

- (1) You probably know all the things anyway, that I could tell you, and I couldn't explain it all to you anyway. During the last ten years all those things were harped into our ears and we weren't given any time to think because if we would be able to think we would begin to realize what they were talking about and perhaps turn against them. More recently now a little more time was given to think. This is important.
- (2) First I can think of the Rajk funeral. The people attended it in large numbers, even tho it was very cold and raining. Tremendous crowds came as demonstrators, taking wreaths. On that day the people laughed about wreaths, then there were a few remarks such as were never spoken before under the regime. At the cemetery one could feel that something had changed. The remarks that were uttered there were so different than ever before. The speech at the grave was also different. Another event which many people did not regard as politically important, but it was just that, it was an opportunity to demonstrate again against the regime, when the Hungarian football-team, the soccer-team, lost the world-championship. This time the people went on the streets and demonstrated against this loss. They went to the Szabad Nep building. They blamed certain people for this loss.

On the second day even greater crowds came out to demonstrate. On the third day the AVH was out to stop any demonstrations. There was something here even more than plain interest in the sports. For the first time the people were able to assemble, of course under a presumed purpose, that is sports, whereas previously it was only on May 1st that people assembled and walked ten kilometers and then at the city park got a beer and a roll for their part in the parade. Here the demonstration against the loss of the soccer championship is significant. Another demonstration which people forget, is the demonstration of the students of Szeged. It was this demonstration which preceded the Budapest demonstration, that was important as a beginning and as a start. In Budapest, every day in school, we waited for someone to start the demonstrations. Everyone was waiting. Even at work people would be on edge waiting for someone to start, waiting for an occasion when everyone could go out. Then on October 23rd in a matter of a few hours many papers appeared on the streets. People went home and typed them over and mimeographed them. The copies were distributed. In the afternoon of the 23rd at the Theater the 14 points were read out to a crowd gathered there. At 6 p.m. on the Korut and the Rakoczi Ter were filled with crowds. These crowds represented night. Everyone was united in everything from the first day. Later, however, they were less enthusiastic and the energy later fell into many parties.

But there was unity when the first shot was fired at the radio station. A truck from Csepel at first was running around the Körut all night, until 9 or 10 p.m., calling all the young people to do something and then at night there were more trucks asking people to come and do something. A person can never say that the Revolution began now or then. A person could never see it, everyone said that something was in the air. A person couldn't put his finger on it. Only when it happened did we see it. Then it was spontaneous.

(2a) Yes.

(2b) The behavior of the entire regime and any event which preceded the Revolution and expressed the feelings of the people in limited ways.

(2bi) I heard my father talk about this and then the people waited for a little relief.

(2bii) When Imre Nagy made his first speech in the Parliament the little businessmen waited for a lot of changes, but in business it wasn't forthcoming. The relief was more noticed in gov't circles rather than among the people. The people could travel. A few went to Vienna, Czechoslovakia, for soccer matches.

(2biii) There was a confused picture about it in Hungary.

(2biv) This was very much talked about in Hungary. Men said a great deal about this.

(2bv) Yes. It had a big reaction. The Communists did not make it a secret, they wrote about it in the papers. This was their tactic.

They blew it up into a big size rather than make a secret about it. Then people would want to know more things.

- (2bvi) It didn't have much significance with the people. They weren't concerned if a new minister came into power because it didn't mean much. The regime would be the same.
- (2bvii) This was very important, as mentioned above.
- (2bviii) This is hard. Very few people understood what had happened there. Some people, who followed events closely, thought it meant a great deal. But according to me it meant nothing.
- (2c) On the night of October 23rd, when the radio stations spoke so differently, however many people didn't believe it. They thought it would be over the next morning. They thought that the AVH would be everywhere. When many people heard the shooting they went home to sleep, shut their doors and locked their sons in, so the boys could not go out and leave home.
- (2e) According to me they had a great role during the Revolution, but they did not play an important part before the Revolution. This seems to shock some people when I say it, but the Petöfi circle, for example, had a meeting on the night before the Revolution, only as a result of the Szeged demonstrations by students.
- (2f) The voice or line of the newspapers and press always changed according to the change of gov't.

Every half year they said "Now we have recognized everything, recognized our faults. These things were bad." Then, a half year later, they would say again "Mindent belattunk, rossz volt." If there wouldn't be some kind of a change in their line, this was unusual. People looked at the newspapers as being the voice of the Communists, which it was.

- (2g) There was one poem, that appeared above many others before the Revolution broke out. It didn't come out point blank, but in cloaked terms spoke against the regime.
- (3) It is a fact that the Hungarians are Hungarians and that in history they showed that they cannot be kept as slaves. In Hungary some tried to say that the Hungarians must have someone on their neck always. This is not true. The Hungarian people do not want to be dealt with, rather they wish to deal with themselves. Altho it is said that the Hungarians like scandal, nobody in the Revolution was interested in having his name heard around the world, or even being praised for what he did.
- (3b) Because one man dared at one time to shout against the whole regime, and then the people felt that there was a tremendous crowd with them. In a crowd every man dares to speak, to say what he wants, to say those things that he has held back for so long. "everyone was speaking and shouting against the regime.

Furthermore, to find a convinced Communist one would need to look for him a long time, for example look for him with a miner's lamp. Such convinced Communists think they are doing good; altho in the present generation living standards are poor, in the next generation all shall live well, they say. My father was a Communist up to 1948, when he began to see the great weaknesses of the system and also its terror. In fact, when he began to break away, he was put in jail for two weeks.

- (3c) I don't know exactly, but perhaps I could say they wanted to live freely and to live better.
- (3d) In the matter of five minutes at the radio-station, when the shot was fired against the people. If the people had been allowed to read the 14 points, or have them read into the radio, maybe everything would have changed. Everyone would have joined the Revolution, only a few would have been left against the Revolution.
- (3e) Two kinds of people, or perhaps three groups. The first would be the regime and its close followers. The second those who were afraid of the whole thing. They feared that it would not succeed, the cautious group. The third group which is afraid of every kind of change, that group which is not interested in anything.
- (3g) Many people, about 80% of the country. Perhaps less than 10% of the country participated actively in the freedom fight.
- (3h) Függetlenség magyarországnak, ki az oroszokkal. Further came such slogans as Sajtószabadság.

It was only then that the writers really joined the fight. The poets had served two regimes already and one can't count on them. Those writers who were jailed I can forgive.

- (3i) Definitely. It was against the distorted Communist theories.
- (3k) Very simply, because those Communists who were at one time convinced Communists, later changed their ideas. But then they could not step out of the Party. Many people were made Party members against their will. Just try and say that you don't want to be a member of the Party! Some became members because they wanted a better livelihood,<sup>or</sup> they did not want that they should lose their house or garden, but even then their land or house was taken away from them.
- (3l) Of course, every kind of thought (?) was there, if everyone participated.
- (3m) It is a difficult thing to say what could have happened. Perhaps this, perhaps that. I don't know. It depends on how Imre Nagy would have behaved. The Revolution could have swept Imre Nagy away.
- (4) I didn't do anything. (Interviewer's reaction to this: the respondent is overly modest at this point of the interview and still reluctant to speak about his participation. He feels that those who talk alot about their participation in the freedom fight, do this for the glory they can gather for themselves.)

- (4a) I did not see any AVH nor police. I lived at the Corvin Kör in a six-story house. A wide street lead to the Kör ut. I lived at the corner of the Prater ut and saw everything which came up the Kör ut and went on in Corvin Circle.
- (4b) I saw one AVH soldier step out out of his section as they were marching to the radio-station. The officer of that group of AVH men saw him step out, but did not do anything. This particular AVH man disappeared then into the crowd. I could see many soldiers who threw their guns and rifles out of the Kilian barracks.
- (4c) No.
- (5b) We didn't go to school.
- (5c) They came up to our apartment to rest. There we gave them food. We talked with them. Whatever I could reach was torn down.
- (5e) No.
- (6) On the morning after the 23rd, the 24th, across the street from the Prater utca school a couple of friends met. They decided to do something. About 20 or 30 other young boys of my age had joined the group. This group went into the Prater ucta school, where they fought for a while. The group grew to 300, 50 to 60 joined at a time. The group which originally met on the street-corner, a group of friends; one was a friend of mine for ten years, he became the leader of this group, and died during the Revolution. Strangers, anyone, could join the group as it grew up to 300.



Some young military men, soldiers, came and joined our group too. The best spies or information gatherers were the 10 and 12 year old children who were able to find out everything that anyone wanted to know. It was amazing. Then a one-legged man joined our group. He was amazing us to what he knew. He also brought ammunition and two "cannons" with him.

(6e) At first we had only one machine-gun, then later, three. And slowly more and other types of weapons. Then automatic pistol and revolver and then a heavy machine-gun was brought. These were brought by the people who came. They were brought from villages and some were brought from the Russians.

(6f) There was no organization. The boys got together, decided what they wanted to do. There were no officers. If one didn't want to do what the rest wanted to do, he could leave or if he didn't want to listen, he could leave. Then there came some older soldiers from the Honved.

(6g) There came a police officer, a captain, who took over things and in general was in charge.

(6i) After the police captain came, many of the decisions were made by him.

(6j) Yes. A boy would come from somewhere else and bring information we talked about. It was talked about as to what happened somewhere else. We also had a short-wave set for communication. Many people are surprised when I tell them that the fighting was directed from the

Prater utca School and not from the Kilian Barracks, as so many think. This is true, the Prater utca School has telephone connection, short-wave connection with the Kilian Barracks. The center of the fighting came from the Prater utca School.

In supplement of question (4):

I went out into the villages to get food for the fighters.

- (7) Those groups which had greater prestige, did not seek this prestige or want it. The people merely talked about them more because of what they did. The Corvin Kőr group had a great deal of prestige. It **this** group that was the center of the fighting, and not the Kilian Barracks group. The orders went out from the Prater School.
- (7a) There were, of course. Twenty men can't have the same ideas exactly. Individual thinking is to be expected. On small things there were differences among some of the people.
- (7b) Good. The workers liked the students.
- (7c) No. The peasants came up from the villages and brought food from the country-side. The peasants said "You'll get food as long as you strike and as long as you fight." The Csepel workers were kept fed by the peasants and farmers of Csepel.

- (8) The Russian soldiers were not harmed, those who were captured. We didn't hate them. We hated the Russians only for the system they represented. I saw only such Russians as came against us. I didn't notice any difference, except they looked stupid.
- (8b) I don't know.
- (8c) I don't know.
- (8d) I don't know.
- (8e) I saw two armed cars and a tank surrender to the Hungarians.
- (8f) Everything depended upon the Soviets.
- (9) I knew only that which went on or happened on our block. This I knew for a fact.
- (9a) They informed us and gave the people more enthusiasm.
- (9b) Fantastic and tremendous stories were spread by anyone and everyone.
- (9c) Yes. After the 23rd I listened to both the domestic and foreign broadcasts, the BBC London, the Voice of America a few times, Radio Free Europe, even the French. I was interested in what had happened in other parts of the country and what was going on in the UN.
- (9d) I believed only what I saw. The rest I always doubted.
- (10) That they operated, this I know. But how, I don't know.
- (10a) During the Revolution they all fell apart.

- (10b) I don't know, except that they weren't harmed too much as individuals.
- (10c) Those who opposed the Revolution were jailed or if someone knew something about a particular policeman that was damaging to his record politically, as to what he had done against the people, he was hanged or shot.
- (10d) The same with the AVH.
- (10e) That had come to an end. There wasn't any, even criminals were let go.
- (10g) I don't know.
- (10h+i) I don't know.
- (10j) This of course depended on each individual.
- (10k) The Revolutionary Council.
- (10l) A few went into the factories and called others to come for a meeting.
- (10m) I don't know what kind. It depends on too many things really.
- (11) Yes, one can't do otherwise.
- (11a) Both.
- (11b) Absolutely.
- (11c) Yes, unfortunately even I did, altho I waited for very little help. Not some kind of material help, just some strong moral help. If there would have been atleast 5,000 armored cars, in Hungary, we could have done something.
- (11d) Because the Hungarians are the most violent tempered.

- (11e) Very good man, he was a good State leader.
- (11f) The soldier-officer, the one-legged man who fought there in the school with us, <sup>not</sup> the so-called big leaders who lead, but who just let the soldiers fight. The soldiers, the fighters, had the important role.
- (11g) The youth, that is students and the young workers, had the primary role, I would say the only role, as participants in the Revolution. The others would follow, workers, peasants, soldiers; the Intelligentsia had very little part in the Revolution.
- (11h) I didn't think of a revolution, nor did the students. But if it was a large role they had to play, then yes.
- (12) One morning, that is on November 23rd.
- (12a) Two men, both Russians, urged me to leave.
- (12b) I talked to my mother about it and she wanted me to leave. A friend of mine and I talked about it and we left together.
- (12c) Naturally. If I stayed, I did not know what I would face. One who stays alive after the Revolution, wants to stay alive and doesn't want to be hanged.

- (1) In general I was a student. During the summers I had various kinds of jobs, worked in a drugstore, worked with masons, on the railroad.
- (The Interviewer discovered later, after asking the respondent whether he had a role in any motion-pictures, he said "yes". During the interview he did not want to speak about this, he said. He had appeared in a film atleast once a year. His first film he made 10 years ago, in 1946, the film title was "Somewhere in Europe" (Valahol Europaban).
- (3a) The ice-cream factory; I liked my job there, especially because I could eat as much ice-cream as I wanted.
- (3d) The factory was well equipped. It was an excellent factory.
- (3e) I went by street-car.
- (3f) Eight hours.
- (3g) 48 hours, six days per week.
- (3h) No.
- (3i) May First, and a few other days.
- (3j) One day for each month. One extra day for each year.
- (3l) Yes.
- (3m) Every half year they screwed up the norm higher.
- (3n) Yes.

- (4a) All the men had a great amount of skill. They were older men.
- (4b) It differed according to individuals, as to whether they would associate.
- (4c) Yes.
- (4d) Yes, we even told off the Party Secretary.
- (4e) Yes.
- (4f) I don't know.
- (4i) I don't know.
- (4j) It depended upon circumstances.
- (4k) Absolutely.
- (4l) I don't know.
- (4n) It was necessary to have peasant or worker origin or be a good Party member or have DISZ membership.
- (4p) I don't know.
- (5) One who was merely a laborer could change his job. But in the case he had a skill it was very hard to change jobs, and needed the Party secretary to approve and the plant manager to approve his transfer or change of job.
- (5b) I would have continued to study.
- (5c) Yes, for me I could have succeeded.
- (5d) Yes, this is natural.
- (5e) To travel.
- (5f) They are the same, no change.
- (5g) I never thought of this.

- (6) Very bad.
- (6a) Not much money was left for dress and clothing. In Hungary we first eat, think of our stomachs.
- (6b) Not more than two shoes could be acquired and these were very poor in quality.
- (6d) My father worked the same as before and now we live very much worse.
- (7aii) 1,500 ft. monthly net.
- (7aiii) 1,500 ft. monthly net, for my father.
- (7b) About medium or just below medium.
- (7d) Only my father.
- (8b) 1,500 ft., sometimes my father got only 1,300 ft.
- (8c) No, I don't know.
- (8d) No, I don't know.
- (8e) No.
- (9a) 120 ft. This was very inexpensive.
- (9b) Let us say not really good.
- (9c) 1,000 ft. a month. That which remained was spent on other items. I can't remember exact prices.
- (10) I can't say anything, because I don't know about this.
- (11) This was the motivating, the initiating cause.



- (1) I attended 8 years of elementary school and one year at the gymnasium. From August 1955 thru 1956 in the summer I worked as an apprentice, as a medical technician. So I was one year behind in school when I started in September 1956.
- (3) We had to take courses such as Legovedelem, and a course in military weapons.
- (3b) Yes.
- (3c) I didn't have it yet, because this comes in the third and fourth year of the gymnasium.
- (3e) Not in our courses of gymnastics.
- (4) The Communists wanted to achieve exactly the opposite goals that resulted. They wanted to make us Communists.
- (4a) The emphasis on teaching.
- (4b) Absolutely nothing. It was like throwing peason to the wall. I can't think of one student in my school who went for Communism.
- (4d) Nothing.
- (4e) Ever-thing; which they did.
- (4i) I don't know one child, not even the smallest, whom they educated and could rear into being a Communist.

- (5) He worked at a mill as a manager among the clerks.
- (5a) Yes, several times.
- (5b) I didn't have any.
- (5c) The commercial gymnasium.
- (5d) No, but I feel that it's not to be condemned if someone does have help in the house.
- (5e) Yes, we had a house after the war and then sold it in 1955.
- (5f) Better off than after the war.
- (5g) Five.
- (5h) Two sisters are married; my father separated from my mother a year and a half ago in Budapest.
- (5i) With my mother, the father is separated.
- (5k) It was a disadvantage.
- (11) Good.
- (12) No.
- (13) No.
- (13b) No, I was allowed great freedom. My father wanted me to have such freedom.
- (13c) No.
- (13d) No. They didn't send me to church or force me to go.
- (13e) I had freedom in my choice and personally I can thank them for this fact that now I have not gone bad. I have seen what has happened to other young people who have come to the West and now take advantage of their

freedom away from family ties and restrictions.

- (14) I think of our family as an ordinary family.
- (14a) For example, I didn't go to any of the Communist meetings, that is youth meetings, I didn't go the Uttörök. My parents said that I would be taken to a detention home if I did go, but they still allowed me to make my decision of not wanting to go.
- (14b) Rather typical, except the fact that my father left home, I don't know why.
- (14c) I belonged to a gymnastic society, went there during the last year.
- (14f) I would have liked to have a motorcycle or to be able to buy skis, but I didn't have the money.
- (14g) I was rather free, but there were exceptions when I had to do certain things at home.
- (15) Everything that I know points to their loosening.
- (15a) It depends on the individual family.
- (15c) I know only from what I have heard that family ties are looser.
- (15e) People don't have time to spend with their children, or to occupy themselves with the interests of their children.

- (16) My experience is that the Hungarian morals and discipline are better than here, for example in Munich. The Hungarian girls are much better than the German girls. These German girls are very loose, the way they <sup>try to</sup> throw themselves at the boys.
- (16b) There are few marriages performed in the churches.
- (16e) I don't know, it was illegal.
- (16f) I don't know what was before the war, except that in Hungary it was more strict than here in Germany. In Hungary you can't address a girl on the street, an unknown girl, and this is done in Munich. It takes a long while before a boy is able to bring home a girl and introduce her to his mother and family. Here I find, that is in Munich, that after knowing the girl only one day, the boy brings her home and introduces her as his girl.
- (16h) I don't know, can't say.
- (16i) I can't say.
- (17) Relatively speaking perhaps it went down in Hungary, but it is still higher from my experience than what I see here in Germany. Discipline is still retained in Hungary among the young people. For example, in school we had to behave well. The discipline was strict and hard. In school you can't chew gum or walk down the hall with your hands in your pocket. This is impossible. If a person overdresses, he or she is sent home.

One day a boy wore a tie on which there was painted a nude woman. He was sent home from school. There was no Rockn'Roll nor even the Samba dance allowed. Dancing was thought of as an art, for its nicety and all of its fineness. When I was in school in Hungary, ~~and~~ I did not like the discipline and felt it was too strict, but now that I am here I see that it was good.

- (17b) They didn't write about it in the newspapers, but I know it does occur.
- (18) At the metal factory, during 1955.
- (18a) A student.
- (18c) On Saturdays we went to the movie. During the months between November and March at various Budapest gymnasiums there were different kinds of afternoon programs on Saturdays. We attended these. Some of them were plays and others of various sorts.
- (18g) That a friend be unselfish.
- (18i) We got along well. Frequently we shared our money if a friend did not have any money.
- (18k) On my part, no.
- (19b) I feel I travelled the middle of the road. I did attend church, altho perhaps not regularly.

- (20) The Communists tried to eradicate from all young people any religious life that they maintained. This Communist influence was strong. Very few young people go to church in Pest. There were many films of propaganda against the Roman Catholic clergy.
- (20a) I don't know.
- (20b) Yes, they wanted to eradicate it. I feel if they rule for five years yet, everything which still holds up against the Communists in morals, will be loosened.
- (20c) Nothing.
- (20d) They wrote public articles against them, opposed them. The Communists will not tolerate another power next to theirs.
- (20e) They were reported to the Party or to the kader office. All of this to play on your nerves.
- (20f) Altho it was not a good idea to go regularly if a person held a gov't job or to go at all, it was done. And a person theoretically could attend church. However all the church holidays were denied, that is that no second day of Pentecost or Easter, nor of Christmas, was allowed.
- (20g) Certainly.
- (20h) Sometimes, but rarely.
- (20i) This was an individual matter and it's hard to say.
- (20k) Less.
- (20l) I don't think so, not very much. A priest couldn't preach a single word against the order.

- (21) Perhaps I would suggest to be an athlete and start his sport at age 10. By the time he becomes an adult he will achieve tremendous results. I could also say, be a politician, but a person would have to be two-faced if he wants to live well.
- (21a) Because he could get on well and perhaps because I like it too, that is sports.
- (21b) Be a good person in general.
- (21c) Those who have a great deal of patronage or backing from others. That is, you need a relative or friend in the Party somewhere, or perhaps in the particular line of work he wanted to start in. Without this patronage and backing someone would have to be very talented and extremely skillfull.
- (22) The ordinary laborer, very poor. Clerks and office workers poor, but a little better. Party members, the secretary and Ministers of the Government, extremely well. Gov't workers rather well, football players very, very well off and very well paid.
- (22a) We didn't have extreme hardships. It didn't go too poorly for us. There were those who were much worse off than we.
- (22b) I would like to have belonged to the best group, but I didn't want to be at the gov't or in politics. By the fact that I was in films this helped our financial situation.

- (23) The underworld, which has all shades and categories. Second, the workers. Here again, various categories. Three, the intelligentsia, various categories. Four, the artists, that is the successful dancers, movie stars, musicians and so fourth. Also the athletes. Five, the gov't circle of the higher officials.
- (23d) Absolutely. People still give a great deal for this. Hungary is not a democratic country. For example, if a person gets married you hear people say "You know, she married that Kovacs boy who has a position in thus and so factory." In this manner the position or employment stamps the boy and his social standing.
- (23e) Perhaps more uniform. A tiny bit it has changed. This has to drop off in time.
- (23g) This curiousness, impoliteness, nervousness is very extensive. This is the result of an overworked people. This comrade business has taken away the politeness and courteousness, which was observed before. Anyone and everyone is a comrade and in fact a person can pronounce the word "comrade" (elvtárs) in so many different ways, with intonation and highlights can be set in hatred, ridicule, mockery, and it is done. People do not use the word "ur".
- (24) This depended upon the pay of the individual.
- (24a) Yes, the underworld elements. The bad women and particularly the bad men.



- (25) In general it was an advantage to be a Jew. Things went well for them.
- (25b) Most of the leading positions were held by them.
- (25c) Yes, in general. For those for whom things didn't go well, they complained.
- (25d) Very well. They were either neutral or on the side of the Revolution, with the exception of those who had AVH jobs or jobs in the gov't. The bigger Jews, that is Jews that had bigger jobs in the factories, were neutral.
- (25e) They were not liked. Many had leading positions, many were AVH officers, but during the Revolution nothing was said against them, that is against the Jews in general, and many of the Jews participated in the Revolution. But dislike for the Jews is there in Hungary. For example, if things went badly for the workers, the workers would blame the Jews who had managerial positions in the factory. But really it wasn't the fault of the manager or administrator of the factory.
- (25g) Perhaps it lessened, but I can't say why. People generally say that they are on the top and they direct this whole thing badly.
- (25h) They are very well off today, and what I am told about the behavior <sup>of the</sup> Horthy regime, when Horthy did not give the Jews to the Nazis, they were protected. There is a joke about Hungarians. It goes this way: "Where there are two Hungarians, there are two factions or two parties. Where there are three Hungarians, one would expect three parties, but this can't be because one of the three is a Jew."

Copy 16

(1) I cannot say that it does not interest me, because by the very fact that I make such a statement as that the gov't is poor or good, I'm already expressing an interest.

(1a) Everyone is interested in politics, the laborer, the peasant. They like to talk about it. I didn't talk, rather I listened when these discussions were going on.

(2) As far as I can remember I always hated the whole regime.

(2a) No, too young to have any feelings about this.

(2e) My view came from the everyday life I saw around me. Of course, very likely the family did influence me.

(2fi+ii) Simply because the system of finding out about people was perfect. People were fearful and no one was ready to start anything alone.

(3) A person couldn't talk and say what he wanted to say. A person couldn't travel. The youth couldn't see things. I would like to have gone everywhere.

(3a) xii, xiii, vii.

(3b) xv, ii, xi.

(3c) iii, iv, v, vi, vii, viii, ix, x, xi. Or in fact all. With the exception that they were <sup>not</sup> /overtaxed. According to me, anyway, people were not overtaxed.

(3d) xv, vii, vi, v, iv, iii, xii, xiii.

- (3j) I don't know any.
- (4) It resided in Moscow. In Hungary there was merely a governing deputy council, carrying out the orders.
- (4d) Every year there was a big show, without rehearsal, called many new people in for voting at the Parliament.
- (4f) Not so much, according to me.
- (4g) Very likely. I can imagine it.
- (4h) I don't know.
- (4i) In the last few years they came from every group, laborers, anyone. Thank God for this, because they helped us in the Revolution.
- (4j) Here there were many Jewish people. Communist Party membership was necessary.
- (5) Yes, but not for me.
- (5a) Had to attend meetings.
- (5b) Yes.
- (5c) Could. I did for a long time.
- (5d) Yes.
- (5e) I was the last one in our school to become a member of the DISZ. I was pressured into it, altho for a long time when DISZ meetings were held and they were announced, I would get up and say good-bye. I was going home. One day, finally, the teacher of our class who was a communist, said that his class and the school could not stand the record it had of not being one hundred percent in membership in the DISZ. I was asked to stand and go to the principal's office.

The principal was not a Communist and he told me that if I did not become a member of the DISZ, I would be kicked out of the school. It was only then that I finally joined.

- (6) It meant more pay, a good kader sheet. Usually the son of a Communist was sent to school. If he was brought to court he was part of the trusted element.
- (6a) Sometimes a good DISZ member was nominated for membership. Then he had to accept and couldn't get out of it.
- (6f) They discovered that it was all lies what the Communists were preaching, but they won the Communists who were living very well. He could never discover this, everything was better for him, so why should he discover that Communism was lies.
- (6h) No.
- (6r) The Party leaders who most of them, if not all, were Soviet citizens, such as Rakosi.
- (7) A member of the sports society. There was not a single Communist in it and we could speak very openly before everyone and run down the Communists.
- (8) The leaders, those who did very well or better in this regime than previously. Otherwise, very few.

(9) Simply because the membership was not Communist at all.

(10b) It was organized to keep the machine in order, well oiled. To keep everyone in line and if anyone stepped out of line, they would be beheaded, ground up by the machine.

(10d) Nothing except that they were very well organized.

(10e) Some were trusted Communists and others were attracted by the good pay.

(10j) The AVO had unlimited power and behaved in the same way. They didn't respect the police nor the military and could tell anyone to shut up. They were a wrath.

(10k) Every AVO very likely was in good relation with the Party or a Party member. In reality both were one, or at least closely connected.

(11) My father, who was jailed for two weeks.

(11a) It was then that he started to change and wanted to leave the Communist Party. Very likely a Communist reported him and he was found out. My father didn't tell me anything about all this.

(11d) Everyone was susceptible to arrest, especially those who had a good business, a little grocery store, in fact anyone.

(11g) No.

(11h) Only heard that they did it.

- (13) My first reaction would be to say "Be their follower". But this I could not advise. I would say "Take a neutral position!" But even this would not be enough to stay out of trouble, that is to escape arrest on any charge.
- (13c) Perhaps, someone in the Ministry or a Party member.
- (13d) Yes. I think it can be covered up.
- (13f) In a few cases.
- (13g) The Roman Catholics are picked on, then the Intelligentsia who were not yet deported or chased out into the country to live.
- (14) I didn't notice any.
- (15) The leading role. It directs everything from the highest places.
- (15c) We had to praise the Soviet Union in everything, and <sup>of</sup> all/our meetings had to say that the Soviet is our leader, our friend, and Rakosi is our friend. There were even songs about Rakosi that we had to sing.
- (15e) I don't know.
- (15f) Yes, very much so. Soviet advisors were even at the MEMESZ.
- (16) They couldn't do it at all.
- (16a) Yes, so that they not be jailed or their families harmed, the fear of oppression and terror.
- (16c) Only with a very close friend who is trusted and known

for a long time, not with others.

- (16d) One could not speak against any man in the gov't or speak against the gov't or the Soviet. That which even hurt the State a little, criticised the State a little, that was prohibited to be expressed.
- (17) A person had to be extremely skillful.
- (17a) That our family was able to keep a house in its possession.
- (17b) Can't do it. They will wring it out of the peasant somehow.
- (17c) If he leaves his job then he is kicked out of his job. He has no chance to get another unless he has some patronage or backing somewhere. He can leave only with the agreement of the enterprise management.
- (17d) Perhaps they would let him go.
- (17e) If he has no patronage or backing there is no possibility.
- (18) The well-organized security force, which knew everything about everyone. Off-hand I don't know any weaknesses.
- (19) The resistance was present in everyone, but it was expressed only among a circle of close friends, when they cursed the regime. I can't think of any open or organized resistance or opposition.
- (19b) Everyone was against them.
- (19c) Party members.
- (19d) Grew.

- (19e) Grew more. It was personal and individual, no organized group, but everyone felt the same way and thus the Revolution grew out of this.
- (19l) I can't explain it because I didn't follow it. But I feel it was the result of some stupid Communist leader who allowed some people to think. Very likely this leader thought that they are so strong that such a group would not hurt them.
- (19g) No.
- (19h) No.
- (19i) Yes.
- (19j) No.
- (19k) No, not so much.
- (19m) There were no movements at all. Only those which the gov't ordered.



- (1) By radio and the spoken word.
- (1a) The radio was most important, altho I got a lot of information from friends.
- (2) Every day the Szabad Nep came I didn't read anything except read the title of the editorials. Perhaps some of the small reports, something about the sports, movies, reviews of theater and movies were read, also followed the sports schedule. In the Nepszava, <sup>contained</sup> which / almost the same in it, one would find <sup>↑</sup> few literary pieces, poetry and prose. There was information about sports and matches. The paper Szinhaz es Mozis was a bad magazine, but among all it interested me most because I was interested in the film life, new films. There were reviews of the theater, mail from the readers, quotes from films dialogue and from drama. It introduced the films and theater productions to be given in the following week. Every Soviet film and drama was praised to the sky. The first two pages of the list of the Soviet Kossuth-winners, movie and theater schedule followed, a few foreign reports, rarely tho a few items about Western drama, then two or three pages devoted to "stabbing" the movie directors and theater producers for the fact that they still let Western films be shown. They were accused of neglecting the Soviet films and the Soviet drama. Five or six political pages followed, three pages on education on how bad the

film industry was in the West, that the Soviet film industry had really reached a high peak of achievement, and some children's story as propaganda for the Ut tőrök. Among all this rubbish a person could find sometimes something of interest and of value, then the Tanacsado, recipes for the house-wife. The last page was the joke-page. The other magazine which I read was the Sport Ujsag. This magazine deplored the fact that Puskas, the football player, wanted more money. At times they cried how rude and crude the Vasas Team was. It called for more emphasis on improving certain teams so that Hungary would be able to win more matches, more games. Foreign sports received three or four pages, the Soviet sports were praised, as always. Nothing was referring about American sports. Rugby and American football were chided as were American sports. They would say that you can't treat soccer players like little kings, that is, Hungarian players were treated as such. There was a page or column by Sepeshy, the Hungarian football announcer column called "Toto", giving advice, and portraits of five or six athletes whose fathers all were peasants. Then a number of pages devoted to Soviet sports, its development and its future. The magazine ended with a few football jokes. The other magazine which we read was Szabad Ifjusag, the paper of DISZ. This was the Communist magazine for the youth of the country. It lifted out certain people who became the Number 1 workers in their factory, or who soon would be Stakhanovist winners or members of the Party. There was a column about films and dramas.

The Soviet Union was praised in every article.

- (2b) No, but I did read the **weekly** magazine about movie and theater regularly.
- (2e) They were found everywhere, in the streets, in the theater, you couldn't turn around without seeing one. It contained ballads to Stalin and Rakosi, praised six workers and "stabbed" ten for their behavior.
- (2f) No.
- (2g) No, one could get a few of these papers but they were Communist papers, such as "Pravda", and others.
- (3) Yes, very frequently. I was interested in films very much. At least 50% of the films shown were Soviet films, 30% from the Satellite countries, 10% Hungarian, few Italian and French films. They even brought in three Mexican films which were to represent the Western film industry. When they were able to say "See, look how bad these films are!" They were bad and were able thus to condemn Western films. Numerous East German films were also brought in. Two or three Austrian and German films.
- (3a) I saw every French and Italian film shown. During the last three years I was in Hungary I did not see a single Russian film. This was because I pledged myself not to see any of them.
- (3b) The entertaining or the educational films.
- (3c) Yes.
- (3e) Yes.
- (3f) Very frequently because I was especially interested in drama.

- (4) Yes.
- (4a) I really don't know.
- (4b) "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" by Victor Hugo, novels by Mikszath and Moricz, such as "A ven gazember; Szen Peter esernyöje".
- (4c) The writers named in (b).
- (4d) Yes.
- (4e) Yes.
- (5) Yes.
- (5a) Radio plays, dramas, concerts, news and sports.
- (5b) It varied, 40 minutes to sometimes an hour, or maybe five hours if it was a play. Every Sunday morning I listened and then during the week.
- (5c) At home in my room.
- (6) Yes.
- (6a) BBC, Voice of America, French Broadcast, the Radio Free Europe, RIAS Berlin, Paris, Washington.
- (6b) I started to trust the BBC, the Voice of America was rather good, but Radio Free Europe lost prestige in my estimation. The French broadcasts were starting to come up.
- (7) Yes, from athletes who came back to the country, and also from film people who were outside the country, but this was very little information.

- (8) I didn't believe 80% of what was in the papers.
- (8d) I can't say exactly because I listened to everything available, foreign broadcasts and domestic. Out of that I gained my information, which I was able to consider as true.
- (8e) No.
- (8f) Yes, the last number before the revolution. It surprised me as to how bravely they wrote.
- (8h) The last two numbers and it also surprised me as to the tone they were using.
- (9) Yes, it's a peculiar idea of the people of Pest, if they hear something it is passed on very quickly and by the next day the entire city knows it. Gossip and the like is quickly passed on. People in Pest like to hear news and to tell it.
- (10) I knew the Americans ended the war with this weapon against the Japanese.
- (10b) Don't know.
- (10c) That the Americans dropped bacteria against the Koreans, this is what we were told.
- (10d) I was happy about it, the papers were filled with it. We were led to believe that a new Nazi camp was being formed in the West.
- (10e) That it's some kind of spy system, that photographic equipment was contained in the balloons for spying. This is what we were told.

- (10f) There was nothing in the papers nor on the radio about it. I heard about this from the athletes.
- (10g) That it was a "our-Power talk.
- (10h) We heard that they are stirring up and inciting the foreigners against Hungary, that they are poverty stricken and would like to come home, but the imperialists wcn't let them come back to their own country.

- (1) Get the Russians out of Hungary immediately; give up the Warsaw Pact and neutralize Hungary immediately; give up the Five-Year plans; freedom of the press, speech and assembly; open the borders; allow every kind of free commerce; eradicate immediately all Russian teaching; and take up English instead; step into the European Common Coal and Iron Cooperative; set up agreements on travel between countries; have a secret ballot election; end the present gov't and put in a temporary gov't until the elections are completed; hang the present gov't officials after proper court-trials, the same with the AVH, in fact burn them.
- (1a) The tax-system and make even greater taxes available. Also the medical care system. In the first place the gov't needs more taxes, medical care needs to be developed even more.
- (2) Yes, as many as are needed.
- (3) Yes.
- (3c) No.
- (3d) They can't do anything detrimental to anyone or anything, therefore yes.
- (4) Yes, the people want it, then that is legal already.

- (5) Free commerce in Hungary; investigate the connections of Hungary with the Soviet Union. Allow small business to grow, must have competition; not to give back the present factories to their old owners, let the gov't handle this property and build up the standard of life. Pay the workers well.
- (6) The way the heavy industry is set up today, it is not properly handled, but this industry cannot be given back to the former owners. Today the workers won't give back the factories.
- (6b) No.
- (6c) Yes.
- (6e) As it is today, it shouldn't remain.
- (8) It is a plan of robbery, it increases the burden on the worker, each year, demanding more of him each half year.
- (9) The family, religion, private property; also political views of a person.
- (10) To pay taxes, behave well, not be indifferent in the country and keep the laws.
- (10e) Insure all citizens of their rights, private property, religious practice and keep order.
- (11) Whether better or not, I don't know. I don't know what it was like before the war, but I do know that there



are many modern hospitals, also that many doctors don't take such an interest in their patients today. Their waiting-rooms are full, in the clinics there are too few doctors with too few hours for all the patients.

(12) Yes, movies are cheaper today, theaters are inexpensive and you don't need to dress up for them. Concerts are costly, however, compared to the prices. A concert costs about 20 ft.

(13) I can't tell except that Hungary ate <sup>well</sup>/always and gave more to its stomach than to other items. My mother told me that we do not eat so well today as previously.

(13b) No, three times as bad as after the war.

(14) I don't know.

(14b) No.

(15) Yes, it grew tremendously. Many factories have been built.

(16) They should be given a significant share in directing the industry. Can't do otherwise. It's impossible for the former owner to come back and take over his factory he formerly owned and say "This is my factory!" The workers won't work then.

(16d) By men who understand the administration of a factory.

- (17) Unhealthy.
- (17c) If the peasants want to cooperate with one another, yes. But the State should not force them to. They should be separated from the State, if they remain, and then elect their own administration as they wish. I feel that many collectives would remain, but let the peasants direct them.
- (17h) If he wants it.
- (17i) If he wants it. (Interviewer's comment: Here I believe the respondent did not understand that this probe was aimed at large land-holders. He had in mind small land-holders.)
- (17j) Yes.
- (17m) They would have to stay in the hands of the State. **They** can't divide tractors fairly.
- (18) Separate the two.
- (18f) Church school.
- (18g) Don't give back the land, but give back a few of these schools and maintain State educational control for a program of education, uniformly.
- (19) They should be treated according to their crimes, hang them, jail them, or nothing. But I'd be more severe now on the basis of what they did after the Revolution.
- (19e) Here, consideration only of a few dangerous leaders.
- (19f) Bring all of them before a court.
- (19g) Bring all of them before a court also.

- (19h) I have to praise them, perhaps they are in jail now anyway.
- (20) 896 A.D. the occupation of the Danubian basin by the Hungarians. The coronation of King Stephen in 1001. The rule of King Matyas during the Renaissance. The 1848 Revolution. The 1867 Ausgleich, World Wars I and II. The October 23rd Revolution. Culturally Hungary defended the West against the Tartars and the Turks for over 150 years and now defends the West from the Russians. During all this time the west could build itself up, while Hungary went down.
- (21) Yes.
- (21a) Yes.
- (21b) Yes.
- (21c) Yes.
- (21d) I don't know.
- (21e) Yes. It's hard to explain: the peasants are **poor**, proud, hardworking, friendly and very hospitable. The laborers or **seged munkas**, are crude, and filthy mouthed, but sensitive, quicktempered, quick to **argue**, but just as quick to make **peace**. All in all they are all able to be **nice**. The skilled workers like to work, they are simple, proud and excellently skilled men. The **Pelgarsag**, middle class of **clerks** and so forth, can be compared to about the same as gentry in their characteristics. Now the artists are a poor lot, **aznak faszak**, in other words,

they get wet and freeze also. Where they can escape from the regime they try it, and where they can oppose it, they try to oppose it. **Political** leaders and Party men, most of them think they are doing good, because according to them, since their own situation and own life is good, they judge other people the same way and say "This is a good life for everyone."

(21f) I don't know.

(22) I don't know.

(22f) I don't know.

(22i) It was a little confused, but better than that which was before and better than that which followed.

(23) Yes.

(23a) Because such are still needed, they exist today.

(23b) Absolutely, the Northern, upper regions to the Carpathian mountains, **Transylvania**, these are populated by Hungarians.

(23d) No.

(23e) I didn't hear anything of a controversy between them.

(23f) They don't fight.

(23g) Now, well.

(23h) Now a little angry.

(24) No.

(24a) A Danubian Federation.

- (25) Great many of them are so stupid that one can only pity them. The top group of leaders are a bunch of street Arabs, they are as a group following the leaders and don't know what they are doing.
- (26) It is a very "nice" book.
- (26g) Yes.
- (26h) I don't know.
- (26i) I think, never.
- (26j) A very skillful fellow. I hate him because he is impatient.
- (27) A person could write a book about National Communism. Briefly, when a nation individually wants to create and develop Communism.
- (27e) Perhaps there could be. Some are so stupid they think that what they are doing as a Communist is good.
- (28) A very difficult question. There would have been a neutral country and free elections.
- (28b) Yes.
- (29a) Good, as it is really written in the book.
- (29b) Bad, it depends on the form.
- (29c) This will always be bad.
- (29d) Bad.
- (29e) Bad.
- (29f) This is the most modern form of economy today.

- (29g) Good.
- (29i) I don't recognize the existence of Kulaks.
- (29h) I don't know what to say.
- (29j) I don't know.
- (29k) I don't know.
- (29l) I don't know.
- (29m) I don't know.
- (29n) I can't judge him.
- (30) I don't know exactly, but definitely not the Communist Party, perhaps Inre Nagy.
- (31a) Less.
- (31b) Less.
- (31c) Less.
- (31d) Less.
- (31e) Less.
- (31f) Less, high <sup>gov't</sup>/officials more.
- (31g) More, some less.
- (31h) Less.
- (31i) Less.
- (32) Everyone had it better except a few workers who were unemployed.
- (33a) Coincide.
- (33b) Coincide.
- (33c) Coincide, no difference.

(33f) They conflict.

(33g) I don't know.

(33i) I don't know.

(34) None.

(35) I don't know who would, perhaps a few would.

(36) No.

- (1a) Very interesting.
- (1b) Could be.
- (1c) Don't talk to such people who talk a lot, they are usually telling you stories that are not true, they are talking about themselves and were never freedom fighters at all, or don't know anything about the situation.
- (1d) I don't know. There was so much asked anyway.
- (2a) Yes, as soon as the regime changes to a free country.
- (3) I have three rolls of film at home in Hungary about the revolution. They are about the fighting and other things which no one else got on film. I'll get it out somehow, but it'll take quite a long time.

INTERVIEWER'S RATING: Following is a short portrait of the respondent. Although this young man, who is 17 years old, has been around great many people and has played significant roles in various Hungarian films, going back to his first film in 1946, one would expect that he would be a fluent narrator, a kind of an extrovert. However, through all of his experience in Hungary, he has learned to remain quiet and to listen rather than talk. As a result, it took me over a day to gain his confidence. Not only is he reticent, but he is an extremely modest young man, not given to praising himself. But summarizing his activity in the Revolt by saying "I didn't do anything, really, so many others did more and we didn't do it for praise or glory."



and being only 17 years old, in certain areas his knowledge is limited, but on the other hand he has a rather broad view of things and a rather consistent set of beliefs. He is well informed, as well informed as he could make himself. He is a serious young man who is grown up and on his own. The **sensitivity** of the artist is present in him.