

The interview is about the Hungarian blue police.

I. Organization

How is the police organized?

The following departments are in every police station. 1.) Traffic control and detectives traffic patrol, 2.) Criminal department - to this department belong the ~~smatknx~~ who worked in civilian clothing, 3.) small offense department.

Except the ones present in each station there ~~is~~ are cavalry police, harbor police, airfield guard police. In 1953 ~~is a~~ railway guard police was established. People who wished to join the police had to pass probation police school. In this school, new policemen received basic training/arresting procedures (arresting and of ~~Apptt~~ individuals, groups) they also learned how to behave in case of a mob action. They learned guard duty, investigation procedure, handling /cases and of offenses, ~~as well as~~ handling arms. They also had to ~~go through~~ complete a political seminarium. The policemen are under military jurisdiction and ~~if~~ committing an offense or crime are tried on the basis of the military criminal court. The detectives learned the same thing mentioned above but they studied investigation procedures more in detail.

The members of the sports squad, of which I was a member, were exempt of most of the work being done in the police. Our main task was to achieve better and better results in the field of sport. We were not exempt from the police school and training however. I agreed with the argument, given short hour training in the police force. The argument was as follows: sportsmen can be easily hurt or wounded in such a way as to be hindered in sport activities; also, the qualifications of a sportsman

~~////ps/ab/p~~ decline with age. If trained properly in the police force, the disqualified sportsman will be~~p~~ able to continue to earn his and his family's living.

How are people recruited into the police?

People join the police mostly by their own will. The creation of the sports squad was as follows. The sportsman ~~of~~^{used} to work in workshops and factories. The private owners of those work~~shops~~^{shops} and factories were interested in~~sp~~ sport results of their workers, and therefore gave ~~free~~ time to the qualified sportsman for sports ~~////ps~~ trainings. These workshop and factories, however, were taken over by the government. The sportsmen lost their sponsors in the person of the private owners, and because of lack of free time could not continue with their sport training. The police, the civil defense, and the fire department offered solutions for these sportsmen. The above organizations offered free time for training if the sportsman joined. The sportsmen were divid~~d~~ into two main sections; the better qualified sportsmen became the blue police and the~~o~~thers joined the fire department and the civil defense. It was obvious why the blue police wanted the best qualified sportsmen. It made the police popular and greatly increased the latter's prestige if well-known champions wore its uniform. The rank of the sports squad members was determined on the basis^{of} sport results, intelligence, and work. The officers were all high school graduates. The sport results were not judged in an absolute way, that is to say, only by the absolute quality and speed of the sport in games, but rather in a comparative basis. By comparative basis I mean that no matter how slow or low quality^a sportsman's performance was, he received credit for it if he won in a competition. The wellqualified sportsmen were treated extremely leniently in the police-

Everything had

to be taught to the sports squad in a much longer period of time than to other

units, because every excuse ~~was accepted~~ was accepted for his absence if this excuse was related to his sport training or health. When we finally finished the training course people could choose to which department they wanted to go. I chose the offence department, ^{In} ~~since~~ 1953 the people dispersed from my sports squad to different services. Sportsmen had to be in service only 5 hours a day, but if their officer was a sports fan he would allow complete absence for weeks or even months for a sportsman. ^{Since} ~~the~~ sportsmen were absent many times. They were never given really responsible tasks.

Concerning political views, the sports squad was very reactionary from the point of view of the regime. People who wanted to get ahead by showing their sympathy to the regime were disliked and looked upon with dismay by members of the sports squad. The political officer of the sports squad had to give in many times. We were given lectures about the superiority of the Russian sportsmen in every field while we knew it very well that in many of the mentioned fields Hungarians are more superior. At one occasion we had to laugh as the political officer gave us a lecture about the wonderful Soviet sportsmen. The political officers told us then that it is true that Hungarians are much more superior in many sport fields than are the Russians but being a Communist country we have to bring up as examples and worthy leaders, the Russians.

In general, everything was done in the police to promote to the higher rank people who came from worker's or peasants families.

What are the privileges of policemen?

There were no special privileges for policemen, only that they were more trusted by the regime than other people. Except for the sports squad only very good kadets could join the police. Even the AVN trusted the police somewhat though in investigating one of my neighbors I was treated just as cruelly as if I had not ^{worn} ~~worn~~ the police uniform.

Are there certain special types they are out to recruit?

There are not except for good kaders. A great percentage of the policemen are peasant boys who left the farms because their fathers were forced to join the collectives and their sons had no future of the land any more. Usually, the fathers sent the peasant boys, because they did not want them to be members of the collectives too. From among the workers, mostly such workers joined the police who could not keep up with the speed the work demanded or else did not want to work hard. After 1945 all sorts of ~~adventurers~~ ^{adventurers} and no-good loafers joined ~~the~~ ¹⁹⁴⁸ the police. After ~~1948~~ ¹⁹⁴⁸ there was already selection. At the beginning, after '45, there ~~was~~ ^{were} more ~~crimes~~ ^{crimes} committed within the police than among civilians. The change of policy of 1948 was actually dictated from Moscow. From that time on except for the sports squad and from irreplaceable officers, no "bad kader" could be in the police. Since they could not train, ~~however~~, ^{Kommunist} ~~the~~ ^{new} officers, and because the new officers had to be trained by the old officers who were not necessarily good kaders it seems quite obvious that the police could not be educated to be loyal to the regime and as soon as the Revolution broke out joined the Revolutionaries en bloc.

II. Duties, way of carrying out duties.

What are the methods of police investigation? It was the policy of the police not to take seriously unsigned letters of accusation, but throw them right into the paper basket. In the blue police it was forbidden to force confessions. People who wanted to make accusations had to submit this in writing and with their signature and send it to appropriate police departments. Sometimes persons accused by unsigned letters were also investigated and this happened in the cases when the accused persons were already suspicious or where there was a clue that ^{the} ~~accusing person~~ ^{might be} suspicious. The blue police did not deal with political crimes. From 1948 until the premiership of

Imre Nagy, following Party decisions people who have not been tried as well as others who were not tried for labor, were taken to forced labor because the government needed cheap work. Most people who ~~committed~~ committed so-called social crimes were not looked upon by non-Party members as criminals. This did not change the effect, however that they could be taken for forced labor in the above period.

I think if I can give you several examples I can make it clear to you what sort of crimes are considered social crimes. In definition social crimes are those crimes which are committed against society, in other words between others damages of community or state property ~~where~~ considered social crimes. For example, if because of a book keepers mistake a state owned factory or workshop lost money, in the amount of at least 30 forints, the book-keeper committed a social crime. Taxi drivers were in real danger, because any ~~damage~~ ^{afflicted} damage ~~was inflicted~~ upon another car, a lamp post or any other matter which was owned by the state (and mostly everything was owned by the state) was considered a social crime and treated much more seriously than the bigger crime against private people or property. Some of the other most frequent crimes ^{were:} illegal border crossing, dangerous absence from work or unemployment, prostitution, theft, abortion, and the peasant non-compliance with orders. Mostly such peasants were accused of the latter whom the regime wanted to force into collectives and who did not want to go. In such cases the government could always prove, somehow, that the peasant did not cultivate part of his land which he was supposed to cultivate, or did not hand in as much products as much as he was supposed to. If there was no other grounds for accusation then the peasant was accused of being an enemy of the regime or of conspiring against the regime.

The duties of the police were to investigate, in the usual manner and arrest the accused, taking protocol of the situation and handing it over to the

courts. Policemen being mainly from peasant origin or worker origin sympathized very much with the people. In most cases, except for severe real criminal cases, they tried to ^{write} ~~bribe~~ the protocol in a lenient way ^{at the time of} ~~xxxxxx~~ the arrest. This they did mainly in cases of social crime.

How are police members tried?

Police members were tried and punished according to military criminal code. If a policeman committed an offense they tried to make a political case out of it. This was usually not too difficult. Embezzlement, for example, could have been explained as a crime committed against the people's property and such a crime was in opposition with the spirit of the regime.

III. Internal relations within the police.

What is the relationship of the recruited policemen to the permanent police leaders?

The relationship was very good.

What was the talk about in the police?

We used to talk about whatever we did in the police.

Our talk extended also to the library in the police, ping pong playing, radio and so on. We discussed movies we saw. Especially those foreign films were discussed which had some socialistic or social flavor. Some such French, Italian, English, and Czech films were discussed, but of course, mostly Soviet pictures.

People had quite a bit to complain after 1948, that is if they ~~did~~ to. The hours in service were from 10 to 14 a day, the salaries were very low. 300 forints, as basic salary. People received additional amounts of money according to their ^{ranks} ~~xxxxxx~~ and appointments.

What did they talk about politics in the police? Whenever a larger group started to

discuss politics everyone tried to praise the regime in order to show what a good loyal "democrat" he was. As soon, however, as two or three friends who knew each other well started to discuss politics they complained and criticized the regime. The Communists tried to make politics out of everything. For example, the leading actor of the play, Cyrano de Bergerac was criticized on the grounds of his social origin and political views.

Were the policemen satisfied with their conditions?

They certainly were not. Their pay was very low and the amount of hours they were in service was extremely numerous. In many cases it was obvious that police officers who maybe seemed to agree with the regime were actually opposing the regime and afraid of it. Once I visited a police officer who was the chief of a police dog training camp. I wanted to train my dog and I wanted to discuss the matter with him. Incidentally I overheard as he talked to his wife on the telephone telling her that they should buy something for their daughter for her first communion. A person loyal to the regime was not supposed to be religious and certainly not supposed to educate his children to be religious. Such a thing as sending one's daughter to first communion was usually kept in secret. The minute the police officer saw that I overheard the conversation he got extremely uneasy, since he didn't know that I was on his side. In general it was quite easy to find out who were those people who strived to serve the Party. The ones who wanted to have a good reputation as loyal Communists, the higher ranking officers were politically loyal to the government, but it is hard to perceive of a total loyalty on their part since the police joined the Revolution ^{as a} ~~in a~~ body during the first day of the outbreak of the fighting.

What do the policemen think of the Party and its leaders?

In a big group everybody shouts "hail" to the Party and its leaders but in a small group of friends everybody criticizes the Party and expresses his hate

towards it. Everybody was interested in politics and everybody waited for some sort of an action which would bring about the throwing out of Russians from Hungary. People discussed and criticized the foreign policy of the regime and the Soviet Union. Whenever an important event took place everyone tried to figure out the real meaning and the real plans of the Soviet government.

How was the daily life in the police?

In general, we had to be in service for 8 hours a day. People in the investigation department (detectives mainly) had different schedules. We had press conferences, departmental conferences, special conferences concerning police methods, new methods, discussion of mistakes, and political seminars after work every 3rd day. The Party instruction classes were divided according to the knowledge of the participants. There were always some sort of lectures or seminars outside the usual political / ^{seminar} every 3 days. We listened to lectures about the works of S^talin, etc. Also, there were compulsory music evenings organized with singing and instruments. So we were compelled actually to stay in the office not 8 but 16 hours. We also had to do so-called social work. The above meetings were organized not only for the sake of informing the people and trying to educate them but also to take them away from the families for as many hours as possible and being able to keep an eye on them. ~~Was there corruption in the police?~~

Was there corruption in the police?

Yes, there was corruption. I know about a police inspector who collected bribe money from a turpentine factory which sold turpentine on the black market and did not want to get into trouble with the police. Every time the owner of the factory got into trouble with the police he gave about 30,000 forints bribe to the inspector, and was let free.

What was the moral standard in the police?

From '48 to '49 on there was not too much drinking or illegal relations with

women.

What was the ideological feeling of the police? (The question does not seem to be clear enough, so more specific questions follow.)

What was the nature of loyalty of the police to the regime?

Did the policemen feel that the regime was just?

The blue police was too close to the people. The enlisted men came mostly from peasants families. They felt with the people and sympathized with them. They saw the oppression of the regime and they objected to it. As far as criminal cases were concerned the police ^{was} reliable. Wherever, however, they saw the degrading of the people by the regime, especially in cases of so-called social crimes they tried to help the accused without accepting bribes. For example, the police helped the peasants wherever it could. In the cases where the peasants did not comply with the orders concerning forced delivery the police stood entirely at the peasants side. Most of the policemen were peasant boys.

Does the policeman feel that this regime is just?

No, as I expressed before, the police do not believe that. As a matter of fact, he takes a stand point against the regime's accusations in many cases. The regime tried to induce loyalty and pride into the policeman but I don't think that they succeeded. ^{policemen looked upon} ~~Their~~ their service in the police just as a way of earning a living. As to the execution of punishments the police actually was with the regime but best of all to carry out the laws and orders the police was actually with the regime but would the regime have wanted the police to turn against the people or the Revolution it would not have succeeded. In 1948 the regime tried to make the police more powerful from the political point of view screening out the unreliable elements. In 1950 there were too many policemen and therefore nobody wanted to work in the police force. The people who were convinced of the right ideology of the regime joined the AVH and not the blue police. Other people, the blue police, for example, tried

not to ask too many questions because this was already suspicious. To be in the police didn't mean any security from the political point of view. In 1953 when the sports squad was dissolved, I wanted to leave the police as soon as possible. While still in the police, I wanted to make use of my police officer uniform and asked to be sent to the car-driver's course to make use of that in my civilian life. As a police officer I was sent to the course immediately. We were about 80 people in the course and we also had to participate in the political seminary. The course was not a police course and as the only police officer in my group I was chosen by the political leaders to be responsible for my group. Once I finished the course I certainly wanted to leave the police at once. We found out, however, the members of the sports squad, that it was not possible to leave the police just like that. We understood then, that we were caught. Everyone tried to do sabotage in service. We had still certain privileges as sportsmen and they still behaved more leniently toward us. We still had to work only five hours a day.

What were the relations between the police chiefs and the enlisted men?
these

In ~~these~~ relations there was a great change from the situation before the war. There was a blind obedience from the part of the enlisted men before the war, but now anyone could criticize commands or orders from a political point of view. If not in service police chiefs and enlisted men could be very good friends too. In general the relations could be said good.

IV The relations of the police with the system.

What were the relations of the police with the AVH?

The AVH people were the favorites of the system. They also belonged to the Ministry of the Interior as did the police men and were connected with Moscow. The difference was, however, that the AVH people were the favorites of the

system. They lived in wonderful conditions, had special privileges, had much higher pay than had ~~the~~ the policemen, and they looked down upon the police men and treated them with disdain. Naturally, the hate between the two bodies was great. There were many quarrels and misunderstandings between the two bodies. Policemen and AVH people had to salute each other.

Whenever there might have been some political motivations to a crime committed, the AVH also came to the spot to investigate the case. They tried to make political cases out of simple criminal cases or at least explain political motivations to the crime. The police investigators hated the AVH people. I remember in 1951 something happened in the Csepel Machine Factory. The police as well as the AVH arrived to the spot. The AVH was fast to use arms whenever they were after some suspicious people or groups. Not so the police. In this particular case at the Csepel the two organizations disagreed sharply and the police succeeded in forcing the AVH to retreat. Even the most trusted police officer of the regime felt uneasy while trying to work in the presence of the AVH. They were quite a number of AVH people/in the ^{incognito} prisons, and also in the police.

V. Terror and prison treatment.

Could you tell us about the terror?

In connection with usual criminal cases there was no terror in the investigations. There were plenty cases and therefore the policemen were not pressed in trying to produce cases. Only sometimes such things happened if they wanted to find out about the whole organization of criminals. Terrorizing and physical torture were only applied in very large cases like for example in trying to find out the corrupt organization of stealing of building material from the Parliament renovation works.

What do you know about the informants?

Police informants were petty criminals themselves. They were treated most

leniently if they committed small crimes if they were stool pigeons for the police. The trouble with the system of informants was that of course many times they would accuse innocent people. The most informants worked for the AVH. Once they wanted to force me to become an informant for the Party. ~~It~~ As a policeman I was not supposed to be in contact with any religious organization. Once I received a pamphlet written in English from the Buddhist mission in Hungary. I used to go to the mission in order to receive information about astrology. Astrology is my big hobby and I was grateful for whatever information I could receive about it. This pamphlet I mentioned before got to the hands of a Party member in the office in which I worked as a police officer. She didn't know English and concluded that such a pamphlet published by the Buddhist mission in Hungary would contain incriminating evidence against my relations. She told me that if I would not oblige her, that is, would ~~not~~ take a position of informant she would show the pamphlet to the AVH. I knew, however, that only astrological data were in the pamphlet and nothing really incriminating, and I didn't really get scared. As a politically unreliable person, however, I was thrown out of the police on Jan. 18, 1956. This was also due to the fact that I became sick and after I recovered I could not repeat my good results in sport which I had before. The head of the personnel department where I worked in the police was a sportsman himself and therefore he didn't ^{write} ~~write~~ anything politically incriminating about me in my kader papers. So I lost my job but at least I was not disqualified for another job.

Most of the informants came from the roles of "lumpen ^Pproletars". The informants were ousted from society and even Party members did not trust them and were afraid of them.

What do you know about prisons?

Whenever the government sees the need for free working power a tremendous

amount of people is arrested and put into prisons. Whether convicted or imprisoned people are taken to forced labor. Around 1949 and '50 the prisons were over crowded. In 1953 many people got amnesty because there were too many in the prisons. If a physician after examining a prisoner found him sick he was looked upon as an enemy of the regime. The prisoners were not supposed to be sick but working. There were such prison guards who tried to help the prisoners. Everybody was working. Only such prisoners who were political prisoners and not yet convicted were not taken for work. In general prisoners preferred to go to work than to sit in the prison, because they received better food and they also received a very small salary. Some prison guards were arrested because they treated the prisoners too well, and others were arrested because they were sadists. Because of physical maltreatment it happened often that pregnant women miscarried in prison. In such cases as soon as these women were out from the prisons they accused the guards who in turn were arrested for sadism. This happened because the regime was afraid from Western opinions. It certainly was not just because most of these sadists became sadists forced by the regime. ~~What~~

What do you know about informants?

Those arrested people against whom the AVH did not have a case were interned. In general, people spent about six months in internment ~~days~~ camps, but this period could be extended even to as long as 20 years. Most people who were interned were such people who ~~were~~ ^{filled} important jobs during the Horthy regime where officers in the army, police officers, or priests. Those people were known to have been from the old regime and even though this regime had not any evidence on their unreliability they were put in internment camps. Also some business men were interned. Such people against whom there was some evidence but too small an evidence were interned too instead of being given

light terms. During the premiership of Imre Nagy the internment camps were dissolved. The people who were kept in the internment camps were set ~~free~~ ^{free} without any trial or ~~other~~ ^{father} dealings. In 1954 there were many amnesties. Prisoners too, received amnesty in this year. The amnesties were given only to those whose term was less than five years. It was not degrading to be imprisoned because of social crimes. Even though those crimes were punished more severely than the other ones. People knew it; however, that social crimes in most cases were really not crimes. If a taxi driver damaged the bumpers of a taxi which was state owned and which he drove he was imprisoned for social crimes.

What do you know about deportation?

In 1951 and '52 all those were displaced who had big private properties. People who owned wholesale businesses, factories, and army officers who served under the Horthy regime. These displacements and internal deportations were done by a Party committee and by the executive committee of the district council. The police force was used to execute the internal deportations. The displaced people were taken to the country from the cities and in most cases were forced to work in agricultural work for impossibly small salaries. Many of my acquaintances had this fate. I had a friend who lived in his uncle's house. His uncle was an infantry colonel in the Horthy regime. When his uncle was taken away from his home my friend too was taken with him. They were away for a year and a half and they were let free during the Imre Nagy regime. They were sent to a collective to work. Such deported and displaced people were supposed to stay in the village to which they were sent and were not allowed to leave the limits of the village. Policemen watched that they shouldn't leave. The old gendarmes people were also deported.

What do you know about prison conditions?

Only the investigation and the arrest was done by the police, and after that each case was given over to the prosecution. Further things were taken care of by the district prosecutor. If the prosecution was not satisfied by the investigation done by the police then ^{the} inspectors of the prosecution investigated the case again. After that the prosecutor prepared the speech of accusation against the suspect. Until the time of conviction or acquittance the suspect was not allowed to talk to anybody but his lawyers. Later in prison he received letters once a month and he could receive a package once a month. A person was imprisoned depending on the crime he committed usually in the prison of his township or district.

There was a difference made in the punishment between ordinary crimes or political crimes. In the category of political crimes entered the illegal border crossing, sabotage, arsening, the holding of illegal arms, etc. In order to find out whether a crime was political or not the motives of the suspect were investigated. The political prisoners were guarded separately by the AVH. The differences between political and non-political prisoners in the question of choosing one's loyalty and other things too. The previous legal bar was dissolved. There were very few private lawyers, most of them were forced into communes. If it was the court who appointed a lawyer to represent someone then first of all lawyers from communes were appointed. A political prisoner could not choose his lawyer. He was appointed a lawyer. Not everyone could be a political lawyer. There were very few lawyers in ^{maybe,} Budapest, ~~maybe,~~ no more than two dozen. (Political cases were called double zero cases in slang.) Political lawyers are all Party members and 98% are Jews. Christians were usually not allowed to defend such cases and besides Jews were always more ready to do such dirty work. Outstanding political trials were exceptions. In such trials the suspect could choose his

defense. (For example, Mindszenty.)

What sort of punishments were given?

needed

This depended on the need for free work. If the government free inexpensive work then people were punished more severely to keep them longer in prison and be able to force them longer to work. Whenever the prisons were crowded and no such inexpensive work was needed any more than the punishments were less severe. Political crimes and social crimes were much more severely punished than ordinary crimes. For conspiracy one was convicted to death where if one murdered someone one received only 10 years of prison. If someone was caught passing the border illegally he was punished by at least 6 months in prison. For the embezzlement of about 6 sacks of potatoes which was supposed to be sent to the Soviet Union someone received 3 years of prison. One's social origin was always taken in account in afflicting punishments. If the accused was a peasant who had big property he was punished much more severely than a peasant from a collective. If someone belonged to an armed group then he was executed.

Speaking of the medical care in the prisons as far as I know every county prison had its physician and every national prison had physicians and its prison hospital. I heard about the health conditions in the prison of Marko Street. I knew about a case when the physician wanted to send a prisoner to the hospital. The commandant of the prison ~~did~~ ^{did} not allow it. This ~~prisoner~~ ^{prisoner} died the same evening. This commandant was an AVH major. It happened quite often that people after being investigated and questioned for too long received nervous breakdowns. If a physician would send such a person to the hospital the commandant would say that the diagnosis wasn't right, that the person only tried to act sick, but he is not. Such a prisoner ~~is~~ ^{was} usually beaten. In very rare cases ^{only} were the physicians taken seriously.

The prison commandants expected rude treatment of the prisoners by

the guards. A great number of guards, however, tried to be humane to the prisoners.

What happened to freed prisoners?

As soon as a prisoner was freed he still was under police supervision for some time. If someone served his sentence right a day after being freed from prison he had to report to the police station of the place where he lived. If someone left the prison with amnesty he also had to report through the whole time of his cancelled punishment. It is impossible to deny at one's working place that one was in prison. The prison authorities took care of it that if somebody owed the prison for one's food there that the new employee should know about it and should deduct the amount from the pay of the prisoner. People who did not work in prisons had to pay for their food and board. The ones who ~~had~~ worked in prison had to buy peace bonds. If someone came from prison he was usually employed but not in an important or leading position. Especially political prisoners were not given important positions except in cases where nobody could replace them. The usual case was that if someone without from a prison received only bad jobs with bad pays. Political prisoners had to report to the AVH sometimes even weekly. My wife had to report to the AVH. She was interned before. Political prisoners after they were freed and during the time they still had to report to the AVH were not allowed to go to public places ~~were~~ not allowed to ride busses or trams, were allowed to go only by foot, they were not allowed to get married.

What do you know about rehabilitation?

Previous prisoners were not rehabilitated. Those people who turned to be innocent were given back their positions after they were released from their arrest and even in several cases received back payments in their jobs. If his position was already filled by someone else, he received some compensa-

Exaggeration for the loss of his job.

VI. Changes within the police.

Could you give me in chronological order the most important changes in the police, concerning rationalization, police personalities, rumours, peculiarities?

In 1948 there were the first great discharges. After the Party Congress in Moscow the regime wanted to fortify the police politically, that is, to discharge unreliable elements. In 1950 there were great discharges too, mainly because they said there were too many policemen and therefore they didn't want to work.

What ~~about~~ about old Communists? Do you remember whether a group of some old Communists was discharged?

I don't remember any particular time when they were discharged in a group, but I know that in '48 old Communists were discharged too because they were not reliable from the point of view of the regime. For example, old Communists did not want to take a stand against the small artisans and store keepers. Such discharges were mostly in 1948 after the Party Congress, in 1950 after the time when the friendship with Tito was reestablished, and in 1955 after the fall of Imre Nagy. During different periods, different sorts of Communists were liquidated from the police. So, before the friendship with Tito sympathizers with Tito were sent away. Trotsky's National Communists were also thrown out. When people who entered the police during the ministership of ~~Rajk~~ ^{Rajk} and in 1955 the sympathizers of Nagy were liquidated.

What do you know about the arrest of police chiefs?

Neither Mihály ~~Rajk~~ ^{Farkas} nor Gábor ~~Péter~~ ^{Péter} had anything to do with the police.

Farkas belonged to the army and Gábor Péter belonged to the AVH. Only the ~~Rajk~~ ^{Rajk} trial had serious repercussions in the police. Péter Zöld was arrested at this time. There was a general nervousness in the police among those who were brought in to the police by ~~Rajk~~ ^{Rajk}. During the ministership of ~~Rajk~~ ^{Rajk} people did not have to politicize too much. The situation changed when

Mrs. ~~XXXX~~ was freed and rehabilitated. That was the time when the Stalin-
ist politicians were liquidated.

Would you know about the purges of Spanish Civil War Participants from the police,
around '49-50?

No, I have not.

VII. Evidence of Soviet Direction

Is there any evidence of Soviet direction and supervision of the police, or reports to
Moscow or Soviet personnel in the police?

The police was not under the direction of the Soviet Union. It belonged to
the Ministry of the Interior. Only the AVH used to be in direct contact
with the JBU before the dissolution of the latter. There was no Soviet
personnel in the police. Police personnel were not trained in the Soviet
Union, but prison personnel was. The national commander of all prisons
was a Communist who remained in the Soviet Union after the first World War.
He received all his training in the Soviet Union. He belonged to the AVH.
As a matter of fact, about 15% of the leaders in the regime were people who
remained in the Soviet Union after the first world war and were trained there.