

II. PERSONAL INVENTORY.

Age: 15 years old.

Sex: female.

Religion: Roman Catholic.

The child lived in Budapest, Hungary, where she had spent all of her life. They lived in the fifth district of the capital which is the district where most well-to-do merchants, tradespeople and business men lived. Respondent attended the public school in this district. She was studying in the eight grade when the revolution broke out. She was admitted here and finished the ninth grade (in the US). The mother of the child, who is 34, and was widowed, married for the second time. The stepfather, mother, as well as the grandfather are living here in the US now. The child lives with an aunt in Livingston, New Jersey. The parents are in Montclair, New Jersey. She also has other cousins and uncles and aunts here in the US. Respondent's immediate plans are to finish high school and then, to study medicine. Respondent has some German and English and also, Russian which she studied in school. Russian was compulsory; German and English she studied privately. She pointed out that though they had learned Russian for four years, she nearly has forgotten it now because she wants to forget it.

"Tell me now, what do think is the most important thing Americans ought to know about the events in Hungary last fall?"

"I think the Americans should realize what a great thing it was that such a small country as ours had the guts to stand up against the huge Soviet empire and all of this because we wanted to get rid of Communism!"

(I probed this young girl regarding her activities during the revolution and asked how she spent the 23, 24, and 25th of October.)

"On October 23, I was at school. This was the week in which we had our classes in the afternoon and my school was ~~at~~ on the Szemere Street which is quite near the Parliament. We, of course, could see through the windows that the crowd was surging toward the parliament buildings and we wanted to join the demonstration. At first, the headmaster did not let us go, even though the classes were over. However, later on, he gave in. So, we rushed out into the street and wanted to see everything there was to see. First, I went with my five good friends to the Parliament Square. That was about 6 o'clock, or so. Then, we heard that the statue of Stalin is going to be pulled down at the Municipal Park. So, we just boarded a truck and around 6:30 o'clock, we rushed out in that truck to see how the statue is going to be pulled down. I stayed there until 9:30 and witnessed when the big statue was finally demolished. They had all of their hands full. It was a very difficult job, of course.

"Did you know anything beforehand that this demonstration is going to take place?

"Yes, I read in the newspaper that the organizations of the university students are going to stage a demonstration. Maybe the grown-ups knew ~~why they put it~~ when this was going to take place but, we children, had no idea about it. So, the demonstration came as a surprise.

"They had plenty of reasons to demonstrate because the situation at home at that time was very bad. The oppression was terrific. We had just enough. Nobody could earn money enough to ~~be~~ live decently and everybody finally lost patience.

"What did you do during the demonstrations? Why did you join them?

"My friends and I (five of us) were just terribly happy and elated that finally we could shout loudly what we wanted and speak loudly and curse the Russians loudly. Up to now, we could only do it in whispers. We were all shouting at the top of our voices, 'Russians go home!' 'We want freedom!', and such things. I remember now something I must tell you. The young university students must have had something already on their minds because a few weeks prior, the Monday paper called, Hetfoi Ujsag, the price of which was usually one forint, sold for 50 forints whenever it came out on Mondays, or rather, Sunday evenings. Everybody read it. We were very pleased with the courageous tone of the newspaper. I always read this newspaper whenever I could get hold of it.

"What did you do after the Stalin statue was pulled down?

"Well, it was very late by then and so, my friends and I walked home. You know, it was quite amazing to ~~see~~ meet my teacher who taught us Constitution and Law, in the crowd around the statue.

"What did you do on the following days, on October 24 and 25?

"Of course, there was no school in those following weeks and I stayed at home. I spent my time out in the streets as often as I could, or, in the doorway of the apartment house. I also went to ~~xxxx~~Parliament Square after that terrific bloodshed. I have seen many dead lying around the Rakoczy Statue on the square. My friends and I tried to register with the Red Cross for first aid service. However, only one of us was 18 and she was accepted. We younger ones were rejected. My life went on pretty much like this.-- after the Russians returned on November 4 and quite the same until about November 20. Whenever I could, I escaped from home and went out to see what was happening in the town. Finally, my family decided to leave because they thought it would be better if we did.

(I skipped Paragraph 4 of the grown-up interview schedule and started on Chapter V regarding SOCIAL CLASS STRUCTURE AND ATTITUDES.)

"What do you know about social classes in Hungary? Which are the social classes, as you know them?

"I think there are two kinds of people in Hungary. Those who do physical work, the workers and the peasants, and then, the people who do the white collar jobs and who had schooling and education or a diploma -- what we were taught was that they are the intellectuals.

"Tell me something about your family -- father, mother, etc.

"My father died in 1945 and my mother re-married. When I was quite a small baby, only a few months old, I was taken by my grandparents who brought me up. These are my mother's parents.

"What did your grandfather do for a living?

"Grandfather owned a wholesale mushroom growing business in Kobanya and I believe that he did quite well because, as much as I can remember, when I was a small child, we had everything we needed and wanted. They had a three-room apartment in the Fifth District and there were only the three of us -- grandfather, grandmother, and I. We also had an old woman who came and did the household chores."

(The following questions in this paragraph I left out and started on the ~~is~~ section regarding FAMILY LIFE.)

"Tell me something about your family life. Was it different from the times ~~2~~ before Communism?

"I can only remember how it was now, during the last ~~five years~~ eight years. Grandfather's business, of course, was nationalized and taken away from him so, he had to look for another job. He went to work as a manual laborer and I remember being told that he earned 720 forints a month, which is very little. So you can imagine that we lived quite differently than before. Grandmother stayed at home and looked after the household and me.

(I gave the child the example of the three different kinds of families and told her to tell me which of these three came closest to her own family.)

"I have seen many of the different families that you mentioned but, I think that our family belonged to the one that grew more closer together during Communism. For instance, there was a family in the same house where I lived, where the girl was my friend. Her mother and father went out to work and the girl was left all alone by herself. She was very bad in her studies; she went out alone with boys to the cinema and came home at night. Of course, this was very bad for her studies, also. She led a very immoral life. I only stuck to her and considered her my friend because, somehow, I felt it was my duty to look after her a little bit and try to lead her back on the right path.

"I always gave her a good dressing-down when she did not study or when she ~~went~~ ^{WENT} out with boys late at night. Very often, I just grabbed her when we came out from school in the evening and said, 'Now, you come straight home with me and no gallivanting in the streets, alone.' So, the family life of this family really went to the dogs.

"Then, I also knew another family. The father was a truck driver. These people were extremely well paid and, of course, he made a great deal of money. So, the mother was not forced to go out and work. She was at home and the life of the family went on just as before the Communist regime.

"Can you tell me whether there was any difference between how you children were brought up before and after the Communist regime?

"I cannot say what had happened in school before the Communists took over. because now at school we were indoctrinated. The Communist ideology was praised, the Russians were praised and everything that came from Russia was wonderful. But, at home, I could see that there was no difference. Grandma was like a mother to me and I got on extremely well with her. I always told her about everything I did and what I wanted to do and discussed all of my problems with her. I never kept anything from her or from grandfather.

"I had also known a family that was quite interesting. There was a ~~girl~~

girl about my age and she went to the same school I did. The mother was a Jewess and during the Nazi regime, as my grandmother told me, she was saved by my father who hid her. So, in a way, the family was grateful to us for this. Grandmother also told me that ~~some~~ these people were extremely religious before the Communist regime. However, the whole family became ardent Communists. They became atheists and the girl, already four or five years ago, started to try to convert me. She always sang the praises of Communism and in the end I got so fed up that I just did not talk about politics with her because I knew that we were of different opinions.

"Tell me now, why did you not like the Communist doctrine?"

"Well, first of all, I have seen what they taught us was quite different from how it worked out in practice and we had to suffer enough during Communism. Also, since I discussed everything with my grandparents, I knew that this must ^{be} true and not what they tried to tell us at school. At home we were always cursing Communism and the Russians. This, somehow, got into my blood and I never thought to think otherwise. Also, my grandparents always told me about times before the war and how things were then and if I compared the living and everything with what was going on in Hungary now, I could see quite well for myself that it is no good.

"What did you do in your free time or on ~~Sun~~ Sundays? Did you go out with your girlfriends? Did you have boyfriends, or maybe a steady? What did you do on the whole?"

"I mostly went out with my girlfriends because I preferred their company more to boys. But, it sometimes so happened that when we went out to the park to read or play, other boys we knew --

friends of my cousin, for instance -- came also and played with us or sat with us and we talked. I usually went to the movies with my grandparents, my friends or my boy cousins. Besides, wherever I went, I always told my grandmother and she never had any objections because she knew that I was always telling the ~~xxx~~ truth.

"Do you know, by any chance, anything about juvenile delinquency?"

"Yes, we had heard a great deal that the young people in these years were pretty bad. Mostly, these young boys did petty thieving, especially the apprentices in the factories, for instance. I think that this was mostly due to the fact that they were paid such low wages that they simply wanted to get money from somewhere else. I have heard how these boys and girls stole many things from the factories where they worked. I heard, in one instance, of a boy who was working in a distillery. He smuggled out rum in a soccer ball and made quite a lot of money. Also, I think that morally, young people were very bad in these years and I attribute this to the DISZ Camps where boys and girls were camping out together and, of course, you can imagine the results. There were quite a lot of illegitimate children.

"Can you tell me something about the jampecs?"

(Here the girl laughed ~~loudly~~ aloud.)

"Oh, these youngsters! They were really ridiculous. I ~~never~~ don't think they were criminals at all. They were just silly.

"They tried to imitate the American young people. They were wearing flashy ties, socks and they talked like tough gangsters in slang. They danced the rock-and-roll and had long shirdos, etc."

VII. (RELIGION)

(I thought that is a field where the young girl could give me some information, so, I took this section from the adult questionnaire.)

"Can you tell me something about religion in Hungary?"

"It was very difficult to obey the laws of your religion or to exercise your religion in Hungary these past years. First of all, we were not having any religious instructions at school -- that is, not as we had it before. In 1950, when I attended the first grade at a clerical school in Huvosvolgy, it was all right. Later on, however, we had to attend religious instructions privately. At school, you could enroll but it was well-known that, for instance, had I enrolled in the school religious instruction group, I surely would not have been admitted to the high school later on. So, my grandparents decided on having us privately instructed in religion. My four friends and I had a teacher who gave us religious instructions in secret. This schoolteacher was later arrested and put in prison because she did this. In our school there were 1,000 pupils (this was the general attendance). Only 40 received religious instructions. This was in the sixth and seventh grades.

"Also, it was extremely difficult to keep the rules of your religion as I pointed out because, for instance, in the day school where I went after classes, always and on purpose, on Friday we received meat. So, what could we do but eat it? And, besides, during the Communist regime, the Pope had given permission that we could eat meat. We also attended

church. and, in fact, I have seen many ~~of my teachers~~ of my teachers attending Mass when I went to church.

"What do you know about which religion was most hurt during the Communist regime?"

"I think that all religions must have been hurt. I haven't known, tho, any Protestant or Jewish girls, but I know that the Catholic religion was persecuted.

(I now took Paragraph 3 of the Child Interview Scedual regarding the school situation.)

"Well, what can you tell me about your school in Hungary?"

in Hungary
"The schools/were much stricter than here. We had to learn much more and study much better, also. I think this is the right way to teach children if what compared to what I have seen here in high school. After all, this is normal that we are kept under strict discipline. In Hungary, we were not allowed to choose the subjects we wanted to study like here. The subjects were compulsory and this is also good because, after all, what does a child know what his good for him to learn and what is not? I have just started the eight grade in September before the revolution broke out.

"Can you tell me which subjects you had?"

"As I said, the subjects were all compulsory. First, we had Hungarian literature

and grammar. This we had every day, that is, six days a week and we had one ~~language~~ class in Hungarian literature and grammar. We always had classes on Saturday. Then, we had algebra -- also, one hour every day and geometry, two hours per week. Then, we had physics twice a week; Russian language, three times a week; constitutional law once a week; biology twice a week; chemistry twice a week; history twice a week. Then, we had what we called the 'easy' subjects -- drawing once a week, singing once a week and gymnastics twice a week. So, we were at school five hours every day, from 8 to 1 or, from 2 to 6 -- even on Saturdays. Sometimes, we had a morning shift and sometimes, the afternoon shift because there was a shortage of ~~the~~ classrooms and this is how they tried to accommodate all of the children.

"What about geography?"

"We were finished with geography in the seventh grade. So, in the eight grade we no longer studied geography. Besides, we had it twice a week in the seventh grade.

"Tell me k now what you have learned in Hungarian literature and grammar.

"In these classes we learned about the Hungarian poets and authors. We also learned style (stiliztika - punctuation, capitalization, etc. - various forms of typography) and speech. In grammar lessons, we learned the conjugations, declinations, etc. However, even though these were called Hungarian literature classes, we had to learn Russian literature. The

Russian authors were at the end of our book. For instance, we had to read Gorky's 'The Mother' and only the Russian authors were mentioned in our Hungarian literature book. No other Western or foreign authors were ever mentioned.

"In algebra, and physics, and geometry we learned strictly the things that were in connection with these three subjects. There was no politics in these.

"In the Russian classes, we learned to read, write and speak Russian. This was my fourth year. But, I did not learn very much. All of us tried to learn as little as we could. We also had to learn, by heart, Russian propaganda stories. For instance, how the German fascists behaved in Russia and how cruel they were, etc.

"It was in the eighth grade this year when we first started constitutional law and we did not learn very much about it yet when the revolution broke out, only the basic principles of constitutional law. I remember, one day in class, it was quite funny. The teacher asked us whether Communism is oppressing any other system. Of course, the girls did not dare to say yes. So, I stood up and I said, 'Oh, yes, indeed!' The funny part of it was that I was perfectly right because as we were taught that Communism is oppressing fascism and imperialism, after all. In our textbook of constitutional law, there were many pictures of Rakosi, Stalin, and other Russian celebrities.

"By the way, speaking of textbooks, what was the situation?

"There was a shortage of textbooks so, the school had a kind of a system under which we sold our used books to the school at the end of every school year and the school then resold them to the other children. It so happened that usually I bought one, two, or three new books which I could not get at the used book market in the school, or which were in very bad condition. The rest I bought at the school second-hand. Also, I usually bought new copies of those books I wanted to keep. However, I did not buy a new book on constitutional law. What the heck could I do with it later on? And, after all, I did not want to keep it. The supply of copy books, pencils and stationery, etc. was quite ample.

"What about history? What were you taught in history?

"Well, about this I could tell you a great deal. We started studying history with the Stone Age and in the eighth grade we had arrived at the events of 1848 and the end of the book dealt with contemporary history. The facts in these history book and what we were taught were distorted and were full of lies.

"How did you know they were lies?

"First of all, I was told at home when something was not true. Also, our teacher who taught us religion, when we told her what we had learned in history, she always corrected us and gave us the true facts. To be quite frank, here in America I have

also found out now, how many lies we were taught. It was extremely annoying that, for instance, what everybody knew was invented by an American or by any other Westerner, we were taught that it was invented by a Russian. Well, of course, this is too ridiculous.

"What about the geography you learned in the seventh grade?

"We started geography already in the fifth grade, when we learned during the whole school year about Hungary. In the sixth grade, for six solid months, we had to learn about the Soviet Union, most extensively and in great details. We had to learn not only about geography but about the economics of the whole country.

"Biology and chemistry were again unbiased. In biology we learned about the plants, animals, human beings, and there was no indoctrination, whatsoever. Regarding drawing, singing and gymnastics, the only subject was singing where we had to ~~learn Russian folk songs~~ learn Russian folk songs. You know, it is quite astonishing that singing is the only subject which I thought is much better taught here than back home. We had learned singing in a more primitive way. Here, it is ~~more~~ on a more higher level. But, I am sorry to say this is the only subject at school which comes out favorably in comparison. Altogether, I am quite shocked to see the spirit of the schools here. You see, I am a kid myself and I love fun and play but sometimes here I wish that I could learn more and better. I do not see why children

are allowed to choose their subjects here. Also, I think the method of how they teach you here is not good for a kid. There is very little discipline. I have seen here that the girls, for instance, talk about movies, actors, boys. They are concerned with how to paint their lips but, never about learning. You know, I received at school, some lipstick because they ~~said~~ said I had to put on lipstick and could not go to school without it. So, in order to conform, I put it on when I go to school but never at home. What is it good for, after all? At home, we had to report on what we had learned every day and we were given marks for it. I was also appalled to see that children here, even in the eight grade, cannot spell correctly. This would not have done at home. We were expected to spell correctly in the second grade.

"I hope that nobody will get mad at me if I am so critical about the school situation but, somehow, I feel that I have to tell this to somebody.

"You see, I was used to learning and to studying much more at home. After classes, I had German, English and piano lessons. The languages were taught at school, tho they were not compulsory. We could choose between English, French and German. Russian, of course, was compulsory. I took English and German and was taught piano separately by another teacher.

"What was your favorite subject and why?

"I liked Hungarian literature first because it dealt with books and authors and I am a great reader.

"I also liked chemistry and physics, tho, I thoroughly hated algebra. I did not like the Russian literature, however, because what we had to read was too much propoganda for me and the style was too Communist.

"Tell me something now about your teachers.

"All of our teachers were extremely good and terribly well qualified. Even the younger ones. This I can say. Politically, at my school, as far as I know, we did not have any Communist teachers. Of course, I did not know whether or not they belonged to the Party. But, everybody knew that the older teachers had to speak as if they were members of the Party because, after all, they wanted to keep their jobs. For instance, the teacher who was heading the Pioneer Movement in our school -- I have very often seen at church, at Mass. On the whole, I liked them. Some of them were just teachers and they were very good at that. But, they could not talk with the children. On the other hand, others, even though they were very strict with us, loved the children and knew how to talk to us, how to explain things. I cannot remember any teachers who made exceptions with some pupils. You see, our school was not co-educational and it was easier on with girls. The boys were in a separate building.

"Tell me something about your classmates.

"I had four girlfriends in my class with whom I did most things together -- studied or played together. Even now, I write to them and I get letters from them pretty often. These girls had a similar social background to mine and I liked them because they were nicely brought up and well educated children. Only one of them was, as I mentioned before, different. She had rather loose ~~morals~~ morals and I still had hopes to educate her ~~and~~ and to bring her back to her senses.

"After school, we all met and usually went out, weather permitting, to the nearby Kossuth Square. If you remember, there is a sort of a park there with benches. Here, we sometimes ~~met boys,~~ ~~sometimes~~ met boys, ~~sometimes~~ sometimes cousins, but there was always the mother of one of us or my granny who came out. We were very seldom left ~~with~~ without supervision. We mostly talked together. Sometimes we went to the movies. Then, we discussed our school, subjects, our lessons. We also studied together a great deal. The five of us were, more or less, great rivals for who is the best in the class.

"Whom did you not like at school and why?

"I did not like those children who had a very vulgar way of behaving, who used bad language, had bad morals, went out with boys at night, etc. Also, I kept pretty much away from children who were of a low social class.

"Did you have any Communists among your classmates? How did you find out they were Communists?

"There were quite a few children who were Communists in my class. You know, since I lived in the district where business men lived, we had many Jewish kids in our class. They were mostly Communists. ~~ME~~ Somehow, we knew ~~instinctively~~ instinctively knew to keep apart from these children. They were always praising Communism when reciting the lesson, history, constitutional law and during the class discussions. Furthermore, it was quite striking ~~to~~ to see the difference how those ~~at~~ children of Communist Party people were dressed. The rest of the children were rather poorly dressed. We had, let us say, one cardigan where the others had three, four, or five. So, we were very careful with whom we were talking and what. We only discussed politics, for instance, among those girls we knew to be trustworthy. Besides, I never spoke about anything except with my closes friends.

"Did you have any classmates that you respected and for what reasons?"

"In our class, those children who learned well and had good marks and behaved decently were always respected by everybody else. I do not want to praise myself and my friends but, we four (because I must exclude the one with the bad morals) were very much liked by our classmates. We were not stuffy and ~~highbrow~~ highbrow, despite the fact that we were always at the top of the class. We were, what you would call, good sports and very strict with the kids if we were chosen to look after them. But, we always were fair.

"Did you always tell what happened at school in your home?"

"Of course I did. Why shouldn't I? Besides, it was a good way to find out what is true and what is not true. I always could discuss everything with my grandparents."

"Did you talk about everything that happened at home when you were at school?"

"No, never. I never discussed family matters at school. But, as I said before, politics I discussed with my closest friends."

"What did you do after classes?"

"After classes, I went to the day school. Here, we had to pay for our food according to the salary of the head of the family. I had to pay 12 forints per week. I received a substantial and well-cooked lunch. After lunch, I usually went home or to my German, English or piano lessons and this was the reason for many clashes with my teacher who was of the opinion that I should also stay there. But, there were days when I simply had to attend my language and piano lessons and so I went. Nevertheless, there were usually two or three days in a week when I stayed in the day school. ~~Here~~ If I stayed there I did my homework. The teacher who was assigned to supervise us was extremely helpful and always ready to help us out or give us advice without homework if we got stuck. This teacher who super-

vised us was one of the old school and very, very nice.

"Did you read? If so, what and how much?

"I loved to read very much and I always read a great deal. Our family had many books at home and also I sometimes got books from friends. When I was younger, I loved the Indian stories of Carl May and also Jules Verne. I have read many of the Hungarian classics, biographies on Petofi and two biographies by Harsanyi on the famous painter Munkacsy and on Mikszath. I also read the novels by Jokai. I even read many books that were not supposed to be for young kids like me -- books by Zola and Maupassant, and even Boccaccio. The grown-ups did not approve of my reading these ~~kind~~ books but I am convinced that even though they might not be exactly be for children, they did not harm my thinking or my attitude. I am sure of that. I can judge for myself what would be dangerous for me.

"Did you attend movies?

"Yes, I attended the movies a great deal. Some of the Russian films were extremely good. I am thinking of those that had no politics. I had seen 'Othello', an operatic movie in color which was wonderful and so was 'As You Like It' by Shakespeare. The trouble with the Hungarian films was that they were very slanted and lots of Communist propaganda in them. The French,

Italian, even Spanish and Western German pictures which were allowed to be shown in Hungary, were extremely good. This is again something I do not understand. They have so few foreign films in this country. Is it because they are too serious and not amusing enough for the average person? I wonder. I cannot help comparing the situation to the one at home. We always knew about the famous foreign actors and actresses, American or any other Westerners. Here, on the other hand, nobody seems to know the really outstanding French, English and German actors -- only a few Italian women are known. It seems that we, back home, had a greater hunger for culture and for gaining more general knowledge about everything.

"What about sports?"

"Well, we had our compulsory gym lessons at school and after classes we also had to very often attend the MTK which meant, 'Ready for Work and Battle'. This was a kind of a sports organization. We mostly pursued athletics and took part in the different regional sports events.

"So, your time seems to have been pretty well taken up from dawn till dusk, doesn't it?"

"I think that, after all, as long as you are a child you have to learn and to prepare yourself for life. There is time enough to do what you want when you are grown up. But, I feel somehow that when you are a child you have to learn as much as you can.

"What about the Pioneer of the DISZ Movements?"

"I did not belong to the DISZ as yet because up to the ~~sixth~~ eighth grade we belonged to the Pioneer Movement. We had to.

"We had our membership cards and were supposed to buy membership stamps but, we were very slack doing this. Also, we received red ~~xxxxx~~ neckties, a kind of a uniform we had to wear. We were sworn in by, I believe he was, an officer when we became members of the Pioneer Movement. It is quite ridiculous to swear in small kids of six and seven. In my eighth grade, I was a kind of a platoon leader and had to look after the smaller children and to teach them the oath. As a result, I remember the text if not the whole. It runs something like this, 'I (here she said her name), Pioneer of the Hungarian Peoples' Republic, hereby swear that with all my force I will serve the cause of the Hungarian Peoples' Republic.' Then it went on in the same kind of spirit and the oath was ended with, 'Forward with Rakosi!' Isn't this darn silly?

"The whole Pioneer Movement was somehow organized on the pattern of the Boy Scouts used to be before as I was told. There was always a group leader who was responsible for his so-called family. The group leader was always one of the oldest girls. We received a sort of a pamphlet which we had to teach to the young kids who were about to enter the Pioneers. We had to explain to them for what purpose the Pioneer Movement was set up, ~~the~~ the meaning of the red star and all of the ~~insignias~~ ~~insignia~~ insignias and badges we wore.

"What reason was given for joining the Pioneer Movement?

"Well, you see, the slogan was, 'To defend Communism against imperialism and to serve the country.'

"Did you receive any privileges for being a Pioneer?"

"We received inexpensive season tickets for movies. Also, we were taken on excursions; to day camps; to summer camps. The day camps were only for the day. Usually, these were held outside of Budapest in some of the dales and mountains. Here, the camps were co-educational. But, the summer camps to which we were taken were strictly divided.

"How were you selected for summer camps?"

"It was the headmistress who, according to your studies and progress in studies, selected the girls who were allowed to go to ~~these~~ those summer camps. Also, those girls were always sent for summer camp who did not have the opportunity to go elsewhere and who were too poor and could not afford ~~it~~ to go and have a vacation. The summer camps lasted two weeks for everyone. My last camp was at the Mecsek Mts. It was a lovely place near Mozsgo. We were billeted in a lovely castle that was formerly owned by a count.

"How did you pass your days in such a summer camp?"

"First of all, in the morning we had to attend the ceremony with the hoisting of the flag. Then, we sang the ~~our~~ Pioneers' song. We received our breakfast after that and the morning passed with different hobbies and sports. We did gymnastics, made excursions, some people took photographs, etc. We then had lunch. After lunch we had to take a nap for about 2 hours. In the afternoon we had our group conferences.

"These were meant to discuss if we had any complaints and other opinions. We were not indoctrinated very much at those meetings -- I can't say that. Then, we had a kind of snack around 4 o'clock and then we played until we had to go to bed at 9 P.M.

"Were you praised at school for good work, and if so, what were the honors you received?

"For good classwork we were always given a kind of a diploma and at the end of the year we also received books. Furthermore, at the commencement ceremonies, the names of the girls who did exceptionally well during the year were read aloud. This, of course, was a great honor.

"Have you been punished at school? And for what?

"Physical punishment did not exist at school anymore. But, if we did ~~misbehave~~ could not recite our lesson or if we did not do our homework, the teacher usually kept us back and said, 'Now, my dear child, you stay here until you have learned well what you were supposed to.' Also, if we were slack in our studies or did not progress well, or behaved badly, the teacher could send a report card to the parents.

"Did your grandparents punish you and for what?

"I cannot remember that I was ever punished by them because the relationship between us was such that no punishment was needed. My grandparents always

knew where I was and what I was doing. I did obey them and there was no friction.

"However, I have seen that with other families, for instance, in a friend's family there were five girls. The mother had her hands full with them. So, she very often dolged out a couple of slaps to the children when they did not obey. As for me, I cannot remember ever being physically punished by any member of my family.

(I tried to probe for the child's attitude regarding Communism -- whether she realized its aims and purposes.)

"Can you tell me what the Communists really wanted? What was their aim?

"Well, as far as I know, the Communists wanted to dominate the whole world and tried to make us believe that everything they do is for the benefit of the people. But, this of course, is not true and the only way they could enforce this rule was by sheer terror and force. Everybody in Hungary knew perfectly well that the doctrine ~~was~~ was different from the practice. But, I ask you, what could we have done against the armoured cars, tanks, and guns? You know, I heard somewhere that a bigwig in the Kremlin had prophesied that world Communism would be achieved by 1970. What do say to this? Do you believe it can come true?

"Did you read any Hungarian newspapers while you were at home?

"Yes. I quite regularly read the Magyar Nemzet.

"Why did you read this paper?

"Because this was the most reliable paper and was not so much stuffed with all-Communist nonsense.

"Contrary to what you have seen at ~~home~~ home, what has struck you when you came to the US? And, what made the greatest impression on you?

"I was terribly impressed by the terrific standard of living here in the US. On the other hand, and please forgive me for being so critical again, I was really appalled to see the lack of interest of the average person, my schoolmates, and the lack of culture.

(I was curious to know what the child had to say about the UN and I asked x her. Of course, it is very difficult to say regarding the UN since the child has read a great deal and ~~she~~ seems to be quite serious whether her opinion is her own or only what she has heard from her elders.)

"You can imagine what an opinion I have of the UN after what it had not done during the Hungarian Revolution. I wonder why this UN has been brought into existence if it cannot achieve anything. I do not hold a very high opinion of the Secretary General Hammarskoldj, either. He is not the strong man who is needed there. The UN should have done something for Hungary last year because then the US, I am sure, would have also back them.

"I only hope now that some big blow-up will occur in Eastern Germany and this will give another opportunity for the Western world to do something about the Russians. I hope that this last opportunity will not again be missed by the Western powers as they did miss the bus in connection with the Hungarian Revolution. But, if I come to think of it, it all depends on whether or not Germany at that time will be ready with re-armament.

(She also added, quite wistfully:)
"War is something pretty awful. Nobody likes it. But, on the other hand, only he who dares to risk can possibly win in the long run."

(I also thought it would be quite interesting to probe the girl for her attitude toward SELECTED PERSONALITIES and I did so.)

"Could you tell me, who, in your opinion, is the greatest living Hungarian, and why?"

(The child answered immediately, without thinking a moment:) It is Cardinal Mindszenty because he stood up for his principles and despite being tortured and put in prison, he never gave in an inch.

"What is your opinion of Imre Nagy?"

"I rather respect him because despite the fact that he was a Communist, he was thinking 'normally' and he even staked his life for his convictions.

"Do you know anything about Rajk?"

"I only know that last year he was rehabilitated by the Communists with a big rally and all the trimmings.

"What is your opinion of Gero?"

"I would rather not tell you because it is so bad. He is a lousy skunk, just like Rakosi.

"What about Kadar?"

"He is the same lousy criminal.

"Do you know anything about General Kiraly?"

"While I was back home, I never heard his name mentioned -- only here. I was told that he was the aide-de-camp to a big Hungarian Nazi general and his right hand, so to speak. And I cannot understand how he could have become a high-ranking officer in the Hungarian ~~Army~~ Communist Army because even the non-commissioned officers in the former Arrow Cross Party times were either put in prison or executed. I wonder what General Kiraly did for the Communists that he could become a major general. The leader of the Freedom Fighters was Pal Maleter. I was told that he was a career officer who graduated from our military academy.

"What do you know about Miss Kethly?"

"I was very displeased with her behavior and speech at the UN. She is too pink for my liking.

"What is your opinion of President Eisenhower?"

"There is something I do not understand about him. He, being a soldier, must have seen the situation so, I cannot understand why he did not ~~x~~ do something about it. I wonder whether he did not want to or he was not allowed to.

"Do you know anything about Dulles?

"No, I have no idea about his activities.

"What about Eden?

"I only know that he was the British Prime Minister and he resigned.

"And what about President Truman?

"Mr. Truman was a man who acted when he wanted. While I was at home, we very often talked about him. Maybe he would have intervened in the Hungarian affair had he been the president of the US at the time ~~xxxxxx~~ of the crisis.

"What do you think that the refugees here, in this country, should do?

"I believe that it is the duty of every Hungarian despite his becoming an American citizen, at heart he should remain a good Hungarian and do everything possible for his homeland. I sincerely hope that I will be able to go home one day.

"Under what conditions would you like to go home?

"Only if there is no Communism at home anymore. You know, I am saying this despite the fact that my family always keeps on saying that I am a child and I will change when I grow up. You see, it is not that I do not like being here. I certainly do. Life here is wonderful. But, your homeland is something different. We did not come here because we wanted to get rich and I would like to go home and live there under decent, good working conditions and freedom. This is all I ask.

"You can be sure of one thing," she added, "that I shall never forget my mother tongue, never.

(Regarding the child's attitude toward toward radio, it boiled down to this:)

"I listened regularly to RFE and to the Hungarian radio station (Kossuth). Apart from the silly politics they were feeding us, the Hungarian radio had a very good program. They had very good music, they had good plays, and I can tell you that I liked it. On the whole, the program of our radio was pretty high if I compare it to some radio programs here, and especially to some TV programs.

"Regarding the political news, of course, we usually believed what RFE said.

(After all this precocious child had said, I thought it would be quite interesting to see her attitude toward CHILD REARING AND DISCIPLINE.)

"Can you tell me your ideas on how children should be brought up?

"I think that education should begin at a very early age without any physical punishment and a child, steadily and increasingly, should be taught everything that is good and beautiful.

"However, I believe that there is need for discipline because, after all, no child is an angel. But I, personally, would never employ physical punishment unless it would be absolutely necessary. Even then, I would never slap a child in its face because this is humiliating. The rear end is much better. Also, I

think that a child must be taught independence and responsibility. Children also must be taught to be obedient toward their parents and elders. There must be a very good understanding between a child and a parent. I thoroughly disapprove of children being afraid of parents. This is completely wrong.

"I think that religion must be taught to the children because this weighs very heavily in the scales. Also, religion gives you a kind of moral standard by which you must live by. I think that every child must be taught to fear God but, I do not approve of bigotry.

"Can you tell me what characteristics you value most in a friend of yours?

"My friend must always be decent, honest, and very sincere. I think this is about all.

"One more question going back to the revolution -- can you tell me what made the greatest impression on you during the revolution in Hungary?

"I was most impressed by the determined heroism and will with which the Hungarians, even the smallest kids, were fighting the overwhelming force of the Russian Army.

"Tell me now, what would you like to be when you grow up?

"I am determined to become a doctor.

"Have you decided in what you would like to specialize as a doctor?

"No, this is still open. But, by all means, I do want to be a doctor because it is something very beautiful and humane to work for other people. Besides being an idealist, I think that a doctor can always make a decent living wherever he goes.

(I found out that the uncle of the little girl
is a doctor.)

SPECIAL SECTION --regarding Hungarian celebrities and historical personalities.

"I am going to name you a few famous Hungarians and ask you to ~~give me~~ tell me what you know about them in a few sentences, all right?"

"What can you tell me about St. Stephen?"

"St. ~~Stephen~~ Stephen was the first Hungarian king who founded the Hungarian kingdom. He was our first Christian king. He ~~lived from 1002 to 1030~~ was king from 1002 to 1030. He was the one who introduced Christianity to Hungary.

"What about King Matyas?"

"King Matyas was a very popular king who was very just with his subjects. He was greatly loved/by his people.
and respected

"Who was Francis Rakoczy?"

"He was famous for his freedom fight in 1703. He fought against the Labanc. He, too, was promised help by the West and finally was left in the ditch," said the little girl, rather ironically.

"Who was Petofi?"

"He was our most famous Hungarian poet. He fought in the freedom battle ~~at the~~ in 1848 and died on the battlefield.

"What do you know about Kossuth?"

"He, too, lived in the times of our revolution in 1848. He held some very famous speeches on behalf ~~of~~ of a free Hungary.

"Do you know anything about Szechenyi?

"He was a very famous Hungarian personality who gave much of his wealth and efforts in setting up scientific institutes.

(Respondent did not know anything about Francis Deak.)

"What do you know about Maria Theresa?

"She was a Hapsburg queen who introduced many reforms in Hungary. For instance, dividing the country into counties. She also brought foreign teachers into Hungary."

THE END