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Hanon W. Russell



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hwr@chesscafe.com
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Front Cover: Facing each other as kings of chess, Mikhail Botvinnik (left) and Mikhail Tal. Tal is shown at about the age that his great adversary was during their match. Back Cover: Tal is shown shortly after the match, a young champion with a wide grin for the world.

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Tal: A Remembrance

To several current generations of chess players, Mikhail Tal, "The Wizard of Riga," was muse. At the close of the 1950s, when chess was settling down to a sort of "scientific determinism" of positional play, young Misha arrived at the most exalted chess "laboratory" to shake up the formulae and add a large beaker full of fun. Where his contemporaries shuffled, he sacrificed. He showed us that beauty and poetry still remained in the royal game. As Ragozin said, "Tal does not move pieces by hand; he uses a magic wand!"

Mikhail Nekhemyevich Tal was born in Latvia on November 9, 1936. Although he was not a child prodigy, when he did begin to ascend, he soared so rapidly that in 1957 he was both the youngest Soviet champion ever and a rare case that required FIDE to award him the title of international grandmaster while waiving the normal requirement that it first recognize him as master!

Tal's famous sorcerer's stare made Clint Eastwood's most sinister sneer look like the ubiquitous happy-face. Tal's glare actually once drove Pal Benko to retreat behind dark glasses during a game. Never one-upped on or off the board, Misha countered with laughably oversized, borrowed shades. Benko lost.

When Tal beat Botvinnik for the world championship in 1960, he was at the time the youngest world champion ever, full of vigor and brilliance. Then, within months, he developed what was to become a lifelong illness and handicap to his play. He was found to have a diseased kidney. Ever a chess fanatic, in the hospital for the removal of the offending organ in 1969, Tal reportedly talked chess until the anesthesia-mask was strapped on! During his convalescence, he would sneak out of the hospital to play at the local chess club.

I was fortunate enough to sit next to Tal at a small table during the final World Championship of his lifetime, Kasparov-Karpov, New York, 1990, about two years before Tal's death. As we sipped coffee in the protection of a private meeting room, we watched famous GMs comment in turn on the game at an oversized board.

I was shocked by Tal's appearance. His illness and his passion had demanded from him a great price. Although barely 54, he seemed physically an old and frail man. What hair he had left was white. He had just traveled halfway around the world by jet, a challenge to even the young and healthy. On top of that, this 30th anniversary of his own unforgettable victory had brought him together with old chess adversaries and old friends. It was clear that his day had already included frequent ceremonial toasts to past battles. Tal's prematurely wizened face was heavy-lidded as he hunched over in his gray, double-breasted suit, his elbows on the table, his chin resting in his hands. The old stare was frankly a bit glazed.

As the game unfolded, Kasparov was on the attack, building up against Karpov's castled king. No less than Yasser Seirawan was taking a turn at our private demonstration board when it became clear the battling K's were reaching a critical point. My eyes darted between the position and Tal as I covertly checked his face for reaction. Surely, such an attacking game between titans stirred the old juices in the Wizard somewhere down deep. Kasparov was now the young attacking genius whose games regularly amazed rooms full of grandmasters. How much of this new genius could the "old" one follow?

The next Kasparov move was announced and repeated on the big board. At the exact moment the piece found its new square, Misha's exhausted stare suddenly twisted into an exaggerated, cartoon-like grimace of pure revulsion. I half expected him to follow up by holding his nose and crying "Phew!" Obviously Tal had found the move to be a game-spoiler.

Everyone else at the "ball" accepted Emperor Garry's new clothes, and Tal's face quickly regrouped itself to a guarded stare. But from that point on in the game, Karpov's defense began to take control. In the end it was Kasparov who was relieved to draw. Later, when the game had been analyzed worldwide, Kasparov's culprit-move was found to be the same one that instantly contorted Tal's face for that revealing moment at the table.

Right up until life's last checkmate, Mikhail Tal, eighth chess champion of the world, still had the sorcery in his wand and in his eyes. His games will continue to inspire new generations of players to find the swashbuckling and the beautiful in chess. In this book, he shares with you, in an intimate way, his special magic.

Al Lawrence
Executive Director, U.S. Chess Federation, 1988-1996

From the Author

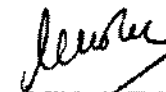
In the spring of 1960, two Soviet chessplayers again met each other in the match for the championship of the world. This time, I played the role of challenger.

I will not hide the fact that it was very flattering that the world championship match between Botvinnik and me aroused great interest among chessplayers. All the match games were analyzed in detail in the pages of the press. Grandmaster Ragozin headed the remarkable analysts who, soon after the finish of the duel, published books about the match. To add something to their variations is a problem which is by no means easy.

But this author has not tried to do that. His goal was not to discover some move in the struggle through the eyes of a detached spectator, but to try to give the personal feelings, thoughts, agitation, and disappointments of a direct participant in the combat. Let the reader not complain that, in this book, he will not see Tal, figuratively speaking, in a starched white shirt and tie, but in his working clothes; I will relate the story of the match, basically, from the beginning of this intense duel.

Of course, such a book might be, to a certain extent, one-sided. I therefore placed before myself one goal - to reveal to the reader, in detail, the dialectical developmental process of a chess game, beginning with the opening. A book this size does not permit me to give an opening manual, and in fact, such would be beyond the scope of this endeavor.

Each game is prefaced with a small introduction, in which I discuss the attitude before the game, or go in for a small lyrical digression, sharing my thoughts that I had at the time of the match.



Mikhail Tal
Riga

September, 1960

Before the Match

The cherished dream of every chessplayer is to play a match with the World Champion. But here is the paradox: the closer you come to the realization of this goal, the less you think about it. At the very beginning of my creative path I mentally depicted my meeting with Botvinnik more than once. Botvinnik - the hero of our generation, on whose games and labors more than one Pleiad of Soviet chessplayers has been nurtured. Later, this goal became less of a dream as I became a member of the large group of participants who were to play a series of tournaments leading to the right to play a match with the World Champion. However, "current affairs" somehow pushed these "sweet dreams" into the background. Curiously enough, at the time of the Candidates Tournament, I did not find myself once dreaming those dreams which until recently had seemed so forbidden. But the tournament ended, I had succeeded in taking first place and had earned the right to play the match.

It then would seem that there was not a minute to lose before preparations for the match should begin. Far from it. My nervous reaction after that marathon tournament had been so great that I was in no condition to think about the match, or for that matter, any serious chess work. And there was not much time before the beginning of the match - less than six months. Rather than venturing it myself, Alexander Koblents and I began the business of discussing the problems of preparation for the most important event in my life.

Until that time, I had considered myself, and not without reason, among the ranks of tournament chessplayers - I had only had one occasion to play an actual match (that was in 1954, when I, to tell the truth, really did not imagine that it was necessary to prepare for such a contest). Therefore I was completely unfamiliar with the specific character of this type of competition.

Nevertheless, there exists a huge difference between tournament and match play. First of all, to express it coarsely, there is the bookkeeping. While in a tournament a participant is not bound by his point showing - at least in the first part of the tournament - and can venture the luxury of "staying up late" at the start, each match game is equally important. You see, in a match there are no other competitors, no

outsiders and a chessplayer cannot plan in advance from whom he will win without fail, with whom a draw will be sufficient and (as often happens!) to whom it will not be shameful to lose. The cost of each point in a match in comparison with a tournament grows twofold: if one chessplayer wins, then his rival automatically loses, and therefore match games always evoke a greater feeling of responsibility.

Matches have their own psychological character. If in the Candidates Tournament, I became weary meeting one and the same opponent four times (and this was after an interval of seven rounds!), then what is to be said about a match, where I would meet the same chessplayer day in and day out? This is even more taxing.

Finally, the problem of preparing for a match is also significantly more difficult. I have not yet mentioned that my opponent was an unsurpassed master of home preparation. If I often employed risky variations, it may have worked out in a tournament; if I put my hopes on some risky opening adventure in a match, my bluff was certain to be called.

In a word, I had comparatively little time in which to study the "ABCs" of match play, while my opponent, in the last ten years, had defended his "Championship Dissertation" only in this milieu. And, actually, when we began to go over games played by Botvinnik since he had won the title of World Champion (1948), it did not take much to convince us that the overwhelming majority of them were played in title matches, in which he had three times defended his title, and once recovered it.

I was often chided for the fact that only one month after the conclusion of the Candidates Tournament, I entered the First International Tournament at Riga (and it was extremely unimportant). Here I must frankly admit that this appearance was also one of the ingredients of my preparation for the match. Chess fans, probably, focused their attention on the fact that in the majority of my games in this tournament, I turned out to be on the defensive, sometimes right from the opening. Inasmuch as defense has always been my "Achilles Heel," I did not treat it lightly. In all fairness, it must be noted that the pace was set by the two winners of the tournament, Boris Spassky and Vladas Mikenas; their results at the end were so impressive, that I, at no time in this competition, saw any possibility of being their equal.

However, be that as it may, my trainer and I were fairly satisfied with the creative results of the tournament. And besides, this small, pleasant tournament in Riga, in my opinion, was an extremely valuable tension reliever. It is interesting to note that I felt less tired after the tournament than I did before it. At the same, I had begun my preparation

for the forthcoming match in earnest.

It is customary to consider that preparation for each competition is divided into three elements: (1) a chess element (basically the openings); (2) a psychological element; and (3) a physical element.

The analysis of innovations by Soviet and foreign theoreticians enters into the first element - a new search, a better continuation in this or that opening variation. The psychological element includes primarily a detailed analysis of the games of the future opponent, full comprehension of his strengths and weaknesses and perception of his manner, or as is commonly called, his style of play. Physical preparation, it seems to me, lies not solely in the realm of chess. But we gave fundamental consideration to physical preparation that would give me better chances of having a fresh mind in such a tiring match, rather than generating two suitcases of theoretical novelties.



However, due to general fatigue, it turned out that I was not in any condition to sharpen any opening edges anyway. Therefore, we did not spend too much time preparing the openings. I, understandably, felt during the match that I could not be satisfied with my results in the initial stages in many games. But there were also advantages - from the outset of the first game, I felt "hungry" for chess, and what is even more important, right to the beginning of the 21st game, I never felt too "full."

Nevertheless, of course, we spent a considerable amount of time over the chessboard. As far as the openings were concerned, our basic problem was to "find our own level" so that I would be spared from having to "re-invent the wheel" during the match. Basically, it did not seem necessary to us that my opening repertoire had to be changed.

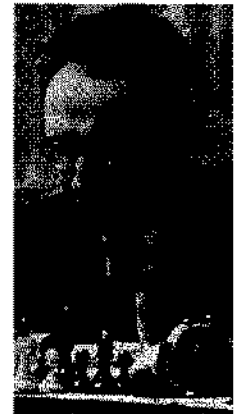
First of all, I had tried the possibility of varying openings in tournaments, especially with White and also in defense of 1 d4. In any case, we examined several systems, except for the Sicilian Defense, which I almost always use in answer to 1 e4. I say "in any case," because Botvinnik, in his preceding matches, had not opened once with his e-pawn. The last time in any competition for the World Championship that he did so was in a game with Reshevsky in 1948, after he had already secured first place. And in the tournaments in which Botvinnik had occasionally participated, he, as a rule, played d4 or c4 on the first move, venturing 1 e4 only with those opponents who seemed to be relatively weaker. And a sharp reorganization actually cannot help in the course of a struggle, since it is understood that it takes a while to become

accustomed to positions encountered for the first time in tournament practice.

So there they were, our opening plans. For Black - to perfect the systems formerly employed by me in closed openings, and for White - basically to examine the variations employed by Botvinnik in answer to 1 e4, which I intended to play from the very beginning.

We focused most of our attention on analyzing the games of Botvinnik. I will not hide the fact that this was not an easy problem. First of all, it was not easy because the majority of the World Champion's games were already well known and the quality of play - the harmony of logical conceptions, the strict consistency in the realization of a plan, the ability to impose his style of play on his opponent, the irreproachable endgame technique - this was also quite familiar to us.

Botvinnik's rare entrance into competitions recently also played a role. It is true that, as a rule, these appearances were rather successful. In the last five years, Botvinnik, except for his World Championship matches, had participated in the Olympiades in Amsterdam, Moscow and Munich, where he attained good results, losing only one game. To his credit, the World Champion did share first place in the Moscow International and won a small tournament in Holland. He likewise had participated in the People's Spartakiade of the USSR. That probably was all. On the basis of these games it was necessary to come to a conclusion about the contemporary Botvinnik.



We were convinced that my future opponent had not recently gone in for any voluntary intensification of a struggle, and in those cases when he was caught up in a combinational "storm," he was less sure of himself. If he obtained a position in the opening in which he had the initiative, then his opponent, under pressure, could only hope for a miracle, and this occurred very, very rarely. The discovery was made that in many games, Botvinnik would agree to a minimal edge in the endgame, which as a rule, would lead to success thanks to his highly polished technique.

! But the most important conclusion at which we arrived in examining all of his games might have been that during a game, Botvinnik gives most of his consideration to strategic questions, not being distracted by different tactical variations. This can be both a plus (consistency in the realization of a plan) and a minus, since in several positions his underestimation of the tactics showed considerably in his results. For

example, in several games in his match with Vasily Smyslov, in particular in the 8th game of the 1957 match, and the 11th and 22nd games of the return match. Also it was seen in Botvinnik-Gurgenidze in the People's II Spartakiade of the USSR, when though Botvinnik had restricted his opponent according to all rules of chess strategy, he was not able to realize the advantage which he had obtained; all that had been required was some sharp tactical play. In this respect, his games with foreign chessplayers seem less significant, since in many of the encounters where he had strategic superiority, this was fully sufficient to bring home the full point. These were, then, probably all the conclusions which we were able to draw from the World Champion's games.

We drew some interesting conclusions from statistics. In particular, Botvinnik had lost only two games in tournament play since 1956, to Paul Keres in the Alekhine International Memorial Tournament and to Dueckstein in the XIII Chess Olympiade. Both games, in which Botvinnik had Black, "unfurled under the banner of the Sicilian." Further, in several other games played with the Sicilian, Botvinnik's position was not too favorable for a long time. One might recall his meeting with Bent Larsen at the XII Chess Olympiade in Moscow.

Botvinnik had achieved most of his success employing the Caro-Kann Defense when he had had Black, although this defense it is true, had only undergone trial in one competition, the return match with Smyslov, while the appearance of the French Defense in Botvinnik's games was becoming rarer and rarer in recent years. Only in Munich, against Wolfgang Uhlmann, did Botvinnik answer 1 d4 with 1...e6, and then it can be assumed that the German Grandmaster (then still a Master) refrained from 2 e4 as he himself usually played the French.

We did not find one game in which Botvinnik played White against the King's Indian when he faced 2...c5. It was not clear which system Botvinnik would use in reply to the King's Indian Defense, since in his games, the solid fianchetto of the king Bishop had been most encountered, as well as the recently fashionable Saemisch Attack. The small number of games played by Botvinnik could not give us satisfactory answers to our many interesting questions. In short, the preparation for the match was "a preparation with many unknowns" and only the match itself would give the answers to all the questions.

March, 1960, imperceptibly approached. Further events developed rapidly. The arrival in Moscow in the evening, the drawing of lots, the result of which was that I would have White in the first game; the next day, the match's opening ceremonies, and then March 15th, the first round...

Game One

Tuesday, 15 March 1960

I must confess to the readers that my spirits, right up until the beginning of the match, were not too high. And there was a good reason for this: In the past few years, I had had the "charming" habit of beginning a tournament with a defeat. The XXV Championship of the Soviet Union, the international tournament in Zurich, the USSR People's Spartakiade, and finally, the Candidates' Tournament! This list seems to me to be quite sufficient. This had gotten into my flesh and blood to such a degree that the score of the first game would come as no surprise to me, to my opponent or to my chess friends, who would not begin to look for chess releases or buy the bulletins until the second round. It is true that I succeeded in winning the first game against Grandmaster Tolush in the First International Tournament in Riga, at the end of 1959, but as it turned out, the winning of this first game was virtually unique for me in competition.

The problem of beginning the first game of the match had not been considered by us. Even in the

closing ceremonies at the Candidates' Tournament in Belgrade, a Yugoslav radio commentator asked me: "What will you play on the first move as White in the first game of your match with Botvinnik?" I promised, without much reflection, to begin the game by advancing my e-pawn, and I did not want to break my word for no reason whatsoever; that notwithstanding, the move e4 is not so bad itself...

Mikhail Tal-Mikhail Botvinnik
French Defense

1 e2-e4 (0.01) e7-e6 (0.01)

Is this a surprise? Not as far as I am concerned. At least, preparing for the match, my trainer Alexander Koblents and I realized that his use of the French Defense was a real possibility. Although this opening did not bring Botvinnik any special success in his second match with Smyslov, Botvinnik's exceptional creative ability did not provide any basis for assuming that he would shy away from that very French Defense which so many times had

brought him outstanding victories. The most recent of the "French" games which was of theoretical significance had been played between Gligorich and Petrosyan in the 1959 Candidates' Tournament, and in that game, the opening had turned out well for White. We had, of course, studied this game and were not opposed to a repetition of the opening moves. Inasmuch as it was obvious that Botvinnik had also examined this game, the match took on a very peculiar psychological aspect regarding the openings from the very first meeting. Before my second move, I reflected for a minute, recalling the numerous ramifications of this opening, considering those upon which my opponent might also dwell.

2 d2-d4 (0.02) d7-d5 (0.01)
3 ♖b1-c3 (0.02) ♗f8-b4 (0.02)

The French Defense is one of the most complicated openings. For a long time it was thought that one had to go through a lengthy maneuvering struggle, avoiding immediate skirmishes. Through the efforts of Soviet theoreticians, Rauzer (for White) and Botvinnik (for Black), ways of greatly intensifying the position were found. In the variation employed by Botvinnik in this game, Black gives up his black-squared Bishop, which significantly weakens his Kingside. As compensation, he is able to put pressure on White's rather com-

promised Queenside. Many games which have begun with this variation have proven that if White does not succeed in quickly developing an initiative, the weaknesses in his position will sooner or later make themselves felt. Precisely because of this, White should immediately attempt to force the issue so as to prevent the stabilization of his opponent's position.

4 e4-e5 (0.02) c7-c5 (0.03)
5 a2-a3 (0.02) ♗b4×c3+ (0.04)

Botvinnik chooses a favorite line. It is curious to note that in the 1954 match with Smyslov, he retreated the Bishop to a5 in several games. Grandmaster Smyslov does not like long variations in the opening. After the moves 6 b4 cxd4 in the first three games, he continued 7 ♖b5, looking for quiet play to take advantage of the active position of his pieces. One must think that Botvinnik considered this variation fully acceptable for Black, since in the ninth game of the same match he again continued 5...♗a5, but this time (after home preparation) Smyslov chose the sharper continuation 7 ♗g4! and after 7...♗e7 8 bxa5 dxc3 9 ♗×g7 ♗g8 10 ♗×h7 ♗d7 (much more active than 10 ...♗bc6) 11 ♗f3 ♗f8 12 ♗d3 ♗×a5 13 h4! he obtained a significant edge and won the game nicely. Botvinnik employed this same variation in his game with

Unzicker (Chess Olympiade, 1954). This time, it is true, he did not "waste" pawns on the Kingside, but preferred the more careful 7...♗f8, but in this encounter, an unimportant position, as far as the opening is concerned, was reached. Apparently, precisely because of 7 ♗g4, Botvinnik refrains from 5...♗a5, although even here, the last word has yet to be spoken. The game Matanovich-Mititelu (Zonal Tournament, Budapest, 1960) was extremely interesting from this point of view. Notice, incidentally, that the move ♗g4 has recently become something like White's "visiting card" in the French Defense, in those cases when White is striving for the maximum in the opening.

6 b2×c3 (0.02) ♗d8-c7 (0.05)

There is a curious story connected with this move. The variation 6...♗e7 looks more flexible, since the King Knight still has to be developed this way, while the Black Queen can, on occasion, occupy a5, and later - a4. But the patent continuation 7 ♗g4 again causes complications, upon which chess theory has not yet given its final judgment. If memory does not fail me, Botvinnik last played 6...♗e7 in a game with Alexander (USSR-England Radio Match, 1947). The English Master continued 7 ♗g4 cxd4 8 ♗×g7 ♗g8 9 ♗×h7 ♗a5 10

♗b1, and after a complicated struggle, he won the game. Subsequently, Grandmaster Yefim Geller suggested an even stronger continuation - 8 ♗d3 - and used it successfully, with a beautiful win over Sokolsky in the XVIII USSR Championship. Recently, efforts by Black advocates of this variation have indicated that one should continue 7...0-0 or 7...♗f5 to improve the defense. Botvinnik is trying to create play in the center immediately.

7 ♗d1-g4 (0.07) ...

"There is nothing new under the sun." My opponent has repeatedly encountered this variation in his games. After 7 ♗f3, the game is sufficiently complicated, but insufficiently sharp. For the time being, White is threatening to annihilate the Kingside.

7 ... f7-f5 (0.06)

7...♗e7 8 ♗×g7 ♗g8 9 ♗×h7 cxd4 is but a transposition of moves. Now the idea behind Black's sixth move is revealed - g7 is defended. In view of the fact that the capture en passant 8 exf6 ♗×f6 would only confirm the well known thesis appearing in all texts, that is not worth developing the Queen at the beginning of the game, White naturally continues...

8 ♗g4-g3 (0.07) ♗g8-e7 (0.08)



Tal-Botvinnik: The start of the first game.

With his last move, Black stresses that he does not fear a capture on g7 in the least. In order to avoid this, he might have previously exchanged in the center with 8...cxd4 9 cxd4, and only then continue ♗e7, after which bad is 10 ♖xg7?? because of 10...♗g8 11 ♖xh7 ♖c3+. Botvinnik played this himself in a game with Reshevsky (Match Tournament for the World Championship, 1948). White continued 10 ♗d2 0-0 11 ♗d3 b6 12 ♗e2 ♗a6 13 ♗f4, and got a good attacking position. It is true that as the game progressed, Botvinnik succeeded in repelling the attack with accurate defense, and even won the game, but nevertheless, there are few people who are suited to handle such a position, since it does appear that White has a tangible positional plus: his black-squared Bishop, although only operating on one diagonal, can strike via d2 to b4, where it will be positioned much more actively. The young, talented

German master Fuchs is one of the "last of the Mohicans" who still defends this variation. He has used this continuation twice against Soviet chessplayers - with Spassky in the Student World Championship at Varna (1958) and with Vasyukov (Gota, 1957), but he was crushed both times in about 25 moves.

9 ♖g3xg7 (0.10) ...

Smyslov, in the 14th game of his match with Botvinnik, avoided complications and played 9 ♗d2. Black developed his forces as in the game with Reshevsky, and he received a good position thanks to the passive position of White's Queen Bishop. I am sure that if White wants, he can get an opening edge; but he should by no means pass up this kind of double-edged continuation, which always appears so basic and more often than not, the strongest.

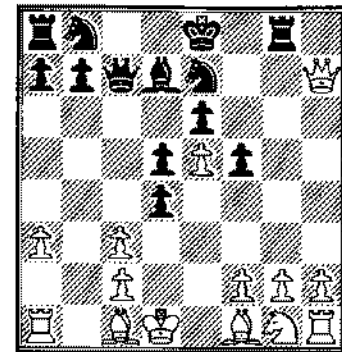
9 ... ♗h8-g8 (0.08)

**10 ♖g7xh7 (0.11) c5xd4 (0.10)
11 ♗e1-d1! (0.13) ...**

Twenty years ago, an annotator would cringe in horror at such a move. At the very beginning of the game, the white King starts out on a journey! This eccentric continuation is seen little today. White prefers to mask his development plans of the king Knight for a while, keeping the possibility of either going to e2 or f3, while keeping the f1-a6 diagonal free. Losing the right to castle essentially has no meaning since, first of all, his opponent is not very well developed yet, and second of all, Black's own King is uncomfortable on e8. As far as I am concerned, the only game in which I came across the move 11 ♗d1 (recommended, by the way, by Max Euwe), was in the above-mentioned Gligorich-Petrosyan game. The Soviet Grandmaster continued with the straightforward 11...♗bc6 12 ♗f3 ♗xe5 but after the very strong 13 ♗g5!, got into difficulties (13...♗xf3 does not work because of 14 ♗b5+!). From Botvinnik's steadfast analytical point of view, the possibility of strengthening Black's play must not be overlooked.

11 ... ♗c8-d7 (0.14)

A very artful move. Black intends to use the Bishop's help along with the Queen's striking power to underscore the vulnerability of the White King. The pieces have to be



developed in any event, but it is best to first move the Bishop out. If White now plays 12 ♗f3, then after 12...♗a4 13 ♗d3 ♖xc3, his position immediately becomes critical. On 12 ♗e2, Black can still play 12...♗a4, with the unpleasant threat of 13...d3. It is easy to see how the move 11...♗d7 kills two birds with one stone: strategically it helps complete development and prepares for castling long, while tactically it readies a blow at c2. If White does not want to come under strong attack, he must play extremely actively. There is basis for this. With his move 7...f5, Black got rid of his pawn that was on f7, for which the black King often has to play the unpleasant role of "guardian," but, on the other hand, the h5-e8 diagonal has been weakened, and this diagonal protects the black King when the f-pawn is in its original position. Moreover, it has deprived Black's pieces of any future "material" support on the diagonal. In any event, the white Queen can now return to "home shores" with a tempo.

12 ♖h7-h5+(0.30) ♜e7-g6(0.24)

On 12...♖d8, to avoid the pin, I intended to continue 13 ♖g5, going for an attack. With the text move, Black sends up a "trial balloon" - will White be satisfied with a draw after 13 ♖h7 ♜e7 14 ♖h5+, etc?

13 ♜g1-e2 (0.31) ...

One must understand that such an agreement to a draw would be a considerable creative defeat. It would mean that I admitted that I was wallowing in a mire of confusion after the first innovation by my opponent. White's 13th move attempts to take advantage of the pin. It threatens 14 ♜f4 and on 14...♖f7, the quiet 15 ♜d3 could follow, or the sharper 15 g4. Now Black must take care of his King. Botvinnik spent more than a half an hour deliberating over this position, from which it can be inferred that he had not covered all the subtleties of the variation in his home laboratory. The continuation 13...♖e5 14 cxd4 or 13...dxc3 14 ♜f4 ♖f7 15 ♜d3 (significantly stronger than 15 ♖h7+, which was recommended by Vukovich) with a number of unpleasant threats (possible, for example, is the variation: 15...♜c6 16 ♜xf5 exf5 17 e6+ ♜xe6 18 ♖h7+ ♖g7 19 ♖xg7+!) is not at all satisfactory for Black. The straightforward 13...♜a4 runs up against the rejoinder 14 ♜f4 ♖xc3 15 ♜d3

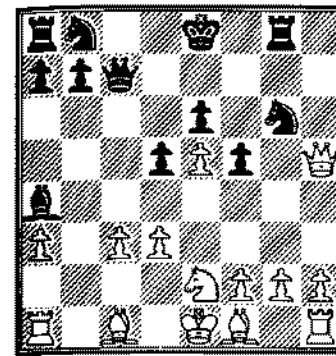
♖xa1 16 ♜xg6 ♜c6 17 ♜f4+! (stronger than the variation which I examined during the game, 17 ♜e7+ ♖d7! 18 ♜xg8 ♖xg8, with double-edged play.) Likewise, the problem is not solved by 13...♜c6 14 cxd4 ♖c8 15 ♖a2. Botvinnik chooses the best continuation, which, at the cost of a pawn, further loosens White's King position. Now the game takes on a "gambit" character.

13 ... d4-d3! (1.01)

White's answer is forced.

14 c2xd3 (0.31) ♜d7-a4+ (1.03)

However strange it may seem, this natural move does not seem to be quite correct. Black takes advantage of the opportunity to break the pin on the Kingside with tempo, but in so doing, he drives the White King to e1, where it is considerably more secure. White's problem would have been much more complicated after the simple 14...♜c6, followed by castling long. The white King, whose protection on the Queenside was quite unreliable, would have had to waste a tempo to get over to the other flank via e1. I think that after 14...♜c6 Black would have had some real compensation for his two sacrificed pawns.

15 ♖d1-e1 (0.32) ...**15 ... ♖c7xe5 (1.08)**

This is a fully understandable attempt by Black to regain some of his sacrificed material, but the text move loses a lot of time. 15...♜c6 might have been more in the spirit of Black's plan. Now, it is true, this move is not as strong, since White can continue 16 f4 0-0-0 17 ♜d2, gradually freeing the pieces on his kingside. Sooner or later, Black will have to sacrifice a Knight on e5. It is difficult to anticipate future events, but in any case, Black might have the initiative. It is tempting to look at the continuation suggested by the Czech master Podgorny, 15...♜b5, but by continuing 16 ♜g5! ♜xd3 17 ♖d2, White seizes the initiative.

16 ♜c1-g5! (0.50) ...

The basic problem which now confronts White is how to keep the black King in the center. In this respect, the loss of White's e-pawn has played into White's hands, since new threats can be created with the opening of the e-file.

White's plan is carried out by the unusual "lateral" development of the Rook.

16 ... ♜b8-c6 (1.15)

The attempt to fight for the initiative by 16...f4 does not work in view of 17 d4 ♖f5 18 ♜xf4 ♖c2 19 ♜e2.

17 d3-d4 (0.54) ♖e5-c7 (1.22)

After 17...♖e4 18 ♖c1!, Black's Queen finds that it does not have much room in the center of the board. The transition to the endgame, 17...♖h8 18 ♜f4, is also not satisfactory for Black.

18 h2-h4! (0.58) ...

This was not played to begin the advance of the passed pawn, (although it will play its part), but to bring White closer to his goal of getting the king Rook into the game and nearer the pressing developments in the center. On more sluggish continuations, Black, by playing 18...♜ce7 and preparing to castle long, obtains a dynamic position. Now there is no time for 18...♜ce7, inasmuch as White simply exchanges on e7 (19 ♜xe7 ♖xe7) and continues 20 ♖g5, and carries the game into extremely prosaic channels. Therefore, Black is forced to meet him halfway, opening lines.

18 ... e6-e5 (1.36)

19 ♖h1-h3 (1.06) ...

Bringing up the reserves and simultaneously countering the threat 19...exd4 20 cxd4 ♖xd4.

19 ... ♜c7-f7 (1.46)

Also possible here was 19...e4. In that case, Black's position would be rather solid, but he would be threatening absolutely nothing, and White could go about realizing his pawn advantage without any hindrance. Bad would be 19...f4 20 ♖g4. All of Black's efforts are being directed to driving the Queen back from h5 by bringing his Rook to h8, but he is never quite able to do this.

20 d4xe5 (1.08) ♖c6xe5 (1.48)

20...♖h8 is not possible in view of 21 e6 ♜xe6 22 ♖e3 ♖xh5 23 ♖xe6+ ♜f7 24 ♖xg6!

21 ♖h3-e3 (1.10) ♜e8-d7 (1.51)

Again, 21...♖h8 22 ♖xe5+ ♜d7 23 ♖e7+ ♜xe7 24 ♖xg6 does not work.

22 ♖a1-b1 (1.14) ...

With this unusual maneuver, White brings his queen Rook into the game; at the same time, Black's b-pawn is attacked.

22 ... b7-b6 (1.54)

It is difficult to imagine how, with the Queen on h5, the weakening of a6 can play any role, but nevertheless, it does. White's problem would have been more complicated after 22...♖c6. I intended to sacrifice the Exchange, transposing into a rather advantageous endgame with 23 ♖d4 f4 24 ♖xe5! ♖xe5 25 ♜xf7+ ♖xf7 26 ♖xf4 ♖ae8+ 27 ♜d2, but this would have been the lesser of two evils for Black. The move 22...b6 has another disadvantage: White can take advantage of the position of the Bishop on a4, winning an important tempo for the development of the Rook.

23 ♖e2-f4 (1.15) ...

White's pieces are poised like a coiled mainspring. If Black now plays 23...♖h8, then after 24 ♖xg6 ♖xg6 25 ♜e2, the threat ♜a6 (see the preceding note) will decide the game.

23 ... ♖a8-e8 (1.58)

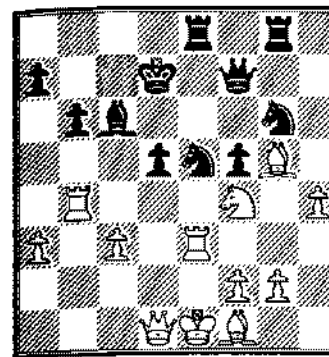
24 ♖b1-b4! (1.19) ...

Preparing White's next move.

24 ... ♖a4-c6 (2.00)

25 ♜h5-d1! (1.22) ...

"The Queen has done her job - she is now dismissed." Black never played ♖h8. A rather picturesque position has arisen: The white King and Queen, after their long journeys, have returned to their



original positions; the king Bishop has not made one move at all, and nevertheless, Black has a very difficult position on his hands. White not only has a solid extra pawn, but he also has extraordinarily actively placed pieces - chiefly the Rooks, which are effectively controlling the center. The impressive mass of Black pieces in this region is in fact harmless.

25 ... ♖g6xf4 (2.05)

And after 25...♖g4 26 ♖e2 or 26 ♖xe8 ♖xe8+ 27 ♖e2, Black is lost.

26 ♖b4xf4 (1.22) ♖e5-g6 (2.11)

27 ♖f4-d4 (1.23) ♖e8xe3+ (2.12)

On 27...f4, 28 ♜g4+ decides the issue.

28 f2xe3 (1.26) ...

There is no need to withdraw the Bishop from its active position on g5. The White e-pawn can serve as

a shield for the King if need be. However, Black does not succeed in creating any threats whatsoever.

28 ... ♜d7-c7 (2.16)

29 c3-c4 (1.28) ...

This leads to a forced material advantage for White. On 29...♖e7, White continues 30 cxd5 ♖xd5 (or 30...♖xd5 31 ♖c4) 31 ♖xe7 ♜xe7 32 ♜c1+, giving Black absolutely no chance.

29 ... d5xc4 (2.20)

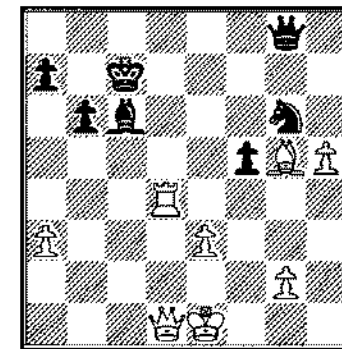
30 ♖f1xc4 (1.28) ♜f7-g7 (2.21)

31 ♖c4xg8 (1.30) ...

Not a bad course of events for the Bishop, which had just made its first entrance into the game.

31 ... ♜g7xg8 (2.22)

32 h4-h5 (1.31) ...



Finally, the passed pawn has its say. Black resigned.

Game Two

Thursday, 17 March 1960

Botvinnik's loss in the first game immediately put both opponents on new terms. If, before the beginning of the competition, Botvinnik could have been satisfied with 24 draws to retain his world championship title (such a percentage of draws is possible, of course, only on paper), then now he had to play to win to eliminate the gap. Botvinnik's position would significantly deteriorate upon a second Tal victory. We were very interested in how Botvinnik would try to even the score: would he go in for complications as in the first match game or prefer slow, positional "squeezing" tactics, keeping a "sure draw" in hand? For just this reason, to ascertain Botvinnik's sporting tactics, Koblents and I dwelled on my favorite variation of the King's Indian Defense, one I used to employ very often and for which, of course, the World Champion was thoroughly prepared.

**Mikhail Botvinnik -Mikhail Tal
King's Indian Defense**

**1 d2-d4 (0.00) ♘g8-f6 (0.01)
2 c2-c4 (0.01) c7-c5 (0.02)
3 d4-d5 (0.02) e7-e6 (0.02)**

One of the systems which is characteristic of Black's modern approach to the game. Capablanca's "lighter" systems and other orthodox defenses seem to have been forgotten in the archives of history. The ranks of those who, when playing Black, like to take on a position which has no prospects, under an illusion of notorious equalization, are getting smaller. Therefore, other "unacceptable" (from the point of view of "classicism") systems are often becoming the favorite weapons of modern chessplayers, as for example, the Nimzo-Indian, along with other "Indian" Defenses. In all such openings, White has certain strategic advantages, whether it is a strong center or active piece positioning. However, Black's position is basically full of hidden resources. So it is with this variation. In a few moves we will see that there is a very unpleasant weakness in Black's camp at d6

and it will be necessary to defend it with the help of different tactical shifts. At the same time, his black-squared Bishop on g7, actively operating on the long diagonal, as well as the pawn majority on the queenside, gives every reason to expect that Black will have counterplay. How many times has White refuted this system! Aron Nimzovich was the first to use it in a game with Frank Marshall in the New York International Tournament of 1927. Marshall immediately transferred his Knight to c4, and the instant Black hesitated (this system is characterized by the fact that even a comparatively small inaccuracy can put Black in a hopeless position), he was smothered in a few moves, and before long torn to pieces. The hypnotic effect of this game was so strong that even Alekhine himself appraised Black's opening experiment as one which did not inspire confidence.

And here, only a quarter of a century later, fans of unknown paths again have selected this route. The variation selected by Black is not common and could be found classified under Hromadka Systems, Benoni Defenses, Old Indians and even Queen Pawn Games. It was only recently that annotators decided to squeeze this "unplaceable" system into the roomy receptacle of the extremely conventional King's Indian Defense. Actually, almost any game

where Black's Bishop, as fate wills it, goes to g7, lends itself to being called an "Indian Defense," although the fighting methods in the wilderness of this elastic opening are very, very different.

At the beginning of the fifties, the best way for White to play against this system, recounted in annotated games, was considered to be fianchettoing the king Bishop. Practice quickly proved, however, that on g2, the Bishop was out of play and Black succeeded in obtaining complete counterplay; then the "drivers" of the White pieces began to place their pieces in the center without any pretense, but even then, Black got a comfortable position by one of several tactical methods. It finally became obvious that hackneyed development against this system is not justified, since, if White does not succeed in exploiting Black's "Achilles Heel," d6, the traditional counter-blow b5 (or in some cases f5) will give his opponent the initiative. Since that time, White's play has become more energetic, especially in connection with the idea of the immediate central breaks f4 and e5 (within different variations), for practice proved that in this opening, both Black and White should strive to carry out respective pawn breaks. If White succeeds in carrying out e5 first, then Black is in danger; if Black is able to set his pawn mass in motion on

the queenside without any positional concessions, then his initiative will likewise assume threatening proportions. In the search for the most satisfactory rejoinder, the following "commandment" was broken: "The same piece must not be moved more than once in the opening." White, forgetting about development, rushed his king Knight to c4 via f3 and d2 as soon as he could so that he could immediately attack the pawn on d6, but here Black had good fighting chances. And comparatively recently, White's supporters proposed still another idea: the development of the queen Bishop to g5 where it will cramp Black's forces, and after this restriction, proceed with active play in the center. It is precisely this line of play which Botvinnik follows in the present game.

4 ♖b1-c3 (0.02) e6×d5 (0.02)
5 c4×d5 (0.03) ...

If White wants to fix the weak square, transforming it into a strong outpost for his pieces, he should continue 5 ♖×d5 ♖×d5 6 ♖×d5. However after 6...d6, his Queen would be quickly driven back and the weak square would cease to exist.

5 ... d7-d6 (0.02)

Boris Spassky, in a game with me in the All-Union Junior Champi-

onship in 1954, played 5...g6. The idea behind this is that if White immediately transfers his Knight to c4, Black defers d6, preferring to develop his Bishop on the flank, making White lose some time, for example 6 ♖f3 ♖g7 7 ♖d2 0-0 8 ♖c4 b6 9 ♖f4 ♖a6 10 e3 b5!. If White sticks to his usual schemes, Black quickly plays d6 and frees himself by a transposition of moves. The continuation 5...g6 would probably have supporters if White did not have the dangerous rejoinder 6 d6!. Now the immediate attempt to win the presumptuous pawn by 6...♖b6 will not do because of 7 ♖g5; Black's position will be dismembered as White will follow with e4, f4 and e5, after which a direct attack on the King will begin and the pieces on Black's queenside will not be able to get over and help. With the Knight on f3, this plan is not dangerous for Black, and therefore in the eighth game, I chose a somewhat different order of moves.

6 ♖g1-f3 (0.04) ...

If White does not intend to proceed with immediate operations in the center, then this continuation is more precise than 6 e4, since the position of the White pawn on e4 gives Black a chance for counterplay along the e-file (after 0-0, ♖e8) using, in several variations, the tactical possibility b5.

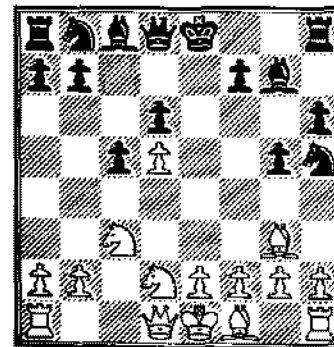
6 ... g7-g6 (0.02)
7 ♖c1-g5 (0.06) ♖f8-g7 (0.03)
8 ♖f3-d2 (0.08) ...

Black's possibilities are clear in the following variations: 8 e4 0-0 9 ♖e2 (more precise is 9 ♖d2) h6 10 ♖h4 g5 11 ♖g3 b5! 12 ♖×b5 ♖×e4 13 ♖×e4 ♖a5+ 14 ♖d2 ♖×b5 with an excellent game. It must be noted that similar variations are generally extremely typical for this system.

8 ... h7-h6 (0.07)

White's black-squared Bishop is a very active piece and therefore it is fully understandable why Black wants to eliminate it quickly.

9 ♖g5-h4 (0.09) g6-g5 (0.07)
10 ♖h4-g3 (0.09) ♖f6-h5 (0.07)



However strange it may seem, this is a theoretical innovation. Usually, Black has continued 10...a6 here to force White to play a4 and only then exchange Bishops, but in the XXVI USSR Championship, Averbakh, against Vasyukov, was convincingly able to take advan-

tage of the weakness of b6 by playing 11 a4 ♖h5 12 ♖c4 ♖×g3 13 h×g3 0-0 14 ♖b3. White can emphasize the harmlessness of Black's last move (10...a6) more simply by playing 11 e3! as in the game Simagin-Suetin in the XXVII USSR Championship where White, preventing the exchange of the black-squared Bishop without objecting to Black's b5, continued 12 a4 b4 and after 13 ♖cb1 secured c4 for his Knight and at the same time had a tangible positional edge. So why does Black nevertheless try to challenge the move a4? The fact is that after 10...♖h5, White has at his disposal the tempting continuation 11 ♖a4+ and, under the threat of losing the d-pawn, Black is forced to give up his right to castle, playing 11...♖f8. But let us look more carefully at the position that has arisen: does this symbolic factor have such great significance? The King on f8 is not at all so terribly placed and the white Queen on a4 can only help Black carry out the advance b5. Probably best for White is the immediate retreat of the Queen to b3, but in that case Black continues 12...♖×g3 13 h×g3 b5!, sacrificing a pawn to take advantage of his edge in development. After 14 ♖×b5 ♖a6 15 e3 ♖d7 Black has, in my opinion, full compensation for his pawn. Botvinnik, after some short deliberation, declined to refute Black's "opening error," stressing even further his intention

to give the struggle a quiet character.

11 $\Delta d2-c4$ (0.15) $\Delta h5 \times g3$ (0.09)
12 $h2 \times g3$ (0.15) $0-0$ (0.11)

In spite of the open h-file, the black King on g8 is not threatened by anything, since White's pieces are absolutely not prepared for an attack, and furthermore, to break through the King's position, which has a defender like the Bishop on g7, is no easy task. Possible was the curious idea 12... $\Delta \times c3$!? 13 $b \times c3$ $b5$ 14 $\Delta d2$ $a5$ 15 $e4$ $b4$ to begin immediate action on the queenside at the cost of the black-squared Bishop.

13 $e2-e3$ (0.17) ...

This is stronger than 13 $e4$, which might leave Black the possibility of obtaining a more active position after $f5$. The attempt to immediately win the pawn on $d6$ by 13 $\Delta e4$ $b5$ 14 $\Delta c \times d6$ $f5$ 15 $\Delta \times c8$ $f \times e4$ 16 $d6$ $\text{♙}a5+$ 17 $\text{♙}d2$ $\text{♙} \times d2+$ 18 $\text{♙} \times d2$ $\text{♞} \times c8$ does not work. But now Black has to solve the problem of comfortably developing his pieces. "Public Enemy No. 1" is the Knight on $c4$. It is try that by itself, it is not so menacing as it was in conjunction with the black-squared Bishop, but nevertheless to a certain extent, it ties Black's pieces down defending the d -pawn. It is disadvantageous to give the Bishop up after $b6$ and $\Delta a6$, since after this, the weaknesses on

Black's kingside will make themselves felt in particular on $f5$. White will then be able to establish a white-squared battery - Queen and Bishop on the $b1-h7$ diagonal - using his g -pawn as a battering ram, playing $g4$. Therefore only the Black Knight should enter into a duel with the Knight on $c4$.

13 ... $\text{♙}d8-e7$ (0.32)
14 $\Delta f1-e2$ (0.18) $\text{♞}f8-d8$ (0.35)

The double edged 14... $f5$ was worth consideration, tolerating the weakness on $e6$. Black would then have been able to try to loosen White's central grip. The text move is also not bad. Black prepares for the maneuver $\Delta b8-d7-e5$, but this does not work immediately due to 15 $\Delta b5$. The Rook on $d8$ is also not very actively placed.

15 $0-0$ (0.25) ...

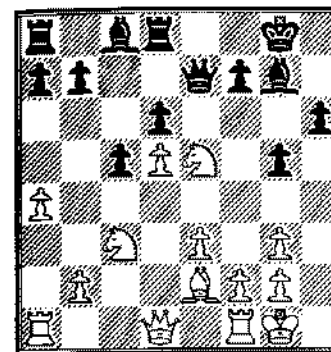
White does not intend to use the open h-file.

15 ... $\Delta b8-d7$ (0.36)
16 $a2-a4$ (0.31) ...

The move 16 $e4$ looks sharper and preserves the "beauty" of his position from exchanges. On 16... $\Delta e5$, White can continue 17 $\Delta e3$. But this double-edged continuation has its shady side: sooner or later the black Knight on $e5$ must be dislodged by means of $f4$, and the potential strength of the black Bishop pair will increase

considerably. In this game, as we shall see. Botvinnik avoids every double-edged continuation.

16 ... $\Delta d7-e5$ (0.39)
17 $\Delta c4 \times e5$ (0.42) ...



To have retreated the Knight at this point would have given nothing, if only because of the simple 17... $g4$.

17 ... $\text{♙}e7 \times e5$ (0.42)

This is not logical. Black himself blocks the Bishop's path. After the simple 17... $\Delta \times e5$ his position would not have been bad at all.

18 $a4-a5$ (0.50) $\text{♞}a8-b8$ (0.44)

Black begins to prepare the move $b7-b5$.

19 $\text{♞}a1-a2!$ (0.51) ...

Now Black's Queen and Bishop, which are aimed at the b -pawn, are of no use. White's Knight gets his freedom of movement and will again go back to $c4$ after the maneuver $\Delta c3-b5-a3$.

19 ... $\Delta c8-d7$ (0.50)
20 $\Delta c3-b5$ (0.53) ...

20 $\Delta b5$ could have been considered stronger with the intention of getting an active Knight for a "bad" Bishop, since the black Bishop is faced with his own pawns on black squares. I intended to answer 20... $\text{♙}e8!$ and after 21 $\text{♙}d3$ (21 $\Delta \times d7$ $\text{♙} \times d7$ followed by $b5$ is not dangerous) 21... $\Delta \times c3$ 22 $\Delta \times d7$ $\text{♙} \times d7$ 23 $\text{♙} \times c3$ $\text{♙}f5$ White's positional edge is microscopic. With the move in the text, Botvinnik somewhat hypnotized my vigilance - I decided that with Bishops of opposite colors, the position was absolutely drawn. Now everything becomes significantly more complicated.

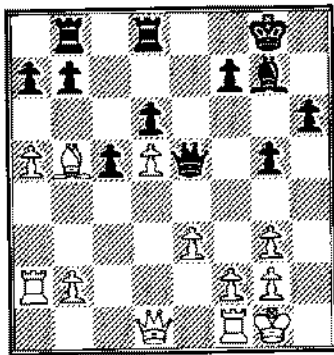
20 ... $\Delta d7 \times b5$ (0.55)

There was nothing better. If 20... $a6$, then 21 $\Delta a3$ and 21... $b5$ 22 $a \times b6$ $\text{♞} \times b6$ 23 $\Delta c4$ is not good for Black.

21 $\Delta e2 \times b5$ (0.55) ...

In this position, I offered my opponent a draw. Botvinnik asked me to make the next move and as often happens in similar positions, it did not turn out successfully. Black should have continued 21... $a6$ 22 $\Delta c4$ $b5$ 23 $a \times b6$ $\text{♞} \times b6$ 24 $b3$ $\text{♞}a8$. In this variation, his counterplay on the queenside evidently would secure the draw

without too much difficulty. After the move in the game, the queenside becomes blocked and White has the possibility of switching the game's center of gravity into the center and kingside where his prospects are better. Therefore, after the move . . .



21 ... b7-b6? (0.57)

...Botvinnik understandably declined the draw.

22 a5-a6! (1.00) ♖b8-c8 (0.58)

Intending again to lock up play on the queenside via c5-c4-c3.

23 ♖d1-d3 (1.07) ♜c8-c7 (1.00)

Black will transfer the Rook to e7, with the object of hindering White's advance in the center.

24 b2-b3 (1.13) ...

Inviting an exchange of Queens. Black, thinking that the position is clearly drawn, accepts the invitation without further thought - and

groundlessly! White's chances significantly increase in the endgame.

24 ... ♜e5-c3 (1.02)

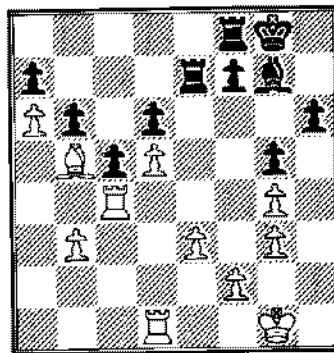
25 ♜d3×c3 (1.14) ♜g7×c3 (1.02)

26 ♜a2-c2 (1.17) ♜c3-f6 (1.04)

Up to this very moment, Black has been playing without a plan. He should have continued 26...♜g7 so as to prepare f7-f5 and force White to retreat his Bishop from b5 where it is ideally placed.

27 g3-g4 (1.21) ♜c7-e7 (1.08)

28 ♜c2-c4 (1.25) ...



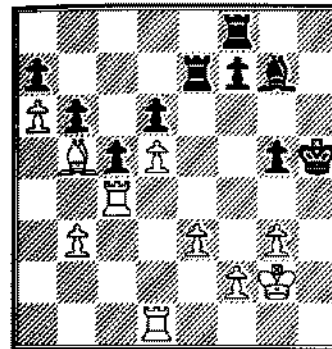
Now Black realizes that his position is extremely unpleasant and he has no obvious active possibilities. White can prepare at will an advance in the center by f4, e4, e5, and then undermine the Queenside with b3-b4. After the opening of files Black's weaknesses, especially the a-pawn, would be tangible. Therefore Black decides to upset his opponent with some different counter-strokes.

28 ... ♜d8-c8 (1.16)

This is primarily to prevent 29 b4 after which is possible 29...♜ec7 30 ♜fc1 ♜b2! 31 ♜1c2 ♜a3 32 b×c5 ♜×c5.

29 g2-g3 (1.33) ♜f6-g7 (1.27)

30 ♜f1-d1 (1.50) ♜c8-f8 (1.30)



Black is "fishing," hoping to undermine with f7-f5. It should be understood that at the end of a game, when fatigue begins to increase, you try to prevent your opponent from carrying out his intentions the first chance you get. And this is just what happened on the next move. Here, evidently, the immediate b4 is preferable, after which Black has three choices: (1) to exchange on b4, which would open the c-file; (2) to allow the exchange on c5, take with the b-pawn and then the white Rook would break through to b7 along the open file; and (3) to reply to b×c5, with d×c5, after which White has acquired an active passed pawn. It is impossible, of course, to prove that White's

advantage in this case is sufficient for a win, but his edge would be very real. Botvinnik wants to answer f4 after f5, and therefore he plays...

31 ♜d1-d3 (2.00) ...

White thinks that Black will only be marking time in the next ten moves and then White will be able to find the correct path to victory in home analysis. Now, however, it is difficult to retreat the Bishop from b5. Because of this, Black is now able to bring about a diversion on the kingside. The King himself leads the operations!

31 ... ♜g8-h7 (1.42)

32 ♜g1-g2 (2.03) ♜h7-g6 (1.49)

33 ♜d3-d1 (2.13) ...

This last Rook move underscores the fact that White's plan was not fully satisfactory. Now he will attempt to free his Bishop on b5. Here again, b4 is worth consideration. Tolush recommended the variation 33 f4 h5 34 g×h5+ ♜×h5 35 f5 but it does not bring the desired results in view of 35...g4, and White is not able to take advantage of the unusual position of Black's King.

33 ... h6-h5 (1.55)

34 g4×h5+ (2.14) ♜g6×h5 (1.55)

Now that the fetters have been torn down from the kingside, the worst

is in the past for Black. His pieces have obtained the needed mobility. Experiencing some time trouble, White succumbs to the temptation of making an extra move with check, but in doing so, he transfers the black King to a better position. The distinguished master Peter Romanovsky suggested an extremely amusing continuation, 35 $\mathbb{E}g4?$. If Black takes the Rook, 35 ... $\mathbb{G}\times g4$ 36 $\mathbb{A}d3$ $\mathbb{E}\times e3$ (this is the only move) 37 $f\times e3$, the black King is in a tragic-comic position. However, if Black does not take the Rook, then it is not clear what the purpose of 35 $\mathbb{E}g4$ is. 35 $b4$ still gives Black his most complicated problems.

35 $g3-g4+$ (2.16) $\mathbb{G}h5-g6$ (1.55)
36 $\mathbb{E}c4-c2$ (2.19) $\mathbb{E}f8-h8$ (1.56)
37 $\mathbb{A}b5-d3+$ (2.21) $\mathbb{G}g6-f6$ (1.56)

Inasmuch as White is forced to consider the move ... $\mathbb{E}h4$, his minimal edge yields nothing.

38 $\mathbb{G}g2-g3$ (2.21) $\mathbb{E}e7-e8$ (1.59)

Considering doubling the Rooks in the h-file and preparing the transfer of the King to e7 where it will not block the Bishop.

39 $\mathbb{A}d3-b5$ (2.27) $\mathbb{E}e8-e4$ (1.59)

Now ... $\mathbb{E}h4$ is threatened as well as ... $\mathbb{E}b4$, followed by b5. White's answer is forced.

40 $\mathbb{E}c2-c4$ (2.29) $\mathbb{E}e4\times c4$ (2.00)
41 $b3\times c4$ (2.32) ...

Black's counterplay has permanently denied White of the option of playing $b3-b4$. There is only one possibility left - to make use of the small edge on the Kingside.

41 ... $\mathbb{G}f6-e7$ (2.01)
42 $\mathbb{A}b5-a4$ (2.34) $\mathbb{A}g7-e5+$ (2.01)

A small psychological trap. Taking into account that White, in the course of all his games, has avoided moving pawns whenever he can, Black tempts him to make the move $f4$. After 43 $f4$ $\mathbb{A}f6$ White is hard pressed to carry out any further activation in view of the open h-file. Nevertheless, this is what he should have tried.

43 $\mathbb{G}g3-f3$ (2.40) $\mathbb{E}h8-h4$ (2.04)
44 $\mathbb{E}d1-g1$ (2.41) ...

Probably not taking into account Black's next move. Notice that on 44 $\mathbb{A}c2$ $\mathbb{E}h3+$ 45 $\mathbb{G}e4$ $\mathbb{E}h2$ 46 $\mathbb{E}f1$ $\mathbb{A}g3!$ 47 $\mathbb{G}f3$ $\mathbb{A}h4!$, a draw is inevitable - Black "takes a walk" with his King.

44 ... $f7-f5$ (2.07)

On Botvinnik's suggestion, a draw. After 45 $g\times f5$ $\mathbb{E}\times c4$, Black's queenside passed pawns quickly advance. 45 $\mathbb{A}c2$ might be stronger.

Game Three

Saturday, 19 March 1960

The problems facing Black do not stem from modern chess agendas. In spite of the abundance of fashionable defensive systems, statistics from recent competitions inexorably prove that the advantage of having the first move is more than psychological. If Black is seeking only to achieve "sweet" equilization and a draw, he has his work cut out for him. But if he is going for victory, then in the opening he is practically forced to allow his opponent to get some kind of well known positional advantage. We were very interested whether Botvinnik would strive to even the score playing Black, or would postpone such action until he again had the first move. The third game gave us the answer to a certain degree. If the Moscow Grandmaster had any aggressive intentions, he could repeat the French Defense (it is absolutely evident that I would have no "moral" right to play $e\times d5$ on the third move). The Sicilian Defense likewise leads to a sharp struggle (it is true that I especially like to take the White side against

it). If my opponent's plans in the game were peaceful, it is possible also that he would play the Caro-Kann, that is to say, the variation 1 $e4$ $c6$ $d4$ $d5$ $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $d\times e4$ 4 $\mathbb{Q}\times e4$ $\mathbb{A}f5$. It is of course understood that in preparation for the match, we did not overlook the fact that in the return match with Smyslov, Botvinnik used this defense as his "trump." In the first game of that match, he convincingly refuted Smyslov's extravagant play and quickly obtained a significant positional edge. The same thing occurred in the fifteenth game, where White played too eccentrically. Things did not turn out well for Botvinnik in the opening of the nineteenth game, but in all the remaining encounters where the Caro-Kann Defense was played, the struggle developed rather quietly, and White's advantage was too microscopic for the achievement of any kind of real edge. It can be easily inferred that this defense, which, to get to the point, Botvinnik used for the first time against Smyslov, is a solid "workhorse" in the World

Champion's opening repertoire. In the process of preparing for the match, we came across a continuation which had not been encountered in tournament practice and we selected it, considering that, first of all, it would be a complete surprise and therefore psychologically unpleasant for Botvinnik and second, an unusual position would arise. Therefore when Botvinnik played the Caro-Kann Defense in the third game I was very satisfied (at least for the first seven moves).

Mikhail Tal-Mikhail Botvinnik Caro-Kann Defense

**1 e2-e4 (0.00) c7-c6 (0.01)
2 ♖b1-c3 (0.01) d7-d5 (0.01)
3 ♗g1-f3 (0.01) ...**

In all the following games where the Caro-Kann was played, I chose the longstanding and in my opinion the stronger continuation 3 d4. However, the choice between 3 ♖f3 and 3 d4 is just a matter of taste for each chess player. In particular, Botvinnik thinks that 3 ♖f3 is better.

3 ... ♔c8-g4 (0.02)

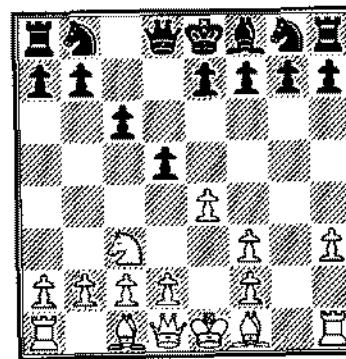
Here is one advantage of the Caro-Kann Defense in comparison with the French Defense: the usually inactive Black Bishop is already developed and prepared to "give its life" for the actively positioned king Knight.

4 h2-h3 (0.01) ♔g4xf3 (0.02)

In recent tournaments, the older continuation 4...♔b5 has again appeared. In this variation, for example, playing Black, Smyslov got an excellent position in his game against Fischer (Candidates' Tournament, Round 1, Bled 1959) and Bagirov won an important game against Gurgenzidze in the XXVII USSR Championship. It seems to me that the Riga master Klovan has had the last word in the theory of this variation. In his game with Tsirtsenis played in the Latvian Championship, 1960, he employed the interesting continuation 5 exd5 cxd5 6 ♔b5+ ♖c6 7 g4 ♔g6 8 ♖e5 ♗c8 9 d4 e6 10 ♖e2! ♔b4 11 h4 ♖b6 12 0-0! (significantly stronger than 12 a3 ♔xc3+ 13 bxc3 ♖e7 14 h5 ♔e4 15 f3 f6!) and he quickly got an overwhelming advantage. Mnatsakanian dealt this system still another blow in his game with Volovich (Semi-finals XXVIII USSR Championship, Rostov, 1960). Games from recent competition in which Botvinnik has played proved however that similar unclear continuations are not to his liking and he prefers to maintain a solid positional struggle.

5 g2xf3! (0.01) ...

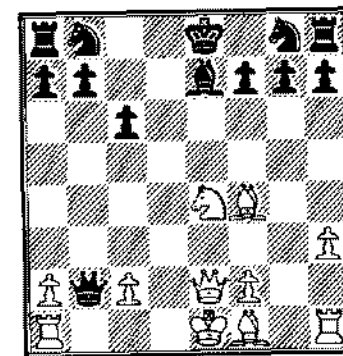
The annotators unanimously condemned this move. The argument is not whether a chessplayer employs an absolutely untried



opening subtlety, not knowing even one theoretical variation. It is probable that any popular chess book will tell you that similar pawn doublings are disadvantageous in that one must not weaken the kingside so early in the opening, etc., etc. In this case, it seems to me, in spite of the purely psychological pluses (an absolutely new position completely devoid of any possibility that Black might have done any home "grinding") the move 5 gxf3 has some positional basis: first of all it strengthens White's center, and second of all it opens the g-file along which he might be able to create pressure in the future. If Black immediately tries to refute this move and plays the straightforward 5...e5, then the following factor comes into effect: in the open game the strength of the pair of Bishops especially the light-squared one (not having an opponent) sharply increases. Here for example is one of the training games played before the match.

1 e4 c6 2 ♖c3 d5 3 ♖f3

♔g4 4 h3 ♔xf3 5 gxf3 e5 6 f4 dxe4 (after 6...exf4 7 exd5 cxd5 8 d4 a position similar to the King's Gambit has arisen in a favorable version for White) 7 fxе5 ♖d4 8 ♖e2 ♖xe5 9 d4 (Stronger was 9 ♖xe4 transposing into the better endgame. But is it really possible to refrain from such enticing sacrifices, especially in a training game?) 9...♖xd4 10 ♔xe4 ♔e7 11 ♔f4 ♖xb2.



(Impossible is 11...♖f6 12 ♖d6+ ♖f8 13 ♖xe7+ ♖xe7 14 ♖f5+ and 15 ♖xd4.) 12 ♔d1 ♖f6 13 ♖d6+ ♖f8 14 ♖xe7+? ♖xe7 15 ♖f5+ ♖e8! (impossible are both 15...♖f8 16 ♔d8+ ♖e8 17 ♔d6+ and 15...♖e6 16 ♖xg7+ ♖e7 17 ♔d6+ ♖d8 18 ♔a3+) 16 ♖xg7+ ♖f8 17 ♔d6+! (17 ♔d8+ ♖e7) ♖xg7 (after 17...♖g8 18 ♔g1 Black is defenseless, for example: 18...♖c3+ 19 ♔d2 ♖xd2+ 20 ♖xd2 ♖e4+ 21 ♖e3 ♖xd6 22 ♖e6*) 18 ♔g1+ ♖g4! (the only move; significantly worse is 18...♖h6 19 ♔f4+ ♖h5 20 ♔e2+ ♖h4 21 ♔g3+ ♖xh3 22 ♔f1+ ♖g4 23 ♔e5+ ♖f5 24 ♔xb2 with a very strong attack) 19

♖xg4+ ♜f6 ♞f4+ ♜g7. Drawn by perpetual check.

Botvinnik, correctly evaluating the position, decided to give the game a closed character. In the normal course of a game this would lead to approximately equal chances.

5 ... e7-e6 (0.17)

6 d2-d4 (0.02) ♖b8-d7 (0.19)

This is the most satisfactory way of developing his pieces. For the time being, Black does not define the position of his king Knight so that he does not give White the possibility of playing e5, winning a tempo.

7 ♖c1-f4 (0.10) ...

In the course of home preparation, we had examined this position with 7 ♖e3 followed by ♜d2 and 0-0-0, preparing for active operations in the center. In this case, 7...♜b6 does not give anything due to the simple 8 a3, and impossible is 8...♜xb2 9 ♖a4. After 7 ♖e3, White keeps control over the very important square f4; on 7...♖b4 he has at his disposal the simple answer 8 a3. As luck would have it, White decided to further "strengthen" the variation over the board and found an extremely dubious move.

7 ... ♖f8-b4 (0.31)

A good positional move. Now on 8

a3, Black replies 8...♖a5 followed by ♖c7, forcing White to exchange the black-squared Bishop. This will give him an unfavorable pawn structure or he will lose a tempo retreating. Incidentally, Black has avoided a trap. If he had played 7...♜b6, so that on 8 a3 he could proceed advantageously with 8...c5, White could have answered 8 ♜d2 and on 8...♜xb2 9 ♞b1 ♜a3 10 exd5 exd5 (10...cxd5 11 ♖b5) 11 ♜e3+, unfavorable is 11...♖e7 12 ♞xb7 ♖gf6 13 ♞b3 ♜a5 14 ♖d6 and 11... ♜d8 12 ♞b3 ♜a5 13 ♞xb7 and Black does not get to play 13... ♖b4 because of the threat 14 ♖c7+. In all of these variations, White's Bishop on f4 is extremely favorably positioned, but as we already noted, the pair of Bishops will only make themselves felt in an open game, and Botvinnik does not allow this.

8 h3-h4 (0.24) ...

And this is a simple blunder based on a miscalculation. The strategic goal of the move is on 8...♖e7 to be able to answer 9 h5, while the tactical goal is in several variations to be able to place the Rook on h3; nevertheless, the lesser of the two evils would have been 8 a3 ♖a5 9 b4 ♖c7 10 ♖e3.

8 ... ♖g8-f6 (0.36)

9 e4-e5 (0.47) ...

After this move, White is positionally lost, since all of his hopes for

an open game have disappeared and along with them any compensation for the numerous weaknesses in his camp. Playing 8 h4, I intended to begin gambit play with 9 a3 ♖xc3+ 10 bxc3 dxe4 11 fxe4 ♖xe4 12 ♜f3 ♜a5 13 ♞h3 ♖df6. White examined the following variation: 14 h5 0-0-0 15 h6 gxh6 16 ♖e5 ♖g5 17 ♜xf6 ♖xh3 18 ♜d2 ♖g5 19 ♖d3. I examined this position thinking that White has a fine initiative for the sacrifice of the Exchange, but suddenly I felt a shiver go down my spine when I saw 19...♜xe5!! and the game turns into an everyday endgame. Inasmuch as the e-pawn can now only be defended with the clumsy move 9 ♜d3 or 9 ♜e2, White willingly goes in for the foremost anti-positional move.

9 ... ♖f6-h5 (0.40)

10 ♖f4-g5 (0.48) ♜d8-a5 (1.00)

The way in which a positional advantage is realized depends on the style of the player. It would have been possible to play 10...f6 11 f4 g6. True, in this case White would have some vague hope of creating play against the e-pawn. But first Botvinnik attempts to deprive White of any counterplay.

11 ♖g5-d2 (0.51) ♜a5-b6 (1.03)

12 a2-a3 (0.53) ♖b4-e7 (1.04)

13 ♖d2-e3 (0.58) ...

On 13 ♖g5, 13...f6 wins by force.

13 ... g7-g6! (1.13)

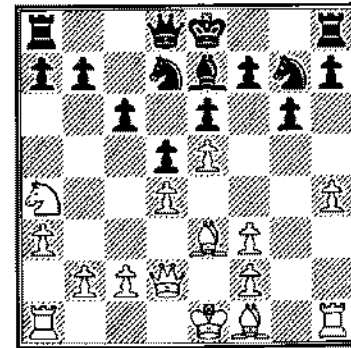
Fixing White's weaknesses; now it will be possible to lay siege to White's position. Black's Knight intends to station itself on the outpost f5.

14 ♖c3-a4 (1.03) ...

An attempt to sharpen the position. If Black now answers 14...♜a5+ White has a choice between 15 ♜d2 (15...♜xa4 16 b3 ♖b4 17 c3 ♜xb3 18 cxb4 with compensation for the pawn) and 15 c3 b5 16 ♖c5 ♖xc5 17 b4!. Both variations lead to improved positions for White. Botvinnik does not waver from his original plan and concentrates on the h-pawn.

14 ... ♜b6-d8 (1.18)

15 ♜d1-d2 (1.10) ♖h5-g7 (1.21)



Demonstrably avoiding any kind of complications, which in this case would be a bracing balm for White. Interesting variations can arise after 15...♖xh4; White could then play 16 ♖h6 threatening ♖f1 h3-g4, and his position would be

more favorable than in the game (in any case he would have gotten rid of one of his weaknesses) or he could go in for the very sharp 16 $\text{E}\times\text{h4}$ $\text{W}\times\text{h4}$ 17 Qg5 Wh2 (unconvincing is 17... $\text{Q}\times\text{e5}$ 18 $\text{Q}\times\text{h4}$ $\text{Q}\times\text{f3}$ + 19 Qe2 $\text{Q}\times\text{d2}$ 20 $\text{Q}\times\text{d2}$, and White's pieces are active) 18 Wb4 f6 19 $\text{W}\times\text{b7}$ $\text{E}\text{b8}$ (19...0-0 20 Qh6) 20 $\text{W}\times\text{c6}$ $\text{f}\times\text{g5}$ and now not 21 $\text{W}\times\text{e6}$ + Qd8 22 Qc5 ! Qhf6 , which was examined by Petrosyan, but the immediate 21 Qc5 ! 0-0 22 $\text{Q}\times\text{d7}$, with a very sharp and probably not unfavorable game for White. If Black plays 15...b5 immediately, White naturally would not be dissuaded by potential material loss, but would try to open the game by continuing 16 Qc5 $\text{Q}\times\text{c5}$ 17 $\text{d}\times\text{c5}$ $\text{Q}\times\text{e5}$ 18 0-0-0 etc. The move in the game is significantly stronger.

16 Qe3-g5 (1.19) ...

Now White can take a breath. The h-pawn has created a hole in the defense but his position is a bit drafty. The pawn on f3 soon begins to wobble.

16... h7-h6 ! (1.28)

A subtle positional continuation. Black relieves his opponent of his weak h-pawn but in doing so makes favorable exchanges. On 16... Qf5 17 $\text{Q}\times\text{e7}$ $\text{W}\times\text{e7}$ 18 h5 , White's position would have improved greatly.

17 $\text{Qg5}\times\text{h6}$ (1.28) ...

The transposition into the endgame, 17 $\text{Q}\times\text{e7}$ $\text{W}\times\text{e7}$ 18 Wb4 b6 , would turn the entire game into a process of technical realization of Black's overwhelming positional superiority. White's attempt to preserve the possibilities for tension is completely natural.

17 ... Qg7-f5 (1.29)

18 Qh6-f4 (1.30) $\text{Eh8}\times\text{h4}$ (1.31)

There was no need to weaken the position by continuing 18...g5 19 Qe3 $\text{Q}\times\text{h4}$ 20 0-0-0. The exchange of Rooks is to Black's advantage.

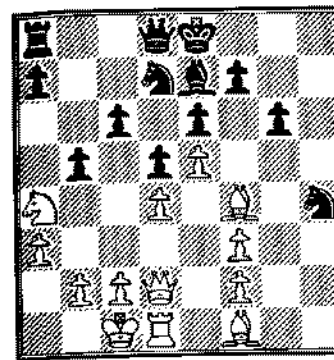
19 $\text{Eh1}\times\text{h4}$ (1.35) $\text{Qf5}\times\text{h4}$ (1.31)

20 0-0-0 (1.35) ...

It is hopeless to try to defend the f-pawn. Since on 20 $\text{W}\text{e3}$, it is possible to play 20... Qg5 21 $\text{Q}\times\text{g5}$ $\text{W}\times\text{g5}$ etc. After the move 20 Qe2 , White is simultaneously deprived of his two Bishops and the right to castle after 20... Qg2 +. Now he examined on 20... $\text{Q}\times\text{f3}$, 21 $\text{W}\text{e3}$ Qh4 22 Qh3 $\text{W}\text{a5}$ 23 Qg5 ! causing some trouble for the black King. It does not suit Botvinnik to win the f-pawn, and therefore he continues...

20 ... b7-b5 ! (1.37)

...intending on 21 Qc3 to develop an attack by 21... $\text{W}\text{a5}$ or 21...a5, followed by 22...b4. Passive tac-



tics would be absolutely disastrous for White. Therefore he undertakes still one more desperate attempt to get back the initiative at the cost of a pawn.

21 Qa4-c5 (1.42) $\text{Qd7}\times\text{c5}$ (1.40)

22 $\text{d4}\times\text{c5}$ (1.42) $\text{Qe7}\times\text{c5}$ (1.43)

23 Qf1-e2 (1.48) ...

23 Qg5 $\text{Q}\times\text{f3}$ does not work. White does have some compensation for his sacrificed pawn. The position has opened up somewhat, White's pieces have been activated, and the Rook is ready to occupy the open file. This would be, with precise play of course, insufficient for equality, but already time pressure has begun to set in.

23 ... Qc5-e7 (1.48)

24 Wc1-b1 ! (1.50) ...

A helpful preventive move. White removes the King from the c1-h6 diagonal and intends to play c2-c4, which might follow, for example, on 24... Qd7 .

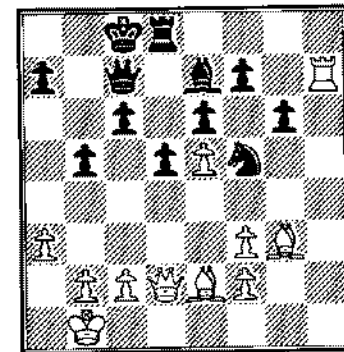
24 ... Wd8-c7 (1.56)

Black prepares to castle long. The win is still not simple, since White has definite counterplay for his pawn.

25 $\text{E}\text{d1-h1}$ (1.53) 0-0-0 (1.58)

26 Qf4-g3 (1.54) Qh4-f5 (2.00)

27 Eh1-h7 (1.54) ...



Probably White's first active move in this game. Now Black has to solve the problem of defending his f-pawn. Botvinnik, in time trouble, chooses a safe but passive continuation. After 27... $\text{Q}\times\text{g3}$ 28 $\text{f}\times\text{g3}$ $\text{W}\times\text{e5}$ 29 f4 Wf6 30 $\text{W}\text{a5}$, the weakness of the queenside deprives Black of any chance for victory. But by continuing 27... Qc5 ! followed by $\text{E}\text{d7}$, Black keeps his very solid position and after the necessary precautions, can set his queenside pawns in motion. Evidently this should finally lead to victory.

27 ... $\text{E}\text{d8-f8}$ (2.04)

It turns out the Rook is not so well placed on this square. White's Bishop quickly plays an active role in the game.

28 ♖g3-f4 (1.55) ...

White's intentions are extremely simple: he intends to play 29 ♖d3, exchange on f5 and, after having played ♖h6, to proceed to his "harvest" on the seventh rank. Now necessary was 28...♖c5. Botvinnik examines the exchange of the active Rook, but in doing so he does not provide adequate surveillance to his King's "residence."

28 ... ♖c7-d8 (2.12)

29 ♖e2-d3 (2.00) ♖f8-h8 (2.19)

The completion of the idea which Botvinnik began on his 27th move. Black forces the exchange of Rooks; however he does not achieve the desired results. There is also the tempting 29...g5 followed by 30 ♖h2 ♖h8. On this, White had prepared a curious rejoinder: 31 ♖x5 e×f5 32 ♖d3! ♖xh7 33 ♖xf5+ ♖d7 34 ♖xh7 ♖e6 35 f4 and White has a favorable endgame since he has rid himself of his doubled pawns and his Queen is effectively posted.

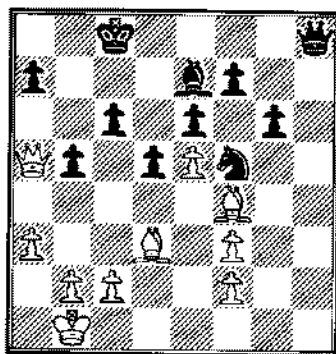
30 ♖h7×h8 (2.21) ...

Here I had considered the Rook sacrifice 30 ♖x7!?? ♖e8 31 ♖a5 (after 31 ♖f6 ♖x6 32 e×f6 e5 there is insufficient compensation for the Exchange) 31...♖xf7 32 ♖xa7, with the terrible threat of 33 a4. First it seemed to me that White

had a perpetual check, but then I found a strong move for Black in 32...♖h7!, and he succeeds in bringing the King over to the other side after 33 a4 ♖d8 34 ♖a8+ ♖d7 35 a×b5 ♖e8! (not 35...c×b5 36 ♖x5+ ♖e7 37 ♖a3+!) 36 b×c6 ♖a7 and Black wins. The forced exchange of the Rooks did not seem to be so unpleasant while the possibility of an attack on the King began to materialize, and that would lead to a peaceful conclusion.

30 ... ♖d8×h8 (2.19)

31 ♖d2-a5 (2.13) ...



The only continuation. Black cannot bring the Queen back, since the a-pawn is under attack. On 31...♖b7, White sacrifices a Bishop, 32 ♖x5 c×b5 33 ♖x5+ ♖c7 (or 33...♖a8 34 ♖c6+ with a draw) 34 ♖d2 and White's threats surprisingly have become quite dangerous. After 31...♖b8, the Bishop sacrifice does not work, since on 32 ♖x5, Black has at his disposal the *Zwischenzug* 32...♖d8. Also unsatisfactory for White is 32

♖x5, expecting to answer 32...g×f5 with 33 ♖e3. But Black repels the attack with 32...♖h1+ 33 ♖a2 ♖xf3 34 ♖e3 d4! 35 ♖x4 ♖d5+ keeping winning chances. However, White can transpose moves, 32 a4 b4 (now 32...♖h1+ 33 ♖a2 ♖xf3 34 a×b5 ♖xf4 35 b×c6 is risky, for example 35...♖b4 36 c7+ ♖c8 37 ♖a6+ or 35...♖xe5 36 ♖b5+ ♖c7 37 ♖b7+ ♖d6 38 ♖b8+) and now 33 ♖x5 is very strong - on 33...♖h1+ 34 ♖a2 ♖xf3 35 ♖e3 d4 36 ♖x4 White controls d5 with his Queen. The conclusion can be reached that White's attack is strong enough to hold a draw.

31 ... ♖h8-h1+ (2.25)

32 ♖b1-a2 (2.13) ♖h1×f3 (2.28)

33 ♖a5-a6+ (2.14) ♖c8-b8 (2.29)

34 ♖a6×c6! (2.18) ♖f3×f4 (2.29)

35 ♖d3×b5 (2.19) ...

Also possible was 35 ♖x5+. Now 36 ♖a6 is threatened. Black has only one defense:

35 ... ♖f4×e5 (2.29)

36 ♖c6-e8+ (2.20) ♖b8-b7 (2.29)

More prudent was 36...♖c7. Now Black is only saved by luck.

37 ♖e8-c6+ (2.27) ...

White wasted almost all of his time calculating the variations after 37 ♖a6+! (The Bishop has to be taken, otherwise Black is mated or loses his Queen. For example: 37...♖c7 38 ♖c8+ ♖b6 39 ♖b7+ ♖c5 40 ♖b4+ ♖d6 41 ♖b5+ ♖c7 42 ♖b7+ with a choice between 42...♖d8 43 ♖c8# or 42...♖d6 43 ♖b8+). Thus 37...♖a6 38 ♖c6+ ♖a5 39 c3 with a threat of mate in two, from which Black is not saved by 39...♖a3 40 ♖xa3 ♖d6+ because of 41 b4+. Black's only possibility is 39...♖e2, after which White is forced to give perpetual check: 40 ♖c7+ ♖b5 41 ♖b7+ ♖a5 42 ♖c7+. Practically speaking, this might have good chances, but White's position had been so bad throughout the game that he decided not to "tempt fate" and therefore forced the draw.

37 ... ♖b7-b8 (2.29)

Draw

Game Four

Tuesday, 22 March 1960

Each match can be divided into two competitions. Playing White in half of the games, a chessplayer tries to improve his own score; playing Black, especially at the beginning of a contest, he has nothing against maintaining equality. Each master chooses his own road. Some, playing Black, openly go for the draw in each contest and strive only for equality, while others during the game, although having nothing against a peaceful result, forget about this and in the process of the struggle go in for the wildest complications. We understood very well that to play Botvinnik only for a draw was a completely hopeless undertaking and therefore the selection of the opening in the fourth game was not an easy problem. It was certain that my opponent had carefully prepared for the match, and although I had successfully equalized in the second game, the position at which we arrived after the opening suited Botvinnik's taste - a quiet game where everything went basically by the strategic rules of the game. It had been very difficult to compli-

cate the game tactically. From a purely psychological point of view, in the second game, Botvinnik was successful and to a certain degree had knocked the "trump" right out of my hand.

We considered the Nimzo-Indian Defense, which usually leads to lively play. From a practical point of view, its only drawback is that it has been thoroughly studied, in many variations through the 20th move, and consequently there was less probability of getting into time trouble. After having examined variations connected with Botvinnik's favorite continuation 4 e3, we came to the conclusion that Black gets a completely satisfactory game.

Mikhail Botvinnik-Mikhail Tal
Nimzo-Indian Defense

1 d2-d4 (0.00) ♖g8-f6 (0.03)

The reader will probably wonder about the amount of wasted time by Black in thinking over his first move. I must admit that, although I

am an ardent admirer of Grandmaster David Bronstein, I do not quite understand his habit of thinking about the first move for from ten minutes to a half an hour. As far as I am concerned, it is much more relaxing to go over these variations at home over a cup of tea and I simply see no other reason for taking so much time. This time, the explanation is much more simple: I had left the hotel, as usual, about fifteen minutes before the game, but we ran into some severe rules of the "Judicial College" of the Moscow traffic and I got into "perpetual check" with the red lights. Inasmuch as our taxi driver was not a chess enthusiast, our pleas to him had no effect and he decided to make no "incorrect moves." Thus I arrived at the Pushkin Theatre two minutes late. Excusing myself to the judges and my opponent, I sat down and made my reply.

2 c2-c4 (0.00) e7-e6 (0.04)
3 ♖b1-c3 (0.01) ♗f8-b4 (0.04)
4 a2-a3 (0.05) ...

This continuation had not often been played by Botvinnik. On the other hand, it is most characteristic of him to get involved in opening problems. So we have the Saemisch variation - White's most important answer to the Nimzo-Indian. It was thought when this opening first appeared that Black, with his third move, "threatened" to irreparably

double White's Pawns (in particular, Nimzovich himself in several games willingly exchanged on c3, and then unmercifully exploited the weakness of the c-pawns with his Knights) and therefore it was suggested that White "defend" his queen Knight with either 4 ♖c2 or 4 ♖b3. Then it turned out that the black-squared Bishop, a piece of no small significance, could not always be advantageously exchanged. In many games, White achieved an advantage in the center and then attacked the black King. Black began to refrain from willingly exchanging on c3 suffering a loss of a tempo, but White, more often than not, still preferred the move a3 to make the Bishop commit itself. The selection of the Saemisch variation shows that White generally considers the exchange on c3 advantageous and places his hopes on the strength of his center and his two Bishops.

4 ... ♗b4xc3+ (0.04)
5 b2xc3 (0.05) 0-0 (0.08)

Black often plays 5...c5 here, immediately fixing the weakness on c4. Obviously, Botvinnik had spent some time on this move in his home preparation (in particular the variation encountered in his game with Donner (XIII Olympiade, Munich, 1958) in which the struggle continued: 6 f3 d5 7 cxd5 ♖xd5 8 ♖d2 ♗c6 9 e4 ♖b6 10 ♗b5 ♗d7, and Black got a good

game - on 11 dxc5, the ingenious answer 11...De5! is possible). He had certainly found a stronger continuation for White (for example instead of 10 Ab5, 10 a4! is worth consideration). Be that as it may, I had no grounds for not trusting Botvinnik's "home cooking" and I therefore chose a continuation over the board which had been rarely encountered. I will not hide the fact that in this game, I played rather "mischievously." I wanted to test Botvinnik in exactly those variations where he thought he was very strong and had already gained several convincing victories. The most well known of these was his game with Capablanca in the International Tournament in Holland in 1938. It seemed to me that the position which arises out of the opening presents Black with some good counter-possibilities.

6 f2-f3 (0.08) ...

The logical continuation - White prepares to seize the center.

6 ... d7-d5 (0.08)

Another plan - 6...d6 followed by e5 - diminishes White's spatial advantage. In addition, the game might take on an exceptional maneuvering quality, but I was seeking to avoid this kind of scenario. With his last move, Black relieves his opponent of any worries connected with his c-

pawn, but significantly activates his forces.

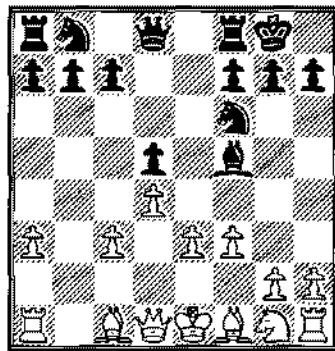
7 c4xd5 (0.11) ...

It was Botvinnik himself who showed the best answer to a hasty 7 e3 in his game with Lilienthal (Moscow International Tournament, 1936) where there was played 7...c5 8 cxd5 Qxd5! 9 Qd2 Qc6 10 Qd3 cxd4 11 cxd4 e5!, and Black had the edge.

7 ... e6xd5 (0.08)

Now 7...Qxd5 is not good in view of 8 c4.

8 e2-e3 (0.12) Qc8-f5 (0.09)



Probably the most logical. White's plan is obvious: harmonious development of his pieces, placing the Bishop on d3, the Knight on e2, and then after suitable preparation (in which the white Knight participates, transferring to g3, and even the queen Rook, which goes along the second rank to the e-file) advancing e4. As a rule, if White

succeeds in carrying out his plan and, while he is doing this, his opponent is not able to create sufficient counterplay, the struggle ends in a direct assault on the black King. How many games have been decided like this! How can Black counter this? The attempt to prevent the move e4 with pressure on this square does not succeed - White has too many resources at his disposal. However, it must be considered that the move e4 weakens White's other central square, d4, and Black aims his forces in that direction. Besides this, after the exchange of the c-pawn, Black has at his disposal an open file which will help support his developing counterplay. So Black's goal is clear: to create counterplay along the c-file, utilizing the possibilities of opening it while neutralizing White's e4, strengthening the kingside. From this point of view, weaker is 8...c5 9 Qd3 b6 10 Qe2 Qa6 as in the game Botvinnik-Capablanca, about which we have already spoken (there, it is true, this position arose after a transposition of moves). It is weaker, because Black had to waste an important tempo with the move b6 to exchange the Bishops and in such a position, a delay of this kind is fatal. The square b6 can also be a good "trampoline" to transfer the Knight to the strategically important c4. Any radical attempt to prevent the move e4 by 8...Qh5, followed by f5 is not

satisfactory, since after this, Black's Knight is not well posted. Here is what happened, for example, in the game Taimanov-Averbakh (Leningrad-Moscow Match, 1958): 9 Qe2 (preventing Qh4+) 9...f5 10 c4 c6 11 Qf2 Qh8 12 Qb3 dxc4 13 Qxc4 Qd7 14 Qc3 Qb6 15 Qc5 and White seized the initiative on the queenside. The only drawback of the move 8...Qf5 is that White has the possibility of winning a tempo with Qg3 or g4.

9 Qg1-e2 (0.17) ...

The immediate 9 g4 is bad because of 9...Qxg4! 10 fxg4 Qh4+ 11 Qd2 Qe4 12 Qf3 Qf2+. On 9 Qd3 Qxd3 10 Qxd3 c5 11 Qe2 Qc6 12 0-0 Qc8 Black is fine, as he will quickly complete his development.

9 ... Qb8-d7 (0.10)

Now on 9...c5, unpleasant is 10 g4 Qe6 (the piece sacrifice 10...Qxg4 11 fxg4 Qh4+ 12 Qd2 Qe4 13 Qg1 Qxh2 14 Qe1, as in the game Averbakh-Khasin, Moscow Championship, 1957, is not correct), when 11 Qg3 gives White an easy game with prospects for an attack on the King. Black prefers to finish his development on the queenside, and at the same time lays a trap which, by the way, is well known.

10 Qe2-g3 (0.25) ...

Shying away from the idea of g4,

against which Black directed his last move. On 10 g4, there was a very pretty combination in Chernykh's game against Khodos in the People's Spartakiade of the USSR, 1959. He played 10 ... ♖xg4! 11 f×g4 ♜h4+ 12 ♜d2 ♙e4 13 ♚g1 ♖b6!. The fruit of Black's ninth move! The white King is in an unenviable position. There was further 14 c4 (there is nothing better) ♖xc4+ 15 ♜c3 c5 with a strong attack which Black effectively carried out. To prepare the move g4, White could have immediately played 10 ♖f4, however on this his Knight occupies a somewhat awkward position (from the point of view of the advance e3-e4). It would have been interesting to examine 10 h3! followed by g4, although White spends a valuable tempo to do this. Botvinnik adheres to the time-tested plan.

10 ... ♙f5-g6 (0.10)
11 ♙f1-d3 (0.28) c7-c5 (0.13)

Black does not try to avoid the exchange on g6, considering that his doubled pawns in the g-file will serve as a rampart rendering any attack very difficult - White would not have at his disposal the important square f5 for his pieces.

12 0-0 (0.30) ♜f8-e8 (0.15)
13 ♜f1-e1 (0.40) ...

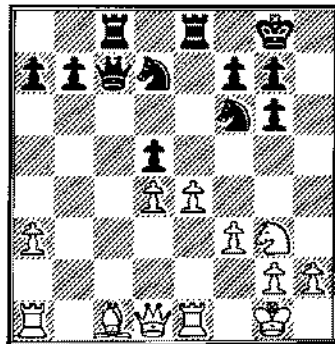
Black's singular achievement. This

Rook is very often quite strong in the f-file (after e4 dxe4, fxe4). But if White wants to carry out the advance e4, he has to hurry, since after the transfer of the queen Rook into the e-file, things can get unpleasant: 13 ♜a2 ♜c8 14 ♜e2 and now not 14...cxd4 with the transparent trap 15 cxd4?? (15 ♙xg6 h×g6 16 cxd4 and everything is ready for e4) 15...♜xc1 but 14...♜a5!, aiming to take advantage of the weakness on the queenside. Nothing better is obvious for White, as on 15 ♙b2 Black, by continuing 15...♖b6, gets an extremely impressive position.

13 ... ♜d8-c7 (0.25)
14 ♙d3×g6 (0.45) ...

As we have already said, this exchange plays into Black's hands, but the immediate 14 e4 was unfavorable because of 14...cxd4 15 cxd4 dxe4 16 fxe4 ♜c3 17 ♙e3 ♖d5!.

14 ... h7×g6 (0.26)
15 e3-e4 (0.47) c5×d4 (0.30)
16 c3×d4 (0.49) ♜a8-c8 (0.40)



Both sides have realized their opening plans. White has carried out e4 and Black has seized the c-file. The question now arises: whose plans were more accurate? In my opinion, White's chances in this position are preferable since the queenside play, for the time being at least, has an abstract quality about it. Tempting is the straightforward 17 e5 ♖h7 18 f4 which leads to a very sharp position. Black can answer as Ragozin recommended, continuing 18...♖b6 19 f5 ♖f8 and White does not develop an attack easily. Possible also is the more interesting 18...f5! 19 h4 ♜c2 20 ♜f3 ♖hf6 21 h5 g×h5 22 ♙e3 ♖e4 23 ♖×f5 with a very sharp game. In my opinion, Black's best plan, to exchange Queens, is prevented by 17 ♜a2, followed by the transfer of the Rook to the f-file, where it would be able to support the advance of his pawns. The position remains tense, but it might be necessary for Black to repel unpleasant threats in the near future. Unfortunately on 17 ♜a2, 17...d×e4 18 fxe4 ♖×e4? 19 ♖×e4 f5 20 ♖c5 ♜×e1+ 21 ♜×e1 ♖×c5 22 d×c5 ♜×c5+ 23 ♙e3 does not work and on 17...b6, preparing this combination, possible is 18 ♜f2, and now 18...d×e4 19 fxe4 ♖×e4 20 ♖×e4 f5 is refuted by 21 ♙f4. Black intended on 17 ♜a2 to answer 17...♖b6. The move played by Botvinnik leads to a significant simplification of the position, but

in the ensuing endgame, White still has a minimal edge.

17 ♙c1-g5 (1.03) ♜c7-c2 (0.4)
18 ♙g5×f6 (1.34) ...

White does not need his black squared Bishop, whose mobility is limited by the d-pawn in the endgame.

18 ... ♜c2×d1 (1.03)

After meditating for a long time Black decides on a double-edged plan beginning with this refreshing move! Strange as it may seem black Rook on c2 gives White the possibility to activate his pieces with tempo, for example: 18...♖c2 19 e5 ♖d7 20 ♜×c2! ♜×c2 ♜eb1! ♖b6 22 a4 ♜e7 23 ♜b5, White retains the possibility of maneuver ♖g3-f1-e3. However Black decides to keep his Rook on c8 where it is more moderately positioned, but much safer.

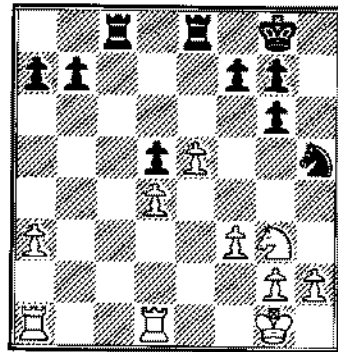
19 ♜e1×d1 (1.39) ...

Inasmuch as White in any event does not intend to open the e-file the presence of the Rook in that square is no longer necessary. This Rook is much more important in defending the d-pawn so that the other Rook can develop actively on the queenside.

19 ... ♖d7×f6 (1.06)

Unconvincing was 19...gxf6 20 exd5 ♖b6 21 ♕e4 or 20...f5 21 ♖ac1 ♖f6 22 d6 ♖xc1 23 ♖xc1 ♖d8 24 ♖c7 ♖xd6 25 ♖xb7, and White is a pawn ahead, but a win is difficult to realize.

20 e4-e5 (1.40) ♖f6-h5! (1.07)



Black had this very continuation in mind when he played his 18th move. On 20...♕d7, White would simply get the better endgame. He could, for example, continue 21 ♖ab1 ♖b6 22 a4 ♖c7 23 a5 ♖c4 24 ♖b5 ♖d8 25 ♖db1 ♖dd7 (impossible is 25...♕a3 26 ♖xb7) 26 ♖a1 followed by the transfer of the Knight to the center of the board. It is impossible to verify, of course, that White has a win, but in any case, Black would be hard pressed to defend himself. Now White has a choice - he can either admit the accuracy of Black's move and transpose into the Rook ending, or he can attempt to take advantage of the unfavorable position of the Knight on the edge of the board. It should be noted that at this point, my opponent was getting into

slight time pressure.

21 ♖g3-e2 (1.50) ...

The Rook ending 21 ♖xh5 gxf6 22 ♖ab1 ♖c7 23 ♖dc1 ♖ec8 24 ♖xc7 ♖xc7 25 ♖b5 ♖d7 26 ♖c5 ♖f8 does not give White any kind of real advantage, and on 22 ♖ac1 Black can, by continuing 22...♖c4 23 ♖xc4 dxc4 24 ♖b1 ♖d8 25 ♖xb7 ♖xd4 26 ♖xa7 ♖d2, lead the game into a theoretically drawn endgame - a Rook and four pawns against a Rook and three pawns. Of course, the move made by my opponent promises White much more.

21 ... ♖c8-c2 (1.09)

22 ♖g1-f1 (1.51) g6-g5 (1.09)

Now, at least, the Knight is not in any danger of being trapped after 23 g4.

23 ♖d1-c1 (1.52) ♖e8-c8 (1.12)

24 g2-g3 (1.54) ...

This limits the Knight's mobility. The attempt to win the d-pawn, recommended by many commentators, 24 ♖xc2 ♖xc2 25 ♖b1 b6 26 ♖b5, does not produce the desired results in view of 26...♖f8! 27 g3 (or 27 ♖xd5 ♖xe2 28 ♖d8+ ♖e7 29 ♖h8 ♖f4 30 g3 ♖g6) 27...♖a2, with a sharp ending where, in my opinion, Black's chances are not in the least the worse due to his strong passed pawns on the queenside.

24 ... f7-f6 (1.17)

Here, Black's sense of direction betrays him. He should have exchanged on c1 twice and then, after having played 26...g6, transferred the Knight to e6. The Knight endgame would have been drawn and nothing worse. The text move also does not lead to a loss, but now Black has to secure the draw with some help from tactical possibilities, whereas after the Rook exchanges, his problems would have been greatly simplified.

25 ♖c1xc2 (1.59) ♖c8xc2 (1.17)

26 ♖a1-b1 (2.01) b7-b6 (1.21)

27 ♖b1-b5 (2.06) f6xe5 (1.23)

28 d4xe5 (2.10) ...

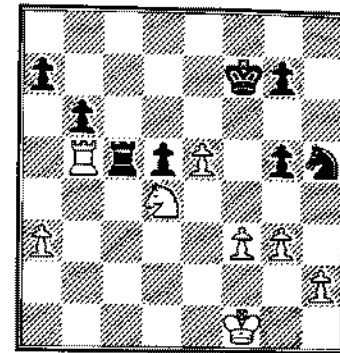
28 ♖xd5 exd4 29 ♖xg5 d3 promises nothing.

28 ... ♖c2-c5 (1.23)

Evidently the only move. On 28...♖d2, White has at his disposal a very strong answer in 29 ♖b3!, followed by ♖e1 and ♖d3. It would be very difficult for Black to activate his forces, since then White, exchanging the d-pawn for the a-pawn, penetrates to the seventh rank with the Rook, after which the e-pawn would become very dangerous. Now it can be shown that White can obtain an edge by continuing 29 ♖xc5 bxc5 30 ♖c3 d4 31 ♖e4, but Black, instead of 30...d4, should correctly play 30...♖f7 31 ♖xd5 ♖e6, and

he gets a satisfactory endgame. Botvinnik prefers further centralization.

29 ♖e2-d4 (2.14) ♖g8-f7 (1.2)



30 ♖f1-e2 (2.15) ...

Now Black succeeds in bringing his Knight, which had "lost its way," into the game, after which the position is not so dangerous for him. White had at his disposal the tactical stroke 30 f4!, and impossible is 30...gxf4 because of 31 g4. White wins the pawn, but over the board it appeared to me that after 30...g6 31 f×g5, Black could play 31...♖xb5 32 ♖xb5 ♖e6. I later discovered that after 33 ♖xc5 ♖xe5 34 ♖c8!, White wins the Knight endgame. Obviously, Black has to go in for 31...♖g7 32 ♖e7 ♖e7 and although Black does not win his pawn back, he can hope for a draw, since White's pawns on the kingside have been weakened to some degree. Be that as it may, White should have played the text continuation, since now the position momentarily levels.

30 ... g7-g6 (1.30)
 31 ♖e2-d3 (2.19) ♘h5-g7 (1.30)
 32 ♜b5-b1 (2.22) ...

More precise was the immediate
 32 ♜b4.

32 ... ♜c5-a5 (1.37)

It is probable that White overlooked this move. Now after 33 ♘b5 ♖e6, Black gets the better endgame. Also unpleasant is 33 ♜b3 ♜a4.

33 ♘d4-c2! (2.26) ♘g7-e6 (1.39)

More precise was 33...♘f5 followed by ♖e6, and it is difficult for White to win, since Black's pieces are so well placed.

34 ♜b1-b4 (2.26) ♜a5-c5 (1.40)
 35 h2-h4 (2.26) ...

White now begins to revive his

kingside pawns. Black makes the decision to force a draw.

35 ... g5×h4 (1.48)
 36 ♜b4×h4 (2.27) d5-d4 (1.48)
 37 ♘c2×d4 (2.28) ...

Forced, in view of the threat
 37...♜c3+.

37 ... ♜c5×e5 (1.49)
 38 ♘d4×e6 (2.29) ♖f7×e6 (1.49)
 39 a3-a4 (2.29) ♜e5-g5 (1.51)
 40 ♜h4-e4+ (2.29) ...

The 40th move having been reached, Black offered a draw. My opponent, as usual, asked me to make my move and after...

40 ... ♖e6-f6 (1.53)

...peace was established.

In the final position, the board seems to be rather empty.



Stahlberg, Botvinnik, Tal and Euwe at the opening ceremonies.

Game Five Thursday, 24 March 1960

Realizing that to continue the struggle in a strategic vein would suit Botvinnik, we decided to intensify play in the opening. Is it possible that the Caro-Kann Defense gives Black an impregnable position? With this in mind, we began preparation for the fifth match game. The attempt to refute this defense with the "shocking" move 5 g×f3 in the third game did not bring White the slightest success. Although the game was drawn, Botvinnik had the initiative the entire time. And although this variation had been substantially strengthened for White, it did not make any sense to repeat it, since its basic advantage - a psychological innovation - was irretrievable. Willingly or unwillingly, it was necessary to turn to a theoretical continuation. Before the fifth game, we asked ourselves how the struggle could be given a combinational quality, since in the last three games Botvinnik had had a noticeable although not decisive advantage. But how was this to be done? It is sufficient to say that Botvinnik had successfully used

the Caro-Kann Defense against such a distinguished master of positional play as Smyslov. However, the variations that were tested in the last Botvinnik-Smyslov match we considered "prohibitive" since they had all been thoroughly studied. Finally, we arrived at a comparatively rarely encountered system which promised lively tactical play. Getting ahead of myself, it seemed to me that this system was indeed somewhat of a surprise to Botvinnik.

Mikhail Tal-Mikhail Botvinnik Caro-Kann Defense

1 e2-e4 (0.00) c7-c6 (0.01)
 2 d2-d4 (0.00) d7-d5 (0.01)
 3 ♘b1-c3 (0.01) d5×e4 (0.02)
 4 ♘c3×e4 (0.01) ♗c8-f5 (0.03)

The quietest system of defense. In practice, other continuations are also met: 4...♘d7 followed by 5... ♘g6 and also the immediate 4...♘f6. In the first case after 5 ♘f3 ♘g6, Black's queen Bishop does not have any independent pros-

pects and Black ends up playing e6. The result is that the advantage of playing the Caro-Kann Defense, as opposed to the French, has disappeared.

On 4...♖f6 5 ♗×f6+ Black has a choice: either to allow White a pawn majority on the queenside by 5...e×f6 giving him a significant advantage or, after 5...g×f6, to compromise his pawn structure. Each of these continuations has its supporters, but it seems to me each gives White an easy game. Unquestionably, the move 4...♗f5, developing the Bishop (the most inactive of Black's pieces, for example, in the French Defense) with tempo appears to be the most ideal continuation.

5 ♗e4-g3 (0.01) ...

There is also an interesting gambit variation that should be tested: 5 ♗d3? ♗×d4 6 ♖f3 ♗d8 7 ♗e2 with a noticeable edge in development for the sacrificed pawn. The value of the pawn here probably is not less than in many other variations of the Caro-Kann. If White does not decide on this sacrifice, this by no means signifies that the sacrifice is incorrect. Who knows, perhaps if White does not succeed in finding a means to gain the initiative "for free", the move 5 ♗d3, while it is encountered very rarely, might begin to howl for public acceptance.

5 ... ♗f5-g6 (0.03) 6 ♖g1-e2 (0.04) ...

A continuation which at first glance does not seem to be esthetically pleasing, since White blocks the path of his king Bishop. Smyslov, in the third game of his match with Botvinnik (1958), played 6 h4 h6 7 ♖f3 ♖d7 8 ♗d3 and was satisfied with a small advantage in the center. Black subsequently found an interesting possibility of achieving complete equalization (Botvinnik notes this himself in his commentary to the third game of the match in his book, *The Smyslov-Botvinnik Return Match*). Several games from recent competitions, in particular my game with Keres in the Second People's Spartakiade of the USSR, as well as the game Gligorich-Petrosyan (Candidates Tournament, 1959, Round 1) again stressed the fact that if White develops in a hackneyed fashion, he does not achieve his goal, i.e., to break through Black's defenses. The idea behind the text move is obvious. White intends to place his Knight on f4 and the white-squared Bishop on c4. Sooner or later, Black will have to develop his pieces on the kingside and to do this, he will obviously have to play e6, after which a piece sacrifice on this square should be considered. The move 6 ♖ge2 is more ingenious than 6 h4 h6 7 ♖h3, with the same idea, since now ♖f4 is

threatened followed by h4 and when Black, to save his Bishop, has to play h6, White captures on g6 with a clear edge.

6 ... e7-e6 (0.21)

Botvinnik probably had not prepared anything special in response to White's 6th move, since he took almost twenty minutes to think over his reply. In the seventh and ninth games of the match, Botvinnik employed another defense. The text move, it seems to me, gives White better prospects.

7 h2-h4 (0.17) ...

In the game Ragozin-Flohr (Moscow, 1936) White played 7 ♖f4, on which there followed 7...♗h4, and White quickly got a significant advantage. If White can succeed in forcing the exchange of his king Knight for Black's king Bishop, his advantage will become tangible (followed by, for example, a move as in the 15th game). The black-squared Bishop will become very active, and it will become even more active in the absence of its counterpart. The exchange of the king Knight for the queen Bishop does not give White anything, since the effectiveness of his king Bishop is limited by the solid pawn structure, c6, e6 and g6. The purpose of the move 7 ♖f4 (as we have already said) is for White to threaten to significantly weaken

Black's position or to force a favorable exchange. I refrained from this continuation because of the variation 7...♗d6 8 h4 ♗c7 and the Queen not only joins in the attack on the Knight, but also necessitates the defending of the c-pawn. The tempting 9 h5, so as to continue after 9...♗×f4, 10 h×g6 ♗×g3 11 ♖×h7!, did not seem to me, over the board, to be sufficient in view of 9...♗×c2, and neither 10 ♗×c2 ♗×f4 nor 10 ♖×e6 f×e6 11 ♗×c2 ♗×g3 are favorable. However, by continuing in this variation 10 ♗g4! White gets, for his pawn, a position rich in possibilities. For example, 10...f5 11 ♗f3 or 10...♗f8 11 h6 ♖×h6 12 ♖×h6 g×h6 13 ♖fh5 with a very strong attack. Black, instead of 11...♖×h6, can continue 11...g6, but in this case, White has a dangerous position, even if only because of the simple 12 ♗f3. Evidently, it was for this precise reason that Botvinnik did not choose to subsequently play 6...e6, and in the ninth game preferred 6...♖f6, after which on 7 ♖f4, strong is 7...e5 8 d×e5 ♗×d1+ 9 ♗×d1 ♖g4. In the variation selected by White in the present game, the transposition of moves (h4 and ♖f4) has no significance.

7 ... h7-h6 (0.22)

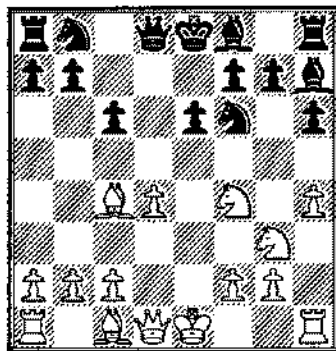
8 ♖e2-f4 (0.17) ♗g6-h7 (0.23)

9 ♗f1-c4 (0.22) ...

Plainly making his intentions

known. More prudent would have been 9 c3, and White is immediately saved from worrying about his pawns on c2 and d4. But I did not want to waste any time.

9 ... ♖g8-f6 (0.30)



The most precise move. Much weaker is 9...♖d7 10 0-0, and Black finds it difficult to defend himself from the threat 11 ♖x6 fxe6 12 ♖x6, with an irresistible attack.

10 ♗d1-e2 (0.44) ...

White thought for a long time here about the consequences of the sacrifice 10 0-0 ♖d6 11 ♖x6 but he decided not to make it. It was only later after home analysis that this sacrifice was "confirmed." We will go into it in more detail in the notes to the ninth game. Of course, the impact of the variation 10 0-0 ♖d6 11 ♖x6 might have been much greater in the fifth game, since I would not be the only one examining it at home. The text move is not bad, but nevertheless,

10 0-0 is significantly stronger. Now White is trying to provoke his opponent into the sharp 10 ...♗x6 11 ♖x6 fxe6 12 ♗x6+ ♖d8 13 ♖e3 ♗g4 14 ♖d1+ ♖c7 nor 11 ♖x6 fxe6 12 ♖x6 ♗g4 13 ♖c7+ ♖d8 14 ♖x6 ♗x6+ 15 ♖x2 ♖b7 16 ♖f4 ♖d5 17 ♖g3 ♖c2 leads to a clear advantage. I intended on 10...♗x6 to continue 11 0-0 ♖e4 12 ♖e3, with a large positional plus for the pawn. Botvinnik, as in the majority of games in this match, made sure of his tactics and avoided unclear positions. In this case, his decision was absolutely correct, as after the following move, the attack on e6 practically ceases.

10 ... ♖f8-d6 (0.39)

As a rule, piece sacrifices similar to the one which White prepared in this game have one basic object: to keep the enemy King in the center. In the ensuing complications, however, one must not neglect one's own King. If White had rashly played 11 ♖x6?, then after the simple 11...0-0!, his position would have immediately become hopeless and his tactics in the e-file would have boomeranged. And so, White's opening plans have failed, and he admits this with his next move.

11 ♖c1-e3 (1.08) ...

The Bishop must be developed in

this fashion, since the square d2 cannot be blocked because of the threat against the c-pawn. White now hopes for an attack; after the Kings have castled on opposite sides, he hopes to be able to take advantage of his move h4.

11 ... ♖b8-d7 (0.58)

Here, of course, Black should not try to win the pawn with 11...♖xf4 12 ♖xf4 ♗x6 because of 13 ♖e5. Black calmly finishes his mobilization.

12 ♖g3-h5 (1.16) ...

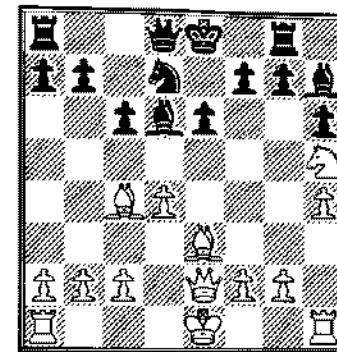
Taking into consideration that if Black castles kingside, he gives White the possibility of setting his kingside pawns in motion. For example, 12...♖xh5 13 ♖xh5 0-0 14 g4 ♖f6 15 ♖xf6+ ♗xf6 16 g5, with a strong attack. Here Botvinnik makes the best reply.

12 ... ♖f6xh5 (1.07)

13 ♖f4xh5 (1.17) ...

Now it is obvious that Black intends to castle long, after which a quiet position will again have arisen. Somewhat put off by this turn of events, I attempted to sharpen play with risky advances on the kingside. It is true though, that after other continuations, Black experiences no great difficulties.

13 ... ♖h8-g8 (1.08)



14 g2-g4 (1.25) ...

This is still another attempt to keep the black King in the center. If White succeeds, after having pushed the pawn to g5, in forcing Black to play h×g5, his idea, after ♖xg5, would be fully justified. Unfortunately, the awkward position of White's Knight allows Black to safely complete his mobilization.

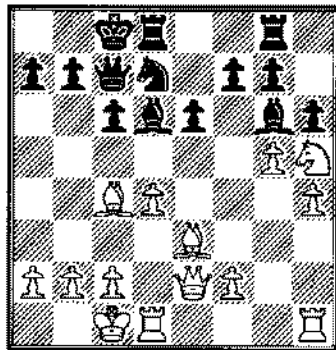
14 ... ♗d8-c7 (1.14)

15 g4-g5 (1.26) ♖h7-g6! (1.21)

Very strong. Now White cannot continue 16 g×h6 because of 16...♗a5+. Interesting complications arise on 15...♖e4 16 ♖g1! (worse is 16 f3 ♖g6) 16...♖h2 17 ♖f4 ♗a5+ 18 ♖d2 ♗c7 or 18...♗f5 19 ♖g3 ♗h3 20 ♖x6 ♖xg1 21 0-0-0 ♖h2 21 g6!, with more than enough compensation for the Exchange. Black had at his disposal an interesting trap. If he had played 15...♖f5, White could not have continued 16 g×h6 g×h6 17 ♖xh6 ♖g4 18 ♖g1, because of

18... ♖a5+ followed by ♜xh5. Here, of course, with the Bishop stationed on f5, the following maneuver could arise: 16 0-0-0 0-0-0 17 ♔g3!, and White withdraws the Knight from its unpleasant position with tempo, as after 17... ♗xg3 18 f×g3 ♜xg3 19 ♔dg1 he gets a significantly better position. The Bishop is much stronger on g6.

16 0-0-0 (1.27) 0-0-0 (1.23)



17 ♔h5-g3 (1.28) ...

White plays as indicated in the preceding note. Of course, now it is not so convincing, since the move ♔g3 threatens nothing. Stronger was Ragozin's recommendation, 17 ♗d3, although here after 17... ♗xd3 18 ♔xd3 g6 19 ♔g3 h×g5! (Ragozin did not examine 19...h5 20 ♔e4) 20 ♗xg5 f6 or 20 h×g5 f5! 21 g×f6 ♔×f6 22 ♗g5 ♗f4+, Black need not fear anything. Now the initiative gradually passes to Black.

17 ... h6×g5 (1.26)

Of course h5 and g6 cannot be tolerated. In answer to 18 h×g5, Black can quietly accept the pawn sacrifice, 18... ♗xg3 19 f×g3 ♜xg3, and his position is safe thanks to his strong Bishop.

18 ♗e3×g5 (1.35) ♗d6-f4+ (1.30)

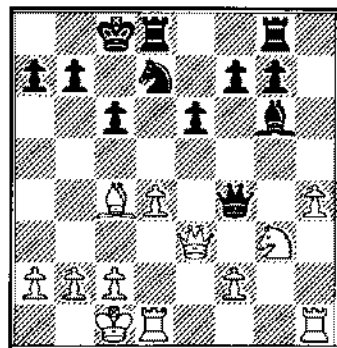
Provoking further simplifications, after which White's only remaining object of attack will be Black's weaknesses on the Kingside.

19 ♗g5×f4 (1.33) ...

After 19 ♖b1 ♗xg5 20 h×g5 ♜f4 21 ♜e3 ♜xe3 22 f×e3 e5, Black maintains a small edge.

19 ... ♜c7×f4+ (1.31)

20 ♜e2-e3 (1.34) ...



White has nothing against the exchange of Queens on e3, since in that case d4 will be strengthened and besides that, he will be able to exert pressure along the open f-file. Botvinnik precisely evaluates the position and offers another version of the Queen exchange

continuing...

20 ... ♜f4-h6! (1.38)

It was difficult to imagine that Black's defensive move 13... ♔g8 would play an aggressive role, but after the exchange of Queens on h6, which Black intends to force sooner or later, his Rook will be stationed very actively. Black intends to pursue the h-pawn from the side and therefore an open h-file is not needed. At the same time, he intends to transfer the Knight from d7 to d5 and, from f4, take advantage of the weaknesses in the Kingside pawn structure. The exchange of this Knight for the Bishop does not frighten him, since the "surviving" Bishop on g6 is significantly more mobile than the restricted Knight on g3 and the endgame will obviously be in Black's favor. I did not want to mark time and see how things turned out, and so thinking for about fifteen minutes, I decided to launch a counter-attack against Black's kingside pawns.

21 ♗c4-d3 (1.47) ...

Better late than never! Black's Bishop on g6 is too active. White simultaneously withdraws the Bishop from the unfriendly Knight's sphere of activity, not allowing Black the possibility of playing ♔b6 with tempo.

21 ... ♗g6×d3 (1.48)

Black tries to avoid keeping the Queens on the board, thinking that White's weaknesses will be better realized in the endgame.

22 ♔d1×d3 (1.48) ♔d7-b6 (1.50)

Black continues along his chosen path.

23 ♜e3×h6 (1.50) g7×h6 (1.50)

24 ♔d3-f3 (1.51) ...

The essence of White's idea. His Rook becomes more active on the third rank. If Black moves the f-pawn, his e-pawn will be a future source of worry for him. This would only facilitate White's struggle for a draw, but in any case, it would not change the fact that Black's endgame is still more favorable.

24 ... f7-f5 (1.53)

There is no need to allow White's Rook to go to f6.

25 ♔h1-e1 (1.51) ...

White has nothing against exchanging his weak pawns.

25 ... ♔d8-d6 (1.55)

Avoiding the obvious trap 25... ♔g6? 26 h5 ♔f6 27 ♔e4!,

followed by ♖c5.

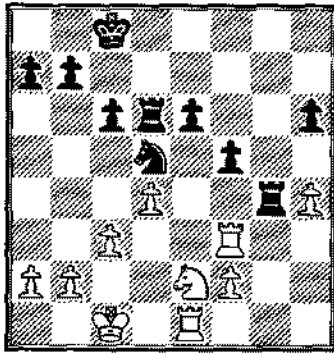
26 c2-c3 (1.55) ♖g8-g4 (1.57)

And now the unpleasantness begins.

27 ♖g3-e2 (1.55) ...

Attempting to transfer the Knight to a better position. Unfortunately it is only an attempt...

27 ... ♖b6-d5! (1.59)



Black's position is much better - his Knight is splendidly posted. He had no intention of satisfying White's desire to sharpen the position after 27... ♖xh4 28 ♖f4 ♖d7 29 ♖g6 ♖h2 30 ♖f8+ ♖e7 31 ♖x5. Instead of 29 ♖g6, 29 ♖d3 is worth consideration - White fights his way to c5 or e5, which also promises him counterplay. Botvinnik prefers his quiet endgame which is better.

28 ♖e1-h1 (1.57) ...

Doesn't this prove the strength of

Black's last move!?

28 ... ♖d6-d8 (2.00)

The Rook was not having much effect on d6 and so Black transfers it to an active position.

29 ♖f3-g3 (1.59) ♖g4xg3 (2.01)

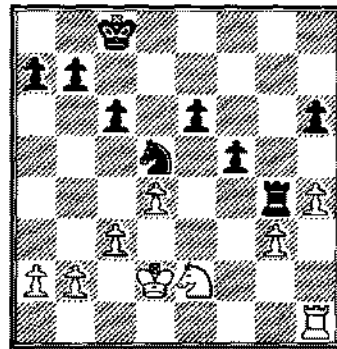
Probably the clearest way to strengthen his positional edge. White will still have a noticeable weakness on g3, against which Black will direct his forces. Other continuations were possible, in particular 29... ♖f8, but the text move is the most logical.

30 f2xg3 (2.01) ...

Worse is 30 ♖xg3 ♖g8.

30 ... ♖d8-g8 (2.02)

31 ♖c1-d2 (2.05) ♖g8-g4 (2.06)



Botvinnik himself suggested that instead of the text move, it would have been stronger to continue 31... ♖d7, transferring the King to the center to prepare the advance

b6 and then c5. In my opinion, the text move is much more dangerous. The Black Rook is splendidly posted on the fourth rank and White cannot now undertake the freeing maneuver which entered into his plan: to place the King on f3 and then attempt to carry out the transfer of the Knight to e5, after which his misfortunes would be over. This possibility could have been transformed into reality if Black had followed the plan recommended by Botvinnik after the game, for example: 31... ♖d7 32 ♖e1 ♖d6 33 ♖f2 b6 34 ♖f3 c5 35 c4! ♖f6 36 ♖d1 with sufficient defensive resources. White's position would have been much more active compared with the continuation in the game.

32 ♖d2-e1 (2.10) ♖c8-d7 (2.15)

Usually the King is centralized in the endgame. However, in this position, Smyslov's recommendation would have promised more: 32... ♖e4 followed by the transfer of the Knight to g4. Then it would have been more difficult for White to have freed himself. I intended to continue 33 ♖f1 ♖e3 34 ♖f3 ♖d7 35 b3, followed by ♖d2. In this position, Black's positional advantage could hardly have been realized.

33 ♖e1-f2 (2.10) ♖g4-e4 (2.18)

Preventing the freeing maneuver

♖f3 followed by ♖f4. Now on 34 ♖f3, possible is 34... ♖e3+ 35 ♖f2 ♖d3!, and Black's pieces will penetrate into the enemy's camp (the Rook via d2 and the Knight via e4 or g4). This endgame would be probably hopeless for White. At the same time, Black plans to transfer his Knight to g4. White has at his disposal only one continuation...

34 ♖h1-e1! (2.16) ...

It is necessary to exchange Black's active Rook. After this, White's Knight gets greater freedom of movement.

34 ... ♖d7-d6 (2.19)

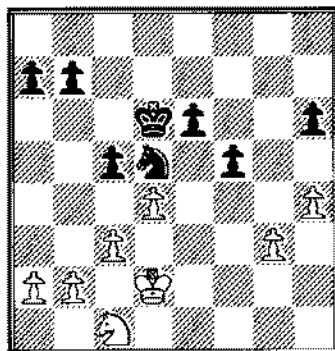
35 ♖e2-c1 (2.21) ♖e4xe1 (2.21)

In the ensuing Knight endgame, Black's chances are certainly to be preferred thanks to the active placement of his pieces.

36 ♖f2xe1 (2.21) c6-c5 (2.22)

Placing a choice before White: whether to resign himself to a isolated passed pawn in his camp or to give Black a strong passed pawn in the center which, in combination with the noticeable territorial advantage, should give him good chances for a win. White prefers the former.

37 ♖e1-e2 (2.22) ...



37 ... c5xd4 (2.25)

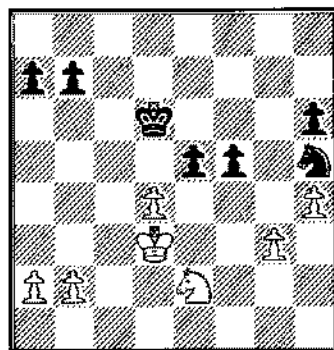
Again trying to fix the position. Ragozin suggests that stronger was 37...c4 38 ♖f3 b5, and the variation continues 39 ♘e2? (my question mark - M.T.) 39...a5 40 ♗f4 ♖b6 41 ♘e2 ♘a4 42 b3 cxb3, and Black has remote threats. The question now arises: can White do anything else except aimlessly jump around with his Knight? Botvinnik, in time trouble, avoided the sharp continuation 37...c4 38 ♖f3 b5, probably because of 39 g4 fxg4+ 40 ♖xg4, the consequences of which were difficult to examine and because objectively, the position is favorable for White, since his King has been significantly activated. Black preserves his positional edge with the text continuation; it is not his fault that it still turns out insufficient to win.

38 c3xd4 (2.22) ♘d5-f6 (2.27)
39 ♖e2-d3 (2.23) ♘f6-h5 (2.29)

After a brief interval, Black has again decided to focus on the g-pawn.

40 ♘c1-e2 (2.23) e6-e5 (2.29)

It is not possible to take advantage of the isolated pawn's weakness, since Black's e-pawn is vulnerable. Black intends to exchange this pawn and then improve his King's position.



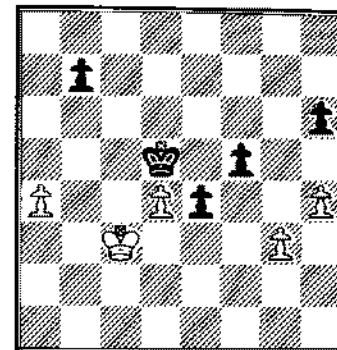
41 a2-a4! (2.30) ...

I am not sure if this move is the strongest in the given position, but undoubtedly it is most unpleasant for Black, especially if you take into account that Botvinnik had to seal his reply. Of course, 41 dxe5+ ♖xe5 42 ♖e3? ♘xg3! 43 ♘xg3 f4+ 44 ♖f3 fxg3 45 ♖xg3 h5 does not work, since Black wins the ensuing pawn endgame. It is true, White can play 42 a4, having previously exchanged on e5, but after this, Black could decide at home what the most favorable pawn structure on the queenside would be so as to make it most difficult for the white King to break through. However, now Botvinnik must resolve this problem over the board. His problem is even more complicated, as he has the tempting move

41...e4+, the consequences of which are likewise difficult to evaluate. After long meditation, Botvinnik did not seal the strongest continuation and thus White's psychological conception was completely justified.

41 ... ♘h5-f6 (2.47)

Now after a forced variation, the game arrives at a theoretically drawn position. 41...a5 also gave Black nothing: 42 b3 b6 43 dxe5+ ♖xe5 44 ♖c4 and the white King would now force its way into the queenside. White's problem would have been more difficult after 41...e4+, but then evidently he would still be able to obtain a draw. Out of the innumerable variations examined by us in this first (and far from the last) sleepless night during the match, the most interesting, I think, is the following: 42 ♖c4 a5 (otherwise White builds himself a fortress with a5 and b4 that cannot be breached) 43 b4 (to transpose into a pawn endgame) 43...axb4 44 ♖xb4 ♗f6 45 ♗f4 ♘d5+ 46 ♘xd5 ♖xd5 47 ♖c3. In the endgame position which has arisen, it might seem that Black has every possibility to win: an active King position, a defended passed pawn. But however strange it may seem, the diagrammed position is drawn.



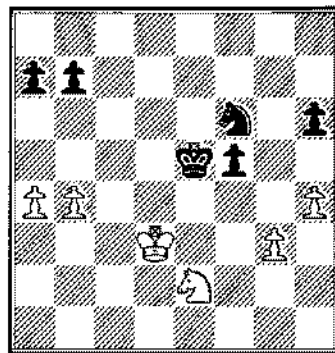
If it were now White's move, he immediately loses, since the King is forced to abandon the d-pawn. But Black does not succeed in giving the move to his opponent. If Black marked time with one of his pawns, White does the same and maintains equality. For example: 47...h5 48 a5 and subsequent King maneuvers are not successful, since White keeps his King on the squares b3, b4 and c4, and only after the move ♖d5 does he return to c3. Black can make use of one more possibility - 47...b6 48 h5 - but the attempt to win the h-pawn with the King is not successful. 48...♖e6 49 ♖c4 ♗f6 50 ♖c3 ♗g6 51 d5! ♖f6 52 ♖d4 ♖e7 53 ♖c4 ♖d7 54 ♖c3!. The only move. White must keep e5 under his control. The attempt to exchange the queenside pawns by 47...h5 48 a5 ♖c6 49 ♖c4 (also possible is 49 ♖b4) b5+ 50 axb6 ♖xb6 51 d5 ♖c7 52 ♖c3 likewise leads to a draw and consequently it is

obvious that Black's positional advantage which he has had throughout the course of the entire endgame was not sufficient to win. After the sealed move it is much simpler for White to obtain a draw.

42 d4xe5+ (2.31) ♖d6xe5 (2.47)
43 b2-b4 (2.31) ...

Without thinking long Botvinnik offered me a draw which I of course accepted. The spectators did not see the following variation:

43...♗h5 44 b5 f4 45 gxf4+ ♗xf4+
46 ♗xf4 ♖xf4 47 ♖d4 ♖g4 48 a5
♖xh4 49 a6 bxa6 50 bxa6 ♖g3 51
♖c5 h5 52 ♖c6 h4 53 ♖b7 h3 54
♖xa7 h2 55 ♖b8 h1 ♗ 56 a7.



Game Six
Saturday, 26 March 1960

Even though I was a full point ahead I was not satisfied with the beginning of the match. In the last four games my opponent had been able to direct the game into his favorite channels and invariably seized the initiative. It would be extremely thoughtless to consider that I had succeeded in obtaining a draw without realizing that I had been also defending for a long time. We therefore decided that the character of play had to be changed. But again, the same sticky question reared its ugly head: what opening should be played? The King's Indian Defense with 2...c5 and the Nimzo-Indian Defense had, in general, not produced the desired effect. There was still one other double-edged opening - the classical King's Indian Defense. This is what we chose. One of the things that helped shape our decision was that Botvinnik, against the King's Indian Defense, usually selected an old-fashioned continuation connected with the flanchettoing of the king Bishop which, in my opinion, does not give White an

opening advantage. He avoids the modern systems (the Saemisch attack and the Petrosyan variation) that are considered White's most dangerous weapons. Our suppositions were confirmed in the first moves of the game.

Mikhail Botvinnik-Mikhail Tal
King's Indian Defense

1 c2-c4 (0.00) ...

This is Botvinnik's favorite opening move along with 1 d4. Its purpose is to have White avoid undesirable opening systems as, for example, the Nimzo-Indian. Thus on 1...♗f6 2 ♗c3 e6 he can continue 3 ♗f3 delaying the advance d4. On 1...e5, a Sicilian Defense with colors reversed is obtained where White has a move in hand. This of course has to be considered. With the symmetrical 1...c5 the game becomes an English opening. But as is well known, Botvinnik is a virtuoso in this opening, whether playing White or Black. Reflecting a little,

Black decided to make a move which leaves the question open.

1 ... ♖g8-f6 (0.02)

2 ♖g1-f3 (0.03) ...

This is to some degree an "unmasking." White stresses the fact that he has no intention of playing the Nimzo-Indian or in the King's Indian, the sharp Saemisch attack in which, as is well known, the basic element of White's game appears to be the center-supporting pawn at f3. Incidentally, Botvinnik has refrained from a recently popular system - a version of the English that was still possible after 2 ♖c3 g6 3 g3 ♖g7 4 ♖g2 0-0 5 e4 d6 6 ♖ge2. Then White plays d3 and, depending on which pawn Black advances in the center - c5 or e5 - he begins to undermine it, in the first case by a3 and b4 and in the second by f4. Practice has shown however that possession of d4 gives Black a completely comfortable position. A case in point is Smyslov's extremely consistent play in his first match game against Botvinnik in 1957. Botvinnik once again examined the variation playing White against Gurgenzidze in the Second People's Spartakiade of the USSR, but Black still got a satisfactory game out of the opening. But now this system is not possible, since White's King Knight has been developed to f3.

2 ... g7-g6 (0.03)

There is a curious story behind the King's Indian Defense. It got wide recognition 20 years ago. Before that it was rarely, or as they say, spontaneously employed. In particular, Chigorin would never have selected such a system. White's edge in the center, stemming from the passivity of Black's king Bishop "biting on granite" with the pawn on e5, cramped Black's position and no one had much faith in it. At the end of the 1930s, a group of Ukrainian chessplayers headed by Konstantinopolsky, Boleslavsky, and Bronstein undertook a most detailed investigation of this abandoned opening and gave it a "second life." What chess fan is not familiar with Bronstein's masterly combinations in his games against Pachman and Zita (Moscow-Prague Match, 1946) in which the "inactive" Bishop on g7 carried out all the destructive work? To do this of course, Black "only" sacrificed a Rook. What chessplayer was not delighted by the intricate ideas of the King's Indian "younger brother," Grandmaster Yefim Geller from Odessa, in whose hands this opening became a terrible weapon? New schemes of development appeared for Black. The move e5 stopped being compulsory and in many games Black actively struck at the center with c5; sometimes he completely refrained from moving either his c- or e-pawn at all, preferring to bring pressure on the

center with his pieces, i.e., ♖c6 and ♖g4. The idea of immediate counterplay on the queenside with a6 and b5 appeared. As a rule, all of Black's ideas were usually successfully carried out when White's king Bishop was on g2 and therefore the White players of the King's Indian Defense also began to test other systems. The Saemisch attack was regenerated, which usually resulted in a very sharp struggle, with castling on opposite sides, in which White tried to prove that the move g6 substantially weakened Black's kingside. At first this system brought White a certain success but as a result of the never-ending efforts of the ardent supporters of the King's Indian Defense (among them Geller and Gligorich) sufficiently active antidotes were found. Grandmaster Tigran Petrosyan in his own turn suggested a very dangerous idea against Black connected with the development of the Bishop to g5 (from where it will be able to prevent Black counterplay on the kingside) followed by the advance of the white pawns on the other flank to open lines. The talented Ukrainian master Leonid Stein has had the last word for Black in this variation in which he played h6 in answer to ♖g5 and nipped White's idea in the bud, of course at the cost of a tempo. Be that as it may, recent competitions have shown that the King's Indian

is no longer stylish and even its "Knights" such as Petrosyan, Bronstein and Geller frequently choose other variations. Perhaps this occurred because the innovative charm faded, perhaps because White's play became more purposeful, but in any case, the King's Indian Defense was written off since White always seemed to get a small advantage from it and Black could not get a less viable position if he played other openings.

3 g2-g3 (0.06) ♖f8-g7 (0.03)

4 ♖f1-g2 (0.06) 0-0 (0.04)

5 d2-d4 (0.08) ...

White gradually establishes his pawn configuration. There was another possibility open to White: by playing d3, the game would take on a closed character. Botvinnik probably did not want to reveal the struggle's outline yet since, in this variation, White gets the initiative on the queenside, but Black can counter-attack on the kingside. My opponent probably did not want to allow such a possibility in the opening. The effective viability of these ideas has been recently confirmed in games such as Pirc-Boleslavsky (USSR-Yugoslavia Match, Leningrad, 1957). Now Black has to choose which system to play. One can transpose into the Gruenfeld Defense via 5...d5, but I had rarely used it and did not feel

comfortable with its positions. The attempt to transpose to the symmetrical variation by 5...c6 followed by d5 results in a stale game with a slight advantage for White.

5 ... d7-d6 (0.04)
6 ♖b1-c3 (0.09) ♖b8-d7 (0.04)

There are other replies. Here Black is stressing his intention to play the "basic" King's Indian. It was precisely with this variation that it made its tournament comeback. In many games, I have preferred the systems connected with 6...c5 and 6...♗c6. The continuation selected by me in this game has been played in my games rather rarely and we assumed that Botvinnik would accordingly be less prepared for it.

7 0-0 (0.10) e7-e5 (0.05)
8 e2-e4 (0.10) c7-c6 (0.05)

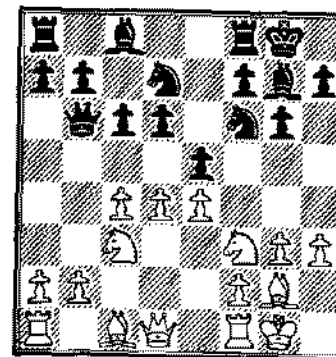
This is the most flexible. Black does not object to the blockading of the center since, in this case, his Knight will get a comfortable post on c5 and besides that, if there is a closed center, he is free to develop play on the kingside by withdrawing his Knight from f6 to e8 or h5, opening the way for the f-pawn. The immediate capture on d4 gives White a well known edge and more freedom of play in the center and on the kingside.

9 h2-h3 (0.11) ...

In many games Botvinnik maintained that the move h3 which defends the Bishop on e3 from attack loses a tempo, and he preferred the immediate 9 ♗e3. However, in the fourteenth game of the Botvinnik-Smyslov match (1954), Black found a convincing rejoinder to this order of moves. There was played 9...♗g4 10 ♗g5 ♖b6! 11 h3 exd4! 12 ♖a4 ♗a6 13 h×g4 b5 14 ♖xd4 b×a5 15 ♖xc6 ♖xc6 16 e5 ♖xc4 17 ♗xa8 ♖xe5 with a sharp game in which Smyslov obtained the advantage. The preventive move 9 h3 is therefore necessary. Now White's intentions are to harmoniously place his pieces in the center and if he sooner or later can force his opponent to exchange on d4, he will get the possibility to create pressure against the weak d-pawn. Usually Black tries to create counterplay with his king Bishop, but with careful play, White can succeed in neutralizing this. Games that have taken this course are repeatedly encountered, especially when Black has immediately exchanged on d4 and continued a5 and ♗e8. Black's difficulties in this variation arose when he started searching for more active continuations, one of which (incidentally also found by a Ukrainian) is the text move. In the past few years 9...♗a5 and its related ideas have also obtained some popularity but since I had already used this move in tournament games, I did not

want to repeat it in the match.

9 ... ♗d8-b6 (0.06)



Black immediately begins to take action against the d5 square. At the present moment, he threatens the well known combination 10...exd4 11 ♖xd4 ♖xe4!. Incidentally, Black could also take aim at the c-pawn with 10...♖b4. Thus, if White wants to maintain tension in the center, he has to consider Black's numerous counter-ideas. It must not be forgotten that the Queen on b6 (after an eventual ♗g4) will be able to threaten the f-pawn. Our opening selection seemed to be psychologically successful. Botvinnik again avoided double-edged tactical continuations and preferred the immediate blockading of the center, hoping to win a tempo by attacking the Queen's "henchmen." The other way of relieving the center tension - 10 d×e5 - gives White little as Black's pieces get a comfortable outpost on d4 and his Queen can return to its usual position on e7 via b6-b4.

10 d4-d5 (0.15) c6×d5 (0.08)
11 c4×d5 (0.16) ♖d7-c5 (0.09)

Black presently has achieved the first objective of his plan: his Knight occupies an active position and is already attacking a pawn.

12 ♖f3-e1 (0.20) ...

During the game I thought that this was a theoretical innovation. 12 ♗e1 or 12 ♖d2 is more often played here so that the Knight can be transferred to c4 with tempo. In that case, of course, Black maintains his freedom of movement and can tie up play on the queenside by preparing b5 and ♗a6, and on the kingside by carrying out f7-f5. Later, however, I realized that the move 12 ♖e1 had been used by Petrosyan in his game with Shiyonovsky in the semi-finals of the USSR Championship (Kiev, 1957) and he quickly won (of course 12 ♖e1 was not the direct cause of this loss). White has no intention of tolerating the "impudent" Knight on c5 for long and seeks to exchange it. The queen Bishop is the piece that will win the tempo. Nevertheless, it follows that the move 12 ♖e1 loses time for White and allows his opponent to successfully complete his development unhindered. But Shiyonovsky had forgotten to do just that in the aforementioned game, having decided to immediately end the game with a kingside attack.

12 ... ♕c8-d7 (0.13)

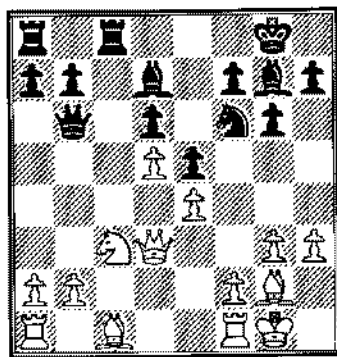
13 ♖e1-d3 (0.30) ...

Botvinnik is of the opinion that frequent appearances in tournaments are not so necessary. Of course, each chess player has his own methods of preparing. At the same time, modern chess has attained such a high standard, that knowledge of a single skill turns out to be insufficient. Each game demands a tremendous amount of nervous output and therefore regular (more or less regular) participation in competition is necessary for a chessplayer to maintain his sporting form. The text move is the most precise, but the time spent in thinking about it proved that Botvinnik had not played competitively for a long time. Why was it necessary to waste ten minutes out of an allotted two and one-half hours to play the most obvious and surely the strongest continuation of the maneuver which was begun on the previous move? How many times have these very ten minutes been insufficient for a chessplayer to make a decision at the turning point of a game!

13 ... ♖c5×d3 (0.16)

14 ♜d1×d3 (0.30) ♜f8-c8 (0.32)

A critical position. Black took a long time to choose which plan he would use in the middle game. The essence of this is in the powerful



lever f5, directing activity at White's kingside, somewhat weakened by h3 and g3. The direct 14...♖h5 does not achieve this goal, however, in view of 15 ♕e3 ♜d8 16 ♜e2! and now after 16...f5 17 exf5 Black is forced to agree to a positionally difficult game after 17...♗×f5. I did not want to try to implement f5 with 14...♗e8, since I feared that my queenside would be insufficiently defended. Nevertheless, a more detailed analysis revealed that in this position, it is worth serious consideration. After 14...♗e8 15 ♕e3 ♜d8, White cannot create any real threat on the queenside and Black proceeds with f7-f5 without any trouble. Whether there is anything after, for example, 16 ♜a1 f5 17 exf5 g×f5 18 f4 is another question. But be that as it may, the Bishop on g7 actively enters into the game. Black, for the time being, and partly for psychological reasons, decided to open up play on the queenside, lull the vigilance of his opponent, and then carry out f7-f5 at the right moment. It should be admitted that, although I had an

idea about a sacrifice of the Knight on f4, it was of course, still hazy. Black played his king Rook to c8 so that first of all, he could keep his a-pawn defended and second of all, to show White that he is not thinking about the kingside.

15 ♜a1-b1 (0.50) ...

An extremely significant maneuver. White takes his opponent at his word and also concentrates play on the queenside. He intends to play ♕e3 but, with the same goal in mind, possible was the immediate ♜e2 which also prevents the maneuver ♖h5 followed by f5. The position of the Rook on b1 subsequently gives Black a very important tempo.

15 ... ♖f6-h5 (0.41)

And now he is able to annoy his opponent on the other side of the board. It appears that the Rook will not be needed to support the pawn in its advance.

16 ♕c1-e3 (0.53) ♜b6-b4 (0.41)

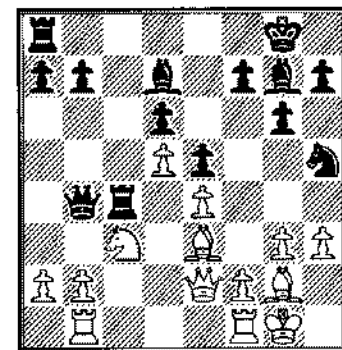
Naturally 16...♜d8 would not have been in the spirit of the position, since, on this, the basic idea of moving the king Rook to c8 would have been lost. White could have played 17 ♖b5 forcing a favorable exchange. Black adheres to his initial plan of open play on the queenside and closed on the

kingside.

17 ♜d3-e2 (0.59) ...

The threat of f5 is unpleasant because White's f-pawn is tied to the defense of the g-pawn and besides that, after the opening of the diagonal for Black's Bishop, his pieces are ideally placed on the queenside. It becomes obvious that the move 15 ♜b1 was imprecise - White lost a valuable tempo.

17 ... ♜c8-c4 (0.50)



The variation 17...f5 18 exf5 ♕×f5 19 ♜bc1, conceding the square e4, would be positionally unjustified. Black decides to carry out f5 with greater effect, and now the sacrifice of the Knight on f4 becomes less hazy. It was with this goal in mind that Black chose his next move. Superficially it seems absolutely normal - the doubling of the Rooks in the c-file followed by play on the queenside.

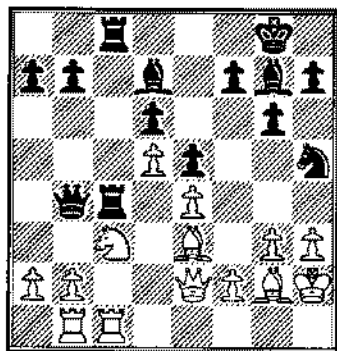
18 ♜f1-c1 (1.08) ...

Trusting his opponent completely. White wants to "smoke out" Black's pieces with $\Delta f1$ and then satisfactorily carry out a mass of exchanges. The ending will be extremely favorable for him due to the fact that Black's Knight and king Bishop are stuck on the kingside and will not be able to switch over to defense quickly.

18 ... $\text{B}a8-c8$ (1.06)

A rather long think for this move - sixteen minutes. Black was calculating whether or not he should temporarily pass on his idea and carry it out later. It does not work now. The variation must be strengthened.

19 $\text{G}g1-h2$ (1.14) ...



This move would be extremely useful (White gets his King off the first rank and defends the g-pawn) if there were not a real danger immediately hanging over White's position. Obviously, Botvinnik thought that he was in no danger and decided to make this effective

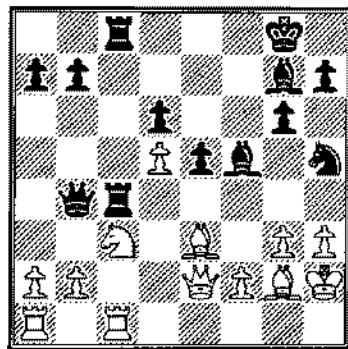
preventive move intending to further continue either $\Delta f3$ or $\Delta f1$. Of course, on the immediate 19 $\Delta f3$ ($\Delta f1$), there would follow 19...f5. After having waited a move Black feels that everything is ready for the combination and makes the initial "anti-positional" move.

19 ... f7-f5! (1.17)

20 e4xf5 (1.16) $\Delta d7 \times f5$ (1.18)

21 $\text{B}b1-a1$ (1.17) ...

On 21 a3 $\text{B}b3$ 22 $\text{G}e4$ $\text{B}c2$ 23 $\text{B} \times c2$ $\text{B} \times c2$ 24 $\text{G}d1$ Black can try the interesting piece sacrifice 24... $\text{G}f4$? whose complications defy calculation. Botvinnik probably thought that now Black's pieces, due to the threat of 22 g4, were forced to retreat and White would be able to occupy e4 at his own convenience, but there is a surprise waiting for him.



21 ... $\text{G}h5-f4$ (1.23)

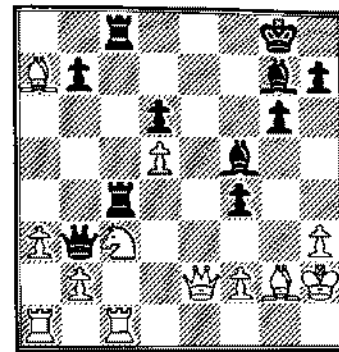
In my opinion the arguments that this move raised were completely pointless. Suffice it to say that all

the other continuations are bad and if the Knight sacrifice is incorrect, then a question mark should not be placed after Black's 21st move but, say, after his 17th. Be that as it may, after the Knight sacrifice, Black's pieces (especially the recently "unemployed" Bishop on g7) become very active all over the board and White has to seriously take into account all the numerous sharp variations. The sacrifice must be accepted.

22 g3xf4 (1.26) e5xf4 (1.23)

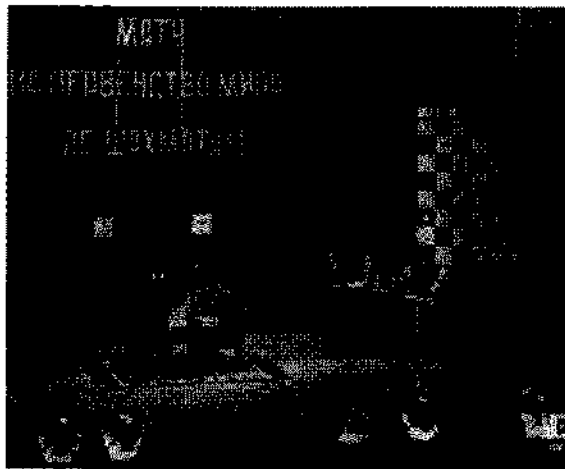
23 $\Delta e3-d2$ (1.36) ...

"23 a3 would have won the game." This was Goldberg's comment in his analysis of this position published in the bulletin *On the World Championship*. Botvinnik's second further produced numerous interesting variations supporting this point of view. A critical position arises after the move 23... $\text{B}b3$ 24 $\Delta \times a7$ (the immediate 23 $\Delta \times a7$ is refuted by 23... $\text{B}a5$ and Black wins back the piece maintaining his positional plus). It will scarcely escape the readers that Black had already examined all of the variations in detail and decided that the sacrifice of the Knight on f4 would win. First and foremost, the move 21... $\text{G}f4$ is a purely positional piece sacrifice. Let us examine the position which arises after Goldberg's recommendation, i.e., the variation after 24 $\Delta \times a7$.



Now White's extra piece can be locked out of the game with the move b6, while at the same time both of Black's Bishops are extraordinarily active and can go into action on either flank. White's queenside is likewise somewhat "congealed" and the King's protection is weak; thus the present positional compensation and the question of detailed analysis - will Black be able to make use of this - is no longer ponderable. I intended here to continue 24... $\Delta e5$ threatening 25...f3+. White has three ways to defend himself: to retreat the King to g1, or to prevent the opening of the diagonal by f3 or $\Delta f3$. Let us examine these continuations in order.

(1) 25 $\text{G}g1$ b6. Black threatens to win the Bishop back by $\text{B}c7$. 26 $\text{G}d1$ $\text{B} \times b2$ 27 $\text{B}a2$ $\text{B} \times c3$! does not help. White is not able to free his Bishop and if this is so, then the main point becomes clear - when the material is equal, the position favors Black. Black's problem is significantly more difficult if White does not with-



The gladiators in the arena.

draw his King to the first rank.

(II) 25 f3. On one hand, White intends to bring his "run-away" on a7 back, but on the other hand, he has neglected the king Bishop. White's stereotype answer after 25...b6 26 ♖f2 does not produce any effect, since Black continues 26...♗d4 and then ♗e3 with a tempo. There nevertheless remains the move 26 ♖d1, and now Black takes advantage of White's weakness on the seventh rank by sacrificing the Queen: 26...♗xb2 27 ♔a2 ♖xc3 28 ♖xb2 ♖xc1 29 ♖d2 ♗xb2 30 ♖xb2 ♖1c2 31 ♖d4 ♖e8. Black's Rook has invaded the second rank and White has nothing better probably than to force a draw by perpetual check continuing 32 ♖xf4 ♖8e2 33 ♖g3. There was no quarrel with this variation.

(III) The most interesting play arises after 25 ♗f3. It was precisely the analysis of this

position that motivated Goldberg to label Black's combination incorrect. The fact that the position is far from simple, as Goldberg himself admits, is convincingly proven by Konstantinopolsky in his analysis in the pages of the bulletin *Moscow Chess*. During the game, I had also intended to sacrifice the Queen in this variation but I gave up further analysis considering that Black's compensation was more than adequate. Konstantinopolsky found a very curious tactical stroke which supports this assumption. After the move 25 ♗f3 b6 26 ♖d1 ♖xb2 27 ♔a2 ♖xc3 (It is significant that all of Black's continuations are of the same type. This, in my opinion, serves as circumstantial evidence for the correctness of the combination. Black has a very easy game and White has to search for defensive resources.) 28 ♖xb2 ♖xc1, it is clear that 29 ♖d2 leads

to a difficult position in view of the surprising reply 29...♗e4!, and the pair of Bishops which were occupying themselves on the queenside not so long ago have suddenly switched over to a direct attack on the King. For example: 30 ♖g2 ♗xf3+ 31 ♖xf3 ♖8c3+ 32 ♖e4 ♖c4+ 33 ♖f3 ♖1c3+ 34 ♖e2 f3+ 35 ♖d1 ♗f4. Thus, White has to play 29 ♖e2, but here after 29...♖8c3 (as Konstantinopolsky also showed) the material deficit goes virtually unnoticed. It is possible that there will subsequently be found a way to strengthen White's defense, but in this book it is by no means claimed that a detailed analysis could be given of every variation that might be encountered in the match. Its job, as already has been stated, is to show the moves of the struggle through the eyes of one participating in the match. And from this point of view, I am sure the double-edged Knight sacrifice on f4 was a correct decision.

23 ... ♖b4xb2 (137)

It is interesting that Black spent fifteen minutes thinking about the move that immediately followed his piece sacrifice. Was there a miscalculation? Did he have misgivings? Neither. This is but a confirmation, if it can be expressed this way, of an intuitive sacrifice, a confirmation of the fact that Black did not calculate all of the

variations beginning with the sacrifice and ending with mate. It is not really significant that in subsequent analysis Black's text move was proven to be a blunder. While thinking, I had already written down on my scoresheet 23...♗e5, which clearly was the strongest in the given position. After it, White cannot play 24 ♖g1 ♖xb2, as he does not have the move 25 ♖d1 ♖xc1 and on 25 ♖ab1 ♗xb1 26 ♖xb1 ♖c2 27 ♖c1 (or 27 ♗e4 ♖xe4) 27...♖f5 28 ♖f3 ♖h5 29 ♖e2 ♖c2 Black is master of the queenside. The move 24 ♗f3 is also not successful for White. Of course, after 24...♖xb2 25 ♖d1, Black is not obliged to sacrifice the Queen as was shown in Konstantinopolsky's analysis, but can advantageously continue 25...♖a3!. After 26 ♖xc4 ♖xc4 27 ♖xc4 ♖xf3 Black's attack is irresistible - besides which the white Rook on a1 is under attack and Black does not even have to take the Rook due to his positional threat 27...♖c2.

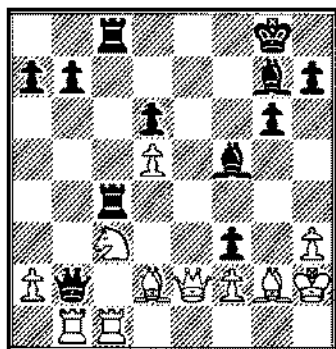
I shunned the continuation 23...♗e5 in view of the variation 24 f3 ♖xb2 25 ♖d1! ♖d4 26 ♖xc4 ♖xc4 27 ♖c1 ♖xc1 28 ♗xc1 ♖xd5 29 ♗f1 and Black's three pawns do not outweigh White's extra piece. Evidently after this, the chances for both sides would be approximately equal. But how would Black have been able to achieve any advantage if White had not played so passively in the opening

stages of the game, but reacted very strongly? Probably, the creation of a position in which White has to play for a draw, in itself, is no small achievement for Black. After making the move in the game, I thought the game would be drawn by a repetition of moves. All the observers that evening were probably of the same opinion and it would only be several days later when Grandmaster Salo Flohr would find a beautiful possibility for White to play for a win.

24 ♖a1-b1 (1.40) ...

24 ♔d1 loses to the reply 24...♗e5! and there is no defense to the numerous threats, for example: 25 ♗xe5 ♘e5 26 ♖xc4 ♖xc4 27 ♖c1 f3+ or 25 ♗xe5 ♘e5 26 ♘f3 ♖c2. White gives up the Exchange, trying to seize the initiative.

24 ... f4-f3 (1.41)



Black had placed all of his hopes on this move. I saw that White could not continue 25 ♖b2 and thought that the only way to finish

the variation was 25 ♘xf3 ♘xb1 26 ♖xb1 ♗c2 27 ♖c1 ♗b2 28 ♖b1 etc. During the game, Botvinnik also assumed that he had nothing better in the position. At the end of the game he showed me a variation which he did not like - 27...♗f5, but he missed the possibility of 28 ♘g4 ♗e5+ 29 ♗xe5 ♘e5+ 30 f4 ♖xc3 31 ♘xc8 (this was the move that had been missed). In a few days Salo Flohr found that White is not obliged to go in for a repetition of moves since he has at his disposal the surprising possibility 27 ♘e4!! ♖xe4 28 ♔xe4!! (not 28 ♗xe4 ♘e5+, which both opponents had examined). Now on both 28...♗xb1 29 ♔xd6 ♖f8 30 ♗e6+ ♗h8 31 ♔f7+ ♖xf7 32 ♗xf7 ♗f5 33 ♗xf5 gxf5 34 ♗g3 ♘e5+ 35 ♘f4 and 28...♘e5+ 29 ♗g2 ♗xb1 30 ♔xd6! ♘xd6 31 ♗e6+ ♗g7 32 ♗d7+! White gets much the better endgame. And so the harvest winds set in motion by Black can become a storm for him, but all this has stemmed from the mistake on the 23rd move. As I have already shown, Botvinnik thought that the capture on f3 was advantageous for Black, and preferred the immediate exchange of Queens. The psychological aspect of this is fully understandable: having an extra piece and being under attack, it is always more pleasant to get rid of your opponent's Queen, but in his calculations, White underestimated the strength of Black's 26th move.

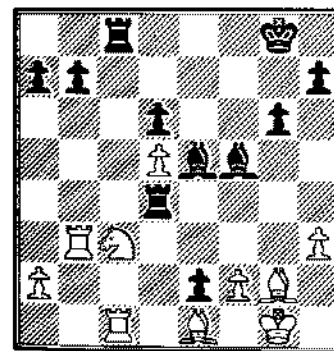
**25 ♖b1xb2? (2.01) f3xe2 (1.41)
26 ♖b2-b3 (2.02) ♖c4-d4 (1.43)**

Black's clumsy Rook suddenly finds colossal strength in the center of the board. Inasmuch as the c-file has been "darned" by White, the Rook switches to the d-file, and its alliance with the passed pawn on e2 brings Black victory.

27 ♔d2-e1 (2.08) ...

There is nothing better. On 27 ♘e3, 27...♖xc3 28 ♖bxc3 ♔d1 decides matters.

**27 ... ♘g7-e5+ (1.45)
28 ♗h2-g1 (2.08) ...**



28... ♘e5-f4 (1.46)

Unfortunately Black missed a possibility to end the game quickly and beautifully by 28...♖xc3! 29 ♖bxc3 ♔d1 30 ♖c4 ♘b2. There were more than chess reasons for this: the noise in the auditorium had prompted the referees of the match to carry out their threat and

move the game to a closed room. This of course turned out to be an extremely severe warning to the spectators and in the following games there was no need to take such measures, but one does not feel very pleasant when, with an hour remaining on the clock, one is politely asked to move into the wings in the very heat of battle ... in any case, I am not used to playing in "nomadic" conditions. Similar disturbances can lead to even greater blunders, and therefore I consciously chose the less strong but safer continuation and in which it was not necessary to go into the calculation of long variations.

29 ♔c3xe2 (2.14) ...

On 29 ♖a1 Black can finally play 29...♖xc3 30 ♖xc3 ♔d1.

**29 ... ♖c8xc1 (1.46)
30 ♔e2xd4 (2.17) ...**

Or 30 ♔xc1 ♔d1. White's last chance is to somehow activate his Knight.

**30 ... ♖c1xe1+ (1.46)
31 ♘g2-f1 (2.17) ♘f5-e4 (1.49)**

Two active Bishops and an extra pawn - an advantage more than enough to win. White cannot now continue 32 ♖xb7 because of 32...♘d3.

32 ♔d4-e2 (2.21) ♘f4-e5 (1.51)

33 f2-f4 (2.22) ♖e5-f6 (1.53)
34 ♜b3×b7 (2.24) ...

On 34 ♜f2 Black can answer either
34...♙h4+ or the even simpler
34...♜b1.

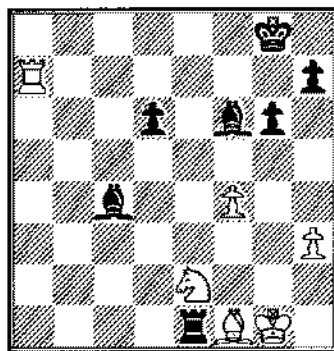
34 ... ♖e4×d5 (1.53)
35 ♜b7-c7 (2.25) ...

Impossible was 35 ♜a7 ♜xe2.

35 ... ♖d5×a2 (1.54)
36 ♜c7×a7 (2.26) ...

Now White has this possibility,
since on 36 ... ♜xe2, there is the
Zwischenschach 37 ♜a8+.

36 ... ♖a2-c4 (1.55)



White's pieces are absolutely tied up and the advance of the d-pawn should decide the game. But as the reader has already probably noticed, beginning with the 26th move, Black has been playing lightning chess and this has further complicated the achievement of his goal. Evidently the change of scenery has made itself felt.

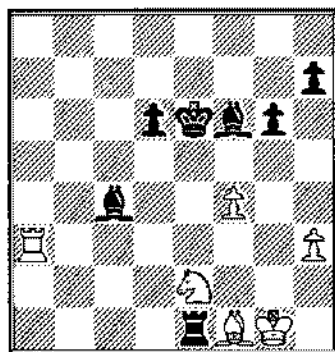
37 ♜a7-a8+ (2.27) ♜g8-f7 (1.56)

Much simpler was 37...♜g7 38 ♜e8 d5 or 38 ♜a7+ ♜h6 and White loses a piece. I however thought that I could win in any way I pleased.

38 ♜a8-a7+ (2.28) ♜f7-e6 (1.56)

Here again it is not too late to move to g8 to transpose into the variation pointed out in the last note.

39 ♜a7-a3 (2.29) ...



Black had missed this simple move. The white Rook succeeds in preventing the activation of the black King.

39 ... d6-d5 (2.05)
40 ♜g1-f2 (2.29) ♖f6-h4+ (2.06)
41 ♜f2-g2 (2.29) ♜e6-d6 (2.07)

Forty moves had been made but the opponents remained in their places. Obviously, Botvinnik considered that since Black was playing at such a rapid speed, he must have made a mistake somewhere, and as

for me, I was still full of energy.

42 ♜e2-g3 (2.35) ...

White finally breaks the pin, but at an expensive price - the ensuing Rook endgame is absolutely hopeless for him.

42 ... ♖h4×g3 (2.07)
43 ♖f1×c4 (2.36) d5×c4 (2.07)
44 ♜g2×g3 (2.36) ♜d6-d5 (2.08)

Also possible, of course, was 44...♜e7, but Black absolutely refuses to rush to realize his passed pawn.

45 ♜a3-a7 (2.40) c4-c3 (2.12)
46 ♜a7-c7 (2.42) ♜d5-d4 (2.13)

In this position, the game was adjourned and White sealed his move. Arriving home, my trainer and I set up the position and were quickly convinced that Black's passed pawn was irresistible. Therefore (I am telling you secretly) on the next day we didn't even eat breakfast, and we waited for the sound of the referee's bell with information about White's resignation. At noon, the long awaited bell sounded ... White's sealed move had been 47 ♜c7-d7+. But it made no difference - White had resigned.



1959: Three future world champions: Bobby Fischer, Mikhail Tal and Tigran Petrosyan

Game Seven

Tuesday, 29 March 1960

My mood after the sixth game was understandably significantly improved. I had not only won a second point but I had finally gotten a position that was to my taste. Koblents and I, on the free day, did not bother ourselves with any long analysis of the correctness of the Knight sacrifice on f4. We were occupied with other thoughts: how to fight against the Caro-Kann Defense. There was no basis to suppose that Botvinnik in the eighteen games until the end of the match would change his sporting tactics which, in four out of six games, had given him a playable game and a psychological edge, and from this point of view, the Caro-Kann Defense was Black's most suitable opening. At the same time, any attempt to keep a two-point lead which was acquired at the beginning of the match by careful play would be extremely risky, since it is absolutely impossible to draw eighteen games in a row. I had discussed with Koblents that, during the fifth game, I had fixed on the idea of sacrificing a Knight on e6 (about

which we have already spoken in the notes to the fifth game). At first glance, there do not seem to be any grounds for this sacrifice, but home analysis convinced us that White gets full compensation. I was greatly influenced by the fact that a Knight had played such a big role in the last game's success. Thus there was the decision: "The Caro-Kann Defense must be refuted!" But in the seventh game, Botvinnik again showed himself to be a master of opening preparation. Obviously, White's possible Knight sacrifice had not escaped him either and since, perhaps, he might not be able to handle it over the board, in the seventh game he selected a different line. This variation, though giving an edge to White, was to some degree unexpected.

Mikhail Tal-Mikhail Botvinnik Caro-Kann Defense

1 e2-e4 (0.01) c7-c6 (0.02)
2 d2-d4 (0.01) d7-d5 (0.02)
3 ♖b1-c3 (0.01) d5×e4 (0.03)
4 ♖c3×e4 (0.01) ♕c8-f5 (0.04)

5 ♗e4-g3 (0.01) ♗f5-g6 (0.04)
6 ♗g1-e2 (0.02) ♗b8-d7 (0.16)

It is interesting to speculate why Botvinnik took twelve minutes to make his sixth move. Most probably, he wanted to examine his chosen variation one more time over the board. In comparison with the fifth game, the text move is the beginning of a different system of defense. Black does not want to be concerned with all the unpleasant possibilities on e6 and prepares an immediate e5. After the game is opened up, the white Knight on g3, whose mobility is restricted by the Bishop on g6, will not be favorably posted and Black's pieces will be able to find comfortable positions rather quickly. On the other hand, if many pieces remain on the board, the weakness at f7 may play no small role. It seems to me that opening the game at an early stage is not really in the spirit of the Caro-Kann, especially in the 4...♗f5 variation, where Black refrains from immediate skirmishes. And actually, the latest analysis has shown that White can get a most promising position.

7 h2-h4 (0.03) ...

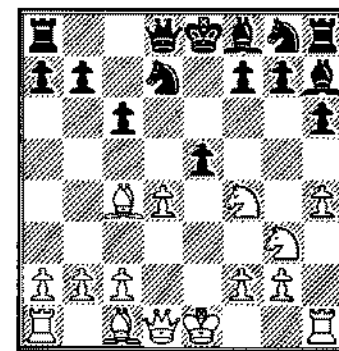
I now have no idea of playing 7 ♖f4, since the threat h4-h5 is then most simply liquidated by 7...e5 8 ♗×g6 h×g6 9 d×e5 ♖×e5 10 ♗e3 ♖c7 (as played in Pachman-Zita,

1944) which is favorable for Black.

7 ... h7-h6 (0.17)
8 ♗e2-f4 (0.03) ♗g6-h7 (0.17)
9 ♗f1-c4 (0.06) ...

White could underline his small edge in development by continuing 9 ♗d3 ♗×d3 10 ♖×d3, after which the break e5 would have lost some of its value, but as far as this is concerned, Black would adhere to the general principles of the Caro-Kann, continuing e6, ♗gf6, etc. Speaking for myself, White would have the usual advantage in the Caro-Kann Defense which would be sufficient for theoretical inquiries to evaluate the position in White's favor, but too insignificant to get anything real.

9 ... e7-e5 (0.23)



Now this continuation, to a certain extent, is forced, since Black only played ♖d7 to prepare e5. If he had tried to transpose into usual lines of development, such as after 9...♗gf6 10 0-0 e6, the Bishop

sacrifice would probably decide. Of course, David Bronstein, in his game with Porreca, (International Tournament Belgrade, 1954) prepared the move e6 with the amazing ♖g8, (which was premature), but it is clear that you have to be a lover of this move to play it, whereas Botvinnik is a doctor of technical science and does not appear to be an admirer of chess "tight-rope walkers."

10 ♖d1-e2 (0.12) ...

This is a very important position for the analysis of this variation. White did not precisely evaluate the ensuing endgame, thinking that his edge in development would basically give him a tangible edge. In the endgame however, Black succeeds in maintaining equality without much difficulty. White had at his disposal a very interesting continuation, 10 ♘d3!, connected with the sacrifice of a pawn. It is in this way that White can take advantage of his noticeable edge in development. Black evidently should continue 10...exd4, as other variations lead to difficulty, in particular, 10...♖b6, and it is difficult to refrain from the continuation 11 ♖xf7+ ♖xf7 12 ♖xe5+ ♖e7 13 ♖e2. On 10...♖d6, the move 11 ♖g4 is extremely unpleasant. So 10...exd4 11 0-0. Now Black's pieces on the kingside occupy their initial position and the King is basically

stranded in the center. For example: 11...♗gf6 12 ♖h5! ♖xh5 13 ♖xh5 ♖f6 14 ♖e1+ ♖e7 15 ♖e2 ♖xh4 16 ♖f4 ♖xd3 17 cxd3, and impossible is 17...0-0-0 in view of 18 ♖g3. After other continuations, White gets an extremely dangerous initiative which fully compensates for his small pawn loss. Unfortunately, all this was only found after the seventh game and an occasion to repeat this variation never arose.

10 ... ♖d8-e7 (0.28)

This move does not seem to be too attractive. Black blocks in his own Bishop but this inconvenience is a temporary one, as Black activates his Queen in one move. The opposition of the defending Queens is only advantageous to that side that opts for a transposition into the endgame.

11 d4xe5 (0.13) ...

Here there is nothing better, since on other continuations Black simply answers 11...exd4.

11 ... ♖e7xe5 (0.47)

It is perfectly obvious that on 11...♖xe5 12 0-0 0-0-0 13 ♖e3, White's edge in development would be so good that it would warrant an attack. Botvinnik probably spent so much time evaluating the ensuing endgame,

which at first glance looks very promising for White.

12 ♖c1-e3 (0.14) ...

Now Black is a bit embarrassed, as after 13 0-0-0 the middle game position clearly will be in White's favor. My opponent quite correctly goes through with the exchange of Queens continuing...

12 ... ♖f8-c5 (1.18)

13 ♖e3xc5 (0.22) ...

There is a marked difference between the amount of time used by each player. If White simply makes natural moves thinking that the ensuing endgame will be greatly in his favor, then Botvinnik in his turn can prove that White's small advantage in development can be quickly neutralized. In this position, it is likewise better for White to transpose into the endgame, since, for example, after 13 0-0-0 ♖xe3+ 14 fxe3 ♗gf6, Black quietly brings his King to a safe position and, controlling e5 and the half-open e-file, gradually seizes the initiative.

13 ... ♖e5xe2+ (1.08)

14 ♖e1xe2 (0.22) ...

A provocative, but hackneyed move. Now the white Knight on g3 is rather poorly posted. Stronger was 14 ♗gxe2 ♖xc5 15 0-0-0 ♖f6 16 ♘d4, maintaining a small

advantage. White will attempt to bring his Rooks into the center files quickly, where, sooner or later, it will be necessary to waste a move withdrawing the King.

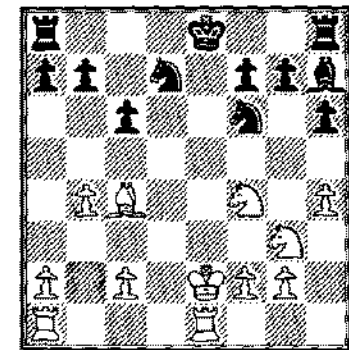
14 ... ♘d7xc5 (1.08)

15 ♖h1-e1 (0.28) ♗g8-f6 (1.10)

Looking over some of my old games after the match, I accidentally came across a game with Ilivitsky from the Riga Semi-finals of the XXIII USSR Championship (1955) and was surprised to find out that I had already played this position once before. Then the game was drawn, and I rather quickly remembered that we had come to the conclusion that the endgame is completely harmless for Black.

16 b2-b4 (0.30) ♖c5-d7 (1.13)

Ilivitsky continued 16...♖ce4, but this was also sufficient to keep the balance. The text move, however, is safer.



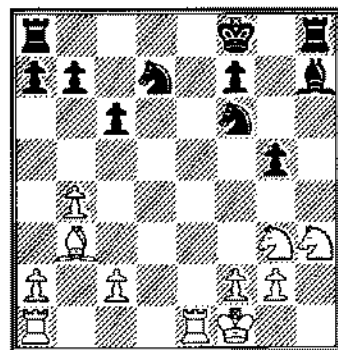
17 ♖e2-f1+ (0.35) ...

Much to Ragozin's bewilderment, White did not play here 17 ♖d2+ ♜f8 18 h5 after which, if the variation continued 18...♗b6 19 ♗b3 a5 20 a3 a4 21 ♗a2 ♗d8+ 22 ♜c1 ♗bd5, Black breaks the attack and, after the exchange of the Knight on f4, Black easily frees himself with g5. White now attempts somehow to sharpen the struggle.

17 ... ♜e8-f8 (1.15)
18 ♗c4-b3 (0.40) g7-g5 (1.21)

Unquestionably the correct continuation. Black immediately forces the white Knight back and prepares to transfer the King to g7. 18...a5, suggested by many commentators, would have been weaker, mainly because White is not obliged to play 19 b×a5 but can continue 19 c3 a4 20 ♗d1, and then transfer his Bishop to f3 from where it will "disturb the peace" on the queenside.

19 h4×g5 (0.43) h6×g5 (1.21)
20 ♗f4-h3 (0.44) ...



Here the Knight is not well posted but now the g-pawn is under attack and Black's Rook is forced to move to g8 to protect it. Obviously bad is 20...g4? 21 ♗f4, and the Knight's position is impregnable.

20 ... ♗h8-g8 (1.23)
21 ♗e1-d1? (0.58) ...

Symptomatic. White understood that he had no advantage but he still did not feel that his position was worse. Objectively stronger was 21 ♗ad1. But I did not want to so quickly agree to a draw, which is forced after 21...♗e8 22 ♗×e8+ ♜×e8 23 ♗e1+ ♜f8 24 ♗d1 ♜e7 etc. The attempt to get a spatial advantage on the queenside by c4 is thwarted by c5 and White's Bishop joins the ranks of "bad" Bishops. White, at the same time, tries to keep both his Rooks to start some action along the d-file. In doing so, he allows a substantial weakening of his queenside pawns.

21 ... a7-a5 (1.31)

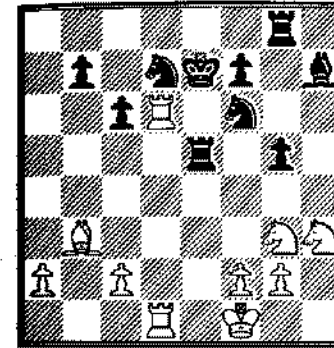
A normal reaction. Inasmuch as the square d1 is now occupied by a Rook, White cannot continue 22 a3 a4 (in view of the loss of the c-pawn) or 22 c3 a4 23 ♗c4 ♗b6 24 ♗e2 ♗bd5, since Black wins important tempi to transfer his pieces to active positions. Therefore White's answer is forced.

22 b4×a5 (0.59) ♗a8×a5 (1.35)

23 ♗d1-d6 (1.00) ...

This is what is behind White's plan: preparing to double Rooks on the d-file, taking advantage of the fact that Black's Knights are "connected."

23 ... ♜f8-e7 (1.40)
24 ♗a1-d1 (1.01) ♗a5-e5 (2.00)



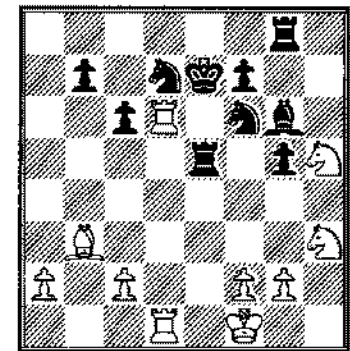
After prolonged meditation, Botvinnik selects the most correct continuation. The tempting 24...♗c5 gives Black nothing in view of 25 ♗6d2 ♗×b3 26 ♗e1+! ♜f8 27 c×b3 and it is not difficult to see that the white Rooks already have very active positions. Now there is nothing for Black in 27...♗d5 28 ♗×d5 ♗×d5 29 ♗e4 ♗e4 30 ♗×e4 ♗c3 31 ♗d4 ♗×a2 32 ♗d8+ ♜g7 33 ♗d7 with a drawn position. But White should be satisfied with this, since he now has the worse endgame. The text move leads to a more complicated struggle in which, however, Black's prospects are to be preferred. Notice, incidentally, that 25...♗c5 is less active in view of 26 ♗6d2 and the Rook on c5 is not so well

positioned.

25 ♗g3-h5 (1.04) ...

This sudden attack by the cavalry should not get White anywhere. However, it had been prepared with several other previous moves and now there is nothing better to be advised. The text at least has a trap hidden in it.

25 ... ♗h7-g6? (2.01)



White had in his arsenal a tactical possibility in 26 ♗×d7+ ♗×d7 27 ♗×d7+ ♜×d7 28 ♗f6+ and 29 ♗×h7. As Botvinnik said after the game, he saw this threat and decided to remove the Bishop from h7, but forgot that the Knight at f6 also attacks the Rook on g8! If Black's position were not so bad, it might be supposed that he intentionally went in for this endgame, since it should not be a win for White. But as they say, "leave well enough alone." It is difficult to admit that during the game Black consciously went in for such a combination. I admit that when

praying 25 ♖h5, I hardly expected such a turn of events. Basically the move 25 ♖h5 was made so that I could exchange my inactive Knight and in doing so prepare the advance f4. White examined the variation 25...♗f5 26 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 27 ♖xg5 ♗xc2 28 ♗xc2 ♗exg5 29 g3, and he has everything in order, since the Bishop on c2 is actively stationed and 29...♗d5 gives nothing in view of 30 ♗h6. The strongest continuation for Black was the simple 25...♗h8! followed by a retreat of the Bishop. On this he maintains a certain positional edge. White intended to continue 26 f4 gxf4 27 ♖5xf4, and now 27...♗d5 does not work in view of 28 ♗xd7+ ♖xd7 29 c4. Black probably would have answered 27...♗f5. In any case the position would have been sufficiently complicated. Now it momentarily crossed White's mind whether Botvinnik had overlooked the following combination, or had he foreseen its consequences? In any case, it was too late to retreat and so there followed...

26 ♗d6xd7+ (1.05) ♖f6xd7 (2.01)
 27 ♗d1xd7+ (1.05) ♖e7xd7 (2.01)
 28 ♖h5-f6+ (1.05) ♖d7-d6 (2.06)
 29 ♖f6xg8 (1.05) ...

With this uncomplicated combination, White has gotten two Knights for his Rook, one of which, however, has wandered to g8, and it may certainly be some time

before he gets out of there. Now Black should try to create counterplay on the queenside. The next move is obvious.

29 ... ♗e5-c5 (2.07)
 30 ♖g8-h6 (1.10) ...

Going home as fast as he can!

30 ... f7-f6 (2.09)
 31 ♖h6-g4 (1.11) ♗g6xc2? (2.13)

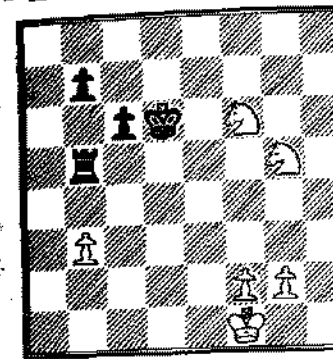
Apparently disturbed by the surprising turn of events, Botvinnik does not defend himself in the best possible manner. White's problem would have been much more difficult on 31...f5 32 ♖e3 f4 33 ♖c4+ ♖e7. Black wins a pawn since 34 ♖a3 is met by the strong rejoinder 34...b5. I intended to continue 34 f3 ♗xc2 35 ♗xc2 ♗xc4 36 ♗b3 ♗c5 37 ♖f2 and the stranded Knight gets back in the game. It is not necessary to prove that in this case White has definite winning chances. But his problem would be immeasurably more difficult in comparison with the game continuation, since now he gets passed pawns very quickly right on the Kingside where his Knights are so effective.

32 ♖g4xf6 (1.11) ♗c2xb3 (2.13)

And here it would have been stronger to retreat the Bishop. But now even with an equal number of pawns, Black cannot save the

game. All White has to do is avoid a small trap. If his two pieces for the Rook did not seem enough, he would risk losing after 33 ♖e4+? ♖d5 34 ♖xc5 ♗c4+.

33 a2xb3 (1.15) ♗c5-b5 (2.17)
 34 ♖h3xg5 (1.15) ...



Finally the move 20 ♖h3 has been justified. Now the value of the g-pawn has significantly increased as its loss is disastrous for Black. A key part of the game was played at a sprinter's pace, but the odds Black gave were too great. His passed pawns are only supported by a lone Rook while White now has a pair of "fast horses." Besides that, Botvinnik, in the past few moves, had little time to think and therefore was simply unable to find any kind of hidden defensive resource.

34 ... ♗b5xb3 (2.17)
 35 f2-f4 (1.15) ...

The starting bell has sounded.

35 ... ♗b3-b1+ (2.25)
 It seems that 35...♗a3 is stronger but on that, I think White wins without any difficulty.

36 ♖f1-e2 (1.16) ♗b1-b2+ (2.26)
 37 ♖e2-f3 (1.16) ♗b2-b3+ (2.27)
 38 ♖f3-g4 (1.16) ♗b3-b2 (2.28)
 39 g2-g3 (1.16) b7-b5 (2.29)

Black's pawns also begin their advance, but it is too late.

40 ♖f6-c4+ (1.16) ...

The way is cleared for the f-pawn, with a gain of tempo.

40 ... ♖d6-d5 (2.29)
 41 f4-f5 (1.17) b5-b4 (2.32)

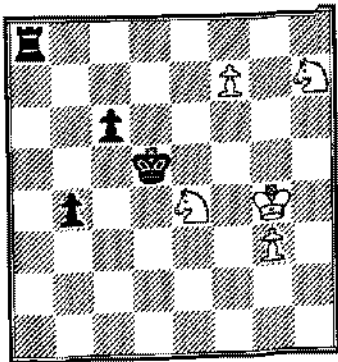
At first glance, the position seems to be rather sharp, but in a few moves, it will become clear that White wins without any trouble. Reflecting a little over his 42nd move (I first wanted to adjourn the game) White looked at a forced winning line.

42 f5-f6 (1.20) ♗b2-a2 (2.35)

There is no other defense.

43 f6-f7 (1.20) ♗a2-a8 (2.35)
 44 ♖g5-h7! (1.22) ...

White has based his selection of the road to victory on tactical play. Black cannot take the Knight: 44...♖xe4 45 ♖f6+ and 46 ♖e8.



44 ... b4-b3 (2.43)
45 ♖e4-d2 (1.23) ...

The immediate promotion of the pawn to a Queen would lose. But now White's pieces are correctly posted; one of the Knights protects the square f8, the other one, together with the King, will hold back Black's pawns on the queenside. A Queen must appear on the board only at the right moment.

45 ... b3-b2 (2.44)

46 ♖g4-f3 (1.24) ...

The Black King must not be allowed to get to d3.

46 ... ♖d5-d4 (2.44)
47 ♖f3-e2 (1.24) c6-c5 (3.14)
48 f7-f8♙ (1.24) ...

And now White's other Knight, after capturing the Rook, helps bring the game to its conclusion.

48 ... ♖a8×f8 (3.14)
49 ♖b7×f8 (1.24) c5-c4 (3.15)
50 ♖f8-c6+ (1.24) ♖d4-d5 (3.16)
51 ♖e6-f4+ (1.24) ♖d5-d4 (3.17)
52 ♖d2-b1 (1.24) ...

Now everything has become absolutely clear: Black's pawns are blockaded; they present no danger and Black cannot reach the g-pawn. Black resigned.

Game Eight

Thursday, 31 March 1960

The balance after the seventh game was more than satisfactory for me. In any tournament, an advantage of three points is very difficult to overcome. But a match - this is another story. First of all each game, if it can be expressed this way, acquires a double value: the win of a point by one of the players automatically entails the loss of a point by the other. There were still seventeen games left until the end of the match. I have to confess that we were not completely satisfied with the first seven games of the match; in the seventh game, it was quite a while before I was able to extricate myself from an undesirable position. Koblents and I were under the impression that I was not in form yet, and that therefore it would be psychologically difficult to play the eighth game: on one hand, there was some kind of subconscious feeling that the result of the match was almost predetermined, and on the other hand, a tangible feeling that a long stubborn battle with such an inflexible chessplayer as Botvinnik was in store. Now, after the match,

it seems to me that the losses in the eight and ninth game worked out perhaps for the best, from a psychological point of view. When the score became 5-4, it had a sobering effect on me. A new struggle with equal chances began, in which, at the same time, I had acquired newly found confidence in my abilities. From a sporting point of view, it might have been very clever to begin to stress quiet play after the seventh game, assuming my opponent would throw himself into risky attacks. As a matter of fact, this was the method that Botvinnik himself successfully used in his return match with Smyslov (1958) after his brilliant start - winning the first three games. In his book about this match, Botvinnik writes: "A three-point advantage gave me a serious trump which I did not utilize immediately - the possibility of adhering to careful tactics; this is a great advantage in a match between equal opponents. In general, I did not employ these tactics until the end of the match, when I was sure that they would lead to a greater point spread, as

my opponent was approaching the moment when he was becoming more nervous and was losing patience..." Unfortunately, the book only appeared toward the end of our match. But to play for a draw in seventeen games was a very unpleasant prospect. If one considers I was not yet in top form, then our decision will be understood: to attempt to intensify the tactical struggle. We considered that to lose a game in this situation would not be so terrible, and to win might be very useful. It now seemed to me that, at this stage, I could play "va banque." And therefore, neither my trainer nor I was to blame for the hazardous play which was the primary reason for losing the eighth match game. A word about the opening preparation. By this time, we knew that Botvinnik was more sure of himself in the opening stages of the game than I, and therefore we felt that it was not worth running the risk of subjecting myself to a continuation which had already been well analyzed by the World Champion. Re-examining the Saemisch variation of the Nimzo-Indian for Black, we discovered, in one of the rarely used variations, an error in the analysis committed by Taimanov in his monograph. This line (5...d4) was to our liking and it was therefore immediately decided to examine it. Of course, this variation was not played until the fourteenth game of the match. But

the decision had been made to play the Nimzo-Indian.

Mikhail Botvinnik-Mikhail Tal King's Indian Defense

1 d2-d4 (0.00) ♠g8-f6 (0.00)
2 c2-c4 (0.00) e7-e6 (0.01)
3 ♠g1-f3 (0.01) ...

A small surprise. Botvinnik rarely avoids playing the Nimzo-Indian. But this time probably he had planned a "time out," and therefore preferred a less active, quieter variation. Black is at a crossroads. He can, by continuing 3...b6, transpose into a variation of the safe but stale Queen's Indian Defense in which White, after quiet play, usually maintains a minimal positional edge. Black also has at his disposal the possibility of leading play into favorable versions of the Queen's Gambit, since practice has shown in this opening the position of the king Knight should not be determined so early in the game. However, both of these decisions signified agreement with Botvinnik's intentions to keep the game quiet, at least in the opening. After thinking a while, I decided to take advantage of the order of moves used by Botvinnik in this game so that I might play my favorite variation of the King's Indian Defense in a slightly altered version.

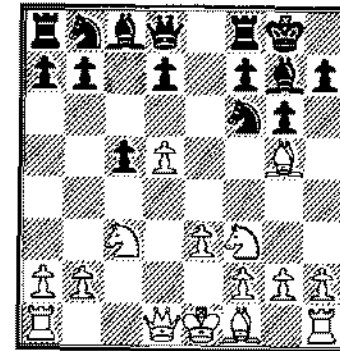
3 ... c7-c5 (0.03)
4 d4-d5 (0.02) e6xd5 (0.03)
5 c4xd5 (0.02) g7-g6 (0.04)

Black's idea in this variation is often linked to the advance b5, with some initiative on the queenside. The question might arise: why did Black not play b5, immediately realizing his goal? Well, the age-old laws of chess, which state that pawn forays must not be made until the pieces are developed, very often cannot be violated. And so it is - on 5...b5 White had, it seemed to me, two approximately equal and very strong rejoinders. One of these is purely positional. Lipnitsky used it in a game with Tolush in the XVIII USSR Championship: 6 ♠g5 h6 7 ♠xf6 ♖xf6 8 ♗c2 d6 9 e4 a6 10 a4 b4 11 ♠fd2 ♠e7 12 ♠c4 and Black's activity on the queenside has not accomplished anything except lose the square c5. The other one is sharper and not any less promising: 6 e4! ♠xe4 7 ♠d3 ♠d6 (on 7...♠f6, possible is 8 ♠xb5) 8 0-0 c4 9 ♗e1+ ♠e7 10 ♠f4 0-0 11 ♠c2 and White has obtained an extremely attractive position for his sacrificed pawn. Black's pieces are not posted very well. Therefore the move b5 must be reserved for a better time. We have already talked about Black's opening subtlety in the notes to the second game - Black does not fix his weakness on d6 yet.

6 ♠b1-c3 (0.03) ♠f8-g7 (0.04)
7 ♠c1-g5 (0.08) ...

Botvinnik does not attempt to prove that the order of Black's moves is incorrect, and continues as in the second game.

7 ... 0-0 (0.06)
8 e2-e3 (0.15) ...



A small victory for Black. White cannot transpose into the most advantageous line of this variation combining the moves e4 and ♠d2 which, as practice has shown, gives him a large territorial edge. On 8 e4, 8...♗e8 would follow. Then 9 e5 does not work in view of 9...d6, and on 9 ♠d2, Black has the move 9...♠xe4!, while on 9 ♠d3 he continues 9...d6, again preventing ♠d2 because of the same threat 10...♠xe4, intending to carry out the favorable exchange of his Bishop for the active Knight by ♠g4. If White attempts to transfer the Knight immediately to c4 by continuing 8 ♠d2, Black can answer 9...h6 10 ♠h4 b5 11 ♠xb5 g5 12 ♠g3 ♠xc5, with a very sharp

position, in which his chances are not worse. With correct play, the modest text move should give Black a comfortable game.

8 ... ♖f8-e8 (0.11)

This move is not yet necessary. Probably more flexible was 8...d6.

9 ♗f3-d2 (0.19) d7-d6 (0.14)

Playing 8...♖e8, Black intended to continue here 9...♗e5, so that on 10 ♗f4, he could sacrifice the Exchange, 10...♗xd5 11 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 giving him a pawn for the Exchange in a good position, in view of the king Bishop's range. White should either give up his b-pawn, or resign himself to exchanging the black-squared Bishop. In both cases, the compensation for the Exchange would be fully satisfactory. I refrained from 9...♗e5 because of the reply 10 ♗h4, after which the sacrifice of the Exchange, 10...g5 11 ♗g3 ♗xd5 12 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 13 ♗c4, has significantly less effect, while after other continuations, the eccentric position of the Rook on e5 would be unjustified.

10 ♗f1-e2 (0.34) ...

It seems that more dangerous for Black is 10 ♗c4, immediately striking at the d-pawn. It appears that this continuation makes it very difficult for Black to develop his

pieces normally - White would threaten ♗b5 and on 10...a6 11 a4, Black's Queen would be tied to the defense of b6. However, on 10 ♗c4, I had prepared a curious reply, 10...♗d7!. After this unexpected move, Black would get a good position both on 11 ♗f3 ♗g4 followed by ♗e5, and on 11 ♗f4 ♗e4 12 ♗xe4 ♗xe4, when White cannot favorably capture on d6 with either the Knight or the Bishop because of variations such as 13 ♗xd6 ♗xf4 14 ♗xc8 ♗b4 or 13 ♗xd6 ♗xc4 14 ♗xb8 ♗b4. Thus 10 ♗c4 does not achieve its goal. Botvinnik guessed Black's intentions and avoided forced continuations.

10 ... a7-a6 (0.18)

Black has another plan at his disposal: he can transfer the Knight to c7 via a6 and combine pressure on the d-pawn, preparing the lever b5. Of course, in several variations, the Knight on c7 does not seem to be placed well. The choice between the continuation 10...♗a6 and the text move is a matter of taste. Both are fully possible.

11 a2-a4 (0.34) ♗b8-d7 (0.19)

12 0-0 (0.37) ♗d8-c7 (0.20)

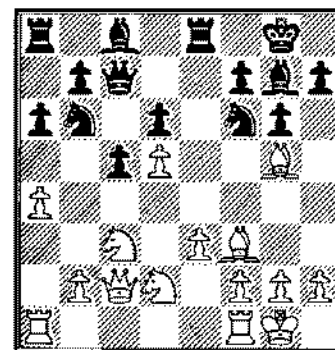
Black releases the Queen from the pin and intends to carry out c5-c4. Now it is possible White's most active move would be 13 e4, but this move is linked with a loss of

tempo. And this is not so simply resolved psychologically. White prefers to develop his forces comfortably.

13 ♗d1-c2 (0.43) ♗d7-b6 (0.30)

"A Knight is always badly posted on this square" - so pronounced Tarrasch in his day. In this case, it is not completely true. Black begins a regrouping of his pieces so that he can prepare b5 but, unfortunately, he goes astray. The d-pawn is now under attack.

14 ♗e2-f3 (0.55) ...



On 14 e4, it would have been necessary to consider 14...♗fxd5 15 exd5 ♗xc3 16 ♗xc3 ♗xe2 17 ♗h6 ♗e5 and White does not succeed in driving the Rook away in view of 18...♗xd5. Of course, the weakness on the black squares on the kingside would promise White compensation for his sacrificed material but, in my opinion, Black's defensive resources may be fully adequate. Botvinnik prefers a quieter continuation.

14 ... c5-c4? (0.57)

At the beginning of this game, Black explored the idea of playing ♗e5, and now he considered this continuation for a long time. After 14...♗e5 15 ♗f4 ♗f5, the d-pawn would be under attack. I thought at first that White would be forced to play 16 g4, after which interesting complications arise on the board. It is tempting to consider 16...♗xg4, and on 17 ♗xg4 ♗xf4, and if now 18 ♗xc8, then 18...♗h4 19 ♗f3 ♗h6 20 ♗g4 f5, winning back the piece with good prospects for an attack, while on 18 exf4 ♗xg4 would be complete compensation for the sacrifice of the Exchange. Unfortunately, this variation does not work, since White, on 16...♗xg4, has the *Zwischenzug* 17 a5, winning a piece. Therefore, Black has to continue 16...♗xf4 17 exf4 ♗xg4, but here he has a pawn in an active position for the Exchange with prospects for an attack on the weakened kingside. All this might have been very good if I didn't suddenly discover that White does not have to continue 16 g4, but instead has the very strong move 16 ♗de4!, and the square d6 begins to crack. In this case, the Rook's position on f5 would be extremely awkward. It was necessary to avoid this variation and search for other continuations. 14...♗fxd5, so that on 15 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 16 ♗xd5, 16...♗e5 can be played, is most simply refuted by

15 a5, and 14...bxd5 does not work in view of 15 dxd5. For some reason, I suddenly ceased liking Black's position and with regret I decided to sacrifice a pawn. However there was no cause to panic. Continuing 14...d5 15 e4 d7, followed by dxc8, Black safely defends d6 and can initiate operations on the queenside. After this, his position would be fully acceptable.

15 g5xf6 (1.02) ...

The simplest. White wins a pawn, removes one of Black's important pieces and gives himself the possibility for counterplay. However, more interesting seemed 15 a5 bxd7 16 a4 d5 (or 16...b5 17 axb6 dxb6 18 c6 cxc6 19 dxc6 with a dangerous passed pawn. For example, 19...d6 20 c7 and impossible is 20...a7 21 d5) 17 dxf6 d7 18 dxe5! dxa4 19 dxc7, with three pieces for the Queen and an active position.

**15 ... g7xf6 (0.57)
16 a4-a5 (1.07) d6-d7 (0.59)
17 d3-e4 (1.14) ...**

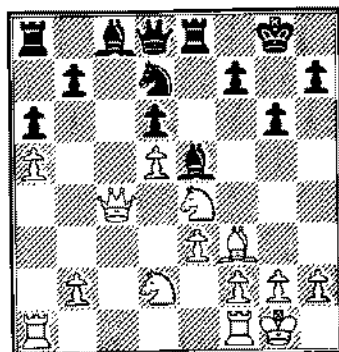
The c-pawn is now defenseless. On 17 a4, I intended to continue 17...d8 18 dxc4 d5, getting a rather active play for the pawn, as in the game.

17 ... f6-e5 (1.00)

18 c2xc4 (1.18) ...

Worse would have been 18 dxc4 b5 19 axb6 dxb6, since Black gets equalizing counterplay along the c-file.

18 ... c7-d8 (1.00)



This is the position Black contemplated when he sacrificed the pawn. It seemed to him that the two active Bishops guarantee sufficient counterplay. White's Queen on c4 is not well posted. Black threatens to win important tempi with 19...b5 20 axb6 dxb6. Botvinnik makes an interesting decision: He brings the Queen back to the hinterland and then, using it for support, begins play on the queenside. However, all this does not happen without any help from Black.

19 c4-a2 (1.19) ...

Superficially more active is 19 b4, but there is nothing after 19...b5 20 axb6 (impossible is 20 dxd6 c7) 20...cxb6, and Black's

initiative after the exchange of Queens compensates for the loss of the pawn.

19 ... f7-f5? (1.07)

The beginning of an unjustified plan. The idea which prompted it was the remote position of White's Queen. In my opinion, the unanimous recommendation of all the commentators 19...b5 (preventing the Knight's invasion on c4) was not adequate. White can play aac1 then b4 and maintain his extra pawn without any active counterplay from Black. Black probably should have continued 19...d6!, beginning piece play on the kingside. For example: 20 dxf6+ cxf6 21 dxc4 d3 22 dxe5 e5, with the dangerous threat of cxf3. Of course Black is not obliged to play this variation but obviously with 19...d6, Black kills two birds with one stone - he gets rid of White's pressure on the queenside and gets a game with prospects for an initiative on the kingside. In this case, I think Black's positional plus would be worth the pawn.

20 d4-c3 (1.24) ...

Played in cold blood. White feels that Black's attack on the kingside is superficial and therefore ignores it. The outpost which has been selected for the Knight is b6.

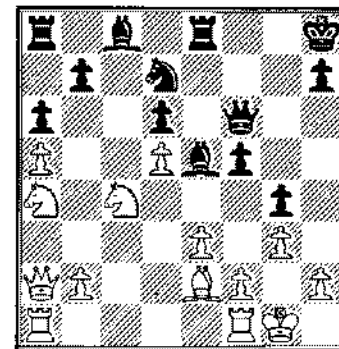
**20 ... g6-g5 (1.09)
21 d2-c4 (1.30) g5-g4 (1.13)
22 f3-e2 (1.31) d8-f6 (1.20)**

Black continues with his plan trying to create threats against the White King.

23 d3-a4 (1.39) ...

White's threats are becoming much more noticeable. Everything is prepared for the Knight's invasion on b6. It is too late for Black to pull back.

**23 ... g8-h8 (1.33)
24 g2-g3 (1.48) ...**



The immediate invasion by a Knight on b6 does not promise White much of anything. If White had here played 24 aac1 to intensify his threat with the invasion by the Rook of the seventh rank, Black would have at his disposal the amusing tactical possibility 24...dxc2+ 25 cxc2 e3, and if now 26 dxe3, then 26...c6+ 27 g1 g3 28 fxc3 c3+ 29 h2 c6+ 30 d5

(otherwise it is drawn) 30...♠f6 with good attacking prospects. Of course this variation is not forced, but in any case, the struggle would have been significantly sharpened and, in the given situation, this is the only thing for which Black is striving. White radically prevents this possibility, but after this, gives Black some chances connected with the advance of the h-pawn. Black's answer is fully understandable.

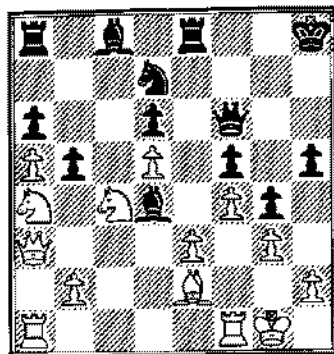
24 ... h7-h5 (1.35)
25 f2-f4! (1.58) ...

Again very strongly played. Botvinnik has been conducting the game brilliantly. Weaker was 25 f3 h4 26 f×g4 h×g3 27 h×g3 ♖b6, and Black opens up the position on the kingside. Now on 25...g×f3 26 ♖×f3, White gets an attacking position not only on the queenside, but also on the kingside.

25 ... ♗e5-d4 (1.35)
26 ♜a2-a3! (2.02) ...



Botvinnik and Tal do battle in game eight.



The Queen comes out of ambush. If White now succeeds in exchanging two minor pieces, leaving on the board only the white-squared Bishops, the game would be immediately decided, since Black's queen Bishop is completely locked out of the game. Now White threatens to carry out his plan continuing 27 ♖fd1 ♗a7 28 ♖ab6 ♗×b6 29 ♖×b6 ♖×b6 30 a×b6. The piece sacrifice 26...♗×e3+ does not work because of 27 ♖×e3 ♖d4 28 ♖f2, and the attack cannot be intensified. Black decides on a small ruse which, surprisingly, White falls for.

26 ... ♖a8-b8 (2.01)

It is very difficult to decide on such a passive move when all the preceding play had been conducted on the kingside. Black's idea is based on the fact that now White's Knight goes to b6 without winning a tempo, and Black gets the possibility of avoiding the exchange of his Knight. Besides this, Black wants to intimidate his opponent with the threat of b5. Of course, this pirouette does not change the general evaluation of the position as being unconditionally lost for Black.

27 ♖a4-b6 (2.15) ...

White wrongly adheres to his selected plan. Stronger is 27 e×d4, and now on 27...♖×d4+ 28 ♖f2 ♖×e2 29 ♖c3 ♖×c3 30 b×c3, or after 27...♖×e2 28 ♖d3, Black's attack has momentarily stalled. A stronger move than the text was 27 ♖ad1 ♗a7 28 ♖cb6, after which the black Knight does not have an outpost on c4. I intended on that to continue 28...♖f8.

27 ... h5-h4 (2.13)

Objectively stronger would have been 27...♗×b6 followed by ♖c5, but I felt that White did not intend to continue e×d4, and therefore the move 27...h4 wins a tempo.

28 ♖a1-d1 (2.16) ...

And here was not too late to continue 28 e×d4 with the same variations. Now Black's pieces become surprisingly active.

28 ... ♗d4×b6 (2.13)
29 a5×b6 (2.16) ♖d7-c5 (2.14)
30 g3×h4 (2.23) ...

It is difficult to find an active plan for White, while Black easily develops the initiative. Botvinnik had examined 30...♖×h4 31 ♖c3+ followed by ♖e1, but Black does not have to lose any time at all capturing the h-pawn. Who could have thought that it would be this very pawn that would decide the game?!

30 ... ♗c8-d7 (2.16)

30...♗e4 seemed stronger, after which the exchange of Queens would not have been possible, but Black did not have the game continuation in view.

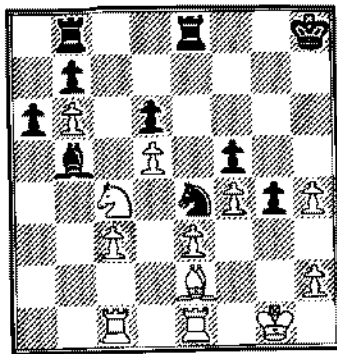
31 ♖a3-c3 (2.27) ...

Forcing the exchange of Queens. The following few moves are forced.

31 ... ♖f6×c3 (2.16)
32 b2×c3 (2.27) ♗d7-b5 (2.17)
33 ♖f1-e1 (2.27) ...

Defending the e-pawn.

33 ... ♖c5-e4 (2.17)
34 ♖d1-c1 (2.27) ...



A blunder which could have led to an undeserved defeat. Black had examined this position when he played 30...♔d7.

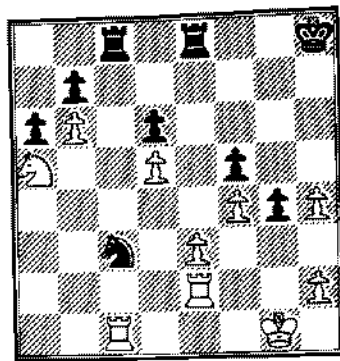
34 ... ♖b8-c8?? (2.17)

I made the last move instantaneously - as if seized by the time pressure rhythm of my opponent. I had formerly seen that I would win the exchange, but I should have taken a little time to think; then I would have come up with the absolutely correct idea: the other Rook must go to c8. Black, as in the game, would win the Eexchange, but maintain his pawn on b7, after which White's position would immediately become hopeless. Here it is: the hypnotic power of "natural" moves! It is interesting to note that the winning move ♖ec8 was only later found at home that evening, but more about that below.

35 ♖c4-a5 (2.27) ♗b5×e2 (2.17)

36 ♖e1×e2 (2.27) ♖e4×c3 (2.18)

Black had examined this. Now if



the attacked Rook retreats ♖e2+ is decisive. It could be noticed from my opponent's expression that he had been rather surprised by the unexpected turn of events, but in spite of intense time pressure he successfully responded to the reversal of the conditions and immediately found the best continuation.

37 ♖c1×c3! (2.27) ...

White immediately gives up the exchange and wins an important tempo.

37 ... ♖c8×c3 (2.18)

38 ♖a5×b7 (2.28) ...

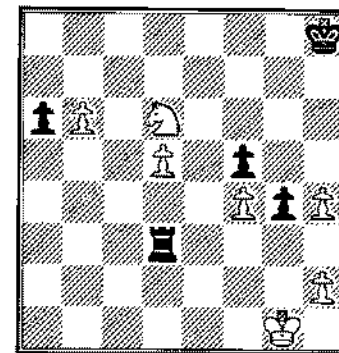
Now the d-pawn is defenseless. Black felt that he had not played the best somewhere, but since there was not enough time, he did not evaluate the ensuing position correctly (it would be more accurate to say that he miscalculated), deciding that he still had winning chances.

38 ... ♖e8×e3? (2.26)

It was necessary to continue 38...♖b8 39 ♖d×d6 ♖d3 40 ♖d×f5 ♖×d5 41 e4 ♖×f5 42 e×f5 ♖×b6, with a drawn endgame. 40 b7 ♖×d5 41 ♖c2 ♖×d6 42 ♖c8+ ♖d8 does not work for White.

39 ♖e2×e3 (2.28) ♖c3×e3 (2.26)

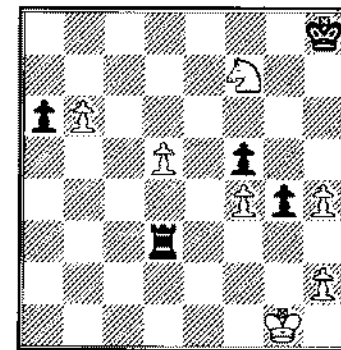
40 ♖b7×d6 (2.29) ♖e3-d3 (2.27)



Significantly stronger was 40...♔g8, but Black was under the impression that all was in order. Here the game was adjourned, and Botvinnik thought about his sealed move for about a half-hour. At first I was extremely optimistic: during the game I was convinced that the variation 41 b7 ♖b3 42 ♖f7+ ♔h7! 43 ♖d8 a5 44 d6 a4 45 d7 a3 46 ♖e6 a2 guaranteed a win for Black. Then it occurred to me that White could obtain a decisive transposition of moves continuing 41 ♖f7+!. Now h7 is off limits to the Black King, since White simply plays 42 d6, and both the d-pawn and b-pawn cannot be held back. Therefore Black must continue 41...♔g7. After 42 b7 ♖b3 43 ♖d8 a5 44 d6 a4 45 d7 a3,

Botvinnik wins a decisive tempo with 46 ♖e6+. After this, if the Black King retreats to g8, White wins another tempo by promoting the pawn with check. There is one more possibility - to rush the King towards the d-pawn, but in this case, the h-pawn has its say and in the course of the struggle I had not paid it any attention. For example: 43...♔f8 44 h5 ♔e8 45 h6 ♔×d8 46 h7, and the game is over. Upon returning home, my trainer and I only had to investigate the subtleties of this rather simple analysis. We began to play through the game and in the process of our analysis we discovered that Black could have forced a win on his 34th move. There was nothing to say. We did not sleep a wink the whole night. It seemed as if my spirit had been hopelessly broken. Arriving for the resumption of the game I only had to be convinced of the fact that Botvinnik had sealed the correct move...

41 ♖d6-f7+ (2.59)



...and I immediately resigned.

Game Nine

Saturday, 2 April 1960

Naturally the victory in the eighth game inspired Botvinnik. The fact that the normal course of the game was distorted by oversights by both sides, in my opinion, only served to strengthen my opponent's optimism as Botvinnik usually won by getting his opponent in a vise-like grip without giving him any respite. Now Botvinnik seemed to be stronger in double-edged tactical positions and this, of course, gave him significantly more confidence (to get ahead of myself, I will say that this confidence was manifest throughout the ninth game). At the same time, I was not able to agree with the numerous critics who blamed me for the selection of the opening variation and in particular, for the sacrifice of the Knight on e6. Typically, the majority of them did not consider the Knight sacrifice absolutely incorrect. The evaluation of this sacrifice as giving Black great difficulties basically agrees with the commentators. There is also a psychological aspect to this: in my opinion, when a chessplayer is firmly convinced of the correct-

ness of a continuation he has selected, he should not be sidetracked from his chosen path. Before the ninth game, we nevertheless evaluated the knight sacrifice: after finding the correct continuation, Black would have a difficult defense and to find the correct plan of defense would be in itself no easy problem. Here we actually made a psychological blunder. It had nothing to do with the fact that having a two-point advantage (which was even more conspicuous since the match was one-third over) the leader would not have the right to allow himself to go in for sharp play. This was completely permissible. Our miscalculation was that this time we had somewhat underestimated the phenomenal analytical powers of Botvinnik, even assuming that this sacrifice would be unexpected. But from the first moves after the sacrifice, the very fact that Botvinnik was playing rather quickly convinced me that my opponent had carefully analyzed the position which had arisen after the sacrifice. A curious detail: after

the game, he remarked that this sacrifice would have been very dangerous in the fifth game, that is to say, just when it was tempting to me. It was only after prolonged home analysis that he had been able to come to the conclusion that this continuation was harmless for Black.

Mikhail Tal-Mikhail Botvinnik Caro-Kann Defense

1 e2-e4 (0.00) c7-c6 (0.01)
2 d2-d4 (0.00) d7-d5 (0.01)
3 ♖b1-c3 (0.00) d5×e4 (0.03)
4 ♗c3×e4 (0.00) ♕c8-f5 (0.04)
5 ♗e4-g3 (0.01) ♕f5-g6 (0.05)
6 ♗g1-e2 (0.01) ♗g8-f6 (0.06)

The most precise order of moves. As the fifth and seventh games showed (unfortunately not the games themselves but the analysis after them) neither 6...♗d7 nor 6...e6 guarantees Black an equal game.

7 h2-h4 (0.01) ...

The immediate 7 ♗f4 now gives White nothing, since Black has at his disposal the strong rejoinder 7...e5 8 d×e5 ♗×d1+ 9 ♗×d1 ♗g4 10 ♗×g6 h×g6 11 ♗e4 ♗×e5, as the Fischer-Foguelman game confirmed (Buenos Aires, 1960).

7 ... h7-h6 (0.08)
8 ♗e2-f4 (0.01) ♕g6-h7 (0.08)
9 ♕c1-c4 (0.01) e7-e6 (0.10)

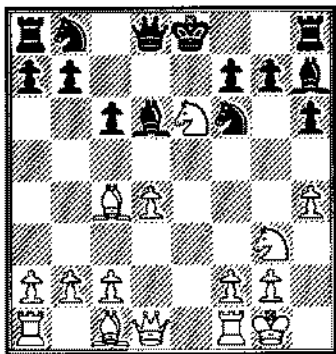
Now 9...e5 is significantly worse in view of the dangerous pawn sacrifice 10 ♗e2. On 10...♗×d4 11 0-0 ♗bd7 12 ♕d1 ♗b6 13 ♗fh5 or on 10...e4 11 ♕e3 White's pieces occupy threatening positions. This is especially true of the King Bishop.

10 0-0 (0.03) ♕f8-d6 (0.16)

There is nothing better. If Black tried to prevent the sacrifice by playing 10...♗d5, White could continue 11 ♗g4, and on 11...♗f6 12 ♗e2, would win an important tempo. On 11...♗d7, he would have at his disposal the combination 12 ♕×d5! c×d5 13 ♗×d5 winning a pawn since it is impossible to play 13...e×d5 14 ♕e1+ ♕e7 15 ♗×g7. Now if White hopes to get any kind of an advantage, he is practically forced to go in for the "perilous journey" connected with the piece sacrifice, since on any other combination of moves, h4 and 0-0 would have been not only risky, but useless. So, after 11 ♕e1 0-0 12 c3, Black continues 12...♕e8 and then he carries out the advance e6-e5, after which the initiative on the kingside goes over to him. And so...

11 ♗f4×e6! (0.03) ...

It would be very easy to convince the reader that the sacrifice was decided over the board, but in any event, some time did have to be



spent thinking it over. The speed with which White makes the move confirms the fact that he has been analyzing it at home.

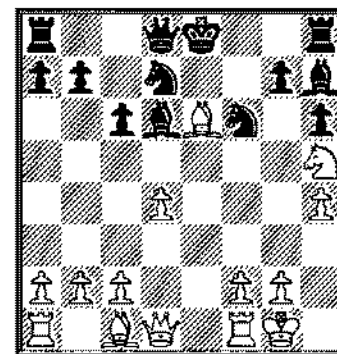
11 ... f7×e6 (0.16)
12 ♖c4×e6 (0.03) ...

White has sacrificed a piece for two pawns. But from White's point of view, the fact that he has a positional plus is enough. His Bishop on e6 prevents Black from castling on either side; the open e-file likewise confirms the fact that Black will scarcely be able to castle at all in this game - he will not have the time and therefore it might take several moves to get his Rooks into the game. Even after the exchange of one of Black's Bishops, White's other pieces would still have significantly greater freedom of movement. If the white-squared Bishops are exchanged, then the white Knight goes to f5, from where it will be able to put dangerous pressure on Black. If Black prefers to eliminate this Knight, giving up his black-squared Bishop for it, he will have

a catastrophic weakness on the black squares and White's queen Bishop will take up a very dangerous position on f4. For some time, at first, we feared the exchange of both pieces which Black can achieve by 12...♖×g3 13 f×g3 ♖g8, and on 14 ♖e2 ♖e7 or 14 ♖f5 ♖f7, or finally 14 ♖×g8 ♖×g8 15 ♖e2+ ♖f7, and the piece sacrifice has clearly proven to be incorrect. White, however, has the very effective, and in my opinion, beautiful move 14 ♖e1!! The basic idea of this continuation is to prevent the move 14...♖e7, after which he can play the very strong 15 ♖c8 and completely plunder the queenside; White will also have at his disposal a possible attack along the f-file. Botvinnik, almost not thinking at all, answered...

12 ... ♖d8-c7 (0.18)

The idea is correct: Black tries to quickly develop his Queenside, but the order of moves selected by Botvinnik is not precise. It would have been better to continue 12...♖bd7, and only on 13 ♖e1 play 13...♖c7. A position that actually arises in the game would have then arisen, albeit a move later. However, White can play the surprising "rim shot" 13 ♖h5, which gives his opponent an unpleasant position. Very interesting variations arise in which Black is hard pressed to defend himself.



Evidently, the best reply to 13 ♖h5 is 13...♖f8, but after 14 f4, the Bishop on e6 will be reinforced, giving rise to very diverse combinations. I think that the reader will be rather interested in analyzing this sharp continuation. During the game however I thought that White's basic plan was dangerous enough and therefore I instantaneously played ...

13 ♖f1-e1 (0.03) ♖b8-d7 (0.34)

Unquestionably the most logical. Worse would have been 13...♖d8, since the black King would not find refuge on the queenside. Any attempt by Black to initiate counterplay by 13...♖×g3 14 f×g3 ♖×g3 would be crowned with success after 15 ♖c8+ ♖d8 16 ♖×b7 ♖g4. However White intended to continue 15 ♖e2, and Black's King is in great danger.

14 ♖c6-g8+ (0.15) ...

Even though the discovered check seems to be very good, White actually has nothing, since his

forces are not fully prepared for the decisive attack. White decides to adhere to the tempting positional plan and, after the exchange of the white-squared Bishops, activate his Knight on g3.

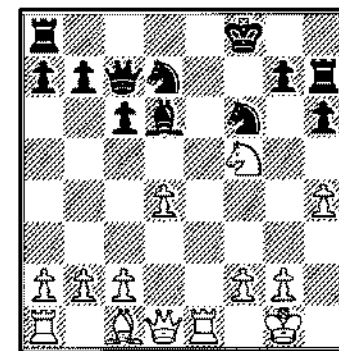
14 ... ♖e8-f8! (0.48)

Again, Botvinnik correctly solves a complicated problem. The position of the King on d8 would have been much worse.

15 ♖g8×h7 (0.15) ♖h8×h7 (0.50)

15...♖×g3 would be premature, as after 16 ♖g6 Black would be faced with several unsolvable problems, since the Bishop on g6 would be far from harmless, and in cooperation with the Queen, it should bring White victory.

16 ♖g3-f5 (0.20) ...



This or approximately this position was the one that we examined at home and evaluated as being extremely "rosy." It is difficult for Black to carry out the mobilization

of his forces. Besides that, the Rook on h7 is extremely unpleasantly posted. I intended to quietly further strengthen the position, continuing h5, then bring the Queen to f3, the Bishop to d2 (or something approximately like this) and then double Rooks on the e-file. The following very strong move by Black decisively prevents the realization of these plans which otherwise apparently would have gone very smoothly.

16 ... g7-g6! (1.16)

The move recommended by Ragozin is premature: 16...♖h2+ 17 ♖h1 g6 18 ♗xh6+ ♖xh6 19 ♗xh6 ♖f4, after 20 g3 ♖f2 21 ♖f1! (worse is 20 ♗g4 ♗xg4 21 ♖f1 ♗df6!) 21...♗xg3 22 ♗g4, which leads to the loss of the Exchange without any real compensation. The idea behind the pawn sacrifice offered by Botvinnik is that the Rook on h7 will quickly free itself and get into the game. Now an approximately equal but complicated position arises.

17 ♗c1xh6+ (0.21) ♖f8-g8 (1.25)

After 17...♖xh6 18 ♗xh6 the variations which we examined in the last note arise.

18 ♗f5xd6 (0.22) ♖c7xd6 (1.28)

Here Black could have set a trap: 18...♖xh6 19 ♖e6 ♖xh4 20 ♖d3?

♗f8! 21 ♖x6 ♖h7 with a win. Instead of 20 ♖d3 significantly stronger would be 20 ♖f3 (which I did notice during the game) with a strong attack, since now 20...♗f8 does not work because of 21 ♖x6 ♖h7 22 g3.

So, Black, at the cost of three pawns, has repulsed the attack, and now the game takes on another aspect. After material equality (three pawns for the piece) White does not have bad prospects in the endgame in view of the fact that in an ending of this type, his Bishop is more active than usual. On the other hand, the weakness of White's kingside gives Black definite chances for an attack in the middlegame. Now White can continue 19 ♖d2, so that after 20 ♗f4, the Bishop occupies the important diagonal. Angry that the attack had not achieved its goal, I decided that White's position was already almost lost and I played the next part of the game without much confidence.

19 ♗h6-g5 (0.22) ♖h7-e7 (1.30)

As soon as the black king Rook is able to neutralize White's pressure in the e-file, Black's basic difficulties are behind him. This is what Botvinnik felt, and I have to agree with him.

Here I would like to digress slightly. In the course of a chess game, opponents develop their ideas completely differently. Many

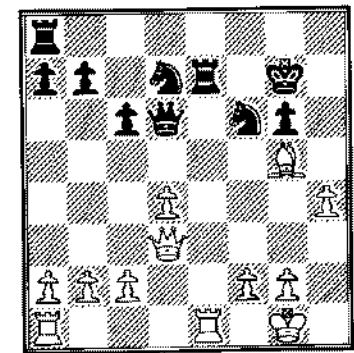
chessplayers (especially in the younger generation) in the course of a five-hour game will study the basic calculations, and their work will approximately consist of "if I go there, he goes there" as the position warrants. The more experienced chessplayers who study the secrets of the art more profoundly frequently do not bother themselves with such fatiguing matters and, conforming to basic, usually unshakeable principles, plan their further play. To illustrate, I would like to cite the dialogue which occurred after the end of the ninth game between Botvinnik and myself. When I, in rapid-fire succession, began to show Botvinnik the different variations in which Black gets a good game he said: "At first, I thought that this position was better for White, but later I found the correct plan: I had to exchange Rooks and keep the Queens on the board." At first, such an evaluation of the position seemed to me to be rather abstract, but when I began to go over the same numerous variation, I came to the conclusion that Botvinnik was absolutely correct: in an ending without Queens, White's well shaped pawn chain with the support of the active Bishop guarantees him a definite edge. With the Queens on the board, Black can count on a strong attack in view of the weakness of g4. White's next move is absolutely correct - he has

linked it with the idea of fighting for the e-file, but at the decisive moment, I lost confidence in myself.

20 ♖d1-d3 (0.36) ...

The attempt to transpose into the endgame by 20 ♖xe7 ♖xe7 21 h5 so that on 21...g×h5, he can answer 22 ♖xh5 ♗xh5 23 ♗xe7 ♖e8 24 ♖e1! followed by ♗b4, does not work for White after the simple 21...♖f7!, and White is forced either to exchange on g6, which leads to open files against his own King, or to advance the pawn to h6 where it will be doomed.

20 ... ♖g8-g7 (1.31)



21 ♖d3-g3?? (0.41) ...

Unquestionably, the weakest move in the match. I frankly thought it was bad, but somehow all the other continuations were even worse. Actually, at this point, White does not stand so badly. He only had to decide on the advance 21 f4! and after 21...♖ae8, to play 22 ♖e5! I

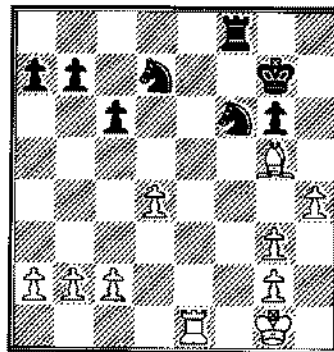
did not like the fact that Black could continue 22...c5. On 23 c3 cxd5 24 cxd5, the white Queen on d3 is not defended and Black can take advantage of this by capturing on e5. However, the analysis should be continued two moves further, and it will be seen that these threats are fictitious. Actually, on 24...dxe5 25 fxe5 Bxe5, White has a simple enough reply - 26 Qxf6+ - and he wins back all of his material and is even a pawn ahead. On 24...Bxe5 25 fxe5 Bxe5, the strong Qf4 follows. Be that as it may, the sharp continuation 21 f4 would have given White, if not the advantage, then, in any case, better practical chances. But now matters are very difficult; the ending may be lost.

21 ... Bxe7xe1+ (1.35)
 22 Ba1xe1 (0.41) Qd6xg3 (1.36)
 23 f2xg3 (0.41) ...

The price that White has had to pay for the satisfaction of having the Queens exchanged has been too expensive, since now his basic hope of taking advantage of his pawn majority on the kingside has vanished. Now a different question arises: Is the Bishop active enough to hold the draw? In his previous calculations, White had basically examined the direct 23...Be8 which does not give him bad chances after 24 Bxe8 Qxe8 25 Qf2, with further activation on the kingside by Qf3 and g4. Now,

Botvinnik finds an extremely strong continuation which most clearly underlines his significant positional advantage.

23 ... Ba8-f8! (1.41)



Now the White King cannot get into the game, since on 24 Qf2 there follows Qe4+. The Rooks cannot be exchanged, since after 24 Be7+ Bf7 25 Bxf7+ Qxf7, Black does not spend any time withdrawing the Knight but successfully blockades g4 - 26 Qf2 Qe6 27 Qf3 Qf5. The attempt to prevent Black's Knight from occupying an active position by 24 Be7+ Bf7 25 Qh6+ Qg8 26 Be6 does not achieve its goal because of 26...Qh7, followed by Qd5 or Qg4. White decided to divert Black's forces by creating a passed pawn in the center.

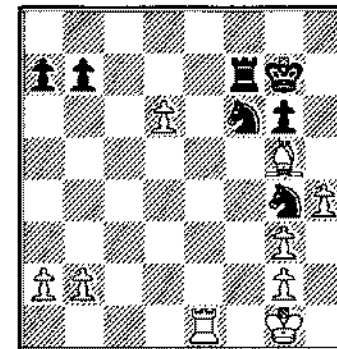
24 c2-c4 (0.55) ...

White spent fourteen minutes thinking over this move. This time could have been put to much better use had it been used somewhere previously ...

24 ... Qf6-g4 (1.48)
 25 d4-d5 (1.12) ...

White has nothing better in this position. On 25 Be4 Qdf6 26 Bf4, extremely unpleasant is 26...Be8.

25 ... c6xd5 (1.53)
 26 c4xd5 (1.12) Qd7-f6 (1.58)
 27 d5-d6 (1.13) Bf8-f7 (2.01)



White's pawn has run aground and Black intends to systematically destroy it. White's Bishop has already done its duty, and now its freedom of movement, to a significant degree, is hampered by its own pawns on d6, h4, and g3, which are posted on black squares and have no hope of being on white squares in the near future. Therefore, White decides to give up his central pawn and exchange all his pieces, hoping to make his King active. The following moves are forced.

28 Be1-c1 (1.25) Bf7-d7 (2.02)
 29 Bc1-c7 (1.35) ...

The position of the black Knight

on g4 would be especially significant in the variation 29 Qf4 Qd5 30 Bc7 Qxc7 31 dxc7 Bd1#.

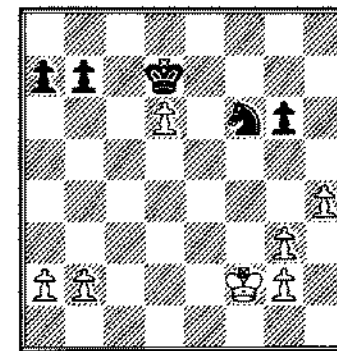
29 ... Qg7-f7 (2.04)
 30 Qg5xf6 (1.37) ...

The white King finally acquires some freedom to advance!

30 ... Qg4xf6 (2.04)
 31 Qg1-f2 (1.40) Qf7-e6 (2.05)
 32 Bc7xd7 (1.40) ...

While the Rooks were on the board, White had absolutely no chances.

32 ... Qe6xd7 (2.10)



Black quite correctly leaves his Knight on f6 where it restrains the white pawns on the kingside.

33 Qf2-f3 (1.41) Qd7xd6 (2.11)
 34 Qf3-f4 (1.41) Qd6-e6 (2.12)

Having "gobbled up" the pawn the King returns to its base.

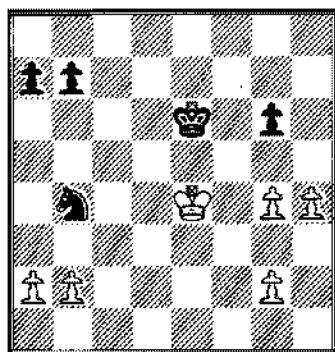
35 g3-g4 (1.41) Qf6-d5+ (2.17)
 36 Qf4-e4 (1.41) ...

36 ♖g5 ♗f7 37 h5 ♖b4! 38 a3 ♘d3 does not work, as the black King easily copes with "all" the pawns on the kingside.

36 ... ♘d5-f6+ (2.18)
37 ♗e4-f4 (1.41) ♘f6-d5+ (2.18)

There is no need for Black to hurry with his operations. His basic concern is now only with the clock, but he cannot allow a triple repetition of the position.

38 ♗f4-e4 (1.41) ♘d5-b4 (2.19)



39 a2-a3? (1.42) ...

One only need examine this position more deeply to discover that the White pawns on a3 and b2 are wonderful targets for Black's Knight. Continuing 39 a4, White would significantly increase Black's difficulty in realizing his extra piece. In any case, in the variation selected by Botvinnik, the position of the pawn on a4 instead of a3 would have given White a draw.

39 ... ♘b4-c6 (2.21)
40 h4-h5 (1.52)

40... ♗e5 was threatened followed by ♗c4.

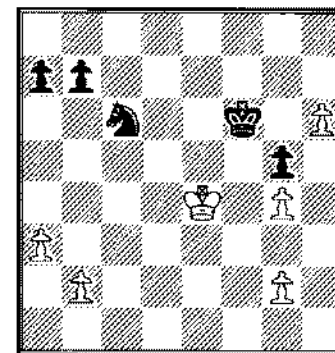
40 ... ♗g6-g5 (2.26)
41 h5-h6 (1.52) ...

I, of course, had no intention of sealing this move, since it is the only one. Botvinnik thought over his sealed move for a long time. There are two different principal continuations which are worth consideration, 41... ♗e5 and 41... ♗f6. In the first case, the passed pawn is neutralized by the Knight, and only then can the King attempt to capture it, and in the second case, the black King immediately attacks White's last hope. Naturally, the second plan seems to be more attractive. Only the mathematical calculations remained: would White be able to disturb his opponent on the queenside? Home analysis produced a negative answer. And after the envelope had been opened it appeared that Botvinnik had made the strongest move...

41 ... ♗e6-f6 (3.08)

...and it was clear that White's position was lost.

See diagram top of next column.



42 ♗e4-d5 (1.51) ...

42 h7 ♗g7 43 ♗f5 ♖a5! 44 ♗xg5 ♗c4 does not help, since Black takes advantage of his edge on the queenside without any difficulty.

42 ... ♗f6-g6 (3.08)
43 ♗d5-e6 (1.54) ...

43 ♗d6 ♖a5 44 ♗c7 b5 does not secure the draw, as after the capture of all of the queenside pawns, the g-pawn decides the game. White attempts to "fish in troubled waters," selecting the continuation that would be most unexpected for Black. The truth be known, there are not even any traps in this continuation.

43 ... ♘c6-a5 (3.10)
44 a3-a4 (1.54) ...

This would have been of some use to White if he had correctly played it on the 39th move!

44 ... ♘a5-b3 (3.15)

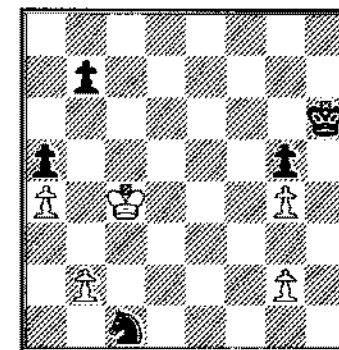
Most instructive, but not the

quickest way to realize the advantage. Possible was 44... ♗c4 45 b4 b5 or 45 b3 ♗e3, creating a passed pawn on the kingside.

45 ♗e6-d6 (1.55) a7-a5 (3.17)
46 ♗d6-d5 (1.56) ...

On the queenside, the Knight and King balance each other off. White can force the exchange of all the pawns only continuing 46 ♗c7 ♗c5 47 ♗b6 which, it is understood, loses. Therefore White has to lose a lot of time to "smoke out" the black Knight from b3.

46 ... ♗g6xh6 (3.18)
47 ♗d5-c4 (1.56) ♘b3-c1 (3.19)



The position of the Knight on the first rank is most useful, since, from this base, it can quietly attack White's pawns.

48 ♗c4-b5 (1.58) ♘c1-d3 (3.20)
49 b2-b3 (1.58) ♘d3-c1 (3.20)
50 ♗b5xa5 (1.58) ♘c1xb3+ (3.20)
51 ♗a5-b4 (1.58) ...

The "active" move 51 ♗b6 was

absolutely harmless, since ♖xb7 is not a possibility because of ♗c5+ and after a5 the b-pawn likewise is untouchable. The rest of White's moves are made on inertia.

51 ... ♗b3-c1 (3.22)

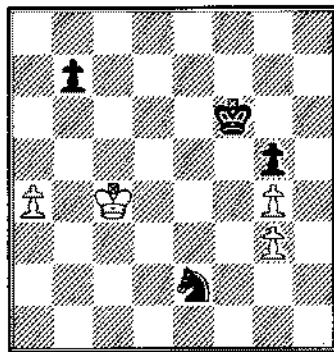
Now the black Knight is out of the King's range but near enough so that at a favorable moment he can get back into the game.

52 ♖b4-c3 (2.00) ♖h6-g6 (3.22)
53 ♖c3-c2 (2.01) ♗c1-e2 (3.23)
54 ♖c2-d3 (2.01) ♗e2-c1+ (3.25)

Again Black repeats moves before the control. This is the second time in the ninth game that there has been a double repetition of moves, but White did not even obtain a

quarter of a point!

55 ♗d3-c2 (2.01) ♗c1-e2 (3.25)
56 ♖c2-d3 (2.01) ♗e2-f4+ (3.27)
57 ♗d3-c4 (2.01) ♖g6-f6 (3.29)
58 g2-g3 (2.04) ♗f4-e2 (3.38)



The black Knight copes splendidly with his duties. Now on 59 ♖b5, there follows 59...♗xg3 60 ♖b6 ♗e4 61 a5 ♗d6. Not finding any more variations, White resigned.

Game Ten

Tuesday, 5 April 1960

The match had just begun - such was the general opinion before the start of the tenth game. Although Botvinnik remained one point behind, this was a minimal shortcoming, that was completely compensated by his newly found self-confidence, knowing that he had won the last two games (and he had conducted the ninth game almost flawlessly). Therefore, my trainer and I thought that the next two or three games should give us the answer to the pressing question: would I succeed again in "getting into the groove" or would Botvinnik be able to turn his psychological advantage into a "material" one? Jumping ahead, let me say that actually, the next three games, from the tenth to the twelfth, were probably the most tense, complicated and stubborn in the entire match. This time, in the process of preparation, we decided, in spite of the fact that it was necessary to play Black, to give the World Champion a battle. Therefore we again chose the King's Indian Defense. After a small psychological analysis, we came to

the conclusion that the Saemisch variation occupies far from last place in my opponent's arsenal. To support this, first of all, was the card index of the games of Botvinnik played in recent years and, second of all, a check of the order of moves employed by him in the sixth and eighth games of the match. I recall that in the sixth game of the match, Botvinnik, on the second move, played ♗f3, avoiding the Saemisch variation if Black chose the King's Indian (this can be explained by the fact that in the second and fourth games, Black chose another opening variation). Then in the eighth game Botvinnik played d4 on the first move and c4 on the second, and thus preserved his right to answer the King's Indian with one of the most active systems. In order to select the best lines, we took several examples from the Yugoslavian Grandmaster Svetozar Gligorich who, in practice, has met the Saemisch variation innumerable times. We examined his game with Szabo (Match, Yugoslavia-Hungary, 1959) in particular detail

and my game with him (first round of the Candidates Tournament). In both games, Black's position after the opening was to our liking. But more about that later.

Mikhail Botvinnik-Mikhail Tal King's Indian Defense

1 d2-d4 (0.00) ♘g8-f6 (0.00)
2 c2-c4 (0.02) g7-g6 (0.01)
3 ♘b1-c3 (0.04) ♗f8-g7 (0.01)
4 e2-e4 (0.05) d7-d6 (0.01)
5 f2-f3 (0.06) ...

Our calculations had been justified. This system of play, suggested by the German Grandmaster Friedrich Saemisch, was considered for a long time the most dangerous weapon against the King's Indian and almost refuted it. White could obtain a great advantage. After locking the center with d5 cramping Black's position, White is guaranteed a definite spatial advantage. After castling on opposite sides, White has two possible plans at his disposal: if he wants, he can begin to storm the Kingside with g4, h4, h5 etc. In other variations, quiet positional play on the queenside is preferred over such violent development, the basic idea being to take advantage of the fact that Black's Bishop on g7 has had its mobility greatly restricted. It is interesting to follow the evolution of defensive variations used by Black against the Saemisch. At

first, Black made basically developing moves: he played e5 then after d5 transferred the Knight to c5 where it was supported by his pawn but, when all the information was gathered, it became clear that Black's moves were good, but his position was bad. It was quite obvious that to obtain counterplay, it was necessary to play more actively. Then the King's Indian advocates suggested f5, beginning to fight for the square e4 or intending after f5, to get counterplay on the kingside. For a while, Black succeeded in obtaining good positions until, because of the efforts of Grandmasters Boris Spassky and Mark Taimanov, the scales were again tipped in White's favor. When Black played f5, White often began to employ the superficially anti-positional continuation e4xf5 which activates Black's King Bishop, but White's white-squared Bishop on d3 likewise obtained space for active operations (after an eventual g4). Boleslavsky suggested an order of moves for Black connected with e7-e5 and c7-c5 to restrict White's activity on the queenside and preserve the overall integrity of this system. However, in the XXV USSR Championship, in the games Tal-Boleslavsky, and Polugayevsky-Suetin, White succeeded in obtaining a significant advantage in the opening by quickly opening files and diagonals on the Kingside. Next, the

supporters of the King's Indian were infected by the "modern bug." They began to avoid playing e7-e5 preferring instead the attack in the center with c7-c5 which does not shut in the "King's Indian" Bishop. If White agrees to lock the center by d5 or gives up his plan of castling long, Black's pieces have rather active positions. Of course, sometimes for this activity, the Queen must be sacrificed, as, for example, in the game Zamikhovsky-Nezhmetdinov (Semi-finals, USSR Championship, Kharkov, 1956) and Bobotsov-Tal (Student World Championship, Varna, 1958). However, White can play much more strongly by maintaining the tension in the center. He can transpose into a favorable variation of the Sicilian Defense with the helpful moves c2-c4 and f2-f3 added. Fashionable systems connected with the preparation of the advance b7-b5 by a7-a6 and c7-c6 (without e7-e5), as practice has shown, are too slow. And now the King's Indian "Knights" have returned to the move e7-e5, but with new ideas. First, it is necessary to open the f-file, they think. After castling on opposite sides, this file will be very important for the support of Black's counterplay on the queenside. In addition, White does not have a pawn on e4, which sometimes prevents the thrust b5. However, at this point, a direct

pawn attack by White on the Kingside (g4 and h4) would have been very dangerous if Gligorich had not found an extremely successful "brake" - at just the right moment, Black plays h7-h5, and then begins a positional struggle in which he controls the weakened black squares, especially f4. It is precisely this system which seems to be Black's best weapon against the Saemisch. We decided to use it in the tenth game of the match.

5 ... 0-0 (0.01)
6 ♗c1-e3 (0.07) ...

Here, the continuation 6 ♗g5 has been encountered, after which 6...e5 is not possible in view of 7 dxe5 dxe5 8 ♖xd8 ♜xd8 9 ♘d5, winning a pawn. It is better for Black to reply 6...c5, and the Bishop on g5 does not participate in the struggle for d4. Sooner or later, White will have to release the tension in the center, capturing with his d-pawn, after which Black will have good counterplay.

6 ... e7-e5 (0.02)
7 d4-d5 (0.12) ...

Unquestionably the best theoretical continuation. The exchange on e5 does not promise White anything since the weakening of d4 will in time make itself felt. After 7 ♗ge2, Black's best answer is 7...c6, and then he should follow

with the d6-d5 counter-stroke in the center. Of course after the game is opened up, Black's pieces, in particular the king Bishop, will realize their potential.

7 ... c7-c6 (0.02)

8 ♖d1-d2 (0.13) ...

On 8 dxc6 Black answers 8...bxc6, keeping control over d5. Possible, for example, is the following variation: 9 ♖d2 ♖e7 10 0-0-0 ♔d8 11 c5 d5 (Ney-Boleslavsky, Semifinals, XXIII USSR Championship, Riga, 1955).

8 ... c6xd5 (0.02)

9 c4xd5 (0.14) ...

The straightforward 9 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 10 ♖xd5 can lead to the win of the d-pawn, but White pays too high a price: White is lagging behind in development and the black Rooks take the open files and become very active.

9 ... a7-a6 (0.03)

A useful move in Black's attacking plans (Black intended to carry out the advance b7-b5 after this, especially if White castled long) while it is also a preventive move defending the square b5 from an invasion by White's pieces, the Knight in particular.

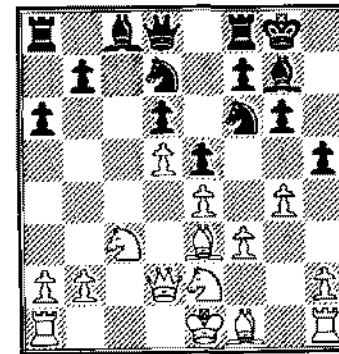
10 g2-g4 (0.16) ♖b8-d7 (0.04)

11 ♖g1-e2 (0.18) ...

In a game with Gligorich (Interzonal Tournament, Portoroz, 1958), I played 11 h4 immediately, but it turned out to be bad in view of the reply 11...h5, and White's attack momentarily stalled. With the text move, White first intends to transfer the Knight to g3 to prevent the move h5, and only then set his pawns in motion. Nevertheless, Black has at his disposal the reply...

11 ... h7-h5 (0.05)

...patented by Gligorich. Inasmuch as the g-pawn is now under attack, White has to take some measures. Here, the following continuations have been encountered: 12 g5, 12 h3, and 12 gxh5. The last move seems to be rather new; it was used in the game Weber-Retsch, played in the 1959 East German Championship, in which, after 12...♖xh5 13 ♖g3 ♖f4 14 h4 (here and in similar positions, it is unfavorable for White to accept the pawn sacrifice - 14 ♖xf4 exf4 15 ♖xf4, since the activity of Black's king Bishop fully compensates for this minimal loss) White got a strong attack. It seems to me that this continuation is not dangerous for Black who, for example, can continue 14...♖f6, maintaining an excellent position. In the game with Gligorich in the Candidates Tournament, I played 12 h3, and on 12...♖h7 13 h4 (Herein lies Black's idea - 13 gxh5 gives



nothing in view of 13...♖h4+, and on 13 0-0-0, he continues h4 followed by ♖g7-f6-g5. Gligorich played the same way against Sherwin in Portoroz and got a better position in the opening.) Gligorich did not find the best counterstroke against this innovation and after 13...hxg4 14 fxg4 ♖hf6? 15 ♖h3 ♖b6 16 ♖g5, White had the edge. Instead of 14...♖hf6, Black can continue either 14...♖b6 with the threats of ♖xg4 and ♖c4, which would force White to go into a very unclear line of play with 15 ♖g3 ♖xg4 16 h5, with an attack for the pawn or, which seems to me to be even stronger, 14...♖df6! 15 g5 ♖g4 or 15...♖h5, strengthening the position on the kingside. And finally, in several games from the XXVI Championship of the Soviet Union, as in the game Szabo-Gligorich about which I have already spoken, White employed the continuation 12 g5 ♖h7 13 h4. Gurgeniidze playing against Spassky, and Petrosyan against Polugayevsky, initiated play on the queenside, but here the Knight's position, which is not very active,

makes itself felt. Gligorich played more precisely against Szabo - 13...f6 14 gxh6 ♖xf6 15 ♖g1 - but then complicated maneuvers arose, the results of which were that White was able to favorably rearrange his forces and gradually seized the initiative. In this position, worth serious consideration is the stereotypical sacrifice of the Exchange 15...♖f4!?. White probably should accept it (if he, for example, continues 16 0-0-0 ♖xh4 17 ♖g5 thinking that he will win the Exchange under more favorable conditions, then there follows 17...♖h6! and Black even wins). Even after 15 ♖xf4 exf4, Black's positional pluses are easily worth the Exchange. Of course, there is no forced road to victory but there are many who would like to play Black in the position which has arisen. Be that as it may, this is how I intended to play if Botvinnik had selected one of the theoretical continuations. After short meditation, White played a new, completely unexpected continuation.

12 ♖e3-g5 (0.24) ...

To be frank, it was difficult for me to decide during the game whether Botvinnik had analyzed this position at home or had decided over the board to try out a new variation which looked dangerous for Black, the more so since Botvinnik spent twenty minutes on his 14th move. There had been a similar idea in my

game with Gligorich in the Tournament in Portoroz, but there it stemmed from White's inferior play. Reflecting for a while, I decided not to take chances and played the straight forward...

12 ... h5xg4 (0.15)
13 f3xg4 (0.25) d7-c5 (0.15)

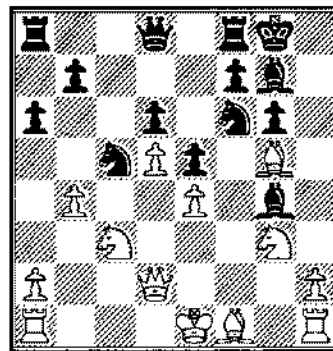
Lilienthal does not think that the text move in the given situation is strongest and recommends 13...♖a5. The ensuing 14 h3 ♖c5 (with the threat of ♖b3) 15 ♖b1 ♖fxe4! 16 ♖xe4 ♖d3+ 17 ♖d1 ♖a4+ is extremely pretty but unfortunately White is not obliged to play it. Instead of 15 ♖b1 he can try to play the sharp 15 ♖g2 ♖b3 16 axb3 ♖xa1+ 17 ♖d1, which keeps the black Queen out of the game for a long time, (worse is 15 ♖c1 b5). If Black refrains from the move 15... ♖b3 and continues, for example, 15...b5, then White, with 16 0-0, wins an important tempo. Therefore, probably, the text move is the strongest. Now the g-pawn is under attack and the e-pawn is indirectly attacked, since the pin along the h4-d8 diagonal is not dangerous for Black, for example: 14 b4 ♖cxe4 15 ♖xe4 ♖xe4 16 ♖xd8 ♖xd2 17 ♖e7 ♖e8 18 ♖xd6 ♖c4, followed by 19...e4. But inasmuch as it is apparent that the exchange on f6 probably leads to a strategically lost position for White, he is forced to sacrifice a pawn. All this is clear. There only

remains one question: Was this pawn sacrifice found at home or over the board? Only Botvinnik and Goldberg can answer this question.

14 ♖e2-g3 (0.47) ...

If this is all home preparation, then White is wasting too much time. In any case, he gets good compensation for the sacrificed pawn. It is interesting that in a short time, this entire variation would be examined again in the game Pachman-Gligorich in the International Tournament in Buenos Aires.

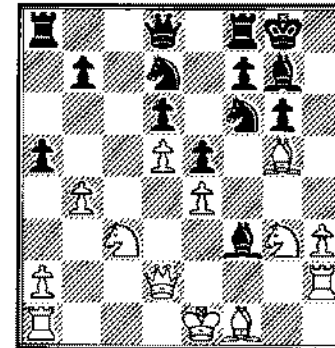
14 ... ♖c8xg4 (0.23)
15 b2-b4 (1.03) ...



In the above-mentioned game, the Czechoslovakian Grandmaster played 15 h3, and after 15...♖d7 16 h4 ♖b6 17 ♖c1 ♖b4 18 h5 ♖d4 19 ♖g2 ♖g4 20 ♖d1 ♖b4 21 a3 ♖b6 22 ♖f5, got a very good position. It was not quite clear why Gligorich refrained from the logical move 15...♖f3. Then on 16 ♖g2 ♖xg2 17 ♖xg2, Black

continues 17...♖d3+ followed by ♖f4. If the Rook retreats to g1 or h2, he has at his disposal the interesting combination: 16...♖cxe4 17 ♖cxe4 ♖xe4 18 ♖xe4 f6. It would be more advantageous for White to have his Rook posted on g1, but then after 19 ♖xf6 ♖xf6! 20 ♖xf6+ ♖xf6, Black stands well. Botvinnik first secures the safety of his e-pawn - the linchpin of White's position.

15 ... ♖c5-d7 (0.24)
16 h2-h3 (1.08) ♖f4-f3 (0.24)
17 ♖h1-h2 (1.10) ...



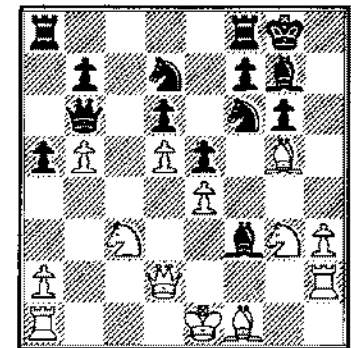
Now the Rook on the second rank is posted better as White intends to transfer it to the f-file so as to take advantage of the pin. At this time, several conclusions regarding Botvinnik's opening innovation can be drawn: he is a pawn down, but then there is a half-open file on the Kingside; the Black Bishop on f3 is not well posted, but on the other hand, White also has several weaknesses in his position. If Black can create pressure along the c-file, his counterattack might

become very active. In connection with this idea, Black's following move is worth serious censure. Black allows a substantial weakening of his Queenside and as compensation for it, he gains possession of c5 which turns out to be insufficient. In the spirit of the position was 17...♖b6 followed by ♖c8 or ♖d4. After that, White's plan, which he used in the game with great effect, would significantly decrease in strength.

17 ... a6-a5 (0.31)

Black is attempting to sharpen the game and does not consider the piece sacrifice 18 ♖e3 axb4 19 ♖b5 ♖xd5 20 exd5 ♖f6, with an unclear position. During the game, it seemed to me that the open a-file plus the insecure position of the white King would give basis for evaluating the position in Black's favor. Botvinnik does not like similar types of unclear positions, in which his King is in danger, and prefers to give the game another, quieter direction.

18 b4-b5 (1.16) ♖d8-b6 (0.39)



19 ♖d2-f2! (1.20) ...

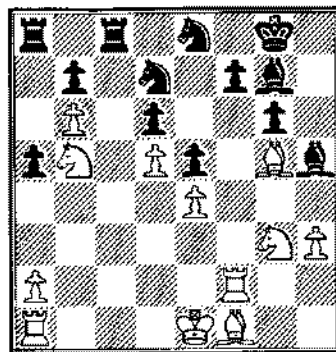
An extremely profound evaluation of the position. It might seem that White, having a pawn less, should avoid simplifications wherever possible, and that his chances would lie in an attack on the King. However, Botvinnik shrewdly saw the possibility to create very interesting play on the queenside, taking advantage of the fact that most of Black's forces are inactively stationed on the other side of the board, as well as the considerable weakness on the queenside which Black himself created by his 17th move. In spite of the fact that White is a pawn down, his position now is to be preferred.

- 19 ... ♗b6×f2+ (0.42)**
20 ♖h2×f2 (1.20) ♕f3-h5 (0.47)
21 b5-b6 (1.25) ...

A tempting, but crucial decision. It is difficult to say whether this move is the strongest. Of course, it immediately puts some difficult problems before Black, but nevertheless, the pawn on b6 appears to be a weakness in White's camp. Botvinnik himself suggests that it would have been stronger to "pump" the position by 21 ♖d2 followed by ♗e3. It seems to me that on this, Black can fully reckon on successfully defending himself with the maneuver ♗h7 followed by ♖g8 and ♕h6. At the present moment, the d-pawn is threatened

by ♖b5. Black is forced to immediately transfer his pieces to the queenside so as to create a secure "covering detachment." He probably had only one reply.

- 21 ... ♖f8-c8 (0.56)**
22 ♖c3-b5 (1.29) ♖f6-e8 (0.56)



23 ♖g3×h5 (1.40) ...

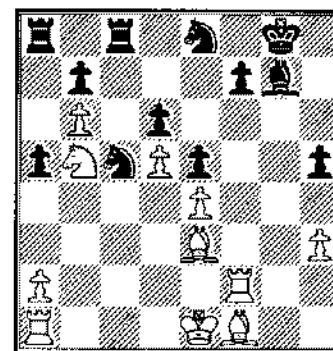
Convincing as it may seem, after this move, White loses his entire advantage. As it turns out, the White Knight on g3 fulfilled a very important function - it defended the e-pawn. Generally speaking, this exchange can be carried out advantageously only under more appropriate conditions. Obviously, Botvinnik did not want to part with his b-pawn and decided to defend it the safest way with ♕e3. The immediate 23 ♕e3 however gives Black the curious tactical possibility 23...♕f6! 24 ♖×h5 ♕h4!, winning the Exchange. Therefore Botvinnik decided to get rid of the pieces on the e1-h4 diagonal. However, White has an interesting possibility if he plays here 23 ♖b1!, keeping his black-squared

Bishop on the active diagonal. In this case, Black would have a difficult struggle, since 23...♖×b6 24 ♖×d6 ♖×d6 25 ♖×b6 is to White's advantage. Obviously, it would be necessary to decide on the continuation 23...♖c5 24 ♖a7 ♖cb8, with a cramped but rather solid position since Black still controls c5.

- 23 ... ♖g6×h5 (0.56)**
24 ♕g5-e3 (1.45) ...

It was exactly this move that White had prepared by the previous exchange. Here 24 ♖b1 even loses, since in the variations after 24...♖c5, the e-pawn turns out to be defenseless.

24 ... ♖d7-c5 (0.59)



Worse is 24...♕f6 25 ♖g2+. White has begun to feel the pressure of defending his center. Therefore Botvinnik, who, incidentally, was in some time pressure, goes in for a position with Bishops of opposite color, knowing full well that, in principle, White should not mind a

draw. Notice that White did not have a better continuation. Thus, on 25 ♖c3, Black would reply 25...♖b3! and he gets an excellent position and if 25 ♖a7, strong is 25...♖×e4 26 ♖×c8 ♖×f2 27 ♖e7+ ♗f8 28 ♖f5 ♖e4, and now Black has two extra pawns in return for which White's compensation is not clear.

- 25 ♕e3×c5 (1.58) ♖c8×c5 (1.00)**
26 ♕f1-d3 (1.59) ...

The position has been simplified somewhat, but the defects in Black's pawn structure can still be felt. The open g-file can be used by White for an attack; the Bishop on g7 is difficult to effectively activate; the b-pawn, when supported by the Knight on b5, significantly cramps Black's game, and the attempt to win this pawn by 26...♖a6 is most simply refuted by the variation 27 ♖c3! ♖×b6 (or 27...♖×c3? 28 ♕×a6 b×a6 29 b7) 28 ♖a4, and White wins the Exchange. After prolonged thought, Black goes in for a long forced variation, thinking that after the exchange of a pair of Rooks he will be able to transfer his Bishop via f6 to d8 to attack the b-pawn.

- 26 ... ♖a8-c8 (1.24)**
27 ♗e1-e2 (2.00) ♖c5-c1 (1.24)
28 ♖a1×c1 (2.01) ♖c8×c1 (1.24)
29 ♖f2-f1 (2.01) ♖c1-c5 (1.25)

Of course the exchange of Rooks

29...♖xf1 30 ♜xf1 does not seem to help Black, since the b-pawn would be very weak and could quickly be won by White after ♖a7 and Ba6. However, Black secures a draw, continuing ♗f6 and ♕d8, but it seemed to me that in the given position, he can attempt to play for a win.

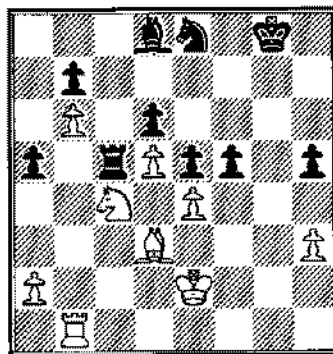
30 ♖f1-b1 (2.11) ♕g7-f6 (1.26)

Black keeps pace with White. If now White continues 31 ♖a7 ♕d8 32 ♖c6 bxc6 33 b7 ♕c7 34 b8♙ ♕xb8 35 ♖xb8 ♜f8 36 dxc6 ♜e7 (impossible is 36...♖xc6? 37 ♕b5) 37 ♖b7+ ♜f6 38 ♕b5 ♖c7! 39 ♕a4 ♖e6, then Black gets clearly the better endgame. Instead of 32 ♖c6, 32 ♖b5 gives White nothing in view of 32...♖xb5 33 ♕xb5 ♖f6! (stronger than 33...♕xb6 34 ♖c8 ♖c7 35 ♖xd6 and White, in spite of the fact that he is a pawn down, is not any worse).

31 ♖b5-a3 (2.15) ♕f6-d8 (1.28)
32 ♖a3-c4 (2.18) ...

The correct idea: White tries to transfer the Knight to f5 but misses a small tactical subtlety. Stronger was 32 ♖c2, with the same idea: to put the Knight on f5, White will have to completely insure against all threats. Now, however, Black succeeds in getting rid of his backward f-pawn.

32 ... f7-f5! (1.28)



The f-pawn succeeds in "slipping by," since 33 exf5? e4 is impossible. However, White's position is still safe enough.

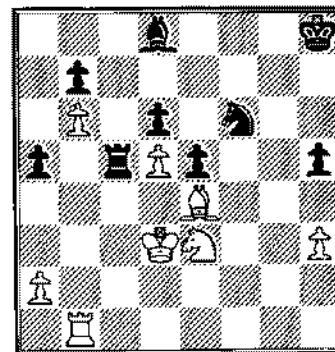
33 ♖c4-e3 (2.20) f5xe4 (1.36)

I did not like 33...f4 34 ♖f5, and in this closed position, the Knight on f5 is placed splendidly since it also attacks the d-pawn. Now Black begins to complicate the game somewhat, trying to take advantage of his ally, Botvinnik's time pressure.

34 ♕d3xe4 (2.20) ♜g8-h8! (1.36)

This is an extremely unpleasant move when White is in time pressure. Black prepares ♖f6 which, if the King is on g8, does not achieve its goal, in view of 35 ♕f5. To transfer the King to the queenside probably is weaker, since the white Rook can penetrate the last rank unhindered, along the open file.

35 ♜e2-d3 (2.23) ♖e8-f6 (2.02)



Worse was 35...♕g5, since after 36 ♖f5, White can look to create a dangerous kingside attack. For a long time I considered the consequences of 36 ♖f1, which was probably the most active continuation for White. Black would be hard pressed to develop further, since 36...♖xe4 37 ♖f8+ ♜g7 38 ♖xd8 ♖f6 39 ♖f5+ ♜g6 40 ♖xd6 ♖xd5+ 41 ♜e3 leads to a draw. I intended to make use of waiting moves like 36...a4 37 a3 h4, and now if White brings the Rook from f1 to f3 or f5 (impossible of course is 38 ♖f2 ♖c3+), Black's Rook penetrates to the last rank, and on 38 ♖c4, possible is 38...♖xe4 39 ♖f8+ ♜g7 40 ♖xd8 ♖f2+ (better than 40...♖xd5+ 41 ♜xe4 ♖d4+ 42 ♜f5 and White's King is very active) 41 ♜c3, and Black can force a draw by continuing 41...♖e4+, but can also play the sharper 41...♖xh3, with a very unclear endgame. Finding himself in time pressure, Botvinnik used other tactics: by placing his pieces outside of the range of his opponent's pieces, he intends to

conduct the game until the 40th move, maintaining approximate equality. Black does not take full advantage of White's marking time.

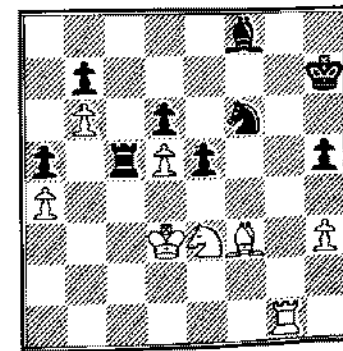
36 ♕e4-g2 (2.23) ♜h8-g8 (2.07)
37 a2-a4 (2.23) ♕d8-e7 (2.12)
38 ♕g2-f3 (2.24) ...

This is not in the spirit...

38 ... ♕e7-f8 (2.13)
39 ♖b1-g1+ (2.27) ...

In time pressure, it is not so easy to decide upon the sharp 39 ♖b5 as was recommended by many commentators. After 39...♖xb5 40 axb5, the endgame seems extremely attractive for Black, who has two passed pawns. He can here play 40...a4 41 ♖c4 ♜f7, and dangerous is 42 ♖a5 e4+, and Black succeeds in bringing the King to the defense of the d- and b-pawns.

39 ... ♜g8-h7 (2.19)



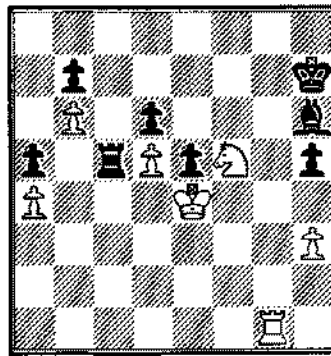
40 ♕f3-e4+!! (2.29) ...

Botvinnik, literally in the last seconds before his flag fell, realizes the danger and abruptly changes his game plan. White could not have afforded to make even one indifferent move as Black, continuing 40...♔h6, would seize the initiative in a very decisive manner. It is interesting that almost all of the commentators who analyzed this game considered White's 40th move, if not a decisive, then at least a bad blunder, probably because this move goes completely contrary to the preceding non-committal maneuvers by White. Moreover "backstage," Botvinnik was delighted by this "original, profound evaluation" of the position on that tense chess evening. Black's answer is forced.

40 ... ♖f6×e4 (2.20)
41 ♗d3×e4 (2.40) ...

It must seem totally incomprehensible to the reader that Botvinnik pondered such a natural move (is there a more natural move on the board?) for more than ten minutes. It seemed to me also during the game that this was very strange and I finally did not grasp that the World Champion was "offering" me to seal my move. Unfortunately, I didn't agree to that and decided to give him back the sealed move, the consequence of which is my 41st move...

41 ... ♗f8-h6 (2.20)



...which I made instantaneously. Instead of this, I had had the idea of making (or sealing) the more unpleasant 41...♗c3! after which Black, with an extra pawn and the possibility of gradually activating his Bishop, maintains good chances for victory. The move 41...♗h6 does not appear to be the strongest for other psychological reasons. White is probably forced to answer 42 ♖f5 and further play will be of a forced character, and therefore Botvinnik does not experience any special difficulty in selecting his sealed move this time, which means that my psychological idea was not justified. Prolonged (as much as time would allow) home analysis allowed us to ascertain that in the adjourned position, White has significantly more chances to draw than Black has to win. In many variations, a complete illusion of insecurity in White's position is created and nevertheless, taking advantage of the active positions of his pieces, especially his King, and the somewhat limited activity of the black Bishop, White secures a

draw. Therefore, a peaceful result did not by any means appear to be an unexpected surprise for me, although during the game there was a moment when Black could have been able to get good chances for a win.

42 ♖e3-f5 (2.54) ...

The sealed move. Obviously there is nothing better, since Black would have had a won endgame after 42 ♖f1 ♗×e3 43 ♖f7+ ♗g6 44 ♖×b7 ♗c3.

42 ... ♗c5-c4+ (2.20)

At home we came to the conclusion that the forced variations do not promise Black any real chances to win. Our attention was focused on the paradoxical 42...♗f8!, so that on 43 ♖e3, 43...♗c3 could be played, getting a position about which we have already talked above. Unfortunately, it does not work, since White has at his disposal a strong answer in 43 ♖g3! ♗g6 44 ♖e2+ ♗f6 45 ♖f1+, and Black is forced either to agree to a draw or to let White's pieces penetrate - the Rook to f7 or the King to f5.

43 ♗e4-d3 (2.54) ♗c4×a4 (2.20)
44 ♖f5×d6 (2.55) ♗a4-d4+ (2.21)

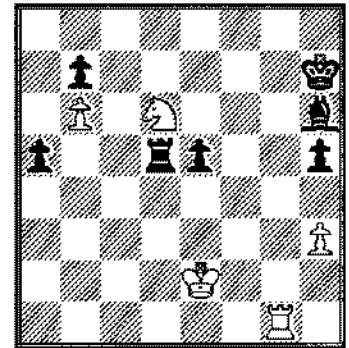
The continuation pointed out by Botvinnik after the game - 44...♗g7 so that he can immediately activate

his pieces - is very interesting. Then, 45 ♖×b7 does not work because of e4+, and Black's Bishop unexpectedly acquires decisive range. White, however, can repel the threats, continuing 45 ♗e3!, and Black has nothing better than to repeat the position.

45 ♗d3-e2 (2.56) ...

The strongest move. The White King prevents the primary threat, the advance of the e-pawn.

45 ... ♗d4×d5 (2.21)



46 ♖d6-e4 (2.56) ...

In our analysis, we considered that White could fight for the initiative more simply by 46 ♖×b7 ♖b5 47 ♗a1, leading to an endgame in which Black has a material and positional advantage, but the extraordinarily limited material makes realization of this advantage (as we had considered) practically impossible. Our rivals came to a different conclusion, and therefore Botvinnik made the crucial decision of staying two

pawns down, but keeping his positional plus. White's Knight and Rook are now extremely active and threaten mate in two moves. Black is forced to defend himself for a while.

46 ... ♖h7-h8 (2.22)

Black tries to bring the game around into a Rook endgame which, as we have previously noted, is extremely favorable for him. It is interesting to notice that the variation encountered in the game was analyzed by us until the 56th move - with his 57th move, Botvinnik substantially improves upon our analysis. Here, however, Black had the possibility to play for a win by continuing 46...♗d8. Personally speaking, this can lead to a transposition of moves and therefore the text move does not itself appear imprecise, but it is connected with an incorrect plan.

47 ♘e4-f6 (2.59) ♗d5-d2+ (2.22)

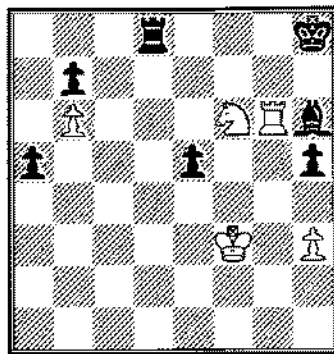
Black has withdrawn his King just so that he could give this check, but more precise here was the immediate 47...♗d8.

48 ♖e2-f3 (3.00) ♗d2-d8 (2.22)
49 ♗g1-g6 (3.01) ...

See diagram top of next column.

49 ... a5-a4? (2.22)

This move found in home analysis



clearly is not the best. Significantly stronger was the simple 49...♗g7 50 ♘xh5 ♗f8 51 ♘f6 ♗e7 followed by the advance of the a-pawn. In this case White would be hard pressed to neutralize the attack. His sole chance would lie in bringing the King to f7 and therefore, Black should not have driven him to f3 with his 47th move. As I have already said, we were too optimistic in evaluating the Rook endgame.

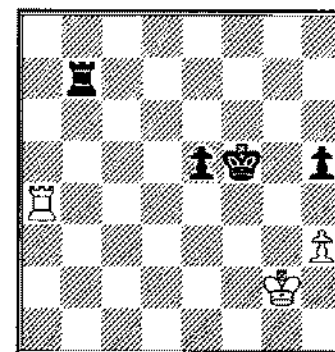
50 ♗g6×h6+ (3.08) ♖h8-g7 (2.22)
51 ♗h6-h7+ (3.12) ...

White would have fallen into a curious trap by continuing 51 ♗xh5 ♖xh6 52 ♗h7 ♗b8!, and the black Rook, occupying a superficially passive position, guarantees an uncomplicated win.

51 ... ♖g7×f6 (2.22)
52 ♗h7×b7 (3.12) ♗d8-d3+ (2.22)
53 ♖f3-g2 (3.15) ♗d3-b3 (2.25)
54 ♗b7-a7 (3.22) a4-a3 (2.25)
55 b6-b7 (3.22) ♖f6-f5 (2.26)
56 ♗a7×a3 (3.26) ♗b3×b7 (2.26)

At this point, we had stopped analysing, thinking that the Rook ending was extremely satisfactory. Actually, in this position, if it were Black's move, he could continue 57...h4, fixing White's weakness on h3 after which White would be hard pressed to defend himself. But Botvinnik's move convincingly proves that the endgame is drawn.

57 ♗a3-a4! (3.47) ...



Now everything is completely clear: Black cannot "cross the Rubicon." On 57...e4 there follows 58 ♗a5+ ♖f4 59 ♗xh5 and

the game has transposed into a theoretically drawn endgame. Now White threatens to organize an assault on the pawns by ♗h4-e4, etc. The game continued...

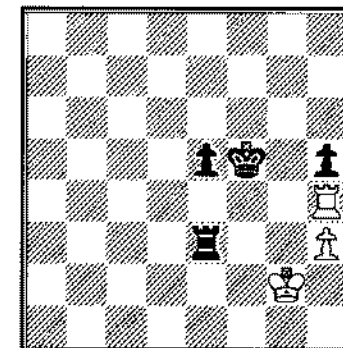
57 ... ♗b7-b2+ (2.50)

58 ♖g2-f3 (3.51) ♗b2-b3+ (3.02)

59 ♖f3-g2 (3.51) ♗b3-e3 (3.12)

60 ♗a4-h4 (3.55) ...

...after which Black offered a draw. 60...♖g5 61 ♗a4 e4 62 ♗a5+ ♖h4 gives Black nothing, since it is impossible to strengthen the position. Drawn.



Game Eleven

Thursday, 7 April 1960

In tournaments, the games that decide the final places are almost always played in the closing round. The specifications of a match are such that the result is determined not by the last match game, but by each game, and often, not by the concluding games. Even the games which do not exert such a decisive influence on the match's outcome have their place. Their significance is not simply limited by the fact that they may increase one player's edge. Let us take perhaps the most famous example - the titanic duel between Alexander Alekhine and José Capablanca. Alekhine himself thought that the match, which was played until six games were won, was decided by the score of three to two in his favor. Is it possible that such an outstanding chessplayer like Capablanca was not able to equalize the score? No. The question is not of a sporting nature. A much more important role was played by the feeling of confidence in his abilities by one of the combatants and a feeling of haughtiness by the other. At the time, this feeling was responsible for some very important points. No

less a player than Emanuel Lasker resigned his match with Capablanca when there were still ten games left, since he well knew that he would not be able to win back the four games in that situation. Thus, the deciding games in this match were likewise played somewhere in the middle of the competition. I have conducted this small historical digression to stress the huge feeling of responsibility with which we approached the second ten match games. The first ten games had passed very stubbornly and had not given an advantage of any significance to either opponent. The score, 5½-4½, only confirmed that (a) the decisive games were still in the future; and (b) that the tenth game had been of the best quality so far, which proved that both opponents, up to this time, were playing vigorously. Botvinnik had been able to surmount unfavorable conditions which had plagued him from the very beginning and I had succeeded in "straightening myself out" after the difficult counter-blows I suffered in the eighth and ninth games.

Therefore, the next game might once again resolve the question, if it can be expressed this way: Who was the psychological master of the match? At this very crucial juncture in the match, I received some very good advice from my trainer: inasmuch as I had frankly breached the ramparts of the Caro-Kann Defense, he advised me to defer the "refutation" of this defense until a better time. Both Botvinnik and I had been used to the first move being e4. A closed opening system might therefore be a small surprise to him. My problem of what opening to use in the eleventh game had nothing to do with any compulsion to obtain an opening advantage, but rather with something else - how it would be possible to arrive at the most complicated position so as to delay decisive developments until the last part of playing time - in other words, to create a position "full of problems." I was very satisfied that I was able to solve this problem. Actually, the eleventh game demanded a huge amount of energy from both opponents (as did the tenth and twelfth games) and in my opinion this explains why Botvinnik (after the eleventh game) and I (after the thirteenth), were forced to take a break.

Mikhail Tal-Mikhail Botvinnik
Réti Opening

1 ♖g1-f3 (0.01) ♘g8-f6 (0.01)

2 g2-g3 (0.02) g7-g6 (0.03)

Inasmuch as Botvinnik rarely plays the King's Indian Defense in practice, it can be assumed that in fianchettoing his King Bishop, Black intends to transpose into the Gruenfeld Defense. Several variations of this defense lead to closed, complicated positions and sometimes Black, by maintaining the symmetry, strives to give the game a quiet character. In particular, Smyslov, in several games of the 1957 match, successfully neutralized White's advantage in his games with Botvinnik. The further course of the eleventh game emphasizes the fact that my opponent's opening strategy is primarily based on Black's getting a quiet and solid position.

3 ♗f1-g2 (0.02) ♗f8-g7 (0.03)

4 0-0 (0.02) 0-0 (0.04)

5 c2-c4 (0.03) c7-c6 (0.08)

6 b2-b3 (0.04) ...

This way White avoids the symmetrical variations after 6 d4 d5. White has probably nothing better than to exchange on d5, since on 7 ♖bd2 Black easily equalizes, continuing 7...♗e4, and after 7 ♗c3 he can accept the sacrifice 7...dxc4 (now this becomes a sacrifice, since the c-pawn is not won back) maintaining a solid position. I intended to answer, on 6...d5, 7 ♗b2 after which there

arises a complicated position with an unclear center formation. As a rule, Botvinnik avoids such positions and therefore his following moves can be foreseen.

6 ... ♖f6-e4 (0.23)

Forcing the move d4 and thus making White's intentions clear in the center. Of course with this move Black breaks one of the opening principles, moving the same piece twice.

7 d2-d4 (0.05) d7-d5 (0.23)

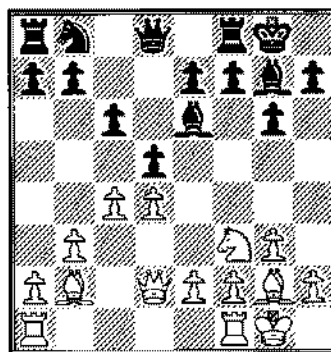
8 ♖c1-b2 (0.05) ♖c8-e6 (0.26)

This continuation leads to a difficult position for Black, a position in which Botvinnik has to think for a long time, almost every move, simply to maintain equality. Probably stronger was 8...a5, with the intention of immediately fighting for the queenside. On 8...♗d7, I intended to answer 9 ♗fd2, driving the Knight from e4. With the text move, Black creates a threat on the c-pawn. If White has to exchange on d5, then the Black Queen Knight could go to e6 without losing a tempo. White finds an interesting tactical possibility connected with a pawn sacrifice thanks to the fact that the Bishop is not favorably posted on e6.

9 ♗b1-d2(0.16) ♗e4×d2(0.43)

It is easy to note that Black is forced to go in for this exchange if he does not want to lose more tempi by 9...♗f5 or by withdrawing the Knight. It is clear that 9...f5 is not worth serious consideration, since Black would weaken his center without any compensation. White would simply answer 10 ♗×e4 f×e4 11 ♗g5 ♖c8 12 f3, with a significant positional advantage.

10 ♗d1×d2! (0.20) ...



The quiet 10 ♗×d2 allows Black not only to equalize the position but to fight for the advantage after 10...c5! After that, everything is in Black's favor: the opposing Bishops on the long diagonal, one of which is defended, and the other vulnerable; the favorable position of the Bishop on e6 which safely defends the square d5; and finally the development of the Knights - White's Knight on d2 would be extremely awkward and with ♗c6 Black would be able to strengthen the pressure in the center. With the move 10 ♗×d2, White accomplishes a great deal: his Bishop on

b2 is now defended and therefore 10...c5 is not possible (after 11 d×c5 d×c4 12 ♖×g7, it is impossible to think that Black will not lose material) while the Knight on f3 threatens to go to g5 with a tempo and, in general, White's forces will be harmoniously posted. The only drawback to the move ♗×d2 is that it allows Black the possibility of capturing the pawn, but after 10...d×c4 11 ♗g5 c×b3 (or 11...♗h6 12 f4! and Black is forced to part with one of his Bishops; not favorable is 11...♗d5 12 e4 h6 13 e×d5 h×g5 14 b×c4) 12 ♗×e6 f×e6 13 a×b3, and White has good compensation for the pawn: he has two active Bishops with possible pressure both on the king- and queenside and Black's material advantage is his weak doubled e-pawns. It would be inappropriate to say that the acceptance of the sacrifice leads to a lost position, but it is clear that Black would have a very difficult struggle ahead of him. Of course Botvinnik is not about to give up the center for such miserly compensation.

10 ... ♗b8-a6 (0.51)

Not the most convenient, but nevertheless, Black finishes the mobilization of his pieces on the queenside. The Knight does not have a better post after 10...♗d7, when 11 ♗g5 is unpleasant. Now a maneuvering struggle begins

wherein White has excellent prospects.

11 ♖a1-c1 (0.21) ...

The time has come to defend the c-pawn.

11 ... ♗d8-d6 (1.01)

12 ♗f3-e5 (0.36) ...

Here the Knight is excellently placed. If Black attempts to drive it out by f6, the Bishop on g7 would be locked out of the game and Black's counterplay connected with pressure on d4 would lose its effect. From e5, the Knight strikes at c6, taking advantage of the Knight's poor position (cf. the notes after White's 14th move).

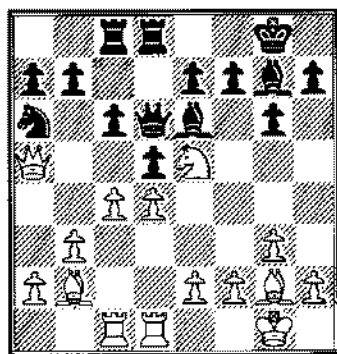
12 ... ♖e8-d8 (1.04)

13 ♖f1-d1(0.38) ♖a8-c8(1.08)

Now the opening stage can be considered over. White has at his disposal several ways to attempt to increase his positional advantage. One of them is purely stategical, connected with a pawn storm on the queenside: 14 c5 ♗b8 15 b4. During the game, however, I did not like the fact that Black, in this position, succeeds in activating his pieces by continuing 15...f6 16 ♗d3 ♖f5, followed by 17...e5. White achieves nothing outstanding after the pawn storm and I really did not want to "reduce the front," since White's pieces are actively posted and they have more

possibilities for all sorts of tactical operations. All of White's pieces are ready for battle except perhaps the Queen on d2, where it not only does not take active participation in the game, but impedes the advantageous advance 14 e4, which does not work in view of 14...dxe4 threatening 15...Qxe5. White realizes that the Queen's position must be improved.

14 ♖d2-a5! (0.46) ...



Now White's Queen is posted very actively - its sphere of influence extends to the Knight on a6, the Rook on d8 and to the pawn on d5. If Black wants to maintain his center, he must be prepared for some very diverse "tricks." Thus on 14...♗c7 White wins a pawn: 15 ♖xc6. The complications which arise after 14...♗b4 are interesting and probably to White's advantage: 15 ♖xc6! bxc6 16 ♗xa6 dxc4 17 ♔a3 ♗b6 18 ♗xb6 axb6 19 bxc4, and White has an extra pawn although it will be difficult to make use of it. Incidentally, if this variation seems too forced for

White or the final position not advantageous enough, he can continue more quietly: 15 ♔c3 ♗xa5 16 ♔xa5 b6 17 cxd5, with a definite advantage in the endgame. Black has at his disposal still another possibility to force the exchange of Queens by setting a trap: 14...Qxe5 15 dxe5 ♗b4 16 ♔c3! (not 16 ♗xb4 ♖xb4 17 a3? ♖a2! 18 ♖a1 dxc4! 19 ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 20 ♖a2 ♔d2! winning back the piece). But of course, it is not easy to decide on giving up the black-squared Bishop. Inasmuch as White threatens 15 ♔a3, transposing into the same tactical ideas, Black should go in for some sort of positional sacrifice. Botvinnik decides to give up the center, and this seems to be correct - Black's cramped position is still rich in defensive resources.

14 ... d5xc4 (1.15)

15 ♖e5xc4 (0.50) ...

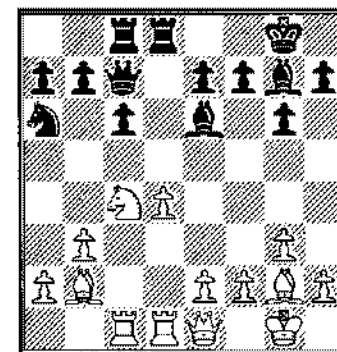
Of course, worse is 15 bxc4 ♔xe5, and White will have to allow the exchange of Queens. White's pawn on c4 will not be needed since he will occupy the center with e4.

15 ... ♗d6-c7 (1.22)

In Black's cramped position, he naturally tries to simplify matters. Of course, after 16 ♗c7 ♖xc7 17 ♖a5, White maintains his advantage, but nevertheless, it is more desirable to keep the Queens on the

board. There is too great a difference in their respective power. White's Queen enjoys complete freedom of movement while the sphere of activity for Black's Queen is basically limited to the last two ranks. Besides that, if the game is opened up, the black Queen might come under attack by the white Rooks. The most suitable place for retreat had to be found. It was with these intentions that the next move was made.

16 ♗a5-e1 (0.55) ...



Here the white Queen is out of the range of Black's king Bishop, which it would not have been after 16 ♗c3?; the Rook does not threaten it, as it would have if the withdrawal had been to d2; and after carrying out e2-e4, a major piece is not prevented from going to the e-file. It is now not easy for Black to create counterplay. Still and all, Botvinnik places his forces on their most satisfactory squares for defensive purposes.

16 ... ♗c7-b8 (1.27)

A prudent withdrawal of the Queen from the c-file.

17 e2-e4 (0.57) ♔e6xc4 (1.33)

A difficult, but correct decision. White intended 18 d5 to shift activity to the center for which his Queen is so favorably placed on e1 (after 18...cxd5 19 exd5, the e-pawn is under attack). Inasmuch as Black has no tangible weaknesses in his position, giving up the two Bishops does not appear to be fatal.

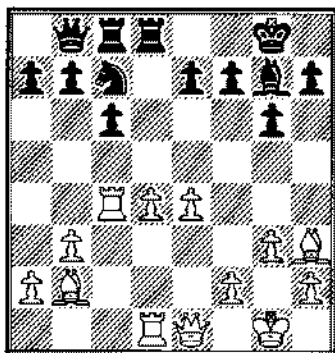
18 ♖c1xc4 (0.58) ...

Significantly stronger than 18 bxc4 c5! 19 e5 cxd4 20 ♔xd4 e6, and Black has a comfortable outpost on e5. Of course, Black can continue 18...c5 in the game, but here it brings him no special advantage, since after 19 e5, the inferior position of White's queen Bishop is fully compensated by the active king Bishop, and Black would not be able to hold the square c5 after White plays b4. After this, White could count on a strong queenside attack.

18 ... ♖a6-c7 (1.34)

Black intends to attack the square d4, transferring the Knight to e6 or b5. White's first task is to prevent this.

19 ♔g2-h3 (1.15) ...



White has the right idea, but does not carry it out quite precisely. At first I intended to continue 19 ♖c1!, so as to transfer the white-squared Bishop to the h3-c8 diagonal only when it was necessary and only on 19...♗b5 (Black has nothing better - bad is 19...♗e6 20 d5 or 19...e6 20 ♔f4) continue 20 ♔h3. After 20...e6 21 ♔f4 ♗a8 22 d5, White's idea has momentarily been justified. The winning method, though, was unclear to me if Black should sacrifice the Exchange: 20...♗d4 21 ♔xc8! ♗f3+ 22 ♗h1 ♗xc8 23 ♔xd8+ (impossible is 23 ♗e2 ♔xd1+ 24 ♗xd1 ♗h3) 23...♗xd8 24 ♗e2 ♗d4 25 ♗d3 e5. Of course, it would be worth it for White to get such a position since it is winning (although there are some technical difficulties that still must be solved). After the opening error, Black has always had to defend carefully; his position is not so weak, however, that White can simply bring his advantage home at his leisure. By making the move in the game, I counted on obtaining a still larger advantage but in the further course of the game, it

was the same old story: Black has a cramped position but it is extraordinarily difficult to pierce. Botvinnik maintains the balance.

19 ... e7-e6 (1.37)
20 ♔b2-c1 (1.15) ...

Counting on playing 21 ♔f4 after 20...♗b5, which transposes into the variation which was examined in the previous note. However, the move 19...e6 played by Botvinnik weakens the position but does stop the break d4-d5 which is most promising. The Knight also helps in this matter and therefore Black avoids the pin.

20 ... ♗b8-a8! (1.49)

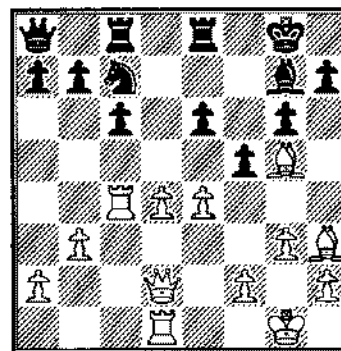
The most interesting thing about this position is that on a8, the Queen is best placed. On 21 ♔f4, Black continues 21...b5! winning the d-pawn (the pawn on c6 is defended). Evidently, the time has come to give up the idea of d4-d5.

21 ♔c1-g5 (1.19) ♔d8-e8 (1.53)

Of course he had no idea of playing 21...♔d7, putting both Rooks on the same diagonal, since the threat against the d-pawn is easily parried by 22 ♗e3. Incidentally, on 21...♔d7, tempting is 22 d5 which, however, does not do anything, since after 22...cxd5 23 exd5 ♔xd5! (not 23...♗xd5 24 ♔xe6!) 24 ♔xd5 ♗xd5, 25 ♔xe6 does not

work because of 25...♔e8!. 22 e5 is worth attention, as Black's pieces are devoid of interaction. Perhaps this move immediately would have been strongest. In the end, the possession of d5 is not so essential as White's initiative on the kingside is sufficiently real. White made a hackneyed developing move, underestimating the subtle answer.

22 ♗e1-d2 (1.23) f7-f5! (2.01)



In this way and only in this way does Black get a fully satisfactory position. Now White has to solve very complicated problems - on 23 e5, Black gets the very useful square d5, having succeeded in preventing a kingside attack. The quiet 23 f3 can be recommended to preserve the mobile center. But I did not like the possible reply 23...♗b5, threatening 24...♗d6, and Black's pieces would be extremely active. Goldberg, after the match, expressed the opinion that White might have obtained a large advantage by continuing 23 exf5 exf5 24 g4! (Goldberg's

exclamation point). I also examined this continuation during the game but came to the conclusion that Black can successfully sacrifice the Exchange: 24...fxg4 25 ♔xg4 ♗d5 26 ♔xc8 ♗xc8. More than that, I think that in this position, I prefer Black's game. All these factors taken into consideration, White decided on the "anti-positional" continuation and regretfully parted with his Bishop on g5: his "brother" on g7 is making life too unpleasant.

23 ♔g5-h6 (1.36) ♔g7-h6 (2.04)
24 ♗d2-h6 (1.36) ♔e8-e7 (2.05)

He had no intention of capturing on e4, since after 25 ♔e1, the pawn would be won back and the pressure on e6 would have made it very unpleasant for Black. Botvinnik has a plan which coordinates the activities of his heavy pieces - one Rook turns first to the second rank, but staying in the e-file while the second supports the square f5, finally giving the Queen some "elbow room."

25 ♔d1-e1 (1.38) ...

Threatening 26 exf5 gxf5 27 ♔xf5.

25 ... ♔c8-f8 (2.08)

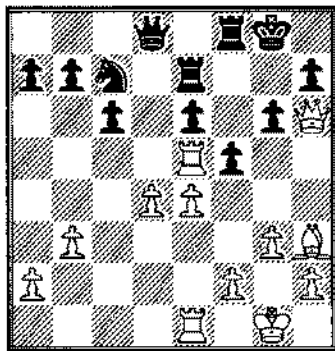
25...♔ce8 is significantly more passive.

26 ♖c4-c5 (2.07) ...

At this moment, White felt that the brilliant defense by Botvinnik was going to lead to the dissipation of his advantage. Now, however, both opponents have little time left to think for their moves. Therefore White decides to renew tactical "skirmishing." The text move is connected with the idea of transferring the Rook to the active square e5. Of course after this, it will be necessary to consider the weakening of the d-pawn, which Botvinnik immediately underscores.

26 ... ♗a8-d8 (2.13)

26 ♖c5-e5 (2.02) ...



With this, the idea of the previous move is fulfilled. The capture of the pawn on d4 looks dangerous and Black cannot waste his last minutes lost in thought in rather complicated variations. Botvinnik "true to his word" played...

27 ... ♖e7-f7! (2.14)

It is possible that Black can secure a draw without any special

difficulty by continuing 27... ♗x d4 28 e x f5 g x f5 29 ♗ x f5 ♖ e f7 30 ♖ 5 e4 ♗ f6 31 ♗ x f6 ♖ x f6 32 ♗ x e6+ ♗ x e6 33 ♖ x e6 ♖ x f2, but after 34 ♖ e7, the endgame is much more favorable for White. With the text move, Black now threatens to capture the d-pawn and White is forced to reduce the tempo of the attack.

28 ♗h6-d2(2.02) ♗d8-d6(2.15)

The consolidation is nearing an end, and White's attack has almost run up a blind alley. So as to activate his position, he finally decides to pull the king Bishop back from where it was "biting on granite" on f5.

29 ♗h3-f1 (2.05) ...

Intending to continue the pressure on e6 by 30 ♗c4.

29 ... ♖f7-d7 (2.21)

Threatening 30... ♗x d4 and 30... ♗x e5. White himself should give Black d5.

30 e4 x f5 (2.05) ♖f8 x f5 (2.21)

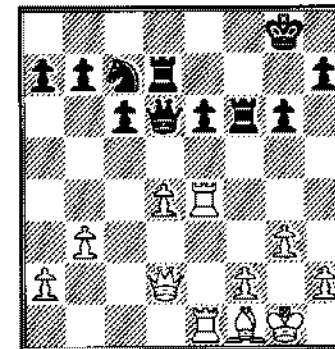
Of course the strongest. On anything else, White successfully occupies c4.

31 ♖e5-e4 (2.09) ...

Still trying to complicate the game.

Probably stronger was 31 ♖x f5 e x f5 32 ♗c4+ ♗g7 33 ♗c3, preserving his positional edge since 33... ♗x d4 does not work because of 34 ♖e7+ ♗f8 35 ♗x d4 ♖x d4 36 ♖x c7. Even on 31... g x f5 32 ♗g5+ ♖g7 33 ♗f6 ♖g6 34 ♗e5 ♗x e5 35 d x e5, White's position is to be preferred.

31 ... ♖f5-f6? (2.21)



Black can force a draw by continuing 31... ♖d5!, and White has nothing better than 32 ♗c4 (32 ♖d1 c5) 32... ♖x d4 33 ♖x d4 ♗x d4 34 ♗x d4 ♖x d4 35 ♗x e6+, reaching a drawn endgame. Having underestimated his position at this time, Botvinnik selects a passive continuation, after which the initiative (and a dangerous one) is again seized by White.

32 h2-h4! (2.11) ...

An important attacking resource. The h-pawn is prepared for a crucial mission - to pry Black's Kingside open. It is rather difficult to defend against and time is slipping away...

32 ... ♗g8-g7 (2.23)

A typical time pressure preventive move. Black defends the g-pawn, but on his next move, changes his plan. Of course, it is not very easy to find the correct method of defense, since Black's pieces remain passively posted and, in contrast to the position which arose after the opening, the weakness of the e-pawn is making itself felt, as is the weakness of the kingside. The next portion of the game (right up to the 40th move) was played very quickly and with one plan - White creates threats on the kingside and Black attempts to defend the weaknesses as he can.

33 h4-h5 (2.11) ...

It still is not clear what this pawn intends to "say." Perhaps it will continue along its route to h6 to cramp the King but more probably White wants to exchange on g6 and follow with ♖h4 and then invade with the Queen. Be that as it may Black evidently correctly decided to eliminate this pawn and continue...

33 ... g6 x h5 (2.24)

...destroying the h-pawn in place.

34 ♖e4-h4 (2.13) ...

Weaker would have been 34 ♗g5 ♖g6 35 ♗x h5 ♗d5, and the

position of White's Queen on h5 is not good. Black will succeed in playing $\Delta f6$, gaining a tempo.

34 ... Gg7-g8 (2.27)

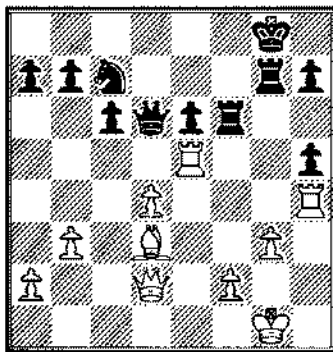
Ideally, Black wants to bring his Rook on d7 to the defense, but this does not follow (see Black's 32nd move). It would have been more difficult to break through if Black had played 34...h6!

35 $\Delta f1-d3$ (2.16) ...

All White's pieces are poised for the attack. Already 36 Wg5+ is threatened.

35 ... $\Delta d7-g7$ (2.27)

36 $\Delta e1-e5!$ (2.16) ...



The idea behind this move is not only that it renders the pressure on g3 harmless (which incidentally, is nonexistent anyway; to be more easily convinced of this consider that, with Black's King on g8, the sacrifice on g3 does not work) but also, without losing any time, White intends to double his Rooks in the h-file and then "fall upon" the h-pawn.

36 ... $\Delta f6-f7$ (2.28)

Prudently defending the pawn, but now White's Queen enters the fray.

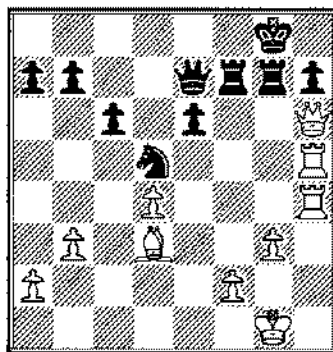
37 Wd2-h6 (2.17) ...

Even though White was also in time pressure, he was not afraid of positions like this, since these moves beg to be played.

37 ... Wd6-e7 (2.28)

Withdrawing to the second rank. Obviously White should win, but the matter is not so simple.

38 $\Delta e5 \times h5$ (2.19) $\Delta c7-d5!$ (2.28)



One of Black's pieces is actively posted and because of this the win is not completely forced. Here I examined the following combination for a few minutes: 39 $\Delta \times h7+$ $\Delta \times h7$ 40 $\Delta g4+$ Wg8 41 Wg6 and if 41... Wf8 42 $\Delta gh4$ $\Delta f6$ 43 $\text{W} \times f6+$ $\Delta \times f6$ 44 $\Delta \times h7+$ Wg8 45 $\Delta h8+$ Wf7 46 $\Delta 4h7+$ with a won Rook endgame. However, if Black

plays 41... $\Delta f6!$, nothing comes of the attack. I took another, longer look at the position. The invasion by the white Queen should have attained a great deal, but now one of the basic principles was worth remembering - the strongest of the major pieces goes in the rear. White clears the road for his Rooks.

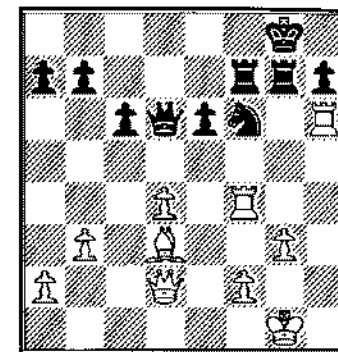
39 $\text{W} \times h6-d2!$ (2.25) $\Delta d5-f6$ (2.29)

40 $\Delta h5-h6$ (2.26) $\text{W} \times e7-d6$ (2.29)

Probably a blunder, but it was difficult to foresee, in a few seconds, the results of multi-move analysis which showed that Black would have been better off to have kept both Rooks on the board - the exchange of one pair of Rooks does not relieve his defensive problems. From this point of view, stronger would have been 40... $\Delta d7$ followed by $\Delta f8$, as Goldberg showed. But then I don't believe that Black could have held the position. After the following move, his position immediately becomes critical.

41 $\Delta h4-f4$ (2.29) ...

The only move which I considered playing over the board, so that Black would have to make his reply without thorough home analysis. I do not think that there was anything unsportsmanlike about this decision. The game was adjourned and Botvinnik, after more than forty minutes of thought, sealed his move. The Knight on f6 is under attack. Black



can defend it with the Queen by 41... $\text{W} \times e7$, 41... $\text{W} \times f8$, 41... $\text{W} \times d8$ by 41...e5 or withdraw the attacked Knight to g4, d5, e8 or d7. Obviously, my decision did not turn out to be so smart since now I had to spend almost the entire night and the following morning going over analysis of all the possible replies, while Botvinnik only had to analyze one variation. After a long discussion, Koblents and I came to the conclusion that in this position White would win. Here is some of the analysis for the reader. First of all, we examined Black's active continuations. 41... $\Delta g4$, with the idea of attacking f2, is refuted by 42 $\Delta \times h7+$ Wf8 43 $\Delta \times f7+$ $\Delta \times f7$ (or 43... $\text{W} \times f7$ 44 $\Delta h4$ 44 $\Delta g6$ $\Delta \times f2$ 45 $\Delta g8+$ Wf7 46 Wd3 , and Black's pieces are stranded. Curious variations arise after 41...e5. At first we were tempted by 42 $\Delta f5$, but then we discovered that it does not work because of 42... $\text{W} \times d4$ threatening 43... $\Delta \times g3+$. After 42... $\Delta \times e5$ $\text{W} \times e5$, White has at his disposal the attacking Exchange

sacrifice, 43 ♖hxf6! ♖xf6 44 ♖c4+ ♖gf7! 45 ♖d8+ ♖g7 46 ♖xf7 ♖xf7 (impossible is 46...♖xf4 because of 47 ♖g8+) 47 ♖d7+ ♖e7 48 ♖xf6+ ♖xf6 49 ♖xe7+ ♖xe7. The pawn endgame is obviously favorable to White, but more detailed analysis proved that Black has sufficient defensive resources. Finally, we decided to continue 42 dxe5 ♖xe5 43 ♖f5! ♖a1+ (now 43...♖d4 does not work because of 44 ♖hxf6 ♖xg3+ - 44...♖xf6 45 ♖c4+ ♖xc4 47 ♖d8+ - 45 ♖f1 ♖xd3 46 ♖g5+ ♖h8 47 ♖xf7) 45 ♖g2, and Black probably cannot defend himself from the numerous unpleasant threats. Passive is 41...♖e7 or 41...♖d8, as after 42 ♖e2, followed by ♖e5, it leads to a position where Black cannot avoid the loss of his h- or e-pawn without any compensation. Most of White's difficulties arise after the continuation 41...♖d7 42 ♖xf7 ♖xf7. Nevertheless, we came to the conclusion that after 43 ♖xh7 c5 42 ♖e2!, White's attack is virtually irresistible. We hardly even examined Botvinnik's actual sealed move, but Black's trouble is that after this continuation, White scarcely has any complicated problems to solve.

41 ... ♖d6-f8 (3.11)

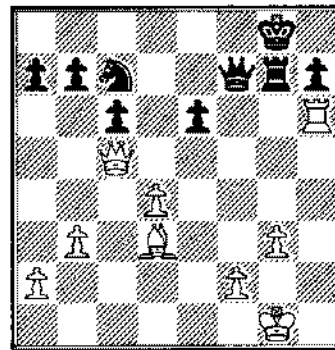
Reinforcing the Knight and preventing 42 ♖e2, after which there

follows 42...♖xg3+. The white Queen does have one square however on the e-file.

42 ♖d2-e3 (2.39) ♖f6-d5 (3.11)
43 ♖f4xf7 (2.40) ♖f8xf7 (3.11)
44 ♖e3-e5! (2.41) ...

Of course, the transition into the endgame after 44 ♖xe6 ♖xe6 45 ♖xe6 ♖g4 46 ♖c4 ♖f7 or 46 ♖e4 ♖xe4 47 ♖xe4 ♖c3 would be too modest a transformation of White's huge positional advantage. Ironically, the e-pawn is in Black's way - he is forced to bring the Knight back to defend it in view of the decisive threat 45 ♖xe6.

44 ... ♖d5-c7 (3.12)
45 ♖e5-c5! (2.56) ...



At this moment, when Black's forces are restrained on the kingside, the white Queen begins a diversion on the other side of the board. Probably, this is the simplest way of realizing the advantage. Now, bad is 45...a6 46 ♖b6 and Black cannot continue 46...♖e8 47 ♖xe6!, and after 46...♖d5 47

♖d8+ ♖f8 White wins with 48 ♖xh7+. It is difficult to say whether Botvinnik examined the developments on the queenside or simply took advantage of the first opportunity to regain some mobility. After the text move, White has a forced win in the endgame.

45 ... ♖f7-f3 (3.15)
46 ♖d3xh7+(2.57) ♖g7xh7(3.17)

And after 46...♖f7 47 ♖e5, Black's position is hopeless.

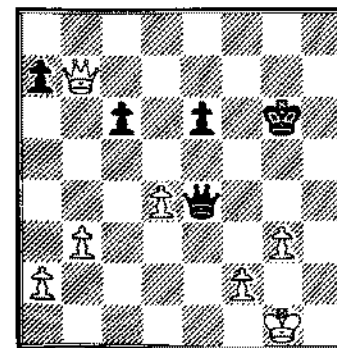
47 ♖c5-g5+(2.58) ♖g8-h8(3.18)

And 47...♖g7 48 ♖d8+ does not change anything, for impossible is 48...♖f8 49 ♖h8+.

48 ♖g5-d8+(2.58) ♖h8-g7(3.18)
49 ♖h6xh7+(2.58) ♖g7xh7(3.18)
50 ♖d8xc7+(2.58) ♖h7-g6(3.20)
51 ♖c7xb7 (2.58) ...

The result of this small combination is that White has two extra pawns. Now the win is a matter of technique.

52 ... ♖f3-e4 (3.26)



Stronger than 51...♖d1+ 52 ♖gxd4 53 ♖xc6.

52 ♖b7-a6! (3.01) ...

The capture of the third pawn, 52 ♖xa7, makes it more difficult to win, since after 52...♖e1+ 53 ♖g4+ 54 ♖h2 ♖f3 White would have to let his opponent get the passed pawn by continuing 55 d4. Now, with the white Queen in the game, the King can quietly begin his "crossing."

52 ... ♖e4-e1+ (3.27)
53 ♖g1-g2 (3.04) ...

There is no need to have the Queen leave its active post. The King will be able to avoid the checks by itself.

53 ... ♖e1-e4+ (3.27)
54 ♖g2-f1(3.04) ♖e4-b1+(3.28)

54...♖h1+ 55 ♖e2 ♖h5+ 56 ♖c2 ♖g5+ 57 ♖c2 does not change anything, since impossible 57...♖f5+ 58 ♖d3.

55 ♖f1-e2(3.04) ♖b1-c2+(3.29)

After 55...♖e4+ 56 ♖d2 the checks are over - the d-pawn is untouchable.

56 ♖e2-f3 (3.06) ...

Now the scope of activity of Black's Queen has significantly decreased. After 56...♖c3

(♖d1+), White retreats to g2, thus winning an important tempo for the Queen. After other continuations, the possibility of checks likewise quickly vanishes.

56 ... ♖c2-f5+ (3.29)
57 ♗f3-e3(3.06) ♖f5-g5+(3.33)
58 ♗e3-e2 (3.07) ...

Keeping the f-pawn defended.

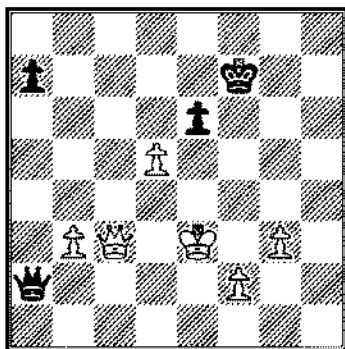
58 ... ♖g5-h5+ (3.42)
59 ♗e2-d2 (3.07) ...

Here is the roundabout way in which the position that we foresaw back in the notes to the 55th move arises. Checks do no more good.

59 ... ♗g6-f6 (3.50)
60 ♖a6xc6 (3.10) ...

Similar pawn exchanges unquestionably ease White's problem.

60 ... ♖h5-a5+ (3.51)
61 ♖c6-c3(3.10) ♖a5xa2+(3.51)
62 ♗d2-e3(3.10) ♗f6-f7(3.53)
63 d4-d5! (3.13) ...



This uncomplicated tactical stroke creates two connected passed pawns for White. On 63...e5, I intended to answer 64 ♖c4.

63 ... e6xd5 (3.53)
64 ♖c3-c7+(3.13) ♗f7-f6(4.05)

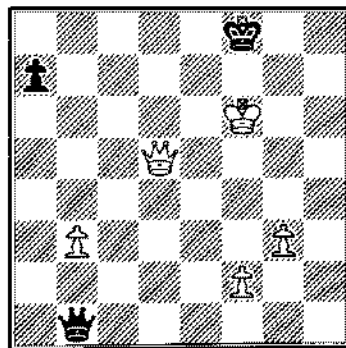
64...♗e6 65 ♖c6+ ♗e5 66 f4+ ♗f5 67 ♖d7+ followed by 68 ♖xd5 was also hopeless.

65 ♖c7-c6+(3.13) ♗f6-e7(4.05)
66 ♖c6xd5 (3.13) ...

Further commentary is unnecessary. There followed:

66 ... ♖a2-a1 (4.06)
67 ♗d5-e4+(3.20) ♗e7-f7(4.07)
68 ♗e3-f4(3.21) ♖a1-c1+(4.09)
69 ♗f4-g4(3.21) ♖c1-a1(4.14)
70 ♖e4-d5+(3.22) ♗f7-f8(4.14)
71 ♗g4-f5(3.26) ♖a1-b1+(4.17)
72 ♗f5-f6 (3.26) ...

Black resigned.



Game Twelve

Tuesday, 12 April 1960

It is sometimes thought that the "best" wins for annotators are those games which systematically develop from beginning to end, either on one or both sides. In such games, it is easy to draw a logical picture and to indicate the turning points. The entire game can go without any question marks (and this is of no small importance, especially when one annotates one's own games). But this cannot be helped! In recent competitions, such games are encountered less and less. Is it possible that the games are being played worse? No. This is not a proper question. When there is a high and, more importantly, equal class of opponents, with modern understanding of chess, one's ideas are very rarely arrived at by an "easy road" that one has constructed. There are many bumps everywhere in this road and you can easily fall. It often ends up that one of the opponents stumbles and almost brings White any particular advantage. The twelfth game is often included

among those games in which numerous commentators never tire of finding mistakes. I only want to add that extraordinarily tense, full-blooded struggles that are absolutely without any mistakes are only to be found in distant interplanetary chess tournaments...

Mikhail Botvinnik-Mikhail Tal Queen's Gambit Declined

1 c2-c4 (0.01) ♗g8-f6 (0.01)
2 d2-d4 (0.01) e7-e6 (0.02)
3 ♗g1-f3 (0.02) d7-d5 (0.02)

After long consideration at home, and short reflection over the board, Black welcomes the possibility of transposing into the classical Queen's Gambit. It was necessary to take into account that Botvinnik often employed the exchange or so-called Carlsbad variation of the Queen's Gambit with great success. However, the king Knight is more elastic on e2. If the Knight occupies f3, this variation does not bring White any particular advantage.