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Belgrade, August 31, 2012.

No. 235

Attn:

Federation Internationale des Echecs

93rd FIDE Congress

Istanbul, Turkey

General Assembly

7-9 Septembar 2012.

Dear delegates of the Congress,

We are free to address you with the request to consider at the General Assembly, our official proposal about introducing the Award for fair-play, which would commemorate the name of Serbian grandmaster Svetozar Gligoric, who recently passed away.

Svetozar Gligoric is the well-known and highly respected name in the world of chess. During his career, which lasted for several decades, he accomplished extraordinary results. He was the winner of 12 Olympiad medals and five medals at the European championships. He also won more than 64 international tournaments.

Svetozar Gligoric was the participant of the World championship twice: at Candidate tournaments, in Zurich 1953 and Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade 1959. Besides that, he played against Mikhail Tal at the quarter-final Candidate's match of the World championship in Belgrade 1968.

Historians will be able to collect all Gliogoric's results, but the world of chess will eternally remember him as a true ambassador of sports. He was the man who had wide support to be elected as FIDE president at 1978, but the advantage was given to someone else due to the historical and political tensions between East and West. Unfortunately, this was one of the reasons why Gligoric was unable to bring back to chess the undefeated World champion Robert Fischer, his personal friend.

Svetozar Gligoric was also respected as a chess arbiter. He was the main arbiter of the famous World championship match Karpov-Kasparov at 1985.

There is also a great Gligoric's legacy in the chess journalism and the chess publishing. He was the author of the several articles and books that were highly praised inside world chess community, because of his excellent expertise and writing style. "I am playing against pieces" is often seen as one of the greatest chess books ever.

Grandmaster Svetozar Gligoric got the fine reputation not only for his results and successes, but even more because of his fair-play manners towards his opponents. He highly respected his chess rivals. Therefore, he never looked at the chess game only through the eyes of a simple result. His approach was almost philosophical, because of his main principle – I am not playing against a man, but against chess pieces.

Svetozar Gligoric was the man of virtue and many talents – he was writing music, he was cosmopolitan who spoke many languages, he was chess player with an impeccable career, he was the man of a rich culture and he was a great gentleman.

That is why, esteemed delegates, that I am finding as a very appropriate matter presenting to you our proposal about introducing the Award for fair-play with Gligoric's name, hoping that it would be widely accepted. I would sincerely like to thank you for that in advance.

Serbian chess federation

Miodrag Vukotic  
President