



SKITTLES
ROOM

From the Archives

Hosted by
Mark Donlan



From the Archives...

Since it came online many years ago, ChessCafe.com has presented literally thousands of articles, reviews, columns and the like for the enjoyment of its worldwide readership. The good news is that almost all of this high quality material remains available in the [Archives](#). The bad news is that this great collection of chess literature is now so large and extensive – and growing each week – that it is becoming increasingly difficult to navigate it effectively. We decided that the occasional selection from the archives posted publicly online might be a welcomed addition to the regular fare.

Watch for an item to be posted online periodically throughout each month. We will update the [ChessCafe](#) home page whenever there has been a “new” item posted here. We hope you enjoy *From the Archives*...

In the period between the end of the Second World War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the USSR wielded enormous influence in the International Chess Federation (FIDE). When one of their superstars, Viktor Korchnoi, defected in 1976, they were outraged. The Soviet authorities ordered grandmaster Yuri Averbakh to do whatever he could to impede Korchnoi’s road to a championship match. The darling of the Soviet system, Anatoly Karpov, had acquired the title by default the year before; it was not acceptable to have his title challenged by a defector. This letter was the result of the anger in Moscow...

Yuri Averbakh Letter

September 6, 1976

From: Yu. Averbakh, Moscow (USSR Chess Federation letterhead)
To: Max Euwe, Amsterdam, FIDE President
Date: September 6, 1976

Dear Mr. President,

In accordance with the decision of September 3rd, 1976 the USSR Chess Federation disqualified Victor Korchnoi for his indecent conduct and in view of this requests to exclude him from the number of participants of the 1977

Candidates' Matches because he will not be delegated to this competition by our Federation and may not represent the other Federation.

Our request is based on Article 2.1 of the FIDE Statutes according to which the FIDE Members are the National Chess Federations which govern the chess activity in their countries and delegate their chess players for participation in the official and unofficial competitions held under the aegis of the FIDE.

This is also confirmed in the decision of the last FIDE Congress of 1974 that the organizers of the International Tournaments should send invitations to players via their National Federations or at least inform these Federations by the copy of the text of the invitation. The Tournaments, where take part the players not recommended by their Federations, are not considered while awarding the International Titles (Annex 25, point 2).

Points 13, 21, 23, 38, 39 of the Regulations for the Candidates' Matches for the 1977 Men's World Championship provide that a number of functions while organization and holding of the competition should be realized with participation of the National Federations of the participants of the Matches with taking into account their opinions.

Thus, though the right to take part in the competition for the World Championship is won by the player as a result of his sports performances; however, each participant of such competition should represent a certain National Federation - the FIDE Member and compete as a member of this Federation.

At the same time we believe it necessary to take a decision on holding in due time (before the end of the current year) the Match between the players who took the fourth places in two Interzonal Tournaments to determine the player for the vacant place in case of non-participation of Korchnoi in the 1977 Candidates' Matches.

Please inform us of the decision made.

Yours sincerely,

Yu. Averbakh
President of the USSR Chess Federation



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