

CHILD INTERVIEW: CODE NO. CH-15F
Interviewer: Mrs. Varga
Date: September 27, 1957
Place: N.Y.C.

I. Character Description

This 11 year old girl has a lower middle class background. Her parents are somewhere halfway between the workers and the intelligentsia. The mother keeps repeating "such and such manners cannot be exercised in OUR family." Her father had a fairly good income; they didn't have definite financial troubles, and the parents put a strong emphasis on the child's behavior, education and manners. She is a very pale, brown haired, good looking girl, extremely vivid and intelligent, somewhat precocious and independent toward the outside world, but becomes a real child immediately in family circles. This must have been due to their complicated family set-up. Her mother divorced her real father when she was four years old. Present father also divorced his first wife and has an 8 year old son in Hungary with his first wife. Respondent has regular correspondence with her stepbrother. She whispers when she tells me about this family affair and seems to be very much concerned about it, has a prematurely adult flavor in her speech and shows a certain responsibility for her "immature" parents. Of course she ~~wasn't~~ didn't use this expression, but gave the impression of it. All these are subconscious in her, and the only sign of it might have been the strong emphasis the child put on "secrets." According to her judgement, those persons have the best character who can keep secrets, who, maybe, could keep her big secret. -- Respondent has a very strong artistic sense.

There are two things in her interview which may be worth mentioning: Everybody who speaks Russian is identified in the girl's mentality with some sort of evil; and -- if her information about her Communist teachers is right -- then those teachers were definitely afraid to speak in front of the freak young children and therefore "never explained anything" as she complains, and returns to it even defying a good teacher, in order to save their jobs.

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II. PERSONAL INVENTORY

1. Code name: CH-15F
2. Age: 11
3. Sex: Female
4. Religion: Protestant
5. Respondent spent all of her life in Budapest, Hungary, in the ~~IXth District~~ IXth District.
6. Finished 5 grades of public school, and started the 6th grade in the Fall of 1956.
7. Parents both living with respondent in U.S. Three of the grandparents are still living in Hungary.
8. Respondent lives in Summit, New Jersey, with her parents in their 5-room apartment with kitchen, and she attends the Roosevelt Public School in Summit, New Jersey.