November 28, 1938

(G2;A) S: Alexander Alekhine E: De Groot T = 9 minutes

At first sight there is a dark memory of a tournament game Botvinnik-Vidmar (Nottingham). There's a certain resemblance: the same Queen position on Q3. Opening type: Queen's Gambit Accepted. In a half an hour I should be able to logically reconstruct the moves up to this position. Is the Pawn at QN2 really attacked? Or isn't that essential? See what counter possibilities White has.

Which moves are worth considering?

1.BxN/5 -- to calculate: 1...BxB is no good; 1...NxB is no good; so 1...PxB. And then the Knight at B6 is getting a little weak. 2.N-N4 or 2.R-K1 might follow or also 2.NxB and 3.R-K1; or possibly 2.Q-B3. Well, in any case 1.BxN/5 is the one enticing move.

But now let's have a look at other possibilities:

1.N-N4 comes into consideration, but doesn't look so good.

1.NxN maybe; 1...NxN; 2.BxN, BxB/N with many capturing possibilities but on first sight not convincing.

1.NxB, on first sight 1...PxN would follow and then Q5 gets stronger, that's a pity. In any case White has by far the better of it. I would be very happy if I had such a position in a tournament game.

Are there any other moves, apart from 1.BxN/5, that are decisive?

1.BxN/5 is very strong, that much is certain.

1.NxB to calculate; 1...PxN; pressure on QB6, the pair of Bishops: also very agreeable, but the position promises more. Check over other sorts of things again. Well, in case of time pressure I would play

1.BxN/5.