

Columbia University
in the City of New York

NEW YORK 25, N. Y.

RESEARCH PROJECT ON HUNGARY

605 WEST 115TH STREET

can use them for ultimate analysis (and we shall produce a conversion table of questionnaire numbers from pretest to final version, wherever there is a close correspondence of pretest and revised questions).

In the revisions we were, furthermore, able to take into account the following additional materials: (a) a set of the Harvard Russian Refugee interview guide, a set of the revised Free Europe Committee interview guide for Hungarian refugees, and a set of questionnaire used for interviews with Hungarian refugees by the Psychological Research Associates, Inc., and by International Research Associates, Inc.; (b) the advice of members of the Executive and Editorial Committees of the Project; (c) suggestions submitted by each of the New York pretest interviewers on the basis of their experience; and (d) suggestions and comments received from a panel of experts, including Stephen Kertesz, Paul Kecskemeti, government specialists contacted by Nathan Pelcovits, John A. Armstrong, Raymond A. Bauer, and others. While we were able to incorporate most of the specific suggestions made, some of the overall comments and criticisms had to go unheeded--partly, because the length of the "A" Interview Guide makes further expansion of it undesirable; partly, because some suggestions (such as those submitted by USIA) do not mesh with our interview design and touch on areas which we had agreed not to include. Perhaps the most serious failure on our part is the stand-pat attitude on peasant interviews, in the face of urgings by Kertesz, Bauer, and Kecskemeti (independently of each other) that special questions must be devised to get the most out of peasant respondents. The best I can suggest at present is to draft a "B" questionnaire for peasants, but I don't think we can--in time and resources--set up a separate detailed Interview Guide for peasants (or, for that matter, for any other single social group).

The administrative burden proved to be--as usual--greater than anticipated. Getting respondents and interviewers together at the same time (both being, after a fashion, Hungarians) and getting the interviewers to fill out all forms and comply with all our "red tape" was not easy. The use of recording machines was not entirely smooth; after some experimenting with different machines, we are now satisfied that the Stenorette is the most satisfactory for our purposes, and this is especially true in view of the cheap availability of Stenorettes in Germany. The transcribing was difficult in view of the interviewers' foreign accents, which were at times unintelligible to our typists and also because of the use of foreign (i.e., Hungarian) names.

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The following are some comments on individual interviewers used in the pretest.

Altman, Joseph (psychologist, NYU): intelligent, rather laconic, can be used further, but without great enthusiasm;
 Brunner, Joseph (librarian, NYPL): good;
 Gorove, Stephen (professor, New York School of Law): going to Europe (I hope); not quite so good as expected; primadonna;
 Holisher, Desider (teacher-artist): unsatisfactory;
 Horvath, Peter (teacher of economics): rather good;
 Kuun, Gesa (lawyer, KLM): unsatisfactory;
 LeBovit, Judith (actress?): actress, going to Europe with us, for better or for worse;
 Nemethy, Imre (judge): very conscientious, a bit slow, thorough;
 Nyary, Nicholas (PhD candidate, Columbia): quick, cooperative, eager, systematic, not quite expert; going to Europe with us, and I'm glad;
 Oren, Anna: proved to be much better than I had feared;
 Pastor, Laszlo (instructor, Seton Hall): not bad at all;
 Pezler, Marta (PhD candidate, Columbia): top-notch interviewer, Horthyite, difficult as hell to handle;
 Turgeon, Livia: unsatisfactory;

In addition, Lajos Borsody (no relation to Istvan Borsody) was too busy before exams to help but will be available for work later this summer on a part-time basis, as will Istvan Deak.

Thus we have a decent potential crew to call on for work in the New York area this summer.