

FIDE Computer Chess
Commission Established

The ICCA has proposed to FIDE that an ICCA chess computer team be allowed to compete at the 1982 Chess Olympiads in Lucerne, Switzerland. FIDE President Fridrik Olafsson informed us of the response to that proposal in his letter of August 7, 1981:

"...

b. Computer team in the Chess Olympiads

This proved to be more difficult. After a long discussion the Central Committee had recommended that a computer team could enter the 1982 Chess Olympiads under certain conditions. The General Assembly, however, was in favour of a more general approach and decided that a commission would study the matter of admitting chess computers into future FIDE competitions. The commission will report to the 1982 Congress. Members of the commission are: J. Berglund (Sweden), L. Collings (Hong Kong), K. J. O'Connell (Ireland), Dr. S. O. Ebigwei (Nigeria), Dr. M. Filip (CSSR), N. Krogus (USSR), D.N.L. Levy (Scotland), A. Maltchev (Bulgaria), J. Vega Fernandez (Cuba), and I myself as chairman of the commission."

ICCA President Ben Mittman responded to Mr. Olafsson as follows:

"...

We are obviously disappointed with the rejection of our proposal to field an ICCA chess computer team at the 1982 Olympiads. We feel that such a team would have brought tremendous publicity for the event, and would have assured the chess-playing public of the world that these machines are a positive force for chess, that they are stronger than most people think, and that

they do have place in human competition. But that, of course, is the charge of your study commission: to determine the question of admitting the computers into future FIDE competitions.

You have very qualified representatives of the computer chess field on your commission. I want to assure you and them of the ICCA's willingness, and, in fact, eagerness to provide you with any information you will need. The officers of ICCA are prepared to appear before commission hearings if that seems desirable. We can also put you in touch with leading experts in the field of computer chess, if such an approach is deemed useful. We feel that ICCA should be represented in FIDE events by our top competitors, just as your national federations do.

Please let me know how I or my colleagues can be of assistance."

We shall keep our readers informed in future Newsletters on the activities of the FIDE commission.

Join ICCA

New members can join ICCA for 1982 by sending \$1 (U.S.) to Ken Thompson. For an additional \$10, you may receive all previous copies of the ICCA Newsletter. Ken's address is:

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Current members will receive renewal applications for 1982 with the next issue of the Newsletter in December.