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Viswanathan Anand Annotates: Anand-Karpov Prague 2002

Various sources generally agree on one thing: a mayday distress call is used only in cases of grave and imminent danger. Professional chess has been chronically ill for years, and the seemingly irreconcilable differences among the confronting parties have brought it to the point where an emergency call has been transmitted over and over, but no one seemed to care. Fortunately, the colossal efforts of Yasser Seirawan have led to this year's May (how fitting) Prague Summit that instantly seized the undivided attention of all chess enthusiasts worldwide. Exceptionally far-reaching in its implications, the ensuing agreement undoubtedly represents a giant step ahead; however, it is still seriously flawed because many leading grandmasters were left out of the cycle to determine who would become undisputed World Champion after such a long time. It is therefore no wonder that the importance of reaching the long-awaited compromise overshadowed the appeal of what would otherwise have been an exceptionally interesting event with a star-studded field.



The Prague Eurotel Trophy Knockout Tournament saw a major comeback by two former World Champions; Anatoly Karpov and Viswanathan Anand pitted their wits in a classical two-game final after successfully steering their way through a series of knockout rapid matches. Karpov's choice of the Petroff Defense in this month's featured game, the one that eventually decided the event, was hardly surprising, as he had systematically utilized it throughout the tournament. Despite White's small edge from the very outset, the Petroff offers plenty of resources for maintaining a solid defense; Karpov wriggled brilliantly in his games versus Short, Morozevich and Shirov, demonstrating his consummate skill and deep understanding of the game. Most of the time he was the one to slightly vary his choice of variations in the opening: in the first match versus Short he confidently managed to quickly neutralize the venom in the transition between the middlegame and endgame, while Morozevich probably pushed too hard against the seemingly modest setup of the Petroff.

However, Shirov's uncompromising all-out onslaught in both his games as White certainly made Karpov fight for survival: although he managed to win the match in the blitz tiebreak, the fissures in his positions which called for immediate repair were visible even to the naked eye. Alas, misery loves company, and the classical time format of the final games was certainly of no help to Karpov: the shortcomings of the variation that he was employing throughout the tournament had nuances that

could not be ironed out quickly, which left Anand in a rather comfortable position – he had both a target and enough time to not miss it.

This is an important principle that usually increases the defender's vulnerability. Thus, even the fact that it was actually Anand who was using significantly less time during the game does not change a thing – it was "just" another display of his legendary speed. Once he established control over the a2-g8 diagonal, it became clear that his bishop would cast a shadow across the board for quite a long time. Several inaccuracies soon made Karpov part with a pawn, and the ease with which Anand brought the game to a conclusion simply has to be admired. The process of converting a material advantage into a win is hardly ever devoid of errors, but not for the Indian virtuoso: his flawless technique surely instills hope that his recent poor performances are finally behind him, and that his fans have every right to believe that he has not had his final say yet. **Ivan Markovic, *Chess Informant* Editor**

Anand 2752 – An. Karpov 2690

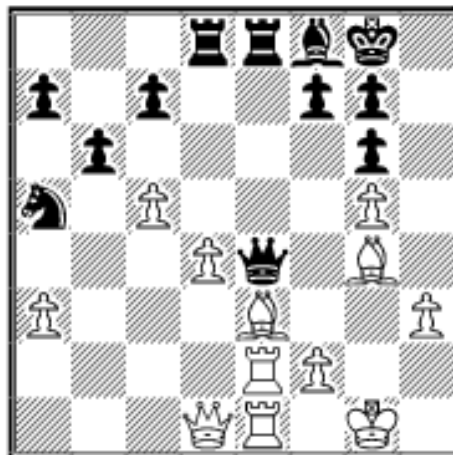
C 42 – Petroff Defense

Prague (m/1), 2002

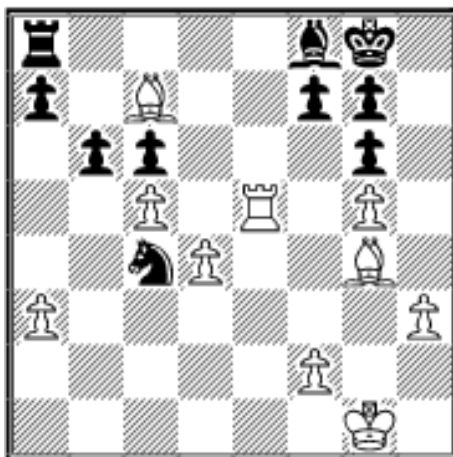
**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Ne5 d6 4.Nf3 Ne4 5.d4 d5
6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4 Nb4 9.Be2 0-0
10.Nc3 Bf5 11.a3 Nc3 12.bc3 Nc6 13.Re1**

**RR13.cd5 Qd5 14.Re1 Rfe8N (14...Bf6 –
83/(289)) 15.Bf4 Rac8 16.c4 Qe4 17.Be3 Bf6
18.Ra2 b6 19.h3 Na5 20.g4 Bg6 21.g5 Be7
22.Ne5 Bd6 23.Ng6 hg6 24.c5 Bf8 25.Bg4 Rcd8**

26.Rae2



A) 26...Qd5 27.Bf4 Re2
28.Qe2 c6 29.Bc7 Ra8
30.Qe5 Qe5 31.Re5A1)
31...Nc4?!

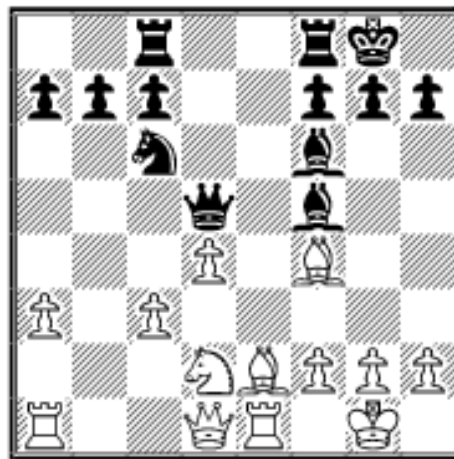


32.d5!! cd5
(32...Ne5? 33.Be5
cd5 34.c6 and
White is winning.
G. Kasparov 2838
– Mi. Adams 2742,
Linares 2002) with
the idea 33.c6 Na5!
34.Bd7 Nc6 35.Bc6
Rc8= ; 35.Rd5 with

compensation; A2) 31...Nb3 with the idea
32.d5 cd5 33.c6 Nd4; B) 26...Qc6 27.cb6 ½:½
Anand 2757 – Mi. Adams 2742, Linares 2002

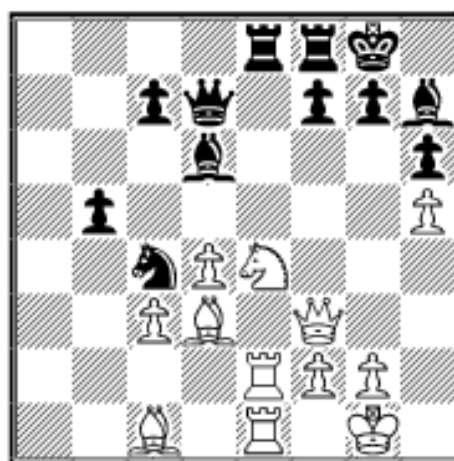
13...Re8!?

13...Be6 – 83/(290); 13...Bf6 14.cd5 (14.Bf4 –
79/(284) 14...Qd5 15.Bf4 Rac8 16.Nd2



16...Rfe8N
(16...Nd4;16...Qd7;
16...Na5) 17.Bf3
Re1 18.Qe1 Qd7
19.Ne4 Be7
20.Qd1 Bd6= N.
Short 2673 – An.
Karpov 2690,
Prague (m/2) 2002;
13...dc4 14.Bc4

Bd6 RR15.Ra2 (15.Bg5!?) 15...Qd7 16.Ng5
Na5N (16...Bg6 – 80/334) 17.Bd3 b5 18.Qf3
Bg6 19.Rae2 Nc4 20.a4 a6 21.h4 h6 22.Ne4
Rae8 23.h5 Bh7 24.ab5 ab5 (Shirov 2704 –
An. Karpov 2690, Prague (m/3) 2002)



25. Bh6!? Be4
26.Re4 Re4 27.Qe4
f5 28.Qd5 Rf7!
(28...Kh8? 29.Bf4!)
29.Bc4 bc4 30.Qa8
Rf8 31.Qd5 Rf7=

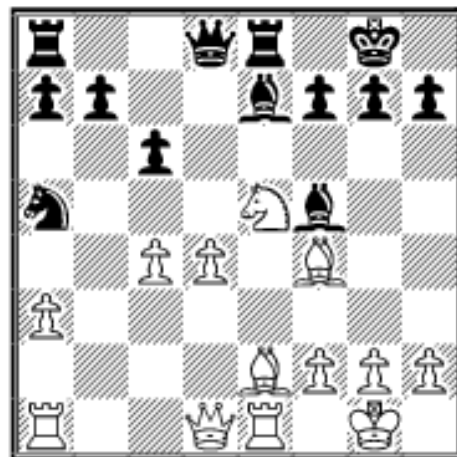
14.Bf4

14.cd5 Qd5 –

13.cd5

14...dc4

14...Na5N 15.cd5 Qd5 16.Ne5 c6 17.c4 Qd8



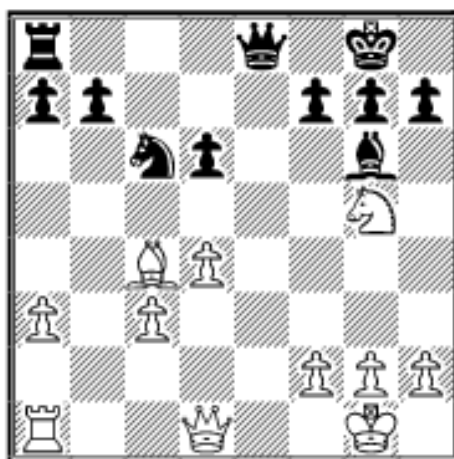
18.Bh5 g6 19.Bg4
Bg5 20.Bg5 Qg5
21.Bf5 Qf5 22.Re3
Rad8 23.Qe1 b6
24.Rd1 f6 25.Ng4
Kf8 26. h3 h5
27.Re8 Re8 28.Ne3
and White is
superior. Shirov
2704 – An. Karpov

2690, Prague (m/2) 2002.

15.Bc4 Bd6 16.Re8N

16.Bd6; RR16.Be3 Qf6 17.h3 ½:½ Smirin
2685 – Dreev 2677, Sarajevo 2002

16...Qe8 17.Ng5 Bg6 18.Bd6 cd6



19.h4! (White is
slightly better.)
19...Qe7

19...h6 20.h5 (20.Nh3 Na5)
20...Bh5 21.Qh5 hg5 A)
22.Ra2 Qe1 (22...Qe7
23.Re2 Qf6 24.Re3 g6
25.Qh6 g4) 23.Kh2 Rf8; B)
22.Kf1 Qe7 23.Re1 Qf6
24.Re3 g6 25.Rf3 gh5

26.Rf6 Nd8 27.Rd6 Rc8 28.Bd5 Kf8 29.c4 Ke7 30.Rh6 and
White is slightly better; C) 22.Kh2! C1) 22...Qe7 23.Rh1! and
White is winning; C2) 22...Na5 23.Re1! (23.Bd5 Qd7 24.Rh1
Qf5) 23...Nc4 (23...Qd7 24.Rh1! Qf5 25.Kg1 Qb1 26.Bf1 and
White is winning) 24.Re8 Re8 25.Qg5 and White is superior;
C3) 22...Rc8 23.Re1 (23.Rh1 Ne7 24.Kg1 Kf8) 23...Ne7
(23...Qd7 24.Bd3 g6 25.Bg6! and White is superior) 24.Bd3 g6
25.Qg5 Rc7 26.Re3 and White is superior.

20.Qg4 h6 21.Nh3!

21.Nf3 Be4 22.Nd2 Bh7 23.Nf1 (with the idea Ne3) 23...Qe4 24.Qd7 Qe7

21...Qf6 22.Re1 Bf5 23.Qf3

23.Qg3!?

23...Kf8

23...Rc8 24.Nf4 Bd7 25.Qg3! and White is slightly better.

24.Nf4 Bd7

24...Qh4!? 25.Bf7 Qg4 26.Qg4 Bg4 27.Bd5 Ne7 (the only move) 28.Bb7 Rb8 with compensation.

25.g3! Re8 26.Re8 Be8 27.Qe4! (with the idea Qh7) **27...g5?**

27...g6 28.h5 and White is slightly better.

28.hg5 Qg5?!

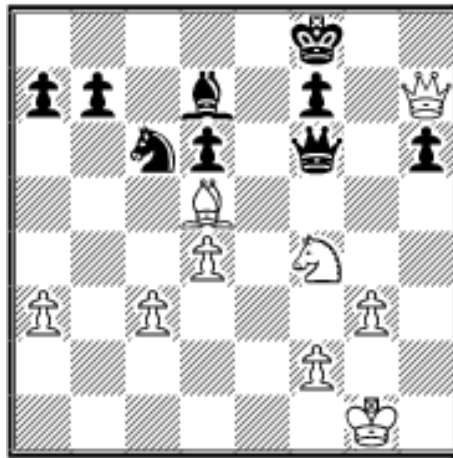
28...hg5 29.Nd5 Qg6) 30.Qg6 fg6 31.Nf6 A1) 31...Na5 32.Bd3 and White is superior; A2) 31...Ke7 32.Ne8 (32.Ne4 g4) 32...Ke8 33.Kg2 Ke7 34.Kf3 Kf6 35.Bd5 and White is slightly better; A3) 31...Bf7 32.Nh7 Kg7 33.Bf7 Kh7 34.Bd5! (34.Kg2 Ne7=) Nd8 35.Kg2; B) 30.Qf3 Bd7 31.Bd3 and White is slightly better.

29.Bd5! (with the idea Qb1) **29...Bd7**

29...Qe7 30.Qf5 and White is superior.

30.Qh7 Qf6

30...Be8 31.Qh8 Ke7 32.Bg2 and White is winning; 30...Qg7 31.Qb1! b6 32.Qb5 Nb8 33.Qc4 and White is winning; 30...Nd8 31.Bf7 Qg7



31.Bf7

31.Qb1 b6 32.Qb5 Qf5!

31...Ne7 32.Bb3!

32.Ng6 Ng6 33.Qg8! (33.Bg6 Qg7 34.Qg7 Kg7 35.Be4 b6 with

the idea 36.f4 Kf6 37.Kf2 Be6 38.Kf3 Bd7 39.g4 Be6 40.Kg3 Bf7 41.Kh4 Be8 42.g5 hg5 43. fg5 Kg7=) 33...Ke7 34.Bg6 Qf8 35.Qh7 Kd8 36.Be4 b6 and White is superior.

32...Bf5 33.Nh5 Bh7 34.Nf6 Bg6

34...Bf5 35.f3 Kg7? 36.Ne8

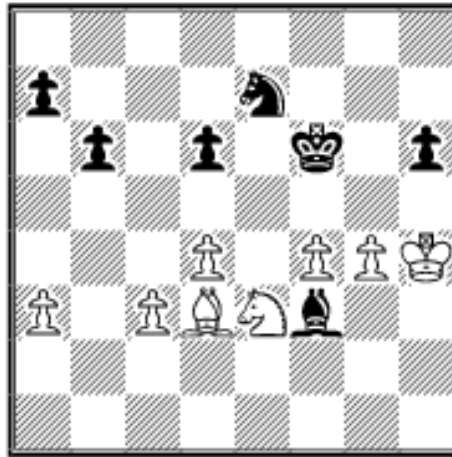
35.Ng4 Kg7 36.Ne3 Be4 37.g4 Kf6 38.Kh2 b6 39.Kg3 Kg5 40.Bf7 Kf6 41.Bc4 Kg5 42.Bb3 Kf6 43.f3 Bg6 44.f4 Be4 45.Bc4 Bc6 46.Bd3 Bb7

46...Be8 47.Kh4 Bf7 48.Bb5 A) 48...Bg6 49.Nc4!; B) 48...Nd5 B1) 49.Nd5 Bd5 50.Kh5 Kg7 51.Be8 Kf8 52.Bg6 Kg7 53.f5 Bf3 (53...Bc6? 54.f6 Kf6 55.Kh6 and White is winning) 54.Be8 Be2 55.Bd7 Kf6 56.Bc6 Kg7 57.Bg2 Bd1 58.Bh3 (58.d5 Be2) 58...Bb3 (only move) 59.f6 Kh7 60.g5 Bf7 61.Kh4 hg5 (61...Kg6 62.gh6 Kh6 63.Bf5) 62.Kg5 Kg8

63.Bf5 Bc4 64.Bg6 Kf8 and White is slightly better; B2) 49.g5! 49...hg5 50.fg5 Kg6 (50...Ke7 51.Nd5 Bd5 52.Kh5 and White is winning) 51. Bd3 Kg7 52.Nf5 Kf8 53.Nd6 and White is winning; C) 48...Be6 49.c4 and White is superior.

47.Kh4 Bf3?

47...Bc6



48.Nc4! (White is winning.) **48...Nd5**

48...d5 49.Ne3 Bh1
50.g5 hg5 51.fg5 Kg7
52.Nf5 Nf5 53.Bf5
with the idea Kg3-f4-e5

49.Kg3 Bd1

49...Bh1 50.Nd6 Nc3 51.Nc8

**50.Nd6 Nc3 51.Nf5 Kg6 52.d5! Ba4 53.d6 Bd7
54.Kh4 a5 55.Ne3 Kf7**

55...Kg7 56.Bf5

56.Kh5 b5 57.Kh6 Ke6 58.g5 Kd6 59.g6 1-0
[Anand]



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