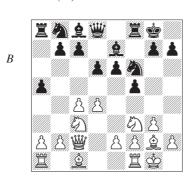
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## B) 8 ₩c2 (D)



The white queen supports the e4 break but it can also become a target for Black's queen's knight (after the sequence ...②c6 and ...②b4).

8...Øc6

This is good now because if White plays the thematic d5, Black can reply …心的4 with tempo, followed by ...e5. 9 a3!

This is the best move, preventing Black from ever playing ...心b4. Moves that allow this knight leap are very risky:

a) 9 d5 <sup>(2</sup>/<sub>2</sub>)b4 10 <sup>(2</sup>/<sub>2</sub>)d1 e5 <sup>±</sup>/<sub>7</sub>.

b) 9 e4? (this advance is wrong here, since it allows Black to activate his pieces with the all-important ...e5) 9...e5! 10 dxe5 dxe5 11 exf5 0g4! 12 0d5 0xf5 (a dream position for Black: every piece will soon have a role to play) 13 0xe7+ Wxe7 14 Wb3 0e415 0e1 0d4 16 Wd1 0xg2 17 0xg2We6 18 h3 0xf2 19  $\fbox{I}xf2$   $\Huge{I}xf2+20$ 0xf2  $\vcenter{I}gf8+21$  0g2 Wf5 22 0f4 $\textcircled{W}e4+\mp$  Karayannis-Williams, Southend 2000.

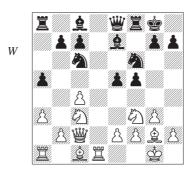
9...e5 10 dxe5

White's other option is 10 d5, which can be dangerous for Black if he does not stay alert. 10... b8 and now:

a) 11 ②e1 (this move fails to put much pressure on Black's position) 11...③a6 12 e4 fxe4 13 ③xe4 盒f5 14 盒e3 b6 15 ③xf6+ 罩xf6 16 盒e4 盒xe4 17 營xe4 a4 is equal, Petrosian-Simagin, USSR Ch (Moscow) 1947.

b) 11 265 268 (this has yet to be tried in practice but seems fine for Black, who needs to defend the f-pawn; 11...c6?! allows White the advantage: 12 214 268 13 dxc6 bxc6 14 27327 15 b3 266 16 258 17 264266 18 2c3 2f6 19 258 17 2642e6 18 2c3 2f6 19 258 17 266 22 2xe5, Smyslov-Filipowicz, Bath Echt 1973) and now after, e.g., 12 266 2xe6 13 dxe6 266 14 e3 268 Black may even be a bit better.

10...dxe5 11 \[ d1 \] e8 (D)



White's pieces obtain good squares in this line but Black has a dynamic centre with his pawns on e5 and f5, so we might expect the position to be close to equal.

White has a choice of two knight thrusts: