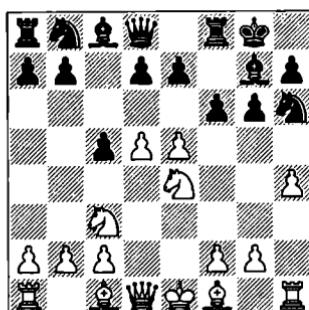
89d: After 20 exf6

89e: After 22 $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ 89f: After 25 $\mathbb{W}a7$ 1-0

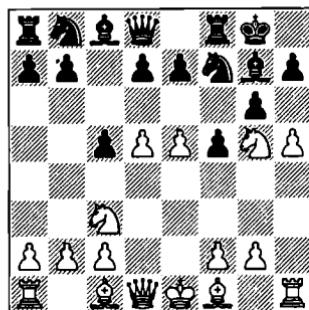
B

90a: After 7 $\mathbb{Q}g5!$

B

90b: After 9 $\mathbb{Q}ge4!$

B

90c: After 11 $\mathbb{Q}g5$

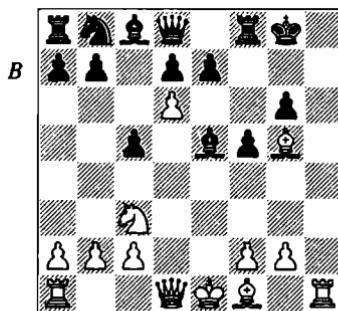
90 Khuzman – Minasian

European Team Ch, Pula 1997

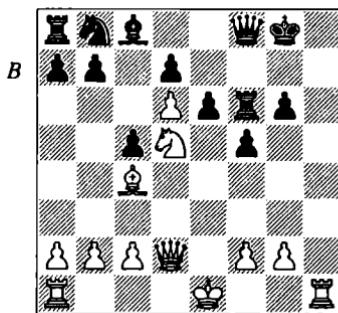
Schmid Benoni

1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ c5 3 d5 g6 4 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 5 e4 0-0 For many years this was an accepted move-order for Black (instead of 5...d6), but in the mid-1990s a new idea for White suddenly appeared, targeted at precisely this move-order. Practical results with it have so far been heavily in White's favour. 6 e5! $\mathbb{Q}g4$ The most natural move. Black's only real alternative is 6... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ but after 7 h4 d6 8 e6 fxe6 9 h5 exd5 10 hxg6 hxg6 11 $\mathbb{W}xd5+$ e6 12 $\mathbb{W}d3$ White has good play for the pawn. 7 $\mathbb{Q}g5!$ (90a) This is the point of White's idea. 7... $\mathbb{Q}h6$ A critical moment. 7... $\mathbb{Q}xe5?$ is definitely bad after 8 f4 f6 (8...h6? loses a piece to 9 $\mathbb{Q}h3$) 9 $\mathbb{Q}xh7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 10 fxe5 fxe5 11 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ with a massive attack. Two other moves have been either played or suggested, but both 7...h5 8 f4 d6 9 h3 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 10 e6 and 7...d6 8 e6 f5 9 h3 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 10 g4 look good for White to me. 8 h4 White is prepared to give up the e5-pawn to open the h-file against the enemy king. 8...f6 8... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 9 h5 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ (or 9... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}xh7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 11 hxg6+ fxg6 12 $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 13 $\mathbb{W}d2$ and wins) loses to 10 $\mathbb{Q}xh7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 11 hxg6++ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 13 $\mathbb{W}h5$ fxg6 14 $\mathbb{W}xg6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ with a winning attack. 9 $\mathbb{Q}ge4!$ (90b) Stronger than 9 $\mathbb{Q}f3$, as played before this game. 9... $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 9...fxe5 10 h5 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 11 hxg6 hxg6 12 $\mathbb{W}g4$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}a4!$ drives the queen off the third rank and wins. 10 h5! Consistently pursuing the attack. 10 exf6 exf6 11 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ wins a pawn but gives Black some counterplay after 11... $\mathbb{W}e7+$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ d6 13 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ f5. 10...f5 10... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 11 hxg6 hxg6 12 f4 $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 13 $\mathbb{W}g4$ is clearly better for White. 11 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ (90c) 11... $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 11... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}xh7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 13 hxg6++ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 14 $\mathbb{W}h5$

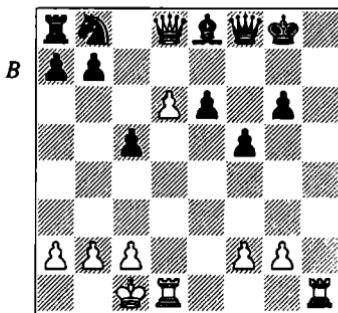
$\mathbb{E}e8$ 15 $\mathbb{W}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ mates. 11... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ fails to 12 $\mathbb{Q}xh7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3+$ (12... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 13 $\mathbb{h}xg6++$ $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ leads to a forced mate after 14 $\mathbb{W}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 15 $\mathbb{W}h4+$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 16 $\mathbb{W}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}g5+$! $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 18 $\mathbb{H}h5+$) 13 $bxc3$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 14 $\mathbb{h}xg6++$ $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 15 $\mathbb{W}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 16 $\mathbb{W}h4+$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ (16... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 17 $\mathbb{W}g3+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}g5+$ $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 19 $\mathbb{H}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xg5$ mates) 17 $\mathbb{Q}c4!$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}f4+$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe5+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 20 0-0-0 and wins. 12 $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ Black finally removes the cramping e5-pawn, but White's initiative is too strong. If 12... $\mathbb{h}6$, then 13 $\mathbb{h}xg6!$ $\mathbb{h}xg5$ 14 $\mathbb{H}h8+!!$ $\mathbb{Q}xh8$ 15 $\mathbb{W}h5$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 16 $gxf7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $e6$ 18 0-0-0 followed by $\mathbb{H}h1$ wins. 13 $\mathbb{h}xg6$ $\mathbb{h}xg6$ 14 $d6!$ (90d) Burying the c8-bishop and opening the diagonal from c4 to g8. 14... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 14... $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}c4+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}d5+$ is decisive. 15 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ After 15... $exf6$ White wins by 16 $\mathbb{W}d2$ $\mathbb{W}e8+$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}d1$ $g5$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}d5$. 16 $\mathbb{Q}c4+$ $e6$ 16... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ loses to 17 $\mathbb{W}d2$. 17 $\mathbb{W}d2$ $\mathbb{W}f8$ 17... $\mathbb{H}f7$ leads to very much the same type of finish after 18 $\mathbb{Q}d5!$ $exd5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{W}f6$ (19... $\mathbb{W}f8$ transposes into the note to Black's 19th) 20 $\mathbb{W}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ (21... $\mathbb{W}xf7$ 22 $\mathbb{H}h8+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 23 $\mathbb{H}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 24 $\mathbb{H}f8)$ 22 $\mathbb{H}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}e7!$ $\mathbb{W}xe7+$ 24 $dxe7$ and wins. 18 $\mathbb{Q}d5!$ (90e) Forcing open the diagonal from c4 to g8. 18... $exd5$ 18... $\mathbb{H}f7$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}c7$. 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e6+$ White wins after 19... $\mathbb{H}f7$ 20 $\mathbb{W}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ (20... $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 21 $\mathbb{W}d8+$ $\mathbb{W}f8$ 22 $\mathbb{W}f6)$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 22 $\mathbb{H}h7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 23 $\mathbb{W}e7+!$. 20 $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ $dxe6$ 21 $\mathbb{W}g5$ Black's position is hopeless. All his pieces lie on the back rank and only his queen is trying to defend the kingside. 21... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 21... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 22 $\mathbb{W}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xf8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 24 $\mathbb{H}h8+$ wins. 22 0-0-0 $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 22... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ loses after 23 $\mathbb{H}h6$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ (23... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 24 $f4$) 24 $d7$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 25 $\mathbb{W}h4!$ $\mathbb{W}g7$ 26 $d8\mathbb{W}+$. 23 $\mathbb{W}d8!$ (90f) 1-0 Black is totally paralysed. White wins after 23... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 24 $d7$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 25 $\mathbb{H}h7+$ or 23... $\mathbb{W}f7$ 24 $d7$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 25 $\mathbb{W}xa8$.



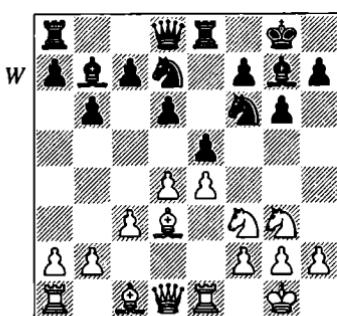
90d: After 14 d6!



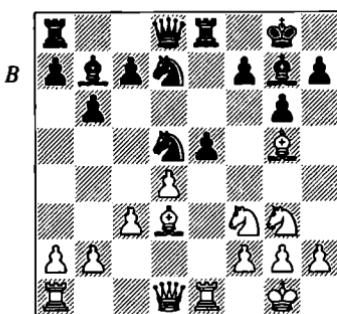
90e: After 18 Qd5!



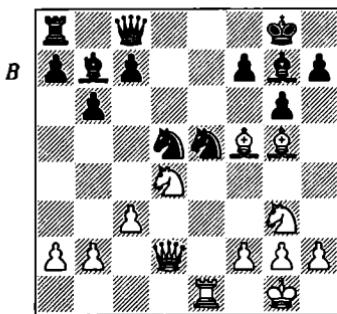
90f: After 23 Wd8! 1-0



91a: After 10...Ee8



91b: After 13 Ag5!?



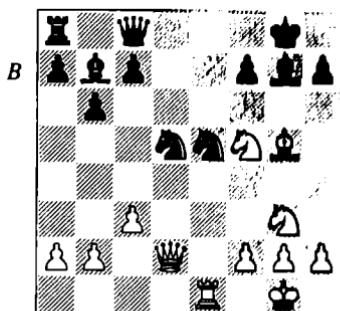
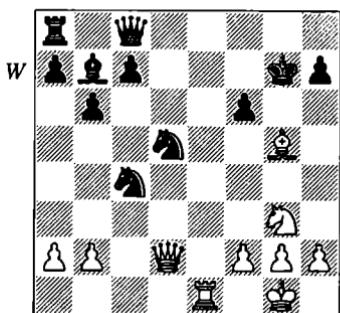
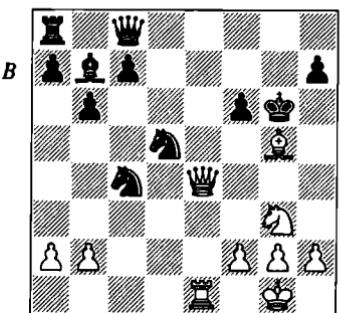
91c: After 17 Af5!?

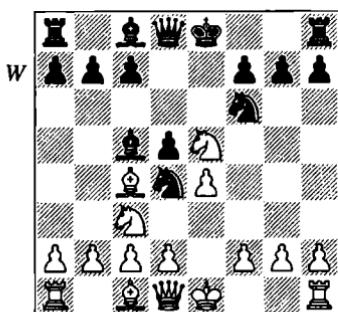
91 Vaganian – Fedorov

*European Team Ch, Pula 1997
Modern Defence*

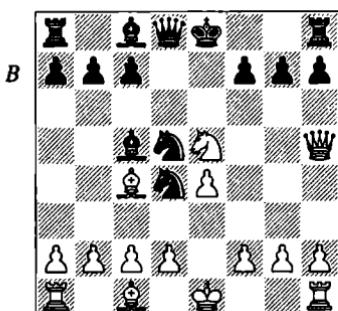
1 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $g6$ 2 $e4$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 3 $d4$ $d6$ 4 $c3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ 0-0 6 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}bd7$... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ is another popular continuation. 7 $\mathbb{E}e1$ $e5$ 8 $\mathbb{Q}bd2$ $b6$ 9 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{E}e8$ (91a) Black's pieces are all quite well placed and he has saved time in comparison with a Closed Spanish as the typical Spanish manoeuvres ... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ -b8-d7 and ... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ -f8-g7 have been avoided. It is true that White has also saved some time with his light-squared bishop, but Black is definitely ahead in tempi. 11 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ 11 $d5$ $c6$ 12 $c4$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $a5$ 14 $b3$ $b5$ was fine for Black in the game Miles-Bologan, Wijk aan Zee 1996. 11... $d5$!? Black takes advantage of White's slow play to liquidate the central pawns. However, opening up the position can be double-edged as it tends to amplify the effect of a lead in development. 12 $exd5$ 12 $dxe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $dxe4$ 14 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{W}c8$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ is equal. 12... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 13 $\mathbb{Q}g5$!? (91b) 13 $c4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 14 $d5$ $c6$ gives White no advantage. 13... $\mathbb{W}c8$ Now that the position is starting to open up, Black must take care. 13... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ is inaccurate as 14 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 15 $\mathbb{W}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ 17 $\mathbb{W}xb5$ $c6$ 18 $\mathbb{W}e2$ is very awkward. However, 13... $f6$!? 14 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $exd4$ is the simplest; after 15 $cx d4$ (or 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$) 15... $\mathbb{E}xe1+$ 16 $\mathbb{W}xe1$ $\mathbb{W}f8$ the position is equal. 14 $\mathbb{W}d2$ $exd4$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{E}xe1+?$ This casual move effectively gives White an extra development tempo (Black exchanges the developed rook on e8 for the undeveloped one on a1). 15... $\mathbb{Q}e5$! is correct, with excellent prospects of equality. 16 $\mathbb{E}xe1$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}f5$!? (91c) An imaginative and surprising sacrifice. Black faces considerable practical difficulties, even if objectively the sacrifice may only be good enough

for a draw. 17... $\mathbb{g}xf5$ Acceptance is forced as 17... $\mathbb{w}f8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ and 17... $\mathbb{w}b8$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}e6$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ favour White. 18 $\mathbb{Q}dxf5$ (91d) 18... $f6$ Not 18... $\mathbb{Q}h8?$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ $h6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xh6+$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 22 $\mathbb{W}d3+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}f5+$ and White wins. However, 18... $\mathbb{Q}c4$ 19 $\mathbb{W}d1$ $f6$ (not 19... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 21 $c4!$, when Black has no good defence; for example, 21... $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 22 $\mathbb{W}d4+$ $f6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}xc4$ $fxg5$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ or 21... $f6$ 22 $cx d5$ $fxg5$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 24 $\mathbb{W}d4+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 25 $\mathbb{W}f6$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ with a clear plus for White in both cases) offers some defensive chances. Then 20 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $fxg5$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}3f5$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ is unclear, while 20 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xh6+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8!$ 23 $\mathbb{W}h5$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $cx d6$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ leaves White running out of steam. 20 $\mathbb{Q}h4!$ looks best; White simply preserves his attacking formation and threatens 21 $\mathbb{W}g4$. 19 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 20 $c4!?$ Offering a pawn in order to gain time. 20... $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ (91e) 20... $\mathbb{Q}f7?$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}h4$ traps the $d5$ -knight. 21 $\mathbb{W}d4!?$ White could have forced a draw by 21 $\mathbb{Q}xf6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 22 $\mathbb{W}g5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$ (23... $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 24 $\mathbb{W}g7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}d4+$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}f3+$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}d4+$ is also a draw) 24 $\mathbb{W}e7+$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 25 $g4$ $\mathbb{W}f8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}h4+$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}f5+$, but Vaganian bravely plays for the win, despite the risks involved. 21... $\mathbb{Q}g6?$ White's decision is rewarded with a serious mistake from Black. He should have tried either 21... $\mathbb{W}d7!?$ or 21... $\mathbb{W}f8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f5+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ $\mathbb{Q}d6!$, when it is not easy to see a good continuation of the attack. 22 $\mathbb{W}e4+!$ (91f) Very strong, as 22... $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xh7$ forces mate. 22... $f5!?$ 22... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ was the only chance, but 23 $\mathbb{Q}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}xc4$ $fxg5$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ is clearly very bad for Black. 23 $\mathbb{W}h4$ Winning. 23... $\mathbb{W}g8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}e7+$ 1-0

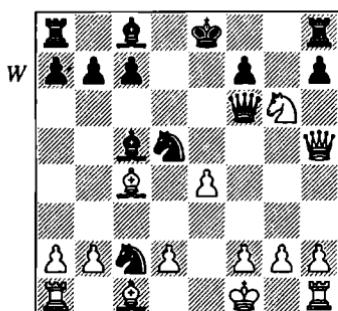
91d: After 18 $\mathbb{Q}dxf5$ 91e: After 20... $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 91f: After 22 $\mathbb{W}e4+!$



92a: After 6...d5!?



92b: After 8...h5



92c: After 10...f6!

92 Spangenberg – Tkachev

Villa Martelli 1992

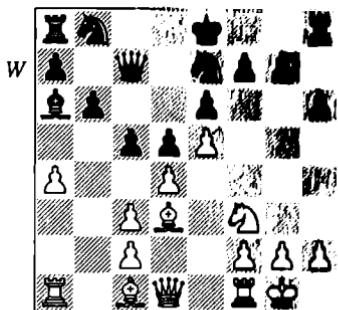
Four Knights Opening

1 e4 e5 2 ♜c3 ♜f6 3 ♜f3 ♜c6 4 ♜b5 ♜d4 5 ♜c4 5 ♜a4 is the main line. 5...♜c5 6 ♜xe5 d5!? (92a) It is unusual for an innovation to occur as early as move six in the Open Games. Hitherto, theory gave 6...♝e7, a move going back to Bernstein-Rubinstein, Vilna 1912. 7 ♜xd5? This is already a serious error – in fact, it is by far the worst of the three captures on d5. 7 exd5 0-0 8 0-0 gives Black reasonable play for the pawns after 8...♞e8 9 ♜f3 ♜g4 or 8...♝d6, so 7 ♜xd5 is probably best. After 7...♜xd5 8 ♜xd5 0-0 (8...♝g5 9 ♜xc7+ ♜f8 10 ♜f1 ♜xe5 11 ♜xa8 ♜xe4 is too optimistic, e.g. 12 d3 ♜c6 13 ♜e3 b6 14 b4! ♜b7 15 ♜g1 and White is much better) 9 c3 ♜e8 10 cxd4 ♜xd4 11 0-0 ♜xe5 12 d3 White had an edge in Shirov-Kramnik, WCC Match (6), Cazorla 1998. 7...♜xd5 8 ♜h5 (92b) White tries to solve his problems tactically, but as I have commented so often before, initiating tactics in a bad position usually only makes matters worse. However, even 8 ♜xd5 (8 ♜xf7 ♜h4! 9 d3 ♜b4 10 0-0 ♜g4 11 ♜d2 ♜e2+ 12 ♜h1 ♜xf2 wins for Black) 8...♝g5 9 ♜xf7+ ♜e7 10 ♜h5 ♜xe5 11 d3 ♜xc2+! 12 ♜xc2 ♜xh5 is very good for Black. 8...g6 9 ♜xg6 ♜xc2+ 9...fxg6 10 ♜e5+ is the point of White's play, but Black need not fall in with White's plans. 10 ♜f1 A sad necessity as 10 ♜d1 loses to 10...♝g4+! 11 ♜xg4 ♜de3+ 12 fxe3 ♜xe3+ 13 ♜e1 ♜xg4 14 ♜xh8 ♜d4. 10...♝f6! (92c) White's position collapses: a1 and g6 are under attack, and mate is threatened on f2. 11 f3 11 ♜e5+ ♜xe5 12 ♜xe5 ♜xa1 and 11 ♜e2 hxg6 12 exd5+ ♜f8 are also hopeless. 11...hxg6 12 ♜xd5 ♜h5 0-1

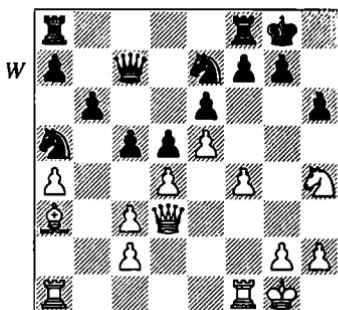
93 Hellers – Cu. Hansen Malmö 1997

French Defence, Winawer Variation

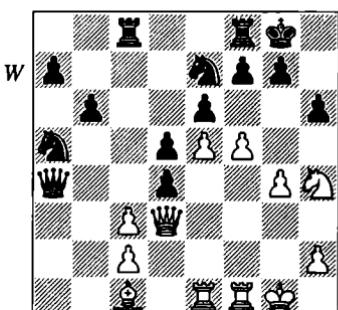
1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♜c3 ♜b4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 ♜xc3+ 6 bxc3 ♜c7 7 ♜f3 ♜e7 8 a4 h6 This move (instead of the usual 8... ♜bc6 or 8... b6) looks rather slow, but White has no real way to exploit it and play often transposes into other lines. 9 ♜d3 b6 The point of Black's move-order is to cut out lines involving ♜b5+ by White. 10 0-0 ♜a6 (93a) 11 ♜xa6 ♜xa6 12 ♜d3 ♜b8 13 ♜h4 The objective merits of this ambitious plan are open to question, but in practice it is not so easy for Black. 13 a5 would be a more positional continuation. 13... ♜bc6 13... ♜d7 also looks good; after 14 f4 cxd4 15 cxd4 ♜c8 it is hard for White to proceed with his attack. 14 f4 0-0 15 ♜a3 15 f5 exf5 16 ♜xf5 ♜xf5 17 ♜xf5 ♜ae8! is fine for Black. 15... ♜a5 (93b) 16 ♜ae1 16 g4 ♜c4 17 f5 f6 rebounds on White as he is tied down to defending the a3-bishop. 16... ♜c6! Better than 16... ♜c4 17 ♜c1 threatening 18 f5. 17 g4 ♜xa4 18 ♜c1 cxd4 19 f5 White is totally committed on the kingside and cannot afford the time to recapture mere pawns. 19... ♜ac8? (93c) In such a sharp position even a small slip can have devastating consequences. 19... dxc3!? is an improvement; after 20 ♜f4 ♜c4 21 f6 ♜c6 22 fxg7 (22 g5 ♜6xe5 looks good for Black) 22... ♜xg7 23 ♜f5+ exf5 24 ♜xf5 ♜ae8 White may have enough compensation to draw, but surely no more. 19... ♜c4!? is another playable move. The continuation could be 20 ♜g3 ♜xc3 21 ♜f3 ♜xc2 22 f6 ♜g6 and again White might be able to force a draw, e.g. 23 fxg7 ♜xg7 24 ♜xg6 fxg6 25 ♜xh6+ ♜xh6 26 ♜h4+ ♜g7 27 ♜e7+ ♜g8 28 ♜xe6+, but cannot hope for more. 20 ♜xh6! This move creates serious problems



93a: After 10... ♜a6

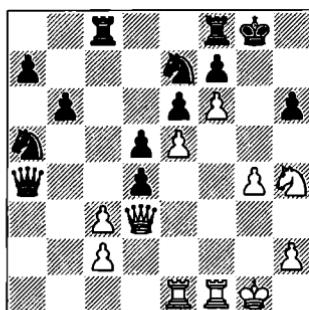


93b: After 15... ♜a5



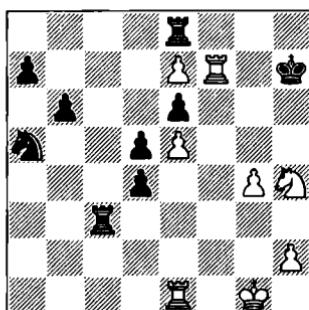
93c: After 19... ♜c4?

B



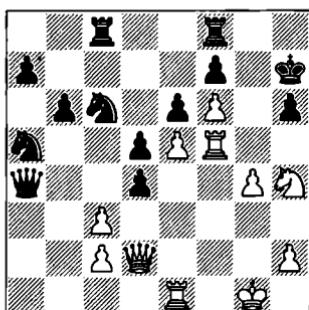
93d: After 21 f6

B



93e: After 26 Rxf7+ (analysis)

B



93f: After 23 Rf5!

for Black, although it is by no means clear that White is already winning. 20...gxh6 20...Rxc3 21 Qd2 gxh6 (21...Re3 22 f6! also favours White) 22 Rxh6 Rxc2 is bad in view of 23 Qg5+ Kg6 24 fxg6 fxg6 25 Rxf8+ Qxf8 26 Qxg6+ and wins. 21 f6 (93d) 21...Qec6? Moving the last defensive piece away from the kingside is asking to be mated (White duly obliges). Black cannot survive after 21...Rfe8? either, because of 22 Rd2! dxc3 (or 22...Rh7 23 fxe7 Rxe7 24 Rf6) 23 Rxh6 Rxg4+ 24 Rh1 winning. 21...Rxc3 is the best chance and may draw, but Black is certainly on a knife-edge. The analysis runs 22 Rd2 and now:

1) 22...Rxc2 23 Rxh6 Rh7 24 Rxh7+ Qxh7 25 fxe7 Re8 26 Rxf7+ (93e) 26...Qg8! (26...Qh6 27 Ref1 Qg5 28 Qf3+ wins after 28...Rxg4 29 Qh1! or 28...Rxf3 29 R1xf3 Qc6 30 Rf8 Rxe7 31 Rg8+) 27 Ref1 Rcc8 28 Qg6 d3! 29 Rf8+ Qh7! (29...Qg7 30 Qf4 wins) 30 h4 d2! (30...Rxg6 31 Rf7 Rc1 32 h5+ Qg5 33 Rxc1 Qc4 34 Rg7+ wins) 31 h5 Rc1 (31...Qh6 32 Qf2 Qc4 33 Qe2 favours White) 32 Rxe8 Rxf1+ 33 Qg2 Rg1+ (not 33...d1#? 34 Rh8+ Qg7 35 e8Q+ Qf7 36 Rf8#) 34 Qf2 Rf1+ 35 Qg3 Rg1+ 36 Qh4 Rxg4+ 37 Qxg4 (37 Qh3? Qh6! 38 Rh8+ Qg5 39 e8Q d1# favours Black) 37...d1# 38 Qg5 Rg1+ 39 Qf6 Rf1+ 40 Qxe6 Rh3+ 41 Qd6 Ra3+ is a draw.

2) 22...Re3 23 fxe7 Re8 24 g5 is dismissed by Hellers in *Informator* as winning for White, but this is probably also a draw after 24...Rxe1 25 Rxe1 (25 Rxel Rxh6 Rxc3 seems OK for Black) 25...d3! 26 gxh6 Rg4+ 27 Qh1 Qc4 28 Rf2 d2 29 Rg1 d1# 30 h7+ Rxh7 31 Rxf7+ Qh6 32 Rf8+ Qh7 with perpetual check.

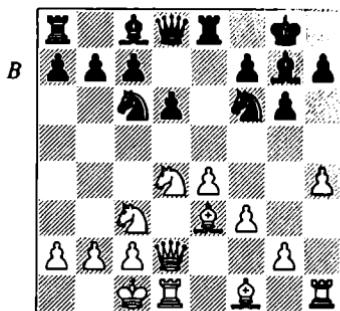
22 Rd2! Qh7 22...d3 23 h3 changes nothing. 23 Rf5! (93f) A beautiful finish. 23...dxc3 23...exf5 24 Qxf5 forces mate. 24 Rxh6+! Qxh6 25 Rh5# (1-0)

94 Emms – Summerscale

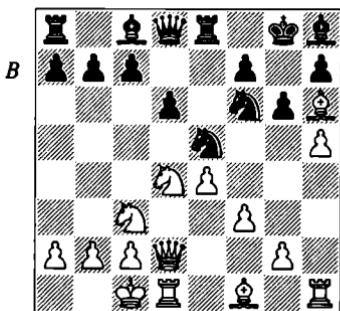
London (Drury Lane) 1997

Philidor Defence

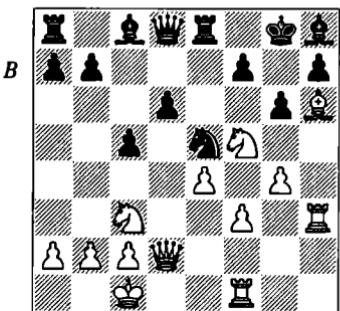
1 e4 d6 2 d4 e5 3 ♜f3 exd4 4 ♜xd4 g6 5 ♜c3 ♜g7 6 ♜e3 ♜f6 7 ♜d2 0-0 8 0-0-0 ♜e8 9 f3 ♜c6 This interesting position can arise from a number of different openings (e.g. the Pirc and the line 1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 ♜c3 g6). 10 h4 (94a) 10 g4 ♜e5 11 ♜e2 is the main alternative. 10... ♜e5 Probably best; exchanging on d4 only helps White by bringing his bishop to the long diagonal. 11 ♜h6 ♜h8 This looks like a Dragon except that Black has no counterplay on the c-file. However, the missing e7-pawn gives Black some extra space to defend his kingside (for example, along the second rank). Indeed, Black's practical results from this position have been quite good. 12 h5! (94b) Surprisingly, this move was an innovation. Hitherto, the less energetic 12 ♜g5 and 12 ♜e2 had been played. Sacrificing the h-pawn is such a familiar theme in the Dragon that it is surprising no one had tried it before here. 12... ♜xh5 13 g4 ♜g3 13... ♜f6 looks a more critical test. White has plenty of dangerous attacking ideas, but nothing clear-cut. 14 ♜h3 ♜xf1 15 ♜xf1 The exchange of Black's developed knight for White's unmoved bishop has improved White's prospects. Black has lost an important defensive unit while White has gained time – indeed, he is already threatening to double on the h-file. 15... c5 Black tries to solve his problems by force, but as usual forcing play tends only to expose the weaknesses of one's position. 16 ♜f5! (94c) 16... ♜c4 16... gxsf5 17 gxsf5 and White wins after 17... ♜g6 18 ♜hh1 (or 18 ♜g2 transposing into the following note after 20 ♜g2) 18... ♜a5 19 ♜g5 ♜xc3 20 bxc3 ♜xa2 21 ♜h2 or 17... ♜f6 18 ♜g1+



94a: After 10 h4

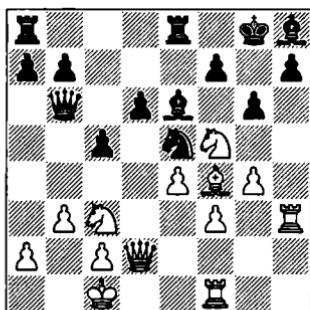


94b: After 12 h5!

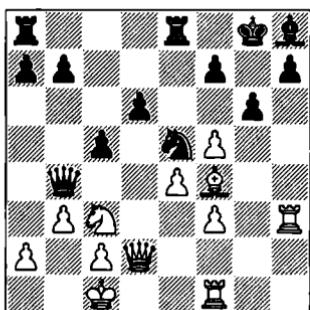


94c: After 16 ♜f5!

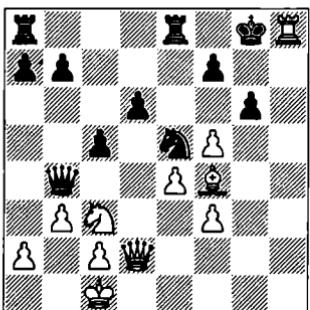
B

94d: After 20 $\mathbb{W}d2$

W

94e: After 21... $\mathbb{W}b4$

B

94f: After 24 $\mathbb{R}xh8+$! 1-0

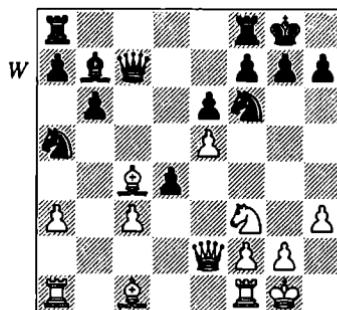
$\mathbb{Q}h8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}g7+!!$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 20 $\mathbb{R}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 21 $\mathbb{W}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}d5$, when mate is inevitable. 17 $\mathbb{W}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ Or 17... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 18 $\mathbb{W}e2$, when it is still very risky for Black to take the piece, e.g. 18... $gxf5$ 19 $gxf5$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 20 $\mathbb{W}g2$ $\mathbb{W}a5$ 21 $\mathbb{R}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 22 $bxcc3$ $\mathbb{W}xc3$ (22... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 23 $fxg6$ $fxg6$ 24 $\mathbb{R}xg6$ $hxg6$ 25 $\mathbb{W}xg6$ wins) 23 $fxg6$ $\mathbb{W}a1+$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}d4+$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{W}c4+$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}e1$ and wins. 18 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ Once again 18... $gxf5$ 19 $gxf5$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 20 $\mathbb{R}gl+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xe5+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 22 $\mathbb{W}d2$ gives White an extremely strong attack; one variation runs 22... $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 23 $exf5$ $\mathbb{W}f6$ 24 $f4$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 25 $\mathbb{W}h2$ $\mathbb{W}xf5$ 26 $\mathbb{R}h5$ and wins. 19 $b3$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 20 $\mathbb{W}d2$ (94d) White is now ready to double or even triple on the h-file. 20... $\mathbb{Q}xf5$?! This makes life easy for White, but 20... $gxf5$ 21 $gxf5$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 22 $\mathbb{R}fh1$ is again very strong. One attractive continuation is 22... $\mathbb{W}a5$ 23 $fxg6$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 24 $gxf7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 25 $\mathbb{R}g3+$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 26 $\mathbb{W}d5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 27 $\mathbb{R}xg6+$ $hxg6$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 29 $\mathbb{Q}g5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 30 $\mathbb{W}xb7+$ with mate to follow, while 22... $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 24 $\mathbb{R}xh7$ $\mathbb{Q}e2+$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}b2$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 26 $f6$ mating is another nice line. 21 $gxf5$ White's attacking chances are enhanced by his grip on the light squares. 21... $\mathbb{W}b4$ (94e) 22 $\mathbb{R}xh7$! A spectacular finish. 22... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 22... $\mathbb{W}a3+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ doesn't help much. White wins by 24 $\mathbb{R}h1+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ (24... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 25 $\mathbb{R}xh8+$ $\mathbb{Q}xh8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}xe5+$ mates) 25 $\mathbb{Q}xe5+$ $\mathbb{R}xe5$ 26 $f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 27 $\mathbb{W}xd6+$ $\mathbb{R}e6$ 28 $\mathbb{W}f4+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ (Black is also mated after 28... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 29 $\mathbb{Q}d5+$) 29 $\mathbb{W}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 30 $\mathbb{Q}d5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 31 $\mathbb{W}f4+$ $\mathbb{Q}d4$ 32 $\mathbb{R}d1\#$. 23 $\mathbb{R}h1+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 23... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xe5+$ $\mathbb{R}xe5$ 25 $f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 26 $\mathbb{W}xd6+$ wins as in the previous note. 24 $\mathbb{R}xh8+!$ (94f) 1-0 The other rook is also sacrificed. The finish would be 24... $\mathbb{Q}xh8$ (24... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 25 $f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 26 $\mathbb{W}xd6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xh8$ 28 $\mathbb{W}f6+$ mates) 25 $\mathbb{Q}xe5+$ and now taking back on e5 loses to 26 $\mathbb{W}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 27 $f6$, while 25... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 26 $\mathbb{W}h6$ mates in any case.

95 Shabalov – Stefansson

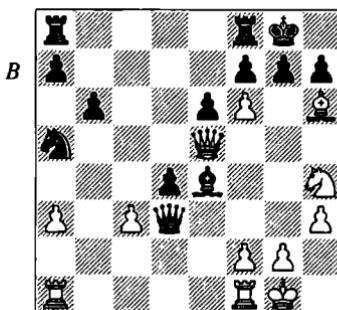
Winnipeg 1997

*Nimzo-Indian Defence,
Rubinstein Variation*

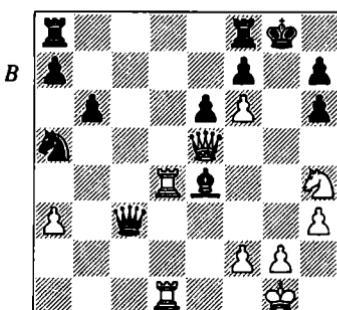
1 d4 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 2 c4 e6 3 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}b4$ 4 e3 0-0 5 $\mathbb{Q}d3$ d5 6 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ c5 7 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 8 a3 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 9 bxc3 $\mathbb{Q}c7$ If Black delays ...dxc4, White usually tries to take advantage of it by playing 10 cxd5. However, in this game White decides to continue as in the normal lines. 10 h3 dxc4 11 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ b6 11...e5 12 $\mathbb{Q}a2$ transposes to a main line, but Black pursues an independent course. 12 $\mathbb{Q}e2$!? Removing the queen from the potentially dangerous d-file and preparing e4. 12... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 12... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 13 e4 cxd4 14 e5 $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 15 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ gives White a dangerous initiative for the pawn. 13 e4 cxd4 13...e5 14 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ is awkward. 14 e5 $\mathbb{Q}a5$ (95a) This is obviously hazardous, but the real mistake only comes later. 15 exf6 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}e5$ $\mathbb{Q}d3$?! Black is taking too many risks. 16... $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}g3$ g6 is better, e.g. 18 $\mathbb{Q}h4$ (18 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}h5$) 18... $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xh5$ gxh5 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}fc8$ with an unclear position. 17 $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$? 17...g6 is ugly, but essential. 18 $\mathbb{Q}h6$!! (95b) It is not often that a piece is developed in such spectacular style. White threatens 19 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ and cuts out the defence 18...g6. Not 18 fxg7?!! $\mathbb{Q}fc8$, when the king-side attack is blocked. 18...gxh6 18... $\mathbb{Q}fd8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}ad1$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ gxh6 22 $\mathbb{Q}f5$! favours White. 19 $\mathbb{Q}fd1$ $\mathbb{Q}c4$ White wins after 19... $\mathbb{Q}c4$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ or 19... $\mathbb{Q}c2$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}ac1$. 20 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 20... $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}ad1$ is similar to the game. 21 $\mathbb{Q}ad1$! (95c) 21... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ Or 21... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xg6+$ mating after 24... $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}d8+$ or 24...fxg6 25 $\mathbb{Q}xh7+$. 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ Threatening 23 $\mathbb{Q}xa8$. 22... $\mathbb{Q}xa3$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}b3$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ 1-0 Black cannot prevent 25 $\mathbb{Q}e3$, attacking b3 and h6.



95a: After 14... $\mathbb{Q}a5$

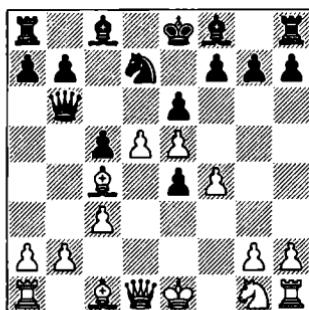


95b: After 18 $\mathbb{Q}h6$!!



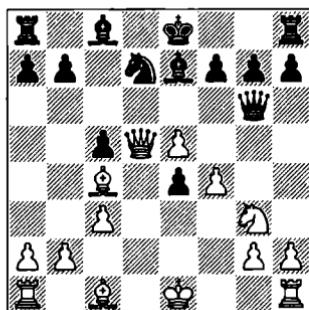
95c: After 21 $\mathbb{Q}ad1$!

B



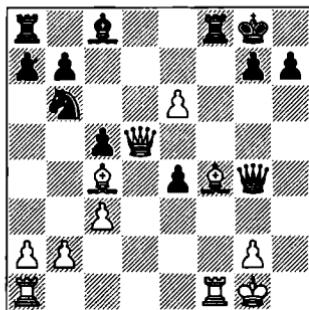
96a: After 9 f4!

B



96b: After 12 ♜g3

W



96c: After 18... ♜b6

96 Onischchuk – Hertneck Biel 1997

French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♜d2 ♜f6 4 e5 ♜e4 An unusual line with a poor theoretical reputation. **5 ♜xe4 dxе4 6 ♜c4 6 ♜e3** is the main alternative. **6...c5 7 d5 ♜b6?!** A risky idea. Black threatens 8...♜b4+, but this is easily met and then the queen is not well placed on b6. **8 c3 ♜d7 9 f4! (96a)** An excellent move. If Black exchanges on f3, White's development is accelerated, while otherwise White secures his e5-pawn and leaves Black with a weakling on e4. **9...exd5 9...fxe3 10 ♜xf3 exd5 11 ♜xd5 ♜e6 12 ♜xe6+ fxe6 13 0-0 ♜b6 14 ♜d3** favours White. **10 ♜xd5 ♜g6 11 ♜e2** On g3, the knight will both shield g2 and attack the e4-pawn. **11...♜e7 11...♜b6 12 ♜b5+ ♜d7 13 ♜xd7+ ♜xd7 14 ♜g3** wins a pawn, while **11...♜xg2 12 ♜xf7+ ♜d8 13 ♜g1 ♜xh2 14 ♜e3** gives White a decisive attack. **12 ♜g3 (96b)** Not bad, but it was probably even better to play 12 f5! **♜xf5 13 ♜f1 ♜e6** (or 13...♜h5 14 ♜xf7+ ♜xf7 15 ♜xf7+ ♜d8 16 ♜f4 and Black is paralysed) **14 ♜xe4 ♜xe5 15 ♜xf7+ ♜d8 16 ♜g4**, followed by ♜f4 and 0-0-0, with a crushing position for White. **12...♜h4?!** 12...f5 is slightly better, but after 13 exf6! (13 ♜b5 a6 14 ♜a4 runs into the surprising defence 14...♜a7! 15 e6 b5 16 exd7+ ♜xd7 17 ♜a8 0-0 and Black is fine) 13...♜xf6 14 ♜e5 White has a clear advantage as Black has trouble castling. **13 0-0 ♜xg3 14 hxg3 0-0 15 f5 ♜xg3 15...♜c6 16 e6 ♜xd5 17 ♜xd5 wins. 16 ♜f4 ♜g4** The decisive combination is unusually attractive. **17 e6! fxe6 17...♜b6 18 exf7+ ♜h8 19 ♜xc5 ♜xf5 20 ♜d6 wins. 18 fxe6 ♜b6 (96c) 19 e7+! ♜xd5 20 exf8+ ♜xf8 21 ♜d6++ ♜e8 22 ♜b5+ ♜d7 23 ♜f8# (1-0)**

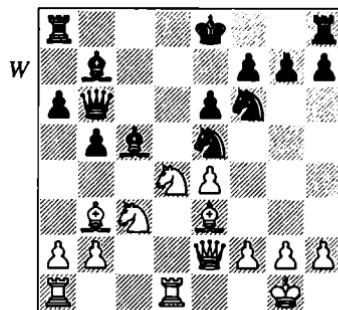
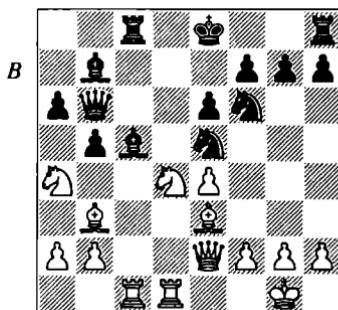
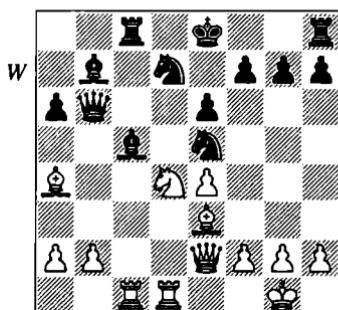
97 Leitão – Baburin
Europe vs Americas,
Bermuda 1998
Queen's Gambit Accepted

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e3 e6 4 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ c5 5 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ a6 6 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ A somewhat unusual move, although it often transposes back into normal lines. 7...b5 8 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 9 $\mathbb{W}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}bd7$ 10 e4 10 $\mathbb{M}d1$ reaches a standard position, but White prefers an immediate central advance. 10...cxd4 10...b4 11 e5!? $\mathbb{Q}g4$ (11...bxc3 12 exf6 $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 13 d5 is good for White) 12 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ cxd4 13 $\mathbb{Q}a4$ is unclear. 11 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 13 $\mathbb{M}fd1$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$!?

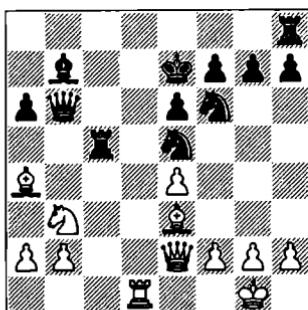
(97a) It was sounder to play the simple 13...0-0. 14 $\mathbb{M}ac1$?! A safe move, but 14 a4! would have been awkward for Black, e.g. 14...b4 15 a5 $\mathbb{W}c7$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}db5!$ axb5 17 $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{W}c6$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{W}xc5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ and wins.

14... $\mathbb{M}c8$?! Missing a second chance to castle into safety. 14...0-0 15 f3 $\mathbb{M}fd8$ would have been equal. 15 $\mathbb{Q}a4$!! (97b) A stunning and completely sound sacrifice. Acceptance is forced. 15...bxa4 16 $\mathbb{Q}xa4+$ $\mathbb{W}e7$! This move was given a question mark by Leitão in *Informator*, but so far as I can see it is the best defence! 16... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ loses to 17 $\mathbb{M}xc5$ $\mathbb{W}xc5$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}b3$, while 16... $\mathbb{Q}ed7$ 17 $\mathbb{M}xc5$ $\mathbb{M}xc5$ (17... $\mathbb{W}xc5$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ will transpose to the analysis of 16... $\mathbb{Q}fd7$) 18 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xa4$ (19... $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 20 $\mathbb{M}d6!$ wins) 20 $\mathbb{Q}xa4$ leaves White a pawn up. The only other defence is 16... $\mathbb{Q}fd7$ (97c) and now White has two promising lines:

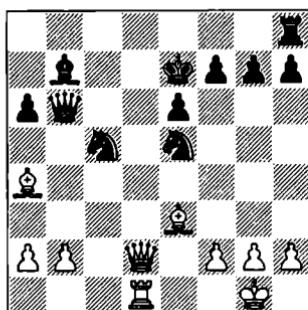
1) 17 $\mathbb{M}xc5$ $\mathbb{W}xc5$ (17... $\mathbb{M}xc5$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{W}xc6$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 21 $\mathbb{M}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}ed3$ 22 $\mathbb{W}xd3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ 23 $\mathbb{M}xc6$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 24 $\mathbb{M}xa6$ and White has a clear extra pawn in the ending) 18 $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{W}c4$ (18... $\mathbb{W}b4$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}g5$! $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f4+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}g4$! gives White a winning

97a: After 13... $\mathbb{Q}e5$!?97b: After 15 $\mathbb{Q}a4$!!97c: After 16... $\mathbb{Q}fd7$ (analysis)

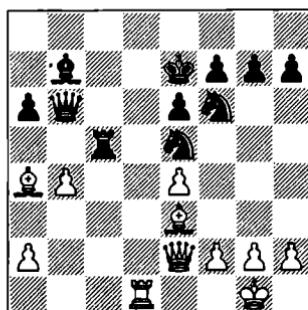
B

97d: After 18 $\mathbb{Q}b3$

B

97e: After 20 $\mathbb{W}d2$ (analysis)

B

97f: After 20 $b4!$

attack, while 18... $\mathbb{W}a5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 21 $\mathbb{W}f3$ is clearly better for White) 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xg7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xc4$ $\mathbb{K}xc4$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}h6!$ $\mathbb{K}c6$ (the alternatives 22... $\mathbb{K}xe4$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}f5+$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}d6+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 26 $\mathbb{K}el$ and 22... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}f5+$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{K}c6$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}xb7+$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}f4+$ are also very good for White) 23 $\mathbb{K}xd7$ $\mathbb{K}xh6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ $\mathbb{K}e6$ 25 $\mathbb{K}xb7$ $\mathbb{K}xe4$ 26 $g3$ $\mathbb{K}e6$ 27 $\mathbb{K}a7$ and White wins the a-pawn as well, with a large endgame advantage.

2) 17 $b4$ $\mathbb{W}xb4$ (Black is also worse after 17... $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{W}xb4$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xd7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 20 $\mathbb{K}b1$ or 17... $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}f3!$) 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 19 $\mathbb{K}b1$ $\mathbb{W}a4$ (19... $\mathbb{W}xb1$ 20 $\mathbb{K}xb1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 21 $\mathbb{K}d1$ favours White) 20 $\mathbb{K}xb7$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xe6!$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ 22 $\mathbb{K}c7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf2+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{K}xc7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xc7+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 25 $\mathbb{W}d3!$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4+$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}gl$ and Black is in trouble.

17 $\mathbb{K}xc5!$ $\mathbb{K}xc5$ Not 17... $\mathbb{W}xc5$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}f5+$ $\mathbb{exf}5$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}xc5+$ $\mathbb{K}xc5$ 20 $\mathbb{exf}5$ and further material drops off. 18 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ (97d) The critical position. 18... $\mathbb{K}hc8?$ This is the really serious error. 18... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ is the only move, when White can reach a slightly better ending, but cannot achieve more: 19 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 20 $\mathbb{W}d2$ (97e) 20... $\mathbb{Q}d5!$ (the alternatives 20... $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 21 $\mathbb{W}d7+!$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 22 $\mathbb{K}xd7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ $\mathbb{K}c8$ 24 $h4$, 20... $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 21 $\mathbb{W}d7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 22 $\mathbb{K}xd7+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xb6$, 20... $\mathbb{Q}ed3$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xc5+$ $\mathbb{W}xc5$ 22 $\mathbb{W}xd3$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 23 $\mathbb{W}g3$ $g6$ 24 $\mathbb{W}h4+$ $f6$ 25 $\mathbb{W}h6$ and 20... $\mathbb{Q}c4$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xc5+$ $\mathbb{W}xc5$ 22 $\mathbb{W}d7+!$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xb7$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}b3$ all favour White in varying degrees) 21 $b4$ (21 $\mathbb{K}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 22 $\mathbb{W}xd5$ $\mathbb{exd}5$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ $\mathbb{K}b8$ is unclear) 21... $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}c5+$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ and, although White has the two bishops, Black's pieces are firmly entrenched in the centre. While White retains an edge, the odds are on a draw. 19 $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{K}xc5$ 20 $b4!$ (97f) Baburin must have overlooked this neat finish. 20... $\mathbb{W}xb4$ 21 $\mathbb{W}d2$ 1-0 White wins material.

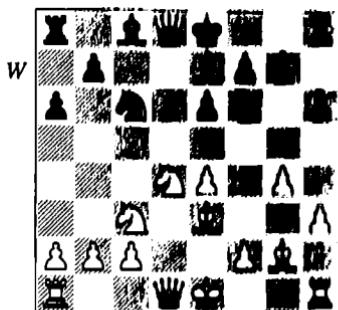
98 Timman – Van Wely

Match (6), Breda 1998

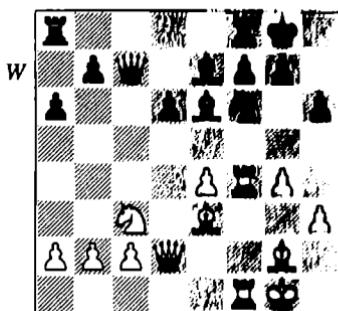
Sicilian Defence, Scheveningen Variation

1 e4 c5 2 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 5 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ a6 6 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 7 h3 e6 8 g4 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 9 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ h6 (98a) A tricky decision. Black would like to prevent g5 by White, but the danger is that if Black castles kingside, then White might eventually play g5 in any case, when lines will be opened against Black's king. 9...0-0 10 f4 $\mathbb{W}c7$ 11 0-0 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$?! It is probably better to delay this capture, because if White plays, for example, $\mathbb{W}d2$, then Black may gain a tempo. In fact, after 11... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ White has no good waiting move and should probably continue 12 $\mathbb{Q}b3$, ruling out the exchange on d4 for good.

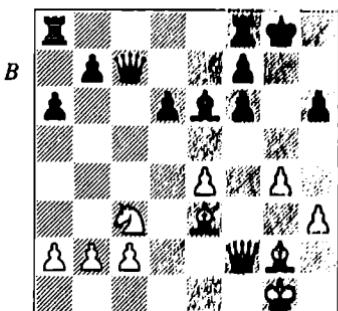
12 $\mathbb{W}xd4$ e5 13 $\mathbb{W}d2$ exf4 14 $\mathbb{W}xf4$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ Black's plan has given White extra time – he has gained the moves $\mathbb{W}d2$ and $\mathbb{W}xf4$ almost for free – and Timman uses this time to bring up the reserves. 15 $\mathbb{W}af1$ 0-0-0? (98b) Inviting a very dangerous sacrifice, but 15... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ also fails to equalize after 16 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 17 $\mathbb{W}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ (not 17... $\mathbb{Q}e5$? 18 $\mathbb{W}xf7$) 18 e5! $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ (18...dxe5 19 $\mathbb{W}c4$ $\mathbb{W}d8$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xb7$ $\mathbb{B}b8$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xa6$ also favours White) 19 $\mathbb{W}xb7$ $\mathbb{W}xb7$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{B}b8$ 21 $\mathbb{B}b4$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 22 $\mathbb{B}b3$, when White has a slight endgame advantage. 16 $\mathbb{W}xf6$! This double exchange sacrifice is remarkable because it does not result in instant threats – it is just that Black is unable to prevent White's queen and minor pieces converging slowly on the black king. 16... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 17 $\mathbb{W}xf6$ gxf6 18 $\mathbb{W}f2$ (98c) 18... $\mathbb{Q}g7$? This is a serious error which loses quickly. Of the alternatives, 18... $\mathbb{W}d8$ 19 $\mathbb{W}h4$ $\mathbb{B}c8$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xh6$ $\mathbb{B}c4$ (trying to prevent $\mathbb{Q}d4$) 21 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{B}b4$ 22 a3 $\mathbb{W}xb2$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ and 18... $\mathbb{W}fe8$ 19 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{W}d8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{W}a5$ 21 $\mathbb{W}h4$ $\mathbb{W}b6+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{W}e3$ 23 g5 are both



98a: After 9...h6

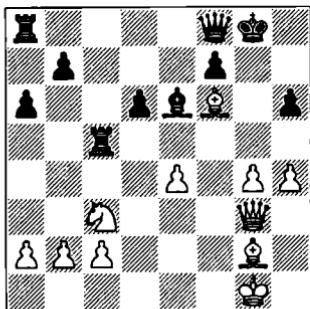


98b: After 15...0-0-0?



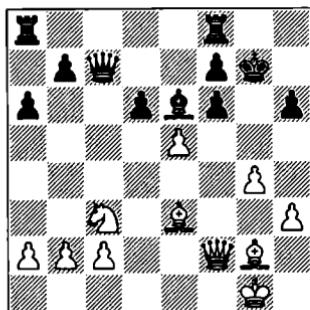
98c: After 18...Qg7

B



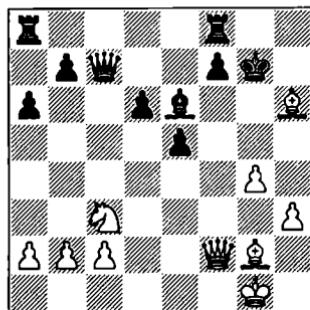
98d: After 22 h4 (analysis)

B



98e: After 19 e5!

B



98f: After 20 ♜xh6+!

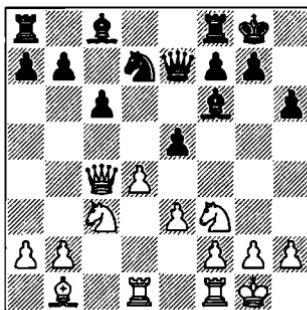
winning for White. 18... $\mathbb{W}a5$ is slightly better, but after 19 $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ (19 e5 fxe5 20 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ f5 defends) 19... $\mathbb{W}c5$ (19... $\mathbb{R}fc8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 21 $\mathbb{W}xf6$ wins) 20 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{W}a5$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{W}g5$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ Black is still in difficulties. Curiously enough, the position after 18 $\mathbb{W}f2$ occurred a few months later in a game from the Elista Olympiad. In this game Black found the best defence, 18... $\mathbb{W}e7$, aiming to transfer the queen to f8. Play continued 19 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{R}fc8$ 20 $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{W}f8$ 21 $\mathbb{W}g3$ $\mathbb{R}c5$ 22 h4 (98d) (with the deadly threat of g5) and after 22... $\mathbb{R}e5$ White won by 23 g5 $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{R}c8$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{W}g8$ 26 c3 $\mathbb{R}c4$ 27 $\mathbb{W}f3$ $\mathbb{W}f8$ 28 $\mathbb{W}h5$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 29 exf5 $\mathbb{W}xf4$ 30 g6+ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 31 g7 $\mathbb{W}c8$ 32 $\mathbb{W}xh6$ $\mathbb{W}c5+$ 33 $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{W}xh4+$ 34 $\mathbb{W}xh4$ 1-0, Nguyen Anh Dung-Mohd, Elista Olympiad 1998. The immediate 22... $\mathbb{Q}h7$ looks like a better chance; for example, 23 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{R}xc2$ 24 e5 $\mathbb{R}xg2+$ 25 $\mathbb{W}xg2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 26 $\mathbb{W}xd5$ dx5 or 23 e5 $\mathbb{R}xe5$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ dx5 25 $\mathbb{W}xe5$ $\mathbb{W}d8$ and Black should hold on for a draw. Although it is not clear that White's attack is truly winning, Black certainly has to endure great defensive difficulties. 19 e5! (98e) Clearing the e4-square for the light-squared bishop enhances White's attack. 19 $\mathbb{Q}xh6+?$ $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xf6+$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ is only a draw. 19...fxe5 Or 19... $\mathbb{R}h8$ 20 $\mathbb{W}xf6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 21 exd6 $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{R}h7$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}e4$ and Black cannot hope to survive, e.g. 23... $\mathbb{R}c7$ 24 $\mathbb{W}f2$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 25 $\mathbb{Q}f6$ $\mathbb{R}h8$ 26 $\mathbb{Q}c5+$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 27 $\mathbb{W}d4!$ and wins. 20 $\mathbb{Q}xh6+!$ (98f) 20... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ After 20... $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ White forces mate by 21 $\mathbb{W}f6+$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}e4+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 23 $\mathbb{W}g5+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 24 $\mathbb{W}h6+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 25 $\mathbb{W}h7#$. 21 $\mathbb{W}h4$ 1-0 Since 21...f6 22 $\mathbb{W}h5+$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 23 $\mathbb{W}xf8+$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}h6$ wins easily.

99 Kramnik – Lautier

*Tilburg 1998**Queen's Gambit, Semi-Slav Defence*

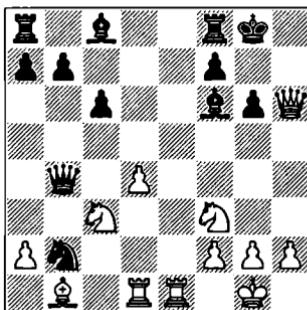
1 d4 d5 2 ♜f3 c6 3 c4 e6 4 ♜c2 Avoiding the main lines of the Semi-Slav. 4...dxc4 It is a little unusual to exchange on c4 so soon. 4...♜f6 is more common. 5 ♜xc4 ♜f6 6 ♜g5 ♜e7 7 e3 0-0 8 ♜d3 h6 9 ♜xf6 9 ♜h4 is also playable, but Kramnik prefers to depend on a lead in development. 9...♜xf6 10 ♜c3 ♜d7 11 ♜d1 ♜e7 12 ♜b1 White cannot prevent ...e5; for example, 12 ♜e4 e5 13 d5 cxd5 14 ♜xd5 ♜b4+ 15 ♜d2 ♜b6! only leads to equality. 12...e5 13 0-0 (99a) 13 d5 ♜b6 14 ♜d3 e4!? 15 ♜xe4 ♜xd5 is safe for Black. 13...exd4 Now Black will inevitably lose a tempo along the e-file. 13...g6 is probably best, when 14 ♜b3 (14 ♜xg6? ♜b6 15 ♜b3 ♜e6) 14...exd4 15 exd4 ♜b6 is better for Black than the game as White's queen is less actively placed. 14 exd4 ♜b6 15 ♜d3 g6 16 ♜fe1 ♜b4?! The start of a faulty plan which takes too many pieces away from the kingside. 16...♜d8 17 ♜e3 would be only slightly better for White. 17 ♜d2 Attacking h6 and threatening 18 ♜e4. 17...♜c4? It is too risky to allow White's queen so near to the black king. 17...♜g7 is better, although White has some advantage after 18 a3 ♜d6 19 ♜e5 ♜e6 20 ♜e4 ♜c7 21 ♜c5 or 18 ♜e5 ♜c4 19 ♜xc4 ♜xc4 20 a3 ♜g4 21 ♜a2 ♜a6 22 f3 ♜d7 23 ♜e7. 18 ♜xh6 ♜xb2 (99b) Attacking c3 and d1. 19 ♜xg6! fxg6 20 ♜g5! This is the point. Not 20 ♜xg6+? ♜g7 followed by ...♜f5. 20...♜xg5 21 ♜xg6+ ♜h8 22 ♜h5+ ♜g7 23 ♜xg5+ ♜f7 Or 23...♜h8 24 ♜e4 and wins. 24 ♜e3! (99c) 1-0 Since 24...♜e6 (or 24...♜xd1 25 ♜f4+ ♜g7 26 ♜g3+ ♜h7 27 ♜h4#) 25 ♜d1 ♜ae8 allows mate by 26 ♜f3+.

B



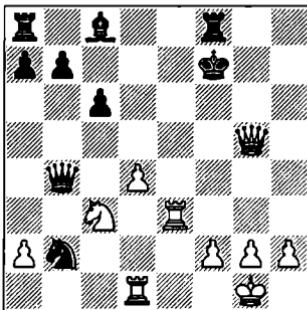
99a: After 13 0-0

W



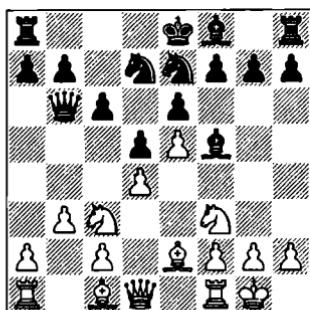
99b: After 18...♜xb2

B



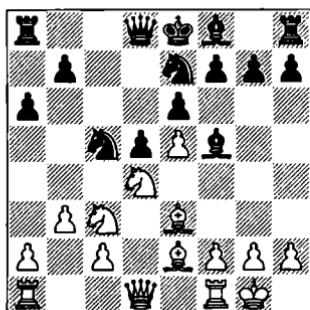
99c: After 24 ♜e3! 1-0

B



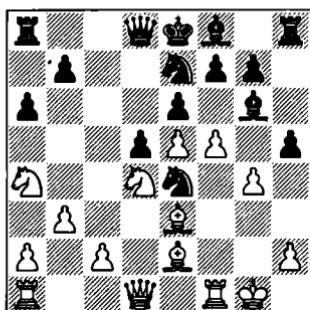
100a: After 8 b3

W



100b: After 11...Qd8

B



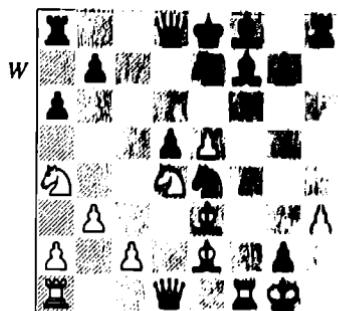
100c: After 15 f5!

100 Shirov – Hraček

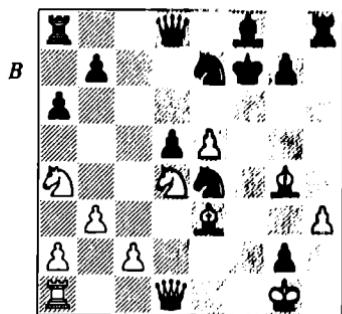
*Match (2), Ostrava 1998**Caro-Kann Defence, Advance Variation*

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 ♖f5 4 ♖c3 One of the most aggressive systems against the Caro-Kann. 4...♗b6 A perfectly reasonable alternative to the more common 4...e6. This early queen sortie became popular after the game Velimirović-Kasparov, Moscow Interzonal 1982. 5 ♖f3 One point of delaying ...e6 is to meet 5 g4 by 5...♗d7. 5...e6 6 ♖e2 ♖d7 7 0-0 ♖e7 8 b3 (100a) A direct method of solving the problem of the queen's attack on b2. 8...c5!? 8...♗g4 and 8...a6 have also been played, but Hraček prefers to seek immediate counterplay. 9 dxc5 ♖xc5 10 ♖d4 10 ♖e3 ♖c6 11 ♖b5!? may give White an edge, but not 11 ♖a4?, which achieves nothing after 11...♗a5. 10...a6 11 ♖e3 ♖d8 (100b) Black need not move the queen immediately because after 11...♗g6!? the tactical line 12 ♖xe6 fxe6 13 ♖a4 ♖xa4 14 ♖xb6 ♖xb6 is fine for Black. 12 g4?! Rather too ambitious. 12 f4!? is sounder, although I think that Black has no problems even after this. 12...♗g6 13 f4 Typically, Shirov gives little thought to the safety of his own king, but plays directly for the attack. 13...♕e4! 14 ♖a4 h5! Hraček defends by counterattack; this move involves a possible piece sacrifice. 15 f5! (100c) 15 gxh5 ♖f5 is good for Black. 15...hxg4 16 fxe6! It is more important to demolish Black's pawn structure than to grab material. After 16 fxe6 ♖xg6 17 ♖xg4 ♖h4 18 ♖e2 ♖xe5 Black has a very strong attack, e.g. 19 ♖f3 ♖d6 20 ♖xe4 ♖c4! and White is in trouble. 16...g3? Once again Black chooses the most active move, but this time it is probably a mistake. 16...f5 is better, cementing his kingside pawns together. After 17 exf6 (17 c4!?) is

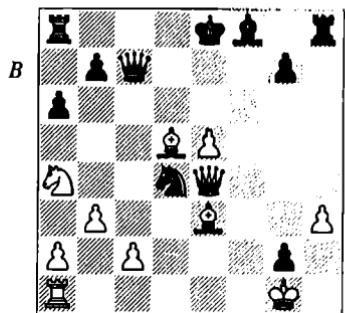
another interesting try) 17...gxf6 18 ♜f4! (18 ♜xg4 f5 is excellent for Black after 19 ♜xf5 ♜xf5 20 ♜xf5 ♜xf5 21 ♜xf5 ♜h4 or 19 ♜f3 b5 20 ♜b2 ♜c7 21 ♜e2 ♜g7) 18...♜g7 19 c4 the position is very double-edged. 17 exf7+ ♜xf7 18 h3! Slowing down Black's counter-attack. 18 hxg3? ♜xg3 is good for Black, while 18 ♜g4? gxh2+ 19 ♜g2 ♜g6 20 e6 ♜h4+ 21 ♜xh2 ♜c7+ 22 ♜f4 ♜g6+ 23 ♜g1 ♜xf4 24 exf7+ ♜xf7 even wins for Black. 18...g2 (100d) Shirov considers this a mistake, but in my view Black is already in a very bad way. Shirov suggests 18...♝f2 (18...♜xh3? 19 ♜g4 followed by ♜f3 clearly favours White) 19 ♜xf2 gxf2+ 20 ♜xf2 ♜c6 and indicates in *Informator* that Black has compensation for the pawn. However, so far as I can see Black is lost after 21 ♜g4!; for example, 21...♜c7 (21...♝xe5 22 ♜e1 ♜d6 23 ♜f3 ♜c7 24 ♜xe5 ♜xe5 25 ♜f5 and 21...♝xd4 22 ♜xd4 ♜c7 23 ♜af1 ♜g6 24 ♜xd5 also win for White) 22 ♜xc6 ♜xc6 (or 22...bxcc6 23 ♜d3 with an extra pawn and a crushing attack) 23 e6 ♜g6 24 ♜d4 ♜e4 (24...b5 25 e7! wins) 25 e7 ♜xe7 26 ♜c3 and White must win. 19 ♜xf7! ♜xf7 20 ♜g4! (100e) The weakness of e6 provides the motivation for White's combination. 20...♜c7 Black has nothing better. 21 ♜f3+ ♜e8 22 ♜e6 ♜c6 Black cannot stave off White's attack; for example, 22...♝xe5 23 ♜f7+! ♜d8 24 ♜e6+ ♜d7 25 ♜d1 or 22...♜g6 23 ♜xd5 ♜c5 24 ♜xg2! ♜h4 25 ♜g4 ♜xe5 26 ♜e1 and Black's king, trapped in the centre, has no escape. 23 ♜xd5 ♜xd4 24 ♜xe4 (100f) 1-0 Because 24...♝e2+ 25 ♜xg2 and 24...♜xc2 25 ♜xd4 are hopeless.



100d: After 18...g2

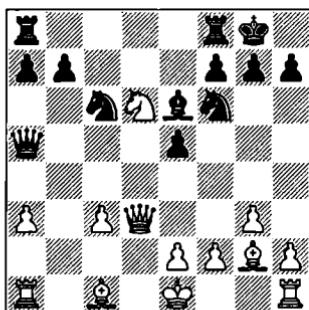


100e: After 20 ♜g4!

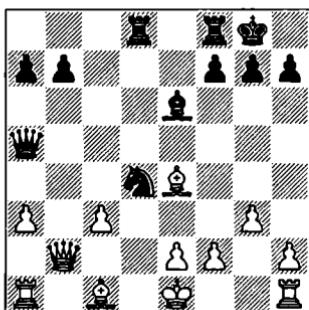


100f: After 24 ♜xe4 1-0

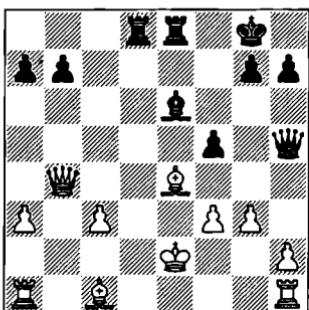
B

101a: After 14 $\mathbb{W}d3$

B

101b: After 18 $\mathbb{W}b2$

W



101c: After 21...f5

101 Topalov – Ivanchuk

*Linares 1999**English Opening*

1 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $c5$ 2 $c4$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 3 $d4$ $cx d4$ 4 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $e6$ 5 $g3$ A slightly unusual move-order (instead of 5 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 6 $g3$). Ivanchuk immediately takes advantage of it by delaying ... $\mathbb{Q}f6$. 5... $\mathbb{Q}b4$ + 6 $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{W}a5$ 7 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ $d5!$ 8 $a3$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3+$ 9 $bxc3?$! A dubious novelty. 9 $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ $d4$ 10 $b4$ $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ 11 $axb4$ $\mathbb{W}xa1$ 12 $\mathbb{Q}b5$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ was unclear in Lerner-Khuzman, Kuibyshev 1986. 9... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 10 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ 0-0 White is losing the initiative. He has yet to castle, while Black is already well developed. 11 $\mathbb{W}b3$ $dxc4$ 12 $\mathbb{W}xc4$ $e5$ Freeing the light-squared bishop for action. 13 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 14 $\mathbb{W}d3$ (101a) 14... $e4$! Ivanchuk exploits White's doubtful opening play with great energy. 15 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ White may as well accept, as there is no good square for his queen, e.g. 15 $\mathbb{W}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 16 $\mathbb{W}d2$ $\mathbb{H}ad8!$ 17 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{W}a4$ 18 $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ $\mathbb{H}xd8$ and Black wins. 15... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 16 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{H}ad8$ 17 $\mathbb{W}c2$ After 17 $\mathbb{W}e3$ $\mathbb{H}fe8$ White has no good way to disentangle his e-file pieces. 17... $\mathbb{Q}d4!$ 18 $\mathbb{W}b2$ (101b) 18... $\mathbb{Q}xe2!$ Far more incisive than the alternatives. 19 $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ 19 $\mathbb{W}b4$ is met by 19... $\mathbb{Q}xc3!$. 19... $\mathbb{H}fe8$? 20 $\mathbb{W}b4$ There is only a choice of evils: 20 $f3$ $f5!$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{Q}c4+$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{W}b6+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}g2$ (23 $\mathbb{W}xb6$ $\mathbb{H}e2+$ 24 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{H}d1\#$) 23... $\mathbb{H}e2+$ 24 $\mathbb{W}xe2$ $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ 25 $\mathbb{H}e1$ $\mathbb{W}xb7$ 26 $\mathbb{H}xe2$ $\mathbb{H}d3$ should win for Black, while 20 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}c4+$ 21 $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{H}xe4$ 22 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{W}d5+$ 23 $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $h5$ mates in a few moves. 20... $\mathbb{W}h5+!$ 21 $f3$ $f5$ (101c) 22 $g4$ 22 $\mathbb{W}c5$ $b6$ 23 $\mathbb{W}b5$ $a6$ unpins the $f5$ -pawn. 22... $\mathbb{W}h3$ 23 $gxf5$ Or 23 $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $fxe4$ 24 $\mathbb{W}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ and wins. 23... $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 24 $\mathbb{W}c4+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 25 $\mathbb{H}e1$ $\mathbb{H}xe4+!$ An attractive conclusion. 0-1 26 $fxe4$ leads to mate after 26... $\mathbb{Q}g4+$ 27 $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{W}xh2+$ 28 $\mathbb{Q}e3$ (or 28 $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$) 28... $\mathbb{W}g3\#$.

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