- Both parents living and in U.S. Father is 62, mother is 60 but they are divorced. Father is living at Keysport, Pennsylvania, present address of mother is unknown.
- Has only been in Brooklyn at Hotel St. George so far.
- Immediate plans are to join sister, mother or father in U.S.
- Respondent has not been interviewed by any western organization except BM THE US CONSULATE IN AUSTRIA

 20. DOES NOT SPEAK AM FOREIGN LANGUAGE

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Respondent is a very primitive and uneducated person and, what is worse, unintelligent. She is even lacking in the native common sense so characteristic of the Hungarian peasantry.

Her father sent her back to Hungary from the U.S. when she was five years old to live with her grandparents. At that time they owned twelve acres of land. Here she lived the life of a well-to-do reasant girl. They were so well off that she very seldom worked in the fields -- only at harvest time. Her father returned to lungary for a visit in the '30's without her mother. He chased her away from home because he took a common law wife. Respondent then went to the nearby small, provincial town of Kisvarda and entered domestic service. Later on, when her father returned to the United States, respondent took over the management of five acres that were registered in the name of her mother.

Because the respondent is an extremely dumB person, I had great trouble getting her to understand the questions, even though I used the most primitive language. It was just as well that the interview lasted only one day as respondent was swept any by immigration authorities to port at the end of the first day of the interviews

MCKEESPORT

II. MAJOR SALIENCE AND WARM-UP QUESTION

When asked what she thought about the things America should know about the events in Hungary during the autumn of 1956, respondent had no anwer whatsoever. I then promoted her to tell why she thought the Hungarians started the revolution. To this cuestion she gave the following answer:

"The Hungarians wanted a free and independent Hungary. They wanted the good
old times that we knew under the Horthy
regime. Nobody liked the "democracy." We
had a very bad life under this regime."
She meant, of course, the Communist regime.
On the whole, during the whole interview,
respondent never used the word "Communist."
She always substituted "democracy" when she
meant the Communists and the Communist regime.

"Of course people who are members of the party live extremely well. Those, however, who do not belong to the Party and who are not 'democrats' live in dire poverty." IV. ATTITUDES AND EXPECTATIONS DURING THE

Since respondent spent the time between October 22 and her departure in the small provincial town of Kisvarda, she could only tell what she had seen there. She could not remember the date but tld the following:

"It was at the end of October; I remember that much. The people in the town took down the Red stars from all the public buildings. I also saw them put up the Hungarian flag. One day I saw many young boys and girls marching along the city with the Hungarian flag and singing that old favorite march "Louis Kossuth Told Us That He Needs Soldiers." (This is a song dating back to 1848 at the time of the Hungarian revolution sponsored by Kossuth, and Petofi.)

I asked if she had seen or heard of any fighting. Respondent said there were no fights whatsoever around that small town. She only heard that in Budapest the factory workers were fighting for their freedom and better living conditions, also around Miskolc, which is an industrial town. However, she added "The smaller factories and plants around our town all went out on strike."

I asked her about the behavior of the police and the army that she had seen, and respondent said that all the policemen and soldiers she had seen had taken off the Red star and all other immigning soviet insignia from their uniforms during the demonstrations. However, she added, "when everything was over and the Revolution was beaten down, these people but the insignia back of." Respondent also said that she had observed from the Customs House barracks the Russian families who were billeded there were suddenly evacuated the very first day of the revolution. They were sent back to Russia. Respondent also added that many

boys, girls and workers. The trains were rolling towards the Russian border at Zahony. An acquaintance of hers told her how several men banded together and tried to free these young people. Three of them managed to open one big railroad truck and let out some workers. However, they was couldn't release more because the Russian guards were after them. The rest were carried over the border.

I asked respondent whether she knew anything else about the revolution that was going on in Budapest. She said that she heard only the rumors about the fighting. Also she had no idea whatsoever of whether the Edemonstrations and fightings were organized, who was the leader and who started the revolution. She said "It was the workers who rebelled against the regime because t ey were so badkly paid, and when Gero did not give in, all workers in Budapest went out on strike."

Respondent spent the days between the time of the Soviet invasion and her escape from Hungary as usual. She went to work. At that time she held a job as a cleaning woman in a doctor's office. This was, she said, the kind of state welfare office where every doctor of dental medicine was working. This was only a part-time job from 6 A.M. to around 10 A.V. or 11 mA.M. She not only cleaned the office but prepared everything for the doctor. She sterilized the instruments,

prepared the different drugs and medicines the doctor mammight need, and so on.

I asked respondent what was happening to the five acres of landwshe had. She said the land was worked by someone else and the crops were shared. "Being a single woman I was unable to look after the land myself so I had to resort to this system. However, the delivery obligation of crops and livestock was so heavy that even under this system and even though I was working I was unable to fill all my delivery obligations. I was always in arrears with mxxxxxxxxxverything and had a great deal of trouble with the authorities. However, since the land was under my mother's name, and she is an American citizen, they couldn't do a thing about it.

D. When asked if she thought Hungary has gained on the whole because of the revolution she said "Since the Russians have returned to Hungary and have subjugated the country again how could we have gained anything"?

IV. EXPECTATIONS OF HELP FROM THE WEST DURING THE REVOLUTION

On this subject, respondent said
"While we heard over the radio so many
times that Hungary would be helped and
the Freedom Fighters were encouraged all
the time to hold out we hoped that assistance would be forthcoming. However, even
while I was still in Hungary and to the
present, nothing happened and nobody helped."

C. Respondent did not come into contact with foreigners between October 22 and the time of her escape.

V. SOCIAL CLASS STRUCTURE AND ATTITUDES

When probed for respondent's family background, she gave the following information:

"My whole family were farmers and my father, who married when he was only 17 and my mother 16, left for the United States. I was born in the U.S. but sent back by my father to live with my grandparents and was educated by them. We lived in a small village outside Kisvarda which was called ITiszakerecsend. My grandfather farmed on twelve acres. However, since he was an elderly man he did not do all the work by himself. He always hired farm hands or gave out some of his land under the crop sharing system. I worked very seldom out in the fields except at harvest time, when work had to be done axiakyquickly. Otherwise I only worked around the house helping my grandmother or working at home in the vegetable garden. we had a house with 3 rooms, a kitchen and a porch. The income from the land seemed to be cuite good because I remember that in the good wold wains times there was never any compulsory delivery and whatever we produced we could sell at the free market. We were well fed and all our supplies lasted from one harvest to the other. We always had several cows, fatted hogs, we had our own boultry and whenever we had to may taxes grandfather sold one or two calves, or my grandmother sold some boultry on the market. From this we not only could pay the taxes but we also were able to buy our clothes. Now even with fifty acres nobody can live as well as we did at that time. This was the reason why I myself lived so badly in Hungary. I was all alone and the five acres were not enough to support me. Also, I had to may so many taxes on those five acres that my monthly salary of 300 farm Ranninforints was never enough.

When asked about the education of the parents respondent said that both of them had the average six grades customary among the Hungarian peasantry. (At that time it was compulsory that all children attend at least six grades.)

"My father left for America when he was nineteen years old and my mother seventeen because he married against the will of his family. He returned to Hungary then once more for a visit. That was in the '30's. But then he chased me away from home because he took a common-law wife here in Hungary, despite the fact that he had a wife in the states. He divorced my mother in the meantime. So I left our village and went to work in domestic service in the nearby small town."

B. When asked about social classes, respondent seemed to have no idea whatsoever what that meant, so I had to out it in simple words. Finally she said "Well, I think there are farmers like my family, and then also workers but then, of course, there are those who may the overloads, those who serve democracy." I can tell you honestly that I worked so hard all my life that I really did not have time to think about anything at all.

Whenever I was called into the town stall on account of being in arrears in taxes or compulsory delivery all I saw was that the offices were jammed with gentlemen who were more numerous than in the good old times. They did not seem to work. They just sat around poking their noses and smoking cigarettes and behaving very hoity-toity and speaking very nastily to us simple people. These were, of course, those who worked for the democracy and received a thousand forints or sometimes even more a month in salary. This was the

trouble altogether. We, the peasants, had to feed them and keep them, those drones."

Respondent decided after bondering quite some time that she feels that she belongs to the hard-working farmer class.

When asked which class was hardest hit by Communism, she said "The old upper class, the 'gentlemen' were completely wined out by the "democracy" and we neasants were exploited. We always had to work from dawn till dusk. We had, however, one privilege. We could attend church and observe our church holidays. In the cities where people went to offices, all church holidays were abolished and they had to work even on those days."

- B. I omitted all questions in this paragraph because I felt that I would not get any response anyway.
- Which I could get an answer from respondent was "What kind of individual could get ahead in Communist Hungary"? She said "Only a very bad sort of penson could get ahead in Hungary, that kind of man who cares only for his own welfare and makes other people work for him. He is the kind of person who disregards the rules of religion and does not believe in God atk all. These persons joined the Party because they wanted to be well-fed and they were persecuting all the religious people and making fun of them."

VI. FAMILY LIFE INDER COMMUNISM

When asked about family life in Hungary, respondent said:

A. "I really cannot say anything about this because I lived all by myself. Nevertheless it must have been very hard on the poor people who did not join the Party because everybody had much too little money to care for a family."

When asked what kind of families she knew, respondent said that she remembers a family in which the father fwas a decent farmer. "The son joined the Communist Party. However, he always said "After all, I have to support my family." Besides, he was a good-for-nothing who did not like to work in the fields. He found it too hard so he thought he would get a much easier job in the Party."

Respondent also added, "You know miss, this was the trouble. People who were formerly streetcleaners became in the heads of offices. The son of a washerwoman became Party Secretary. Many of these people didn't even know how to read and write."

"whatever we felt we never talked about because it was so much safer. Therefore I really do not know anything about anybody else. Everybody was too scared. I have known so many cases where people who dared to talk against the democracy were imprisoned."

When asked whether she knew of some families that lived better than others she said "Yes, I have known some who, although they were not "arty members, were members of a trade union. They were small craftsmen and worked in their own trades by themselves. These somehow managed a living."

B. When asked about marriage she said "There were many divorces. Why? My goodness, I don't know. Probably they didn't even like each other."

"People did not dare to get married in church. They usually went at night, sometimes as late as 11 o'clock, and in great secrecy. Many of our farmers got married in another village as to escape publicity. I even knew an 8-year-old boy who wasn't baptized. He was the son of a great Communist."

I did not ask her any further questions on this topic.

D. I tried to probe subject on the subject of juvenile delignancy. All she answered was "I have heard that the young people have become very bad under democracy." In the good old times of course everything was different."

VII. RELIGION

A. Respondent was of the orinion that religion is a very important thing in Hungary and the democracy was very much against it. She thought that the Roman Catholic religion was hit hardest. She explained that they wanted to nationalize the Roman Catholic Church, which put up a great fight. The REMERSEART Protestant church, however, according to respondent, has compromised and given in to the state. Also, respondent said she was shaken to see how the priests and especially the nuns were persecuted.

Respondent also said that whenever on a church holiday there was a Mass or a procession scheduled at the church, the Party arranged for a picnic or an outing. They always tried to drag the young people from the churches. So the parish priest shifted the Mass to a very early hour so that young people had the opportunity to attend Mass.

B. When asked what part religion plays in her life, she said "I was brought up to be religious and I never remember anything else. It was very important for us. The grandparents were ardent churchgoers and so was I. This was also the reason why I did not go to work in a factory and chose rather to work in the kind of a job I had. People who worked in the factories were not allowed to go to church openly."

C. On the function of the church in society respondent could only say "I wish that we were again allowed to exercise our religion freely. The schools maintained by the churches should be restored."

D. When asked whether the Jewish religion had also been hurt by Communism, respondent

said "They did not oppress the Jews as much as the other religions because the top democrats," after all, were Jews, and I think the Jews must have been cuite happy with that kind of a democracy because so many have joined the Party. In fact, the Jews have been at the helm of the country now."

To be at the below

I asked respondent if she thought the Jews do not want an independent Hungary, and if so, for what reason. Respondent said "I do not know, I only know that when the Nazis reigned in Hungary, the Jews were frightened. Now under the 'democracy' they are not. I really could not offer any idea of how the situation would be if Hungary were free again."

VIII. THE HUNGARIAN YOUTH

According to respondent, the coole she saw demonstrate in that small, provincial town were mostly young people, boys and girls. She added? This was the reason why the Russians took away so many young kids. They took part in the revolution."

I asked suject to give me an idea of why the young people started the revolution. Her answer was "I am not sure, really, vhy they were fighting, but I believe it was because they wanted a free and fragamindependent Hungary."

- C. Respondent could not tell anything about schools and educational systems in Hungary during the last ten years.
- D. On youth's reaction to Communist indoctrination I was able to get the following reaction from respondent:

"At the beginning, many young people favored the Communist indoctrination and quite a few left their religions also. On the other hand, I know of many who did not like it at all.

"Later on many people were disillusioned because 'democracy" as presented by those top leaders sounded different than it was. Nix What they were hoping for, a good and easy living, they never got. I also heard that many of the young boys and girls who took part in the revolution were tried and hung by the democracy. IXXXXXXXALSC, I have received letters from home. A friend of mine wrote me that all people who return from the west are being put in maxorison and they never see their families. The same woman also said that the executions take place at knight."

IX. MAJOR DISSATISFACTIONS AS FELT IN EVERYDAY
LIFE

A. When asked about her main dissatisfactions in Communist Hungary in everyday life, responden said:

"We were always very dissatisfied because we had the comoulsory delivery system and on account of this nobody could live decently. Five acres of land would normally be sufficient for a family to make a living. Under the democracy," I was unable to support myself alone on five acres. I had to surrender so much, or should have surrendered so much which I never produced. The land was given out anyway under the share crop system."

B. About annoyances that seemed to get most on her nerves, respondent said "I was very dissatisfied altogether because under the "democracy"I had a lousy life. No matter wax how much money I earned it had no value and I could not buy anything. Everything was extremely expensive. I very often went without food but this, again, was only in the case of people who did not join the Party."

X. THE ECONOMIC LIFE

A. On the standard of living in Hungary, respondent had the following to say:

"My last years in Hungary were a continuous struggle against the rising cost of living. Everything was extremely expensive, for instance, I had to pay 3 forints for 2 lbs. of bread. Cooking fats were 13 forints for 2 lbs. For flour I paid 4 florints and 60 for 2 lbs. and for sugar, kwakul2 forints 16. Potatoes were 1 forint 18 for 2 lbs.

"As to clothing, I had to pay 350 forints for a pair of shoes, 188 to 200 forints for a plain dress and for a winter coat, 800 to 1000 forints.

Housing, too, was awfully difficult. I only had a tiny room which was in a shop/and VREALY faced are the street. I had mit furnished very scantily. I had a cooking stove, a rickety bead and a cubboard, and I was lucky to get this, because here Icould at least live alone. I did not like to share a room with anybody.

Of the above, food caused the respondent the most difficulty. She also disclosed that since 1945 her standard of living went down steadily.

Between '48 and '55, however, there was a time when she lived better. She could not say the year. These were the times when her mother sent her backages from America and also she lived with some relatives. At that time she had full board there and so she had fewer material worries.

When asked whether she knew families that lived better than any others she said "Of course those who belonged to the party always made more money. But a person who is working day and night has not a good life."

"There were also farmers who farmed their own land and could sell their own products, and where there were more men in the family who could work in the fields. These people, of course, were also much better off."

I asked respondent, not daring to use the word "standard," why people in Hungary lived so badly during the last eight years. Respondent said "This was only due to the low wages. Whoever was not a "democrat" was badly mpaid. The country was exploited and impoverished because every farm product we had and so many things we were forced to surrender went out to Russia.

B. On her income in Hungary during the years, respondent gave the following information:

"Until I left Hungary I was working at the office of a doctor and from 6 in the morning until about 10 or 11 Amm. I received 300 forints per month. I also did cleaning jobs in the afternoon. I did not pay any union dues or any other fees. I had no income whatsoever from my five acres. In fact, I very often had to purchase the necessary products in order to be able to submit my compulsory deliveries."

C. Xon prices and quality of good respondent said "In our little town there was only a cooperative shop. We did not have state stores there. Fruits and vegetables I always bought on the open market. There was, however, a store where the state sold all the fruits and vegetables that were surrendered by the farmers. The prices were lower here than on the open market. Regarding clothing, this I usually bought second-hand only from persons I knew and also I had them from the packages I received from the U.S."

"There was very often a shortage of goods because the farmers balways bought up everything they could. We were always worried about an inflation.

"I also found a job where they sold seconds -- shoes, dresses. Here they prices were such that you could sometimes afford to buy something."

"Medicines were especially short in supply. This I heard from the doctor where I worked and also from some other doctors in the town."

"There was a Black Market but only in the beginning of the democratic regime. The Black Market was mostly in foodstuffs. Now this has stopped completely because the police were very strict with all the Black Marketeers."

B. Of working conditions respondent said "As I said before I worked for that doctor who worked for the Social Welfare District Medical Office. He was a dental doctor. I worked here from 6 AaM. to 9 or 10 A.M. and I usually cleaned not only the office but his consulting room. I also prepared everything that should be handy when he started to work; I sterilized the instruments. There was nobody else in the office besides myself. The doctor for whom I worked was a Jew and he treated us very nastily. He was always very hoity-toity, not only with me but with his patients. I remember many times when reorle complained that it hurt he said "It hurss? But Auschwitz did not hurt, did it" I think this was very disgusting on his nart because neither I nor the other Hungarians could help the atrocities the Germans committed in Hungary. I do not know whether he was a darty member or not. I only know that he attended the Party meetings. Also, he always used to say the Russians were our liberators. Well, maybe they were for him, but certainly not for us. They just robbed us of everything."

"I received this job because I went out doing cleaning work for other people and somebody this job. Since I worked V RECOMMENDED ME FOR during the seige in 1944 and 1946 in Budapest at the hospital I was interested so I accepted it. However, I was dissatisfied there because the doctor was extremely nasty as I told you, impolite and gruff. He always expected me to greet him first, and very often he never returned my greeting. He never cared whether or not I was sick. I had to work nevertheless. I observed on the whole that usually Jewish neonle make other peonle work and they would rather save their strength. They don't like any physical work it seems. worked also for a Christian woman, and this woman, despite the fact that she had a heart condition, always helped me with the heavier work, for instance, when I did the big wash."

Respondent of course could not say anything about the Hungarian vacation, health and compensation programs.

E. When asked where she preferred to live when in Hungary respondent said "I always preferred the country life because it is cuiet and nice. I love to live among the trees, flowers and animals. Also, the food is so much better."

Regarding the collectivization as it was introduced in Hungary, respondent said:

Respondent had no idea who objected more strongly to collectivization, the well-to-do neasants or the less well off ones.

Regarding the dissolution of collectives, respondent heard about it in 1953. The reason for this was that it didn't work.

When asked what kind of agricultural system she would like to see in an independent Hungary, respondent said "I would like to see everybody with his own land that he himself cultivates. There should not be any compulsory deliveries and other restrictions. I am sure that this would be to the benefit of everybody."

XI. THE POLITICAL LIVE

Regarding this topic respondent was, to say the least, uninformative. She said she never cared for politics and was never interested. Also she admitted that she is a plain peasant woman who doesn't know a thing about it.

I probed her opinion on the top leaders of the Communist Party. It was as follows:

"All the top big shots want only to remain in nower but in such a way that they alone will enjoy a real democracy." This was about all she said.

When asked what should be done with Hungary's top Communists when Hungary is independent she said "Don't you worry. The people will look after that." This said with a big smile on her face.

B. Respondent doesn't know of any opposition to the Communist government before the revolution.

Equally she didn't know anything about the activities of the intellectuals before or during the revolution.

XII. THE APPARATUS OF POWER

A. When asked what kind of people the AVH are, respondent said "The AVH police are just as bad as the Communist people and the Russians. In fact, I have heard that many AVH people are Russians wearing the AVH uniform. These people are the enemies of the Hungarian nation. They work for the Communists and for the Russians. They persecute everybody who is against the democracy. These people are arrested and executed.

"When Hungary is independent I believe that they will share the fate of the top Communists."

"From what I have seen of the demonstrations in the little town I know that the regular police took part in the demonstrations and tore off the Red stars and other insignia from their uniforms. Later on, of course, they put it back."

B. Respondent only had a vague idea about the people's courts that were set up between '45 and '47. She said "It was rumored that these courts were judging those people who were axiagainst the dexademocracy."

(I wish to emphasize that respondent always means the Communist regime when using that word \ She always used it in a \ "DEMOCRACY" kind of jeering manner.)

D. When asked whether Hungarian feelings about the Russian army are due to the events of 1848 respondent confessed that she had never heard that there were any Russians at that time in Hungary. She went on to say "There are many peoply who like the Russian occupation troops because for them it is good to be safeguarded. These are the people who work for the democracy." The Hungarian people hate them, however, because they mistreat people and are taking everything away from Hungary. Regarding a more detailed picture on the Russian troops stationed in Hungary before the revolution and after or during it respondent could say nothing.

Regarding paragrobs E and F respondent said that she really does not know anything about whether one could bribe people or get around some of the regulations. She, however, said she heard that people who had relatives and whildren in offices were al-

G. Regarding the efficiency of XXXXXX various groups and people who hold power in Communist Hungary respondent couldn't say anything.

XIII. ASSESSMENTS OF FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR HUNGARY

A. When asked what she thinks will probably happen to Hungary in the future, respondent said:

"As long as the Russians stay in Hungary nothing can happen and only war will end the situation. Only war can bring about the complete liberation of Hungary. When probed as to which war she was thinking of, she said "I really do not know why and where this war will start. However, she added, "Up to now the Russians have never obeyed anybody who tried to talk sense to them, so I don't think they will ever comply with anybody's wishes."

B. Respondent's thoughts about prospects for Hungary during the last 8 or 10 years were as follows "We were all hoping fervently that the Russians would leave our country. We never thought or believed that they would settle down there forever."

- XIV. SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC IDEOLOGY
- A. When asked what sort of a system respondent would like to see in Hungary and how she would like independent Hungary to be she said "I would like to see the good old times back or something like hereixin the U.S. where everybody has work and everybody lives well."
- B. Respondent was absolutely incompetent to give any opinion on the specific questions regarding economic system and emphasis in free Hungary.

When asked what sort of a government she would like to live under, the one which guarantees freedom of the individual but does not assure her of her job, or the waxe other which does not guarantee the personal freedom but guarantees a decen standard of living, respondent said:

"I think I prefer to be free."

C. On the international position for a free Hungary, respondent had no idea what-soever, so I skipped this question as well as the question on the Federation of Danubian States.

Whether or not respondent found Hungary's present boundaries acceptable her reply was as follows" I am not happy with the present boundaries of Hungary. After all, these people belonged to Hungary and it was knalways a territory of Hungary. As long as all Manhungarian territories are not united into one country I am sure they are very unhappy about it."

XV. THE FORMATION OF PUBLIC OPINION

- A. Respondent did not hear anything about Khrushchev's memsecret speech to the 20th Party Congress, nor did she hear about any other questions that follow in this paragraph. About Senator "cCarthy, the un-American Activities Committee, the fall of Peron and the private life of Rakosi she knew nothing.
- B. ...hen asked from what sources she drew most of her information she asaid "I used to go and listen to the radio. I did not have any radio of my own and so usually I listened with some neighbors. We heard the Radio Free Europe broadcasts. These were always encouraging us and giving us hope.

When I reached this part of the interview respondent was called by phone by the immigration officer at the St. George Hotel, Clark St. and she had to return immediately. Therefore I had to interrupt the interview. I tried to make her answer one more question however, regarding the U.S. This was SECTESection XVI, page 10. I cularly about America when she arrived here. She said she was mostly surprised by the fact that everything is so completely different from back home. She was staggered by the huge houses, the terrific traffic and the big cars. She added "I am very happy to be here because I think this is a wonderful country, and after all I was born here so it was just like coming home."

THE END