

(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 – Polugaevsky

15<sup>th</sup> round, FIDE Interzonal Tournament, Palma de Mallorca, 29<sup>th</sup> November 1970

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.b3 Bg7 4.Bb2 d6

Black chooses the King's Indian set-up, hoping to obtain a more active game than after the fianchetto of the bishop (...b7–b6 and ...Bb7).

5.d4 0–0 6.Bg2 e5 7.dxe5 Ng4

This move of the knight leads to the exchange of queens and the more favourable prospects for White in the endgame. Leading to more complicated play is 7...Nfd7, on which deserving attention is 8.Nc3 dxe5 9.0–0.

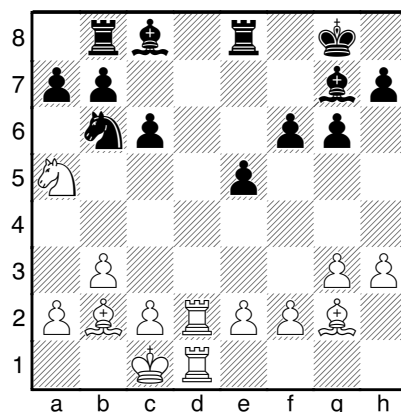
8.h3 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Qxd8 Rxd8 11.Nd2!

The opening has developed in White's favour. In this modest development of the knight the idea of the exchange of queens is revealed. Now White is ready to castle long and to achieve an advantage on the open d-file.

11...Nd7 12.0–0–0 Re8 13.Nc4 Nb6 14.Na5 Rb8 15.Rd2 c6

(*Translator's note:* Interestingly, in his game against Smyslov from the Lone Pine tournament of 1976, Denker repeated Polugaevsky's play. Here he varied with 15...Bf8 16.a3 (defending against the threatened 16...Bb4) 16...c6 17.Rhd1 Be7, and ultimately succeeded in holding the position.)

16.Rhd1 f6



White has consistently carried out his plan, intending to penetrate with the rook onto the 8th rank. The knight on a5 ties down the development of Black's queen's flank. Impossible is

16...Be6 on account of 17.Nxb7!, and after 17...Rxb7 18.Bxc6 Rbb8 19.Bxe8 Rxe8 20.Rd8! Black is not to be saved.

**17.Rd8 Kf7 18.Rxe8 Kxe8 19.Ba3**

The bishop now threatens to invade on d6, while 19...Bf8 will not do on account of 20.Bxf8 Kxf8 21.Rd8+.

**19...Nd5 20.Bd6 Ra8 21.c4**

White increases the pressure and opens for himself a path for the invasion of the rook on the 8th rank.

**21...Ne7 22.Bc7 Kf7 23.Rd8**

White's plan has been carried out. Black has not been able to complete the develop of his queen's flank and is doomed to thankless defence.

**23...f5 24.c5**

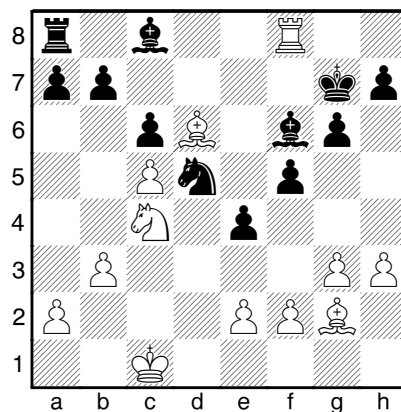
The threat of 25.Nc4 has arisen.

**24...Nd5 25.Bd6**

Naturally, White was not satisfied with the variation 25.Bxd5+ cxd5 26.Rxd5 Be6 27.Rd8 Rxd8 28.Bxd8 Bd5, and Black can defend successfully.

**25...Bf6 26.Rf8+ Kg7 27.Nc4 e4**

27...Nc3 could not be played on account of 28.Rxf6 Nxe2+ 29.Kd2 Kxf6 30.Bxe5+ and then 31.Kxe2 with two minor pieces for a rook.



**28.f3 exf3 29.Bxf3 Bg5+ 30.Kd1 Nc3+ 31.Ke1 Nb5**

If 31...Nxa2, then 32.Ne5 Nb4 33.Re8 with a decisive attack.

**32.Re8 Kf7 33.Rh8 Bf6**

Black has no way of driving the rook from the back rank. If 33...Kg7, then 34.Be5+ Bf6 35.Bxf6+ Kxf6 36.Nd6! Nxd6 37.cxd6 Ke6 38.Rd8, and White wins.

### 34.Ne5+

Of course, not 34.Rxh7+ Kg8, and Black rids himself of the importunate rook.

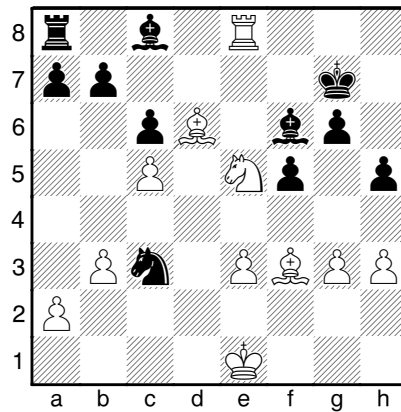
### 34...Kg7 35.Re8

With the mating threat of 36.Bf8+. Of no help is 35...Nxd6 36.cxd6 Bxe5 37.Rxe5 Kf8 38.Re7, and Black is in *zugzwang*.

### 35...h5 36.e3

Having deprived it of the d4-square, White prepares an attack on the knight with the move 37.a4.

### 36...Nc3



### 37.Nxc6!

A spectacular, although not very complicated tactical blow, destroying Black's defence.

### 37...bxc6 38.Bxc6 Bb7 39.Rxa8 Bxc6 40.Rxa7+ Kg8 41.Ra6

Securing the path of the passed c-pawn to promotion.

### 41...Bd5 42.c6 Ne4 43.c7 Bb7 44.Ra8+ Kf7 45.Bb4

Black resigned.