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To some, this consequence may seem undesirable. Yet, when a tournament would necessarily reveal a programmer to be affiliated to commerce, it might induce hypocrisy by persuading workers to observe secrecy about their affiliations. The present rule, besides avoiding the hypocrisy has the advantage of unequivocally assigning commercial or amateur status.

ANNOUNCEMENT

**THE FIFTH WORLD COMPUTER-CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP**

**ICCA Communication  
by D.N.L. Levy**

The Fifth World Computer Chess Championship is now definitely known to be held in 1986 in Germany, at the invitation of the German Chess Federation. The ICCA has gratefully accepted the invitation; many details have already been settled by David Levy, the well-known international chess master. The venue is expected to coincide with the annual computer exhibition in Cologne, GFR, from June 13th to 17th, 1986, to within a day or two.

**RATING SUPER CONSTELLATION**

**D.E. Welsh  
Chairman, US Chess Federation  
Computer Chess Committee  
Los Angeles**

A top-priority goal of the USCF's Computer Chess Committee for several years has been establishing a USCF Computer Rating Agency to provide reliable ratings for chess microcomputers and personal-computer chess programs.

CREDIBILITY

Ever since chess microcomputers first appeared in 1978, advertising claims have often overstated the computers' playing strength. Many USCF members - along with millions of others - bought one or another of the early machines, and ultimately lost interest because the level of play just was not challenging enough.

Because the USCF rating system is the most widely recognized measure of chess skill, the performance of chess microcomputers tends to be described as a USCF rating. Sometimes real USCF ratings were obtained for the computers, by playing them in one or two tournaments. Too often, though, there has not been a solid basis for the claims made for the machines. Even when the manufacturer made a good-faith effort to get a real rating, the results were frequently misleading - provisional ratings based on a few games just are not very accurate. Also, the prototype units entered in tournaments have been known to play much more strongly than the eventual production models.