

Date: March 15,16, 1957

Interviewer: Alfred Reisch

1. Code Number: 16-M
2. Age: 22
3. Male
4. Single
5. Roman Catholic
6. Born at Bores, Gyor County
7. Spent all his life at Boro
8. At Boro when revolution broke out
9. Was abroad twice in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia
10. Did not serve in the army
11. Education: 5 years elementary, 4 years gymnasium
4 years secondary, 1 and 1/2 years apprentice electrician
12. Electrician in machine repair factory at Moson, Gyor County
13. Parents living, in the USA
14. 3 brothers, in the USA, one married sister, at Boro.
15. _____
16. Left Hungary on November 5, 1956
17. Arrived in the US on December 22, 1956
18. Camp Kilmer, Bard College, New York City
19. Immediate plans: to work
20. No.
21. No

Character description:

The subject belongs socially to the peasantry and spent all his life in the country-side. Though he never saw the capital, his education and ~~xxxx~~ recent occupation gave him a wider horizon. He was given a good and strict education, and this is revealed by his manners and general behavior.

Together with his family he knew many hardships, and looks at things realistically. He appears to possess the ~~xxxx~~ additional sense the Hungarian peasants are often credited with. The reasoning is slow, calm, but makes sense in most cases. By contrast with the students from Budapest, often superficial, this young peasant of 22 was much more natural and deep-thinking. Communism did not succeed to affect his religious life and believes, as well as his moral values. The family ties remained close and thus formed a barrier which protected each member against the effects of the new ideology.

This respondent and his family illustrate the tragedy of the Hungarian peasant forced to abandon his land after a long and pitiless struggle against the state, and to start everything again in a foreign country. In the strange and crowded streets of New York, among people he doesn't understand, and who don't understand him, this young peasant boy appears to suffer morally as well as physically. It will probably take some time before he'll acquire new roots and adapt himself to his new environment. On the other hand, he'll be a positive element upon ~~xxxx~~ whom one can always depend. But he must be understood and treated with consideration, otherwise he'll remain in his own world of thoughts.

His character is one of modesty and unselfishness. But he is rightfully bitter because of all the injustices done to his family, and because he was prevented from bettering his education. He is well informed about the situation in the country, and his story is reliable. His sense of observation is perhaps not too keen, but the understanding remains clear and goes beyond the surface. He expresses himself with simplicity, but without false modesty.

To many Americans he may appear to be an enigma. In reality, he is much more balanced mentally and physically than ~~xxxxxxx~~ many city students, who look more sociable and adaptable but who have been often, willingly and/or unwillingly, infected in one way or another by the materialistic ideology.