

- (1) The events in Hungary are a warning to the free world that she should follow the colonial policy of the Soviets with greater interest and attention. There is much indifference in the West towards this problem especially among intellectuals. I am an artist, a sculptor and I give you an example. For instance, the brutalities of Communism failed to inspire the creative artists of the West. Thus an important medium which should impress and enlighten the public in the West about the ^{tacts} ~~aspects~~ of life under Communist domination is missing. The truth is ^{that} unless the West changes its attitude a situation may arise in which the Soviets may take over the West.
- (2) I think the whole period since 1945 was one of incubation before the outbreak of the Hungarian Revolution in 1956. Because there was a resistance against Communism even before the Communists took over absolute rule in Hungary. This resistance found expression in the resistance of the Church in particular but also through the life of the individual in general.
- (2b) As to particular events over the last few years I think they had no particular effect on the Hungarian situation. As I see the situation in Hungary there was lethargy on the one hand but also a readiness to jump against the regime at any time on the other hand. (Interviewer's note: I was probing the respondent what he thought of Stalin's death, Imre Nagy's Premiership or Reconciliation of Mos-

cow with Tito. Respondent's answer was: "They had no effect"
End of Interviewer's note.)

(2biv) Well I think it affected only the Communists

(2bv) Well this is perhaps a different story, the entire coun-
try was feverishly discussing it.

(2bvi) Well, it was no particular event in the life of the people.
In the eyes of the people it was a trick only.

(2bvii) I have no concrete knowledge of what happened. (Intervie-
wer's note: Respondent's answers were somewhat confused.
I could not figure out whether he is just uninformed or
suspecting something behind my questions. He was trying to
get back to his first story that the West was not aware
of what is going on in the Communist lands. Also He re-
peatedly stated that what was really important was not
the effect of these events but the fact that the resis-
tance against Communism existed in Hungary ever since the
end of the Second Worldwar. End of Interviewer's Note)

(2c) I cannot see any real turning-point. If there was any
turning point it happend with the outbreak of the revolu-
tion only. (Interviewer's note: It was really difficult
to keep the respondent's mind on my questions. He brought
up again and again his favorite theme that the entire
country was against the Communists and the West was un-
aware of this fact. He made repeated references to We-
stern intellectuals, fellow travellers who in his view
were responsible in particular for concealing the true
situation in the Communist dominated countries. End of
Interviewer's note.)

(2e) The writers have played some part in the preparation of the Revolution. They have shed the phrasiology of the Party and began to speak a different, a new language with a new meaning. They began to talk to the people. The youth in particular eagerly listened to the writers because the youth has been fed up with the Party phrasiology, with social realism so-called, with materialism. There was a longing for idealism among the youth and I felt that they are receiving now from the writers a new message with an idealistic meaning. Before the writers were instrumental in making the young people into non-thinking automata. Now the writers encouraged the young people to think, to think about the shortcomings of the regime. Of course, the writers did not and could not attack the regime. But the young people understood the implied meaning of the writer's message. I could quote here the poems of Istvan Simon. (Interviewer's note: At this point the respondent recited one of Simon's poems entitled: "It is not enough". In contrast what appeared to me a lack of understanding on the respondent's part of what was going on in Hungary during the year of 1956 now he appeared to be well aware of the changing scene. End of interviewer's note.)

(2g) A poem by Ferenc Juhasz entitled "The Song of the Stag". It appeared in the Irodalmi Ujsag in the fall of 1955. It is a poem about a young stag which left his mother and his mother is calling him back but he would not come. He says: "I can drink from a clean spring only." This poem as I have explained it expressed the disappointment of the

younger generation, the desire to live a better, a cleaner life.

- (3) The most important factors were: oppression, resulting in lethargy but also a determination to turn against the regime. I would describe this state of the country as follows: If it is a sin that I want to live then I prefer to die. This determination was fostered by national sentiment rooted in national traditions.
- (3b) One should realize that the regime maintained itself by terror. The regime had few people to rely on. The reliable were the following groups: the Communists who returned to Hungary from Moscow, the "Muscovites" so-called, the Jews, and people of foreign origin, Czechs, Serbs, Rumanians, Ruthenes. I explain the collapse of the control system of the regime by the fact that they did not have enough reliable people.
- (3c) They were demonstrating against the regime and they drew great encouragement when they sensed that the nation is unitedly behind them.
- (3f) I could not think of any groups; but individually the reliable supporters of the regime, who were few, opposed the Revolution. Then those who were afraid of losing their positions, finally those who were afraid of the consequences of the crimes committed against the people.
- (3g) The former middle class, so-called, remained neutral. I mean those people who used to be called middle class during the Horthy regime.

- (3h) The most popular slogan was: "Now or Never", "Every Hungarian is with us", or ~~further~~ "Who is Hungarian is with us". This I think was the most expressive slogan. I should add that the slogans played a role only in the first days of the revolution. Later the arms took over. There ~~were~~^{was} no need for slogans.
- (3i) The revolution was absolutely anti-Communist or to put it this way: it was anti-Communist and anti-Russian. The Communists who turned against the regime ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, workers, peasants, and students. Now, these elements had been indoctrinated with revolutionary spirit and since they felt as Hungarians they turned their ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ revolutionary spirit against the regime. I would contrast this revolutionary spirit of the workers, peasants, and new intelligentsia with the passivity and lethargy of the former middle class.
- (4) On October 23rd I was not in Budapest I was living then ^{our} on a small family estate in Badacsony. Two months earlier my mother died and I returned home. (Interviewer's note: at this point respondent explained that he was living in Budapest since 1952 ~~XXXXXX~~ what he described illegally. He did not get legal permit to stay in Budapest because of his bad kader. After his temporary permit to stay in Budapest expired he stayed on, however, illegally. He had troubles on account of this as he explained several times but somehow he succeeded to stay on the capital. He was fined twice for living in Budapest without permit. His first fine was 60 forints, his second fine was

500 to 600 forints. End of interviewer's note.) On October 23rd when I learned about the events in Budapest I returned to the capital immediately. I arrived on the evening of October 23rd by train but the train did not go to the Budapest station. It stopped at ~~Nagyvárad~~ ^{Nagyvárad}. I walked from there to ~~Moricskó~~ ^{Zsigmond} Square. I was walking with some other passengers ~~with~~ ^{from} the train. When we arrived at the ~~Moricskó~~ ^{Zsigmond} Square, armed freedom fighters stopped us and asked for our ~~identification~~ cards. After we properly ~~had~~ identified ourselves they gave us arms. I received a sub-machine gun. I went to my ~~brother~~ ^{brother} in-law in Prater Street to ~~discuss~~ discuss the situation. I stayed overnight ~~with my brother-in-law's family~~ with my brother-in-law's family. Next morning on October 24th with my sub-machine gun I went to the nearby Korvin Köz which was one of the chief centers of armed resistance. But I did not stay there. After a while I left for the Academy of Fine Arts where I had great many friends. I joined there the revolutionary elite of the academy students. I received an ~~identification~~ card issued by the National Guard. In addition to our students there were other students and workers in our unit. On the very same day we participated in ^{the} street fighting. I was member of a group of 8. We took up position on the corner of Baross Street and József Boulevard. From the corner house we were shooting at ~~AVOs~~ AVOs and Russians. We spent the next night there. The people who lived in the apartment where we had our position were very helpful and friendly. Only two young girls of ~~about~~ 10-15 years of age and the

grandmother were ~~xxxxxx~~ at home. The young girls were preparing food for us while the grandmother hid herself in the pantry. She was very much afraid. On the morning of October 25th I left this unit. On the streets I jumped on a Hungarian armed car heading to ~~xxxx~~ Buda. I was anxious to visit my sister. She was a spinster. She lived in the vicinity of Moscow Square in Buda. When we arrived at the Moscow Square we saw AVO troops ~~approaching~~ ^{approaching} ~~from~~ from the Pasarebi Road on three trucks about 30 AVOs approached ~~approaching~~ the Square. There was a great crowd milling around the Square and there was a clash between the AVOs and the crowd. The AVOs fired several volleys into the crowd. Seeing this we took position on a little embankment overlooking the Square we had now ~~two~~ ^{two} armed cars, another joining us on the ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{xxxxxx} way to Buda. We had four machine guns. Before we could decide what action we should take from the roof of a nearby house someone fired on the AVO. The ~~xxxx~~ AVOs got ~~xxxxxx~~ scared, threw ~~xxxx~~ ^{away} their guns and surrendered. Several people from the house from which the fire was opened on the AVOs came forward towards the AVOs and killed several of them. The crowd was encouraging this massacre. We left our position and made our way towards the scene and stopped the killing. Our ~~orders~~ ^{from} the National Guard called for the use of weapons only against ~~resistance~~ ^{resistance}. We arrested the surviving AVOs and took them to a National Guard headquarters on the Martirok Road. Then we returned to the Moscow Square under the protection of our two armed cars. The people were pulling out railway cars from the nearby Southern

Railway Station. There was a connecting link namely between the rails of the railway station and the rails of the street car system. The railway cars brought to the Moscow Square were lined up to form a barricade on the approaches to the Square. I stayed in the vicinity of Moscow Square until the early morning hours of October 26th ~~and~~ then dead-tired I went to my sister's house. I slept there till ~~late~~ ^{late} in the afternoon of the next day. I spent another night at my sister and left on October 28th. On October 28th I went again to the Korvin Kog. Since I had the attention to return to the Moscow Square I wanted to ask re-inforcement from the Korvin Kog unit. From Korvin Kog I was sent over to the Kilian barracks across the street. ~~While~~ ^{While} in the Kilian barracks I have met Maleter and Bela Kiraly. (Interviewer's note: I have asked the respondent what had he talked ^{about} with Maleter and ~~Kiraly~~ ^{Kiraly}. His answer was: "About all sorts of things". End of interviewer's note.) In the Kilian barracks I have met one of my artist friends. While in the ~~barracks~~ ^{barracks} I have learnt that the revolution was victorious. So I left my gun in the barracks and went to my brother-in-law ⁱⁿ nearby Prater Street. On November 2nd, I was invited to attend a mass meeting of the revolutionary council. I was representing the Academy of Fine Arts, I mean I was one of the representatives. At ~~this~~ ^{this} meeting both Maleter and ~~Kiraly~~ Kiraly were among the speakers. I don't remember the names of the other speakers. I was commissioned by the revolutionary council to act as a liaison between the revolutionary

council and the Honved Armies in Transdanubia. I received this commission because I knew Transdanubia very well. This was ~~an~~ a very important commission because the bulk of the Honved Army was stationed in Transdanubia. The ~~idea~~ planned ~~plan~~ was that the Honved ~~army~~ Armies should be massed along the Danube River to protect the Western half of the country against the Russians. Thus a free Hungary would have been established in Transdanubia even if the Russian would have kept control over the Eastern half ~~of~~ of the country. (Interviewer's note: I was probing the respondent, whose idea he is speaking about. His answer was that this was his idea but many other people had similar ideas. I asked him whether the revolutionary council or any other authority had such plans. Respondent's answers remained vague. End of interviewer's note.)

With this commission I left Budapest and arrived on November 3rd to Tapolca in Transdanubia. I visited several Honved troops and gave them instructions to move to the Danube River. (Interviewer's note: Again I was probing the respondent for details. His answers were not very clear on this subject. End of interviewer's note.) On November 3rd I returned to Budapest. After the ^{Russians'} ~~Russian~~ attack on November 4th I returned to Bacsosony. Later I went to my ~~brother-in-law~~ brother-in-law in Tapolca. I left Hungary on November 12th.

- (6) Interviewer's note: I did not ask because of the difficulties I had to get complete ~~answers~~ answers from the respondent whenever I probed him on details of his participation in the revolution.
- (7) There were conflicts but I would not like to talk about them.
- (8) Some of them were pas ive but others were ~~fixing~~.
fighting
- (8e) I know of Russian defections but personally I did not see any such cases. What I have seen was Russian soldiers shaking the hands of Hungarian freedom fighters.
- (9) I found out of the course of events mostly by word-of-mouth.
- (10) Everything ~~was~~ collapsed. The same answer^{to} points a., b., g., h.
- (10j) I don't know of any such instance.
- (10k) The revolutionary councils.
- (10l) Revolutionary spontaneity was the background of the Workers' Councils.
- (10m) The government emerging from the revolt would have represented a ~~neutralist~~ neutralist nationalist democracy.
- (11) I am thinking of it much, very much.
- (11a) It was not useful, it did us great harm. We achieved nothing.

The terror in Hungary is greater than ever.

(11b) Without outside help it could not have succeeded. We could not win without help against the Russians.

(11c) Yes, ~~definitely~~ definitely. I based this conviction on what I have heard in the radio or, I just would say in general, on the basis of Western propaganda. The ~~existence~~ ^{essence} ~~existence~~ help of this propaganda was: We will ~~win~~ you we will liberate you.

(11e) He is a man of great intellectual capacity. He is a national Communist. He came to power in a very difficult situation. Before the revolution the Hungarians did not think much of him, although ~~he~~ ^{They} appreciated his good will. Nevertheless since he was a Communist they considered him a puppet. During the revolution opinions might have changed.

(11f) There were no outstanding individuals.

(11g) I would set up the following order: Students, workers, the army and the peasants. I would like to point out, however, that the border lines between classes have disappeared and it is very hard to speak about groups.

(12) After the Russian attack I decided to leave Hungary. Had I not left I would have been carried away by the Russians, I am sure of that. Perhaps I should mention another consideration I ~~have~~ had. Since I am a sculptor I was anxious to study in the West I was anxious to live as a free artist. (Interviewer's note: After completing this first section I had the feeling that the respondent, although very talkative is above all anxious to emphasize his own role in the revolution. I had the feeling also that he has an exaggerated view of his own importance. Repeated-

ly I had trouble in making him answer the questions. The immediate reaction to my questions was that he started lecturing, repeating himself and what he was saying was not very much to the point. During this section which I am going to record my conviction grew stronger that this interview is not yielding good results. End of Interviewer's note.)

- (1) I am an artist by avocation a sculptor by ~~by avocation~~
~~work~~. dedication.
- (2) I was a free-lance ~~sculptor~~ sculptor. Because of my social background I could not study at the academy of fine arts although I was a accomplished artists. Also ~~in~~ my past of which I was proud did not help me to prosper. During the war I was a student in ~~at~~ the ^{Worthy} ~~Worthy~~ Academy for ^{Flyers} ~~artists~~. I was studying to become a flyer. In the last year of the second world war, our school was evacuated to Germany. I was then 17 years old. Our school was in Berlin and I was captured by the Russians there and was imprisoned from May to September 1945. When released I returned to Hungary and decided to become a sculptor. I have been always interested in that art and I was very skilful in sculptoring. I could not become ~~am~~ a member of the so-called Community of Creative Artists and thus I became a free-lance. But I did very well and received commissions very often from the church, on works to repair war damages although most of my work consisted of commissions I received through my artist friends, ~~my~~ friends who were members of the Community of Creative Artists. Some of these ~~an~~ artist friends asked my help because of my good work. Some of them were anxious to help me. I have had commissions also private ~~individual~~ individuals. I should mention that in 1956 there was a possibility that I may be admitted by the Ministry of Education to the Community of Creative Artists and thus my positions as a

sculptor would have been legalized. But of course the revolution has changed the situation completely. (Interviewer's note: At ~~xxx~~^{this} point I asked the respondent whether there were other artists who found themselves in a similar situation. Respondent's answer was: "Yes, there were great many of this kind." When I asked him for details or names he became cagy and did not review any further informations so I dropped this issue altogether. End of interviewer's note.)

(3) Not applicable.

(4) Not applicable.

(5b) Under all circumstances I would have chosen to ~~become~~ become a sculptor.

(6) See question 2 where respondent talked about his living conditions.

(7) I did quite well.

(7ai) In 1947 I was not making any money yet.

(7aii) In 1952 I made between 14 ~~and~~^{to} 15 thousand a year.

{7aiii} In 1955 about the same.

(8) Not applicable.

(9) In view of respondents position a detailed list was not

applicable. I asked him in particular question m, concerning taxes and he replied that he did not pay any income tax. He paid, however, 6000 forints a year after the little estate the family had in Babacsony.

- (10) My economic position was independent of the fluctuations of Hungarian economy. (Interviewer's note: respondent's answers became more and more vague. I stopped the interview at this point and we adjourned for lunch. After lunch we resumed the interview but it did not work better than in the morning and I became more and more aware of the fact that my respondent is not very valuable as a source of general information and not even a good reporter on his own specific status as a free-lance artist. I have explained to him that since he does not fit too well in my questionnaire I am going to ask him only the questions which I think he could answer, that is the ^{questions} ~~questions~~ which are relevant with regard to his position.

(1) I did not finish the gymnasium. I finished only two ^{higher} years of gymnasium and then because of the war conditions I was able to apply for admission in the academy for flyers, named after ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{Niklos Korthy} in Budapest. As I have said we were evacuated to Berlin and the school operated there until 1945 in March. After my return to Hungary in ¹⁹⁴⁵ ~~in~~ the fall of 1945 I finished my gymnasium. This was a commercial school, a commercial middle school.

(2) I was anxious to study at the Academy of Fine Arts but because of my political background and also because of my status as a Nyugatos, that is someone who went West during the war, I could not qualify for admission. (Interviewer's note: the next questions I asked was questions 5 in order to find out something about his family background. end of interviewer's note.)

(5) My father was an architect. He died in 1940. (Interviewer's note: Later the respondent said that his father was not an architect. He said that his father did not have an architect's diploma but that he ~~xxxx~~ ^{had} some kind of diploma he received as a student who studied by correspondence. It was not clear which school it was and how his father studied or what kind of diploma he received. Upon probing him he ~~xxx~~ said that his father was a building contractor.)

(5e) We had a little estate half of vineyards in ~~Babcseny~~ ^{Babcseny}.
~~Babcseny~~

- (5g) We were 8 children. I had 5 sisters and 3 brothers.
- (5h) All are living in Hungary. My sisters are married, one of my brothers is a truck driver. He was politically not reliable, he was also ~~interned~~ interned. (Interviewer's note: I asked the respondent why his brother was interned. His answer was: "I don't know, he never told me anything about it." End of interviewer's note.) Another brother is an architect. He finished his studies under the Communist regime. (Interviewer's note: Asking after this brother, respondent said that this brother is not interested in politics. End of interviewer's note.)
- (5i) I was living alone.
- (5k) It was to my disadvantage. I think that my social background was less to my disadvantage than the fact that I went West during the war.
- (6-10) Are not applicable since the respondent is not married.
- (14a) Family ties were very close.
- (14b) Our family was an average type.
- (14c) I liked to be alone. I sometimes went out with ~~my~~ a girl. I was also reading and ~~was~~ also writing.
- (16) Changes there were but even today you have to go with a girl for 2 or 3 weeks before you can get her. There is ~~are~~ still some idealism left in them and they still appreciate spiritual harmony. According to my experiences it is easier to get the German girls than the Hungarian

girls today.

- (19) Both my parents were Catholics. My mother was more religious than my father.
- (19b) I am not a regular church-goer but I do go to church from time to time.
- (25a) They adjusted themselves absolutely.
- (25c) Yes, I had Jewish acquaintances. They behaved like the rest and I had to be careful with them.
- (25g) Anti-Semitism increased as compared with the situation before the war. I think there was no anti-semitism before the second world-war.
- (25h) After the change of the present regime the situation of the Jews in Hungary would not be good at all.

- (1) I am not interested in politics and I don't know much about it. (Interviewer's note: after this first answer I did not see much point in pursuing further this section. In the course of conversation he expressed the view that although not interested in politics, he is interested in what he termed national interest. He expressed also the view that he was on no good terms with the regime; he was an undesirable element; but he tried not to do anything which would have gotten him into troubles with the regime. End of interviewer's note.)

- (1) I received my information mostly from foreign radio.
- (2) I glanced through the Szabad Nep. I have read the Irodalmi Ujsag. I have not heard about the Hetfoei Hirlap.
- (3c) It was my principle not to see Communist films. I saw, however, foreign films.
- (3e) I did not go to the theatre.
- (4) I have read many books. (Interviewer's note: When I asked the respondent who were his favorite writers he said, he had no favorite writer. He could not remember titles of books he read. This was somewhat inconsistent with his answer in section R when he recited a long poem by a Istvan Simon and also at that time he said that the poem by Ference Juhasz impressed him very much. After some probing he said suddenly that the poet Attila Jozsef was his favorite poet. End of interviewer's note.)
- (10a) It did not ^{interest} ~~intexat~~ me particularly. (The same answer was given to point b and c.)
- (10d) On the basis of Communist propoganda I imagined that in West Germany there is a fully equipped army with atomic weapons. I have been surprised when I escaped from Hungary and arrived to Germany that nothing of this sort existed. It is my feeling that the German army is just in the making.

- (10e) The leaflets carried by Free Europe balloons were stupid empty and naive. It did not even interest me. The people threw it away. They did not take it seriously.
- (10f) I thought that the Berlin riots in 1953 will be followed by the unifications of ^{the} two Germanies. I was surprised when this did not happen.
- (10g) I don't remember it exactly; but I remember that much that I thought the West is too polite towards the Soviets.
- (10h) I considered emigre activities absolutely unsuccessful.

- (1) Everything that served Communism should disappear.
- (1a) The institutions of social welfare should be continued.
- (2) I would allow all parties to function.
- (6) I approve of nationalization of heavy industry.
- (17f) I would set a ^{limit} ~~limit~~ on land-holding, maximum should be 5 to 8 hundred hectares.
- (18a) The state should sustain all the churches.
- (18c) The state should take over church properties.
- (19) I would set up special courts in every county and district to try the guilty. The country should be purged of Communists who were guilty of crimes.
- (22) I have no answer to this.
- (23) We have rightful claims for territorial changes but I would not assert these claims right after liberation. I would first establish good relations with our neighbors. Then I would try to outstrip the neighboring countries economically and culturally. Within a decade when the moral superiority is accomplished I would ask an international tribunal to decide which territories should be returned to Hungary on the basis of ^{ethnical} ~~ethical~~ principles.

- (26) I don't know Marxism well enough to be able to answer this question.
- (27e) No, a Communist cannot be a patriot.
- (28b) No, Nagy would not have remained at the head of the Government.

- (2) Of course, I intend to go back to Hungary after liberation.

Interviewer's ratings: Although personal rapport with the respondent was pleasant, polite even friendly I don't think that he was either frank or cooperative. He often got excited, his answers were not to the point, he deviated from the subject making irrelevant monologues which did not make much sense. He ~~seemed~~ seemed to be suspicious I don't know of what but I do know that this was not a successful interview.

(Interviewer's note: After proofreading it, my impression is that in spite of everything, this is an interesting interview. Perhaps, it could be re-classified as a "B" interview, since as an "A" interview it is incomplete.)