

New York City
May 1957

NO. 129 "A" FACESHEET AND RATING (Interview incomplete) MN p. 1

1. IRC-20
2. Mr. Janos Nagy (cover name) - real not given
3. St. George Hotel, Brooklyn
4. 29
5. M
6. Hungarian
7. Catholic
8. Same
9. Married
10. One: 6 months (born in Vienna in January 1957)
11. electronics research engineer
12. Laboratory technician, night school student
13. Wife also had well paying job (civil engineer)
14. Father: retail store keeper
15. unknown
16. -
17. No
18. Demonstrator
19. Technological night univ.
20. Budapest (Aquincum)
- 21.
22. Budapest suburb
23. -
24. December 15, 1956 or abouts
25. Vienna, U.S.
26. No
27. No
28. ?
- 29.

31. "7". No; cordial and friendly throughout, a bit formal
32. "9-10"
33. "9-10"
34. Hardly - not at all

- (1) The West does not fully appreciate that the Soviet Union is a military power and it will make full use of its forces whenever warranted in their view. Discussions have no place in their policy. They are very systematic and it was hard to trust Western radio, even the BBC, when they insisted that the Soviet forces are withdrawing after the first revolt.
- (2) No one even thought of a revolt, not even on the 23 of October. The situation looked so ~~hopeless~~ hopeless that no one considered a revolt seriously. The Soviet forces were completely overwhelming and the Hungarians didn't even have a pistol.
- (2b) All thought something may happen in Russia but nothing did.
- (2c) The appearance of Imre Nagy promised ^A more normal development of Hungary and people were optimistic and had a little more hope. Actually the explosive program of Imre Nagy hit the country like a bomb and its various aspects were unexpected by the average person. At first it sounded even more than it actually was. The COLLECTIVES broke up immediately. Rakosi's retort was quick and as a result the Nagy policies did not have much effect in Budapest. There were also some price reductions but these were not substantial. In fact they appeared irritating because they ~~frequently~~ frequently referred to unnecessary items.
- (2d) This had ^{at} no direct result until the Hungarian Yugoslav relations themselves were rehabilitated.
- (2e) There was a lot of talk even officially on this and the spirit of the 20th Congress as this was referred to, was a good excuse to expect some freedoms.
- (2f) Primarily news was ~~received~~ received from the West; some were heard from the East. And again this had no direct result on the Revolt. However, the Polish heroism was received with much enthusiasm.
- (2g) This had dire results. It was a battle by itself and the battle was

within the Communist Party. It became obvious once again that half of the Party was not Communist at all. Most were forced into the Party one way or another. Many spoke freely in private life and some started diverse forces within the Party. Of course although there was strong pressure ~~withing~~ against Rakosi as they put up with him or 10 years they could have put up with him longer, but there were some open revolution against Rakosi within the Party branches. On several occasions his removal was demanded by Party sections and the convocation of a new Party congress was demanded. This trend was borne primarily in intellectual Party groups. In these Party organizations the real Communists were not more than 10% of the total number of members.

- (2h) The functioning of the Petofi Club gave it a great impetus.
- (2i) Noone believed in a real change although all were impressed with the students' demands and bluntness.
- (3) One of the main achievements of the Communists was that during the past 10 years they taught people to think ~~more~~ politically even the simple workers, people who never really cared were forced into politics and consciously debated the issues. This did not only cover economic factors but meant political maturity.
- (3c) The Polish development had great importance and even the *SZABAD NÉP*, the official Communist daily, hailed in its Tuesday issue the Polish development. This was on Oc. 22nd. This most remarkable article may have been due to a few editors on the paper but at any rate it is unexplained how this could happen on the official Party newspapers. The next thing was that demonstrations started with Polish flags at the statue of General Dem.
- (4.) I don't know who started it. Perhaps ~~some~~ some old-time officer had some pistols, but such a R^evolt is never created without the strongest popular

pressure. The R^ult had no final aim. There were no plans for the future. It was simply anti-Communist. It is entirely possible that all political views were represented and united through their anti-Communist attitudes.

- (4c) The aims were not obvious. First few days had definitely not drawn up any plans. One never heard of a political debate. They were only two issues at hand; get the Russians out and fight the AVO.
- (4d) There was no time for political views to develop. Fighting was the order of the day. Perhaps in the countryside there was more chance for politics to take form.
- (4e) Only against Communism.
- (4f) Freedom and economic improvements. The other factors were debatable.
- (4g) It started without any. It was definitely silent. On the first day as a matter of fact many even took the R^ud Flag along ^{AND} until later in the day there were no slogans. Once the group was encouraged some slogans began to be heard. One was "Peria R^ukosi and GERÖ". We want independence." These slogans were shouted by some at the band statue but they were soon hushed by the others. On the way to Parliament, Rakosi was getting blamed but this was fine and he was out of power anyway. The anti- slogans were more dangerous. These followed when people gathered more courage. During the revolt, "murderous AVO" and "Go home Ruski" were the most general slogans.
- (4h) Freedom from Soviet interference and control.
- (4i) Yes. Only that.
- (4j) This is simple but here we speak of different levels. One group supported the R^uds from after '45 to about '49. They then withdrew when they lost confidence, and also realized the lack of general confidence of the nation in the party. They also got disillusioned. There were also some who were Communists but not Party members. Others again, and these were many were members but they were not Communists. They had no love at all for the R^ugime. These were people who were part of their communities and they formed community influences. These had to be measured on an individual basis. Many of these were automatically involved

in the Revolt.

- (4l) The AVO would have collapsed in the first 48 hours.
- (4m) This was impossible. Had the AVO been abolished the country would have become anti-Communist. It would not have stopped half-way. Some personal hatred would have created anti-Communist terror. The people today are either Communist or anti-Communist. There is no third alternative.
- (4n) Certainly many had various aims after a victorious revolt and a great variety of political directions were probably represented, but for the time being the youth had control and no old system could have taken control of the country.
- (4o) Some old communists. One was met by chance by Respondent during the Revolt. He was scared. He saw a large propaganda board being destroyed. He first wanted to go protect it but then he changed his mind and walked away. This man spent his whole life in the cause and he admitted ~~to his father~~ that if he would change his views now his whole life would have been wasted. He was very much against the 1953 Nagy program. In a bitter mood he told respondent, "now you can say anything you want, they won't even take you away. This man wasn't hung by the anti-Communists. He just left respondent with a general threat "you will see me some time." He was very much against GERŐ's dismissal. He thought ~~HE~~ ran away from a good fight.
- BEM
- (5) At the band statue, respondent participated.
- (6) Respondent's wife was a civil engineer. She worked in the largest Hungarian civil engineer planning office where about 2000 engineers worked. They planned Hungarian road, railroad, and other heavy constructions. On the 23rd of October in the morning, the party secretary of this establishment has called in all employees in their general meeting room and he read the 13 points of the students

out loud and he asked for discussion afterwards. He then permitted the absence of the employees for the afternoon to participate in the demonstrations. Respondent's wife then called him at his office and he left to meet her in front of the Vigado, near the Danube. In his own office there was quiet and his co-workers warned respondent not be absent in the afternoon from his desk. Yet, he went and they started their march to the statue. The party secretary permitted the use of the mimeograph - ing equipment of their plant to multiply the thirteen points. The name of this organization was Melyepipesi ^{SEN} Pervvallalat. From the ^{SEN} band statue the group went to Parliament Square and from there to the radio studio. Respondent sends his wife home from the ^{SEN} band statue as she was quite advanced in her ^E pregnancy. By the time they reach the studio a little truck was turned ^{OVER} up and burned. There was a tremendous crowd. Traffic was completely stopped and even pedestrians couldn't move one way or another. The trolleys were lined up all up and down ^{MUSEUM KORUT.} ~~musen-Kurut.~~ Some people were sitting in the trolleys ^A ^A patiently waiting until the trolleys start going again. The firemen came, efficiently put out the little truck and left very fast. On his way to the studio respondent saw eight truck loads full of people., coming in from the destruction of the Stalin statue. At city hall the convoys stopped and within one minute the ^{MEN} ~~man~~ ran up and tore down the giant red star. Respondent later went home, 30 kilometres away

from Budapest, and he again participated in the demonstrations in December. During the later part of November they led truckloads of ammunition to safety which the Hungarian army deserted as they were shot at by Russians.

(6c) There was always a chance to act in some way and one had to do something even when all was lost.

(6d) The demonstrations were not very dangerous for the large mass of people guaranteed that no one individually will be held responsible.

(6e) Nothing.

(7a) In the latter part of the revolution respondent saw an attack of youngsters on a tremendous Soviet barracks on Vorosvari Ut. The local youth attack this ^{BUILDING} with the help of some soldiers Hungarian army units were first set up to block the bridge traffic on Arpad bridge. However, they were completely inactive and they did nothing. Later they withdrew. The officer in charge was apparently shot later for not taking sides with the revolution. Frequently Russians were sniped at. Some of them were killed. Some tried to stop bridge traffic. Respondent saw the Schmidt castle being fired upon. Actually most of the Hungarian soldiers went home after the 4th of November. As respondent heard only a very few of them fought against the revolt. The large majority were passive. A friend of respondent on the 23rd of October went out to Buda to persuade a company of tanks to join the revolution. Four actually did come in to the radio studio and they lined up there in front of the entrance but they took no action in either way. The officers did not dare to fight the

mass of people. It would have cost their lives. But they kept the troops back from aiding the revolt. Once the army received orders to disarm the AVO, they did fight the secret police and the respondent saw them fight them on several occasions. Of course most AVO units were dissolved by then. A typical case was the dismantling of the star on parliament building. When this went on some AVO or some similar snipers started sniping on the people from the unfinished subway entrance along the Danube. On this occasion respondent saw a systematic army force go into action with tear gas, smoke, and everything else, trying to wipe out the AVO in the subway. They threw hand grenades down and fire on them until it was quiet. A guard was left behind at the subway entrance. Respondent saw some people hung. He also saw a AVO man captured, but he was not sure of his fate. He also saw the T. Piazza Kalman ^{SQUARE} developments afterwards.

(7c)

(9j)

One hears the radio, gets upset and really knows nothing. There are no conflicting views and no one knows.

(10a)

After the revolt there were no newspapers and every paper was sold on the spot. Even SZABAD NÉP. This too was quite free and frank. Of course it was not anti-Communistic. Honved was strongly anti-Communistic. This was the official army paper. It was sold and distributed by soldiers on street corners.

(10c)

Conversation and telephone were the best sources.

.10d)

Everyone. Free Europe and AVO VOA were continually behind developments. The most significant difficulty of the revolt

was that it had no radio. There was a tremendous need for one.

(10f)

The radio and to some extent leaflets. Everything would have changed if the revolt would have had a serious radio station.

BUT the small stations were not large enough to follow the news everywhere or to cover a broad enough area. - with their beam.

(11)

The party organizations were completely dissolved, unbelievably so and in many instances we waded through propaganda literature to the knees.

(11b)

Police was very decent. They gave their arms to the revolutionaries. Respondent does not think they fought against the revolt. However, at one police station they refused to give their arms to the revolutionaries. So a hand grenade was tossed in and they immediately co-operated.

(11c)

The AVO people put on police uniforms and in Obuda where they had a strong headquarters, a mass of people watched four of these young people, gangsters, brazen brats, with swinging hips, come out armed to the teeth with submachine guns and hand grenades bulging in their pockets. One could see from a 1000 metres what they were. Yet they simply marched through a throng of people for everyone was unarmed. They first dug themselves in their headquarters building there but they later on disappeared. One could go into their building but there was none one in it.

(11d)

Respondent had no information on this.

(11e)

Many did come over and later all came hesitatingly. It is

apparently true that even Mal^Eter's group fought against the revolution~~ists~~ during the first two days of the revolt. Then they turned around.

(11f)

Nothing.

(11g)

Many Communists were here who ~~were~~ were kicked out, but the councils had no role only the military forces.

(11h)

They went home. The government tried to break the revolt and they ran behind events around 24 to 48 hours. Imre Nagy himself was never trusted wholly.

(11i)

Nothing.

(11j)

All political organizations collapsed. The economic organizations were just beginning to get reorganized.

(11k)

The Patoli club, for instance at first had no connection with the revolt.

(11-1)

Parties were founded. The small landholders, the peasant, the social democrats and the communists. There was strong pressure for many more parties to form. Many were organized even without the official approval. Such was the Hungarians Independent Party., and the Hungarian Youth Party. But the important ones were the four coalition parties. Within a day a full slate of parties were organizing their campaigns, got out programs, had offices, and staff. They all vied with each other to gain the adherence of Hungary's youth. Thus, the youth in turn turned around and formed their own party endorsing limited private ownership. This by the way became the decisive word of all political activity. Limited private ownership.

Elements of this program of course had an impact on a Catholic party.

(11m)

These were spontaneous. Largely a result of general opinion that the plan should remain in popular hands. The councils were to run them. At first when these councils were formed Communists elected themselves to them--especially in the first days when workers didn't show up. But ~~of~~ these were busted in a few days afterwards and in the new worker's council those ^{who were} politically compromised in the past had no role. The exclusion of all former leaders from the plans changed the entire atmosphere. They were simply not let in the gate.

(11n)

A socialist type government but definitely democratic. Perhaps a bit anti-Communist with ^Tsubtle pressures against the Reds though not openly.

^a
(12)

Yes.

(12a)

They were very very afraid generally.

(12d)

Respondent did not meet any

(12f)

~~Most-of-the~~ likely especially since all were taken out of Budapest before the return of the troops. ^{is} ~~The~~ was generally considered very bad sign.

(12g)

Certainly under the immediate control of Moscow. On the 24th of October only military power had any significance. Thus, a question of influence was a moot one. After the fourth, there was nothing there to be influenced.

(12h)

This was surprising. This was perhaps explained by the fact that the Reds had very few loyal functionaries ~~in~~ even in the AVO. Many of the AVO men stayed home in the revolt. There WERE

holes and ^{ca} cracks in the apparatus. Also of course they were incompetent against $\frac{1}{2}$ a million people in the streets.

(13) The two days' strike in December made us go.

(13b) Didn't accept with wife. Actually respondent did not want to give up hope until ~~they~~ there were still demonstrations going on. One felt that all was not yet ~~lost~~ LOST.

(13c) One went step by step.

(13d) There were no special-~~aims~~- aims.

(13e) Didn't want to leave at first.

(14) Very much.

(4a) It hurt the Hungarian people. The world aspects of the revolt had both positive and negative results. In Europe much of Communist inference was destroyed but it seems sure now that the Soviet Union now will go back to Stalinism.

(14b) It started hopelessly, yet it ^{WON} ~~one~~; and if Soviet pressure could have been met and balanced from the West during the days of victory and if great powers really could have recognized Hungaria neutrality in the given moment.

(14c) One should have been still more cruel and final with the Communists and the AVO's. If again there is a revolt, ^{there} must be much less humanitarianism.

(14d) The Communist~~A~~ party was never very strong. They only got 17% in the first election. See the contrast with Italy. The Hungarians were always anti-Communists. Even their supporting and standing by Hitler to the ^{LAST} ~~last~~ moment is explained by their fear and hate of Communism. Another reason was Rakosi's personal policy. He tried to be a better Stalinist than Stalin

Hee showed too much of the true colors of a Communist regime. in too short a time. He was too radical and people learned very fast.

(14e) One couldn't fully trust him. Hee too tried to slow the revolt, and its an absurdity to think of a Communist premier., in an anti-Communist state. Now Hungary knows that not even the mildest Communists should be left in power. As a Communist Imre Nagy helped the revolution a great deal, but as a revolutionary he did very little.

(14f) One would rather have to say how much trust people had in which leader. General KIRALY was little known then. ~~MALETER'S~~ ^{MALETER'S} was a hero. He was popularly demanded to be made war minister. But respondent is still surprised and amazed to this day how it was possible that within four days the army was entirely disorganized. Once the Soviet troops struck why was the Hungarian army not more effective. , on the ~~24th~~ 4th of November, why was it not organized better. These are weighty questions, and they may be the clues to ~~MALETER'S~~ ^{MALETER'S} a real person.

(14g) Spontaneously assembled ^Eman.

(14h) Relative to their number the students but the absolutely largest share was made of young employees. Worker's youth in general. Second , the workers. Third, the writers in preparing but not in fighting the revolt. Fourth, the soldiers. Fifth, women. Sixth, the peasants. And seventh, the officials.

(14i) There were many great fighters from the lower classes.

- (14j) Yes, the Reds had little influence among the students.
- (14k) Yes, respondent was surprised.
- (14l) They are dispersed and just like Lenin said (for his teachings became good guide in the revolt) The workers are the ones who had nothing to lose, but their chains.

(1a)

Researcher in electronics, an electronic engineer.

(1b)

Retail store owner until 1946; now half retired, he works in his own garden and lives on what he raises.

(2)

Since
~~Since~~ 1950 till now respondent had been working in the electronic field.

(2a)

In a factory laboratory. A plant manufacturing electrical measuring instruments. Respondent stayed here for one year. One his second job respondent spent three years in a military plant building radar installations and on his third job he worked two years at the academy of science on applied research. On job number one respondent worked in a laboratory developing instruments. He was a research technician. Then ~~for~~ he did not have a degree. The plant had about 1500 workers. It was quite effective and productive.

(2f)

The plant was first located in a converted apartment building. Later after it proved its ^{PROFITABILITY} rentability it got a new plant.

(2)

Again a laboratory, ~~this time~~

(2)

Laboratory in a military plant producing radar installations. Same title. Research ~~technician~~ ^{ph} technician. About 2000 employees-- entirely unsuccessfully managed. Manufacture of these installations was at extreme deficit and inefficiency. Production was very low. ^{IN} The relations ^{to} of the equipment and the size of the organization. They did not use an assembly plant system at all. They never kept a schedule. Used poor workmanship, cheap material which ruined the parts which were originally good. Production was always on an experimental bases. Never

on a production bases.

(2f)

This was a brand new plant but it wasn't clean at all. It was not impressive from within though it was so from the outside. It was poorly maintained, ventilated, and heated. ~~Jo~~

Job number three. At Szervina Ten, now renamed Martinelli Square. ^{This} ~~It~~ was one ~~enf~~ of the institutes of the academy of

science, and respondent worked as a research engineer. His title was that of an associate. He spent there two years and the institute had only about 70 people. This too not very productive in relation to the investment., involved perhaps. But this is difficult to judge. The place of work was very pleasant. Although there were many shortages in equipment.

(3)

One could combine the first two jobs under one head. Respondent had pleasant relations in all three laboratories; excluding party members of course. Many of these were popular educators called Nepnevlo ^E who, ~~had to~~ as part of their task on the job and also afterwards at the home of the employees, ~~had~~ ^{try} to start discussions on politics to get the attitude and report them and also instill official views on the people they contacted.

(4)

Respondent salary was 1200 forints on the first ~~job 1-1450-on~~ job; 1450 on the second, and 1850 plus 18% 30% radio active danger addition on the third job. He really enjoyed his work in the last laboratory. The first two jobs were alright. But the third was really good. One had free hours to come and go as he pleased. But also one worked late.

DURING

(4e)

Before Imre Nagy, ~~while things were going on in~~ the peace-loan racket, one months contribution a year was the very minimum. After the Imre Nagy reforms it became a maximum figure. But people were pressed by sundry means, to contribute the maximum. - or more. They also deducted 5% old age pension. Respondent does not think there was a hospitalization insurance. If there was any it was very little. There was a 2 1/2% childless tax and this was deducted both from husband and wife. Also there were lateness deductions. If one arrived on time ~~saying seven hundred hours on the time~~ ^{i.e. PUNCHED IN AT 0700} this was already late and one ^{WAS} deducted. The deductions amounted to 5 to 10 forints. However, if one was one or two hours late this was much better. For a story could be given and ^{this} it was perhaps accepted. With the third or so lateness the fine ^{plants} crept up to 20 forints.

(4g)

In respondent's first ~~plants~~ ^{AN} they manufactured ^A electronic machine measuring so called PH concentration. They manufactured these by the thousands. But they were all out of order and the indicators were going wild even without a chemical reaction. If the the institutes or plant who bought these machines sent them back to the manufacturer for repairs they would get their machines back after a month or so with a 1000 forint bill for repair service yet in the very same condition. ~~In which they sent it.~~ ^{to} So respondent who knew ~~how these repairs were to be~~ ^{these meters} ~~fixed~~ arranged with the university that he would be invited as a special consultant by the university, ^{for} the university could ~~still~~ while a private person couldn't. Thus respondent went to the university laboratory; fixed the metres, charged whatever,

MAKE OUT A BILL

he thought was a fair price. The university-~~ha~~ added their overhead, approximately 20 or 30 % and the met~~ne~~^{ing} was ~~pre~~^{re}pared in a week. Respondent charged about 400 forints per machine and he cleared 1000 forints per month. But this business only **LASTED DURING** ~~started within~~ ^{sum-} the last six months. - of 1956. Of course together with his regular job this put a tremendously heavy work load on him.

(4h)

Very well.

(4i)

It was average plus ~~extra~~ extras like danger ~~work~~^X and the extra income. Thus it was better than average.

(5g)

One worked an average 10 hours against the official eight. -~~the~~
~~went-on-probe~~

(5b)

This went on six days a week; and on Sunday respondent worked on his part time job.

(5c)

There was no pay for overtime.

(5d)

Two weeks plus two weeks more for ^A hazardous job.

(5e)

Same elsewhere without the extra two weeks.

(5f)

The first two jobs were very strict. See above.

(5g)

Yes there was.

(5h)

There were also other means than deductions. And it could come to firing.

(5i)

Respondent had no norm system but it was known to be crazy. This could only strain the strained workers some more, and there serious plight argued for reform. The time checker and the worker frequently argued hours to decide whether a job should take $\frac{1}{2}$ hour or $\frac{3}{4}$. Also the time checkers got instructions regularly to squeeze the time limits.

(5k)

Yes. See norms.

(6a)

Conditions were better in the factories than the research office. In the later there was one ^{LITTLE} ~~unit~~ for instance at the service of forty people. And in this respect the radar plant was very well equipped.

(6b)

First one was very crowded. The second was okay. The third was fine.

(6c)

This was very poor on the third job.

(6d)

The first plant's products were not bad, though they had many shortcomings. The second plant produced very poorly. The third was good.

(6e)

Respondent took the bus. An hour each way. With two transfers which cost him 3 forints per day.

(7)

All were educated engineers.

(7b)

This depended entirely on each individual case. Generally not bad. But at the same time the real power was with the party. One was almost never friendly with the man who had the actual power. In the second plant the real power ~~of~~ was in the hands of a very simple "sob". He was an unskilled and he was the local party secretary in the section. His influence was so powerful that the engineers preferred not to wear white coats ^{WHICH} for he disliked ~~them~~. ^{So} But they wore blue ones. He controlled the general atmosphere in the war plant and also decided technical matters. He ^{SUPPRESSED} ~~subjected~~ improvements and proposals to study criticism in his ignorance. And thus considerably slowed down production and research. He was to be an assistant in the experimental laboratory, Presumably working there half

time, but one never saw him. His own boss was quite worried about him. He could interfere ~~into~~^{WITH} production and ^{WITH} any other decision.

(7c)

Yes.

(7d)

One kept everyone^E else under close observation. Except the ~~closest closest~~ closes⁺ friends. It took months if a new man joined the group. Especially if no one had information on his previous life.

(7e)

Yes.

(7f)

Yes with the closes friends.

(7g)

Of course, steadily.

(7h)

Yes we had membership meetings and they also organized quick meetings for everyone.

(7i)

Only active members got ahead. Inactive members were in the same position as non-members.

(7j)

The unions were responsible for factory newspapers etc., and loudspeakers and newspapers controled whatever public opinion was made known.

(7k)

No

(7l)

All working conditions were determined by the party. For the worker's benefit the union had nothing^{to} contribute. The one thing they did do was they organized vacation trip. But here again, some people had to take their vacation in January or February for they were spread out around the year.

(7n)

Doesn't know them. It was some sort⁺ of little quirk to

- (7o) solve problems over work discipline, ⁺ within the plans. [^]
This solved all the problems. But it had little self determination for it worked on orders from above. It made no decisions by itself.
- (7p) [^]
This was difficult but if he was a really good expert they would let him work. Closely supervised he could even get into a leading position. Of course this is the exceptional man. Respondents' boss in his first plan was an ex- United States resident. He was a talented, dynamic, organized man. Yet he was not trusted because of his American residence. ^{CE} He was accepted ~~int.~~ in the party only after years of application just before the revolt. Although he turned actively pro-Communist for quite some time. At the university much was again tolerated. Most anything could be said privately and some ~~even~~ very renowned ^{WNE} professors could even permit to make public comments against the government. ~~Though~~ ^{They} in certain occasions they ~~deemed sufficient~~ ^{WERE} to have them removed from their position.
- (7q) This would not be really tolerated for one would be asked for one's opinion continuously.
- (7r) Yes.
- (7s) Chances of advancement base on politics alone were lessened lately in contrast with ~~1945~~ 1951.
- (7t) Respondent knew of one in his plant. But this was only apparent later when he once saw his face in a critical ~~SPb~~ [^]

during a public speech on Parliament Square. When nobody except AVO men occupied the windows surrounding the square. On this occasion respondent was sent out to inspect the sound equipment to be installed. He noticed that the AVO people inspected every square inch two hours before the speech. All these AVO people were in civilian cloths. They surrounded the speaker with a thick ring of people down below. However, these all wore civilian cloths and someone from the distance couldn't tell where AVO stopped and the general public started.

the MASS ENDED
^

(7u)

This was generally fine.

(8)

From the first to the second job respondent was transferred. Actually at first he the plant in which respondent worked manufactured parts as did several others for these radar installations, but later the operations were combined in a single plant and the people who were concerned with this project were all moved to the new plant. From the second job respondent was simply fired for various reasons but actually it came to a head when he criticized the usefulness of the unions in front of the group of eight. He also put together a short wave radio set in the office listening to AFN music. This of course was not officially prohibited and the crime was only if one spread news heard. But the party secretary was most upset.

(8a)

One could change jobs.

(8b)

The same.

(8d)

The greatest need ^{is} for skilled workers and these also have the most personal security. The various factors are very complicated. Families use strong pressure ~~x~~ to talk these ~~it~~ children to go ^{into A} to technical field. The peasant was primarily influenced to try his luck in the factory. Once he failed to make a living on the farm. ~~Nobody wanted to be useful.~~ Again for convenience the technical fields were preferred. Responsibility was one of the critical criterias. Everybody was afraid of it. In fact if two people talked of a job one always commented "This is a fine job for ^{THERE} ~~their~~ is no responsibility tied to it." If that was the case. The final reason for educational limitations is that university admissions were so closely controlled. They channeled most people to technicums instead of ^A gymnasiums. And thus few had chances to get a higher education.

(8e)

NO.

(8f)

Respondent felt he reached the top. There ^{WERE} ~~was~~ not further chances for advancement for the next twenty years. The top was closed, ^{due to} family and other ties and especially party responsibility. It seems that the five leaders of the institute ^{WHERE} ~~were~~ respondent ~~less~~ work ^{ED} were all related and they were all Jewish. They collaborated with the government and kept the management of such soft jobs as a family domain.

(8g)

~~Except for career searches~~ ^A large percentage of leadership

- positions both in absolute and relative numbers were in Jewish hands. However, also a large number of them came out and a largest number of them got United States visas. Respondent was very disgusted and discouraged that all the leading positions were closed to him.
- (81) Above the family needs his hobbies were physics, and electronics. He would try to write.
- (8j) No.
- (8k) Yes.
- (9) Relatively poorly.
- (9a) Both of us. Also both parents.
- (9b) The parents position was much worse now.
- (9c) Respondent couldn't afford a TV set or a motorcycle. Of course not a car, and certainly not a refrigerator. But expecting a baby he was thinking of buying a cheap washing machine. Not automatic and not at all elaborate, but at least it would have helped.
- (9d) See respondent's income above. For wife income note 1500 a month. Together with all the extras they made 3300 to 3900.
- (9e) Nothing. Respondent had no home. Although both parents owned houses and also other property there was no apartment available. Respondent and his wife lived usually with his ~~his~~ in-laws or with his parents. Both parents had a one-room and a one-kitchen apartment. The room was shared by all four of them. Respondent, however, already invested in new furniture. Only they couldn't use it anywhere for

No caps, THEY HAD NO PLACE TO GO. They could have moved ~~away~~^r by sharing an apartment with some ~~strangers~~ who were willing to sublet part of their apartment and build another kitchen. This would have meant an expense of 36000forints, cash payment aside from the monthly rent. Thus respondent tried to build a room adjacent to his mother-in-law's house. It is fantastically difficult to get any building materials, however, so the officials in charge of building materials in his small community had to be bribed. The building was indeed started and masons ~~were to~~^{would} work on it on weekends and ~~on~~^{the} evenings after their own jobs but the place was not yet ready when the Respondent and his wife departed. There was no water no sewerage, no gas, no phone; ~~however~~^{ONLY} raw brick walls and electricity. Respondent spent 25000forints on his furniture and about 30000for the house including the bribe.

- (9g) Respondent spent about 1200 forints a month on food. There was no waiting in lines since '53 except for pork and lard.
- (9h) Respondent bought three suits since 1950 and he thought he spent about 1000forints on clothing a month. A good pair of shoes would be 400 forints and you could buy a ready-made suit for ~~300~~²⁰⁰ to 1000 forints. Respondent had his

tailored for a slightly higher price.

(9i) Everything was purchased in state stores.

(9j) None. In-laws paid for it.

(9k) It was very difficult to get coke. Wood was also hard to get. Coal was easiest. Electricity was satisfactory, except in 1952. When they over-exploited the electric production, running all their generators at full capacity, so their stock deteriorated very quickly. They have since started strong building program.

(9l) Respondent, who has very poor teeth, spent about 2000 forints a year on his dentist. He had gold ~~teeth~~ which he secretly took to the dentist, who filled his tooth with it. This was strictly illegal, and one would have to give 1 -- 2 hundred forints to the dentist ^{AS A BRIBE.} ~~to go ahead and do it.~~

(9m) Medical services were provided for the whole family.

(9n) Sometimes to the opera, perhaps every other month. Seats were about 60 forints for both. Respondent bought a 1500 forint radio for his mother-in-law. They never went to the movies; had no time. Their transportation cost 12 forints a day, and they spent about 120 forints on cigarettes a month.

(10a) Yes. Respondent's situation was very difficult in spite of his high pay. He lived under poor conditions.

(10b) Yes, definitely.

(10c) Soviet economic relations, and also the great mistakes made with their own economy by poor leadership.

- (10d) There were improvements until 1949, but no improvements in 1953.
- (10e) Respondent did not think much of them.
- (10f) This was a never-ending drain. No-one knew the facts, and they kept changing the rates.
- (10g) Some were compulsory. Respondent got excused saying that he got his indoctrination at the university, but there he said he would be trained in his job. They were not absolutely compulsory; there^were always exceptions possible.
- (11a) Industrialization was good, altho some of it was crazy. Duna-pentele was a mad industrialization plan. It was generally disliked, while the people were generally for ~~it~~ free, ~~small~~ small and medium industries. As a result of government policies, there were no plumbers left. There was no initiative for change and there were no consumer industries.
- (11b) Generally it is understood that all lived better then, tho now everyone sees differently and everyone very much insists that a new page has been turned.
- (11c) There were no improvements after '44; in fact, it was worse than during the war.
- (11f) This did not appear to be a Communist program. It meant rebuilding bridges and people did not see the political aims. It was a good program, and it made a good impression.
- (11g) This was not the same; it appeared to work as political pressure, forcing the country's economic clime in a mold. One could see the trend in which the economy was forced, but there was little interest, and only few really knew what the plan was all about, in spite of the extensive ^{government} propaganda.

on the five year plan.

- (11h) One expected more than one had received.
- (11i) Even tho it was for greater productivity of consumer goods, and infact, some plants started manufacturing these in the Communist pattern by which to a large extent consumergoods were manufactured out of leftovers from the regular production. They would make spoons out of waste. They could have improved their political position, had they relaxed the economic picture just a little.
- (11j) The economic clime was the same as before, and the economic reasons were deciscive.
- (12a) About half and half.
- (12b) Political matters were very consciously felt.
- (12c) With the exception of represenatives of Hungarian cultural and sports life, everybody was supressed. To these people, much was forgiven, even politically.
- (12d) Respondent doesn't know of any plans or organizations. In fact, on the very day preceding the Revolt, the Institutes' lathe operator accidentally mentioned that he would go to fight in a war against the Communists. Actually, ^{however} ~~that~~ he never did. Others, who didn't say anything, came and fought.
- (12e) Only very few broke out openly, but it did happen at the military radar plant that a party member, a lathe operator, took his party card, went up to the party secretary in public and gave it back to him, with several assorted curses.

They didn't dare touch him at first: his case generated too much interest, and it certainly was unique.

(12f)

They were very active.

- (1) Respondent finished 8 years of secondary education in 1947. By then he had finished 4 years grade school, 4 years Polgari and 4 years of commercial high school. He attended night university from 1951 to 1955. He attended a course in Communications Electronics.
- (1b) University degree.
- (1c) Budapest Technical University.
- (2) Radio Isotopes course in the university.
- (2b) Yes, four years of university.
- (2c) No
- (2d) No
- (2e) No
- (2f) His main interests.
- (3) (Does not apply).
- (4) (Does not apply).
- (5) Same things but sooner.
- (6) Good.
- (7) (a) No, he couldn't enter the University, only until later from the factory as a working man.
- (7b) Yes, people with personal or party connections.
- (8) All courses were compulsory.
- (8b) Yes.
- (8c) This was not compulsory in night school.
- (8d) No one would have taken it voluntarily: it was despised.
- (8e) Didn't have it.
- (8f) Respondent didn't have it.
- (9)(a) On a higher level of education, we couldn't very much influence people anymore, but those starting grade school after 1950

ARE Probably influenced. There is strong Soviet influence in the text, as half of the text books are made up of propaganda material. Much of this is accepted unconsciously by the youngsters. How much is decided usually by the efficiency and effectiveness of the parents. They must keep the reins on the child's education.

- (9b) There may have been some result perhaps, but ^{the Revolt} ~~people~~ changed all this. All kids wanted to fight.
- (9c) Socialist ideas did take root. Real struggle there was between the parents and the school.
- (9d) ^{The} /Uttoro movement was frequently dangerous. The children got a good deal of things free ^{if} there, and 38 out of 40 were pioneers in a class, the kids often pestered their parents to let them go. They went to meetings and functions. They soon got use to watching their tongues, and they got educated to the ^{KADER} ~~Carver~~ sheets. They unconsciously started to watch their steps at a tender age. Respondent had much influence in the education of his nephew who was a boy of 13. He was politically well versed, yet he accepted the benefits of the system, but otherwise he was sceptical.
- (9e) Most receptive are the children between 6 and 12.
- (10) Middle-class, in the retail trade.
- (10b) Middle-class; her father operated a small shop with several workers.
- (10c) Father of wife came from the country and he was a foreman

IN a factory. Mother was an aristocract; and in its day this would give gause to a big stink.

- (11) Father became a gardener on his own plot.
- (120) Retail tradesman.
- (12 a) They took away the store.
- (12c) The store owner lived modestly but normally; now he had to work very hard outdoors.
For
- (12d) /Polgari
- (12e) He very much approved.
- (13) Average.
- (13a) Worse than average.
- (14) Father lived; mother died in early 50s.
- (14b) Yes.
- (14c) No home.
- (15) Only father.
- (160) It handicapped in part; it delayed his university education to a later date, but later this proved no problem once his talents were recognized.
- (17) Yes.
- (17a) Civil engineer.
- (17b) Since 1955.
- (17c) One boy.
- (17d) Not born yet.
- (22) Good relations.
- (23) Yes, openly.
- (24) No.

- (25) nNo reply.
- (26)(a) Yes, clothes.
- (26b) ^{ite}~~Quite~~ a few families were this way.
- (26c) Job ~~or~~ music.
- (26d) Music and outings.
- (26^e) Every other Sunday, approximately.
- (26f) Still more music and electronics.

RESPONDENT NO LONGER AVAILABLE