

(The annotations to this game, by V. V. Smyslov, are from his autobiographical work *V poiskakh garmonii* (Fizkultura i Sport, 1979). The translation from the original Russian is by Douglas Griffin.)

Gligorić (Yugoslavia) – Smyslov (USSR)

Board 1, 3rd round, USSR v. Yugoslavia match, Kiev, 6th July 1959

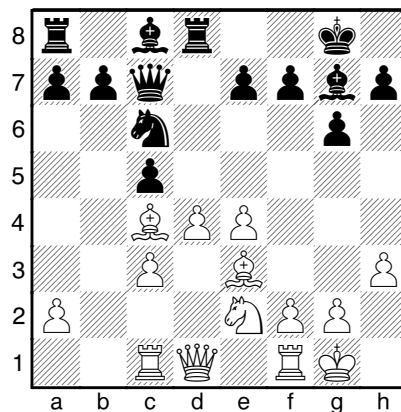
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7

The main variation of the Grünfeld Defence has been played, in which Black conducts piece play against the pawn centre. As a result, a sharp struggle usually results. As is well known, Black need not fear the move 6...Bg7 7.Ba3; after 7...b6 he carries out the move ...c7–c5.

7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 0–0 9.0–0 Nc6 10.Be3 Qc7

I had worked out this system a long time previously, before the game against Gligorić in which it was employed for the first time. Prior to this, the usual continuation was 10...cxd4 11.cxd4 Bg4 12.f3 Na5 13.Bd3 Be6. This position did not appeal to me, since it had been subjected to detailed study.

11.Rc1 Rd8 12.h3



Preventing the development of the bishop to g4. Subsequently it became clear that the active move 12.f4 is possible, since if 12...Bg4, there follows 13.f5, and if 13...gxf5, then 14.Bxf7+ Kxf7 15.Qb3+ e6 16.Nf4 with a strong attack for White*.

(*Translator's note: A few months after the present encounter, this continuation was seen in the game Spassky-Shishkin from the Tallinn Semi-final of the 27th USSR Championship.)

12...b6 13.f4 e6 14.Qe1 Bb7 15.Qf2

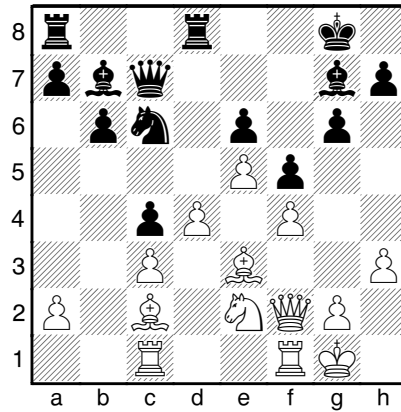
15.f5 led to great complications. Black could have continued 15...Na5 16.Bd3 (16.fxe6 Nxc4 17.Rxf7 Qc8) 16...exf5 17.exf5 Re8, and 18.Qf2 is impossible on account of 18...c4 19.Bb1 Qe7

winning a piece.

15...Na5 16.Bd3 f5

With the programmed move of the f-pawn Black deprives White's centre of mobility.

17.e5 c4 18.Bc2 Nc6



The opening has brought Black positional advantages. The bishop on b7 occupies a strong diagonal, while the knight is now headed for the excellent blocking square d5.

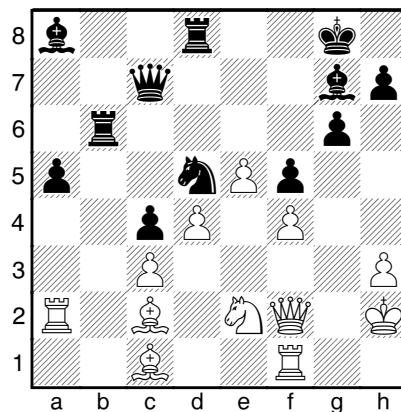
19.g4

White has no other way of activating his game.

19...Ne7 20.Kh2 Qc6 21.Ng3 b5 22.a4 a6 23.Rb1 Rab8 24.Bd2 bxa4 25.Ra1

White had considered that in this way he regains the pawn, but at Black's disposal there is an interesting possibility...

25...Ba8 26.Bxa4 Qc7 27.Ra2 Rb6 28.gxf5 exf5 29.Bc1 Nd5 30.Ne2 a5 31.Bc2



31...Rb3!

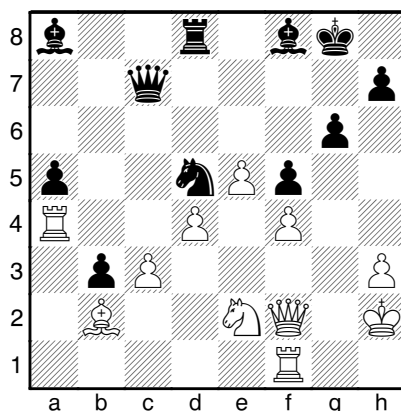
Seemingly, White has constructed a sound defence, but a well-prepared exchange sacrifice introduces sharpness to Black's attack.

32.Bxb3 cxb3 33.Ra4 Bf8

Of course, not 33...Nxc3 on account of 34.Nxc3 Qxc3 35.Bd2.

With the move in the game Black strengthens the attack by including the dark-squared bishop. Now on 34.c4 he has available strong attacking possibilities: 34...Nb6 35.Rxa5 Nxc4 with threats, or 34...Nb4.

34.Bb2



34...Ne3!

A spectacular blow. On 35.Qxe3, and Black regains the exchange, retaining an excellent position. 35...Qc6

35.Rfa1 Nc4 36.Ng3

If 36.Rxc4 Qxc4 37.Rxa5, then 37...Be7 with the dangerous threat of 38...Bh4!

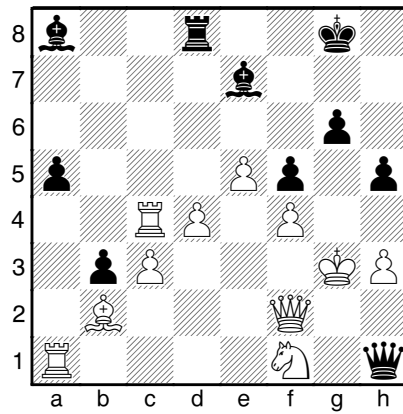
36...Be7 37.Nf1

Failing to save White was the interesting 37.Nxf5 gxf5 38.Rg1+ Kf8 39.Qg3 Bd5, and the black king is safely defended.

37...Qc6 38.Rxc4

Hoping on 38...Qxc4 to reply 39.Ne3 Qc7 40.c4 with counter-play. However, Black forces an elegant mating finale.

38...Qh1+ 39.Kg3 h5!



White resigned, since 40...h4# is threatened, while on a move of the queen mate follows on g1, g2 or f3.