

Various Artists "The Opening Ceremony"

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Benny Andersson, Tim Rice, and Bjorn Ulvaeus

ARBITER:

I've a duty as the referee
At the start of the match
On behalf of all our sponsors
I must welcome you
Which I do -- there's a catch
I don't care if you're a champion
No one messes with me
I am ruthless in upholding
What I know is right
Black or white -- as you'll see
I'm on the case
Can't be fooled
Any objection
Is overruled
Yes I'm the Arbiter and I know best

CHORUS:

He's impartial, don't push him, he's unimpressed

ARBITER:

You got your tricks
Good for you
But there's no gambit I don't see through
Oh I'm the Arbiter I know the score

CHORUS:

From square one he'll be watching all 64

ARBITER:

If you're thinking of the kind of thing
That we've seen in the past
Chanting gurus, walkie-talkies,
Walkouts, hypnotists,
Tempers, fists -- not so fast
This is not the start of World War Three
No political ploys
I think both your constitutions are terrific so
Now you know -- be good boys
I'm on the case
Can't be fooled
Any objection
Is overruled
Yes I'm the Arbiter and I know best

CHORUS:

He's impartial, don't push him, he's unimpressed

ARBITER:

You got your tricks

Good for you

But there's no gambit I don't see through

Oh I'm the Arbiter I know the score

CHORUS:

From square one he'll be watching all 64

ARBITER:

Yes I'm the Arbiter I know the score

CHORUS:

From square one he'll be watching all 64

DIPLOMATS:

No one can deny that these are difficult times...

It's the U.S. versus U.S.S.R.

Yet we more or less are --

No one can deny that these are difficult times...

-- to our credit putting all that aside

We have swallowed our pride

These are dangerous and difficult times...

It really doesn't matter who comes out

on top, who gets the chop

No one's way of life is threatened by a flop --

But we're gonna smash their bastard

Make him wanna change his name

Take him to the cleaners and devastate him

Wipe him out, humiliate him

We don't want the whole world saying

They can't even win a game

We have never reckoned

On coming second

There's no use in losing

It's the U.S. versus U.S.S.R.

Yet we more or less are --

No one can deny that these are difficult times

-- to our credit putting all that aside

We have swallowed our pride

These are very difficult and dangerous times...

The value of events like this need not be stressed

When East and West

Can meet as comrades, ease the tension over drinks

Through sporting links

As long as their man sinks

MERCHANDISERS:

Whether you are pro or anti

Or could not care less

We are here to tell you

We are here to sell you chess

Not a chance of you escaping from our wiles

We've locked the doors, we've blocked the aisles

We've a franchise worth exploiting

And we will -- yes we will!
When it comes to merchandising
We could kill
When you get up --
When you get up in the morning
Till you crash at night
You will have to live your life
With bishop, rook and knight
Clean your teeth with chequered toothpaste
Wear our vests
Our kings and queens on bouncing breasts
You could even buy a set
And learn to play
We don't mind we'll sell you something
Anyway
We've done all our market research
And our findings show
That this game of chess could be around
A month or so
Maybe it's a bit confusing
For a game
But Rubik's Cubes were much the same
In the end the whole world bought one
All were gone
By which time we merchandisers
Had moved on
By which time we had moved on!
ARBITER:
I'm on the case, can't be fooled
Any objection is overruled
Don't try to tempt me -- you've no hope
I don't like women, I don't take dope
I'm the Arbiter I know the score
CHORUS:
From square one he'll be watching all 64
ARBITER:
You got your tricks -- good for you
But there is no gambit I don't see through
I'm the Arbiter and I know best
CHORUS:
He's impartial don't push him he's unimpressed
ARBITER:
I'm the Arbiter my word is law
CHORUS:
From square one he'll be watching you...
EVERYONE (except the players and seconds):
Don't you find it rather touching to behold
The game that came in from the cold
Seen for what it is -- religion plus finesse
Countries, classes, creeds, as one in
Love of chess

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