November 9, 1938

(G1;A) S: Paul Keres E: De Groot T = 6 minutes

First let's have a look at the position. Well, it is quite a position! Who is actually better off? Difficult.

Let's first have a look at what can be taken; are there any immediate attacks?

1.B-R6 and 2.NxBP -- not sufficient.

1.NxB maybe? He must take back with the Pawn; with the Rook costs a Pawn, and with the Queen will not be possible either -- indeed -- so 1.NxB, PxN; 2.BxN/5, BPxB; 3.Q-B3. Pfui! That seems to win a piece. (Pause)

The Pawn at QN2 is attacked.

Immediately

1.BxN/5 maybe? Nothing special. Let's calculate it though: 1...BxB; 2.BxN and 3.N-Q7 -- possibly even 3.NxB first. 1...NxB costs a piece. 1...PxB; 2.Q-B3 maybe? Let's check 2.Q-B3. What should Black do? 2...K-N2; then, for instance, 3.N-N4 -- will probably win.

Well, White will win by

1.BxN/5.

# Paul Keres — record of his thinking

Adriaan de Groot’s experiment, Position A | 9 November 1938 | 6 minutes | G1; A

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First, let us look at the position. Well, what a position! Who actually stands better? Hard to say.

First, let us see what can be captured. Are there any immediate threats?

1.Bh6 and 2.Nxf7 — that is not sufficient.

Perhaps 1.Nxc6? Black must recapture with the pawn. Taking with the rook costs a pawn, and recapturing with the queen is not possible either. Indeed — so 1.Nxc6 bxc6 2.Bxd5 cxd5 3.Qf3. Pah! That seems to win a piece. (Pause.)

The pawn on b2 is attacked.

What about 1.Bxd5 immediately? Nothing special. Still, let us calculate it:

1...Bxd5 2.Bxf6 and 3.Nd7 — perhaps even 3.Nxd5 first. After 1...Nxd5, Black loses a piece. And after 1...exd5, perhaps 2.Qf3? Let us check 2.Qf3. What should Black do? 2...Kg7; then, for instance, 3.Ng4 will probably win.

Well, White wins with

**1.Bxd5.**

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Source: English archival typescript of Adriaan de Groot’s experiment, page 1 of the supplied document.