

I have three uncles living here, in Germany, two of them left Hungary voluntarily in 1938, the third one was deported in '47. All of them are German citizens, two of them are living in and around Munich, the third one in Stuttgart. For a while I want to stay here, but not for good, later on I want to go over to America.

reparation, but it is impossible that all their former belongings should be restored. The present owners would be very much against it, and it would lead to very bad results. The farming cooperatives should be abolished, and everybody should be farming individually. The trade unions should stay, but the plant council should be organized in the way as it is in Germany. After the evacuation of Hungary by the Russians, there would not be many Communist party members. Many present members are no real Communist, these people should not be punished. About 30% of party members are real Communists, those should be punished. The AVO people should go before the courts. Those members of the police, who were Communist, should be punished too, but they should be judged according to their behavior. A new police is necessary. Gendarmery is not necessary, it should not be restored, police is much better. In a similar way the DISZ members should be made responsible for their former deeds. Every expert should work in his experienced field, a colonel shouldn't be a street cleaner, but if he is still able to do, should be a soldier. Hungary should be a republic, a democratic state. If the Russians would evacuate the other satellite countries too, Hungary could live in peace. It should be a well developed country, in industry and agriculture as well. An American loan would be very good.

The most important demands of the Hungarians, are as follows: A new government, elected in a democratic way, and an independent Hungary. There should be several parties, particularly Social Democratic, and Smallholders Party, and there would be a need for a Christian Democratic Party to represent the religion. The Communist Party could stay at least for a while, but later on it would be good to dissolve it, as it happened in Germany. In the case of an election, the Social Democrats and the Smallholders would get the majority. The Smallholders had some good political leaders, I know one of them in the county of Sopron.

The economic life of Hungary, should be pretty similar to that, which is now in Germany. The large estates should not be restored, the land should belong to the peasants. The large factories such as Csepel, or Ganz, should be perhaps nationalized. There should be a complete freedom of religion, a part of the estates of the church should be restored, there shouldn't be any church tax, as it is here in Germany. The schools of the church should be restored too. The German language should be taught in the schools. If the parishioners wish, the sermons in the church should be in German language. The Germans should have a right to establish their own clubs, a boy scout club, szivgárda, and so on. There shouldn't be anything else done about the people of German mother tongue in Hungary. It is difficult to say, what should happen to those Germans, who were deported, they should get a certain

of those gift parcels, what the situation in Western Germany was. If we saw a good looking pair of shoes on somebody, we knew that it came from Western Germany. Western Germany was generally called little America. Those Germans who were deported, wrote pretty often to their relatives. Between 1950 and '56 there was not much of escapes. In October '56 in two weeks, 16,000 persons left Sopron, some of them however returned. Most of those who escaped were youngster, who wanted to avoid a draft, I would have been under military obligation, so I rather left the country.

were not permitted. We got a much greater dose of Kolkhoz films. However the Russians made two good films, "Romeo and Juliet" and "Othello". There was no permanent theater in Sopron, but stage groups came to visit the city. They gave operettas, operas, and variety programme. The operas were very good, I remember the performance of the "Traviata". Sometimes a music hand came from Budapest. When they were playing dance music, the whole theater was fully packed. I had many books, particularly murder stories, published in the old times, most people had such old books at home, and they were lent. We were reading them even in the school, although it was banished there. I liked very much Edgar Wallace, David Hume and Agatha Christie, a novel of Dumas was republished by the Communists. Only the stupid fellows read the new books, such as the books of Fadaiev of Maxim Gorky. People generally did not believe what they saw in the news papers. There was a local news paper called Győr-Sopronmegyei Ujság. People did not like it, they rather bought a Szabad Nép, because there was more paper in it. I have seen myself a Free Europe balloon, and saw the leaflets on the street, the people were looking at them, five minutes later the police came and collected all the leaflets. I think the idea of the leaflets is a stupid one, it does not help anyhow.

Everybody in Sopron wanted to leave the country. Everybody had many relatives in Western Germany, who were sending gift parcels all the time, and we could understand, out

I listened to the Voice of America, to Free Europe, and to the Spanish station. Every night from 8 to 10 o'clock there was jazz music from Washington. We had a radio at home, I would say 70% of the families had a radio. I did not like radio Free Europe, it was always talking bla-bla. The Voice of America was the best. I did not listen to Hungarian radio programmes, except for the sport news. I read news papers. We subscribed to the Szabad Nép, then I bought the Szabad Ifjúság, because it was a good news paper. Nobody read the first page of the Szabad Nép, only on those days when there was something important in politics. We read many sport news papers. Out of the foreign papers we could buy the Humanité, and the Daily Worker. I had a friend, student of English at the university, he bought the Daily Worker every day in order to get some practice. The Austrian news papers were very popular. We could buy another German paper, published in the Eastern Zone, entitled Rote Fahne. I liked very much the movie programmes. The Russian films were very poor, but it was dangerous to leave them before the end. Once we did and some people came after us, and tried to ask our names. The French and Italian films were good. We saw three or four films made in Western Germany, one of them was about the captain of Koepenich. The films from the Eastern Germany are very poor. The French films are the best. We saw a few English films too, for example "Hamlet" with Laurence Olivier. The youngsters wanted to have cowboy films, however they

beat him very much. Then in another case, four firemen had to attend a political meeting. During the recession they were discussing what they had heard, and they made certain statements. All the four of them were interned for 6 years. Those people, who in old times were somebody, were more exposed to arrest. Many aristocrats in Sopron were freed only at the time of the revolution. A former brick manufacturer when he was drunk, said that he will go hunting again, as he did in old times. He was jailed for 5 years. As a former manufacturer he was not supposed to say such things. I tried to avoid any contact with the police, and I did not have anything to do with them. In the iron factory of Sopron, there is a Russian chief engineer, but he is an all right fellow, he can not be a Communist. He speaks German and a very little Hungarian. He is pretty much liked, because of his marriage. He had married a Hungarian girl who in old times had been raped by a Russian. He married her in spite of her child, they lived well. He is a good expert and he is liked very much. Two factories in Sopron, the Sotex and the Vosöntöde are under Russian management, however all together there are very few Russians in Sopron. Everybody was watched. It was impossible to make any opposition, the intellectuals hated the system even more than the workers and the peasants.

came and told us that we should stop singing. We did not. Next day all of us were called by the factory disciplinary committee, first I was told that the time of my apprenticeship will be prolonged because as a punishment, later on however nothing came out of it. This DISZ secretary tried to make good Communists out of us, however he did not succeed. He was hated by everybody, and was beaten during the time of the revolution.

I was a member of Szabadsegelyes Szövetség, and participated there at several courses, in shooting, in driving, and in tactics. I was member of the Hungarian-Soviet friendship society. I had to pay there one fts. a week. The members were supposed to learn Russian, and attend different lectures, and to see Russian films. The programme was very boring, and I tried to avoid them. I have never learned anything out of the Russian language, it was ridiculous for a Hungarian to speak of the Soviet-Hungarian friendship, since the Russians had raped the whole country in 1945. The Russians are backward primitive people, they are called mungo. I know of some cases of police terror. A schoolmate of mine whose father had in old times a large butcher shop, left the country, and was captured in Austria, brought back to Hungary. He was beaten by the police, and he was half dead when he was brought home. A friend of mine who was working in the gas factory, found an American leaflet in the wire yards, he brought it to the factory, and he was reported by one of the spies. The AVO people

People are dissatisfied and try to follow the political events. When they get their pay cheque, they forget their complaints for ~~th~~ a short time, but later on everybody equally criticises the system. The greatest complaints are, the lack of freedom, and personal security. If one member of the family is taken away by the police, everybody is living in a constant fright. On the other hand the summer vacation at the Balaton is good, something like this one had not existed in the times of Horthy. Only those people become party members, who are forced to do so. Among the workers in Sopron nobody is an enthusiastic Communist, but is a party member, because he has to be. For a young man it is difficult to become a party member, he must be a Stachanovite in order to get accepted by the party. I was a member of the DISZ. In the industrial school the party secretary filled-in my membership application form, and then gave it to me that I should sign it, so I signed but I did never pay membership fees. I was a simple member, had no office, and did not try to participate in the different activities. Some people wanted that I should join the folk dance group of the DISZ, but I did not. I tried to avoid the DISZ meetings. I have already mentioned the city secretary of the DISZ, he was 26 years old, and came from a village. He was an enthusiastic Communist who did a great harm to everybody. One time we were coming back from a football match, and on the train we were singing cowboy songs, we heard in the movies. The DISZ secretary

tongue can be found in all classes, not even the intellectuals denied their German mother tongue. Here is the case of the employees of the City Hall. In old times the Germans occupied certain areas of the city, but by now such a distinction disappeared. There are many Jews in Sopron, and they take in leading positions, many of them are managers, others are MASZEK people, or members of Home Industry Co-operatives, where they can make a lot of money. There are many doctors among them, for example [REDACTED], the schoolmate of Rakosi. The Jews had their rabbi, and their temple. There is anti-Semitism, because there are many Jews in the ministries. People do not think of the problem, what they should do with the Jews, on the contrary they are thinking what the Jews are doing with the workers.

for a dance there. The band there usually played American hit songs, but then came the police, which visited all such places, and forbid the western dances. Everybody went to churches, Catholics, and Lutherans just the same way, those people who had a better job, watched out. In Sopron there was one church right at the Party House, there party members were standing, and watching the people going into the church. I don't know of any other case that churchgoers were supervised by the party. In the city we had one peace priest, who was the member of the City Council, as the representative of the church. He was a Catholic priest, but he was drinking too much, and had many other personal faults, he was playing cards, and did not behave, as a priest should have behaved. There are social classes, although the system denies their existence. The intellectuals do not make friendship with the workers, and the peasant boys have their own company. The class differences can be seen in clothing or in dwelling place. There were dwelling areas for the workers in Sopron, there were different ones for the white collar workers. A worker had a greater freedom, he could talk more, he could complain if he did not like something in a restaurant, he could ask for the complaint book, an intellectual did not dare to do anything like that. One of the coffee houses was for the intellectuals only, workers did not go in. The intellectuals earn less, the white collar people make 700 fts. a month, and they still keep apart. People of German mother

schoolmate of Rakosi, and he is a great Communist, he is carrying out most of the abortions.

The youth had their own company, and spent seldom time with their parents. I know of a very few cases, where there was a conflict between parents and children. A worker in the gas factory, a peasant boy had something like this one. His father was a gardener, the boy became a great Communist, and the parents were very religious, finally the father turned out his son. This is again a case, where the Communists can do much harm to the peasant boys. Concerning the other aspects of the morals, I would say that here in Germany there are more thieves and gangsters than in Hungary. In Hungary people stole only from the factory, because that was not regarded as a sin, but nobody stole from the other fellow, I have never heard of any burglary case. All my friends were old friends, with whom I was raised together, we had a friendly circle, consisting of four workers and five university students, something like this one was a rarity, that intellectuals and workers should go together. We spent most of our times in sports, in espressos, in going to movies and theaters, we discussed the sport events, and we discussed very much the life in the western countries. Boys and girls usually had their own company, and did not mix. Parents usually did not like if a girl under 20 years was courted by a boy. There was a dance every Saturday night in the Culture House. We did not take girls to the dance, they came and we could ask them

supervisor in one of the factories in Sopron. The family life did not change very much, although the morals of the youth became pretty bad. In old times the youngsters were sent home at 8 o'clock p.m. Nowadays you can see them on the streets any hour of the night. It is true that young people generally get married at a rather young age, however in Sopron the situation did not change very much, the girls are still uppish as they were in old times. It is impossible to make an acquaintance on the street, as you can make here in Germany. The boys must be polite towards the girls. It is very difficult to address them as they, the usual greeting is still kezét csokolom. The old ways of courtship are still existing, the boy goes to the home of girl for a long time. There is an engagement before marriage, usually it takes a year before they get to the marriage, and they get a church wedding. Before marriage the youngsters usually want the approval of their parents. The custom of the dowery is still kept, however in this case the parents are in a very strait position, they try to scrape up everything that might be useful for the young couple, for example the surplus furniture, linen, and the most important things to establish a household. Those who are invited for the wedding, buy some presents too, the young couple usually lives with the parents. The marriage is in many cases a forced marriage, because the child is already under way. There are many cases of abortion. In Sopron there is a notorious doctor, who was a

Communism, and we had many incidents with the peasant boys. I had something too. Those peasant boys did not have the necessary education from their homes, they could be influenced very easily. My friends all liked the western life, jazz music, and so on. We were well informed about life in the western countries, and the propaganda could not have any results. The peasant boys were called mungó, they did not know anything about the western life, they believed everything the teachers told them. The city boys were often called jampeo in the school, and scolded by the teachers, because we tried to follow the American fashion. We were told that a working boy does not take on such suits, and it was a trouble if somebody appeared in a pair of strait slacks. The strait slacks were expensive, since one couldn't buy them ready made, one had to order them, however everybody liked them, and the teachers were very much against them. In such a way the whole class was divided into two parts, one of them was good Communist, the other one was not. Discipline could not be maintained, the morning prayer was abolished, but we had to sing a Communist song during that time. One half of the class was loudly laughing, the other one was singing enthusiastically. Our family consisted originally of four persons, the parents, my sister, and myself, my sister got married in 1949, and left our home, her husband is a technical assistant with good schooling, right now he is norm

I started my grade schools in 1943, and finished them in '51, then came the industrial school. There half of the teachers were new, and they were Communists, they were former workers, who now got softer jobs. One teacher who was a great Communist, committed spelling errors, when writing on the blackboard. The director of the school was a former lathe turret operator, who got this job because he was a good kider. The students of the school, had their own black uniform, with the red star, similar to the uniform of the miners. There are some good things in the school, for example every summer we got one month vacation, and for two weeks we were taken to the Balaton. It is true that the apprentices are not beaten nowadays, on the other hand we had to learn many political subjects, and many things connected with military education, such as tactics, sharpshooting. The subjects of constitution, history were nothing but politics. The school had a special boarding home for the sons of the peasants, who came from the other villages of western Hungary, such as Kapuvár, or Csorna. These peasant boys were very satisfied of the system, they liked the uniform, they got some money, had possibilities of sports. The students from the city were all against the

working now as street sweepers. If you saw a street cleaner you could immediately know that he was a gentleman. A former expert of the film industry got a job with the City Advertising Bureau, and was posting the posters. In the summer he was as a tourist guide, since many tourists came to Sopron. In the Lövér area of the city, many people lived, who in old times had seen better days. They received a pension now, and if they were not too old, tried to get another job.

tobacco was rather cheap, everybody could consume them. Amusement cost more, if I went out for a dance, it cost me 60 to 70 fts. one occasion. Admission to the ball of the university students, cost alone 10 to 15 fts. Since I had money, I spent pretty much on amusement, that is 300 fts. a year. We did not spend on medical expenses, since everything came through the OTI. In the gas factory we had to buy a political book, once every month, costing 6 to 8 fts., they were usually political pamphlets or biography of Rakosi, or a book about the revolution of 1919. Nobody read those books, but people took them right away to the toilette to be used there. We spent money on such items as buying radio, and motorbike. We couldn't save very much, what we saved, we put it into the bank. Many people did the same way. Generally speaking, the people of Sopron lived quietly. There was an unskilled worker, working at the gas factory, he was the baron Bornemissza, in old times he had an office with the county, in '46 he was fired, and became a worker, and finally got a job with the gas factory. His wife worked in a dress factory, his daughter was a typist at the university. It was no good that such people had to work as an unskilled worker, there were many former aristocrats, counts, and barons.

My father made 1,800 to 2,000 Ft. a month, so all together we had about 3,000 Ft. a month, plus what we made through outside work, for the outside work however, we were often paid in kinds, and not in money. We did not own our home, but rented an apartment from the Ingatlankezelő Vállalat, paying 50 Ft. a month. It was in an old house, on the second floor, and consisted of two rooms, kitchen, pantry room, and hall, there was no bathroom. We installed running water, and gas when we moved in, in 1948. Food was expensive, and difficult to obtain, particularly meat. On Fridays there were always long queues, standing for meat. We always kept ^{swipe} ~~key~~, at the place of my aunt, who had a house outside of the city. I don't know how much we spent on food, it would be difficult to say, all I know, that most of the workers who made only 800 Ft. a month, spent all their income on food. In clothing the situation was very poor, the average fellow had to save 3 years, in order to obtain a new suit. We were better off, I had at least one suit every year. Concerning heating, each of us received 16 ^{tons} ~~pieces~~ of coke, from the gas factory each year. We used only half of it, and the other half could be sold with some profit. For electricity and gas we spent 60 to 70 Ft. a month. Wine and

fitting, or anything like that. We were always called to private homes to do different kind of works. Out of the black work we could make as much money, as our regular pay was. All the workers were doing the same, this was the main reason why they liked the gas factory, and tried to stay there. Everybody used the material of the plant for the private works, the material was simply stolen. If somebody had a good reason, he could change his job, however the normal situation was, that everybody tried to find a good job, and stay there for good. The discipline was not too strong in the factory. The party secretary was very often drunk at the place of the work. It happened that he was late, or left earlier, and nobody said anything about it. I would say that three social layers could be distinguished in the gas factory, the intellectuals, the skilled workers, and the unskilled workers. The skilled worker could make a living out of his wages, he could make excursions, and so on, but he couldn't buy a motorbike. We had a motorbike and a few other benefits, because of the outside work. Concerning our family budget, I could say that two of us were working, my father and me, mother was not working, but stayed at home.

the gas work for a long time. My father is working there for 25 years, another worker who is now the secretary of the plant committee, is there for 30 years. There were no good kaders in the plant, and there were two police spies, one of them was the chief accountant, already mentioned, and the other one, an unskilled worker, who reported to the chief accountant. There were five or six workers of German mother tongue, the Party Committee discriminated against them. My uncle was working in the plant too, although he had been a German SS. He had joined the German SS, and fought in the war, captured by the Americans and then had returned to Hungary in 1946, because his family was there. He told us several times, that he had had his best life in Germany, he had praised Germany very much. However he was pretty much suppressed in the plant, if he was asking for something, he was always told "shut up! you should be glad that you can work". My father was never in the Volksbund, that is why he could join the party. I knew many people who in old times were either in the Volksbund or joined the SS. all of them were working, but had a hard time. We had plenty of opportunities to do black work, after ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ in the plant. Everybody ~~XXXXXXXX~~ some installation work, or pipe

We slept through the party seminary. The workers were mainly local people, there were several cases like mine, that father and son worked in the same factory. The younger workers were more inclined towards Communism, the older ones kept rather silent, even my father, although he was a party member, was very silent. He had to swallow pretty much because of his origin. Everybody was a member of the trade Union, and our Trade Union dues were rather high. The Trade Union didn't do very much, if we had some complaints, for example we did not get working overalls, we could complain before the Trade Union. The Trade Union was in charge of the Summer vacations, however Summer vacation at the Balaton was given only for those people, who did a good work in the party. We received from the factory several benefits, for example overalls and shoes for work, and soap, and so on. For outside work we received rubber boots and rain coats. The factory gave rather good prices of clothing, if somebody wanted to buy the overall in a store, it cost 150 Ft. the shoe cost 200 Ft. so the benefits were quite good. The workers were rather free to talk about politics, since most of them knew each other for a long time. Many of the workers have been there with

factory. The workers were pretty bitter, because in old times we had had gas on cheap rates, and this system was abolished by the Communists. 70 people were working in the gas factory, out of them only 5 were real Communists, and there were some other party members too. My father was a party member, but no Communist. I was not a party member. The five real Communists were all peasants, who in old times had worked as unskilled laborers, and now they could make a success. A former carpenter now became the chief accountant, actually he was running the whole plant, he was dominating even the chief engineer and manager, who did not dare to do anything, without the approval of the chief accountant. This chief accountant by the way died before the revolution. Another real Communist, who had been a peasant, became now the personnel manager of the plant. The party members had a meeting every week, from time to time a seminary. I had to attend a seminary too, since people were simply invited and then they had to show up. However none of the real Communists were able to deliver a lecture or say two good sentences, since they were just peasants, so they always invited an intellectual Communist from outside the plant but even the intellectuals spoke about very boring things.

The total deductions, amounted to 100 and 120 fts. they included 10 fts. a month for Trade Union, I had to pay 2 fts. the the DISZ, and I had to subscribe a peace loan. After a lot of hogging I had to subscribe 700 fts. There was a small deduction for sports and small one for taxes.

The unskilled workers earned much less, but I don't know how much. They could improve their situation through connections with the party, for example our party secretary was a former unskilled worker, then because of his party work he was promoted to skilled worker, and finally to party secretary.

I worked 8 hours a day, six days a week. Overtime was either paid or I could take out the time on some other day. The gas works were rather poorly equipped, if I compare the technical equipment to the German one, I see now, I would say that it was backward 20 years. I don't know the main reasons of that, but the tools were poor, and the workers tried to sabotage. I have heard of several cases of sabotage, for example once we were building a dwelling settlement for workers, and when it was finished, gypsum was found in the pipes. The police started an investigation, but I don't know about the results. The workers usually stole from the

In 1951 I finished the Altalanos school, and in the fall of that year, I became apprentice at the gas factory of Sopron, where my father was working. It meant that I was working there three days a week, and went to the industrial school the remaining three ~~an~~ other days. In the industrial schools of Hungary, there was more theoretical learning, than it is here in Germany. In Hungary 90% of our theoretical learning were political subjects. On the remaining of three days of the week, I was working as an apprentice in the different installation works, my father was my master.

In 1953 I became skilled worker, as plumber and pipe fitter, and stayed there with the gas factory, up to November 1956.

In Sopron the gas became popular only after 1945, that was the time when everybody wanted gas installed in his apartment, so we had plenty to do. On the other hand people needed good connections to get the gas installed, for example a party secretary got his gas range right away, a regular fellow had to wait two years. If somebody had the money, he could buy the gas range and installment, but most people had a range rented from the gas works of the city.

In 1956 I was earning 1,200 fts. out of this a 1000 fts. was the basic wage, the other part came for the achievements.

that he should hand over his gun. The fellow first protested but later gave him his gun. I did not have any weapons, except for the one case during the hunt for the AVO man. In Sopron there was a revolutionary City Council, elected out of the factories, and with the participation of the representatives of the army, the police, however the council was actually run by the university. The streets were patrolled by ^{three} ~~four~~ persons walking together, one policeman, one soldier, and one student with ^{arms} ~~weapons~~, they were watching the public order. There was a great public order in the city, there was no robbery or anything like that. It is true, that the Russians graves in the grave yard, were overturned, the people wanted to have such an occasion, and used it, particularly the workers, who were very dissatisfied, but generally there were not much of violence in Sopron, everything went on rather quietly.

guy, who was an AVO man, and took him to the prison at the university. He was kept there, I don't know what happened to him. There was not much violence in Sopron, people in the villages did more, they hanged quite a few cooperative chairmen. I did not have any great adventures during the revolution, since I was working in the gas factory all the time. I did not shoot upon Russians or AVO people or anybody else, although many of the youngsters left the city, and went to Budapest to participate in the fights. Budapest was always asking for that. In Sopron the students printed some leaflets, asking for help, other leaflets came from Budapest saying that we expect the help of the countryside. There was a poem too, printed on the leaflets, it had the title "Countryside where are you". Finally many of the youngsters went up right to Budapest, there they joined the different fighting groups. The fights in Budapest were all organized, but I don't know what the youngsters from Sopron did there. In those days it was easy to get arms, we got them from the border guards, because they were for the revolution. Then there were many people who had been hiding guns. For example a friend of mine knew of such a guy in Erenberg, so he went out to him and told him

In the gas factory a temporary workers' council was established through secret vote, out of good people, the old plant council was abolished. The new workers' council wanted to maintain order, and did not do very much.

I left Hungary on November the first, after I heard that the Russians had intervened, I did not see any Russians in or around Sopron, but on the same day on November the first, the revolutionaries set up guns on the highway before the city, and they wanted to receive the Russians with gun fire.

In the first days of November nobody was working, people were walking on the street, coffee houses, taverns were closed, there was a general preoccupation, people were expecting the news through loudspeakers. In those days I

participated in one of the AVO hunts, I mean hunting for AVO people, but it was not a great affair. By chance we walked to the university, where there was a truck leaving

with students, who were ~~xxxxxx~~ supposed to ~~xxxx~~ capture an AVO man, who had escaped from Sopron. The two of us ~~xxxx~~ hopped on

the truck, and we were given arms too, each of us had two guns. We went over to a village. The people there, were crazy to see us, and told us that we should murder the AVO

people. We could not find our fellow, but we captured another

Communists, for example quite a few former members of the Volksbund are now Communists. The soldiers and railway employees, who tore down their Red Stars and tread upon them, are now wearing them again. In Sopron there were no such bloody scenes as in Moson, however there were some cases of mob violence. For example we had a DISZ secretary, the greatest scoundrel of the city, who tried to do harm to everybody. He denounced everybody, young workers or students equally. One day during the revolution he was caught and beaten up, then he was made march across the city, in the meantime the mob was kicking him and spitting upon him, and calling him dirty Communist. The students did not want to have any mob violence, they tried to protect him, and they tried to argue with the mass. Finally the students could get hold of him, and took him to the barracks where all the other Communist and AVO people were imprisoned. I don't know of any mob violence which ended in a death. For example in the gas factory, there was an old Communist from 1919, who worked as the chief accountant, and the spy of the AVO. At the beginning of the revolution, he took out vacation, and disappeared, nothing happened to him. The other Communists were silent, and nothing happened to them.

Communists. I know it since my mother visited me two weeks ago here in Germany, she came over legally, about a year ago she had put in an application for a passport, now it was finally granted. She came over and spent about two weeks with me, and with my uncles. My mother told me about the retaliation of the Communists, I had a friend who was a custom guard on the border, all he did during the revolution was that he permitted the trucks to pass the border. With the new system the Communists arrested him, and beat him till he died. Another friend of mine escaped to Austria, then he went back to Hungary to visit his mother, and after a few days wanted to return to Austria. He was captured by the police and taken away. We don't know what happened to him. The old monument was reinstalled, and the Red Stars are now back on their old places, like now is going in the old way. The Communists are now giving certain concessions, although one cannot see the results, since life is not better than it was before the revolution. There are again many great

In the first days after we have heard about the events in Budapest, the AVO people ~~patrolled~~ ^{patrolled} the streets of Sopron and were watching that no demonstration should take place. However the situation slowly changed and the AVO people disappeared, then finally the students of the university arranged the demonstration, they overturned the Soviet monuments and removed the Red Stars. About the same time a general strike was announced, that the Russians should be forced to evacuate Hungary. In the gas factory ~~where~~ ^{where} I was working, we did not go on strike. I do not remember any more the exact day of the great mass demonstration, however on one morning a large number of people met before the monument of the Soviet Soldier, they were in a happy mood, like on a mass demonstration on May the first, then some people brought ropes, and although policemen were standing around the monument, the rope was put around it. The rope was put around the monument by the students, but everybody pulled it, everybody was crazy of joy, was applauding, even the policemen were applauding. It is interesting that those, who pulled the rope at that time, ~~they~~ are now the greatest

Please note: This section contains those statements of the respondent's which refer to the revolution in Sopron, however it does not follow exactly, the questions of our questionnaire for the "A" type of interviews.

Generally speaking the Germans are not better off, than the Hungarians, neither politically, nor financially, it is so however, that the German wine growers are much better off than the Hungarians, although the Germans had to suffer pretty much, if somebody had more than two wine yards, the surplus was taken away from him, and out of that surplus the new cooperatives were established. There are quite a few Maszek wine growers, at the same time somebody can be a Maszek wine grower and a member of the cooperative too. The German cooperative Haladás, made generally more money. If somebody comes to Sopron from Budapest, he sees that life there is different, life in Sopron is more similar to the Austrian or German life. However for the Communist system it is just the same, whether somebody is of German or Hungarian mother tongue, the system itself does not make any discrimination.

Hungarians, concerning their attitude towards Communism.

On the other hand it is true, that many of the wine growers are pretty much for Communism, because they are ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ better off in the present system. In the factories Germans and Hungarians join the party equally, nobody was put out of office or job, because he was a German. For example the chairman of the City Council was a fellow of German origin, who married a Hungarian girl, both of them are very important Communists in the city. In the City Hall there are still many white collar workers of German mother tongue, who use the German language in their private conversations, and so they used the usual mixed German Hungarian language, which has been common in Sopron, for example they meet in the corridor of the City Hall, and greet each other "Jó meget wie geht es". In Sopron one could buy the two news papers of the Austrian Communist party, the Abendzeitung, and Volksstimme. We could never get enough copies, the few copies of them that arrived in our city, were sold in a few minutes, I do not think that people bought them because they preferred German readings, they were simply better than the Hungarian Communist papers, since they were writing about fashion, about movies, and about the western countries.

tongue, and prefer to talk Hungarian. There were quite a few priests who were against the German, and wanted to put it out of use, in this respect there was no difference between the Catholics and the Lutherans. Religion, as any other subject is taught in Hungarian only, there is no difference in religious behavior, among the Germans and the Hungarians, both the German and the Hungarian masses are well attended. The old German clubs ceased to exist, for example the old Concordia, singing club stopped operation in 1947. It was not officially oppressed, I suppose there were not enough Germans left, or there was no more interest in it. There were many other clubs and organizations around the churches, which were so important in old times and now stopped their work, for example the Katolikus Legényegylet, or the Szivgárda, and finally the boy scout club. The German youth participates in the same kind of clubs as the Hungarian ones, for example I played football, in the Lokomotiv club of Sopron, with many other kids. I do not think that the German families stick together, they do not follow a plan of in-marriage and have both kind of friends. This is one of the reasons why the German language is abandoned. There were many Germans, who became enthusiastic Communists. There is no difference between Germans and

parents are not too sad about the disappearance of the language, their main worry is how to make a living, and do not have time to care about such affairs. German language as a subject was abolished in the schools, I understand that after the revolution, it is being taught again. The German elementary school ceased perhaps around 1948, and the youngsters are learning in Hungarian. The youngsters do not speak German. There are quite a few families, where the parents hardly know Hungarian and the kids know only Hungarian. Outside of family homes, one cannot use the German language. If the situation continues, the German language will die out entirely. There is a discrimination against the Germans, but not very much. For example in the gas factory in Sopron, there are quite a few people of German mother tongue, now if such a fellow made a mistake, then he was always told "you Suabian, keep your mouth shut!" Then there was some animosity between the German and Hungarian wine growers. The Hungarian wine growers did a very poor job, and the Germans made complaints at the state office of agriculture, but all those complaints were in vain, however their animosity did not come to any thing for their aids. The Germans are partly Catholics and partly Lutherans, I know of the Catholic church only, where there is a German mass, only on Sundays, one of the early masses, at 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning. On working days there is only Hungarian mass, except in the time of Advent, when there was German Mass every morning. There are new priests in the city, a new generation, who have Hungarian mother

who escaped from the country. In August or September 1956, before the revolution, the mines were removed from the international boarder, right away people began to leave Hungary, I would say that by now 90% of the Jews in Sopron, left the city. One can hear German words all over the city, on the streets and public places, just as well. ~~xxxxxx~~ The use of the German language is restricted to the older generation, particularly the old women who do not speak any Hungarian. On the market place the old members are talking only German. In the black years of 1951 and '52 the German language was prohibited, there was no other party, but if any body spoke German, he was looked upon as reactionary. In the later years the situation changed, the coffee houses and stores have now bilingual signs, Hungarian and beneath that German, this is partly because of the tourist traffic, since many people from Austria are coming over. In the younger generation the German language is disappearing fast. I had friends of German mother tongue, however we spoke among ourselves only Hungarian, such youngsters are giving up the use of the German, because of their Hungarian education, for example two of my friends went to the university. You can not notice on the youth that their parents are of German mother tongue. I forgot the German I learned at home as a child. When I arrived here in Germany I could understand every thing, but it was difficult to talk, I needed a practice of a few months, now I can talk pretty well, but I cannot write German. The

money, all of them have a motorbike, and they could even buy a car. On the other hand the Hungarians neglected the wine yards very much, it is full of needs now, they do not know the art of wine dressing. The people are ^{getting} ~~going~~ downhearted, when they look upon their poorly managed wine yards. I don't know very much about the Germans around Sopron, because it is difficult to move around, if somebody goes near to brennbergbánya, he is returned by the AVO people. However I know that the mines there, were closed down a few years before the revolution, the mines are under water now, and they are not cultivated. The reason for that might be that, the mines became exhausted, and the Hungarians started to mine under Austrian territory. There were several dissensions on that point between the Austrian and Hungarian governments, finally they had to give up mining. The former miners are now working in the factories or in agriculture, in and around Sopron. The former Agfalva is now called Magyarfalva, there three out of every four Germans are either bricklayers or carpenters, and work in construction work in Sopron. The former Banfalva is now Sopronkertvaros, and it is a part of the city of Sopron. Those people who were deported, are living now in western Germany, around Heidelberg. In those old times everybody was glad, who could avoid a deportation, however they were sorry because of that, later on. Nowadays everybody would like to get out of Hungary, most people have relatives in Germany, and try to leave the country. There were all the time of few people

There are two minorities living in or around Sopron. One of them is the Croatian minority. I don't know very much about them, however I know that they still speak Croatian, and speak only a broken Hungarian. You can recognize them when they are working in Sopron, because of their speech. The other minority, the larger one^{is}/the German. I don't know any numbers, how many Germans are living in and around Sopron. In old times there were more Germans, although between 1945 and '47 about 75% of them were deported from the country, and many other people left either before that date, or after it. They wanted to deport even my father, however his work was necessary in the gas factory in Sopron, so he was permitted to stay. At the time of the deportation All those Germans, who did a useful work, were permitted to stay. Most of the deportees were land owners and particularly wine growers, this being an important occupation of the Germans. The lands left by the Germans, were taken over by new Hungarian settlers. Nowadays the situation is, that half of the wine growers in Sopron are Germans, and the other half are the new settlers. They have their own cooperatives. The Germans established the cooperative named Haladás, the Hungarians the cooperative named Dozsa. The Haladás the German cooperative is the best cooperative of the country, its members are very rich, mainly because wine had a very good price in the country, a litre of wine cost 20 ft. and many of them have a hundred hektos in their cellar. These German wine growers are very satisfied, and have a lot of

Please note: This is a "B" type interview, dealing
mainly with the German minority in Hungary, the material
is structured in a way, that first I give the material
pertaining to the "B" type of interview. Later on the
answers are arranged, more or less according to the
sections of the "A" interview. They should be regarded
as the opinion of a person coming from the minority of
German mother tongue in Hungary.