



Photo Credit: Romy Cooper

## The World Champions in Canada: Spassky

By Stephen Wright

Boris Vasilievich Spassky (born January 30, 1937), the tenth world champion, has travelled to this country more frequently than any other world champion in history. On his visits Spassky participated in four tournaments (Winnipeg 1967, the 1971 Canadian Open, 1971 CNE Open, and Montreal 1979) as well as numerous simultaneous displays. This is in stark contrast to the other Soviet champions, most of whom either came to Canada long after their title reigns had ended (Botvinnik, Tal) or not at all (Smyslov, Petrosian).

As we have previously noted, after FIDE took control of the world championship in 1948 the financial onus on the players to raise stakes for a title match ceased

to exist; thus, the extensive tours undertaken for this purpose by the early champions were no longer necessary. Cold War politics was also a major barrier to the participation of Soviet players in North American events, and any tours that did take place were for détente or propaganda purposes, such as the visits

to Ottawa, Winnipeg, Toronto, and Montreal by Igor Bondarevsky and Alexander Kotov after the 1954 U.S. - U.S.S.R. team match in New York City. Another such opportunity came about in 1967 when as part of its centennial celebrations Canada hosted the World's Fair, also known as Expo 67. (Ironically that year's fair had originally been slated for Moscow in honour of the 50th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, but those plans fell through.) There was a chess component to Expo 67 which saw visits by Paul Keres in May and women's world champion Nona Gaprindashvili in October. Also in October 1967 was the first grandmaster tournament ever held in Canada, organized by the Manitoba Chess

Association on behalf of the Manitoba Centennial Corporation and the CFC (see *Chess Canada Échecs*, June 2004). The ten-player round robin had participants from nine different countries, including Paul Keres and Boris Spassky from the Soviet Union. Unfortunately most of the players were peaceable inclined and draws predominated; Keres and Spassky tied for third with

5.5/9, both beating tail-enders Kagan and Yanofsky and drawing the rest of their games. The tournament was won by Klaus Darga and Bent Larsen with 6.0 points.

After the centennial event Spassky, along with Keres, gave exhibitions in a number of centres. Starting at Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, Spassky took on ten opponents in a clock simultaneous, winning all his games. Next on the agenda were regular displays in Vancouver and North Vancouver, where he scored +22 =1 -0 and +45 =2 -0 respectively. In the latter display one of the draws was to a Mrs. L'Hirondelle (likely a courtesy draw), while the other draw was with North Vancouver club champion Nicholas Savchenko.



North Vancouver, October 17, 1967.

From *North Vancouver Citizen* newspaper

### Spassky, Boris - Savchenko, Nicholas [C31]

Simul North Vancouver, 17.10.1967

**1.e4 e5 2.f4**

A favoured occasional opening, Spassky has an amazing record with the King's Gambit, scoring +16 =12 -0(!) in known tournament games for an average of just under 80%. Among his victims are Averbakh, Bronstein, Fischer, Portisch, Karpov, and Seirawan.

**2...d5 3.♟f3**

A rare response to the Falkbeer Counter Gambit, the earliest example being Löwenthal–Staunton, London 1851(!).

**3...dxe4 4.♟xe5 ♟f6 5.♟c4 ♟e6 6.♟xe6 fxe6 7.d4 ♟bd7**

The aforementioned Löwenthal–Staunton game continued 7...exd3 8.♟xd3 ♟d6 9.0-0 0-0 10.♟e2 ♟d7 11.c4 ♟c6 12.♟e3 ♟ad8 13.♟c3 b6 14.♟ad1, 1-0 (27).

**8.♟c3 ♟b4 9.0-0 ♟xc3**

Not necessary at this stage, but Black seems to be pursuing a policy of simplification.

**10.bxc3 0-0 11.♟e1 c5 12.♟xd7 ♟xd7 13.♟a3 ♟fc8**

## 14. ♖xc5 ♜c7

White will be unable to hold his extra c-pawn.



## 15. f5

An attempt to generate play which should help Black more than it does White.

## 15...b6 16. ♖b4 a5 17. ♖a3 ♜xc3

17...♟g4 18. ♜h4 exf5 is stronger.

## 18. ♜xc3 ♜xc3 19. ♖d6 exf5 20. ♜xf5 ♜xc2 21. ♜b5

21.a4

## 21...♜c6

There's no need to retreat the active rook when Black has 21...♟d7 available.

## 22. ♖e5 ♟d7 23. d5 ♜c2 24. ♖d4 ♜d2

24...♜ac8

## 25. ♖e3 ♜d3 26. ♖xb6 ♜b8 27. ♜ab1 ♜xb6 28. ♜xb6

♟xb6 29. ♜xb6 ♜xd5



## 30. ♜e6

Heading for a drawn rook ending.

30...♜d1+ 31. ♟f2 ♜d2+ 32. ♟g3 ♜xa2 33. ♜xe4 ♜b2  
 34. ♜e8+ ♟f7 35. ♜a8 ♜b5 36. ♟f4 h6 37. ♜a7+ ♟g6  
 38. g4 ♟h7 39. h4 ♜c5 40. h5 ♜b5 41. ♟e4 ♜c5 42. ♟f4  
 ♜b5

½-½

From the West Coast the Soviet duo then travelled to Toronto for exhibitions at Hart House. Spassky scored +29 =9 -2, the two losses being to the 19-year-old future IM Bruce Amos and Julius Montasevich. Finally it was on to Montreal, where Spassky gave three exhibitions, two regular at the Lakeshore Chess Club and NDG Community Centre (+24 =1 -0 and either +29 =7 -0 or +27 =9 -0 respectively) and one on ten boards with

clocks at the Metropolitan club. In the latter he scored +6 =3 -1, the loss being to another future IM, 16-year-old Camille Coudari.

## Spassky, Boris - Coudari, Camille [B53]

Clock simul Montreal, 30.10.1967

## 1.e4 c5 2. ♟f3 d6 3. d4 b6?

So much for any Soviet analysis Spassky might have had access to. However, mainlines are mainlines for a reason ...

## 4. ♟c3?!

4.dxc5 with the threat ♜d5, either now or on the next move, would give White a sizeable advantage.

## 4...g6? 5.d5? ♟g7 6. ♖e2



## 6...e5?

Allows White to open the position; better to work within the Schmid–Benoni structure and await developments.

## 7.dxe6 ♖xe6 8. ♖f4 ♖xc3+

Pretty much forced in view of the threat to the d-pawn.

## 9.bxc3 ♟f6 10. ♟g5 ♟e7?!

10...d5

11.0-0 ♟c6 12. ♟xe6 fxe6 13. ♜d3 ♜c7 14. ♜ad1 ♜ad8  
 15. ♖g3 ♟e5 16. ♜e3 c4 17. f4 ♟eg4 18. ♖xg4 ♟xg4  
 19. ♖h4+ ♟d7 20. ♜e2 ♜c5+ 21. ♜d4 ♜h5 22. g3 ♜c8



## 23.e5?

White has been winning for some time, but this pawn break allows Black to close the position and White's attack stalls. Houdini prefers 23.f5!

23...d5 24.h3 ♟h6 25. ♜h2 ♟f7 26. ♖f6 ♜hg8 27. ♜g2  
 ♜c5 28. ♟h2 ♜h6 29. ♜fd1 ♜f8 30. ♜e2 ♟c7 31. g4 ♜e8  
 32.f5 gxf5 33. gxf5 ♟h6?!

Despite White's aggression the position remains balanced, but here Black should get his King off the c-

file with 33...♗b7 – see the next note.

**34.fxe6 ♖xe6 35.♖h4?!**

35.♖xd5 ♖xd5 36.♖xc4+ ♗b8 37.♖xd5 ♖f5 38.♖d4

**35...♖g6 36.♖g1??**

Presumably time trouble, a result of dealing with nine other opponents at the same time?

**36...♖xf6**

**0-1**



**Lakeshore chess club, October 28, 1967.**

From *Canadian Chess Chat*, November 1967

Spassky next came to this country in 1971 as the reigning world champion, having defeated Petrosian in their second match two years earlier. Our own John G. Prentice was an important figure in the upper echelons of FIDE at the time, and through his influence was able to bring high-level events and players to Canada. These included the Fischer-Taimanov Candidates match in May/June 1971, a contest which would have a major impact on Spassky's own future, and the participation of the world champion in the 1971 Canadian Open, held at

UBC in Vancouver, August 24 - September 3. After seven rounds it appeared that Canadian champion Duncan Suttles or Dutch IM Hans Ree would win the tournament, but Spassky managed to win his last two games to draw even with Ree on 9.0/11, taking the Canadian Open title on tiebreak. Suttles, Zvonko Vranesic and Walter Browne tied for third with 8.5 points.

**Spassky, Boris - Suttles, Duncan [B07]**

CAN op 9th Vancouver (6), 29.08.1971

The following notes are based, in part, on those in *Chess on the Edge* by Harper and Seirawan.

**1.e4 g6 2.d4 d6 3.c3 ♗f6 4.♗d3 e5 5.f4**

An aggressive handling of the position by the world champion. In round 9 Ree preferred 5...♗f3 ♗bd7 6.0-0 ♗g7 7.♖e1 0-0 8.♗bd2 ♗h5 9.♗f1 ♗b6 10.a4 a5

11.♗c4 ♗xc4 12.♗xc4 ♗g4 13.♗c3 ♖f6 14.h3 ♗xf3  
15.♖xf3 ♖xf3 16.gxf3 ♗h8 17.dxe5 ♗xe5 18.♗h6 ♗g7  
19.♗d2 ♗e5 1/2-1/2 Ree, H-Suttles, D/ CAN op 1971

**5...♗g7 6.♗f3 ♗g4**

And the course of Spassky-Ree from round 8 was  
6...exd4 7.cxd4 0-0 8.♗c3 c5 9.dxc5 dxc5 10.0-0 ♗c6  
11.e5 ♗d5 12.♗c4 ♗g4 13.♗d6 ♗db4 14.♗c4 ♖b6  
15.♗c3 ♖ad8 16.a3 ♗a6 17.b4 ♗xe5 18.fxe5 ♗xe5  
19.♗xe5 ♗xd1 20.♗ec4 ♖c7 21.♖axd1 cxb4 22.♗xb7  
♗c5 23.♗d5 bxa3 24.♗b5 ♖e7 25.♗bxa3 ♗e6 26.♗b5  
♖b4 27.♗ba3 ♖e7 28.♗b5 ♖b4 29.♗ba3 1/2-1/2

**7.fxe5 dxe5 8.♗g5 ♗bd7 9.♗bd2 h6 10.♗h4 g5**

Providing a possible strongpoint for his knight on f4.

**11.♗f2 0-0 12.h3 ♗h5 13.d5 ♗g6 14.♖e2 ♖e8 15.0-0 ♗h5**



**16.g3 ♗f8 17.b4 ♗df6 18.♗c4 ♗d6?!**

18...♖c8 19.♗h2 g4

**19.♗fd2 ♗h7 20.♗h2 ♖g8 21.♗xd6 cxd6 22.c4 a5 23.c5**

23.a3 is a simpler way of maintaining the advantage.

**23...axb4 24.♗c4 dxc5 25.♗xe5?**

Wrong pawn, White should take on c5 and leave the e-file closed.

**25...♖e8**

Houdini prefers 25...♖a3.

**26.♗xg6 fxg6 27.♗xc5 ♖c7**



**28.♗f2?!**

28.♖f2 is a better defence to the double attack –  
28...♗xe4 29.♗xc4 ♖xe4 30.d6 ♖c6 31.♖ac1

**28...♖a3**

And here 28...♗xd5 is more straight forward.

**29.♖f3?**

29.♖ac1

29...♖xe4 30.♖ac1 ♖d7 31.♙d4

31.♙b6 is best according to Houdini, but with human minds and time trouble looming inaccuracies are bound to occur.

31...♖xd3

31...♗f4! 32.gxf4 ♗d2 33.♖g3 ♗xf1+ 34.♖xf1 ♖xd5 is winning (Houdini).

32.♖xd3 ♗hxg3 33.♖fe1 ♖d6 34.♗g1 h5 35.♙b2?!

35.♖c4 or 35.♖c2 with the intention of trading queens leaves White on top.

35...g4 36.♖d4??

36.hxg4 ♖f4 37.♖c2

36...♗f5 37.♖d3



37...gxh3??

37...♖b6+ wins. According to Harper, Black simply didn't consider this move: "Suttles, who cannot picture variations in his head and has never been able to play blindfold chess, just didn't look at the queenside, so it didn't occur to him that a queen check from that direction would end the game immediately."

38.♖xe4 ♖xe4 39.♖xe4 h2+??

39...♖b6+ 40.♙d4 ♗xd4 is still equal.

40.♗g2 ♖g3+ 41.♗h1 ♖f2 42.♖c7+ ♗h6 43.♙c1+

1-0

### Spassky,Boris - Zuk,Robert [E82]

CAN op 9th Vancouver (10), 02.09.1971

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.♙e3 b6

Given that we now know the strength of Black's pawn sacrifice 6...c5 this preparatory move is regarded as unnecessary these days, although an indication of its popularity at the time is the fact the variation was played three times at Winnipeg 1967.

7.♙d3 ♙b7 8.♗ge2 c5 9.d5 e6 10.♙g5

An earlier Spassky game, against Gufeld from the 1963 Soviet Championship, went 10.0-0 ♗bd7 11.♙g5 exd5 12.♗xd5 ♙xd5 13.cxd5 a6 14.♖c1 b5 15.b3 ♖e8 16.♖d2 ♖b6 17.♗h1 ♖ac8 18.♖fe1 ♗e5 19.♙b1 b4 20.♗g3 c4 21.♙e3 c3 22.♖xc3 bxc3 23.♙xb6 ♗fd7 24.♙a5 ♗c5 25.♖xc3 f5 26.exf5 ♗g4 27.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 28.♖xc5 ♗f2+ 29.♗g1 ♙d4 30.♖c4 ♙a7 31.♗f1 ♗d1 32.♖c4 1-0

10...h6 11.♙h4 exd5 12.cxd5 ♗bd7 13.0-0 a6 14.a4 ♗e5 15.f4 ♗xd3 16.♖xd3 ♖c7 17.♙ad1 ♖ae8

In this Benoni structure Spassky now uses a standard pawn sacrifice to institute a king-side attack.



18.♙xf6! ♙xf6 19.e5 dxe5 20.♗e4 ♙g7 21.f5 ♖d8

22.♗c3 gxf5 23.♖xf5 f6 24.♖df1 ♖e7 25.♖g3 ♗h8 26.♖h4 ♙xd5 27.♗xf6?

27.♗xd5 ♖xd5 28.♖h5



27...♙b7?

"Correct is 27...♙g8! after which White can force a draw with 28.♖h5 ♙xf6 29.♖xh6+ ♗g7 30.♖xf6 ♖xf6 31.♖g5+ ♗f7 32.♖h5+. Spassky thought that White had nothing better in the event of 27...♙g8" – Zuk in the September 1971 issue of *Northwest Chess*. Actually in the given line Black is winning after 32...♗f8 so White's 30th move might be a notational error – 30.♖xf6 is necessary, to give the queen access to h6. However, Houdini prefers the cold-blooded 28...♙h7! when Black stands better.

28.♖h5 ♖xf6?

28...♙xf6! 29.♖xh6+ ♗g7 30.♖h7+ ♗g8 31.♖xc7 ♙xh4 32.♖xb7 leads to an interesting ending, approximately equal

29.♖xh6+ ♗g8 30.♖xf6 ♙xf6 31.♖xf6?

31.♖h8+ ♗f7 32.♖h5+ ♗c6 33.♖h7 ♖xh7 34.♖xh7 is winning for White.

31...♖g7 32.♖c4+ ♗h8



**33.♟f3! ♜d6?**

"After 33...♙xf3 34.♞h4+ ♔g8 35.♞xd8+ ♔h7 36.♞d3+ e4 37.♞c2 Black will lose the e-pawn" – Zuk, but Houdini thinks this is the best Black has.

**34.♞h4+ ♔g8 35.♞c4+**

35.♞e4! ♙xe4 36.♞xc4 leaves White on top.

**35...♔h8 36.♞e4?!**

36.♞h4+ ♔g8 37.♞e4 with a transposition to the previous note.

**36...♞g6?**

36...♙d5!

**37.♞h3+ ♞h6 38.♞d3 ♟f6?**

38...♞e7 leaves Black with some defensive options, after the text move he is lost.

**39.♞g3 ♟g6 40.♞g5 ♙c8 41.♞f7+?**

41.♞c4

**41...♔h7??**

Relatively best was the counterintuitive 41...♔g8, although White should still win after 42.♞xc5+ ♙e6 43.♞xg6 ♞xg6 44.♞xg6 ♙xc4

**42.♞h4+ ♔g8 43.♞h6+**

**1-0**

Following the Canadian Open Spassky immediately travelled to Toronto to play in the CNE Open at the invitation of TD Walter Dobrich (they had played in round 4 of the Canadian Open). Having played for eleven days in a row at the Canadian Open and adjusting to the two rounds a day of a weekend Swiss, let alone the noise and heat at the tournament site, Spassky gave up a draw in tying for third with Laszlo Witt, while Pal Benko and Robert Byrne tied for first with perfect scores of 6.0/6. The following game caused quite a stir at the time, and was the subject of a Master's Forum in the October 1971 issue of *Chess Canada*. Some of the notes are based on that Forum.

**Day, Lawrence - Spassky, Boris [B25]**

CNE op Toronto (5), 06.09.1971

**1.e4 c5 2.♞c3 ♞c6 3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 ♙g7 5.d3 e6 6.♙e3 d6 7.♞h3**

The specialty of the house, or at least Suttles' house.

**7...♞ge7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♞d2 ♟e8**

"Correct here is 9...♞d4 10.♙h6 e5 11.♙xg7 ♔xg7 12.f4 f6 13.♞d1 ♙e6 14.♞e3 ♞d7 15.♞f2 exf4 16.gxf4 d5 17.c3 ♞dc6 18.♞c2 d4 19.♞c2 ♞ad8! with advantage as in Day–Kaplan, Puerto Rico 1971." – Day.

**10.♞ab1 b6 11.♙h6 ♙h8 12.f4 ♙d7**



12...d5 13.f5 – Day.

**13.g4 f5 14.gxf5 exf5 15.♞be1**

Coudari felt that 15.♞e1, transferring the queen to the kingside, was strong.

**15...a6 16.♞g5**

16.♞d5 ♞xd5 17.exd5 ♞d4 18.c3 ♞b5 19.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 20.♞e1 with 21.♞g5 to follow – Day.

**16...♙g7 17.♙xg7 ♔xg7**



**18.♞f3?**

Kuprejanov, Allan and Day all condemned this move and Houdini agrees; the annotators prefer 18.e5, 18.♞d5 and 18.♞e2 respectively.

**18...b5 19.♔h1 ♟c8 20.a3 ♞b6 21.h4 ♞d4 22.h5 a5 23.♞d1**

The position is equal, and does not stray far from that assessment for the rest of the game.

**23...♞g8 24.♞e3 ♞f6 25.♞d5 ♞xd5 26.exd5 ♞xf3 27.♞xf3 b4 28.♟fe3 ♞d8 29.♞xe8 ♞h4+ 30.♔g1 ♟xe8 31.♟xe8 ♙xe8 32.axb4 axb4 33.hxg6 ♙xg6 34.c3 bxc3 35.bxc3 ♟g3 36.c4 ♔f7**



**37.d4 ♞a3 38.♔h2 ♞a7 39.♞e3 ♞e7 40.♞xe7+ ♔xe7 41.dxc5 dxc5 42.♙f3 ♙e8**

**1/2-1/2**

Before departing from Canada Spassky gave a simultaneous exhibition in Montreal, drawing one game of the twenty-five he played.

Spassky's next Canadian visit came in 1979, for the Man and His World Challenge Cup in Montreal (see the Tal article in the February 2012 issue of *Canadian Chess News* for background on the tournament). Much had changed for Spassky in the intervening eight years. He had lost the world championship in the most famous match of the century, if not in history. The direct result of this was substantial problems with the Soviet authorities, to the point of Spassky taking the almost unprecedented step of living outside the country:

*"Although Boris did not defect from the Soviet Union per se, he was granted an extremely rare exception: he was allowed to move to France with his third wife, and able to travel freely as he liked. He made a special bargain with the Soviet authorities: in return for his unique status Boris would be apolitical and would not speak out publicly about the USSR, and certainly not in any derogatory fashion. He would not be a 'refusnik' or a 'defector.' He would simply become a quiet Russian citizen living and working abroad."*

[Yasser Seirawan, *Chess Duels: my games with the world champions*]

Or, in Korchnoi's colourful phrase, he became a "one-legged dissident".

Montreal 1979 was not one of Spassky's best results, and he lost both his games to the tournament winners Tal and Karpov (the event was a double round robin), but he did manage to win three games in a row towards the end to finish on minus one, tied with Timman for fifth place with 8.5/18.

**Hübner,Robert - Spassky,Boris [A26]**

Man and his World Montreal (16), 02.05.1979

1.c4 e5 2.♖c3 d6 3.g3 g6 4.♗g2 ♗g7 5.d3 f5 6.e4 ♖h6 7.♗ge2 ♖h6

Perhaps a salute to the host country by the classical Spassky?

8.♖d5 0-0 9.0-0 ♗e6 10.b3



10...g5

Unusually aggressive, normal in the reversed Closed Sicilian would be 10...♗d7.

11.exf5 ♖xf5 12.♗b2 ♗d7 13.♗d2 h6 14.♗ae1 ♗ae8 15.b4 ♖d8 16.b5 c6 17.bxc6 bxc6 18.♖b4 ♗c7 19.♖c1 ♗d7 20.♖b3 ♖e6 21.♖c2 ♗b6 22.♗a3



22...♗d8

Both sides have been manoeuvring in (reversed) Closed Sicilian fashion, but here 22...c5 seems simpler.

23.♗b1 g4

Returning to his first plan, but this allows White to make inroads on the queenside. 23...c5 was still playable.

24.♖a5 c5 25.♖c6 ♗f6

25...♗c7

26.♗b7 ♗c8

Black simply abandons the queenside and prepares to move all his pieces to the kingside.

27.♗xa7 ♖g5 28.♗e2 ♖h8 29.♗c1 ♖h3+ 30.♗xh3 gxf7 31.♗f3 ♗f7 32.♖e3 ♗ef8 33.♖d5 ♗g6 34.♗xf7

34.♗e4 seems a sensible precaution.

34...♗xf7 35.♗e3?

35.g4

35...♗e8 36.♖a7 ♖d4



Now White is swept away, while his beautifully-placed knights look on.

37.♗d1 ♖f3+ 38.♖h1 ♗g4 39.♗c1 ♗f7 40.♖b5 ♖d2 41.f4 ♖xf1 42.♗xf1 ♗h5 43.♖dc3 exf4 44.♗xf4 ♗e8 45.♗d2 ♗e2

0-1

After the tournament Spassky gave a simultaneous display in Montreal, scoring +22 =3 -0, before travelling to Toronto with Karpov. There he gave displays on two consecutive days and was undefeated, the site being the observation deck of the CN Tower.

Further simultaneous exhibitions in Canada by Spassky took place in Mississauga in 1982, Saint John in 1988 as part of the World Chess Festival, and during a tour of Ontario in 1995 which included Ottawa, Pickering, Toronto, Guelph, and London. By this point his tournament career was waning and he was increasingly taking on the role of honoured guest, e.g., at the First North Bay International in 1994. Now the oldest living world champion despite suffering at least two strokes in recent years, Spassky celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday back in January. It seems unlikely he will ever return to Canada again, but we can always hope ...

One more game:

### Spassky, Boris - Langer, Herb [E87]

Simul Ottawa, 02.10.1995

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.c4 ♘g7 4.♖c3 ♘f6 5.f3 0-0 6.♗e3 e5 7.d5 ♘h5 8.♗d2 f5 9.0-0-0 f4

An older variation which is felt to allow White too much freedom in the manoeuvring to come and thus is out of favour.

10.♗f2 ♘d7

10...♗f6 11.♘ge2 ♗h4 12.♗g1 is more usual, there being some classic examples (with Gligoric playing Black) in the 1953 Zürich Candidates' Tournament.

11.g4

White stakes his own claim for territory.

11...fxg3 12.hxg3 a6 13.♗b1 ♗f6 14.♗e2 ♘c5 15.♘h3 ♗d7 16.g4 ♘f4 17.♘xf4



17...♗xf4?

A surprising recapture, given that 17...exf4 frees the dark-squared bishop.

18.♗xf4?

An even more surprising choice; for an attacking player of Spassky's calibre, 18.♗e3! is the logical way to continue the offensive.

18...exf4 19.♗d4 ♗ae8 20.♗xg7 ♘xg7 21.♗c2 ♘a4 22.♘b1 ♗e5 23.b3 ♘c5 24.♘c3 ♗e8 25.b4 ♘a4 26.♗c1 ♘xc3

Second time successful.

27.♗xc3 ♗d7 28.♗d4 ♗fe8 29.♗d3 h5 30.gxh5 ♗xh5 31.♗xh5 gxh5 32.c5 h4 33.cxd6 cxd6 34.♗c7 ♗e7

Despite the simplification a sharp, equal ending has

resulted where either side can still go astray.



35.♗f1 ♗f6 36.♗xb7 h3?

36...♗b5! would keep the position balanced.

37.♗xd7?

The Houdini suggestion 37.♗b6 ♗h7 38.♗xh3 ♗xh3 39.♗xd6+ ♗c7 40.♗xa6 ♗xf3 41.e5 is just one interesting possibility in this position – perhaps not the sort of variation to enter while giving a simultaneous.

37...♗xd7 38.♗xh3 ♗c7 39.a4 ♗c2 40.a5 ♗c1 41.♗g4 ♗d1+ 42.♗c3 ♗e5 43.♗c2 ♗f1 44.♗c3 ♗c1+ 45.♗d3 ♗b1 46.♗c3 ♗g1 47.♗d3 ♗g3

½-½

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