

(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.)

Petrosian (Spartak) – Smyslov (Burevestnik)

Board 1, Team Championship of the All-Union Central Council of Trades Unions, Moscow 1961

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 b6 3.d3

A modest system of development. The usual continuation is 3.d4, leading the play into one of the variations of the Queen's Indian Defence.

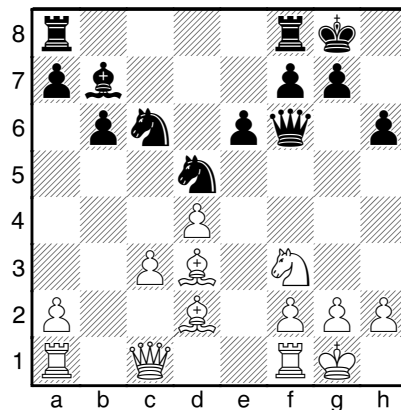
3...c5 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Bg5 e6 6.e3 Be7 7.d4 h6 8.Bf4

Retaining the threat of the advance of the d-pawn. On 8.Bh4 there could have followed 8...cxd4 9.exd4 0–0, and 10.d5 will not do on account of 10...exd5 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Bxh4 with an extra pawn for Black.

8...cxd4 9.exd4 Bb4 10.Bd3 0–0 11.0–0 d5 12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Qc1

This manoeuvre is perfectly in keeping with the demands of the position. The isolated d4-pawn often becomes a weakness in an endgame, but plays a significant role in the middle game. White's plan is associated with the possibility of an attack on the enemy king.

13...Bxc3 14.bxc3 Qf6 15.Bd2 Bb7



Safely completing development. Black does not fear the manoeuvre 16.Ng5 in view of the counter-blow 16...Nxc3! 17.Qxc3 hxg5; or 17.Nh7 Ne2+ 18.Bxe2 Kxh7.

16.Re1 Rac8

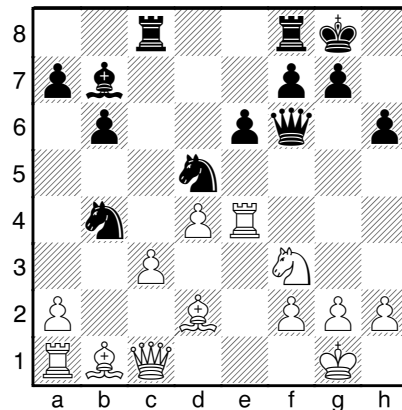
Now on 17.Ng5 there would have followed 17...Nxd4 18.Nh7 Nf3+ 19.gxf3 (or 19.Kh1 Qh4 20.gxf3 Nxc3) 19...Qxf3 20.Be4 Qg4+ 21.Kh1 f5 22.f3 Qh3 23.Nxf8 fxe4 24.fxe4 Rxf8, and Black's attack is irresistible. These variations demonstrate what rich possibilities for a

counter-initiative are concealed in the position that has arisen.

17.Re4

The transfer of the rook to g4 is at first sight dangerous. But Black has at his disposal an interesting combination, which fundamentally changes the situation.

17...Ncb4 18.Bb1



18...Rxc3!!

A spectacular rook sacrifice. Exploiting the unfortunate positioning of the white pieces, Black immediately goes over to active play on the queen's flank.

19.Bxc3 Rc8

Now the idea of the counter-attack becomes clear. White cannot maintain the material advantage. If 20.Re3, then 20...Nxe3 21.Qxe3 Nd5 22.Qd3 Nxc3 23.Qh7+ Kf8 24.Ne5 Ne2+ 25.Kf1 Nxd4! with complications favourable for Black.

20.Qe1 Nxc3 21.Re3 Nbd5 22.Be4 Nxe4

Weaker would have been 22...Nxe3 23.Bxb7 Nc2 24.Qd2 Nxa1 25.Bxc8 etc.

23.Rxe4 Nb4!

With the threat of 24...Nc2. This forces White into a sacrifice in reply. However, it does not result in equality.

24.Rxe6 fxe6 25.Qxb4 Bxf3 26.gxf3 Qxf3 27.Qd6 Qg4+ 28.Kf1 Rc4

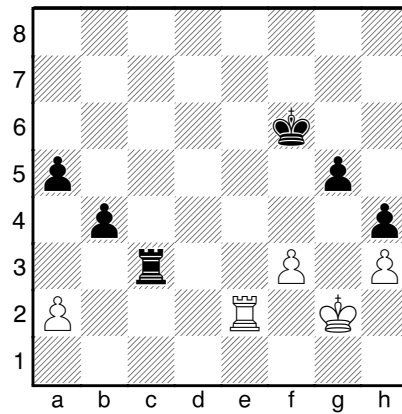
With an extra pawn in the better position Black should win. Also sufficient was 28...Qe4 29.Re1 Qh1+ 30.Ke2 Rc2+ 31.Kd3 Qxe1. However, he prefers to take play into a rook endgame.

29.Re1 Rxd4 30.Qxe6+ Qxe6 31.Rxe6 Ra4

Here the rook occupies an active position. In the subsequent play Black methodically

strengthens his position, gaining the prospect of a passed pawn on the b-file.

32.Re2 Kf7 33.f3 b5 34.Kf2 Kf6 35.Kg3 g5 36.h3 h5 37.Kg2 h4 38.Kf2 Ra3 39.Kg2 b4
40.Kf2 a5 41.Kg2 Rc3



White resigned. On 42.Kf2 decisive is 42...Rc5 and then the advance of the a- and b-pawns, supported by the rook from the b5-square.