

(Interviewer's note: This is an unfinished A-type interview. The respondent did not show up for the second meeting and left later Vienna for a summer vacation. The present interview covers Section R and the beginning of Section W.)

- (1) The Hungarians were disappointed with the attitude of the Western powers. The Hungarians hoped that they will receive a certain kind of help either ^{possibly} ~~A~~ intervention or at least a help in the line of diplomacy, in order to shift the Communist ~~mix~~ system towards the right and to establish human freedom.
- (2b) The incubation period of the Revolution started right after the government of Nagy Imre was broken down in 1954 or perhaps in 55. By that time it was impossible to silence the criticism of the system. The writers played a very conspicuous role. The fermentation could be particularly felt among the university students with whom I had to work. However, the Revolution itself exploded like an incident. The Communist leaders committed many great errors from their own point of view. The Revolution, however, was not the outcome of some systematic preparations. The dismissal of Rakosi or the funeral of Rajk were great events from the point of view of the student, however, they did not contribute essentially to the preparation of the Revolution.
- (2c) Nobody could realize which was a real turning point in the chain of events. Nevertheless the rehabilitation of Rajk was important because it proved how false the

claim was that the Party was infallible. By that time everybody had to see that something must be wrong with the whole system.

(2d) Everybody hoped for a change, but it was a very vague hope.

(2e) From the beginning of 1956 even those people followed eagerly the announcements of the writers who originally would not be interested in literary problems. The 2 papers Irodalmi Ujsag and Kivelt Nep became popular and were quoted more often than the sport newspapers. A few months before the Revolution the Hungarian writers arranged a meeting and the meeting was discussed by the general public more thoroughly than any of the Party congresses. Among the students of the university the Irodalmi Ujsag went from hand to hand. The workers and other less educated people were eager to read it.

(3b) The Party maintained the old system of control up to the Revolution. However, at the same time open criticism was permitted. For example, the writer Déry and some other writers were called before a disciplinary committee of the Communist Party. However, the general leadership of the Communist Party was undecided and did not know how much freedom should be permitted. There were still some honest Party leaders who believed in self-criticism. The masses, however, did not want to give self-criticism of the Party, but wanted to abolish

Communism. The Communist Party called together several meetings for the workers of the Polytechnic in Budapest. The meetings were supposed to be attended by everybody including the non-members of the Party too. During the meetings we were told to speak frankly and tell ~~them~~ what is wrong with the present system. At one of the meetings in 1955 I spoke up and mentioned that I would listen to the Radio Free Europe and would hear many interesting news there. I asked why it was not possible that the Hungarian radio would transmit the same news. The Party secretary gave some wishy-washy answer, but the interesting thing was that I was not punished for such statements made in public.

- (3c) The university students put down in their 14 points what was in their minds. The 14 points expressed their feelings and demands exactly. Those civilians who joined the demonstrations in the late hours of October 23~~rd~~ did not know exactly what they wanted. All they wanted was a demonstration against the Communist system.
- (3f) I have not met any people who would have opposed the result.
- (3g) I think that 80% of the people were for the Revolution, another 20% was ~~made~~ made up of the cautious people who did not want to commit themselves for the Revolution.
- (3h) The first slogans demanded that the Russians should go. The later slogans were about freedom, neutrality,

independent Hungarian policy and free elections. The most popular demand was that the Russians should leave Hungary.

(31) In the first few days, the Revolution was not against Communism, at least not against the existing system of Nagy Imre. Nobody wanted that the country should make a complete *turn-around* and should stand up against Communism. Nobody thought of the restoration of the large estates or the liquidation of the nationalization. 2/3 of all university students were from the working and peasant class^{es} and they were unwilling to liquidate nationalization or to restore the large estates.

(31) The reactionaries did not play a part in The Revolution. In the ~~the~~ later phase, however, the hooligan elements crept out and did a great harm to the cause of the Revolution.

(3m) My idea was all the time that the Russian troops will intervene sooner or later:

(4) At the time of the Revolution, I was in the rank of technical assistant on the staff of the department for ~~applied~~ science of the Polytechnic of Budapest. Our institution was located on the Villanyi ut. Because of my job, I was in a constant ~~contact~~ with the university students. Those students who participated in ~~by~~ demonstrations, I mean university demonstrations not political demonstrations, often came

in my office and informed me of their affairs. Thus I was well informed about the events that happened in Szeged on October 28th. In the following days I learned that our students, too, want to endorse the demands of the students of Szeged. I knew that the students of the Polytechnic had a meeting on October 22nd where the 14 points were accepted. When I went ~~in~~ into my office on October 23rd I knew that there will be a general student demonstration in the afternoon. The invitations for the demonstration as well as the 14 points were posted all over the corridors of our institute. Our university was in a great uproar, the classes were dismissed and the students had a meeting at 10 a.m.

In order to keep out the ineligible persons only those people were permitted to enter the meeting room who could show their student legitimation. Only those 2 members of the staff attended the meeting who were invited by the students. At the time of the meeting I was in my office which I shared with 2 of my colleagues. We listened to the radio and at 11.30 we heard the radio announcement to the fact that the Minister of Interior Biros did not permit the student demonstrations. A few minutes later some students known to us personally entered our office and told us that the students decided to go on with the demonstration in spite of the official prohibition of it. At the same time the students invited the staff

members to attend the demonstration. The students prepared mimeographed manifestos inviting the population to a silent demonstration to be held at 3 p.m. at the statue of Petöfi. The manifestos were posted on the street around our school and clearly showed that the students are willing to defy the order of the cabinet minister. At 2 p.m. the radio announced that the Minister of Interior changed his mind and permitted the demonstration of the students. With three other members of the staff we decided to attend the demonstration and ~~...~~ into the car of one staff member. We arrived around 3 p.m. at the statue of Petöfi. There were about 5000 people on the Square around the statue. Most of the people were not students ^{but} who came out of mere curiosity. The demonstration was ~~kk~~ rather simple. One actor recited the poem of Petöfi entitled Talpra Magyar, but his voice could be hardly heard since at that time the loudspeaker was not yet working. A few minutes later the loudspeaker of the Petöfi Circle was already in operation and transmitted a few greeting words of the Circle. Then suddenly Veres Peter appeared, delivered a short ~~speech~~ speech and read the proclamation of the Hungarian writers about the freedom of speech. His words were rather moderate and his person was not popular. His speech did not arise a great enthusiasm with the mass. Finally one of the students stood up and ~~...~~ announced that all of us should march over to the statue.

of Bem and participate in the general student demonstration there. The mass began to move and we too drove over to the statue of Bem where we arrived between 4 and 4.30 p.m. By ~~the~~ ^{that} time there was a large crowd of about 20 000 people on the Square around the statue. The students of all ~~university~~ universities were represented there. Moreover, many working youth, who came from the different factories. Added to that was a large crowd of people who had ~~lx~~ just left their places of work and, ^{or} their home they stopped to see the demonstration. One could see policemen and soldiers in the crowd. When we arrived there, the demonstration had not started yet and the crowd began to ~~move~~ ^{gather} before the building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ^h where red flags were hanging. A few minutes later, the red flags were removed from the building and ~~were~~ replaced by red-white-green flags, whereupon the crowd cheered. In the windows of the Bem barracks many soldiers were looking down upon the crowd. By the way the flags were changed into red-white-green flags even at the barracks. The main demonstration started after 5 p.m. Because of the large crowd, a great part of the speeches could not be heard. In some cases even the speaker could not be seen. Veres Peter spoke again. There were a few poems recited and a few students spoke. Finally the 17 points were accepted by the crowd and the students of the Polytechnic were instructed to give the final wording

to the 17 demands. About 7 p.m. we drove over to the Building of the Parliament. By that time it was entirely dark, however, there was a huge crowd of about 100 000 people filling in the square before the Parliament. The events that happened on the Parliament Square are well known and it is not necessary for me to repeat them. It was around 9 p.m. that the crowd began to shout: ~~Let's~~ "Let's go to the Radio." The four of us decided to look around the Radio Building and so we drove off. The crowd began to march towards the Radio Building, but ~~when~~ we arrived there in a few minutes. At the time of our arrival there were only a few people around the building of the radio. We stopped the car at the Brody Sandor utca and marched up to the building. We stood near to the gates of the building. In the next few minutes the street became crowded and the mass began to shout its demands. They demanded that the radio program should be stopped immediately and the 12 points of the students should be read in. Some representatives of the students went ~~in~~ into the building to talk with the leaders of the radio, but the radio program was still going on. Later on, the gates of the building were closed. Then a few young people climbed up, using the ~~frames~~ of the windows, to the second floor and entered the building that way. A few minutes later the crowd wanted to force the main gate of the building by driving a car to it; but they could not manage it.

By that time everybody knew that AVO people were in the building. A few minutes later, some tear-gas bombs were thrown out of the building which flew with a big flame and hit the crowd. A certain panic arose near to the gates of the building, but people could not withdraw because of the large crowd in the street. Just at that time the radio began to transmit the speech of Minister Gerö which we could hear from the radio sets in the different apartments of the street. Only a few broken words of the speech could be heard, but we understood that Gerö called the crowd a mob which incensed the people. The speech had not ended yet when from the radio building a rubber hose was turned against the crowd in order to disperse it. However, the crowd grabbed the rubber hose and a riot began before the gate. At that time the 4 of us decided to leave the scene. It took us quite a long time to get through the crowd and to reach our cars. Then we drove back to the Parliament square which we found completely empty of people. In the meantime we heard that the statue of Stalin had been overturned and we decided to drive out there. While we were driving on the Stalin Street (the former Andrassy ut) we saw the people tearing down the street sign with the name of Stalin. We had just a look at the demolished statue of Stalin and then returned to the city again. It was about 10.30 when we reached the Múzeum körút and saw there streetcars lifted from their tracks and

street pavement broken up and arranged in pyramids. Then some people stopped our car and asked us to take a wounded person to the hospital in the Baross utca. This was the ~~first~~ first victim of the Revolution I saw. The people told us that he was shot by the AVO people. At the same time we heard some other news item. 2 of my colleagues left the car in order to make room for the wounded young man. The 2 of us drove him to the hospital and left him there. We decided to drive around in the city and see the situation for ourselves. So we drove back to the building of the radio where we saw the arrival of an AVO car which was immediately seized by the mob. Then we drove along the Ulloz ut and heard the noises of shooting from the Rakoczi ter. Then we drove along the Danube up to the Apponyi ter, crossed the river and drove around in Buda. All the streets were quiet and deserted here. The windows of the apartments did not show any lights and the tavern we passed by closed down earlier than usual. Finally we decided to go home. It was between 1 and 2 a.m. that we drove along the Ulloz ut. There we met several trucks loaded with armed youth. There were as many as 20 youths on one track and they were driving towards the inner parts of the city. I reached my home about 2 a.m. The following day was a Tuesday and I stayed at home. On Wednesday or Thursday I decided to go into the city. The streetcars were not running and

I had to walk from my home at the ~~Terchazy~~^{Terchazy} ut. When I came to the National Theatre a Russian tank was standing there in the center of the street. A Russian soldier stand on top of it and winked friendly towards the civilian population. Quite a few civilian^s jumped upⁿ the tank. They embraced the Russian soldier and winked to the passers-by. As the other people on the street explained it to me, the Russian tank had deserted and sided with the Hungarians. I saw a crowd of about 300 people standing before the building of the Szabad Nep who were obviously demonstrating against the Communist newspaper. Another Russian tank came up driving along the Korut from the direction of the Rokoczi ter. Then suddenly I heard the sound of one shot from the building of the Szabad Nep. As I turned around a ~~big~~ big shooting started before the AVO Building. As I could figure it out, the AVO people hiding in the building were shooting at the civilian population. At the same time one of the Russian tanks aimed at the AVO building. With many other people I took refuge ~~max~~ under the gate of one of the houses and stayed there for 15 or 20 minutes. When the shooting died down I came out of the building. I saw one car ~~wrecked~~² by fire and 10 or 15 dead bodies laying on the street. The bodies were already decorated by flowers and at the head of one of them I could see a sign with handwriting saying: "We shall revenge you. You did not die in vain." One personal legitimation card was put on

the chest of one of the dead people. He was a young boy of 18 years. We heard some shooting from the direction of the 8th district, but otherwise it was quiet. I began to walk on the Rakoczy ut towards the inner city. I overtook a crowd of marching women, all of them clad in black and followed them. On the intersection of the Rakoczy ut and the Karoly korut I saw Russian soldiers and several tanks. There was at least one tank on each of the street corners and another one stationed before the Astoria Hotel. The guns of the tanks were turned towards the street and they were manned but obviously did not want to interfere with the life of the street. By that time I heard that the women were marching towards the Parliament Square. I did not want to follow them there and rather returned home. Later I understood that that was the time when the great massacre on the Parliament Square took place. 2 days later, I made a walk in the city again. By that time the dead people were buried and one could see quite ~~of~~ a number of ²¹corps^s around the trees. Around the statue on the Square of the 32nd regiment 4 or 6 people were put into a kind of grave. One of them was a 16 years old boy, the other one a 42 years old man who obviously got mixed up in the Revolution and got shot. There were several hand-painted signs telling: "We shall revenge you". After that I stayed at home for 1 or 2 days again. Most of the so-called ~~middle class~~ middle class elements did the

same. They did not participate in the Revolution, but stayed in their apartments. These middle class elements were amazed to see that the Revolution had taken place. At the same time they were filled with a national pride and they listened to the radios 24 hours a day. The army sided with the Revolution, even the officers marched and shouted together with the crowd. The AVO people would not be seen. In the last days of October a general optimism filled the people. Everybody was expecting the good turn. Then the radio announced that the election of a Revolutionary Council will take place at the university and the students as well as the staff members should go in. The next day I got a ride and reached the university without any great difficulties. The building of our university was crowded with people. All the students and staff members showed up. There was a great excitement, several meetings were held at the same time. One special meeting was for the staff members. I did not attend it and I understand that very few people attended it. However, the meetings of the students were held before packed rooms. I stayed in my office and ~~received~~ ^{received} the news there. Some news came in every minute. The students declared the autonomy of the university and elected a new dean. The kader cards were handed out to everybody who wanted to get them. I did not go to pick up mine and I still don't know how my kader card looks like. The Revo-

lutionary Councils were elected, one for each department, and a general one for the whole university. The pro-Communist elements of the staff were told to keep away from the university for a while. They wanted to abolish the chair for Leninism and Marxism, but at the same time they proceeded on a humanitarian basis. They did not want to deprive anybody from his salary and it was decided that even the Communist staff members should get their salary. The same refers to the Party secretaries. A similar great care was taken to suppress any manifestation of an anti-Semitism which was an important thing with regard to the hidden anti-Semitism in Hungary. When driving home late in the afternoon we stopped for a few minutes at the Moricz Zsigmond kor~~ter~~ where we had a look at the destruction caused by the demonstration and shooting. Among the many broken windows, we saw a shop-window with the glass broken and a large luggage full of money placed in the center of the shop-window. There was a large sign above the luggage with the text: "Our Revolution is so clean that we can permit even such things". The square was full of broken window glass, mortar and brick. The corners of the square were filled with Revolutionary posters. As we drove along the Rakoczi ut, we saw many other signs of the Revolutionary spirit. For example, we saw a sign in the shop-window with the text: "Commodities placed with the janitor." Indeed people were very honest during the Revolution

which was quite amazing regarding the general poverty of the population. By November 1st the streets of Budapest were full of people. Many of them were shouting and were desperate in finding food. Other ones wanted to return to work and begin reconstruction as far as possible. The great changes in the life could be felt even by persons like myself, who stayed at home most of the time. I listened to the 2 speeches delivered by Mindszenty. I approved his first speech ~~where~~ where he declared that first he wanted to get oriented about the situation and will speak later. In his second speech 2 or 3 days later he spoke up for the rights of the church, but at the same time declared that we want to live in good relationship with the great powers. In the second speech he spoke about politics and not about Christianity. I think he lost many of his followers because of his second speech. There were many changes in the program of the Hungarian radio. In the first few days of the Revolution one could not hear anything else, but the voice of Szepesy-Friedländer, Fricy announcing that the police had captured this and this Fascist counter-revolutionary. A few days later, Kiss Ferenc and Bluhar appeared before the microphone. Bluhar was not permitted to give his program since 1949. When he appeared for the first time in 1956 he spoke under the title: "I was silenced." As another sign ~~for~~ of the changes, the ringing of the midnight bells were again transmitted.

through the Hungarian radio and March 15th was again declared a national holiday. Actually this patriotic content was very important in the ideology of the Revolution. The Communists had suppressed Hungarian patriotism for such a long time that now it was Right on the first day of the Revolution when the mass was demonstrating at the statue of Bem, one of the most popular demands was the demand for reinstating the Kossuth weapon. Even such a Communist like Nagy Imre accepted Hungarian nationalism. By the way, Nagy Imre lost a great part of his popularity when he announced the martial law. Later on, he explained that he had been forced to announce it and then he regained his popularity at least to a certain extent. Anyway I think that he was more popular at the beginning of the Revolution than at the end of it. If I remember well, November 3rd was a Saturday. By that time, the plan was accepted to take up work on the following Monday. On November 3rd I went into the university again. During my drive to the university I saw workers working on the reconstruction of the streetcar system of the city. On the ~~Moriac~~ Zsigmond korter the civilian population voluntarily took down the street barricades. The university was rather quiet on that day and we could not see many students. Our work consisted mainly in preparations of taking up our lectures on the following Monday. We prepared and posted the necessary announcements on the board. The classrooms were cleaned and

everything was set to begin teaching on the following Monday. While I was in my office some students and staff members came in. Some of them reported that the suburb of Kispest was full of Russian tanks. We discussed the situation and came to the conclusion that the Russians had evacuated Budapest, but they had concentrated their forces in the suburbs around Budapest. We still hoped that they will eventually evacuate the whole country. On November 4th I was awakened in the early hours by the noise of tank columns marching on the street. My apartment was in the 17th district of Budapest in the area called Rakoshegy. The road was evidently used by the Russians to march into the inner parts of Budapest. I still thought that this march of the tanks was a part of the evacuation of the Russians. It was impossible to sleep because of the noise, so I turned up the radio. At 6 a.m. I heard the last proclamation of Nagy Imre and finally understood the situation. I sensed that the Revolution was over, but like many other people I did not know what to do. At that time I did not yet think of leaving the country. To understand the whole psychological situation I have to point out that from November 1956 to January 1957 the Kadar government was weak and the Hungarians were filled with hopes. Everybody hoped that the strikes, the silent demonstrations will reach a good result. This might have been an unrealistic hope. However, the people

were very poorly informed. As far as I can remember now, none of my ~~former~~ friends was at that time able to evaluate the situation. No productive work was done in the factories and offices. The life of the university ceased altogether. On the 9th of November I went into the university again and from November 15th on I went in almost every day for about an hour. Lectures were not held. Students could not be seen at the university. The members of the staff appeared almost every day, spent an hour or so in their offices and then they left. The general policy was that as long as the personal security of the students is not guaranteed by the government, the lectures will not be taken up. The students and particularly the staff members had their own problems of food and living quarters. The Revolutionary Council of the university still existed and met from time to time. It was the Revolutionary Council which submitted the demand to the ministry that there will not be any teaching as long as the personal security of the students will not be guaranteed. As far as I know, the Ministry of Education did not answer ~~the~~ this memorandum. Actually the ministry did not want any work at the universities. The ministry was afraid that the students will return ^{to their} colleges and every college was regarded as a Revolutionary center. As far as I know, the lectures began in February 1957 at a time when I was no more in Hungary. The new Communist system

could make only feeble efforts to get organized. It was only in the second part of December that the university unit of the Hungarian Socialistic Workers Party was established. Its establishment was announced through large printed posters everywhere in the university, but I did not see many students around the premises of the Party. The workers of the factories still carried out an effective resistance, particularly through many strikes. The last large strike was on December 14th. This was organized by the 2 leaders of the Central Workers' Council named Racz and Bali. The Central Workers' Council still wanted to salvage some of the demands of the Revolution. The result was that Racz and Bali were arrested, but later on Bali was released. The crowd still felt its strength and resisted the government. A workers' meeting was held at the Byelofannis Factory where the workers spoke up very courageously, even after the failure of the strike of December 14th. Crowds were not permitted on the street, they were dispersed by the newly formed police. If any crowd could be seen on the streets, the Russian tanks appeared immediately and marched up and down ~~the~~ in a demonstrative way. In many cases the crowd could indeed resist the police force. One night, the new AVO people appeared in one of the student colleges and began to search for arms. The students shouted out of the windows and asked for ~~the~~ help. Immediately a large crowd

convened before the building. They forced the door and resisted the AVO people inside. Finally the AVO people left the building with empty hands. None of the students was arrested. From the point of view of material goods, the situation was pretty bad. In order to get bread people stand up in queues at 2 a.m. and waited till 6 a.m. when the bakery was opened. Then the bread disappeared in a few minutes. Around the middle of December the food situation improved. From this time on everything could be obtained if somebody had the necessary money. Industrial commodities were still scarce, partly because the large department stores were demolished during the Revolution. The Divatcsarnok was burnt down and the Pariggi Aruhaz was badly damaged. The latter one was rebuilt and ~~opened~~ opened some time in December. On the opening day a large queue was standing reaching as far as the Tereg Church. People had money because the factories paid not only the regular wages but gave even some advance payments. The state stores could not cope with the inflationary tendencies. There were not enough commodities there and the newly opened Bariggi Aruhaz had to be closed. At the end of December the stores were almost empty. We had the greatest difficulties in buying a few items for our kids. The stores were open from 10 a.m. ~~until~~ till 2 p.m. Policemen were stationed at the entrance of the stores, because such a large crowd wanted to get in during that short

time. The espressos and coffee houses were open and did a booming business in selling very poor coffee. I have never seen such a large crowd as at the midnight mass at Christmas. Otherwise our Christmas was rather poor. We were unable to buy a Christmas tree. Around Christmas time one could see Russian tanks only at some important intersections of the city or before certain government buildings. For example, I saw 6 Russian tanks on the Square of the 32nd Regiment. The Russian tanks were ^{in a circle} around to keep the curious mass away. The Hungarian population did not show hostility towards the Russian soldiers. In many cases I saw Hungarians offering a cup of coffee to the Russian soldiers. The general feeling was that the individual Russian soldier should be regarded as innocent in the bloody scenes that followed the Revolution. The foreign radio stations to which I listened regularly still exhorted us to keep up with the passive resistance. They depicted a too rosy situation and contributed to the general misinformation of the Hungarian population. At the same time people were constantly escaping from the country. One could notice how the friends slowly disappeared from the city. It became particularly conspicuous around Christmas time when I tried to ring up or to visit 3 of my friends and all the 3 of them had disappeared. By that time I became convinced that our hopes concerning a betterment of the situation will be

never realized. I made the decision to leave Budapest. I left it together with my family on January 5th and I crossed the Hungarian border on January 9th 1957.

- (5) I did not participate in the Revolutionary events except as stated above. It was not necessary for us to prepare or distribute leaflets since the work was pretty well done by the students. One mimeographing machine of the university was in my office. One day after October 23rd it disappeared from the office. As I understand the students came in and took it to use it for their own purpose.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) No Revolutionary organization existed among the students of the Polytechnic. Before the Revolution every student was a member of the DISZ which had its own organization with at least one secretary for each class. The main duty of the secretaries was to report on the other students. Otherwise they did not ~~mix~~ do any organizational work. On and after October 23rd the students organized themselves in order to help the Nagy Imre government. The students made up an armed guard which guarded the main entrance of the university building and prevented any ineligible person to enter the building. As far as I could see, this was an adhoc organization. Its leader came up incidentally.

For example, if somebody participated in the fights his leadership became accepted by the other students. The staff members did not do any organization of their own, but accepted the leadership of the students. The staff had one meeting as I mentioned above which was attended by the representatives of the students. I think those ~~xxxxxx~~ students became the main leaders who appeared at the meeting on October 23rd. Most of the students were just sitting by and applauding. 5 or 10 students opened their mouth and talked. They became the accepted leaders. Within the great mass ^{of} the university students certain smaller nuclei became formed because every college formed a special circle and accepted somebody as its leader.

(7)

I don't think there was any disagreement during the fights. In the following days, however, it became clear that the Revolution was made up of different political parties and groups. The fighting groups were not organized but extemporized. Anybody who could get hold of arms participated in the fights. The guns were distributed from trucks and even small kids took hold of them. A kid of 10 years in our neighbourhood told me: "I was in the inner city. I had an automatic revolver and I shot".

(7b)

The Revolution was started by the university students. On the second and third day however, many working *p. 10* came into the inner parts of the city and participated

in the fights on their own account. There was no organized cooperation between the students and the working youth. I understand that the working youth came in small groups from their dwelling places such as Angyalfold, Kobanya and Ulloy ut and did their fight in these small units of their own. Everybody stuck to his own kind without any all-out organization. The young kids and the working youth fought even more courageously than the students. The young boy who died on the Rakoczy ut was a working boy.

- (8e) I don't know of any specific defections except for the ~~before~~ scene before the national theatre I have mentioned above.
- (9') Both the foreign and the home news service was very poor during the Revolution. We were particularly disappointed in the foreign radio stations.
- (9a) The Revolutionary newspapers were printed in a few copies only. They were sold in inner parts of the city. Since I was living far out I could see only a few copies of them.
- (9b) In the evening the neighbours got together and exchanged their news. The news received in such a way was just as unreliable as the news of the radio stations.
- (9c) Everybody was sitting before his radio set all the time. We turned it from the Hungarian stations to the

- (9d) foreign ones and tried to compare and evaluate the news. All sources were equally important and equally unreliable. It was up to the individual person to put the different news together. The lack of good information was one of the reasons why the Revolution got out of hand and failed.
- (10) I could not make many observations on that point around the university. The Communist system of universities as it existed even before the Revolution ~~was~~ meant that the students and the teachers did not have much in common. They met during the classes or demonstrations but then their ways departed and they did not have anything in common.
- (10a) No information.
- (10b) The Party organization of the university had its premises in the main building. The signs of these premises were taken off on the ~~first~~ first day of the Revolution. I don't know whether it meant a former dissolution of the Party.
- (10g) As far as I know we were not in contact with the ministry of education during the Revolutionary days.
- (10j) Revolutionary Councils were established at the university. The Central Council consisted of 5 members. One of them was a professor, 2 of them were students. I do not know who the other 2 members were. The professor member of the Revolutionary Council was Farkas Imre

who was an assistant professor only and a former member of the Smallholders Party who had visited America. He was well known to the students and the staff, because he had spoken up several times and criticized the existing system. He was generally regarded as an honest guy.

- (10k) See Above.
- (10h) No information.
- (10m) We could have achieved a little bit more of freedom than it exists nowadays in Poland.
- (11a) The Revolution was very useful from every point of view. It restored the national conscience of the Hungarians and it put the Hungarian problem into the center of international interest.
- (11b) Such a judgement should be made by history only.
- (11c) I did not expect any armed intervention, however, I expected a diplomatic help through the channels of the United Nations. Under this diplomatic help I understand a pressure exerted by the Western powers upon the Soviets in order to grant freedom to Hungary. By freedom I mean a system of government as it exists in Poland now.
- (11e) My opinion of Imre Nagy is stated above. He had an important part in the Hungarian development, but he could have stayed on power for a limited time only.
- (11f) Among the important individuals I want to mention the name of Maléter and Király Pál. Unfortunately enough

both of them gained wide popularity only at the time when they were captured. Out of the politicians I regard Kovacs Bela and Kethly Anna as important persons. I could ~~name~~ add the name of Kovago to this list. The 2 speeches of Mindszenty were heard by a great number of people, but it is possible that he too lost a part of his popularity. Tildy could not get any popular support. He was one of those fellows who were in and out of the Parliament Building, but were no more in contact with the masses.

(11g) As mentioned, the students and the workers were the 2 important groups. The other groups of the society did not have any important part in the Revolutionary events. In the last days of October, the so-called hooligans and the reactionary elements appeared. They could not do very much because of the events. In case of a triumph of the Revolution those elements could have been easily checked.

(12) I left Hungary on January 9th as stated above.

(12c) I did not think of leaving Hungary before the middle of ~~Hungary before the~~ middle of December. Like many other people I was expecting good results from the United Nations. People in Hungary believed that the United Nations have an important voice in international affairs. Our disappointment was very great.

- (1) I finished my university studies and received my degree in engineering in 1949. In the time between 1949 and the Revolution I had 2 jobs. First I worked as an engineer with the Research Institute for Long-range Communication, in Hungarian, ^{Tudományos} ~~Devkó~~ Kutató Intézet where I worked for 5 1/2 years and ended up as head of a department. In December 1954 I left this job and in January of the next year I began to work as technical assistant with the university. I worked there up to my escape from the country in January 1957.
- (2) The Research Institute for Longrange Communication is dealing with researches concerning radar technology and the researches are sponsored by the Hungarian army. It is the largest research institute of the country employing all the time 600 to 700 people and offering great material rewards and good pay for its workers. The institute is well equipped and receives all the current literature published abroad. It has an annual budget of 30 to 40 million forints. Its research work was improductive from the point of view of industrial production. The whole research work was done for the army only, under a very great secrecy. The building of our institute and all the employees were constantly watched by the AVO & people. None of the employees dared to maintain correspondence with any friends or relatives abroad. The radar technology as it is known was invented

in America and copied by the Soviet Union in the years following the war. In our huge library we had mostly English books, however, we had to claim all the time that the leading role in radar technology is played by the Soviet Union. The general manager of the institute is Acs Erno who is one of the most interesting personalities I have met in the Communist system. Originally he was highschool teacher of physics, then in 1947 He joined the Party and became an enthusiastic Communist. He was elected a member of the central leadership of the Party and was awarded a Kossuth prize. He is a very clever fellow, but with a superficial knowledge of physics. I want to mention that he has 12 children and in spite of his success I do not envy his life. He has an *unusually ability* to select able engineers as his employees and gives them a great freedom in carrying out their research. In such a way he could indeed produce a good work for the army, although his ~~own~~ only independent ^{work} ~~individual~~ work which ^{was} patented was worthless. Concerning the employees of the institute I want to mention that 80 employees left Hungary and the first one to escape was the Party secretary. Some of the engineer are now in America.

(Interviewer's note: At this point the interview was interrupted. The respondent did not show up for the second time and the interview could not be finished.)