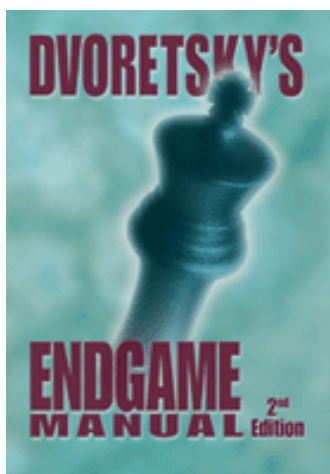




COLUMNISTS

*The*  
*Instructor*  
Mark Dvoretsky



## To Take a Pawn or Attack?

The sharp Anand – Karpov game offered herewith was deeply annotated by Mikhail Gurevich in *Shakhmaty v Rossii* (Chess in Russia) No. 1, 1997; by Igor Zaitsev in *64 – Shakhmatnoye Obozrenie* (Chess Review) No. 1, 1997; and, of course, by Vishwanathan Anand himself, in *New In Chess* No. 1, 1997 and later in his collected games. On several points, the grandmasters had differing opinions and such examples are always of interest. It is also intriguing to see how Anand's state of mind influenced his choice of strategy in this game, and to see how well his intuitive assessments were supported by the objective analysis that followed.

The grandmaster commentaries appear in italics, while Anand's are in quotes.

*Anand – Karpov*  
Las Palmas 1996

**1 Ng1-f3**

“The previous day, I had lost to Kramnik without so much as a struggle, and had spent the evening being disgusted with my play. There was no way I could be bothered playing some boring Caro-Kann and trying to deal with some improvement on move 45 leading to a difficult ending, etc. I felt I'd rather go down in style than do something like that. Now, how does a move like 1 Nf3 allow me to get interesting positions?? Well, to be honest, 1 Nf3 can lead to positions even more boring than after 1 e4 c6; but at least they would be NEW boring positions!!”

**1...d7-d5**

“Aha! Not so boring, maybe? He had played this against Topalov, and I had an idea...”

**2 d2-d4 e7-e6 3 c2-c4 d5xc4 4 e2-e4**

“And I played it without hesitating. Maybe 4 e3 some other time, but I just wanted to liven things up immediately.”

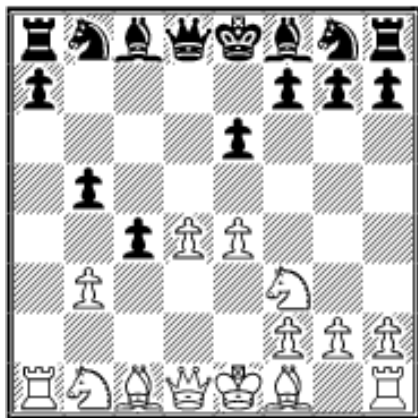
**4...b7-b5**

*A highly debatable, but aggressive continuation (compared to 4...c5 5 Bc4+/=),*

which has resulted in several pretty wins for Black recently. Karpov calculates that his opponent will be insufficiently familiar with the resulting positions, and hopes to exploit this. (Gurevich).

It's amusing to compare this judgment as to the motive for Karpov's choice of opening variation with Anand's next note, which expresses a diametrically opposite opinion.

### 5 a2-a4 c7-c6 6 a4xb5 c6xb5 7 b2-b3



“He had already started thinking a lot and I knew that he wasn't familiar with this opening. There isn't much to know, though – only a game Yermolinsky – Kuprejchik (Sverdlovsk 1987): 7...Nf6 8 bc Nxe4 9 c5 Bxc5 10 Bxb5+ Bd7 11 Bxd7+ Qxd7. Kuprejchik, not being one of the most solid players I know, could play this. I suspected that Karpov, if confronted with this, would find another solution.”

The above-cited game continued: 12 dc Qxd1+ 13 Kxd1 Nxf2+ 14 Ke2 Nxh1 15 Be3 Nc6 16 Nbd2 Ke7 17 Rxh1 f6 unclear.

A different way of handling Black's position was demonstrated in Dautov – Raetsky, Zeefeld 1997: 7...Bb4+ 8 Bd2 Bxd2+ 9 Nxd2 (9 Qxd2 Bb7) 9...Nc6 10 bc Nxd4, with about even chances.

### 7...Bc8-b7 8 b3xc4 Bb7xe4 9 c4xb5

“White already has a significant advantage on the queenside: the a-file and pawn b5 vs. pawn a7.”

### 9...Ng8-f6 10 Bf1-e2

Khalifman mishandled the opening as White against Ivanchuk at Tilburg 1994: 10 Bd3 Bb4+ 11 Kf1 0-0 12 Bxe4 Nxe4 13 Qb3 a5 14 ba Rxa6 15 Rxa6 Nxa6 16 g3 Qa8 17 Kg2 Be7 18 Be3 Nb4 19 Nbd2 Rc8 20 Nxe4 Qxe4-/+.

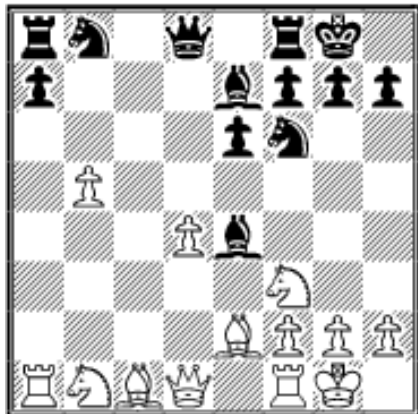
### 10...Bf8-e7

After 10...Bb4+ 11 Nbd2, Zaitsev indicates the line 11...0-0 12 Ba3 Bxa3 13 Rxa3 (13 Nxe4 Bb4+ 14 Ned2 Ne4 is worse for White, owing to the c3 weakness) 13...Bd5 14 0-0 Nbd7 15 Qa1 (15 Ra6+/- – Gyimesi) 15...Qb6 16 Rc1 *White will develop pressure against the backward a-pawn while also threatening to invade on c7.*

One might also add that in the game Gyimesi – Ortega, Bolzano 2000, Black got into difficulties after 11...Nd5?! 12 Ba3 Bc3 13 0-0! Bxf3 14 Bxf3. Zoltan

Gyimesi also looked at 11...Bxf3 12 Bxf3 Qxd4 13 Ra4 Nd5 14 0-0, assessing the resulting position as favorable to White.

### 11 0-0 0-0



Here we should note the game Tregubov – Yakovich, Russian Championship 2000, where Black defended with 11...Nbd7 12 Nc3 Bb7 13 Ne5 Nxe5 14 de Nd7, but failed to equalize after 15 Bf3!.

### 12 Nb1-c3

*This looks stronger and more logical than 12 Nbd2, which was played before. The seconds required for human consideration to accept the correctness of this assertion can turn into months for theory – sometimes even years of waiting. (Zaitsev)*

“Developing the b1-knight to c3 appears more natural as it exerts some influence over the important d5-square.”

12 Nbd2 Bb7 13 Nc4 a6 14 b6 Nc6 15 Bd2 Nd5 16 Qb3 Bb4 17 Bxb4 Ncxb4 18 Ra5 Nc6 19 Ra4 Nf4, with an unclear position in Lutz – Schlosser, Berlin 1989.

### 12...Be4-b7 13 Nf3-e5

Gyimesi recommends the restrained 13 Ba3+/-, but Anand wants more.

### 13...a7-a6

*Black tries to rid himself of a major defect of his position, the backward a-pawn, while also depriving his opponent of an important support point on c6. (Zaitsev)*

Let’s examine some possible alternatives:

13...Nbd7?! 14 Nc6! Bxc6 15 bc Qc7 16 Bf3± (Gurevich) – but 15...Rc8 is stronger than 15...Qc7?!, in order to reply to 16 Bf3 with 16...Nb8.

13...Nd5?! 14 Nxd5 Bxd5 15 Bf3± (Zaitsev) – it’s not so simple here, either, since Black has 14...Qxd5!, threatening mate (15 Bf3 Qxb5).

“13...Bb4!? 14 Bb2 (14 Qb3 Qxd4 – Zaitsev) 14...Bxc3 (14...a6 15 Bf3) 15 Bxc3 Qd5 16 Nf3+/- (16 Bf3?! Qxb5 17 Rb1 Bxf3 18 Qxf3 Qd5=/+ or 16 f3 Rc8 17 Qd2 Nbd7 unclear are inferior – Gurevich) or 15...a6 16 Bf3!+/- (rather than 16 Ba5 Qd5! 17 Bf3 Qxb5) both lead to a small advantage for White.”

### 14 Be2-f3!

*For his part, White is doing all he can to prevent the pawn exchange. (Zaitsev)*

### 14...Nf6-d5

“Typically, Karpov finds the safest solution, leaving him only a slight disadvantage. After 14...Bxf3 15 Qxf3 Qxd4 16 Re1! (on 16 Qxa8 Qxe5 (16...Qxc3 17 Bf4+/- – Anand) 17 Bb2 Ng4 18 g3 ab, Black has excellent compensation for the exchange – Gurevich) 16...Bb4 (16...Nd5 17 Bb2!) 17 Bb2, Black still has to unravel his queenside.” On 15...Nd5?, Gurevich gives 16 Nxd5 Qxd5 17 Qxd5 ed 18 Ba3±, while on 15...Ra7?!, he has 16 Nc6 Nxc6 17 bc. However, the second variation is unconvincing, because of 17...Qa8!, so White would do better with 16 Ra4 or 16 Rd1, with 16 Ba3 to follow).

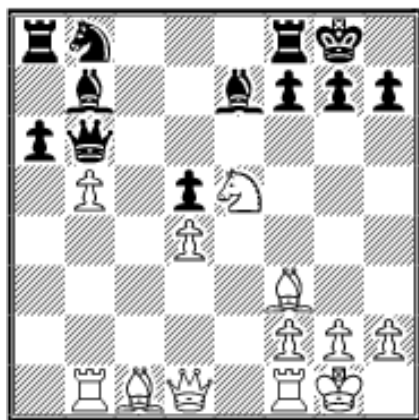
### 15 Nc3xd5 e6xd5

*I think that Karpov came to regret this decision later. 15...Bxd5 was more natural, even though after 16 Bf4 Black would have some difficulty developing his queenside, in view of the pin along the a-file. (Gurevich) While in Zaitsev’s opinion, after 16 Qd3 or 16 Bxd5 Qxd5 17 Qa4, the path to equality would have been rockier still.*

### 16 Ra1-b1!

“16 Qb3 ab 17 Rxa8 Bxa8 18 Qxb5 also with some advantage, but I had no interest in trying to play for some slight advantage that day.”

### 16...Qd8-b6



16...ab 17 Rxb5 Ra7 18 Qb3!± (Gurevich)

### 17 Bf3-e2!!

“The point. White can swing his bishop over to d3. Now I considered moves like 17 Qd3, but realized that the text was the strongest move – the bishop has no more work on f3.”

*An unexpected move. Vishy changes the focus of his developing initiative. The bishop goes to d3, in order to put pressure on the kingside.*

*Some years ago, I spent a great deal of time with Anand, and even then I noticed his positional understanding was quite original. His unexpected moves, sometimes played without any thought whatsoever, often turned out to be very strong. This is something that cannot be taught. Here it is: either you can, or you can't. They call it god-given talent ... 17 Qd3!? Qe6 18 Re1 was also possible. (Gurevich)*

Zaitsev could not agree with the assessment of Anand and Gurevich.

*It would be interesting to find out how the Indian super-GM saw the strategic panorama of this position: what could have made him deliberately reject the completely consequent squeeze approach, 17 Qd3!. Here is Zaitsev's analysis:*

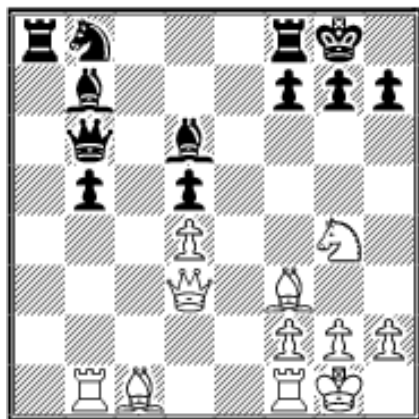
I. 17...f6? 18 Nc6!+- (18 ba!+- is simpler – Dvoretzky);

II. 17...ab 18 Rxb5 Qc7 19 Qb3!? Ba6 20 Bxd5 Bxb5 21 Bxf7+ Rxf7 (21...Kh8? 22 Ng6+) 22 Qxf7+ Kh8 23 Qd5+-;

III. 17...a5 18 Ba3 Bxa3 19 Qxa3 Qxd4 20 Qe7 Qb6 21 Rbc1!+- . Moving the other rook (21 Rfc1) seemed less accurate to Zaitsev because of 21...a4 22 Rc7 a3 23 Rxb7 a2, with counterplay; but in fact, after 24 Rd1, White's advantage is decisive. Additionally, instead of taking the bishop, he could play 23 Bh5! g6 (23...a2 24 Bxf7+; 23...Qf6 24 Rxb7 a2 25 Ra1) 24 Bxg6 hg 25 Nxf7+-.

IV. 17...Bd6!? 18 ba Qxa6 19 Qxa6 (19 Qb3 is weaker: 19...Bxe5 20 Qxb7 Qxb7 [20...Bxd4? 21 Qxd5+-] 21 Rxb7 Bxd4 22 Bxd5 Ra5 [22...Na6 23 Rxf7] 23 Bxf7+ Rxf7 24 Rxb8+ Rf8+/=) 19...Bxa6 20 Bxd5± (20 Re1!? is also strong – Dvoretzky) *Assessment: Here, White's practical winning chances are not less than Black's chances to draw. But apparently, Anand judged this plan clearly an insufficient tradeoff for the initiative he was enjoying at this moment.*

*And if, in addition to a good position, the Indian wanted to satisfy his thirst for beauty, he could, after 17...Bd6, have chosen a miraculous continuation, such as 18 Ng4!? ab (there's nothing else).*



A) 19 Qf5 promises little: 19...Bc8! (19...Na6? 20 Rxb5 Qxb5 21 Nf6+ gf 22 Bh6+-; 19...Nc6 20 Bh6! [but not 20 Nxf6+? gf 21 Bh6 Ne7+-, and not 20 Rxb5? Qxb5 21 Nf6+ gf 22 Bh6 Qxf1+! 23 Kxf1 Ra1+ 24 Ke2 Nxd4+ -+] 20...Ne7 21 Qg5 Ng6 22 Bxg7! Bf4 23 Qf6 with attack) 20 Qxd5 Ra5, with an uncertain game.

B) 19 Rxb5 Qa6 (19...Ba6 is bad: 20 Rxb6 Bxd3 21 Rd1 Bc2 22 Rd2 Ra1 23 Rxc2 Ba3 24 Bxd5 Bxc1 25 Ra2!+-), and now:

B1) 20 Qf5? fails to 20...Qxb5 21 Nf6+ gf 22 Bh6 Qxf1+! 23 Kxf1 Ra1+ 24 Ke2 Re8+ and 25...Bf8-/+;

B2) if White plays 20 Bh6, 20...gh? is a mistake: 21 Qf5 Nd7 (21...Qxb5 22 Nxb6+ +-) 22 Rxb7 Qxb7 23 Bxd5+- . On 20...f5?!, Zaitsev gives 21 Rxb7! Qxb7 (21...Qxd3? 22 Bxd5+ Rf7 23 Bxf7+ Kf8 24 Bxg7+ Kxg7 25 Bc4+ +-) 22 Ne3 Ra5 23 Nxd5 Rxd5 24 Qc4+-, but this variation has a hole in it. Instead of the losing capture on d5, Black must continue 23...Qa6, with an unclear position; and besides, 23...Ra3! is stronger than 23...Ra5. The strongest defense, in Zaitsev's opinion, would be 20...Nd7! unclear.

B3) 20 Qb1!? Bc6 21 Rb6 Qa5 (21...Qc8 22 Ne3) 22 Nh6+! gh (22...Kh8 23 Nf5) 23 Bxh6 Re8 24 Qf5 (Zaitsev). Here, White's attack is decisive: 24...Bf8 25 Qg5+ Kg8 26 Bh5!, which both attacks f7 and clears the way to bring in the rook on b3 – so if there is a better defense, Black must find it earlier.

*However it came to be, this was one of those rare days in the immutable Indian Grandmaster's praxis when emotion got the better of his exacting calculation; taking note of Karpov's time-pressure, he threw himself into a whirlpool of complications.*

It is true that Zaitsev does not consider Gurevich's move, 17...Qe6!?; but since White keeps the advantage there, too, objectively he must be right – especially when you consider that the bishop sacrifice Anand soon employs is barely sufficient for victory (as we shall see later).

On the other hand, the game continuation also makes the defense very difficult. Anand played according to his style and his mood – and achieved a spectacular victory. Clearly, from a practical standpoint, his choice was correct, and deserves no criticism.

### 17...a6xb5

“There is no other way: both 17...a5 and 17...f6 18 Be3! a5 19 Nd3 Nd7 20 Bf3 would leave White with the monster on b5.”

### 18 Rb1xb5 Qb6-c7 19 Bc1-f4 Be7-d6 20 Be2-d3 Bb7-a6



The alternatives aren't very attractive:

A) 20...Nd7? (or 20...Nc6?) 21 Bxh7+! Kxh7 22 Qb1+ and 23 Rxb7 (Gurevich).

B) 20...g6 21 Qb3 Ba6 22 Rc1± (Gurevich).

C) 20...Bc6:

C1) With the a-file open, the sacrifice is no longer effective: 21 Bxh7+? Kxh7 22 Rb3 Kg8 23 Rh3 allows Black the reply 23...Ra3

unclear (Christiansen);

C2) 21 Rb1 isn't bad. If 21...f6?!, then 22 Qh5 g5 23 Nxc6 (another very strong line is 23 Nd7! Qxd7 24 Bxd6+- – Dvoretsky) 23...Bxf4 24 Nb4 Ra5 25 Bf5, with a great advantage (Gurevich) 21...Nd7± is more stubborn.

C3) 21 Rb3 suggests itself, since Black no longer has 21...Ba4?, because of 22 Bxh7+ Kxh7 23 Qh5+ Kg8 24 Rh3+-. Instead, he could play 21...g6! 22 Qg4! Nd7 23 Rc3 Nxe5 24 de Bb4 25 e6!± (Christiansen).

“Here I spent a few seconds checking 21 Rxd5, which leaves White with an extra pawn. But as I mentioned earlier, I couldn’t face a long technical game. In many lines, Black can exchange on e5, leaving a position with 4 vs. 3 on one side. Depending on which pieces are left, this might or might not be a win, but the game would certainly continue for a long time.

Then I saw Bxh7+ and didn’t waste any more time on Rxd5. I spent some time analyzing the sacrifice, and didn’t see a defense for Black. I then realized that I was too excited to analyze, and decided that I would simply play it. Karpov had hardly any time left, and I was sure he wouldn’t find a defence.”

*Karpov had used his time rather imprudently, and had only 30 minutes left on the clock – clearly not enough for the head-spinning complexities coming up.*  
(Gurevich)

“In the press centre, they had been expecting 21 Rxd5, but my close friend Mauricio Perea knew immediately that I would play 21 Bxh7+!, and he tried to work out all the details.”

There is another combination, leading to a draw: 21 Qb1?! Bxb5 22 Bxh7+ Kh8 23 Qf5 Bxe5 24 Bxe5 (24 Qh3? Bxf4+) 24...Qc4 25 Bxg7+ Kxg7 26 Qg5+ Kh8 27 Qf6+ Kxh7 28 Qf5+ (Zaitsev).

Taking the pawn with 21 Rxd5 would have retained an advantage, but a much smaller one compared to 17 Qd3; and it’s quite likely that it would not have been enough to win.

A) 21...Nc6!? 22 Bxa6 Rxa6 23 Nxc6 Rxc6 (23...Bxf4 24 Ne5 Rd6+/=) 24 Bxd6 Rxd6+/=/+ (Gurevich).

B) 21...Bxd3!? 22 Qxd3 Nc6 23 Qe4+/=/+ (Dvoretzky). Zaitsev examines 23 Rc1?! Nb4! 24 Rxc7, and continues 24...Nxd3 25 Rxd6 Ra1+ 26 Bc1 Nxc1 27 g3 Nd3+ +/=/+ , but Black solves his problems with 24...Bxc7! unclear.

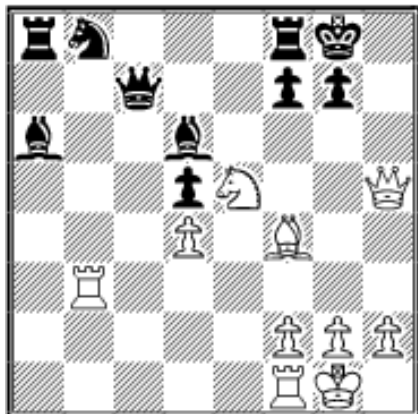
### **21 Bd3xh7+!**

*(!?) Two exclamation marks only for Anand’s will to win. It’s amusing that, in his combination, the blow Bxh7+ is one of the most commonly used, and frequently overlooked by, amateurs. But Karpov doesn’t miss such things – and so I think it was here ... But the assessment of this blow from a purely chess standpoint is not clear, which is why the last mark in my assessment is a query.*  
(Gurevich)

### **21...Kg8xh7 22 Qd1-h5+**

Zaitsev believes 22 Rb3 would have been cleverer. He shows (not wholly convincingly, in my opinion) that after 22...f6? 23 Rh3+ Kg8 24 Ng6 and 22...g6 23 Qg4, White holding a great advantage. Still, I fail to understand why he should study such complex extraneous variations, when the simple 22...Kg8! 23 Qh5 leads by transposition right back into the game.

22...Kh7-g8 23 Rb5-b3



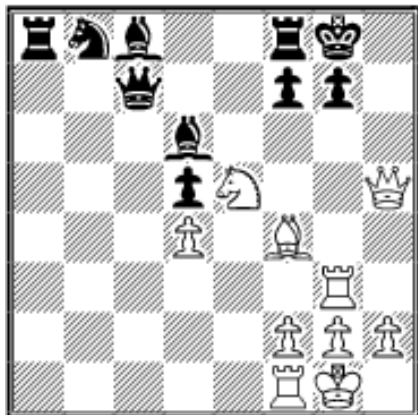
23...Bd6xe5?

“This loses trivially.”

Let’s look at the other possibilities.

I. “During the game, I was more worried about 23...Bc8 than about 23...f6, but later analysis suggests that the latter was the best move.

I hadn’t analyzed the alternative **23...Bc8!** well. Later I asked Karpov what he saw against it and he said that he assumed 24 Rg3 (24 g4? Ra3 – Gurevich) would win.



I showed him **24...Qe7** (24...f6? is just bad: 25 Ng6 Be6 26 Qh8+ Kf7 27 Qxf8+ Bxf8 28 Bxc7+- [Zaitsev], and 27 Nxf8! is stronger still) and we thought that this would have saved Black. Later (according to my second Ubilava), Dzindzi found the way for White.”

**25 Bg5!?** is tempting. On 25...Qe6, Anand gives 26 Rh3 (26 Bh6? Bxe5 27 de g6 28 Bxf8 Kxf8 unclear) 26...Qxh3 27 gh f6 28 Ng6 fg 29 Qh8+ Kf7 30 Nxf8 Bxf8 31 f4 g4 32 Qh5+ +-.

According to Zaitsev’s analysis, 25...f6 is no help either: 26 Ng6 (after 26 Bh6 fe 27 Bxg7 Qxg7, Anand gives the line 28 Qh6? Qxg3 29 hg Ra6 30 Qg6+ Kh8 31 Qh6+ Kg8 =, but Black wins with 28...Bg4! 29 Qxd6 Ra6 30 Qxd5+ Kh8, so White must play 28 Rxg7+ Kxg7 29 Qg5+, and if 29...Kf7, then 30 f4! with a likely draw – Dvoretsky) 26...Qe8 (26...Qc7 27 Bf4, and there’s no defense against 28 Qh8+ Kf7 29 Qxf8+ or 29 Nxf8) 27 Bxf6! Rxf6 28 Qh8+ Kf7 29 Ne5+ Ke7 30 Qxg7+ (30 Rxg7+? Kd8) 30...Rf7 31 Qg5+! (31 Nxf7 is weaker: 31...Qxf7 32 Re3+ Be6 33 Rxe6+ Kxe6 34 Re1+ Be5!! 35 Rxe5+ [35 Qxe5+ Kd7 unclear] 35...Kd6 unclear – Zaitsev. However, White still keeps the advantage by 35 Qg4+! Qf5 36 Rxe5+ Kd6 37 Qg3 – Dvoretsky) 31...Rf6 (31...Ke6 32 Re3) 32 Rf3+-.

Dzindzichashvili suggested **25 Bh6! Bxe5 26 de g6**





“And now **27 e6!!**. Black is lost after both 27...Qxe6 28 Bxf8 and 27...Bxe6 28 Qe5 f6 29 Rxc6+.”

Gurevich tried to hold Black’s position with **24...Ra3!?**. The rook sacrifice is only good enough for a draw: 25 Rxc7+ Kxc7 26 Bh6+ (or 26 Qg5+ =) 26...Kf6 (26...Kh7? 27 Bg5+) 27 Re1 Rg8 28 Ng6 (28 Qh4+?! is inferior: 28...Ke6 29 Ng4+ Kd7 30 Nf6+ Kc6 31 Rc1+ Kb7 32 Rxc7+ Bxc7-/+; but 28 f4!? unclear, is worth looking into) 28...Rxc6 29 Qh4+ Kf5

30 Qh5+ with a perpetual check.

But White would play **25 f3! Qe7**



Here, it’s true, 26 Bh6?! is no longer so effective, since after 26...Bxe5 27 de g6, 28 e6? Qxe6 29 Bxf8 Kxf8-/+ doesn’t work anymore, and 28 Bxf8 Qa7+ (28...Qxf8 29 Rc1 unclear) 29 Kh1 Ra1 30 Rxc6+ fg 31 Qxc6+ Kf8 32 Qf6+ Ke8 33 Qh8+ Ke7! only leads to a draw (Gurevich).

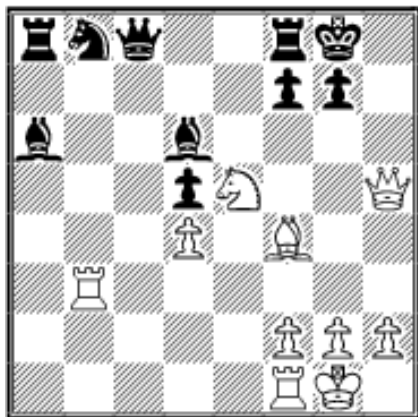
But **26 Bg5!** is just as strong as before. The variations are roughly the same as after 24...Qe7 25 Bg5:

A) 26...Qe6 27 Rh3 Qxh3 28 gh+-.

B) 26...f6 27 Ng6 Qe8 28 Bxf6! Rxf6 29 Qh8+ Kf7 30 Ne5+ Ke7 31 Qxc7+ Rf7 32 Qg5+! Rf6 33 Re1 Be6 34 Qh4!, with a decisive attack (Dvoretsky).

The other possibility is to bring the only currently non-participating White piece into the game by **26 Rc1!** Qf6 27 Bh6 (27 Bg5 Bxe5 28 Bxf6 Bxf6 29 Qxd5 Rd3 =) 27...Bxe5 (27...Be6 is no better: 28 Bxc7 Qxc7 29 Rxc7+ Kxc7 30 f4!, intending 31 f5, with a decisive attack – Dvoretsky) 28 de Qb6+ 29 Kh1 g6 30 Bxf8 Rc3 31 Qh6 Rxc1+ 32 Qxc1+- (Nunn).

II. Zaitsev thought that Black could successfully repel the enemy onslaught by playing **23...Qc8?!.**



The threat of 24 Rh3 is now prevented: 24...Qxh3 25 Qxh3 Bxf1 26 Kxf1 Ra1+, with sufficient counterplay. And blocking the black queen's access to the h3-square by 24 g4? fails to 24...Bxf1 (again controlling the h3-square) 25 Kxf1 Ra3-+.

*White probably has a draw here somewhere, but no more than that. And this would have been the logical outcome after White abandoned the consequent strategic plan at move 17. (Zaitsev)*

Unfortunately, the remaining variations presented by Zaitsev do not withstand analytical criticism.

**24 Rg3 Qe6** (here, Zaitsev ends his variation – but the battle is just beginning) **25 Qg5!** Bxe5 26 Bxe5 Qg6 27 Qh4 Bxf1 28 Rxg6 fg 29 Qe7 Rf7 30 Qe8+ Rf8 31 Qe6+ (31 Qxg6 Rf7 32 Kxf1) 31...Rf7 32 Kxf1 Ra1+ 33 Ke2 Ra2+ 34 Kd3 Nd7 35 Qxd5 – White has the upper hand, although Black retains realistic drawing chances.

**24 Rc1 Bxe5** (!! – Zaitsev) 25 Rxc8 Rxc8, and Black wins. White was in too great a hurry to take the queen: **25 de!** was much stronger; for example, 25...Nc6 26 Rh3 Qxh3 27 Qxh3!? (27 gh is good, too) 27...Nd4 28 Qg4! Ne2+ 29 Kh1, and after 29...Nxc1 30 Bh6 g6 31 Qg5 Kh7 32 Bxf8 Rxf8 33 Qxc1, White achieves a decisive material advantage.

**24 Re1 Bxe5 25 de Qe6 26 Rh3 f5.** Here, Zaitsev stops – and wrongly so, as **27 Qh7+ Kf7 28 Rg3** gives White a decisive attack.

III. **23...f6!** The most principled move, and at the same time – the best defense!



There's no win after 24 Rc1 Qa7! 25 Rh3 (25 Ng6 Bxf4 26 Nxf4 Qxd4 27 Rh3 Qxf4 28 Qxd5+ Rf7 29 Qd8+ Rf8 =, or 27 Ng6 Re8 = Dvoretzky) 25...fe 26 Bxe5 (26 de Rxf4 27 Qh8+ Kf7 28 Qh5+ also leads to a draw) 26...Bxe5 27 Qh7+ Kf7 28 Qh5+ Kg8 = (Gurevich).

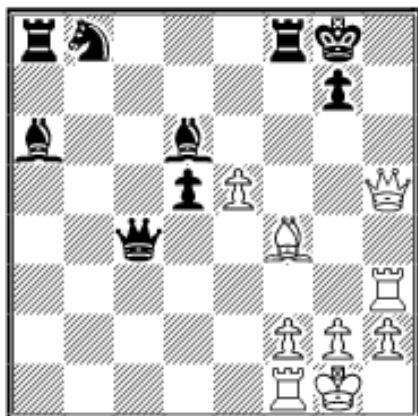
The main line is **24 Rh3 fe** (24...Bxe5? 25 de leads to the game) **25 de!** (25 Bxe5 would be a mistake: 25...Bxf1 26 Qh7+ Kf7 27 Rf3+ Ke8 28 Qg6+ Rf7 29 Bxd6 Bd3!!-+)

Gurevich).

After 25 de, Black loses quickly with 25...Rxf4? 26 e6! Kf8 27 Qh8+ Ke7 28 Qxg7+ Kxe6 29 Re1+! Re4 30 Rh6+.

And 25...Qd7? is also unsatisfactory: 26 Qh7+ Kf7 27 ed (27 Rg3 Ke8 28 ed amounts to the same thing) 28...Bxf1 29 Rg3 Ke8 (29...Rg8 30 Qg6+ Kf8 31 Bg5+-) 30 Rxc7 Bb5 (relatively best) 31 h4 Kd8 (31...Rxf4 32 Rxd7+-; 31...Ra1+ 32 Kh2 Re1 33 Rxd7 Nxd7 34 Be3 Kd8 35 h5+-) 32 Rxd7+ Nxd7 33 Bh6 Re8 34 Qf7 Re1+ (the threat was 35 Bg5+) 35 Kh2 Kc8 36 Qg8+ Kb7 37 Qxd5+ Bc6 38 Qb3+ Nb6 39 Be3 Ra6 40 h5+- (Dvoretsky).

The only defense is: **25...Qc4!**



White must now make a choice between beginning his assault at once, or preparing it by Re1.

A) **26 Qh7+ Kf7 27 e6+!** (on 27 Qf5+, Black must answer 27...Kg8 =, but not 27...Ke8? 28 Qg6+ Rf7 29 Re1! [29 Rh8+ Bf8 30 Qe6+ Re7 31 Qg6+ Rf7 = Gurevich] 29...Qb4 30 Rhe3+-, threatening 31 ed+ and 31 e6 – Dvoretsky)

Black loses immediately after 27...Kxe6? 28 Re1+!. Also unattractive is 27...Ke8 28 Qg6+ Kd8 29 Bg5+ Kc8 (29...Be7? 30 Bxe7+ Kxe7 31 Qxc7+ Ke8 32 Qg6+ Kd8 [32...Ke7 33 Rh7+] 33 e7+ Kc7 34 Rc3!! +- (Gurevich), or 34 Qd6+!! Kxd6 35 efQ+ +- (Dvoretsky) 30 Rc1± (Anand).

All that's left is **27...Kf6!**



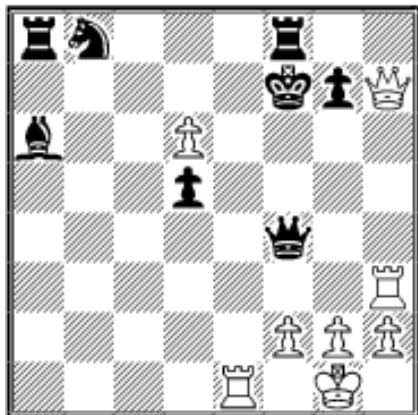
Now **28 Rh6+?! gh 29 Qxh6+ Kf5** would be tempting (29...Ke7? 30 Bg5+): **30 g4+ Ke4** (30...Kxc4 31 Qg5+ Kf3 32 Re1!! Qe2 33 Qxd5+ Kxf4 34 Qxd6+ – Zaitsev) **31 Re1!**; for example, 31...Kd3 32, Qg6+ Kd4 33 Bxd6 (Anand: “Fritz will probably tell you more than I could.”), or 31...Kd4 32 Be5+! (32 Bxd6 would be simpler – Dvoretsky) 32...Kc5 (32...Bxe5? 33 Qe3#; 32...Kd3? 33 Qe3+) 33 Bxd6+ Kc6 (33...Kxd6? 34 e7+) 34 Qxf8+- (Zaitsev)

Unfortunately, Anand correctly points out that Black has **31...Qe2! 32 Rxe2+ Bxe2** 33 Bxd6? Ra1+ 34 Kg2 Bf1+! 35 Kg3 Rf3+ 36 Kh4 Rh3+ -+. In this line, rather than the losing bishop capture, White must play 33 e7! Bxe7 34 Bc1, with mutual chances (Dvoretsky).

An alternative for White is: “28 Bg5+ Ke6 29 Re1+ Kd7 (not 29...Be5 30 Rxe5+ Kd6 31 Re1 Nc6 32 Qg6+ Kc7 33 Qxc7+ Kb6 34 Rb1+ Bb5 35 Rbh3+-) 30 Qxc7+ Kc6 31 Rc3 Nd7 32 Rxc4+ Bxc4, with an unclear position. White has a lot of pawns on the kingside, but since Black’s king is now safe, he can activate his pieces.”

B) “**26 Re1!** is much simpler – White doesn’t invest too much material.

**26...Qxf4 27 Qh7+ Kf7 28 ed**



28...Re8? 29 Qh5+ g6 30 Re7+!! was indicated by Fritz. There is no defence: 30...Rxe7 (30...Kf6 31 Qf3! is an unexpected win) 31 Qh7+ Kf6 (31...Kf8 32 de+ Ke8 33 Qxg6+ Kxe7 34 Rh7+) 32 Qxe7+ Kf5 33 Qf8+! Ke5 34 Re3+ +-;

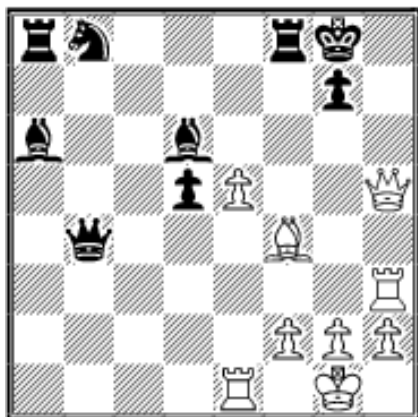
**28...Nc6 29 Rf3 Qxf3 30 gf Bc4**, and here both 31 h4 and 31 Kh1 are dangerous.

Still, to find your way through the complications with limited time over the board isn’t the easiest thing in the world, and Karpov didn’t manage it this time.”

On 31 h4, the game ends in a perpetual check after 31...Rad8 32 d7 Nd4 33 Qh5+ Kg8 34 Re7 Nc6 35 Re6 Nb8 36 Rh6! gh 37 Qg6+ (Dvoretsky).

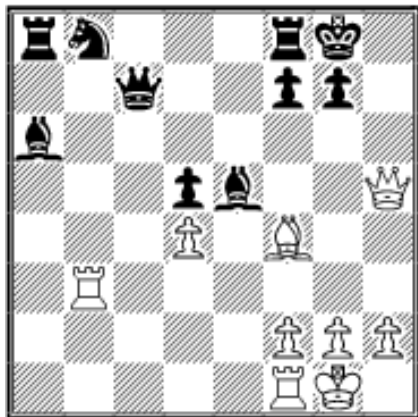
Larry Christiansen believes that after 31 Kh1, Black also retains good drawing chances; for example, 31...Rad8! 32 Rg1 Ke6! 33 Rg6+ Rf6 34 Qxg7 Rxg6 35 Qxg6+ Kd7 36 h4 d4 37 h5 d3 38 h6 Rf8! (38...d2? 39 Qc2) 39 h7 (39 Qg5!? Rf7 40 Kg2 Be6 = (Dvoretsky) 39...d2 40 Qc2 Rh8 41 Kg2 d1Q 42 Qxd1 Rxh7=/+.

And Black’s play could also be improved right at the beginning of his variation. As Gurevich notes, instead of taking the bishop on f4, he could play **26...Qb4!**



There seems to be nothing better than a perpetual check after 27 Qh7+ Kf7 28 Qh5+.

We now return to the game after 23...Bxe5.



After the decisive error on move 23, Black loses by force (Zaitsev).

**24 Rb3-h3! f7-f6**

24...f5? 25 Bxe5+- (Gurevich).

**25 d4xe5 Qc7-e7**

25...Bxf1? 26 e6!

25...fe 26 Bxe5 Qc4 27 Qh8+ Kf7 28 Qxg7+ Ke8 29 Re1+- (Gurevich).

“25...Qc4 26 Re1 (as Gurevich pointed out, 26 Qh7+ is also strong: 26...Kf7 27 e6+! Ke8 (27...Kxe6 28 Re1+ Kd7 29 Qxg7+) 28 Qg6+ Kd8 29 e7+ Kxe7 30 Re1+ Kd8 31 Qxg7+-) 26...Qxf4 27 Qh7+ Kf7 28 e6+ Ke8 29 Qg6+ is also no help for Black.”

**26 Qh5-h7+ Kg8-f7 27 Rh3-g3 Kf7-e8**

“27...Rg8 28 Qg6+ Kf8 29 ef, and Black can't recapture.”

**28 Rg3xg7**

John Nunn suggested a different way here: 28 ef gf (28...Rxf6 29 Rxg7 Qe6 30 Qh5+ Rf7 31 Rxf7 Qxf7 32 Re1+) 28 Re3 Qxe3 30 fe Bxf1 31 Bd6+-.

**28...Qe7-e6**

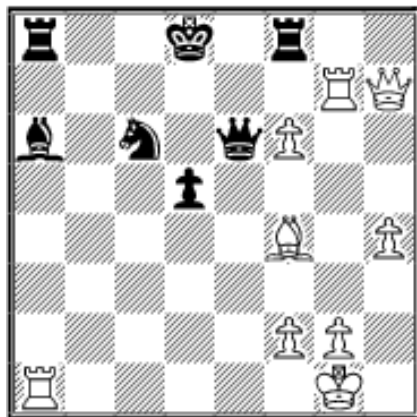
28...Rf7 29 ef (Gurevich)

**29 e5xf6 Nb8-c6**

29...Qxf6 30 Re1+.

29...Rxf6 30 Rg8+ Rf8 31 Qh5+ Qf7 (31...Ke7 32 Bg5+) 32 Re1+ Kd7 33 Rg7! Qxg7 34 Qxd5+ Kc8 35 Rc1+ +- (Gurevich).

**30 Rf1-a1 Ke8-d8 31 h2-h4!**



“To clear the back rank – it’s always nice to have time for the details.”

Still, he might also have played it more directly: 31 Bc7+ Kc8 32 Bb6 Qd6 33 Rc7+ Kb8 34 Rd7+- – Dvoretsky.

**31...Ba6-b7**

“31...Nd4 loses to 32 Bc7+ Kc8 33 Ba5.”

**32 Ra1-c1 Bb7-a6 33 Rc1-a1**

“I felt it would be better to have the rook on d1, and I was sure that Karpov would be grateful to repeat moves to get to the time control.”

White did have a forced win here: 33 Bc7+! Kc8 (33...Ke8 34 Rxc6!) 34 Rxc6 (34 Bb6 Kb8 35 Rb7+! +- [Zaitsev]; or 34 Ba5 Kb8 35 Rb1+ +-) 34...Qxc6 35 Qf5+ Kb7 36 Ba5+ Kb8 37 Qe5+ Kc8 38 Rc7+ +- (Gurevich).

**33...Ba6-b7 34 Ra1-d1 Bb7-a6 35 Qh7-b1! Rf8xf6 36 Bf4-g5 1-0**

By now, White could win “as he pleases.” Gurevich gives 36...Kc8 37 Qb6 Ne7 (37...Rf7 38 Rxf7 Qxf7 39 Qxc6+) 38 Qc5+ Kd8 39 Rxe7 Qxe7 40 Rxd5+ Ke8 41 Re5+-.

“Karpov lost on time playing 36...Kc8. Obviously I was delighted to have won after a loss, but I was especially happy with the way in which I won.”

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