

Child Interview Code No. CH-17 F
Date of Interview: Sept. 26, 1957
Place: N.Y.C.
Interviewer: Mrs. Varga

I. CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Respondent is a very lively, sweet girl, with quick movements. With her black hair and large black eyes she looks like a little gypsy. She is very open, straightforward, receptive and willing to answer the questions. However, at a certain point her ability to perceive and understand suffers a stoppage. That is due, seemingly, not to lack of intelligence, but negligence on her parents and teachers behalf. She was never explained things carefully enough. She could never understand why she was not smarter. She tried "to figure out things so hard" by herself. She would have needed a little more time for explanation than the average child. Her parents never talked in front of the children about anything, just to avoid trouble. They were tired and harried anyway from overwork. They lived under very poor conditions, without even running water in their one-room apartment. They were really hard workers. Father took part in the fighting; mother was almost killed by the Russians while lining up for bread. They never had enough food, no clothing or any amusements.

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II. PERSONAL INVENTORY

1. Age: 9
2. Sex: Female
3. Religion: Roman Catholic
4. Respondent is from Budapest, and spent all of her life there.
5. School attended: Fifth grade of public school in 8th District was started by respondent in the Fall of 1956.
6. Father, mother and three sisters, age 5, 13 and 14, are with respondent here in the United States. One grandmother is living in Romania and one grandfather is living in Hungary.
7. Present situation in the U.S.: Respondent attends the public school in the Bronx, 3rd Grade. She is living with parents and sisters. Father is a gardener in a cemetery.