

(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.)

### Smyslov – Karpov

9<sup>th</sup> round, 39<sup>th</sup> USSR Championship, Leningrad, 27<sup>th</sup> September 1971

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e3 e6

Deserving attention is 5...g6, transposing to the Grünfeld Defence.

6.d4 cxd4 7.exd4 Be7 8.Bd3 0–0 9.0–0 Nc6 10.Re1

Via a transposition of moves, a well-known theoretical position has been reached.

White should aim at an attack on the king's flank, although Black's position is fairly solid, and his defensive resources must not be under-estimated.

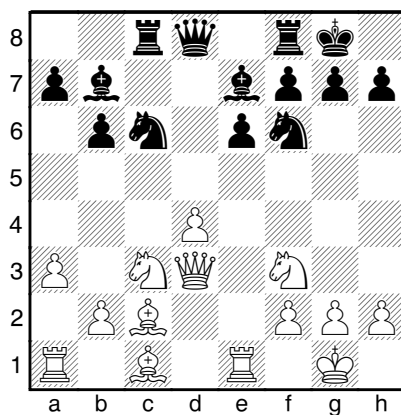
10...Nf6

As is well known, on 10...Bf6, 11.Be4 is good.

11.a3 b6 12.Bc2 Bb7 13.Qd3

White's piece battery takes aim at the king's flank, and Black must to take practical measures, playing, to this end, 13...g6.

13...Rc8



14.Bg5

More energetic is 14.d5! with the possible variations: 14...exd5 15.Bg5 g6 16.Rxe7 Qxe7 17.Nxd5 – White wins queen for rook and knight; 14...Na5 15.Bg5 Rxc3 (15...g6? 16.d6!) 16.bxc3 Qxd5, and White has an extra exchange for the pawn, although a complicated game is still in prospect.

(*Translator's note:* Remarkably, Karpov allowed the well-known breakthrough d4–d5 in an almost identical position in a later game v. Portisch (Milan, 1975); on that occasion he was fortunate to escape with a draw.)

**14...g6 15.Rad1 Nd5 16.Bh6 Re8 17.Ba4!**

White does not stop at the sacrifice of a pawn. In the variation 17...Nxc3 18.bxc3 Bxa3 19.c4 White creates the threat of 20.d5.

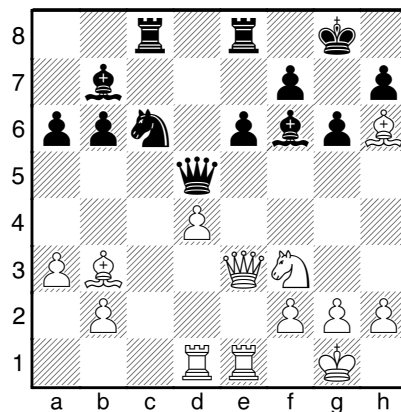
**17...a6 18.Nxd5 Qxd5**

Of course, 18...exd5 could not have appealed to Black on positional considerations. However, White's central pawn soon becomes dangerous.

**19.Qe3! Bf6**

Interesting complications arise after 19...Qh5 20.d5 Bc5 (20...exd5 21.Qxb6) 21.Qf4 exd5 22.Rxe8+ Rxe8 23.g4 Qh3 24.Ng5, and 24...Qxh6 is impossible on account of 25.Qxf7+ Kh8 26.Qxe8+ Kg7 27.Ne6+ Kf6 28.g5+, while on 24...Bxf2+ 25.Kxf2 Qh4+ – 26.Kf1, and White wins. If 23...g5, then 24.Nxg5 Qg6 25.Bc2, and there is no defence.

**20.Bb3**



**20...Qh5**

(*Translator's note:* 15 years later, this whole line was repeated in the game Beliavsky-Karpov, on the 1st board of the European Club Cup final between 'Trud' and 'Burevestnik'.

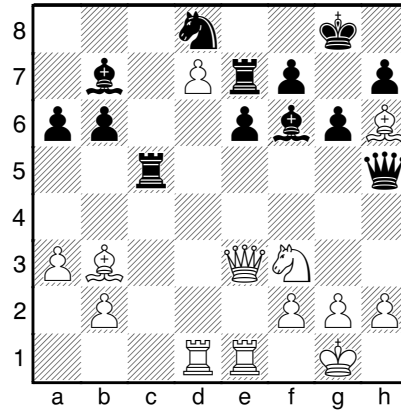
There the ex-World Champion continued instead 20...Qd7, and after 21.d5 exd5 22.Qxb6 Rxe1+ 23.Rxe1 Bxb2 24.Bxd5 Bg7 25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.h4 Qxd5 27.Qxb7 Rb8 28.Qxa6 Rb3 with accurate defence he managed to hold the draw.)

**21.d5! Nd8 22.d6**

The pawn has swiftly burst forward. Now on 22...Bxf3 there follows 23.d7.

22...Rc5 23.d7 Re7

The sole possibility of hindering White's task was 23...Rf8.



24.Qf4

Attacking the bishop on f6, while if 24...Rf5, then 25.Qb8.

24...Bg7 25.Qb8 Qxh6 26.Qxd8+ Bf8 27.Re3

In any event the passed pawn on d7 cannot be stopped, and therefore it is useful to prevent the doubling of White's pawns with the exchange on f3.

27...Bc6 28.Qxf8+ Qxf8 29.d8=Q

Black resigned.